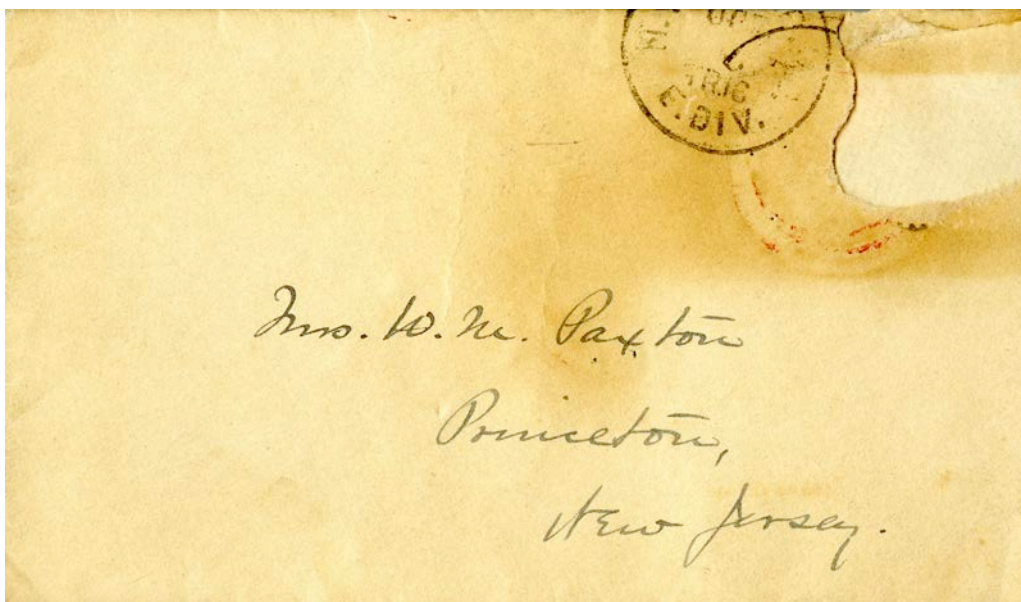


**Guide to the
Paxton Family Papers**



**Gettysburg College, Musselman Library
Special Collections & College Archives**

**Molly Reynolds '14
February 2015**

MS – 172: Papers of the Paxton Family

(1 box, .27 cubic feet)

Inclusive Dates: 1889-1905

Bulk Dates: 1895

*Processed by: Molly Reynolds '14
February 2015*

Provenance

These papers were bought from Mrs. Hudson's Fine Books and Paper in Chelsea, NY, in February, 2014.

Biography

The Paxton family settled in Adams County, PA in the 1770s. William Miller Paxton (1824-1904) attended the preparatory school and Pennsylvania College at Gettysburg, where he received his Bachelor of Arts in 1843. He studied law for two years, but then, feeling himself pulled to the Church, he studied at Princeton Theological Seminary and graduated in 1848. Paxton was pastor of the Church in Greencastle, PA, for two years. He served as: pastor of the First Church of Pittsburgh for fourteen years, contemporaneously chair of Sacred Rhetoric in Western Theological Seminary for twelve years, and pastor of the First Church of New York for eighteen years. In 1883, he became professor of Ecclesiastical, Homiletical and Pastoral Theology in Princeton Theological Seminary, and taught until his retirement in 1902, when he became a Professor Emeritus. Paxton was director of Princeton Theological Seminary from 1866-1883, and was a trustee of the University for thirty-eight years.

William Miller Paxton married Caroline Sophia Denny in Pittsburg in November of 1855. They had eight children: Elizabeth Denny Paxton, Rev. James Dunlop Paxton, Amy Maria Paxton, William Miller Paxton, Caroline Denny Paxton, Harmar Denny Paxton, Margaretta Paxton, and James Donaldson Paxton. James Dunlop Paxton graduated from Princeton Theological Seminary in 1883, and was a well-regarded Presbyterian pastor, working on the east coast and abroad, eventually coming back to the United States to take up the position at the First Presbyterian Church in Lynchburg, Virginia in 1904.

Scope and Content Notes

This set of papers presents a variety of notes and correspondences between members of the family and friends. The bulk of the letters date 1895 and come from Elizabeth D. Paxton and Margaretta Paxton to their mother, Caroline Sophia Denny Paxton, while touring Europe. There are letters from James Dunlop and Harmar Denny to their mother, as well as condolence letters for Mr. and Mrs. William M. Paxton upon the death of

Harmar Denny in 1896. This collection may prove useful for a researcher conducting a study of the Paxton family, or one interested in the travels of Americans in Europe at the end of the 19th century. This collection does not contain information relevant to William Miller Paxton's time at Gettysburg or his career.

Series Description

This collection is contained in one series, and organized chronologically.

Box 1

1-1 Finding Aid and Biographical Information

Series 1 Paxton Papers

1-2 Undated fragments and Correspondences 1889-1890

- Invitation to the wedding of William Miller Paxton, Jr., undated
- Elizabeth Paxton to one of her sisters, undated
- 6 October, 1889, James Dunlop Paxton to his mother
- 7 February, 1890, Caroline D. Paxton to "Daisy" (sister), from Capri
- 1 May, 1890, James Dunlop Paxton to his mother, from Athens
- 6 October, 1890, Harmar Denny Paxton to James Donaldson Paxton

1-3 Correspondences 1895

- 31 March, 1895, Helen Paxton to her sister
- 24 April 1895, Elizabeth Paxton to her mother, from Rome
- 28 April 1895, Margareta Paxton to her mother, from Rome
- 8 May 1895, Margareta Paxton to her mother, from Venice
- 26 May 1895, Elizabeth Paxton to her mother, from Venice
- 2 June 1895, Elizabeth Paxton to Carrie Paxton, from Innsbruck, Austria
- 22 June 1895, Margareta Paxton to her mother, from Paris
- June 1895 Elizabeth Paxton to her mother, from Zell Am See, Austria
- 20 July 1895, Elizabeth Paxton to her mother, from Austria
- 18 August, 1895, Elizabeth Paxton to her mother, from Salzburg, Austria
- 2 October 1895, Elizabeth Paxton to her mother

1-4 Correspondences 1896-1905

- 28 February, 1896, Mrs. Wyeth to Professor William Paxton
- 25 March, 1896, Louis B. Crane to Mrs. WM Paxton
- 30 July, 1905, William M. Paxton III to his father, William M. Paxton, Jr.

