

Guide to the Sarah Low Collection, 1864-1962, bulk 1864

Administrative Information

Title and Dates:

Sarah Low Collection, 1864-1962, bulk 1864

Repository:

New Hampshire Historical Society
30 Park Street
Concord, NH 03301
603-228-6688
<http://www.nhhistory.org/>

Collection Number:

2013.033

Author of Finding Aid:

Sandra L. Wheeler

Creator:

Low, Sarah, 1830-1913

Language:

The materials in this collection are in English.

Extent:

1 box and 1 album ; 0.21 linear feet

Abstract:

This collection consists primarily of photographs (carte de visite) of men and women who worked with or were patients of Sarah Low during her service as a nurse at the Armory Hospital in Washington, DC, from 1862 to 1864, during the Civil War. About half of them are identified, but none are dated. The collection also includes a few images of Sarah Low herself, as well as printed matter ranging from undated newspaper clippings about her to a pamphlet about her Civil War work (1962) that includes excerpts from her letters.

Access and Use

Acquisition Information and Provenance:

The Sarah Low Collection was purchased by the New Hampshire Historical Society in July 2013.

Processing Information:

This collection was processed by Sandra L. Wheeler in September 2021. The finding aid was written by Sandra L. Wheeler in September 2021. This finding aid follows the standards set forth by *Describing Archives: A Content Standard*.

Access Restrictions:

Available for research.

Location:

The collection is housed at the New Hampshire Historical Society in Concord, New Hampshire.

Physical Characteristics and Technical Requirements:

The majority of materials in this collection are paper based and have no special technical requirements for use. Tintypes should be handled with gloves.

Copyright/Conditions Governing Use:

For permission to reproduce or publish materials from this collection, please contact the New Hampshire Historical Society. Users are responsible for following all copyright and intellectual property laws.

Preferred Citation:

Item title, Sarah Low Collection, 2013.033. New Hampshire Historical Society, Concord, NH. Date accessed.

Collection Overview

Biographical Information:

Sarah Low (1830-1913) was born in South Berwick, ME, on February 2, 1830, the daughter of Nathaniel and Mary Ann (Hale) Low. In 1833, her family moved to Dover, NH. Little is known of Sarah's early years. As a young woman in 1858, she wrote a book entitled "May Daie" and 900 copies were published through the Graefenburg Company in New York City. Sarah wrote several newspaper articles during and after the Civil War under the pen name of Rachel Rollins. Her articles closely paralleled letters written to her family describing war conditions.

When Sarah returned to New Hampshire after the war, she brought back with her a dog named General and a black war orphan named John, who she apparently raised. The remainder of Sarah's life cannot be determined through letters written to friends and relatives.

Sarah Low died on December 14, 1913 in Andover, MA, and was buried in Pine Hill Cemetery, Dover, NH.

Collection Scope and Content Note:

The Sarah Low Collection contains primarily photographs (carte de visite and a few cabinet cards) of men and women who worked with or were patients of Sarah during her service as a nurse at the Armory Hospital in Washington, DC, from 1862 to 1864, during the Civil War. About half of them are identified, none are dated. The collection also includes a few images of Sarah Low herself, as well as a variety of printed matter including three copies of her 1856 book *May Daie*, undated newspaper clippings about her, and a pamphlet about her Civil War work (1962) that includes excerpts from her letters. The photograph album, housed separately, contains a note stating it was presented to Miss Sarah Low by the soldiers of Ward B on January 20, 1864.

Arrangement:

The collection is arranged by genre (photographs, printed matter), then either alphabetically or chronologically.

Contents List**Box 1**

- | | |
|----------|--|
| Folder 1 | List of donors of the album which originally contained the photographs, 1864 |
| Folder 2 | Photographs: Low, Sarah, undated |
| Folder 3 | Photographs of identified men, A-F, undated
Arms
Beale
Benedict
Buker
Christy
Cross
Fenner
Foute |
| Folder 4 | Photographs of identified men, G-L, undated
Gordon
Harris
Houghton
Hutze
Kincaid
Kirby
Lowell |
| Folder 5 | Photographs of identified men, M-Z, undated
Mallet
Marsh
Oakes
“L.P.P.”
Robbins
“Sanger”
Specht |

- Stoothoff
Wixon
- Folder 6 Photographs of unidentified men in uniform, undated
- Folder 7 Photographs of unidentified men not in uniform, undated
- Folder 8 Photographs of women, undated
 Aunt Nancy and Delia Parker
 Dixon, J.L.
 Gilson, Helen [?]
 Hill, Annie
 Lowell, Anna [?]
 unidentified
- Folder 9 Photographs of places, undated
 Building exteriors
 Hospital ward with patients
 Graveyard, Hampton VA
 unidentified church/chapel
- Folder 10 Photographs, various, undated
 Bone (human)
 Dog
- Folder 11 Printed matter: Low, Sarah, *May Daie*, 1856
- Folder 12 Printed matter: *Sarah Low: Dover's Civil War Nurse*, Northam Colonist
 Historical Society, Dover, NH, 1962
- Folder 13 Printed matter: newspaper clippings, undated
- Loose
- Volume 1 Photograph album, 1864

Separated materials:

An encased daguerreotype of Sarah Low has been removed to the vault. A reference copy of the image is in Folder 2.

Subject Terms

People:

Low, Sarah, 1830-1913

Organizations:

Armory Square Hospital (Washington, D.C.)

Subjects:

Carte de visite photographs
 Nursing
 Photographs
 Portrait photography
 United States--History--Civil War, 1861-1865

Locations:

Washington, DC

Occupations:

Nurses
Soldiers

Related Materials

Archives

Frost and Sawyer Family Papers, 1986.041

Sarah Low Papers, 1965.010

Sarah Low portrait, S 1992.519.03

Sarah Low portrait, S 1992.519.04

Sarah Low portrait, S 1992.519.05

Sarah Low portrait, S 1992.519.06

Museum

The museum has the lap desk given to Sarah Low by the former patients and military staff from Armory Hospital in 1864. The desk contained the album which held the photographs in this collection. 2013.012.01

The museum has a watercolor painting of the nurses' station at Armory Hospital done by a patient. 2013.012.02