

Anti-Slavery Collection: Manuscript and Ephemera Inventory

The Oberlin College Anti-Slavery Collection at one time included the important papers of many Oberlin College administrators, faculty, and students. Since 1966 these have been held in the Oberlin College Archives, and the transfer of College related documents (when discovered) continues today. However, many orphaned manuscripts, ephemera, newspapers, scrapbooks, artifacts, and signed/annotated books remain in the Library's Anti-slavery Special Collection. These often demonstrate how well networked early Oberlin College was, and from what quarters came its support.

An initial list is intended to inventory more substantive items in the Collection that might not receive full cataloging, but are interesting and accessible for study. These can be found primarily in the records box shelved with the items in **HT1162.A76** (or as otherwise noted).

Past cataloguing usually neglected to note the names of donors, association copies, marginal annotations, etc. It is therefore difficult to assess the Anti-slavery Collection in this manner at this time. However Special Collections has started a spreadsheet of the names recorded inside our holdings which we can search on request. This list can be amended at any time as work is ongoing, and manuscript items such as letters and signed books continue to be *added* to the Collection, through the generosity of donors and occasional selection.

Series I:

Manuscripts and ephemera at Box: HT1162.A76 & HT 1332.G65 1837:

1. Albert of Saxe-Coburg and Gotha, Prince. Manuscript notes for a speech by Prince Albert to mark the opening of the Society for the Extinction of the Slave Trade, and for the Civilization of Africa. London Exeter Hall, June 1st 1840 (with supplementary materials from James Cummins Bookseller). Gift of Conrad Bahlke, 2008.
2. Catlin, James. Letter to "Ward" with typed transcription. Sugar Grove (PA.?), March 12, 1857. Concerning the organization of the Liberty Party and resistance to the Fugitive Slave Bill, specifically mentioning Chautauqua County, NY, and Erie Co., PA.
3. Garrison, William Lloyd. Letter, to Jacob ?, June 27, 1829. Two photocopies of a letter concerning a loan of funds to cover Garrison's legal costs related to a fine by the Boston militia, and an upcoming speaking engagement. Location of original not noted.
4. Leavitt, Joshua. Letter to sec. of Union Anti-Slavery Society (Samuel Hastings), New York, September 26 1834. Regarding the appointment of Rev. George Storrs (of New

Hampshire) to Philadelphia “to assist the request of the Union A[nti] S[lavery] Soc[iety].”

5. Phillips, Wendell; Johnson, Oliver; Collins, J.A.; Letter from the “Committee of Arrangements” of the New England Anti-Slavery Convention, Boston, May 13, 1839 requesting attendance. With: a sheet of notepaper containing a quotation [see note from Bartlett’s included] with a note claiming these lines were taught by John Brown to his children. Signed by Wendell Phillips and dated Nov. [18]68. Quotation purchased separately in Jan. 2001.
6. Stanton, Henry B. Printed circular, Boston, September 11, 1845. An invitation to attend an upcoming Anti-slavery Convention called at Boston for October 1st. Address on the back intended this for S.D. Hastings of Philadelphia.
7. Agnes, Mary. Letter to her mother in the days following the assassination of President Lincoln, April 16, 1865. Includes her response to remarks made by Rev. Phillip Brooks, Rector of Church of the Holy Trinity, Philadelphia (1862-1869), and a photo taken by J.W. Black, Boston, of Rev. Brooks. An example of cross written correspondence. Purchased 2017.
8. [N.A.] “Abolitionism- its Doctrine,” small, homemade notebook of ten pages explaining reasons for abolitionism, possible notes for a speech or debate, Cadiz, Ohio, January 19 1839.
9. [N.A.] Printed petition circular for the Abolition of the Slave Trade in the District of Columbia. Blank.
10. Tappan, Lewis. Letter to S. Bourne Jr. of Hartford, Conn. [New York] September 16, 1851. Recounting the difficulty of getting three of John Fee’s anti-slavery works into print. Purchased, 2018.
11. Garrison, William [secretary]. National Anti-Slavery Convention, Philadelphia 1833. Notebook containing the “Declaration of the Anti-Slavery Convention” (first draft) in the hand of William Lloyd Garrison. Formerly the property of William Goodell with his notes and gifted to Oberlin College by his heirs in 1884.
12. [N.A.] Two anti-slavery manuscripts, written in the same hand, focusing on scriptural arguments against American slavery. One could be a form of draft for the other. Formerly shelved under 091.324.973 R 312 and 091.326.973 R 312.2 as monographs.

Additional manuscript and printed ephemeral Items in the “flat file”:

1. Bailey, Gamaliel. “The Ages of Gamaliel and Sally Bailey, his wife, with the ages of their Children”. Gift of Joel Goldfarb.
2. Bailey, Gamaliel. Goldfarb Papers relating to the papers of the Gamaliel Bailey family. Includes Joel Goldfarb’s research notes on note cards relating to Gamaliel Bailey, collection correspondence and requests for research with Gamaliel Bailey’s granddaughter and research institutions, a collection of microfilm relating to Gamaliel Bailey, and additional writings and research materials. Gift of Joel Goldfarb.
3. Garrison, William [secretary], National Anti-Slavery Convention, Philadelphia 1833. Declaration of the Anti-Slavery Convention printed declaration on silk. [A facsimile of the silk artifact is also included with the pamphlet “The Touchstone”: William Lloyd Garrison and the Declaration of the Anti-Slavery Convention, Philadelphia, 1833” by

Richard Harwell. This pamphlet was printed for Smith College Special Collections in 1970 and concerns the Declaration.]

4. Thompson, George. (1804-1878. Printed pardon with manuscript additions from the State of Missouri for the charge of “Grand Larceny (Abolition)”, September 13, 1841.
5. *The Virginia Petitions; Wheeling Meeting; Resolutions and Address of the Petitioners*, details of meeting in Wheeling, Ohio County VA (now WV), 1839, a printed broadside including resolutions affirmed during the meeting, pro-slavery.
6. *Hon. Luther Bradish’s Letter to the Committee of the N.U. State Anti-Slavery Society*, printed broadside, October 1, 1838.
7. Replies to the English queries on slavery in the US, with deeds of manumission by Arthur Thome, 1832. With extensive written draft of the book: *Emancipation in the West Indies: a six months’ tour in Antigua, Barbados, and Jamaica, in the year 1837.* by Jas. A. Thome and J. Horace Kimball. This was published as a book in New York by the American Anti-Slavery Society, 1838. The notes and clippings are edited throughout by Theodore Dwight Weld with extensive marking-up in his hand. Includes the sections: “Explanation of terms used in the Narrative;” “Slavery and Freedom;” “Antigua;” “Barbadoes;” and “Jamaica.”

Additional manuscripts shelved separately:

- Goodell, William. Copybook of letters written by William Goodell on the behalf of the American Abolition Society, two volumes preceded by indexes. Begins Dec. 11, 1855 and runs until May 17, 1862. **091.326 Am3 v.1 & v. 2**
- Goodell, William. “Records of the Central Abolition Board”, containing meeting notes and written accounts of the Board’s activities. Begins March 15, 1855. Last dated entry is Feb. 04, 1859. Manuscript ends with long transcriptions from Simon Greenleaf’s *A treatise on the law of evidence*. [Boston, C. C. Little & J. Brown, 1848] with numerous passages drawn from Part IV in Vol. 2. **091. 326 Am 3R**
- *The African Repository* (periodical commenced 1825), early volumes were used by William Lloyd Garrison to help write *Thoughts on African Colonization* and bear his autograph, index and marginal annotations. **326 Af83**

Series II:

Artwork, etchings, photographs

1. Cartoon, the slave running from his master; and, the master running from his slave 1861?
2. Two 1838-39 sketch books by Lieutenant (later Admiral) RN George Goldsmith, with over forty watercolors and pencil drawings showing the west coast of Africa, Malta, and Hong Kong. Created during service on brig-sloop “Childers”, which was a part of the West African Squadron, 1834-1838. **HT 1332.G653** 1837. Purchased 2014.
3. Matted photographic print of Gerrit Smith (1797-1874) showing signs of darkroom retouching. The print was removed from an old wooden frame that offered no suggestion as to its provenance. **[flat file]**
4. A **large** aquatint/stipple/line etching of *The First Reading of the Emancipation Proclamation before the Cabinet*, 1864, **in the illustrations drawer of the map cases.**

Series III:

Legal/Financial documents concerning slaves

1. Receipt for Sale [by the Estate of John Gordon] made out to “Alexander Rose of Charlestown – Merchant” for “three negroes named Old Kate, Betty her daughter and Primus her son, with the females future Issue and increase.” March 28, 1781.
2. Receipt of Sale from William Johnson to Captain John Roberts “one Negro boy called Samuel about five years and four months old.” [Delaware?] February 8, 1808. Gift of Nan Watkins, 2011.
3. Receipt for sale by R. J. Walker to Tucker & Barnard for “a negro girl named Milly about sixteen years of age”, August 14, 1832.
4. Receipt for Sale by Thomas Wells to Charles Bick for “a negro man named Paul” [“a blacksmith”], Columbia, South Carolina, November 7, 1843
5. One year lease for use of “a negro slave named Sophia”, Richmond, Virginia. January 1, 1861
6. Estate appraisal of Thomas Baker of Kentucky [d. Sept. 12, 1857], including slaves Tumbler, Roanna & child Scot. 1857
7. Estate appraisal of Adam Wilson of Kentucky, for three slaves: Lee, Jim, Chess, 1846
8. Manumission papers from Maxwell Chambers, freeing 18 of his slaves. Rowan County, North Carolina. May 25, 1854.
9. Manumission papers for Stephen Pottie, Henrico Co., Virginia. November 14, 1853 (former container is with small anti-slavery souvenirs)
10. Mortgage secured by two slaves, “Hannah, aged about twelve years, and Jonas, a negro boy aged about thirteen years” to Solon Bartlett, Louisiana, 1847.
11. Barque “Jones” Trial Archive: “A collection of original manuscripts retained by lieutenant Edward Littlehales, Commander of H.H. Brig Dolphin, regarding the seizure of the Barque Jones of New York as a suspected slaver in the port of St. Helena. Including official “Seizor’s Case”, Certificate signed by Littlehales, Testimony of Lieut. Murray, H.M. Dolphin’s mate, and other papers presented in the admiralty court of Sierra Leone. Includes printout of *Opinion in the case of the Barque Jones*. By N.G Upham. London: C. Whittingham, 1854. Purchased 2014.

Series IV:

Scrapbooks (shelved in Scrapbook Box)

- Gage, Mrs. Delos Wilmot, civil war era scrapbook, clippings of newspaper articles and poems and verses, some about war and soldiers
- Goodell, William (supposed compiler), “scrapbook containing clippings from newspapers of 1855-57 relating to slavery”
- Goodell, William (supposed compiler), “Scrapbook of the Colonization Press and the Pro-Slavery Mobs, 1833, 1834, 1835, with other extras”
- Johnson, Oliver, scrapbook on anti-slavery subjects. Contains autograph letters also.
- Myers, Jefferson, “Account of Jefferson M. Moyers from April 6th 1869 to April 6th 70 as left by himself”, clippings from 1850s-1860s, focus on voting results from local (Richland County, Ohio) and national elections, as well as articles concerning violence over slavery
- [N.A.] 1850s-1860s, unknown compiler, newspapers articles concerning slavery, in particular Christian anti-slavery reform

- Peck, Henry Everard, “Anti-Slavery Clippings”, containing clippings on anti-slavery subjects and debates over justifications for slavery, c.1820s-1830s
- [N.A.] 1850s-1860s, unknown compiler, newspaper articles concerning slavery
- Thompson, Anne, Album Orne belonging to Anne Thompson and her husband George Thompson, (bulk 1830s-1840s). Featuring materials from George Thompson’s career as a British representative in India, and from his involvement in the anti-slavery movement, particularly surrounding the General Anti-Slavery Convention of 1840. Also included are poems and drawings about India and slavery, several by George Thompson, and entries from prominent abolitionists and many later American women’s activists of the era. Names are listed in the dedication spreadsheet.
- Bliss, Philemon, “Letters on Slavery”, scrap book of letters published by Bliss in various newspapers, including the Ohio Atlas, dated 1836-1839. Titles include Southern excitement, slavery in Florida, and Fugitive Act. Notes on paper wrappers by J.M. Byrne, to whom Bliss gave the scrap book. **E449.B647 1894**

Miscellaneous Newspapers: in the “flat file”:

1. *The Evening Star*, Saturday May 21, 1881, with article “A Stirring Period in the History of Washington”, about Gamaliel Bailey and pro-slavery attacks of his newspaper offices, and the escape and capture of the schooner “Pearl” in 1848 with 77 slaves on board.
2. *Lawrence Daily Journal*, October 24, 1924, with article “The Rescue of Dr. Doy” about violence in the Kansas-Nebraska territories in 1854.
3. *The Local Item* vol. 2, no. 3 & 4. Photocopies, with article “Political Aspects of the Anti-Slavery Contest”, a lecture delivered by Professor W. G. Frost on January 13, 1887.
4. *The Rescuer*, Vol.1, No. 1, July 4 1859. Published at the Cuyahoga County Jail by the “Oberlin Rescuers” as they awaited trial for the crime of a slave rescue.
5. *Western Reserve Chronicle*, August 28, 1850. Handwritten note at the top indicates this clipping contains “Mr Gidings Speech in Congress on giving to Texas forty thousand square miles of New Mexican Territory”.
6. *Western Reserve Chronicle*, October 23, 1850 regarding the Fugitive Slave Law.
7. *Impolicy of Slavery*, Liverpool, 18--? Pamphlet on slavery [formerly shelved at 326P191 v.4 no.7.] Looks to have been removed from a bound volume.
8. *The Examiner --- Extra: Address of the Anti-Slavery Society of Washington County, to their Fellow Citizens*. [Washington, PA] August 15. 1835.