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William Harris correspondence4078868

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Summary Information

Repository:	Rare Book and Manuscript Library
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Title:	William Harris correspondence
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Biographical Note

President of Columbia College, 1811-1829.

William Harris, a Harvard graduate and Episcopalian minister, was elected president in conjunction with the appointment of Columbia College's first provost, a newly created office to which John Mitchell Mason, a Presbyterian minister, was elected.

Administrative duties were shared between the two offices although most of the executive activity was vested with the Provost leaving Dr. Harris with ample time for his duties as Rector of St. Mark's in the Bouwerie. Following Mason's resignation in 1816, a new provost was not appointed and Harris, resigning from his rectorship, assumed the full duties of the office until his death in 1829.

The ever-present problem of money haunted Harris's administration and, as a result of repeated application to the Legislature for financial assistance, the Elgin Botanical Garden (now Rockefeller Center), conveyed to the State by David Hosack, its creator, was assigned to

Columbia College (1814). Though the condition was made that the College move to this site, this was never carried out. Instead, wings were built in the original building to take care of the growing institution.

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Summary

Letters concerning academic matters and student discipline at Columbia College. Most of the letters are addressed to the Rev. Dr. William Harris.

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Arrangement

Cataloged.

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Administrative Information

Publication Statement

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Revision Description

Published inventory (JR) 2023-05-26

Restrictions on Access

This collection is located on-site.

Restrictions on Access

This collection has no restrictions.

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Accession number--M-59.

Processing Information

Cataloged Christina Hilton Fenn 06/--/89.

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Related Materials

Related Materials

Additional letters and manuscripts related to William Harris and his term as Columbia College President can be found in the [Columbia College papers](#).

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Controlled Access Headings

- Universities and colleges -- New York (State) -- New York
- College presidents
- Columbia College (New York, N.Y.) -- : Students
- Columbia College (New York, N.Y.) -- : Presidents

Collection Inventory

Series I: William Harris correspondence, 1817-1828

Scope and Contents

Letters are addressed to William Harris, unless otherwise specified. Correspondence is organized alphabetically by sender's last name.

Title/Description	Instances
Allen, Benjamin, 1828 June 7	box 1
Barker, Jacob, circa 1824 June 28	box 1
Scope and Contents	
Father of Robert, Columbia College student	
Barnes, Daniel Henry, 1822 November 4	box 1
Barnes, Daniel Henry, 1824 July 10	box 1
Scope and Contents	
Respectfully urging Harris "to promote so good an object as the establishment of a permanent publick school in the City of New York."	
Barnes, Daniel Henry, 1824 September 16	box 1
Scope and Contents	
Certifying to the good scholarship and character of Charles McFarlan, who wishes to enter the sophomore class at Columbia.	
Barnes, Daniel Henry, 1824 September 16	box 1
Scope and Contents	
Giving a list of the students, with their qualifications, whom he is sending to enter Columbia the following year "Confidential for the Faculty."	
Bayley, William, circa 1828	box 1
Scope and Contents	
Regarding the selection of the valedictory orator. Also signed by Jonas Butler for the Class of 1828.	
Beasley, Frederick, 1817 October 17	box 1

Scope and Contents

(Incomplete) Proposing the Hon. Joseph Hopkinson to the Board of Trustees for the degree of LLD.

Bathus, Divie (William), 1822 June 20 box 1

Scope and Contents

Regarding a recent lack of diligence and inattention displayed by William H. Harris and his son in their studies.

Borland and Forrest (School), 1828 Feb 6 box 1

Chase, Philander, 1822 July 22 box 1

Scope and Contents

(Incomplete) Begging a detailed description of his duties as president of Columbia to serve as a guide to himself in exercising the office of president of Cincinnati College, to which he has just been appointed.

Cowdrey, S., 1824 May 18 box 1

Craven, Tunis, 1828 February 18 box 1

Scope and Contents

Excusing his son Alfred's tardiness on several occasions because of illness in the family.

Craven, Tunis, 1828 February 19 box 1

Scope and Contents

Regarding his son Alfred's absences from prayers, which he feels satisfied were due to a misunderstanding.

Croes, John, 1821 December 27 box 1

Scope and Contents

(Incomplete) Introducing Mr. William Hopkins Lupp, who is going to New York to take his entrance examinations.

Curtis, William A., 1822 February 16 box 1

Scope and Contents

Asking the favor of the "tuition gratis" which had often been granted to students laboring under pecuniary embarrassments.

Dillon, G., 1827 December 23 box 1

Scope and Contents

Enclosing a hundred-dollar bill for the tuition fee for his son, Robert James, the balance to be given to his son. Is pleased with the expression of approbation of his son by the President and Faculty.

Duer, William, undated box 1

Scope and Contents

(Fragmentary draft) Apologizing for his non-appearance before the Board of the College on the day before.

Emory, James to Professor Anthon, 1828 June 28 box 1

Scope and Contents

Regarding his son's entering college. Is "sure that he will rigidly apply himself to any course to which he may be directed."

Harris, William to Orazio de Attelis Santangelo, 1828 February 13 box 1

Scope and Contents

(Not sent) Informing him that it was not understood that his lecture was to be given for pay, since, according to regulations, the College chapel could be used for free lectures only.

Hart, William Henry, 1828 July 26 box 1

Scope and Contents

Making application, at the suggestion of friends since he is soon to take charge of a literary institution in New York, for the degree of Master of Arts from his Alma Mater.

Hutton, N., 1822 November 2 box 1

Scope and Contents

Enclosing a form for the degree of A.M. and begging President Harris to do him the favor of presenting it to the Trustees for their inspection.

Ives, Levi Silliman, 1824 July 11 box 1

Ives, Levi Silliman, 1828 December 2 box 1

Scope and Contents

Requesting, if consistent with the regulations, that the honorable dismissal be given to Master David

Eigenbrodt from Columbia to the Junior class at
Washington College, Hartford, CT.

Kirkland, John Thornton, 1818 November 25 box 1

Scope and Contents

Certifying the terms on which Theodore S. Fisk might return to Harvard College at the expiration of his suspension "for extreme inattention," Sept. 1817 to the end of the winter vacation.

Kirkland, John Thornton, 1818 November 25 box 1

Scope and Contents

(Incomplete) Regretting that he cannot give Dr. Harris's son a certificate of his regular standing at Cambridge since "he went away under suspension for flagrant negligence."

Laight, Edward William, 1822 August 5 box 1

Lee, Chauncey, 1823 October 9 box 1

Livingston, Henry Brockholst, 1822 August 2 box 1

Scope and Contents

(Incomplete)

Livingston, Henry Brockholst, 1822 September 28 box 1

Scope and Contents

(Incomplete) Asking Harris to take what money is in the back and pay the salaries of the president and professors pro rata.

Low, John, undated box 1

Scope and Contents

(In the third person)

Lupp, William Hopskins, 1827 July 7 box 1

Mason, John Mitchell, 1822 November 4 box 1

Scope and Contents

Respecting the terms on which the students suspended from Columbia had been received at Carlisle.

Moore, Nathaniel Fish, 1822 June 21 box 1

Scope and Contents

(With shorthand notes) In respect to the disciplining of Mr. Cornell, a student. Wishes that part of the

sentence which relates to the apology to himself be regarded as already satisfied.

Morse, Jedidiah, 1822 December 14 box 1

Scope and Contents

In reference to writing a statement of his approbation of Dr. Morse's son's book, "A System of Modern Geography," If he thinks the book worth while.

Murdock, Thomas Jewett, 1821 November 17 box 1

Nelson, Joseph, Jr., 1828 January 7 box 1

Scope and Contents

In regard to returning to New York to resume the superintendence of the boys' school connected with Columbia College - his terms, etc.

Nelson, Joseph, Jr., 1828 January 21 box 1

Scope and Contents

Agreeing to the name of the school and the price of tuition which the Trustees have settled upon, but insisting on having the discipline of the school and the choice and payment of assistants in his own hands.

Nelson, Joseph, Jr., 1828 February 10 box 1

Scope and Contents

Regretting that on account of ill health he is unable to accept the management of the new Columbia Grammar School on the terms kindly mentioned by Dr. Harris.

Nelson, Joseph, Jr. to Professor Anthon, 1828 March 29 box 1

Scope and Contents

In regard to the building, as mentioned to him both by Professor Anthon and by President Harris, of a school house on lower Robinson Street.

Nelson, Joseph, Jr. to Professor Anthon, circa 1827 December 17 box 1

Scope and Contents

About the capabilities of Capt. Hall's sons and the establishment of a new grammar school in connection with Columbia, suggesting that he be proposed as head master since there seems to be some trouble about fixing on a suitable person.

Ogden, Charles Ludlow, 1824 March 24 box 1

Scope and Contents

Requesting that his son Waddington be permitted to return to his parents immediately after his examination for a degree, and thanking him for all he had done for an "unprofitable pupil."

Ogden, Thomas Ludlow, 1824 June 26 box 1

Scope and Contents

Asking that his nephew, Waddington Ogden, be permitted to return to his home, since he has passed his examinations for a degree, and not spend in idleness in New York the five weeks until Commencement.

O'Shannessy, Michael, 1828 February 7 box 1

Paine, Martyn, 1828 January 25 box 1

Scope and Contents

Introducing Mr. Emerson, a graduate of Dartmouth College, as an applicant for the position in the school recently established in connection with Columbia College.

Paulding, William, 1827 October 27 box 1

Scope and Contents

About his son Frederick's absences

Paulding, William, 1827 November 3 box 1

Scope and Contents

About his son Frederick's absences

Paulding, William, 1827 November 5 box 1

Scope and Contents

About his son Frederick's absences

Paulding, William, 1827 November 10 box 1

Scope and Contents

About his son Frederick's absences

Paulding, William, 1827 November 13 box 1

Scope and Contents

About his son Frederick's absences

Paulding, William, 1827 November 16 box 1

Scope and Contents

About his son Frederick's absences

Paulding, William, 1827 November 23

box 1

Scope and Contents

About his son Frederick's absences

Paulding, William, 1827 November 30

box 1

Scope and Contents

Son wishes to withdraw from the College.

Phelps, William A., 1828 October 27

box 1

Scope and Contents

In regard to returning for a theological course.

Raymond, Samuel G., 1824 June 30

box 1

Renwick, James, circa 1819 November

box 1

Scope and Contents

To enclose a draft of a letter which he proposes to send to certain members of the Board of Trustees respecting the terms on which he will accept a position at Columbia College.

Renwick, James, 1822 November 22

box 1

Scope and Contents

(Incomplete) Outlining a plan for a graduate school of scientific pursuits similar to the scientific institutions of Liverpool and London, commending the latter especially, which was planned by Count Rumford.

Roberston, James, 1822 February 9

box 1

Scope and Contents

Respecting an excuse, sent in writing, for absence of his son on account of illness, which had been reported as not received.

Santangelo, Orazio de Attellis, 1828 January 25

box 1

Scope and Contents

Asking for the use of the College chapel for his public lecture in four languages - Italian, French, Spanish and English.

Santangelo, Orazio de Attellis, 1828 February 2

box 1

Santangelo, Orazio de Attellis, circa 1828	box 1
Scope and Contents	
Notice of his lectures, for "The New York Inquirer."	
Sayres, Gilbert Hunt, 1828 October 23	box 1
Schermerhorn, Daniel D.C., 1824 July 22	box 1
Scope and Contents	
Regretting his inability on account of ill health to take part in the exercises of commencement day, although he hopes to be present to witness the public appearance of his fellow students.	
Sedgwick, Theodore, 1827 October 17	box 1
Scope and Contents	
In regard to tuition fees for his son which he says he has already paid, etc.	
Slack, John C., 1821 December 25	box 1
Scope and Contents	
Describing his situation at Carlisle as to pleasant natural surroundings and also as to some perplexities of the financial agreements with Dr. Mason respecting his teaching engagement.	
Spring, Gardiner, 1824 June 13	box 1
Scope and Contents	
Expressing his regret at the dismissal of his son for reasons which he thinks not quite warranted.	
Spring, Samuel E., 1823 December 28	box 1
Scope and Contents	
Apology letter promising for the future to "attend to all collegiate duties and to yield an exact obedience to the laws of the institution."	
Spring, Samuel E., 1824 June 11	box 1
Scope and Contents	
Application for readmission	
Stebbins, William, 1826 January 28	box 1
Swords, T & J (Publishers), 1826	box 1

Scope and Contents

Bill for services from 1824 to 1826 for \$299.90

Tardy, John G., 1822 July 11 box 1

Scope and Contents

In regard to his son John B.A. Tardy, who has been expelled. Does not question the authority of the Trustees, but begs to have Dr. Felix Pascalis allowed to review the case.

Thayer, Sylvanus to Prof. James Renwick, 1822 March 24 box 1

Scope and Contents

In respect to the introduction of his Treatise on Natural Philosophy as a text-book at the Military Academy, West Point.

Walton, William to the Board of Columbia College, 1828 May 31 box 1

Scope and Contents

Also signed by Joel B. Post, Robert van Kleeck, Lewis Thibou, and Benjamin Haight.

Ware, Henry, 1819 December 18 box 1

Scope and Contents

Introducing Mr. Norton, the Dexter professor of Biblical literature at Harvard (signature cut away).

Watts, John, Jr. to Mrs. Ledyard, 1827 July 10 box 1

Scope and Contents

Suggesting that her son Henry, on account of his ill health, be allowed to withdraw from the remainder of the session.

Young, John Clarke, 1822 September 5 box 1

Scope and Contents

Also signed by W.H. Williams and George W. Bethune.

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