



ArchivesSpace

Harriet Beecher Stowe collection, 1880-1999

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Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Maine Women Writers Collection

Abplanalp Library
University of New England
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Portland, Maine 04103
cmiller10@une.edu
URL: <http://www.une.edu/mwwc>

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Summary Information

Repository:	Maine Women Writers Collection
Creator:	Stowe, Harriet Beecher, 1811-1896
Title:	Harriet Beecher Stowe collection
ID:	0336
Date [inclusive]:	1880-1999
Physical Description:	.25 linear feet 21 folders
Language of the Material:	English

Preferred Citation

Harriet Beecher Stowe collection, Maine Women Writers Collection, University of New England, Portland, Maine

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Biographical/Historical Note

Harriet Elisabeth Beecher was born on June 14, 1811 in Litchfield, CT. She attended Hartford Female Seminary - which was founded by her sister Catharine - and then taught there until 1832. Under the positive influence of her sister's teaching methods, Harriet Beecher began to develop her talent as a writer. In 1832 she moved with her family to Cincinnati, where her father became president of Lane Theological Seminary. It was here that she met Calvin E. Stowe, a professor at the seminary, and they were married in 1836. It was in Cincinnati where Harriet Beecher Stowe became a member of the Semi-Colon Club, a local literary society. She also published stories and magazine articles for such publications as Atlantic Monthly and The Independent, and co-authored a book entitled Primary Geography for Children. In 1850 the Stowe family moved to Brunswick, ME, where Calvin took a teaching job at Bowdoin College, his alma mater. It was here Stowe wrote Uncle Tom's Cabin. The passage of the Fugitive Slave Act in 1850 had deeply disturbed Stowe and was a factor in inspiring her to write Uncle Tom's Cabin. The novel was first published in serial form in The National Era from 1851 to 1852. In 1852 it was published in book form in two volumes, later became an international bestseller, and was translated into over 60 languages. The book garnered Harriet both praise and criticism. Abolitionists and reformers lauded Stowe for her compassionate portrayal of slaves, while others attacked her for fabricating unrealistic images of slavery. This led her to publish the key to Uncle Tom's Cabin in 1853,

where she presented her source material. A second anti-slavery novel, *Dred: A Tale of the Great Dismal Swamp*, told the story of a slave rebellion. There is no doubt that Stowe's work humanized slaves by telling the story of individuals and families affected by the horrors of slavery. In creating the character of Eliza, the slave mother, Stowe drew on her own experiences as a mother. In 1849, her son had Charley died as a result of a cholera epidemic, and the experience of his loss enabled Stowe to imagine how awful it would be for a slave mother to lose her own child. In 1853, Stowe was invited to the British Isles, where was received enthusiastically. She returned to Britain and Europe later on, and continued to travel throughout her life. Stowe remained passionate and outspoken about slavery, and through her column in the New York newspaper, *The Independent*, she urged women to actively oppose slavery by petitioning and participating in lectures. From 1853 to 1864 the Stowes lived in Andover, MA, where Calvin Stowe taught at Andover Theological Seminary. The family also purchased a home in Florida, where they vacationed regularly. In 1864 they moved to Hartford, CT. Calvin Stowe died in 1866, but Harriet Beecher Stowe remained in Hartford, raising their seven children until her death on July 1, 1896.

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Collection Scope and Content

The collection of approximately a dozen files includes ephemera and one piece of correspondence related to *Uncle Tom's Cabin*, one tract by Stowe, 20th century published scholarship about her literary and personal life, two undated stereoscopic views possibly at her Florida residence and an undated photograph of the author. Also an extensive collection of her works published in magazines and newspapers.

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Arrangement

This collection is organized as a single series.

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Administrative Information

Publication Statement

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Access

Collection is open for research.

Publication Rights

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Related Materials

Related Materials

Beecher-Stowe family papers, 1798-1956. Schlesinger Library, Radcliffe Institute, Harvard University, Cambridge, Massachusetts

Beecher family Additional Papers, ca.1870-1904. Schlesinger Library, Radcliffe Institute, Harvard University, Cambridge, Massachusetts

Harriet Beecher Stowe Center, Hartford, Connecticut

Stowe Collection, George J. Mitchell Department of Special Collections & Archives, Bowdoin College Library, Brunswick, Maine

Harriet Beecher Stowe collection of papers, The Henry W. and Albert A. Berg Collection of English and American Literature, The New York Public Library, New York, New York

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Controlled Access Headings

- Slavery -- United States -- Fiction
- Brunswick (Me.)
- Correspondence
- Christmas cards
- Promotional materials
- Clippings
- Photographs
- Stowe, Harriet Beecher, 1811-1896
- Stowe, Harriet Beecher, 1811-1896

Collection Inventory

Title/Description	Instances	
Christmas card to Minnie Nichol, 1880	Box 1	Folder 001
ALS to Clayton H. Crosley, 1886 January 16 <u>Digital Object: In reply to your inquiring I will say...</u>	Box 1	Folder 002
"The Two Altars" Liberty Tracts no. 1, 1852	Box 1	Folder 003
"Uncle Tom's Cabin" play advertising bill, 1890	Box 1	Folder 004
"Uncle Tom's Cabin" tradecard - C.H. Smith dramatization	Box 1	Folder 005
"Men of Our Time" publisher's advertising broadside	Box 1	Folder 006
Stereopticon slides (2) of Florida home	Box 1	Folder 007
Literary / historical articles, 1938, 1952, 1981	Box 1	Folder 008
Reprint of American Studies article by Mary Kelley, "At War with Herself", 1978	Box 1	Folder 009
Display copy photographs of Stowe	Box 1	Folder 010
Articles, reviews about Stowe, 1990s	Box 1	Folder 011
Finding aid to collection at Bowdoin	Box 1	Folder 012
Framed B+W image of HBS and signed scrap inscribed, "Trust in the Lord and do good"	Drawer 5	Folder 013
20th century balsam pillow Pearl of Orr's Island, Me.	Box 1	Folder 014
Newspaper article re: Sojourner Truth 1878 (photocopy and original), 1878	Box 1	Folder 015

Newspaper article by HBS "Old Father Morris" in Mechanic and Farmer (photocopy--original in OVS periodicals), 1838	Box 1	Folder 016
Newspaper article by HBS "What is to be done with our Charley?" in Aurora of the Valley (photocopy--original in OVS periodicals), 1859	Box 1	Folder 016a
Periodical article "Harriet Beecher Stowe at Brunswick" by Herbert Edwards, 1967	Box 1	Folder 017
Photocopy of R. W. Winks introduction to 1969 reprint of "An Autobiography of The Reverend Josiah Henson ("Uncle Tom") from 1789 to 1881", 1969	Box 1	Folder 018
Play "Circle of Light: A Play About the Life of Harriet Beecher Stowe" by Nicholas Durso, 1981	Box 1	Folder 019
Engraving of HBS by Jacques Reich	Drawer 7	Folder 020
Mounted photograph - Site of The Pearl of Orr's Island	Drawer 7	Folder 021