

Archives and Special Collections

Dickinson College

Carlisle, PA

**COLLECTION REGISTER**

Name: **Emory, Robert (1814-1848)** **MC 2007.4**

Material: Papers (1836-1847)

Volume: .25 linear feet (1 Document Box)

Donation: Original Accession

Usage: These materials have no restrictions on usage.

**BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE**

Robert Emory was born in 1814 to Bishop John Emory and his wife. The elder Emory had served as president of the Dickinson College Board of Trustees from 1833 to 1835. He was also the namesake of both Emory University in Georgia and Emory and Henry College in Virginia. The younger Emory attended Columbia University and graduated at the top of his class in 1831. He then studied law under Reverdy Johnson in Baltimore. In 1836, Emory joined the faculty of Dickinson as professor of Latin and Greek at the Grammar School. He remained at this post until 1840 when he resigned in order to work in the ministry. During President John Price Durbin's trip abroad in 1842 and 1843, Emory returned to Carlisle to serve as Dickinson's acting president. With Durbin's return, Emory resumed his work in the ministry. Within two years, Durbin resigned, and Emory again was chosen to lead the College.

During Emory's presidency he brought about several significant advances in policy at the College. He improved the modern language program by introducing the first elective classes into the curriculum; juniors could choose between Greek and German, and seniors could choose between Mathematics and French. In addition, the library, laboratory, and museum were all moved together into South College. Classes for both the Grammar School and the College were to be held in the same buildings, with the teaching load to be shared among the school and college faculties. Also under Emory, an old utility building was refurbished for use by student artisans. Several needier students were able to live within the building, deemed North College, as well as have a space on the premises where they could ply their trades. Despite all of these changes, Emory's presidency would prove to be quite short.

Suffering from chronic health problems, most particularly tuberculosis, Emory attempted to resign in 1847. The Board of Trustees refused to accept his resignation, encouraging him instead to take a leave of absence and granting him permission to do so. He traveled to London to attend the Evangelical Alliance Convention in hopes of regaining his health, but shortly after his return on May 18, 1848, Robert Emory died in Baltimore. He was thirty-four years old.

## COLLECTION DESCRIPTION

The Robert Emory collection is housed in one document box. It has been organized into three series: Personal Correspondence, Miscellaneous Correspondence, and Legal and Financial Papers.

Personal Correspondence spans the years 1836 to 1847 and represents the bulk of the collection. It consists of letters passed between Robert Emory and a variety of friends, colleagues, and businessmen. These are organized according to whether Emory sent or received them and then arranged chronologically. The letters cover several different topics, including the purchase, sale, and management of lands in Maryland and Pennsylvania; books on the history of the Methodist Church; and banking.

Miscellaneous Correspondence contains letters addressed to recipients other than Robert Emory, such as Ann Emory, his father's second wife. In most cases, however, the nature of the relationship between Emory and these letters' addressees is unclear. The letters are arranged chronologically and in large part concern land transactions.

Legal and Financial Papers are ordered alphabetically according to the person to whom they pertain and then chronologically within those categories. This series includes Ann Emory's tailoring receipts, agreements between Robert Emory and his tenants Thomas Chambers and George Palmer, and papers pertaining to various bank accounts.

## COLLECTION INVENTORY

### **BOX 1 - MC 2007.4**

#### PERSONAL CORRESPONDENCE

Robert Emory

Letters Sent

Folder 01) To James Nicols – June 22, 1836  
To Nathaniel Fish Moore – Mar. 2, 1847

Letters Received

Folder 02) From William Cooper – July 5  
From John Price Durbin – May 25, 1845  
From E. J. Newbie – c. 1846  
From Caleb Pyle – Nov. 27, 1846  
From George Bergner – Dec. 10, 1846  
From C. Stayman – Dec. 11, 1846  
From George Bergner – Dec. 16, 1846  
From William J. Savage – Dec. 21, 1846  
From George Bergner – Dec. 23, 1846

**BOX 1 - MC 2007.4 (cont.)**

PERSONAL CORRESPONDENCE (cont.)

Robert Emory (cont.)

Letters Received (cont.)

- Folder 03) From William F. Prettyman – “Friday 12<sup>th</sup>,” 1847  
From James[?] M. Lee – Jan. 26, 1847  
From John Clendenin – Jan. 30, 1847  
From C. Stayman – Feb. 1, 1847  
From R. Webster – Feb. 2, 1847  
From William F. Prettyman – Feb. 13, 1847  
From Nicholas Eslinger – Feb. 20, 1847  
From C. Stayman – Feb. 20, 1847  
From James J. Boswell – Feb. 23, 1847
- Folder 04) From J. McKendree Reiley – Mar. 5, 1847  
From William Innes – Mar. 12, 1847  
From [A/H?] D. Sellers – Apr. 26, 1847  
From Reverdy Johnson – May 5, 1847  
From Reverdy Johnson – May 10, 1847  
From H. [Penson?] – May 18, 1847  
From M. [Cattery?] – May 19, 1847  
From John Price Durbin – May 24, 1847  
From J. H. W. [Calioh?] – May 25, 1847
- Folder 05) From Reverdy Johnson – June 1, 1847  
From Edmund S. James – June 8, 1847  
From J. M. Campbell – June 16, 1847  
From [A/H?]. D. Sellers – June 26, 1847  
From Oliver [Evard?] – June 28, 1847
- Folder 06) From “Lissie” [to “Cousin Robert”] – July 1, 1847  
From W. Armstrong – July 2, 1847  
From W. Antes – July 6, 1847  
From James K Bayliss – Aug, 19, 1847  
From William T. Savage – Aug. 21, 1847

MISCELLANEOUS CORRESPONDENCE

- Folder 07) Samuel Morris to Maria Stephenson – Nov. 30, 1846  
John Snyder to Jane [Stevenson?] – Jan. 23, 1847  
C.S. Passarant to unknown – June 28, 1847  
John Snyder to Maria [Stevenson?]- Aug. 4, 1847  
William Riley to Ann Emory – July 20, 1847

**BOX 1 - MC 2007.4 (cont.)**

LEGAL AND FINANCIAL PAPERS

Folder 08)

Ann Emory

Receipts

From E Fleming – Oct. 31, 1845

From E Fleming – Nov. 19, 1845

From Jacob Bentz – Dec. 10, 1845

Robert Emory

Articles of Agreement with Thomas Chambers – Dec. 31, 1842

Bill for Thomas Chambers on behalf of Emory – Mar. 1, 1844

Rent agreement, signed by George C. Palmer – June 9, 1845

Deposit slip, Bank of Baltimore – July 30, 1847

Miscellaneous Financial Papers

G.C. Palina, Account balance – Apr. 9, 1844

Receipt, G. W. Hitner to E.J. Nicols – undated

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