

American Antiquarian Society

Manuscript Collections

Name of collection:

Earle, Pliny, Papers, c. 1819-1892

Location:

Manuscript boxes "E"
Octavo volumes "E"

Size of collection:

9 manuscript boxes; 1 octavo volume

N.U.C.M.C. number:

62-3090

RLIN id: MAAR92-A63

Sources of information on collection:

Source of collection:

Gifts of the Pliny Earle Estate, 1904; and Jennie Lea Southwick, 1922.

Collection description:

Pliny Earle (1809-1892) was born in Leicester, Mass., the son of Pliny Earle (1762-1832) and Patience Buffum Earle, who invented and patented a machine for making wool and cotton cards. The younger Pliny attended Leicester Academy, the Friends' School in Providence, R.I., and earned his medical degree at the University of Pennsylvania in 1837. A physician and psychiatrist, he was a co-founder of the American Medical Association and led his contemporaries in the study of psychiatric institutions and in the treatment of the insane. He served as superintendent of the State Lunatic Hospital in Northampton, Mass., from 1864 to 1885. He was very interested in the genealogy of his family and in 1888 published The Earle Family: Ralph Earle and His Descendants (Worcester: Press of Charles Hamilton).

The bulk of the collection consists of correspondence to Earle from his colleagues, dealing with issues pertinent to their interests in the field of mental illness. There are letters about patients, case notes, and drafts for reports. There are also letters from psychiatrists in Europe and a few items of personal correspondence from members of his family.

One of his innovations in the treatment of patients was to offer lectures to them on various literary and cultural topics. Included in this collection are a number of those lectures as well as copies of some of his articles.

There are twenty-eight diaries, 1835-1892, in which Earle wrote brief daily

entries, accounts, addresses, and genealogical notes. There are also several volumes of medical and travel notebooks and one octavo volume of copies of letters to his family written from Europe, Cuba, and Washington, D.C., 1837-1864.

Earle worked on the genealogy of his family for over fifty years and there are several folders of notes and correspondence gathered in preparation for his book. There is also some biographical material on Earle by Franklin Benjamin Sanborn (1831-1917) who wrote the "official" biography of him.

(cont.)

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Collection description (continued):

At the beginning of the collection there are two manuscripts pertaining to Earle's father and his development of carding machines for the textile industry. One of the items is a letter, April 1804, from Eleazer Smith (-) of Walpole, Mass., describing improvements for what appears to be a carding machine.

See Contents List.

*Use of quotations from this collection is subject to special restrictions.
Please consult with Manuscripts Department.

27 March 1975
revised 19 February 2010

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Pliny Earle, Papers, c. 1819-1892

Contents List

Manuscript Boxes

- 1 Items pertaining to Pliny Earle (1762-1832);
Professional Correspondence, Alley - Cushing

Folder 1: Deed, 1805; Letter from Eleazer Smith to Pliny Earle, Sr.
Folder 2: Alley - Austin
Folder 3: Ball - Brewer
Folder 4: Bridgman - Butler
Folder 5: Campbell - Cushing

- 2 Professional Correspondence, Dall - Kulp

Folder 1: Dall - Dyer
Folder 2: Earl - Everts
Folder 3: Fanning - Frost
Folder 4: Gale - Gundry
Folder 5: Hale - Hurd
Folder 6: James - Kulp

3 Professional Correspondence, Laehr - Purple

Folder 1: Laehr - Lyon
Folder 2: Marsh - Mims
Folder 3: Miscellaneous - Murray
Folder 4: Nelson - Outt
Folder 5: Paddock - Quimby

4 Professional Correspondence, Ray - Young

Folder 1: Ray - Rust
Folder 2: Sabin - Smith
Folder 3: Southwick - Swift
Folder 4: Taft - Verry
Folder 5: Walker - Young

5 Correspondence from or Relating to Earle's Patients;
Case Notes and Lists of Earle's Patients

Folder 1: Correspondence of patients
Folder 2: Correspondence from friends of patients
Folder 3: Lists of patients and notes on cases

6 Miscellaneous Earle Manuscripts

Folder 1: Miscellaneous correspondence and materials pertaining to the
Pliny Earle Estate (removed from the Chase Family, Papers,
c. 1787- c. 1915, March 1975)
Folder 2: Biographical material
Folder 3: General lectures
Folder 4: Medical lectures, etc.

(cont.)

Pliny Earle, Papers, c. 1819-1892 Contents List (cont.)

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7 Miscellaneous Earle Manuscripts

Folder 1: Certificates and awards
Folder 2: Articles on insanity, 1842-1845
Folder 3: Articles on insanity, 1846-1849
Folder 4: Articles on insanity, 1857-1858
Folder 5: Articles on insanity, 1860-1885

8 Earle Family Genealogical Material

Folder 1: Abby - Ezman
Folder 2: Fanny - Kittredge
Folder 3: Laura - Otis
Folder 4: Pardon - Susan
Folder 5: Theodore - Xenophon
Folder 6: Names other than Earle Family: Andrews - Woodbury

9 Bound Volumes

Diaries, Travel Notes, Medical Notes

Vol. 1--Diary, Travel Notes, 1835-1837; v. 2--Travel Notes, 1837; v. 3--Travel Notes, 1837-1838; v. 4--Journal of Travels Abroad, 1838; v. 5--Travel Notes, 1837-1838; v. 6--Medical & Travel Notes, ca. 1837/8; v. 7--Diary, 1839; v. 8--Diary, 1852-1857

Diaries

Vol. 9--1863; v. 10--1864; v. 11--1865; v. 12--1866; v. 13--1867; v. 14--1868; v. 15--1869; v. 16--1870; v. 17--1871; v. 18--1872; v. 19--1874; v. 20--1875; v. 21--1876; v. 22--1878; v. 23--1879; v. 24--1880; v. 25--1881; v. 26--1884; v. 27--1885; v. 28--1886; v. 29--1887; v. 30--1888; v. 31--1889; v. 32--1990; v. 33--1991; v. 34--1992

Genealogical Notes, Cards to Lectures

Vol. 35--Genealogy Notes, Diary, 1819-1859; v. 36--Autobiography, Genealogy Notes, 1833-1840; v. 37, Earle Family Genealogy Notes, 1859; v. 38--Cards to Lectures, etc., 1835-1864

Octavo Volume

- 1 Copies of letters Earle wrote to his family from Europe, Cuba, and Washington, D.C., 1837-1864