

**GUIDE TO THE
MICROFILM EDITION OF**

**THE PAPERS OF
ANNA GARLIN SPENCER
[1830-1870], 1878-1931**

A Microfilm Publication by

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Note to Researcher

Researchers citing materials in this edition of the *Papers of Anna Garlin Spencer [1830-1870], 1878-1931* should use the following format:

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Size: 3.75 linear feet

Microfilm: 5 reels

Restrictions: None

Introduction

History

Anna Carpenter Garlin Spencer (1851-1931) was a minister, feminist, educator, pacifist, and writer on ethics and social problems. Perhaps inspired by the examples of her abolitionist mother, Nancy Carpenter Garlin, and her aunt, Sarah Carpenter, a missionary who worked with homeless women, Spencer dedicated her life to social reform. She was the first woman minister in Rhode Island, serving in Providence from 1819 to 1902 at the Bell Street Chapel, a liberal, nondenominational ethical church.

Anna Garlin was born in Attleboro, Massachusetts, in 1851 and spent her youth in that state and in Rhode Island. In 1869 she began writing for the *Providence Journal*, as well as teaching in the public schools. She remained a journalist until 1878 when she married the Rev. William H. Spencer, a Unitarian minister. From 1902 until her death, Spencer held a series of teaching posts at such institutions as the University of Wisconsin, the University of Chicago, and Teacher's College at Columbia University. She taught on issues of religion, marriage and family, the role of women, sexuality, and philanthropy.

Spencer was active in the cause of women's rights for more than forty years. She was a friend of well-known feminists, including Susan B. Anthony, Ednah Cheney, Lucy Stone, and Valeria H. Parker. In the 1890s she served as president of the Rhode Island Equal Suffrage Association. An early participant in the National Council of Women, Spencer was also president of that organization in 1920.

Her interest in pacifism led Spencer to prominent positions in the cause for peace. She was on the Executive Committee of the National Peace and Arbitration Congress in 1907 and was a founding member of the Woman's Peace Party in 1915, serving as vice chairman. In 1919 she also became the first chairman of the national board of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom.

Spencer died at her home in New York in 1931.

Arrangement

The Anna Garlin Spencer Papers include correspondence and writings, as well as biographical and family material. Spencer's correspondence with well-known women's rights activists and peace workers is found in Box 1, and her writings are located in Boxes 2-4, including manuscripts, typescripts, and printed articles. Box 5 contains newspaper clippings about Spencer and her work. Material about her years at the Bell Street Chapel are in Box 5. Biographical papers on Spencer are included in Box 6, and Box 9 contains material about William H. Spencer.

Family genealogies, correspondence, and material about Carpenter and Garlin family members are located in Box 7. Miscellaneous material, as well as undated writings and correspondence by Anna Garlin Spencer, are found in Box 8.

The only material not microfilmed is the collection of newspaper clippings in Box 5 and material received by the Swarthmore College Peace Collection after filming was completed.

For further information about the documents and material in this collection that were not microfilmed, please contact the staff of the Swarthmore College Peace Collection at 610-328-8557.

Scope and Content

Significant correspondents and others in this collection include Susan B. Anthony, Alice Stone Blackwell, Sarah Carpenter, Carrie Chapman Catt, Elizabeth Buffam Chace, Ednah D. Cheney, Frederick Douglass, Dorothy Canfield Fisher, Nancy Carpenter Garlin, Lucy Hale Garlin, Thomas Wentworth Higginson, Julia Ward Howe, Harriet Martineau, Lucia Ames Mead, Laura Puffer Morgan, Valeria H. Parker, Janet Pierson, Kate Pierson, Elizabeth Oakes Smith, and Lucy Stone.

Material about Anna Garlin Spencer also may be found in the following collections: Hannah Clothier Hull; National Council for Prevention of War; National Council of Women of the United States; New York Peace Society; Woman's Peace Party; Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, U.S. Section; and Women's Peace Union.

The Papers of Anna Garlin Spencer [1830-1870], 1878-1931
Reel Contents

Reel 1	Box 1	Correspondence, 1860-1931, n.d.
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Reel 2	Box 2	Manuscript Material
	Folder 1	Diary
	Folder 2	Manuscripts, 1878-1931
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Reel 3	Folder 3	Manuscripts, n.d. (1)
	Folder 4	Manuscripts, n.d. (2)
	Folder 5	Manuscripts, n.d. (3)
	Box 3	Typescript Material
	Folder 1	Typescripts, signed, dated
	Folder 2	Typescripts, signed, n.d. (1)
	Folder 3	Typescripts, signed, n.d. (2)
	Folder 4	Typescripts, signed, n.d. (3)
	Folder 5	Typescripts, no signature, dated
	Folder 6	Typescripts, no signature, n.d. (1)
	Folder 7	Typescripts, no signature, n.d. (2)
	Folder 8	Lecture outlines, dated and n.d.
	Folder 9	Bibliographies and reading lists
	Box 4	Printed Material
	Folder 1	Articles and printed material, 1878-1911
	Folder 2	Articles and printed material, 1912-1925
	Folder 3	Articles and printed material, 1926-1930
	Folder 4	Articles and printed material, n.d.
	Folder 5	Article about Anna Garlin Spencer

The Papers of Anna Garlin Spencer [1830-1870], 1878-1931
Reel Contents

- Reel 4**
- Folder 6 Promotional publicity, 1872-1915
 - Folder 7 Promotional publicity, 1916-, n.d.
 - [Folders 1-9 not filmed]
 - Folder 10 Bell Street Chapel material (including correspondence)
 - Folder 11 Bell Street Chapel, services
- Box 6 Biographical Material**
- Folder 1 Biographical lists
 - Folder 2 Lists of books, articles, lectures
 - Folder 3 Admission and membership cards, passport, etc.
 - Folder 4 75th birthday celebration, 1926
 - Folder 5 Memorials
 - Folder 6 Photographs
 - Folder 7 Miscellaneous material
- Box 7 Family Material**
- Folder 1 Carpenter correspondence, 1830-1900
 - Folder 2 Carpenter family clippings and miscellaneous
 - Folder 3 Nancy M. Carpenter: Good Behavior Slips
 - Folder 4 Carpenter genealogical material
 - Folder 5 Garlin Correspondence, 1884-n.d.
 - Folder 6 Garlin correspondence (Lucy Hale Garlin, 1854-1926)
 - Folder 7 Lucy Hale Garlin, clippings and programs (1863-n.d.)
 - Folder 8 Garlin genealogical material

The Papers of Anna Garlin Spencer [1830-1870], 1878-1931
Reel Contents

Reel 5

- Folder 9 Spencer correspondence, 1839-1847
- Folder 10 Spencer family clippings and miscellaneous
- Folder 11 Spencer genealogical material

Box 8 Family Material

- Folder 1 Duplicate material (1)
- Folder 2 Duplicate material (2)
- Folder 3 Incomplete material
- Folder 4 Material, n.d.
- Folder 5 Non-Anna G. Spencer correspondence
- Folder 6 Non-Anna G. Spencer clippings, articles and poetry
- Folder 7 Susan B. Anthony letter to Anna Howard Shaw

Box 9 William H. Spencer

- Folder 1 Correspondence, 1869-1917, and n.d.
- Folder 2 Diary
- Folder 3 Printed articles by and about William H. Spencer
- Folder 4 Clippings, 1873-1916, incomplete and n.d.
- Folder 5 Miscellaneous material