

Archives and Special Collections

Dickinson College

Carlisle, PA

COLLECTION REGISTER

Name: **McPherson, William C. (1812-1851)** **MC 2012.10**

Material: Papers (1825-1839)

Volume: 0.25 linear feet (1 Document Box)

Donation: Gift of the Friends of the Library, 2012

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

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

William Carrick McPherson was born on July 13, 1812 to John Bayard McPherson and Catherine Lenhart McPherson in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. The family later moved to Marietta, PA. The McPhersons were an influential family, active in the Revolution, the military, the government of Pennsylvania, and politics. William graduated from Dickinson College in 1829, of which college his grandfather Robert McPherson had been a charter trustee. William went on to study medicine at the University of Maryland under Dr. Samuel Baker. William wrote his thesis on Cholera Infantum and graduated in 1834.

On June 1, 1843, William married Elizabeth Wallace. The couple had three children: Joseph Wallace (b.1846; went on to become a federal judge), John Bayard, and Sarah. From 1858 to 1862 the McPhersons lived in Sidney, OH. They then returned to Harrisburg, PA, where William practiced medicine throughout his life. He also served as Secretary of the Board of Canal Commissioners of Pennsylvania, and was a Mason. William died on April 8, 1851 in Philadelphia, and his wife Elizabeth died on January 30, 1857.

COLLECTION DESCRIPTION

The William C. McPherson collection consists of two journals dating between 1825 and 1839. One journal is covered in marbled paper and contains entries from both McPherson's time at Dickinson College and also in Marietta, PA. The Dickinson entries are signed but not dated; the Marietta entries date from August to October 1835. The entries appear to be essays or poems, perhaps original or perhaps copied. The other journal is covered with paper bearing a red and blue geometric pattern. It begins with notes from Dr. Baker's lectures in 1832, and also contains essays, poems and musings from Marietta in October and November 1835, as well as a few entries from 1836 and 1839.

COLLECTION INVENTORY

BOX 1 - MC 2012.10

- Folder 01) Journal at Dickinson College and Marietta, PA - 1825-29, Aug.-Oct. 1835
- Folder 02) Journal at University of Maryland and Marietta, PA- 1832, 1835-39

This collection register was prepared by Lily Key, July 2012.