

Anna Maria Evans Papers
A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress



Manuscript Division, Library of Congress
Washington, D.C.
2008

Contact information: <http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/mss.contact>

Catalog Record: <https://lcn.loc.gov/mm98084259>

Additional search options available at: <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms008029>

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Collection Summary

Title: Anna Maria Evans Papers

Span Dates: 1835-1914

Bulk Dates: (bulk 1855-1895)

ID No.: MSS84259

Creator: Evans, Anna Maria, ca. 1828-ca. 1905

Extent: 550 items

Extent: 3 containers plus 1 oversize

Extent: 1.2 linear feet

Language: Collection material in English

Location: Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

LC Catalog record: <https://lccn.loc.gov/mm98084259>

Summary: Housewife and member of the Society of Friends (Quaker). Correspondence and printed matter pertaining to religious activities, education, domestic matters, and the impact of the Civil War on Evans's family and friends.

Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the LC Catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically.

People

Bean, Roanna Fox--Correspondence.

Cartland, Gertrude Whittier, 1822-1911--Correspondence.

Evans, Anna Maria, approximately 1828-approximately 1905.

Evans, Flora Anna--Correspondence.

Evans, Thomas, -1902.

Jones, Sam P. (Sam Porter), 1847-1906.

Moody, Dwight Lyman, 1837-1899.

Morrell, M. H.--Correspondence.

Thompson, Susan T.--Correspondence.

Subjects

Evangelistic work--United States.

Missionaries.

Religious institutions--Massachusetts--Boston.

Religious tolerance--Society of Friends.

Slavery--United States.

Society of Friends--Missions.

Society of Friends.

Temperance--Religious aspects--Society of Friends.

Women's rights--Religious aspects--Society of Friends.

Places

California--Social life and customs.

Iowa--Social life and customs.

Minnesota--Social life and customs.

Rochester (N.H.)--Social life and customs.

United States--History--Civil War, 1861-1865.

Occupations

Quakers.

Provenance

The papers of Anna Maria Roberts Evans, member of the Society of Friends (Quakers), were purchased by the Library of Congress in 1998.

Processing History

The papers of Anna Maria Evans were arranged and described in 1999. The finding aid was revised in 2008.

Copyright Status

The status of copyright in the unpublished writings of Anna Maria Evans is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.).

Access and Restrictions

The papers of Anna Maria Evans are open to research. Researchers are advised to contact the Manuscript Reading Room prior to visiting. Many collections are stored off-site and advance notice is needed to retrieve these items for research use.

Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: Container number, Anna Maria Evans Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Scope and Content Note

The papers of Anna Maria Roberts Evans (circa 1828-circa 1905) span the years 1835-1914, with the bulk of the items concentrated in the period between 1855 and 1895. The collection consists principally of correspondence relating to the Society of Friends (Quakers). Anna Maria Evans, the primary individual in the collection and an active member of the Society of Friends, lived near Rochester, New Hampshire, where she and her husband, Thomas H. Evans, owned an apple orchard. Most of the letters were written by her female relatives and friends living in New England. The letters discuss details of everyday life, faith and religious activities, and to some extent touch upon Quaker involvement in the abolition of slavery, women's rights, religious tolerance, and temperance during the second half of the nineteenth century.

The letters of Roanna Fox Bean, a close friend of Evans, span a fifty-year period from their student days in the 1850s at the Friends' Boarding School in Providence, Rhode Island, to Bean's death in 1905. Bean and her husband James, an Indian agent and real estate developer, lived at various times in Iowa, Minnesota, and California. Her letters include accounts of life in these locales. Other letters were from women who were Quaker missionaries or wives of Quaker officials both in the United States and overseas, including Gertrude W. Cartland, M. H. Morrell, and Susan T. Thompson. Education figures prominently throughout the collection, especially in the letters of Elizabeth V. Roberts, an early graduate of the State Normal School in Moorhead, Minnesota. The subject of mental illness is mentioned periodically in letters from various members of the family.

The death of the Evanses' young son Winslow in 1881 while at boarding school is recorded in a file under his name. Their daughter Flora Anna, who worked in and around Boston, was active in the revival movement of the late nineteenth century and wrote frequently of her involvement in religious organizations and attendance at revivals, particularly those of Dwight L. Moody and Sam Jones.

The Civil War is also an important subject in the collection. Although pacifists, thousands of Quaker men of draft age were conscripted during the war. Most served despite their moral opposition, though some chose flight to Canada. Letters in the collection recount such decisions, along with reports of suffering and loss of life caused by the war and the prayers of those

at home for the safe return of their loved ones. Other letters chronicle war relief efforts, especially among African American refugees fleeing the South, and contain favorable references to President Abraham Lincoln.

The pursuit of arable land in conjunction with the nation's westward expansion is documented in numerous letters. In addition to offering religious instruction, many of these Quaker settlements promoted advancements in education, farming methods, and social reform for the benefit of believer and non-believer alike. A miscellany file contains a Roberts family genealogy and material relating to Evans's education. There is also a file of printed matter consisting of advertisements, handbills, inserts, programs, receipts, and religious tracts. Among the oversize items are religious printed matter and broadsides advertising dry goods and furniture.

Arrangement of the Papers

This collection is arranged alphabetically by type of material and therein alphabetically by correspondent.

Container List

Container	Contents
BOX 1	Letters received
BOX 1	Evans, Anna Maria Roberts
BOX 1	Armstrong, Jennie, 1889
BOX 1	Barton, Maria Varney, 1865, 1876
BOX 1	Bean, Roanna Fox, 1854-1856, 1866-1898, 1905, undated (7 folders)
BOX 1	Beede, Abigail, 1873-1899, undated (3 folders)
BOX 1	Beede, Huldah M., 1889-1891
BOX 1	Cartland, Gertrude W., 1880-1889
BOX 1	Dillingham, Pruda Austin (stepsister), 1886-1889
BOX 1	Evans, Flora Anna (daughter)
BOX 1	1881-1888 (3 folders)
BOX 2	1889, 1895-1897, undated (5 folders)
BOX 2	Evans, Thomas H. (husband), 1869
BOX 2	Goddard, Mary J., 1881-1887
BOX 2	Hoag, Susan Beede, 1875, 1899-1900
BOX 2	Jenkins, Lydia E., 1881-1885
BOX 2	Jones, M. F., 1853-1857, 1873
BOX 2	Kelly, Abigail H., 1865, 1881-1885, undated
BOX 2	Meador, Elizabeth, 1865
BOX 2	Meador, Susan L., 1875-1878, 1888, undated
BOX 2	Miscellaneous, 1850, 1865-1890, 1897-1898, undated
BOX 2	Moore, Caroline M. Varney ("Carrie"), 1863, 1869-1879
BOX 2	Morrell, M. H., 1879-1890
BOX 2	Paige, Lizzie J., 1877, undated
BOX 2	Pinkham, Lucinda, 1871-1883, undated (2 folders)
BOX 2	Pinkham, M. Beede, 1855-1856, 1863-1866, undated
BOX 2	Quimby, Elizabeth S., 1863, 1880-1890, undated
BOX 2	Roberts, Edith A. ("Edie"), 1892-1896
BOX 2	Roberts, Edward Everett (brother), undated
BOX 3	Roberts, Elizabeth V., 1885-1896
BOX 3	Roberts, Jessie (father), 1865-1876
BOX 3	Roberts, Martha Austin (stepmother), 1876, 1884, undated
BOX 3	Roberts, Mary H., 1841, 1875-1882
BOX 3	Roberts, Olive A., 1866-1869
BOX 3	Roberts, Sarah Beede (mother), 1853, 1859
BOX 3	Thompson, Susan T., 1882-1884
BOX 3	Varney, Cynthia, 1890

Container List

Container	Contents
BOX 3	Varney, Eliza P., 1877-1880, 1887
BOX 3	Varney, Lydia E., 1857
BOX 3	Wiggin, A. Huldah, 1892-1897
BOX 3	Wiggin, Samuel Beede, 1858
BOX 3	Evans, Flora Anna, 1872, 1881-1899, undated
BOX 3	Evans, Thomas H., 1856-1889, undated
BOX 3	Evans, Winslow (son), 1875-1881, undated
BOX 3	Miscellaneous family members, 1838, 1846, 1863-1865, 1874-1880, 1887-1903, 1912-1914, undated
BOX 3	Roberts, Jesse and Sarah Beede, 1835, 1849-1879, undated (4 folders)
BOX 3	Roberts, Martha Austin, 1878-1882
BOX 3	Unidentified, 1859, undated
BOX 3	Miscellany, 1853, undated
BOX 3	Printed matter, 1857-1894, undated <i>See also Oversize</i>
BOX OV 1	Printed matter, 1886-1887, undated (Container 3)