



The New York Public Library
Manuscripts and Archives Division

Guide to the

John Greenleaf Whittier letters and documents

1850-1890

MssCol 4677

Compiled by Susan P. Waide, 2017

Summary

Creator: Whittier, John Greenleaf, 1807-1892

Title: John Greenleaf Whittier letters and documents

Date: 1850-1890

Size: .1 linear feet (1 folder)

Source: Donated by J. Pierpont Morgan, 1899, as part of the Ford Collection; by Mrs. Simon Guggenheim, 1952; various other donations, 1952-1985.

Abstract: John Greenleaf Whittier (1807-1882) was an American poet, journalist and abolitionist. The collection consists of autograph letters written to various parties regarding literary, political and personal matters; autograph verses signed; and autograph signatures. Letter recipients include his editor James T. Fields, Paul Hamilton Hayne, Thomas Wentworth Higginson, and Henry Wilson, newspaper editor and U.S. senator from Massachusetts. Whittier's letter of 1853 September 23 to a political committee in New York City expresses his support of Free Soil politics and his disgust over the Fugitive Slave Law. The collection includes two separate autograph poems, The Christmas Carmen, enclosed in a letter to the editor of The Independent, 1872, and The Vanishers, undated. A letter to James T. Fields contains the emended opening lines of The Tent on the Beach, dated 1867.

Preferred citation: John Greenleaf Whittier letters and documents, Manuscripts and Archives Division, The New York Public Library

Processing note: Compiled by Susan P. Waide, 2017

Key Terms

Occupations

Abolitionists
Journalists
Poets

Subjects

American poetry -- 19th century
Poets, American -- 19th century

Genre/Physical Characteristic
Poems

Geographic Names
United States -- Politics and government -- 1783-1865

Names
Fields, James Thomas, 1817-1881
Hayne, Paul Hamilton, 1830-1886
Higginson, Thomas Wentworth, 1823-1911
Whittier, John Greenleaf, 1807-1892 -- Correspondence
Wilson, Henry, 1812-1875
Free Soil Party (U.S.)
United States -- Fugitive slave law (1850)