

Archives and Special Collections

Dickinson College

Carlisle, PA

COLLECTION REGISTER

Name: **Muhlenberg, Hiester Henry (1812-1886)** **MC 2012.3**

Material: Papers (1828-1841)

Volume: 1 linear foot (3 Document Boxes and 6 Photograph Folders)

Donation: Gift of the Friends of the Library, 2011.

Usage: These materials have been donated without restrictions on usage.

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Hiester Henry Muhlenberg was born on January 15, 1812 to Henry Augustus Philip Muhlenberg and Rebecca Hastor in Reading, Pennsylvania. He attended Dickinson College for three years and graduated with the class of 1829. After moving to Philadelphia, he enrolled at the University of Pennsylvania Medical School. He completed his M.D. in 1833 and returned to Reading to work as a doctor. After the panic of 1837, he became head of the local Farmers Bank and stabilized that institution. Rather than practice medicine full time, Muhlenberg became the cashier of the bank in 1842. He held that position for the next 43 years and led the bank through other financial crises in 1857 and 1873. He was also a member of Trinity Lutheran Church in Reading and held several positions, including Elder and Trustee.

Hiester H. Muhlenberg served in the Union army during the Civil War on two occasions. First, he answered the call for short term emergency service after the Battle of Antietam in September 1862, serving for several weeks with Company G of the 2nd Infantry Regiment. After the Confederates invaded Pennsylvania in 1863, he re-enlisted with Company C of the 42nd Infantry Regiment in early July and was mustered out on August 12.

Hiester H. Muhlenberg married Amelia Hanold (1818-1852) in 1840. They had no children. After Amelia died in June 1852, Hiester married Catharine Sprang Hunter (1853-?) on October 18, 1853 in Reading. Hiester and Catharine had seven children. Muhlenberg died on May 5, 1886 of "spinal paralysis" and was buried at the Charles Evans Cemetery in Reading.

COLLECTION DESCRIPTION

The Hiester Henry Muhlenberg Papers are comprised primarily of letters that Hiester received from six members of his immediate family between January 1828 and October 1840.

These materials are organized into three categories: Correspondence, Miscellaneous, and Photographs. The Dickinson College Archives and Special Collections acquired this collection in December 2011 through a gift from the Friends of the Library.

The Correspondence section consists of almost 200 letters, largely from Hiester's family, dating between January 1828 and October 1840. The letters, which have all been transcribed by Irvin Rathman, cover a wide variety of subjects and most were written by members of his immediate family: Henry Augustus Philip (Father, 1782-1844), Rebecca Hastor (Mother, 1781-1841), Henry Augustus II (Brother, 1823-1854), Emma (Sister, 1809-1833), Rosa (Sister, 1820-1867), Mary (Sister, 1806-1838). Hiester received these letters while studying at Dickinson College, as a medical student at the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia, and while working as a doctor and bank official in his hometown of Reading, PA.

As Hiester's father served in the House of Representatives from 1829 to 1838, his letters reflect important political issues of the day. Of particular note are comments on the banking crisis, on Speaker of the House James Polk, on Senator James Buchanan, and on a meeting with President Andrew Jackson at the White House. Henry, who wrote many of the letters while sitting in Congress, also discussed the merits of the bank legislation introduced in the 1830s. He remained a Jacksonian Democrat throughout his political career. In addition, Hiester received letters from his mother and siblings that reflected the social life and education.

After resigning his seat in Congress in February 1838, Hiester's father sailed for Europe to start his new position as the United States Minister to Austria. The correspondence during this period includes descriptions of the political and diplomatic situation in Europe and its impact on the United States. Hiester's mother and younger sister Rosa also accompanied Henry to Europe. Not only did they describe their experiences in Vienna, but their letters home also included accounts of trips to other cities, including Frankfurt and Naples. While some letters were specifically addressed to Henry II, they were sent to Hiester's house in Reading and he may have read them before forwarding them to his younger brother. Transcriptions for the letters written from Europe in 1838 and 1839 were originally prepared by unknown individual in the 1930s.

With his parents in Europe, Hiester became the legal guardian for his younger brother. While Henry II started out at Jefferson College in Canonsburg, Pennsylvania, he later transferred to Dickinson College. His letters provide insight into the experience of a college student in the 19th century. In addition, Hiester wrote to the president of Jefferson College to explain why his brother needed the transfer to Dickinson College.

The Miscellaneous section of the collection contains seven engravings, a painted photograph, a silhouette, and a watercolor. While two engravings are of Hiester, the other images are of his immediate family and other relatives. All but one of the images are undated. In addition, this section contains a copy of a United States House of Representatives resolution adopted on January 17, 1837 at the 2nd Session of the 24th Congress. The resolution, which was co-sponsored by Hiester's father, relates to the House of Representatives response to President Andrew Jackson's 1836 State of the Union message.

The Photograph section contains 14 photographs and is housed among other images in the Dickinson College photograph archives. While there are no photographs of Heister, the other ones are of his family members and relatives. Several photographs are of unidentified individuals and seven photographs are undated.

COLLECTION INVENTORY

BOX 1 - MC 2012.3

CORRESPONDENCE

- Folder 01) From Mary (Sister), Reading, PA – Jan. 2, 1828
- Folder 02) From Rebecca (Mother), Reading, PA – Jun. 8, 1828
- Folder 03) From Henry (Father), Reading, PA – Jun. 25, 1828
- Folder 04) From Rebecca (Mother), Reading, PA – Jul. 13, 1828
- Folder 05) From Rebecca (Mother), Reading, PA – Aug. 4, 1828

- Folder 06) From Henry (Father), Reading, PA – Sep. 3, 1828
- Folder 07) From Rebecca (Mother), Reading, PA – Sep. 14, 1828
- Folder 08) From Rebecca (Mother), Reading, PA – Nov. 17, 1828
- Folder 09) From Henry (Father), Reading, PA – Dec. 9, 1828
- Folder 10) From Rebecca (Mother), Reading, PA – Jan. 6, 1829

- Folder 11) From Rebecca (Mother) and Rosa (Sister), Reading, PA – Jan. 25, 1829
- Folder 12) From Henry II (Brother), Reading, PA – Jan. 25, 1829
- Folder 13) From Henry (Father), Reading, PA – Jan. 26, 1829
- Folder 14) To Henry (Father) (Fragment), Carlisle, PA – Jan. 31, 1829
- Folder 15) From Rebecca (Mother), Reading, PA – Sep. 26, 1830

- Folder 16) From Henry (Father), Reading, PA – Oct. 13, 1830
- Folder 17) From Henry (Father), Reading, PA – Oct. 26, 1830
- Folder 18) From Emma (Sister), Reading, PA (Fragment) – Oct. 31, 1830
- Folder 19) From Henry II (Brother), Reading, PA – Nov. 1830
- Folder 20) From Henry (Father), Reading, PA – Nov. 11, 1830

- Folder 21) From Rebecca (Mother), Reading, PA – Nov. 29, 1830
- Folder 22) From Henry (Father), Washington, DC – Dec. 15, 1830
- Folder 23) From Rebecca (Mother), Reading, PA – Dec. 19, 1830
- Folder 24) From Henry (Father), Washington, DC – Jan. 3, 1831
- Folder 25) From Rebecca (Mother), Reading, PA – Jan. 6, 1831

- Folder 26) From Henry (Father), Washington, DC – Jan. 24, 1831
- Folder 27) From Henry (Father), Washington, DC – Feb. 8, 1831
- Folder 28) From Rebecca (Mother), Reading, PA – Feb. 19, 1831
- Folder 29) From Henry (Father), Washington, DC – Feb. 20, 1831
- Folder 30) From Rebecca (Mother), Reading, PA (Fragment) – Feb. 22, 1831

- Folder 31) From Rebecca (Mother), Reading, PA – Apr. 10, 1831
- Folder 32) From Mary (Sister), Reading, PA – Apr. 16, 1831
- Folder 33) From Rebecca (Mother), Reading, PA – Apr. 21, 1831
- Folder 34) From Henry (Father), Reading, PA – Apr. 27, 1831
- Folder 35) From Mary (Sister), Reading, PA – May 5, 1831

BOX 1 - MC 2012.3 (cont.)

CORRESPONDENCE (cont.)

- Folder 36) From Rebecca (Mother), Reading, PA – May 15, 1831
- Folder 37) From Henry (Father), Reading, PA – May 28, 1831
- Folder 38) From Rebecca (Mother), Reading, PA – Jun. 25, 1831
- Folder 39) From Henry (Father), Reading, PA – Jul. 20, 1831
- Folder 40) From Rebecca (Mother), Reading, PA – Sep. 10, 1831

- Folder 41) From Emma (Sister), Reading, PA – Oct. 11, 1831
- Folder 42) From Parents – Oct. 15, 1831
- Folder 43) From Henry (Father), Reading, PA – Oct. 25, 1831
- Folder 44) From Rebecca (Mother), Reading, PA – Nov. 6, 1831
- Folder 45) From Rebecca (Mother), Reading, PA – Dec. 24, 1831

- Folder 46) From Henry (Father), Washington, DC – Dec. 29, 1831
- Folder 47) From Henry (Father), Washington, DC – Jan. 1, 1833
- Folder 48) From Henry (Father), Washington, DC – Jan. 9, 1833
- Folder 49) From Rosa (Sister), Reading, PA – Jan. 10, 1833
- Folder 50) From Henry (Father), Washington, DC – Jan. 25, 1833

- Folder 51) From Rebecca (Mother), Reading, PA – Jan. 26, 1833
- Folder 52) From Emma (Sister), Reading, PA – Feb. 1833
- Folder 53) From Henry (Father), Washington, DC – Feb. 3, 1833
- Folder 54) From Henry (Father), Washington, DC – Feb. 14, 1833
- Folder 55) From Rebecca (Mother) and Emma (Sister), Reading, PA – Feb. 19, 1833

- Folder 56) From Henry (Father), Baltimore – Mar. 5, 1833
- Folder 57) From Henry (Father), Reading, PA – Mar. 11, 1833
- Folder 58) From Henry (Father), Reading, PA – Mar. 20, 1833
- Folder 59) From Emma (Sister), Reading, PA – Apr. 25, 1833
- Folder 60) From Rebecca (Mother), Reading, PA – May 12, 1833

- Folder 61) From Henry (Father), Reading, PA – May 15, 1833
- Folder 62) From Amelia H. Spayd (Cousin), Reading, PA – May 20, 1833
- Folder 63) From Henry (Father), Reading, PA – May 25, 1833
- Folder 64) From Henry (Father), Reading, PA – May 30, 1833
- Folder 65) From Henry (Father), Reading, PA – Jun. 7, 1833

- Folder 66) From Amelia H. Spayd (Cousin), Reading, PA – Jun. 12, 1833
- Folder 67) From Rebecca (Mother), Reading, PA – Jun. 16, 1833
- Folder 68) From Henry (Father), Reading, PA – Jun. 25, 1833
- Folder 69) From Emma (Sister), Reading, PA – Jun. 27, 1833
- Folder 70) From Henry (Father), Reading, PA – Jul. 2, 1833

BOX 1 - MC 2012.3 (cont.)

CORRESPONDENCE (cont.)

- Folder 71) From Henry (Father), Reading, PA – Jul. 10, 1833
- Folder 72) From Henry (Father), Reading, PA – Jul. 22, 1833
- Folder 73) From Henry (Father), Reading, PA – Jul. 25, 1833
- Folder 74) From Henry (Father), Reading, PA – Jul. 25, 1833
- Folder 75) From Rebecca (Mother), Reading, PA – Aug. 17, 1833

- Folder 76) From Henry (Father), Reading, PA – Sep. 19, 1833
- Folder 77) From Henry (Father), Washington, DC – Dec. 5, 1833
- Folder 78) From Henry (Father), Washington, DC – Dec. 7, 1833
- Folder 79) From Henry (Father), Washington, DC – Dec. 14, 1833
- Folder 80) From Henry (Father), Washington, DC – Dec. 18, 1833

- Folder 81) From Henry (Father), Washington, DC – Dec. 30, 1833
- Folder 82) From Henry (Father), Washington, DC – Feb. 21, 1834
- Folder 83) From Henry (Father), Washington, DC – Apr. 7, 1834
- Folder 84) From Henry (Father), Washington, DC – Apr. 15, 1834
- Folder 85) From Henry (Father), Philadelphia, PA – May 10, 1834

- Folder 86) From Henry (Father), Washington, DC – Jun. 3, 1834
- Folder 87) From Mary (Sister), New York, to Henry (Father) – Jun. 7, 1834
- Folder 88) From Henry (Father), Washington, DC – Jun. 20, 1834
- Folder 89) From Henry (Father), Washington, DC – Jul. 15, 1834
- Folder 90) From Henry (Father), Washington, DC – Dec. 15, 1834

- Folder 91) From Henry (Father), Washington, DC – Dec. 16, 1834
- Folder 92) From Henry (Father), Washington, DC – Dec. 17, 1834
- Folder 93) From Henry (Father), Washington, DC – Dec. 21, 1834
- Folder 94) From Henry (Father), Washington, DC – Dec. 29, 1834
- Folder 95) From Henry (Father), Washington, DC – Jan. 7, 1835

- Folder 96) From Henry (Father), Washington, DC – Feb. 2, 1835
- Folder 97) From Henry (Father), Washington, DC – Feb. 3, 1835

BOX 2 – MC 2012.3

CORRESPONDENCE (cont.)

- Folder 01) From Henry (Father), Washington, DC – Dec. 7, 1835
- Folder 02) From Henry (Father), Washington, DC – Dec. 11, 1835
- Folder 03) From Henry (Father), Washington, DC – Dec. 22, 1835
- Folder 04) From Henry (Father), Washington, DC – Dec. 23, 1835
- Folder 05) From Henry (Father), Washington, DC (Fragment) – Feb. 2, 1836

BOX 2 – MC 2012.3 (cont.)

CORRESPONDENCE (cont.)

- Folder 06) From Henry (Father), Washington, DC – Feb. 5, 1836
- Folder 07) From Henry (Father), Washington, DC – Feb. 13, 1836
- Folder 08) From Henry (Father), Washington, DC – Feb. 15, 1836
- Folder 09) From Henry (Father), Washington, DC – Feb. 16, 1836
- Folder 10) From Henry (Father), Washington, DC – Feb. 17, 1836

- Folder 11) From Henry (Father), Washington, DC – Apr. 1, 1836
- Folder 12) From Henry (Father), Washington, DC – May 28, 1836
- Folder 13) From Henry (Father), Reading, PA, to Rebecca (Mother),
Niagara Falls – Jul. 24, 1836
- Folder 14) From Henry (Father), Washington, DC – Dec. 20, 1836
- Folder 15) From Rosa (Sister), Washington, DC – Dec. 21, 1836

- Folder 16) From Henry (Father), Washington, DC – Jan. 13, 1837
- Folder 17) From Dr. Frederick A. Muhlenberg (Uncle), to Henry (Father) – Apr. 6, 1837
- Folder 18) From Henry (Father), Washington, DC – Sep. 3, 1837
- Folder 19) From Henry (Father), Washington, DC – Sep. 4, 1837
- Folder 20) From Henry (Father), Washington, DC – Sep. 7, 1837

- Folder 21) From Henry (Father), Washington, DC – Sep. 26, 1837
- Folder 22) From Henry (Father), Washington, DC – Oct. 3, 1837
- Folder 23) From Henry II (Brother), Canonsburg, PA – Nov. 20, 1837
- Folder 24) From Henry II (Brother), Canonsburg, PA – Jan. 1, 1838
- Folder 25) From Rosa (Sister), Washington, DC – Jan. 2, 1838

- Folder 26) From Dr. Diller Luther, Philadelphia, PA – Feb. 24, 1838
- Folder 27) From James M. Pawling, Norristown, PA – Feb. 24, 1838
- Folder 28) From Dr. Frederick A. Muhlenberg (Uncle), Lancaster, PA – Apr. 18, 1838
- Folder 29) From Henry II (Brother), Washington, PA – May 13, 1838
- Folder 30) From Rebecca (Mother), At Sea – May 19, 1838

- Folder 31) From Rosa (Sister), Paris – May 29, 1838
- Folder 32) From Henry (Father), Paris – Jun. 1, 1838
- Folder 33) From Henry II (Brother), Canonsburg, PA – Jun. 8, 1838
- Folder 34) From Henry II (Brother), Canonsburg, PA – Jun. 19, 1838
- Folder 35) From Henry II (Brother), Canonsburg, PA – Jun. 29, 1838

- Folder 36) From Henry (Father), BadenBaden – Jul. 3, 1838
- Folder 37) From Dr. Frederick A. Muhlenberg (Uncle), Lancaster, PA – Jul. 10, 1838
- Folder 38) From Henry II (Brother), Canonsburg, PA – Jul. 19, 1838
- Folder 39) From Rebecca (Mother) and Rosa (Sister), to Henry II (Brother) – Jul. 27, 1838
- Folder 40) To Dr. Mathew Brown – Aug. 6, 1838

BOX 2 – MC 2012.3 (cont.)

CORRESPONDENCE (cont.)

Folder 41) From Henry (Father), Vienna – Aug. 24, 1838
Folder 42) From Rosa (Sister), Vienna (only transcript available) – Aug. 24, 1838
Folder 43) From Henry II (Brother), Carlisle, PA – Sep. 18, 1838
Folder 44) From Rebecca (Mother), Vienna – Sep. 18, 1838
Folder 45) From Rosa (Sister), Vienna – Sep. 19, 1838

Folder 46) From Henry II (Brother), Carlisle, PA – Sep. 23, 1838
Folder 47) From Rebecca (Mother) Vienna, to Henry II (Brother) – Oct. 6, 1838
Folder 48) From Rosa (Sister), Vienna, to Henry II (Brother) – Oct. 29, 1838
Folder 49) From Henry II (Brother), Carlisle, PA – Nov. 30, 1838
Folder 50) From Henry (Father), Vienna – Dec. 11, 1838

Folder 51) From Henry II (Brother), Carlisle, PA – Jan. 10, 1839
Folder 52) From Rebecca (Mother), Vienna – Jan. 16, 1839
Folder 53) From Henry II (Brother), Carlisle, PA – Jan. 30, 1839
Folder 54) From Henry II (Brother), Carlisle, PA – Feb. 16, 1839
Folder 55) From Rosa (Sister), Vienna – Mar. 8, 1839

Folder 56) From Henry II (Brother), Carlisle, PA – Mar. 9, 1839
Folder 57) From Henry II (Brother), Carlisle, PA – Mar. 15, 1839
Folder 58) From Rosa (Sister), Vienna – Apr. 2, 1839
Folder 59) From Henry (Father), Vienna – Apr. 9, 1839
Folder 60) From Henry II (Brother), Carlisle, PA – Apr. 11, 1839

Folder 61) From Rebecca (Mother), Vienna – Apr. 11, 1839
Folder 62) From Rebecca (Mother), Vienna, to Henry II (Brother) – May 14, 1839
Folder 63) From Rebecca (Mother), Vienna – May 14, 1839
Folder 64) From Henry (Father), Vienna – May 16, 1839
Folder 65) From Rosa (Sister), Vienna – May 24, 1839

Folder 66) From Henry II (Brother), Carlisle, PA – Jun. 8, 1839
Folder 67) From Henry II (Brother), Carlisle, PA – Jun. 12, 1839
Folder 68) From Henry II (Brother), Carlisle, PA – Jun. 23, 1839
Folder 69) From Henry (Father), Vienna – Jul. 1839
Folder 70) From Henry II (Brother), Carlisle, PA – Jul. 5, 1839

Folder 71) From Henry (Father), Vienna – Jul. 16, 1839
Folder 72) From Rosa (Sister), Vienna – Aug. 4, 1839
Folder 72) From Henry (Father), Vienna – Aug. 5, 1839
Folder 73) From Rebecca (Mother), Naples – Sep. 14, 1839
Folder 74) From Henry II (Brother), Carlisle, PA – Sep. 23, 1839
Folder 75) From Henry (Father), Rome – Oct. 2, 1839

Folder 76) From Henry II (Brother), Carlisle, PA – Oct. 4, 1839
Folder 77) From Henry II (Brother), Carlisle, PA – Oct. 29, 1839
Folder 78) From Henry II (Brother), Carlisle, PA – Nov. 2, 1839
Folder 79) From Rosa (Sister), Vienna – Nov. 6, 1839
Folder 80) From Henry (Father), Vienna – Dec. 12, 1839

Folder 81) From Rebecca (Mother), Vienna – Dec. 13, 1839
Folder 82) From Henry II (Brother), Carlisle, PA – Jan. 5, 1840
Folder 83) From Henry (Father), Vienna – Jan. 13, 1840
Folder 84) From Henry II (Brother), Carlisle, PA – Jan. 23, 1840
Folder 85) From Henry II (Brother), Carlisle, PA – Jan. 30, 1840

BOX 3 – MC 2012.3

CORRESPONDENCE (cont.)

Folder 01) From Rosa (Sister), Vienna – Feb. 10, 1840
Folder 02) From Henry II (Brother), Carlisle, PA – Feb. 15, 1840
Folder 03) From Rebecca (Mother), Vienna – Mar. 1, 1840
Folder 04) From Henry (Father), Vienna – Mar. 1, 1840
Folder 05) From Henry (Father), Vienna – Apr. 1, 1840

Folder 06) From Rebecca (Mother), Vienna – Apr. 26, 1840
Folder 07) From Rosa (Sister), Vienna – Apr. 26, 1840
Folder 08) From Henry (Father), Vienna – May 5, 1840
Folder 09) From Henry (Father), Vienna – Jun. 2, 1840
Folder 10) From Rosa (Sister), Vienna – Jul. 8, 1840

Folder 11) From Henry (Father), Vienna – Jul. 20, 1840
Folder 12) From Henry (Father), Frankfurt – Sep. 3, 1840
Folder 13) From Rosa (Sister), Frankfurt – Sep. 6, 1840
Folder 14) From Rosa (Sister), Frankfurt to Henry II (Brother) – Sep. 9, 1840
Folder 15) From Henry (Father), London – Oct. 3, 1840

Folder 16) From Henry (Father), London – Oct. 5, 1840
Folder 17) From Henry (Father), London – Oct. 18, 1840
Folder 18) From Susan Mason (Cousin), New Jersey – Feb. 16, 1841

MISCELLANEOUS

Folder 19) Hiester, Joseph
 Engraving – undated
 Watercolor – undated
Folder 20) Hunter, Jacob Van Reed
 Silhouette – c1814

BOX 3 - MC 2012.3 (cont.)

MISCELLANEOUS (cont.)

- Folder 21) Muhlenberg, Henry A., II
Painted Photograph – c1862
- Folder 22) Muhlenberg, Henry A. P.
Engraving – undated
Engraving – undated
- Folder 23) Muhlenberg, Hiester Henry
Engraving – undated
Engraving – undated
- Folder 24) Muhlenberg, Henry Melchior
Engraving – undated
- Folder 25) Muhlenberg, John Peter Gabriel
Engraving – undated
- Folder 26) United States House of Representatives
Copy of a Resolution adopted at the 24th Congress, 2d Session – Jan. 17, 1837

PHOTOGRAPHS – PC 2012.3

Hunter, Nicholas

- Folder 01) Photograph – undated

Muhlenberg, Frederick H.

- Folder 02) Muhlenberg with a friend on a bicycle, Tintype – undated
Tintype – undated
Cabinet Card – Aug. 1884
Cabinet Card – c1885
Carte de visite – c1891
Reproduction of Carte de visite – undated

Muhlenberg, Kate Spang Hunter

- Folder 03) Photograph – c1870
Carte de visite – c1891

Nicolls, Rosa Katherine Muhlenberg

- Folder 04) Photograph – c1865

Group

- Folder 05) Frederick Muhlenberg and others aboard the *Petrel* – undated
Cabinet Card of an unidentified man who also appears on the *Petrel* – undated

Unidentified Individuals

- Folder 06) Cabinet Card of a woman – undated
Carte de visite of a woman – undated

This collection register was prepared by Don Sailer, April 2012.

This collection register was updated by Irvin Rathman, June 2016; Isabella Silvis, Jan. 2018.