



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.

**Access:** Advance notice required.

**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)