



The New York Public Library
Carl H. Pforzheimer Collection of Shelley and His Circle

Guide to the

Memoirs of a most beloved and affectionate wife

1817[-1823]

Pforz BND-MSS (Wray, G. Memoirs)

Summary

Creator: Wray, George, 1781-1878

Title: Memoirs of a most beloved and affectionate wife

Date: 1817[-1823]

Size: 1 volume (88 manuscript pages, 68 total leaves) + inserts

Abstract: Manuscript biographical account of Caroline Wray, née Wainman, the author's recently-deceased wife, made for his infant son, William. In the dedicatory preface George Wray writes: "I have no painting of your beloved mother, the likeness of her which is drawn upon my heart, must perish with me. I have therefore given you a sketch of her in the following pages." Includes an extended account of Caroline's final illness, of puerperal fever. The main text is written on the rectos, with additional notes written on the opposite versos, some dated as late as 1823. A loosely inserted folded sheet of yellow paper encloses a folded scrap marked "George Wrays / Hair Augt 178[4?]" (on the verso note from George Wray to friends), which serves as a wrapper for pressed flowers and a lock of his blond hair from childhood. On the front free endpaper of the volume is pasted a note in the hand of Caroline Wray: "We part in hope and / We shall meet again / be sure in Joy -- / C. W.".

Access: Restricted access.

Preferred citation: Memoirs of a most beloved and affectionate wife, Carl H. Pforzheimer Collection of Shelley and His Circle, The New York Public Library

Scope and Content Note

Manuscript biographical account of Caroline Wray, née Wainman, the author's recently-deceased wife, made for his infant son, William. In the dedicatory preface George Wray writes: "I have no painting of your beloved mother, & the likeness of her which is drawn upon my heart, must perish with me. I have therefore given you a sketch of her in the following pages." Includes an extended account of Caroline's final illness, of puerperal fever. The main text is written on the rectos, with additional notes written on the opposite versos, some dated as late as 1823. A loosely inserted folded sheet of yellow paper encloses a folded scrap marked "George Wrays / Hair Augt 178[4?]" (on the verso note from George Wray to friends), which serves as a wrapper for pressed flowers and a lock of his blond hair from childhood. On the front free endpaper of the volume is pasted a note in the hand of Caroline Wray: "We

part in hope and / We shall meet again / be sure in Joy -- / C. W."

Key Terms

Genre/Physical Characteristic

Human hair

Subjects

Puerperal septicemia

Spouses of clergy -- Great Britain -- Biography

Wives -- Great Britain -- Biography

Names

Wray, Caroline, 1786-1817

Wray, William Henry, 1817-1863