Anna E. Dickinson

A Register of Her Papers in the Library of Congress

Prepared by Allan Teichroew and David Mathisen Revised by Patrick Kerwin and Lia Apodaca



Manuscript Division, Library of Congress

Washington, D.C.

2005

Contact information: http://lcweb.loc.gov/rr/mss/address.html

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Finding aid URL: http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms006005

Collection Summary

Title: Papers of Anna E. Dickinson

Span Dates: 1859-1951 **Bulk Dates:** (bulk 1859-1911)

ID No.: MSS18424

Creator: Dickinson, Anna E. (Anna Elizabeth), 1842-1932

Extent: 10,000 items; 29 containers plus 2 oversize; 12.4 linear feet; 25 microfilm reels

Language: Collection material in English

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

Abstract: Lecturer, reformer, actress, and author. Correspondence, speeches, writings, plays, legal files, financial papers, newspaper clippings, scrapbooks, and printed material relating to Dickinson's activities on behalf of abolition and women's rights and suffrage and to her career in the theater.

Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

Names:

Dickinson, Anna E. (Anna Elizabeth), 1842-1932

Allison, William B. (William Boyd), 1829-1908--Correspondence

Anthony, Susan B. (Susan Brownell), 1820-1906--Correspondence

Beecher, Henry Ward, 1813-1887--Correspondence

Bowles, Samuel, 1826-1878--Correspondence

Brooks, Noah, 1830-1903--Correspondence

Butler, Benjamin F. (Benjamin Franklin), 1818-1893--Correspondence

Chester, Giraud, 1922- Embattled maiden

Davenport, Fanny, 1850-1898--Correspondence

Dickinson, Mary--Correspondence

Dickinson, Susan--Correspondence

Douglass, Frederick, 1818-1895--Correspondence

Everett, Ellen--Correspondence.

Garrison, William Lloyd, 1805-1879--Correspondence

Greeley, Horace, 1811-1872

Higginson, Thomas Wentworth, 1823-1911--Correspondence

Hooker, Isabella Beecher, 1822-1907--Correspondence

Phillips, Wendell, 1811-1884--Correspondence

Pomeroy, S. C. (Samuel Clarke), 1816-1891--Correspondence

Reid, Whitelaw, 1837-1912--Correspondence

Schurz, Carl, 1829-1906--Correspondence

Tilton, Theodore, 1835-1907--Correspondence

Twain, Mark, 1835-1910--Correspondence

Warner, Charles Dudley, 1829-1900--Correspondence

Whittier, John Greenleaf, 1807-1892--Correspondence

Dickinson family--Correspondence

Republican Party (U.S.: 1854-)

State Hospital for the Insane (Danville, Pa.)

Chester, Giraud, 1922- Papers of Giraud Chester (1950-1951)

Subjects:

Antislavery movements--United States

Damages--United States

Education--United States

Elections--United States

Insane--Commitment and detention--United States

Presidents--United States--Election--1872

Presidents--United States--Election--1888

Psychiatric hospitals--Pennsylvania--Danville

Reconstruction (U.S. history, 1865-1877)

Slavery--United States

Social problems--Southern States

Theater--United States

Women--Suffrage--United States

Women's rights--United States

United States--Description and travel

United States--History--Civil War, 1861-1865>

Occupations:

Actresses

Authors

Lecturers

Reformers

Administrative Information

Provenance:

The papers of Anna E. Dickinson, lecturer, reformer, actress, and author, were given to the Library of Congress in 1933 by Dickinson's estate. Additions to the papers were given in 1955 by Giraud Chester and by an unidentified donor, 1955-1958. A gift from James Harvey Young was received in 1984.

Processing History:

The papers of Anna E. Dickinson were processed in 1979 and an addition was incorporated in 1985. When the collection was rehoused in 2003, the organization of the material remained unchanged. Although the finding aid and container list were revised to indicate the current container numbers, the numbers noted in the microfilm edition reflect the original housing.

Transfers:

Some photographic prints and negatives have been transferred to the Prints and Photographs Division of the Library of Congress where they are identified as part of these papers.

Copyright Status:

The status of copyright in the unpublished writings of Anna E. Dickinson is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.).

Microfilm:

A microfilm edition of part of these papers is available on twenty-five reels. Consult a reference librarian in the Manuscript Division concerning availability for purchase or interlibrary loan.

Preferred Citation:

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: Container or reel number, Anna E. Dickinson Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Biographical Note

Date Event

1842, Oct. 28 Born, Philadelphia, Pa.

1859-1860 Taught school Delivered her first full-length lecture, Concert Hall, Philadelphia, Pa.. 1861 Employee, United States Mint, Philadelphia, Pa. 1862 Spoke in New England at invitation of William Lloyd Garrison 1863 Campaigned for the Republican Party in Middle Atlantic states and New England 1865-1875 National lyceum movement lecturer 1868 Published What Answer? (Boston: Ticknor and Fields. 301pp.) 1869 Traveled to California on the transcontinental railroad 1872 Campaigned for Horace Greeley for president 1876 Debut at New Globe Theatre, Boston, Mass. 1879 Published A Ragged Register of People, Places and Opinions (New York: Harper & Brothers. 286pp.) 1888 Campaigned for the Republican Party in the Midwest 1891 Committed to State Hospital for the Insane, Danville, Pa. 1895-1901 Waged libel suits against authorities responsible for her commitment to a hospital for the insane 1895-1932 Lived with George and Sallie Ackley, Goshen, N.Y. 1932, Oct. 22 Died, Goshen, N.Y.

Scope and Content Note

The papers of Anna Elizabeth Dickinson (1842-1932) span the period 1859-1951, but are chiefly concentrated in the years 1859-1911. The collection consists of <u>Family Correspondence</u>, <u>General Correspondence</u>, <u>Speeches and Writings File</u>, <u>Legal File</u>, and a <u>Miscellany</u> series including financial papers, newspaper clippings, scrapbooks, and research notes of Giraud Chester, Dickinson's biographer. There are also a small <u>Addition</u> and an <u>Oversize</u> series.

Anna Dickinson's papers treat all aspects of her life and include correspondence with the men and women of her circle throughout the country. Although Dickinson did not make copies of most of her letters, she obtained many of the letters she wrote while on national lecture tours to Mary Dickinson, her mother, and Susan Dickinson, her journalist sister. The correspondence described her travel itineraries, her impressions, and her joys and misgivings. They show the reactions of a person whose plays and performances, including *A Crown of Thorns* and *The Test of Honor*, were not well received. By 1900 she was estranged from her sister Susan, formerly her closest friend and housemate, and had outlived most of her associates. As recorded in the legal file and in her scrapbooks, she intiated several lawsuits between 1895 and 1901 as a result of her confinement at the State Hospital for the Insane in Danville, Pennsylvania. Other topics include the elections of 1872 and 1888, the Republican Party, psychiatric hospital and her confinement to the State Hospital for the Insane, the Civil War and Reconstruction, and education.

The <u>Speeches and Writings File</u>, contains several of Dickinson's earliest speeches and stage manuscripts. Those not present are often documented by newspaper clippings and scrapbooks. A notebook in the <u>Legal File</u> records her experiences at the State Hospital for the Insane. Only obituaries and a few financial papers relate to her final two decades.

Correspondents include William B. Allison, Susan B. Anthony, Samuel Bowles, Noah Brooks, Benjamin F. Butler, Fanny Davenport, Frederick Douglass, Ellen Everett, Thomas Wentworth Higginson, Isabella Beecher Hooker, Wendell Phillips, Samuel C. Pomeroy, Whitelaw Reid, Carl Schurz, Theodore Tilton, Mark Twain, Charles Dudley Warner, and John Greenleaf Whittier.

Organization of the Papers

The collection is arranged in seven series:

- Family Correspondence, 1860-1904, n.d.
- General Correspondence, 1859-1911, n.d.
- Speeches and Writings File, 1868-1907, n.d.
- <u>Legal File</u>, 1881-1898
- <u>Miscellany, 1863-1951, n.d.</u>
- Addition, 1862-1933, n.d.
- Oversize, 1863-1877

Description of Series

Container Series

BOX 1-4 Family Correspondence, 1860-1904, n.d.

REEL 1-5

Letters sent by Anna Dickinson and received from her mother, sister, brother, and other family members.

Arranged chronologically.

BOX 5-14

General Correspondence, 1859-1911, n.d.

REEL 6-17

Letters received and copies of letters sent by Dickinson, including postcards, calling card messages, telegrams, and enclosed material.

Arranged alphabetically by name of correspondent and chronologically thereunder. Anonymous, incomplete, fragmentary, initialed, and unitelligible or unidentified correspondence is filed at the end of the series.

BOX 15-21 REEL 17-22 Speeches and Writings File, 1868-1907, n.d.

Speeches, plays, and miscellaneous unidentified notes and manuscripts. Arranged by type of material and thereunder alphabetically by title.

BOX 21 REEL 22 Legal File, 1881-1898

Correspondence, court records, notebook of confinement, and miscellaneous legal documents. Arranged alphabetically by topic and chronologically thereunder.

BOX 21-27

Miscellany, 1863-1951, n.d.

REEL 22-25

Address books, calling cards, financial papers, newspaper clippings, scrapbooks, and other miscellaneous subject and printed matter concerning Dickinson, including research material compiled by Giraud Chester.

Arranged alphabetically by topic or type of material. Research notes are located at the end of the series.

BOX 28-29 not filmed

Addition, 1862-1933, n.d.

Correspondence, photographs, printed matter, scrapbooks, and other papers. Arranged alphabetically by type of material.

Oversize, 1863-1877

REEL 24-25

BOX OV 1-OV 2

Oversize scrapbooks.

Organized and described according to the series, containers, and folders from which the items were removed.

Container List

Available on microfilm. Shelf no. 17, 984

Container	Contents
BOX 1-4 REEL 1-5	Family Correspondence, 1860-1904, n.d.
	Letters sent by Anna Dickinson and received from her mother, sister, brother, and other family
	members.
	Arranged chronologically.
BOX 1 REEL 1	1860-1870
	(18 folders)
BOX 2 REEL 2	1871-1873, Aug.
	(18 folders)
BOX 3 REEL 3-4	1873, Sept1880, Mar.
	(23 folders)
BOX 4 REEL 4-5	1881-1894, n.d.
	(24 folders)
BOX 5-14 REEL 6-17	General Correspondence, 1859-1911, n.d.
	Letters received and copies of letters sent by Dickinson, including postcards, calling card messages, telegrams, and enclosed material.
	Arranged alphabetically by name of correspondent and chronologically thereunder. Anonymous, incomplete, fragmentary, initialed, and unitelligible or unidentified correspondence is filed at the end of the series.
BOX 5 REEL 6-7	Ackley, Sallie J., and family, 1892-1910, n.d.
	Allen, Elizabeth A., 1877-1878, n.d.
	Allison, William B., 1869-1908, n.d.
	Allyn, J. P., 1863
	Ames, Fanny B., 1863, n.d.
	Anthony, Susan B., 1864-1895, n.d.
	Austin, R. N. and Sallie, 1865-1871
	Austin, S. F., 1865-1875, n.d.
	"A" miscellaneous, 1862-1895, n.d.
	Baker, John, 1867
	Beecher, Henry Ward, 1871-1874, n.d.
	Benedict, Frank Lee, 1887-1888
	Bernard, O. G., 1873-1881
	Booth, Marion, 1893-1895, n.d.
	Boucicault, Dion, 1877-1879, n.d.

	Bowles, Samuel, 1863-1879, n.d.
	Brackett, Lou and Walter, 1865-1875, n.d.
	Brooks, Noah, 1872-1874, n.d.
BOX 6	Browne, Ele, 1869-1873, n.d.
REEL 7-8	
	Bullard, E. P., 1872-1873
	Bullard, Laura C., 1870-1875, n.d.
	Burton, W. J., 1865-1869
	Butler, Benjamin F., 1866-1892, n.d.
	"B" miscellaneous, 1862-1908, n.d.
BOX 7	Camp, Stephen H., 1868, n.d.
REEL 8-9	
	Chase, Lillie B., 1860-1874, n.d.
	Clark, Lizzie, 1897-1898, n.d.
	Clarke, James Freeman, 1871-1874
	Clarkson, J. S., 1888-1891, n.d.
	Clemens, Samuel L., n.d.
	Collyer, Robert, 1871-1880, n.d.
	Conway, Martin F., 1866-1878, n.d.
	Colfax, Schuyler, 1868-1871
	Croly, Jenny Cunningham, 1877-1888, n.d.
	Crowell, Charlotte M., 1866-1891, n.d.
	"C" miscellaneous, 1860-1902, n.d.
	Douglass, Frederick, 1866-1874
	Dille, John I., 1888
	Dupee, Henry D., 1907
	"D" miscellaneous, 1862-1910, n.d.
	Edmunds, Fanny B., n.d.
	Evans, Edward P., 1868-1870
BOX 8	Everett, Ellen, 1866-1910, n.d.
REEL 9-10	
	(3 folders)
	Eytinge, Rose, 1878-1881
	"E" miscellaneous, 1862-1893, n.d.
	Faithful, Emily, 1884, n.d.
	Ferguson, Julius M., 1892-1899, n.d.
	Field, Kate, 1870-1874
	Fisk, Stephen R., 1877-1880
	Fitch, R. G., 1877-1880
	Forney, John W., 1881, n.d.
	Fortescue, Jessie, 1894-1899, n.d.
	Fortune, Timothy Thomas, 1892-1894
	Frohman, Daniel, 1871-1893, n.d.
	"F" miscellaneous, 1863-1910, n.d.
	Gardiner, C.S., 1879-1882
	Garrison, William Lloyd (1805-1879), and family, 1862-1863
	Garrison, William Lloyd (1838-1909), Jr., 1906-1907

Gillette, William, 1884-1888 Gough, John B., 1865-1874, n.d. Gould, Linus A., 1862-1863 Gustafson, Jadel Buddington, 1867-1901 "G" miscellaneous, 1861-1897, n.d.

BOX 9 **REEL** 10-11

Hanaford, Phebe A., 1868-1894, n.d.

Habberton, John, 1879-1880

Harris, Sadie, n.d.

Harrison, Benjamin, 1889 Hastings, Daniel H., 1898

Hay, John M., n.d. Hepworth, J. G., 1892 Hertwig, J. G., 1869-1870

Higginson, Thomas Wentworth, 1863-1870, n.d.

Holley, Sallie, 1867-1891, n.d.

Hollister, O. J., 1869

Hooker, Isabella Beecher, and family, 1864-1888, n.d.

Hughes, Charles Evans, 1907

Hull, Phoebe C., 1891-1894, n.d.

"H" miscellaneous, 1861-1906, n.d.

Irish, Elias H., 1864-1866, n.d.

Isom, S. May, 1892-1898, n.d.

(2 folders)

"I" miscellaneous, 1865-1893, n.d.

Johnson, Oliver, 1864-1888

Jones, Melinda, 1872-1875, n.d.

"J" miscellaneous, 1863-1909, n.d.

Kelley, William D., 1863-1866, n.d.

"K" miscellaneous, 1863-1910, n.d.

Lamborn, Robert, 1866-1868

Lancaster, A. E., 1877-1879

Livermore, Mrs. D. P., 1863

Locke, D. R., 1868-1880, n.d.

Logan, Olive, 1869-1871

"L" miscellaneous, 1863-1911, n.d.

McCullough, John, 1878-1879, n.d.

McDonald, Louisa and John E., 1891-1907

MacGeachy, Charles, 1891-1892, n.d. MacKenzie, Addheid, 1877-1893, n.d.

McKim, James Miller, n.d.

May, Samuel (1810-1899), 1862-1863, n.d.

Meeker, Ralph, 1869-1879

Mendum, Charles A., 1881-1892, n.d.

Miles, Nellie E., 1871-1895, n.d.

Miller, Ann Jenness, 1893

BOX 10 REEL 11-12 "M" miscellaneous, 1861-1911, n.d.

(2 folders)

Nicholas, [?], 1906-1909

Nunn, C. A., 1884-1891

"N" miscellaneous, 1863-1899

BOX 11 REEL 13-14 Osgood, James R., 1871-1874

"O" miscellaneous, 1862-1910, n.d.

Palmer, A. M., 1875-1880

Perry, George, 1877-1885

Phillips, Wendell, 1863-1868, n.d.

Pomeroy, Samuel C. and Martha L., 1863-1873, n.d.

Prang, Louis, 1868-1893

Prescott, Benjamin F., 1862-1874

Price, Fanny Davenport and Edwin H., 1879-1881, n.d.

Pritchard, T. S., 1888

Pugh, T. B., 1864-1883

"P" miscellaneous, 1861-1907, n.d.

"Q" miscellaneous, 1892-1905, n.d.

Redpath, James, 1868-1879, n.d.

Reid, Whitelaw, 1863-1879, n.d. Rich, Carol, 1879-1888, n.d.

BOX 12

REEL 14-15

Richardson, Leander P., 1874-1893, n.d.

Ricketson, Joseph, 1862-1863

Robinson, Aggie Day and Edith Day, 1908-1910, n.d.

Rogers, Stuart, 1887, n.d.

Runkle, L. G. and Cornelius A., 1870-1875, n.d.

"R" miscellaneous, 1862-1895, n.d.

Sanders, John, n.d.

Sargent, Christine K., 1864-1894

Schurz, Carl, 1871-1874, n.d.

Scovel, James M., 1869-1874

Seward, M., 1891

Shepard, Charles, 1873-1881

Smith, David R., 1891-1892

Smith, Nicholas, 1906-1907, n.d.

Spear, James Edwin, 1877-1881, n.d.

Spinner, Francis Elias, 1869-1870

Spofford, Harriet and R. S., 1865-1888, n.d.

Stanton, Elizabeth Cady, 1867-1868, n.d.

Stetson, John, 1881, n.d.

Stewart, Anna E., 1886-1887

Stone, Lucy, 1867-1881

Stowe, Harriet B., 1869, n.d.

Sullivan, Margaret, 1878-1880

"S" miscellaneous, 1861-1911, n.d. (2 folders) **BOX** 13 Tallman, E. P., 1886-1893 **REEL 15-16** Tarbell, Ida M., 1910 Tilton, Theodore, 1862-1872, n.d. Tyler, Moses Coit, 1872 "T" miscellaneous, 1862-1910, n.d. United States Senate, 1901-1902 "U" miscellaneous, 1865 "V" miscellaneous, 1884-1894, n.d. Wakeman, Ann, 1878, n.d. Warner, Charles Dudley, 1863-1874, n.d. Warner, Susan, George, and Lillian, 1864-1881, n.d. White, Charles, 1869-1871 Whittier, John Greenleaf, 1871-1888 Whiting, Lilian, 1881-1895, n.d. Whitlock, Brand, 1907-1908 Wilder, Burt G., 1909-1910 Wilson, Henry, 1866-1874 Wood, Charles P. and Emma P., 1864-1874 Wood, S. N., 1867 Wright, Emily Dudley, 1887-1897, n.d. "W" miscellaneous, 1865-1910, n.d. (2 folders) "X-Z" miscellaneous, 1867-1883, n.d. **BOX** 14 Anonymous, 1861-1877 **REEL** 16-17 Calling card messages, 1870, n.d. Fragments By Dickinson, ca. 1895-1905 By others, ca. 1860-1900 Group letters, 1863-1882, n.d. Unidentified By "A.D.," 1887-1908, n.d. By Anna Dickinson, 1862-1905, n.d. First names Julia, 1866-1884, n.d. Louise, 1863-1875, n.d. Other, 1867-1892, n.d. Initialed letters, 1868-1910, n.d. Unintelligible, 1859-1902, n.d.

BOX 15-21 **REEL** 17-22

Speeches and Writings File, 1868-1907, n.d.

Speeches, plays, and miscellaneous unidentified notes and manuscripts. Arranged by type of material and thereunder alphabetically by title.

BOX 15 REEL 17	Speeches
REEL 1/	Andrew Johnson, n.d.
	"A Threefold Tragedy," n.d.
	Edward Parker, n.d.
	Frederic Chopin, n.d.
	Henrik Ibsen, n.d.
	"Jeanne D'arc," 1884
	Mormonism, n.d.
	"National Crisis," n.d.
	"Personal Liberty," n.d.
	"Standard Bearers in the Teacher's Battle," n.d.
	Temperance and Suffrage, 1868
	"Whited Sepulchres," 1870
	Women's Rights, n.d.
	"Worth Fighting For," n.d.
	Miscellaneous, n.d.
	(3 folders)
BOX 16	Plays
REEL 18	•
	"A Crown of Thorns," 1876
	(12 folders)
	"An American Girl," 1880
	(3 folders)
REEL 18	(11 folders)
BOX 17	"Averation on Domois Doctoron " 1970
	"Aurelian or Rome's Restorer," 1879
вох 18	(5 folders) (1 folder)
REEL 19-20	(1 loidel)
	"Esther Armin," 1879
	"Laura," 1876
	"The Test of Honor," 1880
	(4 folders)
	Miscellaneous
	Role of Claude Mulnotte, n.d.
	Copyright, 1876-1907
	Miscellany
	Notes
	(1 folder)
BOX 19	(6 folders)
REEL 20	(2 5-14)
BOX 20 REEL 21	(2 folders)
REEL 21	Unidentified manuscripts
	(4 folders)
вох 21	(1 folder)

Container	Contents
REEL 22	
BOX 21 REEL 22	Legal File, 1881-1898
	Correspondence, court records, notebook of confinement, and miscellaneous legal documents. Arranged alphabetically by topic and chronologically thereunder.
BOX 21 REEL 22	Charge to the court, 1897
	Correspondence
	Dailey, Bell & Crane, 1892-1896
	Hart & Price, 1891
	Heverin, James H., 1881-1891
	Howe & Hummel, 1888-1896
	McLean, William S., 1891-1896
	Miscellaneous, 1895-1898
	Court record, 1893
	Notebook of confinement, 1893
	Miscellany, 1888-1895
BOX 21-27 REEL 22-25	Miscellany, 1863-1951, n.d.
	Address books, calling cards, financial papers, newspaper clippings, scrapbooks, and other miscellaneous subject and printed matter concerning Dickinson, including research materi compiled by Giraud Chester.
	Arranged alphabetically by topic or type of material. Research notes are located at the end of the series.
BOX 21 REEL 22	Address books, 1870-1872, n.d.
BOX 22 REEL 22-23	Calling cards, n.d.
	(2 folders)
	Financial papers
	Receipts, 1864-1930
	(3 folders)
	Miscellaneous, ca. 1875-1885
	Newspaper clippings
	Obituaries, 1932
	Miscellaneous, n.d.
	(2 folders)
BOX 23 REEL 23	(9 folders)
BOX 24 REEL 23-24	(3 folders)
	Passport, 1876
	Phrenological chart of Dickinson, 1866

Printed matter, n.d.

Programs and playbills, n.d.

Contents

	Scrapbooks
	ca. 1877
BOX 25	ca. 1877-1882
REEL 24	
	(3 vols.)
BOX 26	ca. 1888-1912
REEL 24-25	
	(3 vols.)
	1863-1876 <u>See Oversize</u>
	ca. 1876-1877 <u>See Oversize</u>
BOX 27	Research cards, compiled by Giraud Chester, 1950-1951, n.d.
REEL 25	
BOX 28-29	Addition, 1862-1933, n.d.
not filmed	Addition, 1002-1755, n.d.
1100 11111100	Correspondence, photographs, printed matter, scrapbooks, and other papers.
	Arranged alphabetically by type of material.
BOX 28	Books, 1881, n.d.
	Clippings, 1897-1933, n.d.
	Correspondence, 1863-1924
	Miscellany, 1864-1865, 1926
	Notebook, 1920-1923
	Photographs, n.d.
	Printed matter, 1926, n.d.
вох 29	Scrapbooks, ca. 1891-1901
	(3 vols.)
BOX OV 1-OV 2	Oversize, 1863-1877
REEL 24-25	
	Oversize scrapbooks.
	Organized and described according to the series, containers, and folders from which the items
	were removed.
BOX OV 1	Miscellany
_ 3.2 3 , 2	Scrapbooks
	1863-1876 (Container 26, reels 24-25)
BOX OV 2	ca. 1876-1877 (Container 26, reels 24-25)
DUAU V Z	ca. 10/0-10// (Container 20, 10018 24-23)