



State Library of Massachusetts - Special Collections Department

Manuscript 42

Correspondence concerning the Reform School at Westborough, MA, 1862-1863: Guide

COLLECTION SUMMARY

Creator: Howe, S. G. (Samuel Gridley), 1801-1876

Call Number: Manuscript 42

Extent: 1 folder (10 letters)

Preferred Citation Style: *Item number.* Correspondence concerning the Reform School at Westborough, MA. State Library of Massachusetts Special Collections.

Provenance: Gift of George C. Davis, 1943.

About This Finding Aid: Description based on DACS.

Processed by: Finding aid prepared by Araceli Mendez, 2013.

Abstract: The collection contains correspondence from 1862-1863 between Samuel G. Howe and George C. Davis concerning the Massachusetts State Reform School in Westborough, MA.

SCOPE AND CONTENT

This collection contains 10 letters that relate to the business procedures of the Massachusetts State Reform School in Westborough, MA. The correspondence, dating from 1862-1863, is primarily a discussion of disciplinary actions for a female employee at the Massachusetts State Reform School. Five of these letters were written by Samuel G. Howe to George C. Davis, both of whom served as members of the school's Board of Trustees. Two of these letters were written by George C. Davis to Samuel G. Howe, and one letter is written by Honorable Carver Hotchkiss, a

member of the school's Executive Committee, to Samuel G. Howe. The remaining two letters are letters written by George C. Davis' son, of the same name. These letters detail the collection to Governor Leverett Saltonstall and Mr. Dennis A. Doole, Head Librarian at the State Library of Massachusetts.

HISTORICAL NOTE

The Massachusetts State Reform School for Boys was established in Westborough, Massachusetts in 1847 by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. Its establishment was intended for the reformation of male juvenile offenders under sixteen years of age. By placing the boys in a reform school, the Commonwealth hoped to save young delinquents from the corrupting influences that could result from an association with convicted criminals that could come about from being placed in a prison. The late Theodore Lyman, Mayor of Boston from 1834-1836, made a large bequest to the institution at his death in 1849. His donation resulted in the renaming of the school from the Massachusetts State Reform School for Boys to the Lyman School for Boys. The school closed in 1971 when the costs to maintain the school open became too costly for the Commonwealth.

George C. Davis (1813-1873) served as treasurer to the Board of Trustees of the Massachusetts State Reform School in the 1860's. Samuel Gridley Howe (1801-1876) was the founding director of the Perkins School for the Blind in Watertown, MA. He served on the Board of Trustees of the Massachusetts State Reform School from 1861 to 1863.

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Arrangement

This collection is arranged in its original order.

Conditions Governing Access

This collection is open for research during the Special Collections Department's regular hours.

Conditions Governing Reproduction and Use

Copyright restrictions may apply. Requests for permission to publish material from this collection should be discussed with Special Collections staff.

Languages and Scripts

The collection is entirely in English.

Related Materials

The following collections may also be of interest:

- Samuel Gridley Howe Collection, 1820-2011, bulk 1820-1910 (AG18). Samuel P. Hayes Research Library, Perkins School for the Blind, Watertown, MA. *An extensive collection pertaining to the life and work of Samuel Gridley Howe.* Finding aid is available online: <http://www.perkinsarchives.org/sgh.html>

Detailed Series Description and Container List

| Folder # | Title | Date |
|-----------------|--|------------------------|
| 1 | Letter from George C. Davis to Samuel G. Howe | November 26, 1862 |
| 1 | Letter from Samuel G. Howe to George C. Davis | December 19, 1862 |
| 1 | Letter from Samuel G. Howe to George C. Davis | March 17, year unknown |
| 1 | Letter from Samuel G. Howe to George C. Davis | Date unknown |
| 1 | Letter from George C. Davis to Samuel G. Howe | December 5, 1862 |
| 1 | Letter from Samuel G. Howe to George C. Davis | December 8, 1862 |
| 1 | Letter from Honorable Carver Hotchkiss to Samuel G. Howe | December 13, 1862 |
| 1 | Letter from Samuel G. Howe to George C. Davis | December 16, 1862 |
| 1 | Letter from George C. Davis (son) to Governor Leverett Saltonstall | November 21, 1943 |
| 1 | Letter from George C. Davis (son) to Dennis A. Dooley | December 6, 1943 |