**American Antiquarian Society**

**Manuscript Collections**

<table>
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<th>Name of collection:</th>
<th>Location:</th>
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<td>Earle Family, Papers, 1727-1892</td>
<td>Microform Room</td>
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<tr>
<th>Size of collection:</th>
<th>N.U.C.M.C. number:</th>
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<tr>
<td>3 reels microfilm</td>
<td>RLIN id:</td>
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**Sources of information on collection:**

See accompanying sheet(s) for additional information.

**Source of collection:**

Manuscripts owned by Thomas Earle, Mattapoisett, Mass. Filmed 1994

**Collection description:**

John Milton Earle (1794-1874) and his brother Pliny Earle (1809-1892) were born into a Quaker family in Leicester Mass. They were children of Pliny Earle (1762-1832) and Patience (Buffum) Earle (1770-1849). From 1827 to 1858, John Milton Earle was editor and proprietor of the Worcester Spy. He was elected to the Massachusetts House of Representatives from 1844 to 1852, and to the Massachusetts Senate in 1858. From 1859 to 1862, he served as Commissioner to the Indians of Massachusetts. The younger Pliny Earle attended Leicester Academy and the Friends' School in Providence, R.I., and earned his medical degree at the University of Pennsylvania in 1837. A physician and psychiatrist, Pliny Earle studied in Europe between 1837 and 1839 and served as superintendent of the State Lunatic Hospital in Northampton, Mass., from 1864-1885.

In 1821, John Milton Earle married Sarah Hussey (1799-1858) of Nantucket, Mass. They had nine children, of whom eight survived infancy: Ann H. (1822- ); Elizabeth (1824-1858); Catherine (1828-1874); Martha B. (1829- ); Sarah F. (1831- ); Pliny (1834- ); Samuel H. (1837-1837); and Frances C. (1840- ).

The earliest letters in this collection are between the elder Pliny Earle and his brothers Jonah (1765-1846), Henry (1774-1837) and Timothy (1778-1819) regarding the wool card manufacturing business. The correspondence of John Milton Earle and his family begins with letters between Earle and Sarah Hussey in the period of their courtship, and these letters contain much discussion of reading and Quakerism. Later letters include many to and from Earle's children, particularly Ann H. Earle, although many members of the family are correspondents and recipients. Other correspondents include Lucy Chase (1822-
1909) of Worcester. Although focusing on family and local matters, these letters cover a very wide range of topics. Numerous letters between John Milton Earle and his wife Sarah date to the period after their marriage, as she frequently visited Nantucket. These letters contain much news of events in Worcester and Nantucket.

The papers of the younger Pliny Earle include a series of diaries from the years 1831 to 1833 as well as travel and medical notes from his visits to Europe and Turkey in 1838-1839. There are also genealogical notes on the Earle family and a "description of Elizabeth B. Chase's Spiritual Communications" dated 1852.

(continues)
Sources of background information on this collection:


Emory Washburn, Historical Sketches of the Town of Leicester, Massachusetts (Boston: John Wilson and Son, 1860)
Reel 1:

Folder 1: Correspondence, n.d.
Folder 2: Correspondence, 1789-1790; 1801-1819
Folder 3: Correspondence, 1820-1829
Folder 4: Correspondence, 1830-1839
Folder 5: Correspondence, 1840-1842
Folder 6: Correspondence, 1843-1844 (to August 26, 1843)

Reel 2:
Folder 6: Correspondence, 1843-1844 (beginning Sept. 15, 1843)
Folder 7: Correspondence, 1845-1882
Folder 8: Receipted Bills, etc.; n.d., 1743-1819
Folder 9: Deeds, etc.; 1727-1867
Folder 10: Leicester, Mass. Quaker church subscriptions, 1790's
Folder 11: Estate accounts, 1819-1827
Folder 12: Pliny Earle (1762-1832), recipes, n.d.
Folder 13: Sarah Hussey (Mrs. John Milton Earle) (1799-1858), penmanship exercises, ca. 1817
Folder 14: Sarah Hussey Earle, accounts, 1821
Folder 15: John Milton Earle, miscellaneous papers, n.d., 1836-1861
Folder 16: John Milton Earle, genealogical notes and inquiries, n.d., 1873-1892
Folder 17: Poetry, etc., probably John Milton Earle family
Folder 18: Pliny Earle (1809-1892), diary, January-July, 1831
Folder 19: Pliny Earle, diary, August-November, 1832
Folder 20: Pliny Earle, diary, April-June, 1833
Folder 21: Pliny Earle, diary fragment, November, 1833
Folder 22: Pliny Earle, "Notes on Europe," December, 1838-April, 1839 (Pages 1-101)

( cont.)
Folder 23: Pliny Earle, "Notes from Drs. Barth and Cazeaux," 1838

Folder 24: Pliny Earle, "Sagacity etc. of Animals," 1832-1842

Folder 25: Pliny Earle, Description of Elizabeth B. Chase's spiritual communications, 1852


Folder 27: Passports of Pliny Earle and Anna Southwick
Quakers
Worcester
Nantucket
J.M. Earle
Sarah Hussey Earle
Pliny Earle
Anne H. Earle
Lucy Chase
wool card manufacturing
Worc. Spy
Women--correspondence
Physicians --(or notes on medical cases)
Europe, description and travel (especially Italy)
poetry
Spiritualism

related collections:
John Milton Earle Papers
Pliny Earle Papers