

**Emma Dorothy Eliza Nevitte Southworth Papers**  
**A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress**



**Manuscript Division, Library of Congress**  
**Washington, D.C.**  
**2011**

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

Catalog Record: <https://lcn.loc.gov/mm80050849>

Additional search options available at: <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms011226>

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Finding aid encoded by Library of Congress Manuscript Division, 2011

## Collection Summary

**Title:** Emma Dorothy Eliza Nevitte Southworth Papers

**Span Dates:** 1870-1918

**Bulk Dates:** (bulk 1890-1899)

**ID No.:** MSS50849

**Creator:** Southworth, Emma Dorothy Eliza Nevitte, 1819-1899

**Extent:** 500 items

**Extent:** 2 containers

**Extent:** .8 linear feet

**Language:** Collection material in English

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

**LC Catalog record:** <https://lccn.loc.gov/mm80050849>

**Summary:** Author. Chiefly letters by Southworth to her daughter, Charlotte Southworth Lawrence, relating to personal and family affairs and to life in Georgetown (Washington, D.C.). Also includes biographical material, notes, newspaper clippings, speeches, poems, and literary fragments.

## 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

Lawrence, Charlotte Emma Southworth, 1844-1939--Correspondence.

Southworth family.

Southworth, Emma Dorothy Eliza Nevitte, 1819-1899.

### Subjects

American literature.

American poetry.

Literature.

Poetry.

### Places

Georgetown (Washington, D.C.)--Social life and customs.

### Occupations

Authors.

## Provenance

The papers of Emma Dorothy Eliza Nevitte Southworth, author, were given to the Library of Congress by Gladys Goud in 1973-1974.

## Processing History

The collection was processed in 1980. The finding aid was revised in 2011.

## Copyright Status

The status of copyright in the unpublished writings of Emma Dorothy Eliza Nevitte Southworth is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.).

## Access and Restrictions

The papers of Emma Dorothy Eliza Nevitte Southworth 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, Emma Dorothy Eliza Nevitte Southworth Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

## Biographical Note

Emma Dorothy Eliza Nevitte Southworth, born Emma Nevitte on December 26, 1819, in Washington, D.C., was a late nineteenth-century author whose domestic novels reached a wide audience in the United States and Europe. A school teacher before marriage, Southworth turned to writing to support her family after separating from husband, Frederick Southworth, an itinerant inventor, in 1844. Her first novel, *Retribution*, published in 1849, sold widely, and she is credited with helping introduce the character types of the self-made man and the independent woman to American fiction.

Southworth wrote more than sixty novels, many of them first presented serially in such magazines as the *Saturday Evening Post* and the *New York Ledger*. *The Hidden Hand*, written in 1859, became a successful book in 1888. A common setting in her writings was the South in the post-Civil War era. Friends with Harriet Beecher Stowe, Southworth was also a supporter of women's rights. She lived in Georgetown, Washington, D.C., until the 1870s, then in Yonkers, New York, and again in Georgetown, where she died on June 30, 1899.

## Scope and Content Note

The papers of Emma Dorothy Eliza Nevitte Southworth (1819-1899) span the years 1870-1918, with the bulk of the material consisting of letters from Mrs. Southworth to her daughter, Charlotte Southworth Lawrence, relating to personal and family affairs and to life in Georgetown (Washington, D.C.), between 1890 and 1899. Southworth was a prominent author of the late nineteenth-century noted for popularizing novels with domestic themes using the self-made man and independent woman as American character types. Also included is biographical material, notes, newspaper clippings, speeches, poems, and literary fragments.

## Arrangement of the Papers

The collection is organized into family correspondence and miscellaneous files and therein alphabetically by name of person or type of material.

## Container List

| <b>Container</b> | <b>Contents</b>  |
|------------------|--|
| BOX 1            | Family correspondence  |
| BOX 1            | Lawrence, Charlotte Southworth (daughter), 1890-1899, undated<br>(7 folders) |
| BOX 1            | Lawrence, Emma (granddaughter)   |
| BOX 1            | Lawrence, James V. (son-in-law)  |
| BOX 1            | Lawrence, Jamie (grandson)   |
| BOX 1            | Lawrence, Rose (granddaughter)   |
| BOX 1            | Lawrence, Valentine (granddaughter)  |
| BOX 1            | Other family members   |
| BOX 2            | Miscellany   |
| BOX 2            | Biographical material  |
| BOX 2            | Correspondents other than Southworth   |
| BOX 2            | Indenture, Maria Porter to James J. Porter, 1871, Nov. 15                    |
| BOX 2            | Literary fragments   |
| BOX 2            | Newspaper clippings  |
| BOX 2            | Notes and other items  |
| BOX 2            | Partial correspondence and fragments   |
| BOX 2            | Poems  |
| BOX 2            | Speeches   |