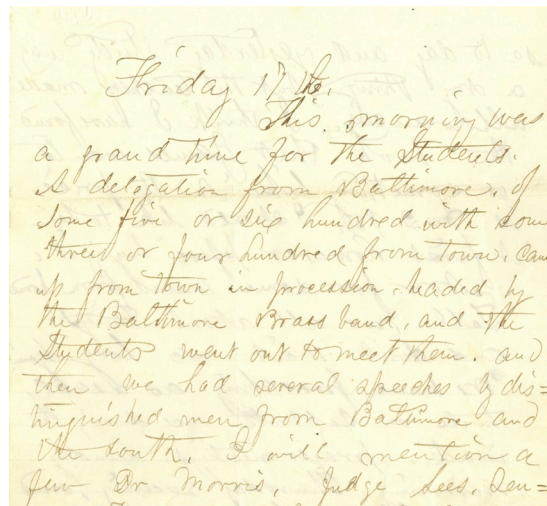


Guide to MS-284:

Thomas B. Blauvelt Family Correspondence



Gettysburg College, Musselman Library
Special Collections and College Archives

Karen Dupell Drickamer
June, 2022

MS-284: Thomas B. Blauvelt Family Correspondence

Processed by Karen Dupell Drickamer

June 2022

Size

1 box, 0.33 cubic feet

Location

Special Collections

Dates

Inclusive: 1856-1880

Bulk: 1856-1859

Provenance

Gift of William C. Wright, Class of 1961

Biographical Note

Thomas Baldwin Blauvelt was born on September 12, 1831 to Henry and Christina Blauvelt of Saddle River, New Jersey. Thomas attended Hartwick Seminary in Otsego, New York, a two-year academy, from October 1855 to 1857. He entered Pennsylvania College in 1857 as a junior, becoming a member of the class of 1859, and continued his studies to be a minister. Thomas died on August 26, 1859, having completed his senior examinations but prior to his graduation from the College. He had joined the Phrenakosmian Literary Society and both the Phrenakosmian. The College Faculty Meeting Minutes passed resolutions of condolences upon his death.

Among Thomas B. Blauvelt's correspondents were four other individuals who attended Pennsylvania College. Theophilus Heilig (1837-1927) attended Hartwick Seminary and Union College prior to entering Pennsylvania College in the spring term of 1858 as a member of the class of 1859. Theophilus served as a minister in several Pennsylvania churches. Daniel Heller (1830-1864) attended Pennsylvania College from 1849-1851, and became a pastor in West Camp, New York. Frank P. Muhlenberg (1840-1917) attended Pennsylvania College from 1856-1858. He enlisted in the 1st Pennsylvania Volunteer Regiment in 1861 and served throughout the war, brevetted major in March, 1865 and resigning in 1866. Franklin B. Wolf (1834-1865) graduated with the class of 1859, taught school in Littlestown, Pa., and served in Company A (College Company), 26th Regiment, Pennsylvania Militia. After studying theology privately, Wolf was licensed in 1863. Following one year of service with the Christian Commission, he became Chaplain of the 94th Illinois Infantry Regiment.

Members of the Blauvelt family in this collection of correspondence include Thomas's parents, Henry (1803-1896) and Christina Baldwin (1807-1881) Blauvelt, Saddle River, New Jersey; siblings, John Henry

(1824-1918), Gerritt Baldwin (1830-1901), and David Aaron (1847-1929). More information on family can be found within the transcriptions end notes.

Scope and Content Note

The collection contains 46 letters to and from friends and family as well as a few items of ephemera. The first fourteen letters of correspondence (from October 1855 to June 1857), when Thomas was attending Hartwick Seminary, consist of mostly news of the school, friends, classmates, and family. The next 15 letters (1858-1859), when Thomas was attending Pennsylvania College, consist of news of the College, Gettysburg, friends and classmates, and family news. Since the letters from fellow Pennsylvania College classmates, (some are also fellow Hartwick classmates) are one sided, one gains more insight into their character and lives than Thomas'. To the researcher of either Pennsylvania College alumni or Hartwick Seminary, this collection is limited. Letters 1/17' 1/20, 1/21, 1/26, 1/29, 1/37, and 1/38 contains the most information about Pennsylvania College and Gettysburg.

The rest of the letters (1868-1880), Series 2, consist of family correspondence after Thomas' death in 1859 and contain information on family life in Saddle River.

Series Description

This collection is divided into two series. Series 1: Thomas B. Blauvelt Correspondence, Series 2: Blauvelt Family Correspondence.

Subjects

Hartwick Seminary – History – 19th century
Pennsylvania College – History – 19th century
Blauvelt, Thomas B., 1831-1859
Saddle River, New Jersey
Gettysburg, PA
Heilig, Theophilus, 1837-1927
Heller, Daniel, 1830-1864
Muhlenberg, Frank P., 1840-1917
Wolf, Franklin B., 1834-1865

Box 1

1-0 Finding Aid and Research Materials

Series 1: Thomas B. Blauvelt Correspondence

1-1 Thomas B. Blauvelt, Hartwick Seminary, to Henry and Christina Blauvelt, Saddle River, NJ, October 22, 1855. Thomas writes of the death of Mr. Russell who had died

unexpectedly.

- 1-2 Henry and Christina Blauvelt, Saddle River, NJ, to Thomas B. Blauvelt, Hartwick Seminary, January 1, 1856. Parents write of family and community news.
- 1-3 Thomas B. Blauvelt, Hartwick Seminary, to Henry and Christina Blauvelt, Saddle River, NJ, January 22, 1856. Thomas writes about his studies, the weather, and the cost of crops.
- 1-4 George Berdan, Saddle River, NJ, to Thomas B. Blauvelt, Hartwick Seminary, January 26 1856. Berdan writes of local and family news.
- 1-5 Thomas B. Blauvelt, Hartwick Seminary, to Henry and Christina Blauvelt, Saddle River, NJ, February 4, 1856. Thomas writes of his boarding place and its great food, sends his pudding recipe, a classmate who froze his feet, and the cold weather.
- 1-6 Henry, John Henry, and Christina, [Saddle River, NJ], to Thomas B. Blauvelt, Hartwick Seminary, February 18, 1856. Parents write of the death of Thomas' grandfather.
- 1-7 Thomas B. Blauvelt, Hartwick Seminary, to Henry and Christina Blauvelt, Saddle River, NJ, February 18, 1856. Thomas writes about his grief, his school work, the lecture and sermon of a professor, and the coming end of the Winter Session.
- 1-8 Thomas B. Blauvelt, Hartwick Seminary, to Henry and Christina Blauvelt, Saddle River, NJ, March 27, 1856. Coming home will be delayed as he is still waiting for the money to do so and is asking "what's up?"
- 1-9 Henry and Christina Blauvelt, Saddle River, NJ, to Thomas B. Blauvelt, Hartwick Seminary, June 21, 1856. Parents write of the busy time of harvesting strawberries, corn, and potatoes as well as the progress on their building.
- 1-10 Thomas B. Blauvelt, Hartwick Seminary, to Henry and Christina Blauvelt, Saddle River, NJ, July 26, 1856. Thomas writes that he is preparing a piece for the Annual Exhibition; boarding at his old place; wondering why some friends are not writing; the return of a missionary from India; good health but poor eyes; local farmers have begun to cradle their grain.
- 1-11 [Theophilus Heilig], [Hamilton Square, PA], to Thomas B. Blauvelt, Saddle River, NJ, October 8, 1856. Theophilus writes to arrange a place for them to meet; chides Thomas for his advocating the principles of modern democracy, and will give his opinion on the coming election.
- 1-12 Thomas B. Blauvelt, Hartwick Seminary, to Henry and Christina Blauvelt, Saddle River, NJ, January 26, 1857. Thomas writes of friends; the recent storm that left 3 to 6 feet of snow everywhere; hearing from his brothers, and how hard he has been studying.
- 1-13 Frederick J. Sternberg, Hartwick Seminary, to [Thomas B. Blauvelt], Saddle River, NJ, April 12, 1857. Hartwick student, Frederick, asks Thomas to send him the constitution of the American Party (also known as the Know Nothings).
- 1-14 Theophilus Heilig, Tamaqua, PA, to Thomas B. Blauvelt, Saddle River, NJ, June 1, 1857. Theophilus writes of the illness of his mother; his missing shipped box of books; his new quarters.
- 1-15 Henry, Christina, and David Blauvelt, Saddle River, NJ, to Thomas B. Blauvelt, Pennsylvania College, January 30, 1858. Parents and brother write of family and neighbor news.
- 1-16 G. H. Osborn, Saddle River, NJ, to Thomas B. Blauvelt, Saddle River, NJ,

- March 31, 1858. Friend of Thomas writes of church matters in Saddle River.
- 1-17 Frank B. Wolf, Center Hall, PA, to Thomas B. Blauvelt, Saddle River, NJ,
April 16, 1858. Frank writes about the last week of the session (at Pennsylvania College); Prof. Stoever; rainy days with no wood; a he gave; body is weary; money is low; longs to be home.
- 1-18 Julius Eugene Slingerland, Schenevus, NY, to Thomas B. Blauvelt, Saddle River, NJ,
April 22, 1858. Julius, at Union College, writes that his health has improved; his College Honors, Philomathean Society.
- 1-19 Theophilus Heilig, Tamaqua, PA, to Thomas B. Blauvelt, Saddle River, NJ,
April 23, 1858. Preparing to attend Pennsylvania College, Theophilus asks about the Cost of board; consequences of going a week after commencement of classes.
- 1-20 Theophilus Heilig, Tamaqua, PA to Thomas B. Blauvelt, Saddle River, NJ,
May 9, [1858]. Theophilus writes that Wolf Benner are on a geology expedition; that they will read Juvenal and Antigone next term; that the ladies are pleasing; and news of several other friends.
- 1-21 Thomas B. Blauvelt, Pennsylvania College, to Henry and Christina Blauvelt, Saddle River, NJ,
July, 6, 1858. Thomas writes about the crops at home; berry crops and the great farmers in Adams County; men should take advantage of education. "If I had a son and she wanted to become a farmer or anything else, Penn Coll would be the place for him." "We have one Teacher here who knows more about farming than all you farmers on S[addle] River together." He writes of the July 4th celebration in town with bands, soldiers, and the whole town. To Brother David, he writes about how to plant flowers.
- 1-22 D. Appleton & Co., New York, NY, to Thomas B. Blauvelt [Pennsylvania College],
July 7, 1858. Reporting they have no copy of Montgomery's *Christian Poet*.
- 1-23 Henry, Christina, and David Blauvelt, Saddle River, NJ, to Thomas B. Blauvelt, [Pennsylvania College], July 30, 1858. Parents write of harvesting their crops; church news. David writes with questions about his flowers.
- 1-24 Frank B. Wolf, Rebersburg, PA, to Thomas B. Blauvelt, [Saddle River, NJ],
September 24, 1858. Frank writes of being offered a position to head an academy, but declined because he is looking forward to finishing his college studies.
- 1-25 Frank P. Muhlenberg, Reading, PA, to Thomas B. Blauvelt, [Saddle River, NJ],
October 4, 1858. Frank writes to invite Thomas to vacation with him during the session break.
- 1-26 Thomas B. Blauvelt, Pennsylvania College, to Henry, Christina, and David Blauvelt, Saddle River, NJ, November 5, 1858. Thomas writes to his parents following his return to Gettysburg following the session break, describing his long train ride to his "cozy little room," and writes to David how to care for the long cactus he gave him and other flowers; a mouse in the house will eat books; and David's studies, and New Jersey politics.
- 1-27 Henry and Christina Blauvelt, Saddle River, NJ, to Thomas B. Blauvelt, Pennsylvania College,
November 29, 1858. Thomas' parents write of the current crop; family and church news.
- 1-28 Receipt from Sidney E. Morse & Co., for the New York Observer, to Thomas B. Blauvelt,

Gettysburg, PA, 2 December, 1858.

- 1-29 Thomas B. Blauvelt, Pennsylvania College, to Henry, Christina, and David Blauvelt, Saddle River, NJ, 17 [December], [1858]. Thomas writes of the "Rail Road Celebration" with bands, soldiers, thousands of people, and Engine companies, as well as a ceremony at the College.
- 1-30 James Demarest, Saddle River, NJ, to Thomas B. Blauvelt, January 4, 1859
Thomas' cousin writes of prayer meetings, a bible dictionary, and his faith.
- 1-31 Garret Blauvelt, Red Mills, NJ, to Thomas B. Blauvelt, Pennsylvania College, January 17, 1859. Thomas' older brother, Garret writes of his young family; the cold weather; a family marriage.
- 1-32 Garret A. Ackerman, Saddle River, NJ, to Thomas B. Blauvelt, Pennsylvania College, January 28, 1859. Cousin Garret asks for information on Adams County and its railroads, and on Pennsylvania.
- 1-33 Julius Eugene Slingerland, Union College, Schenectady, NY, to Thomas B. Blauvelt, January 31, 1859. Julius writes of pleasant college life; the number of students, the Senate body; literary societies; and news of their shared Hartwick Seminary friends.
- 1-34 John R. Achenbach, Saddle River, NJ, to [Thomas B. Blauvelt], [Pennsylvania College], February 22, 1859. John writes of Saddle River and church news.
- 1-35 Daniel F. Heller, West Camp [NY], to Thomas B. Blauvelt, Pennsylvania College, March 15, 1859. Daniel writes of Hartwick Seminary news.
- 1-36 Julius Eugene Slingerland, Schenectady, NY, to Thomas B. Blauvelt, April 8, 1859. Julius writes of the application of a Negro to Union College and was accepted into the junior class; new college paper by the Philomathean Society; speculation about Hartwick Seminary being on the decline.
- 1-37 Frank B. Wolf, Center Hall, [PA], to Thomas B. Blauvelt, Saddle River, NJ, May 16, 1859. Frank writes of his trip home via the Susquehanna and canal; news of fellow classmates; their upcoming readings in Greek and Latin.
- 1-38 Theophilus Heilig, Tamaqua, PA, to Thomas B. Blauvelt, Saddle River, NJ, n.d. Theophilus writes of his late arrival for summer session; has Thomas to inquire about boarding with Mrs. Walter.
- 1-39 [Thomas B. Blauvelt] to David A. Blauvelt, fragment
n.d. Thomas gives instructions for David to build a cold frame ("hot bed").
- 1-40 Valentine, n.d., 2 pp., transcription
- 1-41 Valentine, n.d., 2 pp., enclosure, transcription
- 1-42 Manuscript musical score, Bass of Evening Hymn. 1 p. n.d.

Series 2 Blauvelt Family Correspondence.

- 1-43 Andrew Van Buskirk and wife to children, December, 21, 1868.
4 pp., transcription
- 1-44 John H. Blauvelt, Decatur, MI, to Henry and Christina Blauvelt, April 1, 1869.

- 4 pp., envelope, transcription
- 1-45 John and Chrissy Blauvelt, Blauvelt, Wayne [MI], to Henry and Christina Blauvelt, Saddle River, MI, December 18, 1871. 4 pp., envelope, transcription
- 1-46 Invoices, H. F. Colby, Dowagiac, MI, to Henry Blauvelt, Hohokus, NJ, for flour. August 8, and September 2, 1874. 4 pp, 2 envelopes, 2 transcriptions
- 1-47 Mary Moore, Brooklyn, NY, to Sarah [Blauvelt], Saddle River, NJ, March 4, 1880. 1 p., envelope, transcription
- 1-48 Invoices, Richard Wanamaker, Civil Engineer, Mahwah, NJ, to David A. Blauvelt, for Surveying. October 5th, 1900 and April 12, 1902. 2 pp., envelope, transcriptions
- 1-49 Invoices, R. T. LaRoe, Ramsey, NJ, to E. A. Blauvelt, November 30 and December 19, 1917, 2 pp, transcription
- 1-50 Mary Moore, to Sarah [Blauvelt]. n.d. 1 p., transcription
- 1-51 Department of Chemistry, New York University, to Andrew, n.d. 1 p., transcription
- 1-52 Essay on Lady Mary Wortley Montagu, incomplete. n.d. 4 pp.
- 1-53 11 postal covers from the 19th century.

Additional Material:

Vertical File - Class of 1859. Typescript of an essay, *The Christian Poet*, presented at a program at Pennsylvania College by Thomas Blauvelt while a student. The original remains in the possession of the family. TS, 3 pp.

GCVFM-468. Report card for T.B. Blauvelt, Class of 1859.

Contact Information

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