



Guide to the Anna D. Berry Scrapbook of Harriet Dame, 1861-1862, 1893-1904

Administrative Information

Title and Dates:

Anna D. Berry Scrapbook of Harriet Dame, 1861-1862, 1893-1904

Repository:

New Hampshire Historical Society
30 Park Street
Concord, NH 03301
603-228-6688
<http://www.nhhistory.org/>

Collection Number:

2019.030

Author of Finding Aid:

Korrena Cowing

Creator:

Berry, Anna D., 1845-1917
Dame, Harriet Patience, 1815-1900

Language:

The materials in this collection are in English.

Extent:

1 box ; 1 linear foot

Abstract:

The Anna D. Berry Scrapbook of Harriet Dame consists primarily of letters sent to Berry from Dame between July 7, 1861 and June 29, 1862. After the letters are a series of newspaper articles on Harriet Dame dated from 1893 to 1900, some of which are annotated by Berry. An appendix providing information on people mentioned in the letters is found at the end of the scrapbook.

Access and Use

Acquisition Information and Provenance:

The Anna D. Berry Scrapbook of Harriet Dame was purchased by the New Hampshire Historical Society on May 8, 2018.

Processing Information:

This collection was processed by Korrena Cowing in September 2020. The finding aid was written by Korrena Cowing in October 2020. This finding aid follows the standards set-forth by *Describing Archives: A Content Standard*.

The scrapbook was treated at the Northeast Document Conservation Center in 2020. The volume was collated and disbound. The letters and pages were surface cleaned. The inks were tested for solubility and the presence of Fe(II) ions. The glassine mends and stubs attached to the letters were removed during the wash. The letters and pages with manuscript ink containing FE(II) ion were washed in a solution of ethanol and filtered water, treated with calcium phytate, alkalized (deacidified) with calcium bicarbonate and sized with gelatin. The pages with newspaper clippings adhered were nonaqueously alkalized (deacidified) with a suspension of magnesium oxide particles in a perfluoro compound (Bookkeeper). Tears were mended and folds guarded with Japanese kozo paper and wheat starch paste. The folded letters were humidified to flatten. The letters and leaves were places in buffered folders and housed in a commercial document storage box. A full condition report is provided under the lid of the collection's manuscript box and a copy has been added to the accession file.

Access Restrictions:

Available for research. This collection has been digitized and is available on the New Hampshire Historical Society's online catalog.

Location:

The collection is housed at the New Hampshire Historical Society in Concord, New Hampshire.

Physical Characteristics and Technical Requirements:

The materials in this collection are paper based and have no special technical requirements for use.

The original binding is stored in the first folder in this collection. The covers house the scraps of bindings from the removed pages during conservation. Use of the bindings requires permission from the librarian on duty and should be unwrapped and handled by the librarian only.

Copyright/Conditions Governing Use:

For permission to reproduce or publish materials from this collection, please contact the New Hampshire Historical Society. Users are responsible for following all copyright and intellectual property laws.

Preferred Citation:

Item title, Anna D. Berry Scrapbook of Harriet Dame, 2019.030. New Hampshire Historical Society, Concord, NH. Date accessed.

Collection Overview

Biographical Information:

Anna Dwight Berry was born on September 14, 1845 in Pittsfield, NH, to Charles Thomas and Clara Dwight (Chadbourne) Berry. Attending public schools, Berry graduated from Concord High School in 1861. She married Huntington Porter Smith (1837-1908), a merchant tailor, on October 4, 1864 in Concord, NH, and together they had five children: Charles P. (1866-1929), Chadbourne B. (1869-1870), Winifred B. (1871-1962), Bertha M. (1874-1887), and Robert L. (1883-).

Anna Berry and her husband lived in Cambridge, MA, in 1880. Her husband passed away on November 25, 1908 in Cambridge at the age of 71. Anna Dwight Berry died there January 6, 1917.

Harriet Patience Dame was born in Barnstead, NH, on January 5, 1815 to James C. and Phebe Dame. The youngest of six children, Dame spent the first half of her life at home with her parents. Following the death of her mother in 1854 and father in 1859, she converted the family home in Concord, NH, into a boarding house and took in tenants from the nearby Biblical Institute.

Dame, despite having no formal medical training, enlisted as a nurse with the 2nd New Hampshire Regiment during the Civil War, which mustered in Concord in June 1861. Initially caring for the sick at camp, she soon decided to travel to the front lines where she felt her services were most needed. Dame was captured twice by the Confederates, but was later released. In the spring of 1864, Dame transferred to 18th Corps Hospital in Virginia as matron, where she remained for the rest of the war.

After the war, she remained in Washington, DC, working as a clerk for the Treasury Department. In 1887, she succeeded Dix as president of the Army Nurses Association, where she campaigned vigorously for recognition of the contributions made by Civil War nurses. She also remained active in veterans' organizations and supported efforts to provide continuing care for wounded soldiers, donating large sums of her own money to build centralized veterans' homes.

During her lifetime, Dame received substantial recognition for her contributions and was awarded numerous awards and ribbons. In 1884, over 600 soldiers signed a petition requesting the U.S. Senate grant her a pension for her wartime services, which the Senate agreed to later that year. Harriet P. Dame died on April 24, 1900 in Concord.

Collection Scope and Content Note:

The Anna D. Berry Scrapbook of Harriet Dame provides a small, but detailed collection of letters from Harriet Dame to her friend Anna Berry in Concord, NH, while she served as a nurse with the 2nd New Hampshire Infantry Regiment during the Civil War. The letters provide an insight into the conditions of the camps, recent battles and skirmishes, and the health of the regiment, as well as of other regiments in or near their camp.

Dating from July 7, 1861 to June 29, 1862, with a few partial undated letters, Dame writes of her daily activities including preparing food, tending to the sick, traveling conditions, visitors, and even local cats she started taking care of. While Dame discusses illnesses that have swept through the regiment on a number of occasions, she does not provide extensive details on medical treatment or injuries, rather stating that Berry could not dream of the horrors she has seen.

Letters of note include one from July 21, 1861 in which Dame provides some description on the fighting she hears at the First Battle of Bull Run. A letter dated April 1, 1862 includes information on the “contraband” (escaped slaves) in their camp. Dorothea Dix is also mentioned in a couple of 1862 letters, primarily her coming and going from the camp Dame was stationed at. The letter dated May 19, 1862 contains a note from Dame that states she has decided to ignore Dix’s orders and has left to find her regiment.

A series of newspaper clippings is included in the scrapbook and date from 1893 to 1904. The clippings include brief biographies on Harriet Dame, announcements of awards, obituaries, and information on her funeral. Some of the newspaper articles have notes added to them by Anna Berry. An appendix is included at the end of the scrapbook, which provides information on people mentioned in the letters.

The scrapbook has been disassembled for conservation. Items after removal were placed in folders, one to two items per folder. The content list below describes the types of materials in each folder.

Arrangement:

The scrapbook in this collection was disassembled and treated at the Northeast Document Conservation Center in 2020. The items in the scrapbook remain in the order in which they were found, with the original binding at the front of the collection.

Contents List

Box 1

Folder 1	Original binding
Folder 2	Page A: note on Mr. Parker, undated
Folder 3	Pages 1-2: correspondence, 1861 July 7 and 1861 July 21
Folder 4	Pages 3-4: correspondence, 1861 August 13
Folder 5	Page 5: correspondence, 1861 September 3
Folder 6	Pages 6-7: correspondence, 1861 September 16 and 1861 October 7
Folder 7	Pages 8-9: correspondence, 1861 November 10 and 1861 December 11
Folder 8	Page 10: correspondence, 1862 January 12
Folder 9	Pages 11-12: correspondence, 1862 January 2 and 1862 February 12
Folder 10	Page 13: correspondence, undated
Folder 11	Page 14: correspondence, 1862 April 1
Folder 12	Pages 15-16: correspondence, 1862 April 18 and 1862 May 19
Folder 13	Pages 17-18: correspondence, undated
Folder 14	Page 19: correspondence and ephemera, 1860 and undated

Folder 15 Pages 20-21: correspondence, 1862 June 29 and undated
Folder 16 Pages 22-25: newspaper clippings, 1893-1895
Folder 17 Pages 26-29: newspaper clippings, 1900-1904
Folder 18 Pages 30-32: appendix, undated
Folder 19 Pages 33-36: blank pages, undated

Subject Terms

People:

Berry, Anna D., 1845-1917
Dame, Harriet P., 1815-1900
Dix, Dorothea, 1802-1887

Organizations:

United States. Army. New Hampshire Infantry Regiment, 2nd (1861-1865)

Subjects:

African Americans
Bull Run, 1st Battle of, Va., 1861
Correspondence
Clippings (Books, newspapers, etc.)
Health
Military camps
Scrapbooks
Slaves
United States--History--Civil War, 1861-1865

Locations:

Baltimore, MD
Beaufort, SC
Bladensburg, MD
Concord, NH
Washington, DC
Yorktown, VA

Occupations:

Nurses

Related Materials

Archives

Dame Family Papers, 1986.010 (m)

Harriet P. Dame School, Photograph Negatives of Concord, NH, 2017.513

Harriet Patience Dame Papers, 1995.002 (m)

Headquarters at the Weirs of the Grand Army Post #3 of the City of Manchester, Photograph Collection - Military [Oversized], 2018.502

Joab N. Patterson Papers, 1994.002

Kimball Photograph Portfolio, S 1992.68.2

Leonard Drown Papers, 2015.037

Library

Documents relating to Civil War service of and pension for Harriet P. Dame of Concord, N.H.
Concord, N.H.: n.d. Call number: 973.871 D157

Lawler, Lee Anne Rogers. *"Dear" Aunt Harriet : the story of Harriet Patience Dame, Civil War nurse.* McHenry, IL: n.d. Call number: 920 D157h

Museum

4 items, including military relics, spoons, bags, and a belt that belonged to Harriet P. Dame,
1991.044

67 items, including ribbons, medals, and badges worn by or related to Harriet P. Dame and a
print portrait of Harriet P. Dame, 2013.019

Badge, 1996.505.11