

Archives and Special Collections

Dickinson College

Carlisle, PA

COLLECTION REGISTER

Name: **Creigh, Thomas (1808-1880)** **MC 2007.3**

Material: Papers (1824-1872)

Volume: .25 linear feet (1 Document Box)

Donation: Gift of Thomas Creigh, 1950

Usage: These materials have been donated without restrictions on usage.

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Thomas Creigh was born the seventh child of Dr. John Creigh and Eleanor Dunbar on September 9, 1808 in Landisburg, Perry County, Pennsylvania. In May 1819, the Creigh family moved to Carlisle, Pennsylvania, where Thomas attended the local common school for three years under Henry Wales. He spent two years at the Dickinson Grammar School before enrolling at Dickinson College in the fall of 1824. Creigh graduated from the College on September 28, 1828.

Following his graduation, Creigh remained in Carlisle and studied with Reverend George Duffield to enter the Presbyterian ministry. He attended the Princeton Theological Seminary during the winter of 1829-1830 and was licensed to preach by the Presbytery of Carlisle on April 12, 1831. After a series of brief stints at several Pennsylvania congregations, Creigh was elected pastor of the Presbyterian church in Mercersburg, Franklin County, Pennsylvania, on September 27 and ordained on November 17, 1831. In 1853 he was awarded an honorary Doctorate of Divinity from Lafayette College. Interested in advancing women's education, Creigh also served as president of the board of trustees at Wilson College in Chambersburg, Pennsylvania, from 1872 until his death.

Creigh married his first wife, Ann Hunter Jacobs of Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, in 1833. They had two children, John and James Jacobs. Both Ann and her eldest son were plagued with poor health, and Ann died three years into the marriage. In 1837 Creigh married his second wife, Jane McClelland Grubb, a native of Mercersburg. They had four children: Joseph Brainerd, Thomas Alfred, William, and Ellen Dunbar. The relatively early deaths of two of these children strongly affected Creigh, particularly that of five-year-old William in 1847.

During Creigh's tenure in Mercersburg, the church experienced two revivals, added one thousand members, and sent thirteen of its young men into the ministry. Highly regarded by his congregants, Thomas Creigh died in Mercersburg on April 21, 1880. He was seventy-one years old.

COLLECTION DESCRIPTION

The Thomas Creigh collection is housed in one document box. It contains two letters, two notebooks from Creigh's student days at Dickinson College, a poem, and three miscellaneous documents.

The letters, written in 1862 and 1872 from Creigh to his friend James Hamilton, Esq. of Carlisle, are brief. They touch upon Joseph Brainerd's illness, Creigh and Hamilton's religious discussions, Hamilton's writing, and their previous work together for the church.

The notebooks represent the bulk of the collection and provide information regarding one student's academic and creative habits in the early nineteenth century. The first notebook consists of lecture notes from William Neill's "Revealed Religion" class and Alexander McClelland's metaphysics class, taken between 1827 and 1828. Creigh also created a table of contents for each lecture series.

The second notebook contains a variety of original compositions, including poems, essays, and copies of correspondence to a cousin and other unnamed recipients. The work spans from 1824 to 1827, and Creigh designates some compositions as having been corrected by McClelland, Professor of Belles Lettres.

The poem "To my Pen," the two unsigned drawings, and the bookplate were all originally found folded within the composition notebook. The poem has been placed in a separate folder for preservation reasons. As neither the drawings nor the bookplate seems to hold a direct connection to the notebook, they also have been separated out into their own folder.

COLLECTION INVENTORY

BOX 1 - MC 2007.3

- Folder 01) Thomas Creigh to James Hamilton, Letter on family matters - Apr. 4, 1862
Thomas Creigh to James Hamilton, Letter on Hamilton's work - Feb. 19, 1872
- Folder 02) Lecture notebook on "Revealed Religion" and Metaphysics - 1827-1828
- Folder 03) Composition and correspondence notebook - 1824-1827
- Folder 04) Poem, "To my Pen" - undated
- Folder 05) Two unsigned drawings - undated
Thomas Creigh bookplate - undated

This collection register was prepared by Alissa Zawoyski, July 2007.