

A0446

William Greenleaf Eliot (1811-1887) Family Papers, 1832-1961

2 boxes (1 linear foot)

Processed by Joy Novak, October 2002

REPOSITORY

Missouri Historical Society Archives

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RESTRICTIONS

Collection must be paged to the special requests table in the reading room.

DONOR INFORMATION

Collection was donated by Mrs. Holmes Smith and William Greenleaf Eliot, Jr.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

William Greenleaf Eliot was born August 5, 1811, in Bedford, Massachusetts. After graduating from Columbian College (Washington, D.C.) in 1831, he attended Harvard Divinity School, from which he graduated in 1834.

Shortly after moving to St. Louis in 1834, he established the First Congregational Unitarian Church of St. Louis, which was later named the Church of the Messiah. Eliot remained the pastor of the church until 1871.

On June 29, 1837, he married Abby Adams Craunch. The couple had fourteen children, most of whom did not reach adulthood.

Eliot avidly provided aid during the St. Louis cholera epidemic of 1849, assisted in the development of the Western Sanitary Commission in St. Louis, and founded Mary Institute and Washington University, where he served as president and chancellor from 1871 until his death.

Eliot died January 23, 1887, at Pass Christian, Mississippi. He was survived by his wife and five children: Rose Eliot, Thomas Lamb Eliot, Christopher R. Eliot, Edward C. Eliot, and Henry Ware Eliot, father of poet T.S. Eliot.

SCOPE AND CONTENT

The William Greenleaf Eliot Family Papers consists of sermons, addresses, family papers, correspondence, Civil War documents, and documents regarding his church and other organizations. The papers are arranged in the following fifteen series: **Sermons, Addresses, Archer Alexander, Bills and Receipts, Centennial Facsimile of the Declaration of Independence, Church of the Messiah, Civil War, Clippings, Correspondence, Eliot Family, First Congregational Church, Genealogy, General William T. Sherman Correspondence, Washington University, and Western Sanitary Commission.** Within each

series, the documents are arranged chronologically.

The **Sermons Series** contains 35 sermons, dated 1835-1885, regarding topics such as suffrage, emancipation, and philanthropy. The sermons are arranged by date first delivered.

The **Addresses Series** consists of 10 addresses dated 1832-1876. Topics discussed include Bible societies, Europe, "Old Guard," suffrage, Washington University, St. Louis public schools, and women's education.

The **Archer Alexander Series** consists of correspondence and other documents regarding Archer Alexander, a former slave whom Eliot purchased and emancipated.

The **Bills and Receipts Series** consists of the Eliot family's annual tax, dental, water, retail, and subscription bills and receipts.

The **Centennial Facsimile of the Declaration of Independence Series** contains a facsimile issued by the Little Rock and Fort Smith Railway.

The **Church of the Messiah Series** consists of service programs, prayers, and documents regarding the 1866 Missouri State Sunday School Convention.

The **Civil War Series** includes a list of those in the charge at Springfield, Missouri, October 25, 1861; documents concerning Thomas Lamb Eliot's service in the Halleck Guard; and a circular soliciting funds from New England citizens to aid in the enlistment of colored troops in the Union army, dated Boston, August 4, 1863.

The **Clippings Series** includes poetry and articles regarding the St. Louis fire of 1849 and General John C. Fremont.

The **Correspondence Series** consists of letters dated 1857-1871. It includes correspondence between William Greenleaf Eliot and Edward Everett, J.M. Schofield, J.M. Forbes, Massachusetts governor John Andrew, and the U.S. Senate regarding the Union, emancipation, Washington University, and Divinity College. Of particular interest is a petition draft to President Lincoln.

The **Eliot Family Series** consists of documents dated 1887-1961, which include pages from Christopher R. Eliot's journal regarding Eliot's death, clippings, dedications, addresses, bulletins, a memoir of William Greenleaf Eliot, Jr., and correspondence regarding publications and the donation of the collection.

The **First Congregational Church Series** consists of a notebook outlining the order of services and sermons preached from 1839 to 1842.

The **Genealogy Series** consists of genealogy charts, correspondence, a Washington University lecture calendar, service program, and a historical subscription request.

The **General William T. Sherman Correspondence Series** consists of letters dated 1863-1886 regarding the Civil War, Congress, and his disinterest in running for the presidency.

The **Washington University Series** consists of various lecture and exhibition programs, finance notes, and a poster for an 1871 exhibition of the Ugly Club.

The **Western Sanitary Commission Series** consists of documents regarding the formation and activities of the Western Sanitary Commission and range in date from 1861 to 1864.

FOLDER LIST**Box 1****folders 1-16 Sermons Series**

folder 1	1836-1837
folder 2	1838
folder 3	1846-1852
folder 4	1856-1863
folder 5	1864-Jan 1871
folder 6	2 Feb 1871
folder 7	5 Mar 1871
folder 8	12 Mar 1871
folder 9	19-26 Mar 1871
folder 10	2-29 Apr 1871
folder 11	30 Apr 1871
folder 12	May-Jun 1871
folder 13	Oct 1871
folder 14	1872
folder 15	1875-1882
folder 16	1883-1885; no date

folders 17-21 Addresses Series

folder 17	1832-1838
folder 18	1852
folder 19	1862-1872
folder 20	1873
folder 21	1873-1876

Box 2**folder 1 Archer Alexander Series****folders 2-3 Bills and Receipts Series**

folder 2	1864-1867
folder 3	1867-no date

folder 4 Centennial Facsimile of Declaration of Independence Series**folder 5 Church of the Messiah Series****folder 6 Civil War Series****folder 7 Clippings Series**

folders 8-10 Correspondence Series

folder 8 1857-1862

folder 9 1863-1865

folder 10 1871-n.d

folders 11-16 Eliot Family Series

folder 11 Feb 1887

folder 12 Apr 1887-1899

folder 13 1914-1946

folder 14 1949

folder 15 1953

folder 16 1956-1961

folder 17 First Congregational Church Series**folder 18 Genealogy Series****folder 19 General William T. Sherman Correspondence Series****folder 20 Washington University Series****folder 21 Western Sanitary Commission Series**