

LOWELL NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK
LOWELL, MASSACHUSETTS

FINDING AID FOR
THE FOX-BROCKWAY LETTERS
1861 - 1863

CATALOG NUMBER: LOWE - 15581

PREPARED BY

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PREFACE

This document, *Finding Aid for the Fox-Brockway letters (18610 – 1630)*, describes a group of letters written to Mary Brockway, of Sutton Vermont, by George Fox, and his sister Diana, of Lowell, Massachusetts. They were donated by descendents of the Brockway family, Annette Gibavic and Charlotte Rafferty, both of Massachusetts. They were cataloged at the Lowell National Historical Park by Cleo A. Ace, volunteer, with the help of Dan Walsh, Museum Specialist.

This finding aid has a table chronologically listing all the letters in the collection as donated to the park. The original letters are held in the Cultural Resources collections in the Curatorial Department of Lowell National Historical Park. Photocopies of all original documents were created and are maintained in both the Library and the Curatorial Departments of the park.

Researchers are requested to contact the park Librarian for assistance in accessing and using this material. If original documents must be consulted, researchers are requested to contact the park Curatorial Department. Users of these materials are advised to determine the copyright status of any document from which they wish to publish.

Publishing authors are requested to cite their use of this collection in the following manner: Letter number, Fox-Brockway Letters, Lowell National Historical Park.

INTRODUCTION

This finding aid describes materials in the Fox-Brockway Letters. 1861 – 1863. It is a group of 27 letters which have been photocopied. The collection was processed in chronological order.

Mary Brockway had been a mill worker in Lowell, Mass., but returned to Sutton, Vermont, at about the time of the outbreak of the Civil War. In Lowell, she boarded at Boott Cotton Mills boarding house #45, kept by Amanda Fox, where she met Amanda's son George. The letters from George Fox to Mary Brockway were initially written from Lowell. Later, after he joined the 6th Massachusetts Volunteer Regiment, he wrote from Virginia.

George and his cousin David Goodhue joined the regiment and were sent to Virginia together. George's letter of August 29, 1862, gives Mary his military address. His next letter on September 21, 1862, describes the journey from the Lowell camp to Virginia. They were both wounded in battle and captured in early June, 1863. David was sent to a Richmond hospital and George was taken to the Confederate, Jerusalem Hospital, Southampton County, under the direction of head surgeon, Dr. White. On the 30th of June, 1863, David died in the Richmond hospital, after having a leg amputated. Then Doctor White wrote to the Fox family notifying them that George had died at the Jerusalem hospital on the 18th of June, 1863. He noted that "...he was decently coffined and buried." George's sister Diana wrote to Mary on September 4th, 1863 to tell her of George and David's deaths.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

Accession number: LOWE 450

Catalog number: LOWE 15581

Quantity: .3 linear feet (27 original letters)

Storage: 1 legal archival document box containing both the original and the study copies.

Location: Lowell National Historical Park, 67 Kirk Street, Lowell, Massachusetts 01852 –1029. Phone 978-970-5000.

Description: The Fox-Brockway letters were written to Mary Brockway of Sutton, Vermont by George Fox of Lowell, Mass. They cover the period June 9, 1861 to September 4, 1863. They reflect his personal feelings and views, as well as containing information about people they both knew. After George joined the 6th Massachusetts Volunteer Regiment during the Civil War, his letters continue from Virginia and describe the events of the war that George encounters. The last letter, from his sister, describes his death.

This collection of letters was donated to the Lowell National Historical Park by two sisters, Annette Gibavic and Charlotte Rafferty, descendants of Mary Brockway. The letters were stored at Annette Gibavic's home in Leverett, MA.

List of letters from George Fox to Mary Brockway 1861 - 1863

Number	Author	Recipient	Date	Notes
1	George Fox	Mary Brockway	June 9, 1861	News about workers that Mary knew when she was at the mills. George's mother runs a boarding house in Lowell.
2	George Fox	Mary Brockway	June 25, 1861	News about what he has been doing since she left Lowell.
3	George Fox	Mary Brockway	July 7, 1861	News of Misses Colburn and Norfolk marriages and George's activities.
4	George Fox	Mary Brockway	July 17, 1861	George laments that only "old maids" are left boarding at his house now that the mills are slowing down.
5	George Fox	Mary Brockway	August 4, 1861	The Mass. Regiment returned to Lowell. George is still apprenticed as a carpenter.
6	George Fox	Mary Brockway	Sept. 15, 1861	George tells Mary that his sister Diana's school is to close in 5 weeks.
7	George Fox	Mary Brockway	Oct. 9, 1861	Sends his regards to all his friends in Sutton, VT.
8	George Fox	Mary Brockway	Nov. 12, 1861	George denies courting anyone. More news of friends.
9	George Fox	Mary Brockway	Dec. 10, 1861	George seems to think friends are telling Mary untrue things about him.
10	George Fox	Mary Brockway	Nov. 12, 1861	George has been working at the Boott Mill. He comments on the heat and the noise. George's sister Diana was married on New Year's Eve. Mary know the groom, but George never names him. The skating has been very good.
10	George Fox	Mary Brockway	Dec. 24, 1861	George's cousin David Goodhue's wife, one of the Bennett girls, was taken ill and died the previous Monday. She left a little girl.
12	George Fox	Mary Brockway	Feb. 12, 1862	The sleighing is good. George worries about Sutton people gossiping about him to Mary.
13	George Fox	Mary Brockway	March 11, 1862	The five mills at the Boott have started up, or soon will be when they get employees. George mentions the Vermont soldiers getting measles when they arrive at the battlefield, whereas the Mass. soldiers had had measles as children.

List of letters from George Fox to Mary Brockway 1861 - 1863

14	George Fox	Mary Brockway	April 30, 1862	George mentions a "sugar party" that Mary went to. He tells her someone poisoned his cat Topsy.
15	George Fox	Mary Brockway	May 29, 1862	Reminds Mary that he is waiting for her picture, and that he has 3 canaries.
16	George Fox	Mary Brockway	June 29, 1862	Diana's husband has finished a house so she will be leaving the boarding house to move their new house.
17	George Fox	Mary Brockway	July 13, 1862	George is building a boat. Still waiting for Mary's picture.
18	George Fox	Mary Brockway	Aug. 29, 1862	George has joined Company C, 6th Mass. Regiment, Mass. Volunteers, and is training at Camp Wilson. They will leave for Washington the next Monday.
19	George Fox	Mary Brockway	Sept. 21, 1862	George tells Mary about the route his regiment took to get from Lowell to Camp Suffolk in VA.
20	George Fox	Mary Brockway	Oct. 10, 1862	George talks about being on patrol and about how hot it is in VA.
21	Diana (?)	Mary Brockway	Dec. 17, 1862	Diana tells Mary that George has been sick for two months with bloody dysentery, but is getting better.
22	George Fox	Mary Brockway	Jan. 22, 1863	George tells Mary about being ill in the hospital, but that he is gaining strength. He laments the mud and says there are no stones in the soil.
23	George Fox	Mary Brockway	March 7, 1863	George has returned to duty, and he says they are staying where they are because Gen. Peck does not trust the draftees in the unit not to run in a fire fight.
24	George Fox	Mary Brockway	March 29, 1863	George talks about re-enlisting when his time is up.
25	Diana (?)	Mary Brockway	June 19, 1863	Diana tells Mary that George is in Jerusalem Hospital, Southhampton County, with a wound to his hip from a battle. David Goodhue was sent to Libby Prison in Richmond although he had an ankle wound..

List of letters from George Fox to Mary Brockway 1861 - 1863

26	Diana (?)	Mary Brockway	August 7, 1863	She writes Mary that David Goodhue has died from his wounds in Libby Prison Hospital, Richmond. She has no news of George.	
27	Diana (?)	Mary Brockway	Sept. 4, 1863	The Jerusalem hospital surgeon who attended George wrote that he had died of his wounds on June 18, 1862. He was put in a casket and buried properly. David Goodhue had his leg amputated and he died on June 30th. She is too distraught to write more.	