

## NUCMC Catalog Record

Creator: Whittier, John Greenleaf, 1807-1892

Title: John Greenleaf Whittier papers

Date Created: 1781-1922

Extent: 4.5 linear ft.

Location: Peabody Essex Museum, Salem, Mass.

Biographical Data: Quaker poet, author, and abolitionist, of Haverhill, Amesbury, and Danvers, Essex County, Mass.

Notes: In part, photocopies.

Acquired through various sources.

Finding aid published in: National Inventory of Documentary Sources in the United States, microfiche 4.7.101.

Summary: Whittier correspondence: letters sent series (1833-1882) includes letters sent to relatives and others sharing Whittier's political and literary interests. Includes information concerning his daily life, illnesses, early career as a political writer, secession of the Southern States at the beginning of the Civil War, celebration of his 80th birthday throughout the U.S., and sources for characters in his poem Snowbound. Correspondents include his cousin, Abby (Johnson) Woodman, her daughter, Phebe Woodman, author Mary Abigail Dodge (writing under name of Gail Hamilton), abolitionist Henry I. Bowditch, and Henry Wilson.

Whittier correspondence: letters received series (1829-1892) includes letters from relatives, colleagues in political and reform activities, and admirers and autograph collectors. Subjects include publication of his work, family life, help and advice given to women writers, his abolitionist activities in the anti-slavery movement, the teaching career in the North of former slave Charlotte L. Forten, and Quaker activities during the Civil War. Correspondents include his sister, Elizabeth (Lizzie) Whittier, relatives Ada and Gustavus Cammett and Hannah Neall, Oliver Wendell Holmes, William Dean Howells, James Russell Lowell, and Charles Sumner, and many women authors including Mary Abigail Dodge (Gail Hamilton), Mary Mapes Dodge, Annie Fields, Sarah Orne Jewett, Lucy Larcom, Elizabeth Stuart Phelps, Harriet Beecher Stowe, and Celia Thaxter.

Writings by Whittier series consists of poetry, prose, and printed materials (partially indexed), handwritten translations of foreign verse, contract for Snowbound, and other papers. Of interest is an introduction to Ichabod, Whittier's attack on Daniel Webster for his defense of the Fugitive Slave Law. Whittier and Johnson family papers series contains a wide variety of material relating to Whittier relatives and his home Oak Knoll (Danvers, Mass.) where he lived with Johnson family members during the last 16 years of his life. Includes papers of his father, John (1762-1830), and sister, Elizabeth (1815-1864) Whittier; genealogical materials; information pertaining to the Johnson family and Whittier cousins, Abby (Johnson) Woodman, Caroline Johnson, and Phebe Woodman; estate papers of Edmund Johnson, father of Abby and Caroline; and correspondence of Robert S. Rantoul regarding his research for Some Personal Reminiscences of the Poet Whittier (1901).

Subjects:

American poetry--19th century.  
American literature--19th century.  
Antislavery movements.  
Slavery--United States.  
Fugitive slaves--United States.  
Decedents' estates--Massachusetts.  
Dwellings--Massachusetts.  
African American teachers--New England.  
Women teachers--New England.  
Birthdays.  
Women--Massachusetts.  
Fugitive slave law of 1850.  
Quakers--Massachusetts.  
American poetry--Quaker authors.  
Secession.  
Authors and publishers--United States.  
United States—History--Civil War, 1861-1865.  
Confederate States of America--History.  
Danvers (Mass.)--Buildings, structures, etc.  
Amesbury (Mass.)