

Archives and Special Collections

Dickinson College

Carlisle, PA

COLLECTION REGISTER

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

Material: Papers (1828-1840)

Volume: 0.5 linear feet (1 Document Box 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 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 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
 - From Rebecca (Mother), Reading, PA – Jun. 8, 1828
 - From Henry (Father), Reading, PA – Jun. 25, 1828
 - From Rebecca (Mother), Reading, PA – Jul. 13, 1828
 - From Rebecca (Mother), Reading, PA – Aug. 4, 1828
- Folder 02) From Henry (Father), Reading, PA – Sep. 3, 1828
 - From Rebecca (Mother), Reading, PA – Sep. 14, 1828
 - From Rebecca (Mother), Reading, PA – Nov. 17, 1828
 - From Henry (Father), Reading, PA – Dec. 9, 1828
- Folder 03) From Rebecca (Mother), Reading, PA – Jan. 6, 1829
 - From Rebecca (Mother) and Rosa (Sister), Reading, PA – Jan. 25, 1829
 - From Henry II (Brother), Reading, PA – Jan. 25, 1829
 - From Henry (Father), Reading, PA – Jan. 26, 1829
 - To Henry (Father) (Fragment), Carlisle, PA – Jan. 31, 1829
- Folder 04) From Rebecca (Mother), Reading, PA – Sep. 26, 1830
 - From Henry (Father), Reading, PA – Oct. 13, 1830
 - From Henry (Father), Reading, PA – Oct. 26, 1830
 - From Emma (Sister), Reading, PA (Fragment) – Oct. 31, 1830
- Folder 05) From Henry II (Brother), [Reading, PA] – Nov. 1830
 - From Henry (Father), Reading, PA – Nov. 11, 1830
 - From Rebecca (Mother), Reading, PA – Nov. 29, 1830
 - From Henry (Father), Washington, DC – Dec. 15, 1830
 - From Rebecca (Mother), Reading, PA – Dec. 19, 1830
- Folder 06) From Henry (Father), Washington, DC – Jan. 3, 1831
 - From Rebecca (Mother), Reading, PA – Jan. 6, 1831
 - From Henry (Father), Washington, DC – Jan. 24, 1831
- Folder 07) From Henry (Father), Washington, DC – Feb. 8, 1831
 - From Rebecca (Mother), Reading, PA – Feb. 19, 1831
 - From Henry (Father), Washington, DC – Feb. 20, 1831
 - From Rebecca (Mother), Reading, PA (Fragment) – Feb. 22, 1831
- Folder 08) From Rebecca (Mother), Reading, PA – Apr. 10, 1831
 - From Mary (Sister), Reading, PA – Apr. 16, 1831
 - From Rebecca (Mother), Reading, PA – Apr. 21, 1831
 - From Henry (Father), Reading, PA – Apr. 27, 1831
- Folder 09) From Mary (Sister), Reading, PA – May 5, 1831
 - From Rebecca (Mother), Reading, PA – May 15, 1831
 - From Henry (Father), Reading, PA – May 28, 1831
 - From Rebecca (Mother), Reading, PA – Jun. 25, 1831

BOX 1 - MC 2012.3 (cont.)

CORRESPONDENCE (cont.)

- Folder 10) From Henry (Father), Reading, PA – Jul. 20, 1831
 - From Rebecca (Mother), Reading, PA – Sep. 10, 1831
 - From Emma (Sister), Reading, PA – Oct. 11, 1831
 - From Parents – Oct. 15, 1831
 - From Henry (Father), Reading, PA – Oct. 25, 1831
- Folder 11) From Rebecca (Mother), Reading, PA – Nov. 6, 1831
 - From Rebecca (Mother), Reading, PA – Dec. 24, 1831
 - From Henry (Father), Washington, DC – Dec. 29, 1831
- Folder 12) From Henry (Father), Washington, DC – Jan. 1, 1833
 - From Henry (Father), Washington, DC – Jan. 9, 1833
 - From Rosa (Sister), Reading, PA – Jan. 10, 1833
 - From Henry (Father), Washington, DC – Jan. 25, 1833
 - From Rebecca (Mother), Reading, PA – Jan. 26, 1833
- Folder 13) From Emma (Sister), Reading, PA – Feb. 1833
 - From Henry (Father), Washington, DC – Feb. 3, 1833
 - From Henry (Father), Washington, DC – Feb. 14, 1833
 - From Rebecca (Mother) and Emma (Sister), Reading, PA – Feb. 19, 1833
- Folder 14) From Henry (Father), Baltimore – Mar. 5, 1833
 - From Henry (Father), Reading, PA – Mar. 11, 1833
 - From Henry (Father), Reading, PA – Mar. 20, 1833
 - From Emma (Sister), Reading, PA – Apr. 25, 1833
- Folder 15) From Rebecca (Mother), Reading, PA – May 12, 1833
 - From Henry (Father), Reading, PA – May 15, 1833
 - From Amelia H. Spayd (Cousin), Reading, PA – May 20, 1833
 - From Henry (Father), Reading, PA – May 25, 1833
 - From Henry (Father), Reading, PA – May 30, 1833
- Folder 16) From Henry (Father), Reading, PA – Jun. 7, 1833
 - From Amelia H. Spayd (Cousin), Reading, PA – Jun. 12, 1833
 - From Rebecca (Mother), Reading, PA – Jun. 16, 1833
 - From Henry (Father), Reading, PA – Jun. 25, 1833
 - From Emma (Sister), Reading, PA – Jun. 27, 1833
- Folder 17) From Henry (Father), Reading, PA – Jul. 2, 1833
 - From Henry (Father), Reading, PA – Jul. 10, 1833
 - From Henry (Father), Reading, PA – Jul. 22, 1833
 - From Henry (Father), Reading, PA – Jul. 25, 1833
 - From Henry (Father), Reading, PA – Jul. 25, 1833
- Folder 18) From Rebecca (Mother), Reading, PA – Aug. 17, 1833
 - From Henry (Father), Reading, PA – Sep. 19, 1833
- Folder 19) From Henry (Father), Washington, DC – Dec. 5, 1833
 - From Henry (Father), Washington, DC – Dec. 7, 1833
 - From Henry (Father), Washington, DC – Dec. 14, 1833
 - From Henry (Father), Washington, DC – Dec. 18, 1833
 - From Henry (Father), Washington, DC – Dec. 30, 1833

BOX 1 - MC 2012.3 (cont.)

CORRESPONDENCE (cont.)

- Folder 20) From Henry (Father), Washington, DC – Feb. 21, 1834
 - From Henry (Father), Washington, DC – Apr. 7, 1834
 - From Henry (Father), Washington, DC – Apr. 15, 1834
 - From Henry (Father), Philadelphia – May 10, 1834
- Folder 21) From Henry (Father), Washington, DC – Jun. 3, 1834
 - From Mary (Sister), New York to Henry (Father) – Jun. 7, 1834
 - From Henry (Father), Washington, DC – Jun. 20, 1834
 - From Henry (Father), Washington, DC – Jul. 15, 1834
- Folder 22) From Henry (Father), Washington, DC – Dec. 15, 1834
 - From Henry (Father), Washington, DC – Dec. 16, 1834
 - From Henry (Father), Washington, DC – Dec. 17, 1834
 - From Henry (Father), Washington, DC – Dec. 21, 1834
 - From Henry (Father), Washington, DC – Dec. 29, 1834
- Folder 23) From Henry (Father), Washington, DC – Jan. 7, 1835
 - From Henry (Father), Washington, DC – Feb. 2, 1835
 - From Henry (Father), Washington, DC – Feb. 3, 1835
- Folder 24) From Henry (Father), Washington, DC – Dec. 7, 1835
 - From Henry (Father), Washington, DC – Dec. 11, 1835
 - From Henry (Father), Washington, DC – Dec. 22, 1835
 - From Henry (Father), Washington, DC – Dec. 23, 1835
- Folder 25) From Henry (Father), Washington, DC (Fragment) – Feb. 2, 1836
 - From Henry (Father), Washington, DC – Feb. 5, 1836
 - From Henry (Father), Washington, DC – Feb. 13, 1836
 - From Henry (Father), Washington, DC – Feb. 15, 1836
 - From Henry (Father), Washington, DC – Feb. 16, 1836
 - From Henry (Father), Washington, DC – Feb. 17, 1836
- Folder 26) From Henry (Father), Washington, DC – Apr. 1, 1836
 - From Henry (Father), Washington, DC – May 28, 1836
 - From Henry (Father), Reading, PA to Rebecca (Mother), Niagara Falls – Jul. 24, 1836
 - From Henry (Father), Washington, DC – Dec. 20, 1836
 - From Rosa (Sister), Washington, DC – Dec. 21, 1836
- Folder 27) From Henry (Father), Washington, DC – Jan. 13, 1837
 - From Henry II (Brother), Lancaster, PA – Apr. 6, 1837
- Folder 28) From Henry (Father), Washington, DC – Sep. 3, 1837
 - From Henry (Father), Washington, DC – Sep. 4, 1837
 - From Henry (Father), Washington, DC – Sep. 7, 1837
 - From Henry (Father), Washington, DC – Sep. 26, 1837
- Folder 29) From Henry (Father), Washington, DC – Oct. 3, 1837
 - From Henry II (Brother), Canonsburg, PA – Nov. 20, 1837
- Folder 30) From Rosa (Sister), Washington, DC – Jan. 1838
 - From Henry II (Brother), Canonsburg, PA – Jan. 1, 1838
 - From Dr. D. Luther, Philadelphia – Feb. 22, 1838
 - From James M. Pawling, Norristown, PA – Feb. 24, 1838

BOX 1 - MC 2012.3 (cont.)

CORRESPONDENCE (cont.)

- Folder 31) From Dr. F. A. Muhlenberg (Uncle), Lancaster, PA – Apr. 18, 1838
 - From Henry II (Brother), Washington, PA – May 13, 1838
 - From Rebecca (Mother), At Sea (w/transcription) – May 19, 1838
 - From Rosa (Sister), Paris (w/transcription) – May 29, 1838
- Folder 32) From Henry (Father), Paris (w/transcription) – Jun. 1, 1838
 - From Henry II (Brother), Canonsburg, PA – Jun. 8, 1838
 - From Henry II (Brother), Canonsburg, PA – Jun. 19, 1838
 - From Henry II (Brother), Canonsburg, PA – Jun. 29, 1838
- Folder 33) From Henry (Father), BadenBaden (w/transcription) – Jul. 3, 1838
 - From Dr. F. A. Muhlenberg (Uncle), Lancaster, PA – Jul. 10, 1838
 - From Henry II (Brother), Canonsburg, PA – Jul. 19, 1838
 - From Rosa (Sister), Vienna, to Henry II (Brother) (w/transcription) – Jul. 27, 1838
 - To Dr. Mathew Brown – Aug. 6, 1838
 - From Henry (Father), Vienna (w/transcription) – Aug. 24, 1838
 - From Rosa (Sister), Vienna (only transcript available) – Aug. 24, 1838
- Folder 34) From Henry II (Brother), Carlisle, PA – Sep. 18, 1838
 - From Rebecca (Mother), Vienna (w/transcription) – Sep. 18, 1838
 - From Rosa (Sister), Vienna (w/transcription) – Sep. 19, 1838
 - From Henry II (Brother), Carlisle, PA – Sep. 23, 1838
- Folder 35) From Rebecca (Mother) Vienna, to Henry II (Brother) (w/transcription) – Oct. 6, 1838
 - From Rosa (Sister), Vienna, to Henry II (Brother) (w/transcription) – Oct. 29, 1838
 - From Henry II (Brother), Carlisle, PA – Nov. 30, 1838
 - From Henry (Father), Vienna (w/transcription) – Dec. 11, 1838
- Folder 36) From Henry II (Brother), Carlisle, PA – Jan. 10, 1839
 - From Rebecca (Mother), Vienna (w/transcription) – Jan. 16, 1839
 - From Henry II (Brother), Carlisle, PA – Jan. 30, 1839
 - From Henry II (Brother), Carlisle, PA – Feb. 16, 1839
- Folder 37) From Rosa (Sister), Vienna (w/transcription) – Mar. 8, 1839
 - From Henry II (Brother), Carlisle, PA – Mar. 9, 1839
 - From Henry II (Brother), Carlisle, PA – Mar. 15, 1839
- Folder 38) From Rosa (Sister), Vienna (w/transcription) – Apr. 2, 1839
 - From Henry (Father), Vienna (w/transcription) – Apr. 9, 1839
 - From Henry II (Brother), Carlisle, PA – Apr. 10, 1839
 - From Rebecca (Mother), Vienna (w/transcription) – Apr. 11, 1839
- Folder 39) From Rebecca (Mother), Vienna, to Henry II (Brother) (w/transcription) – May 14, 1839
 - From Rebecca (Mother), Vienna (w/transcription) – May 14, 1839
 - From Henry (Father), Vienna (w/transcription) – May 16, 1839
 - From Rosa (Sister), Vienna (w/transcription) – May 24, 1839
- Folder 40) From Henry II (Brother), Carlisle, PA – Jun. 8, 1839
 - From Henry II (Brother), Carlisle, PA – Jun. 12, 1839
 - From Henry II (Brother), Carlisle, PA – Jun. 23, 1839

BOX 1 - MC 2012.3 (cont.)

CORRESPONDENCE (cont.)

- Folder 41) From Henry II (Brother), Carlisle, PA – Jul. 5, 1839
 - From Henry (Father), Vienna (w/transcription) – Jul. 16, 1839
 - From Henry (Father), Vienna (w/transcription) – Summer 1839
 - From Rosa (Sister), Vienna (w/transcription) – Aug. 4, 1839
 - From Henry (Father), Vienna (w/transcription) – Aug. 5, 1839
- Folder 42) From Rebecca (Mother), Naples (w/transcription) – Sep. 14, 1839
 - From Henry II (Brother), Carlisle, PA – Sep. 23, 1839
 - From Henry (Father), Rome (w/transcription) – Oct. 2, 1839
 - From Henry II (Brother), Carlisle, PA – Oct. 4, 1839
 - From Henry II (Brother), Carlisle, PA – Oct. 29, 1839
- Folder 43) From Henry II (Brother), Carlisle, PA – Nov. 2, 1839
 - From Rosa (Sister), Vienna (w/transcription) – Nov. 6, 1839
 - From Henry (Father), Vienna (w/transcription) – Dec. 12, 1839
 - From Henry (Father), Vienna (w/transcription) – Dec. 13, 1839
- Folder 44) From Henry II (Brother), Carlisle, PA – Jan. 5, 1840
 - From Henry (Father), Vienna – Jan. 13, 1840
 - From Henry II (Brother), Carlisle, PA – Jan. 23, 1840
 - From Henry II (Brother), Carlisle, PA – Jan. 30, 1840
- Folder 45) From Rosa (Sister), Vienna – Feb. 10, 1840
 - From Henry II (Brother), Carlisle, PA – Feb. 15, 1840
 - From Susan Mason (Cousin), New Jersey – Feb. 16, 1840
 - From Rebecca (Mother), Vienna – Mar. 1, 1840
 - From Henry (Father), Vienna – Mar. 1, 1840
- Folder 46) From Henry (Father), Vienna – Apr. 1, 1840
 - From Rebecca (Mother), Vienna – Apr. 26, 1840
 - From Rosa (Sister), Vienna – Apr. 26, 1840
 - From Henry (Father), Vienna – May 5, 1840
 - From Henry (Father), Vienna – Jun. 2, 1840
- Folder 47) From Rosa (Sister), Vienna – Jul. 8, 1840
 - From Henry (Father), Vienna – Jul. 20, 1840
 - From Henry (Father), Frankfurt – Sep. 3, 1840
 - From Rosa (Sister), Frankfurt – Sep. 6, 1840
 - From Rosa (Sister), Frankfurt – Sep. 9, 1840
- Folder 48) From Henry (Father), London – Oct. 3, 1840
 - From Henry (Father), London – Oct. 5, 1840
 - From Henry (Father), London – Oct. 18, 1840

MISCELLANEOUS

- Folder 49) Hiester, Joseph
 - Engraving – undated
 - Watercolor – undated
- Folder 50) Hunter, Jacob Van Reed
 - Silhouette – c1814

BOX 1 - MC 2012.3 (cont.)

MISCELLANEOUS (cont.)

- Folder 51) Muhlenberg, Henry A., II
Painted Photograph – c1862
- Folder 52) Muhlenberg, Henry A. P.
Engraving – undated
Engraving – undated
- Folder 53) Muhlenberg, Hiester Henry
Engraving – undated
Engraving – undated
- Folder 54) Muhlenberg, Henry Melchior
Engraving – undated
- Folder 55) Muhlenberg, John Peter Gabriel
Engraving – undated
- Folder 56) 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