



Legacy Finding Aid for Manuscript and Photograph Collections

801 K Street NW
Washington, D.C. 20001

What are Finding Aids?

Finding aids are narrative guides to archival collections created by the repository to describe the contents of the material. They often provide much more detailed information than can be found in individual catalog records. Contents of finding aids often include short biographies or histories, processing notes, information about the size, scope, and material types included in the collection, guidance on how to navigate the collection, and an index to box and folder contents.

What are Legacy Finding Aids?

The following document is a legacy finding aid – a guide which has not been updated recently. Information may be outdated, such as the Historical Society’s contact information or exact box numbers for contents’ location within the collection. Legacy finding aids are a product of their times; language and terms may not reflect the Historical Society’s commitment to culturally sensitive and anti-racist language. This guide is provided in “as is” condition for immediate use by the public. This file will be replaced with an updated version when available.

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The Historical Society of Washington, D.C., is a community-supported educational and research organization that collects, interprets, and shares the history of our nation’s capital. Founded in 1894, it serves a diverse audience through its collections, public programs, exhibits, and publications.

THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON, D.C.

SPECIAL COLLECTIONS FINDING AID

Title: MS 272 Levi D. Slamm Family Papers, 1836-1868

Processor: Stephen Kharfen

Levi D. Slamm (d. 1862), former editor of the *New Era* in New York City, married Jane E. Morsell on December 15, 1846, in Washington, D.C. They had four children: Emma, Clara, Jefferson, and Addison. Levi Slamm was a purser with the U.S. Navy, serving on the *USS Southampton* in San Francisco at least in 1851. He appears to have served as a justice of the peace in Washington sometime during the 1850s, eventually returning to New York City as editor of the *Daily Globe*. Levi Slamm died in Mamaroneck, New York on October 6, 1862, of an illness contracted while serving on the *Congress*. Jane Slamm died in Washington March 24, 1895.

Levi's daughter **Emma Hamilton Slamm** wrote poems and stories and appears to have submitted her work for publication. She attended Pleasant View Seminary in Hyattsville, Maryland, in the early 1860s and Waverley Seminary (location unknown) in the late 1860s. Emma and Addison Slamm lived in the family home at 719 First Street, NW, until Emma's death about 1931.

Scope and Content: The Levi D. Slamm Family Papers, 1836-1868, consist of a letter copy book of correspondence between various U.S. Navy pursers and the U.S. Treasury Department, copies of other U.S. Navy correspondence, a letter copy book containing writings of Emma Slamm, and personal correspondence of Emma Slamm while she was a student at Pleasant View Seminary in Hyattsville, Maryland, and Waverley Seminary (location unknown).

The collection is arranged chronologically.

Donor: Mrs. Henry W. Draper, 1965.001 (The Slamm home at 719 First Street, NW, was purchased by Henry White Draper soon after Emma Slamm's death about 1931.)

Size: 0.25 cubic ft. (One container)

Restrictions: None

Preferred Citation: [Identified item], *Levi D. Slamm Family Papers*. The Historical Society of Washington, D.C./City Museum

Related material: Collection file for Slamm Family Papers contains additional documentation on the Slamm Family collected from other repositories, such as the National Archives. Please ask Library staff for further information.

Container List

Folder 1: Letter copybook, 1836-1851, consisting of correspondence between various U.S. Navy pursers and the U.S. Treasury Department. The book includes a copy of a letter from Levi D. Slamm, purser of the USS Southampton, San Francisco, December 21, 1851.

Folder 2: Correspondence and other documents, 1851-1854, consisting of copies of U.S. Navy correspondence, 1851-1852; abstract of a six-month return of [military] clothing for period ending December 31, 1854; and blank Justice of the Peace forms and a letter fragment addressed to "Levi D. Slamm, esq."

Folder 3: Correspondence and writings of Emma Hamilton Slamm, 1861-1868, written while she was a student at Pleasant View Seminary in Hyattsville, Maryland, and at Waverley Seminary.

Folder 4: Letter copybook, undated, containing two writings of Emma Slamm: "The Hermit" and "My Visit to Dreamland." (See Folder 3 for another version of "My Visit to Dreamland")