

Abigail Brown Shaw Cole diary

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1859-1869

Title Statement

Abigail Brown Shaw Cole diaryGuide to the Abigail Brown Shaw Cole diary SC 02026

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Publication Statement

Publisher: Special Collections Research Center

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Williamsburg, Virginia
Business Number: 757-221-3090
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URL: <https://libraries.wm.edu/libraries-spaces/special-collections>

2026 May

Profile Description

Creation: This finding aid was produced using ArchivesSpace on 2026-06-06 03:01:03 -0400.

Language Usage: Description is written in: English, Latin script.

Descriptive Rules: Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Descriptive Summary

Unit ID

SC 02026

Unit ID

/repositories/2/resources/10098

Unit Date

1859-1869

Language

English

Extent

0.2 Linear Feet One diary, in one folder

Condition Description

Cover and first page of diary detached, spine deteriorated

Repository

Special Collections Research Center

Administrative Information

Conditions Governing Access

Collection is open to all researchers. Manuscript collections and archival records may contain materials with sensitive or confidential information that is protected under federal or state right to privacy laws and regulations, such as the Virginia Public Records Act (Code of Virginia, § 42.1-76-91); and the Virginia Freedom of Information Act (Code of Virginia § 2.2-3705.5). Confidential material may include, but is not limited to, educational, medical, and personnel records. If sensitive material is found in this collection, please contact a staff member immediately. The disclosure of personally identifiable information pertaining to a living individual may have legal consequences for which the College of William and Mary assumes no responsibility.

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Preferred Citation

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Biographical / Historical

Abigail "Abbie" Brown Shaw Cole was born in 1823 in Providence, Rhode Island to Oliver and Sarah Shaw (née Jenckes). Her father was a musician and composer known for his hymns. Abigail married Hanun Wilbur Cole (1816-1885), a merchant and scholar, in 1846 and had three children, John Hanun Cole (b. 1848), Caroline Minna Cole Chapin (b. 1850), Charles D'Urban Morris Cole (b. 1861). Charles would go on to graduate from Harvard in 1883 and receive a law degree from Columbia Law School. He later became an organizer of the Morristown Civic Association. John also received a law degree as well from Harvard University and established a private practice in New York in 1880. The Cole family lived in Providence, Rhode Island, Richmond, Virginia, Cambridge, Massachusetts, and New York City, New York over the years. Abigail passed away in 1906 in Springfield, Massachusetts. She is buried at Swan Point Cemetery in Providence, Rhode Island.

Content Description

Diary of an affluent woman living in Richmond, Virginia in the mid-19th century. Her writings include passages about her children, John and Charles, the books she was reading, and her interest in learning to play the piano and speaking French. Roughly half of the pages are filled with writings. Calculations and records for household expenses are written in the back of the diary. A newspaper clipping of "A Song of Affection" is placed between the pages. This diary provides the rare but sheltered perspective of a wealthy, educated white woman in the antebellum south in the years leading up to and after the American Civil War.

Keywords

Diaries
Women--History--19th century
Richmond (Va.)--History--19th century
American diaries--Women authors
Women--Diaries

General

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Arrangement

Collection consists of a single diary.

Description of Subordinate Components

