

Currier Family Correspondence, 1838 – 1846

Accession Number: 2002.6



Old Sturbridge Village **Research Library**

1 Old Sturbridge Village Road
Sturbridge, MA 01566
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Collection Overview

Repository: Old Sturbridge Village Research Library, Sturbridge, MA

Creator: Alice Holmes Cummings

Title: Currier Family Correspondence

Dates: 1838-1846

Extent: 1 box, 0.25 linear feet

Abstract: This collection consists of 58 letters, almost all to George Currier primarily from his older siblings. However, there are several letters from friends and students of his as well. This collection was found within the Holmes family papers collection (accession #2002.5), and it remains a mystery why this collection of letters was found in the home of Janette Holmes. At the time of the writing of this finding aid, there is no information about how the Curriers were connected to the Holmes family (if at all).

Location: Vault, per OSV staff as of December 2017

Language: English

Biographical Sketch

The creator of this collection, Alice Lincoln (Holmes) Cummings, was born October 14, 1897, the younger of two daughters of William T. Holmes and Carrie (Reed) Holmes. She was born and grew up in West Boylston, Massachusetts, and married William Barton Cummings. She was an avid collector of family information, and took copious notes about the source of various

documents. She is the collector of the Holmes Family Papers collection (accession #2002.5) that spans the lives of various members of the Holmes family of West Boylston, Massachusetts, starting with Thomas Holmes. This collection of Currier family letters was part of the larger Holmes Collection. (See Scope and Content note below.)

The letters in the Currier family papers are largely addressed to or sent from George Currier. George was the youngest of at least six siblings:

- Andrew Currier (b. –d. unknown)
- Levina A. Currier (later Avery) (1810- 1891)
- Lucinda Currier (1814- 1883)
- Warren Currier (1817-1892)
- Julia Ann Currier (later Everett, then later Spaulding) (1820-1864)
- George W. Currier (1823-1853)

Julia makes reference in her letter of March 14, 1843 to a younger brother who died (see 2002.6.19).

Their parents were Isaac Currier and Lucy Farnsworth. Isaac was born in Billerica, Massachusetts on October 24, 1777. He died at age 48 on October 20, 1825 in Billerica. At the time of his death, George was only 2 years old. Lucy Farnsworth was born in Washington Township, New Hampshire on September 12, 1781. She died in Billerica, Massachusetts on April 12, 1834, more than 8 years after her husband's death. At the time of her death, George was about 11 years old. After her death, it is unclear what happened to the children.

Levina Currier

Levina was born in Wendell, New Hampshire in 1809. She married Ebenezer B. Avery (1808-1887), on June 1, 1834 and they had at least two children: Ebenezer C. Avery (1842?-1905) and Lucinda Etta Avery (1845-1915). She died in Wilmington, Massachusetts on June 17, 1891.

Lucinda Currier

Lucinda was born in Wendell, New Hampshire around 1814. She did not marry, and died a single woman on January 21, 1883 in Lowell, Massachusetts.

Warren Currier

Warren was born in New Hampshire on March 14, 1817. He married Lydia W. Woodward, born in New Hampshire (1823-1892), and they had at least four children: Edward H. Currier (1848-1874), George W. Currier (1850-1911), Francis Currier (1852-1854), and Henry Francis Currier (1854-1913). His sons were born in Vermont. He was a lawyer and died on July 25, 1892 Lithia Springs, Georgia (Burial St. Louis Missouri).

Julia Ann Currier

Julia was born in Dracut, Massachusetts around 1820 (note from finding aid author: I put her birthday as November 15, 1819, based on a death record that records her age as 43 years, 10

months and 27 days). In a letter to George in January 1838, she says “You must direct your letters to Julia Anne Everett as I am known by no other name here.” (See 2002.6.1) On January 30, 1849, she married Abel Spaulding of Chelmsford, Massachusetts, but genealogical records list her as Julia Currier Spaulding. She and Abel had at least seven children: Ella Agnes Spaulding (b. July 5, 1849); Howard E. Spaulding (b. around 1851); Carrie Spaulding (b. April 11, 1853); Mary Ida Spaulding (b. March 23, 1855); Joel W. Spaulding (b. 1857); Abel W. Spaulding (b. August 23, 1859), and George Edwin Spaulding (b. November 20, 1862). She died in Billerica, Massachusetts on October 12, 1864.

George W. Currier

George W. Currier was born in Billerica, Massachusetts in May of 1823. From 1838 to 1845, he lived in Bickford Mills, Meredith, New Hampshire. In 1843, Julia writes to him saying “It is now about one year since you have made a profession of religion.” He then spent a year (1844-1845) living in Billerica, Massachusetts. From 1845-1846, his mail is addressed to him at Andover Institution, Andover, Massachusetts. During some of this time, he was a teacher, as two of the letters addressed to him are from students of his (see 2002.6.49 and 2002.6.51). On August 13, 1850, he married Laura Ann Delano (b. 1832) in Cambridge, Massachusetts. They had one child: Mary Eva Currier (born 1852). George died at the age of 30 of consumption on August 7, 1853.

Scope and Content

This one-box collection is organized as a single series—Personal Correspondence—in chronological order. There are 58 letters as well as 5 collector’s notes. All but one of the letters is addressed to George Currier. This collection of Currier family letters was part of the larger Holmes Family Papers Collection. However, according to the collector’s notes, she found this collection of letters within her grandmother’s papers, and was not able to figure out who the Curriers were and why these letters were part of her grandmother’s collection of family papers. (See collector’s notes in folder 8).

The earliest letters to George in this collection begin on January 17, 1838 when George would have been 14 or 15 years old. The letters provide a glimpse into the life of a set of siblings who had lost their father when the children spanned in age from 2 to 15, then lost their mother when the children spanned in age from 11 to 24. Julia’s letters make reference to not having seen George for 15 years (letter dated 1838), so it’s unclear whether the children remained together as a family. The collection also includes a letter from a friend of George’s who is currently attending Phillips Exeter Academy in Exeter, New Hampshire (see 2002.6.47). He encourages George to apply, then says he will just go ahead and apply on behalf of George and describes the application process – a process that is very similar to what is required today of colleges and private schools.

Restrictions

This collection is open for research. Use is limited to available Library hours and staff. Copies and scans are done at the discretion of the library staff and condition of materials.

Search Terms

Personal Names

- Currier, George W. (1823-1853)
- Currier, Warren (1817-1892)
- Spaulding, Julia Ann (Currier) (1820-1864)
- Everett, Julia Ann (Currier) (1820-1864)
- Currier, Lucinda (1814-1883)
- Avery, Levina (Currier) (1809 – 1891)
- Currier, Andrew (dates unknown)

Geographic Names

- Alexandria (N.H.)
- Andover (Mass.)
- Bickford Mills, Meredith (N.H.)
- Billerica (Mass.)
- Dracut (Mass.)
- Lowell (Mass.)
- Windsor (N.H.)

Subjects

- Faith
- New England--History--1775-1865
- Religion
- Teaching

Family Names

- Avery family
- Currier family
- Spaulding family

Corporate Names

- Phillips Exeter Academy

Administrative Information

Preferred Citation

Item, Collection Title, Collection number (accession number with extensions for box and folder numbers). Old Sturbridge Village Research Library, Sturbridge, Massachusetts. Date Accessed.

History of the Collection

This collection of Currier family letters was originally part of the larger Holmes Collection (accession #2002.5). The creator of the collection, Alice Lincoln (Holmes) Cummings, found the letters at the home of her grandmother: Janette (Lincoln) Holmes. Alice Cummings stated that she did not know how the Currier family letters ended up at her grandmother's house nor does she know of any connection between the two families.

Processing information

Finding Aids: Prepared by Susan Creighton, December 2017

Related Collections

The Holmes Family Papers, Accession #2002.5 (see History of the Collection).

Contents

Box #	Folder #	Accession Number	Description
1	1	2002.6.1	Letter from Julia Ann (Currier) Everett in Billerica, MA to brother George; January 17, 1838
1	1	2002.6.2	Letter from Warren Currier in New Hampton Institution to George; July 14, 1838
1	1	2002.6.3	Letter from Warren Currier in Alexandria, New Hampshire to George; February 18, 1839
1	1	2002.6.4	Letter from Warren Currier in New Hampton to George; August 14, 1839
1	1	2002.6.5	Letter from Lucinda Currier in Lowell, MA to George; March 14, 1840
1	1	2002.6.6	Letter from Warren Currier in Windsor to Levina Avery; May 15, 1840
1	1	2002.6.7	Letter from Warren Currier in Windsor to George; July 31, 1840
1	1	2002.6.8	Letter from Julia Ann Everett in Dracut, MA to George; August 16, 1840
1	1	2002.6.9	Letter from Andrew Currier in Billerica, MA to George; July 24, 1841
1	1	2002.6.10	Letter from Lucinda Currier (location unknown) to George; August 26, 1841
1	1	2002.6.11	Letter from Levina (Currier) Avery in Alexandria, New Hampshire to George; September 20, 1841
1	2	2002.6.12	Letter from Julia Currier in Billerica, MA to George; November 8, 1841
1	2	2002.6.13	Letter from Warren Currier in Windsor to George; January 21, 1842
1	2	2002.6.14	Letter from Warren Currier in Windsor to George; August 9, 1842
1	2	2002.6.15	Letter from Warren Currier in Windsor to George; August 26, 1842
1	2	2002.6.16	Letter from Julia Currier in Alexandria, New Hampshire to George; September 20, 1842
1	2	2002.6.17	Letter from Warren Currier in Windsor to George; October 17, 1842
1	2	2002.6.18	Letter from Augustus French in Palestine, Illinois to George; November 3, 1842
1	2	2002.6.19	Letter from Julia Currier in "C. F. Sem." In Charlestown, Massachusetts to George; March 14, 1843
1	2	2002.6.20	Letter from John Wiggin in Chelmsford, Massachusetts to George; May 7, 1843
1	3	2002.6.21	Letter from Levina (Currier) Avery in Alexandria, New Hampshire to George; February 10, 1844
1	3	2002.6.22	Letter from Warren Currier in Windsor to George and Julia; March 26, 1844

1	3	2002.6.23	Letter from Warren Currier in Marlboro Hotel, Boston to George; June 11, 1844
1	3	2002.6.24	Letter from Warren Currier in New York City to George; June 24, 1844
1	3	2002.6.25	Letter from E. J. Jewett in Gilford, New Hampshire to George; July 16, 1844
1	3	2002.6.26	Letter from Warren Currier in Windsor to George; September 23, 1844
1	3	2002.6.27	Letter from Lucinda Currier in Lowell, Massachusetts to George; October 24, 1844
1	3	2002.6.28	Letter from Warren Currier in Windsor to George; December (?) 5, 1844
1	3	2002.6.29	Letter from E. J. Jewett in Gilford, New Hampshire to George; January 20, 1845
1	3	2002.6.30	Letter from Charles Collins in Gilford, New Hampshire to George; January 25, 1845
1	4	2002.6.31	Letter from R. ?? in Meredith, New Hampshire to George; January 24, 1845
1	4	2002.6.32	Letter from Julia(?) in Lancaster Point to George; February 4, 1845
1	4	2002.6.33	Letter from Warren Currier in Windsor to George; December 17, 1845
1	4	2002.6.34	Letter from "your ever affectionate friend and Mother if you thus please to call me" in Billerica, Massachusetts to George; July 4, 1845
1	4	2002.6.35	Letter from Warren Currier in Windsor to George; July 18, 1845
1	4	2002.6.36	Letter from Julia Currier in Point Lancaster to George; July 19, 1845
1	4	2002.6.37	Letter from Warren Currier in Windsor to George; July 31, 1845
1	4	2002.6.38	Letter from Levina (Currier) Avery in Alexandria, New Hampshire to George; September 15, 1845
1	4	2002.6.39	Letter from C. R. Swan (?) in New Hampton Institute to George; October 18, 1845
1	5	2002.6.40	Letter from Warren Currier in Windsor to George; November 15, 1845
1	5	2002.6.41	Letter from Lucinda Currier and Levina (Currier) Avery in Alexandria to George; November 26, 1845
1	5	2002.6.42	Letter from Julia Currier in Lancaster Point to George; January 5, 1846
1	5	2002.6.43	Letter from Lucinda Currier in Lowell, Massachusetts to George; February 4(?), 1846
1	5	2002.6.44	Letter from Warren Currier in Windsor to George; February 9, 1846

1	5	2002.6.45	Letter from Charles R. Swaine in Meredith, New Hampshire to George; February 13, 1846
1	5	2002.6.46	Letter from Julia Currier in Lancaster Point to George; February 24, 1846
1	5	2002.6.47	Letter from M. A. Stevens in Exeter, New Hampshire to George; March 1, 1846
1	6	2002.6.48	Letter from Lucinda Currier in Lowell, Massachusetts to George; March 6, 1846
1	6	2002.6.49	Letter from "your pupil, Frances A. Cheever" in Andover, Massachusetts to George; March 22, 1846
1	6	2002.6.50	Letter from Warren Currier in Windsor to George; April 9, 1846
1	6	2002.6.51	Letter from Eliza A. Jones "your schollar" in Andover, Massachusetts to George; April 12, 1846
1	6	2002.6.52	Letter from Julia Currier in Billerica, Massachusetts to George; June 5(?), 1846
1	6	2002.6.53	Letter from Julia Currier in Billerica, Massachusetts to George; July 16, 1846 Contains a letter originally from Lucinda Currier in Lowell, Massachusetts to Julia Currier; July 13, 1846
1	7	2002.6.54	Letter from Warren Currier in Windsor to George; July 17, 1846
1	7	2002.6.55	Letter from Caroline E. Bacon (no location provided) to George ("Mr. Currier"); April 19 (no year)
1	7	2002.6.56	Letter from Julia Currier (no location provided) to George; no date discernable other than "Wednesday"
1	7	2002.6.57	Letter fragment from Julia Currier (no location provided) to George; no date
1	7	2002.6.58	Letter from Julia Currier (no location provided) to George; no date
1	8	2002.6.59	Collector's note from Alice Holmes Cummings. It reads: <i>"There are 58 letters written between 1838 and 1846 to George Currier practically all from his family. They are addressed to him at Bickford Mills, Meredith, New Hampshire between 1838-1845 – then to Billerica, Massachusetts – 1844-1845 – and then to him at Andover Institution, Andover, Massachusetts – 1845-1846. They were in my grandmother's house in W.B. [West Boylston, Massachusetts] and I have <u>no idea</u> why – as I can find no mention anywhere of any relatives by the name of Currier. A. H. C."</i>

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| 1 | 8 | 2002.6.60 | Collector's note from Alice Holmes Cummings. It reads: <i>"1844-1845. 15 letters to George Currier in Billerica, Mass – many from brother Warren – one from brother A. J. – some from sisters Lucinda and Julia. Julia wrote very closely – first across the page in blue ink and then up and down over it in black ink. I have never found out who George Currier was or why these were in W. Boylston."</i> |
| 1 | 8 | 2002.6.61 | Collector's note from Alice Holmes Cummings. It reads: <i>"1845-1846. 22 letters to George Currier at Andover Institution from his sisters, Julia & Lucinda – his brother Warren – a 'schollar' & one from 'your ever affectionate friend – and Mother if you thus please to call me.' 10 of these letters I have not re-opened."</i> |
| 1 | 8 | 2002.6.62 | Collector's note from Alice Holmes Cummings. It reads: <i>"1838-1845. 21. To George Currier, Bickford Mills, Meredith, New Hampshire – from sisters & brother Warren. Warren advises him to be a teacher – not a farmer & in 1842 asks if he has decided to go to the Academy. Julia gives advice on religion & Lucinda begs him to come to visit and bring his bugle because the world is going to end."</i> |
| 1 | 8 | 2002.6.63 | Collector's note from Alice Holmes Cummings. It reads: <i>"1838-1845. From sister Julia & brother Warren – 21 letters to George mostly in Meredith, New Hampshire. Advice about getting education – religion – etc. Don't know who the Curriers were."</i> |
| 1 | 8 | 2002.6.64 | Small piece of tissue paper (\approx 1.5 x 2.5 inches) with faint drawing on it. |