

Archives and Special Collections

Dickinson College

Carlisle, PA

COLLECTION REGISTER

Name: **Bowman, George W. (1809–1887)** **MC 2008.3**

Material: Family Papers (1854–1932)

Volume: 0.50 linear feet (1 Document Box, 14 Photograph Folders)

Donation: Gift of Arthur S. McCann Jr., 2008

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

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

George W. Bowman was born May 20, 1809 in Leesburg, Virginia. He married Ann Leader and was the father of six children, including James, Harry, George, Mrs. James Metzger, Mrs. Thomas A. Harper, and Mrs. Jonnie Myers.

G. W. Bowman moved to Bedford, Pennsylvania at a young age and later served in a variety of positions in local, state, and national government, including Treasurer of Bedford County. He was commissioned Major General of the 12th Division of the Pennsylvania State Militia by Governor David Rittenhouse Porter (1839-1845). From this position in the state militia, G.W. Bowman gained the title “General” to which he was referred throughout his life. In 1845, G. W. Bowman was appointed Adjunct General of Pennsylvania by Governor Francis Rawn Shunk (1845-1848). During his term, he mobilized Pennsylvania troops for participation in the Mexican-American War. His obituary in the *American Volunteer* notes that G. W. Bowman sent the first telegraph message over the Allegheny Mountains to President James K. Polk regarding troop organization and mobilization. He was appointed Adjunct General again in 1853 by Governor William Bigler (1852-1855) and served in this position until 1857.

G. W. Bowman’s involvement in the newspaper industry began with an apprenticeship at the *Genius of Liberty*, a Democratic newspaper published in Fayette County, Pennsylvania. He also worked in Washington, D. C. at the *United States Telegraph*. In 1832, G. W. Bowman purchased the *Bedford Gazette* from Charles McDowell. He owned this newspaper for twenty five years, until selling it to B. F. Myers in 1857. Afterwards, G. W. Bowman was appointed Superintendent of Public Printing by the newly elected president, James Buchanan. In 1859, he became owner and editor of the *Constitution*, a Democratic newspaper. While proprietor of the *Constitution*, G. W. Bowman did the printing for the Senate, House of Representatives, both branches of Congress, and the cabinet departments. However, after two years he resigned from his position as government printer.

In addition to his newspaper career, G. W. Bowman's business interests were varied and records of his financial dealings reflect his diverse interests. For example, in the mid-1850s, G. W. Bowman purchased two tracts of land in Huntingdon County, called Broad Top and Cook and Elder. The properties are located in the Pennsylvania coal region and reflect an interest in the potential profit of the coal industry, in particular the purchase of stock in the Broad Top Mountain Railroad and Coal Company. However, his investments and business interests were not limited to coal. In 1864, six years after the company's founding, he purchased stock in the Seneca Oil Company.

G. W. Bowman moved to Carlisle in 1861 in the interest of furthering the education of his sons at Dickinson College. In the *1882-1883 Boyd's Chambersburg, Carlisle, and Hagerstown Directory*, his residence was listed as 26 East Main Street. G. W. Bowman died on September 12, 1887 in Carlisle. His obituaries attributed the cause of death to cholera morbus. Seventy years old at his passing, G. W. Bowman was buried at Ashland Cemetery in Carlisle.

Ann Bowman was born February 5, 1813. She was the wife of George W. Bowman and mother of Harry L. Bowman. She passed away at age seventy-three on March 22, 1885. Her March 25, 1885 obituary in the *American Volunteer* states that she "had been feeble for some time past," but the specific cause of her death is not known. Ann Bowman was buried in Ashland Cemetery in Carlisle.

Harry Leader Bowman was born on December 3, 1848 in Bedford, PA, the son of George W. and Ann (Leader) Bowman. He attended and graduated from Dickinson College in 1868. He was involved in Phi Kappa Psi and the Belles Lettres Literary Society. H. L. Bowman married Anna M. Gardner on January 23, 1873. Officiated by Joel Swartz, the ceremony took place in Carlisle, PA. The couple had a child, Edward Gardner Bowman. In Dickinson College's 1905 alumni directory, H. L. Bowman was identified as a merchant and the owner of H. L Bowman and Co. His address was listed as 402 Chestnut St, Philadelphia. H. L Bowman died on December 29, 1915.

COLLECTION DESCRIPTION

The Bowman Family Papers are housed in one document box and fourteen photograph folders. There are three individuals identified in this collection: George W. Bowman, Ann Bowman, and Harry Leader Bowman. Accordingly, series divisions have been established to arrange materials as they pertain to each individual. The collection contains information representing significant periods in each individual's life, including financial dealings, death of a family member, and marriage. The materials are arranged into the following five series: George W. Bowman, Ann Bowman, Harry Leader Bowman, Miscellaneous Materials, and Photographs.

The George W. Bowman series is organized according to the following categories: Correspondence, Property, Investments, Newspaper business, Banking House Rent, Household Receipts, and Estate. The Correspondence section dates from 1872-1880 and contains letters regarding the estate of William Metz and other pieces of personal and political news. The Property materials date from 1854-1874 and document G. W. Bowman's ownership of the Broad Top and Cook and Elder land. The Investment portion addresses his dealings with the Broad Top Mountain Railroad and Coal Company in 1857 and the Seneca Oil Company in 1864. Under the heading Newspapers are documents from 1860 regarding Bowman's management of

the *Constitution* and *Washington Union* newspapers. The Banking House Rent and Household Receipts sections contain financial records dating from 1871-1873 and 1882-1887, respectively. And the Estate documents address the distribution of G. W. Bowman's assets between 1887 and 1890.

The Ann Bowman series is comprised of materials related to her death in the spring of 1885. Family correspondence to her husband, George W. Bowman, and daughter, Annie Harper, makes up the bulk of this series. Another portion of the Ann Bowman series contains records of funeral expenses, including receipts and a deed to a cemetery plot in Carlisle.

The Harry Leader Bowman series consists of information concerning his marriage and business interests, with the larger portion relating to H. L. Bowman's personal life. He was a businessman in Philadelphia, owning his own company "H. L Bowman and Co." An envelope, bearing the company's letterhead, identifies that the company was established in 1873 and dealt with "Engines, Boilers, Pumps, Drills."

The Miscellaneous Materials series contains an assortment of items, including two locks of blonde hair, correspondence, and news clippings. Also included in the series is a small amount of correspondence, primarily undated. There is also folder that contains two undated news clippings related to H. L. Bowman's marriage and a probate notice regarding the will of Annie E. Harper.

The Photographs series includes images of family members and Dickinson College students. Several folders contain carte de visites of Dickinson graduates from the Classes of 1867, 1868, 1869, 1871, 1872. These images are organized according to class year and then alphabetically by name. Also in the series are family, individual, and group photographs that have been separated accordingly and arranged in chronological order. Tintype images of what appears to be a family vacation, with unidentified individuals posing in front of a beach background, have been placed in one folder. Prints of the [Heilig?] Family, Ridley Family, and Frank Beetem are placed in separate folders. The remaining unidentified photos have been separated into folders, arranged as individuals or groups.

COLLECTION INVENTORY

BOX 1 - MC 2008.3

GEORGE W. BOWMAN

Folder 01) Correspondence

Brotherline[?], John – Oct. 24, 1872

Reed, John P. – Oct. 31, 1872

Reed, John P. – Sep. 24, 1877

Reed, John P. – Feb. 9, 1880

Folder 02) Property

Broad Top Purchase – 1854-1868

Folder 03) Property

Cook and Elder Purchase – 1865-1874

Folder 04) Investments

Broad Top Mountain Railroad and Coal Company – 1857

Seneca Oil Co – Feb.-Mar. 1864

BOX 1 - MC 2008.3 (cont.)

GEORGE W. BOWMAN (cont.)

Folder 05) Newspaper

Constitution – 1860

Washington Union – 1860

Folder 06) Banking House Rent – 1871-1873

Folder 07) Household Receipts – 1882-1887

Folder 08) Estate – 1887-1890

ANN BOWMAN

Folder 09) Correspondence to George W. Bowman

From J. W. [Menuks?] – Mar. 23, 1885

From Percy B. Metzger – Mar. 23, 1885

From James Metzger – Mar. 24, 1885

From Louisa (niece) – Mar. 26, 1885

From J. R. Leader – Mar. 28, 1885

From J. B. Samson – Mar. 28, 1885

From D. B. [Jaston?] – Mar. 28, 1885

Folder 10) Correspondence to George W. Bowman

From Edward (son) – Mar. 29, 1885

From Annie Bell – Mar. 29, 1885

From James B. Bowman – Mar. 29, 1885

From Mary Elliott (Leader) – Mar. 30, 1885

From James Metzger – Apr. 1, 1885

From S. B. Kieffer – Apr. 3, 1885

From S. A. McDowell – Apr. 10, 1885

From Warren Harper – Apr. 27, 1885

Folder 11) Correspondence to Annie Harper

From Mrs. Beetem – Mar. 23

From Nannie Ziegler – Mar. 24

From Mrs. Penrose – Mar. 27, 1885

From Laura Weaver – Mar. 30, 1885

From Laura Bender – undated

From Mrs. Hench – undated

From Mrs. Penrose – undated

Folder 12) Funeral

Receipts for funeral preparation – Mar. 26, 1885- Apr. 10, 1885

Deed to plot in Ashland Cemetery in Carlisle – Apr. 8, 1885

BOX 1 - MC 2008.3 (cont.)

HARRY LEADER BOWMAN

Folder 13) Marriage

Letter to H. L. Bowman from Joel Swartz – Dec. 17, 1872
Marriage Certificate and Envelope – Jan. 23, 1873
Materials from reception and ceremony
Letter to Anna Bowman from Joel Swartz – undated
News clipping announcing marriage – undated

Folder 14) Business

Envelope with company letterhead
Exhibition Permit – June 8, 1877

MISCELLANEOUS MATERIALS

Folder 15) Hair

Ned at 18 months – May 25, 1875
Unidentified Blonde Hair – undated

Folder 16) Correspondence

Undated (2)
Louisa to Uncle Washington – Jul. 15, 1887

Folder 17) News clippings

Probate notice regarding the will of Annie E. Harper – undated

PHOTOGRAPHS - PC 2008.3

PHOTOGRAPHS

Folder 01) Dickinson College – Class of 1867

Benjamin Franklin Beck
Edward Oram Shakespeare

Folder 02) Dickinson College – Class of 1868

Class Composite
Henry Jacob Beatty
John Emory Jones Buckey
David Henry Carroll
Alexander Crawford Chenoweth
George Durbin Chenoweth
William Potter Davis
John Franklin Goucher
Alexander Dallas Bache Smead
William Trickett
Isaac Collins West

Folder 03) Dickinson College – Class of 1869

Thaddeus Alexander Snively

PHOTOGRAPHS - PC 2008.3 (cont.)

PHOTOGRAPHS (cont.)

- Folder 04) Dickinson College – Class of 1871
William Redin Woodward
- Folder 05) Dickinson College – Class of 1872
Joseph Peter Gross
- Folder 06) Dickinson College – Class unknown
Unidentified Male
- Folder 07) Family Vacation – circa 1890
- Folder 08) Frank Beetem – circa early 1900
- Folder 09) [Heilig?] Family – 1924
- Folder 10) Ridley Family – 1932
- Folder 11) Unidentified Man – undated
- Folder 12) Unidentified Individuals – 1870, 1874, 1893, 1924
- Folder 13) Unidentified Individuals – undated
- Folder 14) Unidentified Groups – 1896, 1917

Collection processed by Trisha Grace, September 2008.