

Guide to the Hannah Maria Catlin Phelps Papers

MS 1112



compiled by Janet Elaine Gertz

August 1982

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Collection Overview

REPOSITORY: Manuscripts and Archives
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CALL NUMBER: MS 1112

CREATOR: Phelps, Hannah Maria Catlin, 1831-1880

TITLE: Hannah Maria Catlin Phelps papers

DATES: 1849-1859

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: 0.25 linear feet

LANGUAGE: English

SUMMARY: The papers consist of a typed transcript of a diary kept by Hannah Maria Catlin Phelps between 1849 and 1859. She was the daughter of Julius Catlin, lieutenant governor of Connecticut, 1858-1861. It depicts the social life of a young woman in Hartford, Connecticut, and her visits to New York, Washington, D.C., and Niagara Falls. The last two years of the diary include accounts of her wedding and the birth of her daughter in October, 1858.

ONLINE FINDING AID: To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/mssa.ms.1112>

Requesting Instructions

To request items from this collection for use in the Manuscripts and Archives reading room, please use the request links in the HTML version of this finding aid, available at <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/mssa.ms.1112>.

To order reproductions from this collection, please go to http://www.library.yale.edu/mssa/ifr_copy_order.html. The information you will need to submit an order includes: the collection call number, collection title, series or accession number, box number, and folder number or name.

Key to the container abbreviations used in the PDF finding aid:

b. box
f. folder

Administrative Information

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Gift of Mary Phelps Merrill, 1953.

Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

Conditions Governing Use

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Preferred Citation

Hannah Maria Catlin Phelps Papers (MS 1112). Manuscripts and Archives, Yale University Library.

Biographical / Historical

Hannah Maria Catlin was born in 1831, in Hartford, Connecticut. She was the only daughter of Julius Catlin, Lieutenant-Governor of Connecticut between 1858 and 1861. She married Benjamin Kinsman Phelps on October 21, 1857. He was a graduate of the Yale College class of 1853, a district attorney of New York County, and a law partner of Chester A. Arthur. They had three children together: Mary Cutler, Dudley, and Anna Kinsman. She died on December 21, 1880.

Scope and Contents

This collection contains a typed transcript of the journal of Hannah Maria (Catlin) Phelps (1831-1880), kept between 1849 and 1859. Hannah Maria Catlin was the daughter of Julius Catlin, Lieutenant-Governor of Connecticut from 1858 to 1861; she married Benjamin Kinsman Phelps (1832-1880, Yale 1853). Her journal describes her life as a well-to-do young lady in Hartford, Connecticut, from the age of seventeen to twenty-one, with special detail being devoted to the summer of 1850, which she spent in Newport, Rhode Island. She made fewer entries in her journal after 1853, and stopped completely after 1855, resuming in October, 1857, only to describe her wedding, and then beginning again in October, 1858, with the birth of her daughter. The journal ends abruptly with December 1859. Throughout, the major topic is social life-callers, suitors, visits to New York, Washington, and Niagara Falls-but Hannah's interest in religion and in self-improvement are also documented, as are the frequent illnesses and deaths of friends and family members.

This journal was the gift to Yale University of Mrs. William H. Merrill, the daughter of Hannah and Benjamin Phelps, whose birth is described in the journal. She presented the typescript to Yale in 1953, and retained possession of the original.

Collection Contents

Journal		
b. 1, f. 1	Hartford, Connecticut	1849 May-1850 July 11
b. 1, f. 2 - 3	Newport, Rhode Island	1850 July 13- September 4
b. 1, f. 4 - 5	Hartford, Connecticut	1850 September 27-1852 January
b. 1, f. 6	New York and Washington, D.C.	1852 February
b. 1, f. 7 - 10	Hartford, Connecticut	1852 March-1855
b. 1, f. 11	New York and Hartford, Connecticut	1857 October, 1858 October- December
b. 1, f. 12	New York	1859

Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

Subjects

Childbirth
Marriage
Women

Geographic Names

Connecticut
Hartford (Conn.) -- Social life and customs
New England
Newport (R.I.) -- Social life and customs
New York (N.Y.) -- Social life and customs

Genres / Formats

Diaries

Names

Phelps, Hannah Maria Catlin, 1831-1880