

Elizabeth Carrington Morris and Margaretta Hare Morris Papers

A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress



**Manuscript Division, Library of Congress
Washington, D.C.
2024**

Contact information: <http://hdl.loc.gov/loc/mss/mss.contact>

Catalog Record: <https://lcn.loc.gov/mm99084489>

Prepared by Manuscript Division staff

Finding aid encoded by Manuscript Division staff, 2009
Revised 2024 November

Collection Summary

Title: Elizabeth Carrington Morris and Margaretta Hare Morris Papers

Span Dates: 1840-1859

ID No.: MSS84489

Creator: Morris, Elizabeth Carrington, 1795-1865; Morris, Margaretta Hare, 1797-1867

Extent: 75 items

Extent: 1 container

Extent: 0.2 linear feet

Language: Collection material in English

Location: Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

LC Catalog record: <https://lccn.loc.gov/mmm99084489>

Summary: Elizabeth Carrington Morris, botanist; Margaretta Hare Morris, entomologist. Chiefly correspondence between the Morris and prominent nineteenth-century scientists, including Louis Agassiz, Asa Gray, Samuel Stehman Haldeman, Thaddeus William Harris, and Benjamin Silliman on the topics of botany, entomology, and the natural sciences. Also includes two articles by Margaretta Hare Morris.

Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the LC Catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically.

People

Agassiz, Louis, 1807-1873--Correspondence.

Gray, Asa 1810-1888--Correspondence.

Gray, Jane Loring, 1821-1909--Correspondence.

Haldeman, Samuel Stehman, 1812-1880--Correspondence.

Harris, Thaddeus William, 1795-1856--Correspondence.

Morris, Elizabeth Carrington, 1795-1865. Elizabeth Carrington Morris and Margaretta Hare Morris papers.

Morris, Margaretta Hare, 1797-1867. Elizabeth Carrington Morris and Margaretta Hare Morris papers.

Silliman, Benjamin, 1816-1885--Correspondence.

Subjects

Botany.

Entomology.

Natural history.

Science--History--19th century.

Occupations

Botanists.

Entomologists.

Scientists.

Acquisition Information

The papers of Elizabeth Carrington Morris and Margaretta Hare Morris were purchased as the papers of Asa Gray by the Library of Congress in 1999.

Processing History

The papers of Elizabeth Carrington Morris and Margaretta Hare Morris were arranged and described as the papers of Asa Gray in 2000 by Edward T. Green Sr. The collection was renamed and the finding aid revised in 2024 by Katherine S. Madison to better reflect the papers' provenance and the Morris' contributions to science.

Other Repositories

Material related to Elizabeth Carrington Morris and Margaretta Hare Morris can be found in the Littell Family Papers at the University of Delaware Library Special Collections.

Copyright Status

The status of copyright in the unpublished writings of Elizabeth Carrington Morris and Margaretta Hare Morris is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.).

Access and Restrictions

The papers of Elizabeth Carrington Morris and Margaretta Hare Morris are open to research. Many collections are stored off-site and advance notice is needed to retrieve these items for research use. Researchers are advised to contact the Manuscript Reading Room prior to visiting.

Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: Container number, Elizabeth Carrington Morris and Margaretta Hare Morris Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Biographical Note

Elizabeth Carrington Morris was born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, on July 7, 1795. In the 1840s and 1850s, she published regularly in the *American Agriculturist*, *Gardener's Monthly*, and other publications on the topics of botany, horticulture, and home economics under various pseudonyms including "Americanus," "A Friend to Farmers," "E.," "E. C.," "E. S.," and "M." For many decades she also collected, cataloged, and shared botanical specimens with other botanists. Elizabeth died on February 12, 1865, in Germantown, Pennsylvania.

Margaretta Hare Morris was born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, on December 3, 1797. In 1850, she was one of the first women elected to the American Association for the Advancement of Science. In 1859, she was elected to the Academy of Natural Sciences. She published regularly on the topic of agricultural entomology in journals and magazines, including the *American Agriculturalist*, *Horticulturalist*, and *Gardener's Monthly*, both under her own name and using pseudonyms including "Old Lady," "G. P.," and "M." Margaretta died on May 29, 1867, in Germantown, Pennsylvania.

Both sisters were tutored in the sciences by Thomas Say, Thomas Nuttall, Charles Alexandre Lesueur, and John Davidson Godman, among other leading naturalists of the antebellum period. For most of their lives, the sisters lived in Morris Hall (also known as the Morris-Littell House) in Germantown, Pennsylvania, where they conducted original research in botany (Elizabeth) and entomology (Margaretta). Each corresponded regularly with members of the American scientific community, including Asa Gray, William Darlington, and Louis Agassiz.

Scope and Content Note

The papers of Elizabeth Carrington Morris and Margaretta Hare Morris span the years 1840-1859 and consist chiefly of letters to the Morris sisters from prominent nineteenth-century scientists including Louis Agassiz, Samuel Stehman Haldeman, Thaddeus William Harris, and Benjamin Silliman. The bulk of the correspondence is between Elizabeth Morris and botanist Asa Gray and Jane Loring Gray, his wife; most of this correspondence is scientific and technical in nature and concerns botany, entomology, and the natural sciences. Also included are two articles by Margaretta Hare Morris.

Arrangement of the Collection

This collection is arranged alphabetically by name.

Container List

Container	Contents
BOX 1	Farlow, W. G., invitation from Asa Gray, undated
BOX 1	Ingham, Charles C., letter to unidentified Morris sister, 1856
BOX 1	Morris, Elizabeth Carrington
BOX 1	Correspondence from
BOX 1	Gray, Asa, 1842-1859
	(2 folders)
BOX 1	Gray, Jane Loring, 1856-1857
BOX 1	Silliman, Benjamin (1816-1885), 1859
BOX 1	Morris, Margaretta Hare
BOX 1	Correspondence
BOX 1	From
BOX 1	Agassiz, Louis, 1853, undated
BOX 1	Haldeman, Samuel Stehman, 1849, 1854
BOX 1	Harris, Thaddeus William, 1850, 1852
BOX 1	Silliman, Benjamin (1816-1885), 1841
BOX 1	To Benjamin Hornor Coates, 1841
BOX 1	Articles
BOX 1	"On the Cecidomyia Destructor, or Hessian Fly," read Oct. 2, 1840, <i>Transactions of the American Philosophical Society of Philadelphia</i> , 1843
BOX 1	"Insects.--No. 1" (as "the Old Lady"), <i>American Agriculturist</i> , 1846