



The Historical
Society of
Pennsylvania

Collection 84

Brown Family
Papers

1715-1837 (bulk 1800-1810)
1 box, 30 vols., 2.33 lin. feet

Contact: The Historical Society of Pennsylvania
1300 Locust Street, Philadelphia, PA 19107
Phone: (215) 732-6200 FAX: (215) 732-2680
<http://www.hsp.org>

Processed by: Leslie Hunt

Assisted by: Kim Massare

Processing Completed: September 2004

Sponsor: Processing made possible by a grant from the
National Endowment for the Humanities

Restrictions: None.

Related Collections at Brown Family Papers, Collection 1341

HSP:

Brown Family
Papers, 1715-1837 (bulk 1800-1810)
30 vols., 1 box, 2.33 lin. feet

Collection 84

Abstract

Elijah Brown Sr. (1740-1810) was a Quaker merchant who moved to Philadelphia from Nottingham, Pennsylvania, in 1757. His parents, James and Miriam (Churchman), were descended from Quakers who had settled in the colony at the time of William Penn's arrival. In 1761 Elijah married Mary Armitt, daughter of Joseph Armitt and Elizabeth Lisle. They had six children: Joseph Armitt, James, Armitt, Charles Brockden, Elizabeth, and Elijah Jr. Though most of the sons followed their father into the mercantile profession, Charles Brockden Brown (b. 1771), who was trained to be a lawyer, turned his attention to writing full-time in 1793. He published six novels before his early death in 1810.

The Brown Family Papers are largely comprised of commonplace books kept by Elijah Sr. on religious and political subjects. They contain occasional excerpts of Charles Brockden Brown's published and unpublished writings. Charles's notes for his novel *Wieland* are contained in a separate notebook, continued by his father as a commonplace book. Elijah Jr. is represented by eight volumes, most of which pertain to his work as a merchant, and there are two volumes belonging to Mary (Armitt) Brown. Two journals belonging to her grandfather, Maurice Lisle, are also included in this collection.

Background note

Elijah Brown was born March 12, 1740, in Nottingham, Pennsylvania, to James and Miriam (Churchman) Brown. Elijah's great-grandfather James Brown had immigrated to Pennsylvania at approximately the same time as William Penn. Elijah Brown moved to Philadelphia in 1757, where he pursued a mercantile career. In 1761 he married Mary Armitt (d. 1825), daughter of Elizabeth (Lisle) and Joseph Armitt. Elijah and Mary had eight children, although only six survived into adulthood: Joseph Armitt (1763-1807), James (b. 1766), Armitt (1768-1815), Charles Brockden (1771-1810), Elizabeth (1775-1807), and Elijah Jr. (1776-1859).

In September 1777, on the eve of the British occupation of Philadelphia, Elijah Brown and nineteen other Philadelphia Quakers were arrested, held in the Masonic Lodge for several days, and then banished to Winchester, Virginia. The Quakers, who refused to support the Revolution, were marked as Loyalists and viewed as a threat to the

revolutionary cause. Although the prisoners demanded writs of *habeas corpus* several times, their requests were repeatedly denied. They were detained for nine months, finally returning to Philadelphia when the British troops evacuated in June 1778.

Elijah and Mary Brown's son, Charles Brockden, born January 17, 1771, was six when his father was exiled and seven when he returned. He was reputed to be a frail, studious child, and from 1781 until 1786, he attended the Friends' Latin school where he read Quaker writings and the Bible, attended meeting twice a week, and studied Latin, Greek, mathematics, English literature, and geography. Brown was of a studious nature and had an inquisitive mind. His family wanted him to become a lawyer, and at the age of sixteen, Charles became an apprentice in the law office of Alexander Wilcox. He worked in Wilcox's office for six years, and during this time became increasingly dubious of the law profession and, against the wishes of his family, increasingly interested in literary pursuits.

Brown counted the works of Rousseau, Goethe, and William Godwin among his favorites. His first identified work, published in 1789, while he was still a young apprentice, is a series of papers called *The Rhapsodist*, which appeared in Philadelphia's *Universal Asylum and Columbian Magazine*. In 1793 he turned to writing full time, and he is therefore regarded as the first American to become a professional writer. In 1798 *Alcuin: A Dialogue*, was published; this work focused on the rights of women. Brown subsequently published six novels in rapid succession: *Wieland*, *Edgar Huntly*, *Ormond*, *Arthur Mervyn*, *Clara Howard*, and *Jane Talbot*. He was a founder and editor of *The Monthly Magazine and American Review* (later called *The American Review and Literary Journal*). Brown, who had always been interested in politics, also wrote several political pamphlets, a number of which were anti-Jefferson, in the years before his death. In addition to all this, he served as editor of *The American Register, or General Repository of History, Politics, and Science*.

In 1804, again acting against his family's wishes, Brown married Elizabeth Linn, a Presbyterian, which resulted in his being read out of meeting. Two of Charles's brothers, Armit and, most likely, James, also married non-Quakers, as did their sister Elizabeth. Charles and Elizabeth had four children: twins Charles Brockden Jr. and William Linn, Eugene Linn, and Mary Caroline. Brown died of tuberculosis on February 22, 1810, at the age of thirty-nine.

Charles's younger brother, Elijah Brown Jr., was born around 1776. He worked as a merchant, spending a great deal of time traveling in the United States and abroad. Elijah Jr. died unmarried in 1859.

Scope & content

The majority of the volumes in this collection are commonplace books, consisting of an assemblage of writings taken from a variety of published sources, which are often cited. Most of these volumes were kept by Elijah Brown Sr. and are comprised largely of excerpts from political or religious writings, copied in Elijah's small, precise penmanship. Few commonplace books contain any commentary, although a couple of personal

passages note his extreme displeasure regarding the marriage of his daughter to Stacey Horner, who was not a Quaker. Three of Elijah's children, including his son Charles Brockden Brown, married non-Quakers. Although Elijah Sr. was clearly disappointed by this, it does not seem to have diminished his fatherly pride; his commonplace books are peppered with excerpts from his son's published and unpublished works. These commonplace books and Elijah's transcription of *Alcuin*, Charles Brockden Brown's first published work, can be found in Series 1.

In addition to Elijah Sr.'s commonplace books, there are a number of journals kept by his son, Elijah Jr. These journals largely concern his work as a merchant and document his travels through the northeastern United States and Europe. There is also a notebook of religious writings, a commonplace book, and an account book belonging to Elijah Jr.

Charles Brockden Brown's notebook, volume 16 in series 3, contains plot development ideas for various scenes, lists of names, and alternate titles for his novel *Wieland*. This volume was later used as a commonplace book by his father Elijah Sr. Volume 17, which includes some less coherent jottings, also appears to contain writings of both father and son.

Mary (Armitt) Brown, Elijah Sr.'s wife, is represented by two volumes in Series IV, one of which is a commonplace book that seems to have been kept by her husband for her benefit. There is also a small notebook containing some accounts and recording birth and death information for various members of her immediate family.

Rounding out the collections are two journals kept by Maurice Lisle, Mary (Armitt) Brown's grandfather, from 1715 to 1799, concerning domestic and commercial affairs in Philadelphia. The later entries in the second journal are in an unknown hand. There is also a commonplace book belonging to Charles Brown, probably a relation of the Elijah Brown clan, which contains references to various family members.

Overview of arrangement

Series I	Elijah Brown Sr., 1742-1810, n.d.	15 vols.
Series II	Elijah Brown Jr., 1801-1837, n.d.	7 vols.
Series III	Charles Brockden Brown, 1801, n.d.	2 vols.
Series IV	Mary Armitt Brown, 1785-1811, n.d.	2 vols.
Series V	Maurice Lisle, 1715-1799	2 vols.
Series VI	Charles Brown, 1783-1786, n.d.	1 vol.

Series description

Series 1. Elijah Brown Sr., 1742-1810 (Vols. 1-15)

This bulk of this series is fourteen commonplace books, which are comprised of hand-copied writings from newspapers and other published sources on mainly religious and political topics. Although most of these commonplace books contain

no clear marks identifying Elijah as the writer, many can be recognized as his by the handwriting and through contextual clues. Several of these contain copied passages of the published and unpublished works of his son, Charles Brockden Brown. Some of these commonplace books were cobbled together with bits of newspaper, deeds, or other documents as covers, and some are receipt books or other books that were later reused to copy passages. Some are especially colorful, decorated with bright scraps of paper, and the volumes are made more beautiful by the tiny, precise handwriting of Elijah Brown Sr. The volumes are arranged in chronological order, although it should be noted that the dates appearing in the commonplace books are for the publication of the copied material and do not necessarily reflect when Elijah copied the passages.

Volume 1 contains “poems on various subjects by several authors,” including one untitled poem written by Charles Brockden Brown at age fifteen. A poem on page twelve entitled “For the Grocers Window,” identified only by “at sixteen,” may also be attributed to Charles Brockden Brown. Charles’s first essay “on some of his school fellows, members of the Philological Society” was also copied into this volume by Elijah Sr.

European history and current events were subjects of great interest to Elijah Sr. Volume 2 includes passages copied on the subject of the French Revolution, including an excerpt of Mary Wollstonecraft’s writing on the subject, as well as numerous other passages concerning European politics and international affairs. There is a great deal about European politics, and one passage entitled “On the Folly and Wickedness of War.” A transcription of King Louis XVI’s will is also included. Poems are also copied throughout, and there are a multitude of short “anecdotes,” many of which are rather humorous. Several pages near the front of the volume concern “houses and lots in the city [of Philadelphia] and liberties to sell & let.”

In addition to the political entries and anecdotes in this volume, there are also a number of passages concerning religion and morals. Of particular note is “Joan Whitrow’s testimony regarding the Loving Kindness of the Lord,” in which Mrs. Whitrow remarked upon her personal experiences with God, especially as relating to the death of her young son Jason. Also included is “A Confession of Faith Containing 23 Articles of the People called Quakers,” and Elijah Brown’s comments regarding the 1797 marriage of his daughter Eliza (b. 1775) to Stacey Horner “of the state of New Jersey merchants.” The marriage was performed “in a way and manner I by no means approve of nor was I present at the ceremony.” In a post script, Brown wrote, “The two of my sons [Armitt and, most likely, James] have set my daughter the example. I hope the remaining three will not do the like knowing I have testified my objections as above.” Although the many passages copied by Elijah in his commonplace book indicate his interests, this passage (near the end of the volume) is unique in that it gives his opinion explicitly.

In addition to the political and religious excerpts, volume 2 also contains a copy of a Charles Brockden Brown story and copies of documents of indenture between

William Clifton and Daniel Engleman (1796) and between Jonathan Meredith and Caleb Bickham (1795), in addition to a copy of the 1747 will of Joseph Armit.

Volume 3 contains many passages of a religious nature copied with the following preface: "The following pathetic and moving exhortations were as carefully as possible taken down...as they flowed from the lips of the preacher to large and crowded audiences." The volume also contains several remedies, including one for "putrid fevers" that involves "3 or 4 spoonfuls" of yeast. Brown reflected that, "on a perusal of the contents of this small book cures or remedies are to be found for both the sick soul and body if duly applied."

More religious passages appear in volume 4, including "Part of Stephen Crisp's Epistle to Friends concerning the present and succeeding times," originally written in 1666. There are also three pages from Charles Brockden Brown's 1788 diary, "copied from a loose strip of paper in his own hand. Writing accidentally found." In the diary entry, Charles mentioned a period of great productivity for himself in which he wrote "at least one hundred lines a day" and he also included a sketch for a poem "In praise of Schuylkill."

Volume 5 contains copied poems, some Brown family ancestry opposite page ten, and a long piece in an unknown hand entitled "A Sketch of the Life of William Wood Wilkins, Esq." The volume also contains copied letters and speeches of dignitaries, with titles such as "Letter to Thomas Mifflin Esq. from the Academy of Medicine of Philadelphia" and "View of the practicability [sic] and means of supplying the City of Philadelphia with Wholesome Water in a Letter to John Mitchell from B. Henry Latrobe Engineer, 12/29/1798." This volume was clearly begun by someone else before it fell into the hands of Elijah Sr.

Volume 6 contains letters, articles, and poems copied from newspapers and books, including passages such as "The reasons why the French have more wit and Better Spirits Than the English" and "Character of French Ladies compared with that of the English." "History of Hannah, the Mother of Samuel," a biblical story, is another excerpted writing contained in this volume.

Religion is the major theme of volume 7, which contains "writings principally on religious or pious subjects," "the paper coarse and writing bad." Titles include "Concerning baptism," and "A Portraiture of Quakerism." Volume 8 includes selections copied from newspapers and books on various agricultural topics, such as trees, sheep, bees, and "the gallant game cock." Also included are several copied poems, such as a one entitled "My Father," noted to be "by C.B.B. Esq. I believe."

Volume 9 is a "book of select pieces chiefly on political subjects," related to matters both domestic and international. This volume began as the receipt book of Joseph and Elizabeth Armit, parents of Elijah's wife Mary, and includes entries for rent. Volume 10 also refers to contemporary politics and mainly contains excerpts from newspapers. There is an undated passage entitled "Communication," an "oration

upon gaming,” which is labeled as “by C.B. Brown,” although the initials “A.B.” appear at the end of the piece.

Some of the political articles included in volume 11 are attributed to Charles Brockden Brown. Unlike most of the other commonplace books, which almost exclusively pertain to European politics and events, this volume includes some excerpts from articles about American politics. It also contains some recipes and poems, as well as lyrics to a very satirical song about Napoleon, which had recently been performed in Boston.

Volume 12 contains two obituary notices for Charles Brockden Brown, who died February 22, 1810. There are also several excerpts of published writings, including two pieces, “Of Extraordinary Divine Manifestations” and “Of Divine Providence,” from the *American Daily Advertiser*. These two consisted of a series of arguments on religious topics presented in installments.

Volume 13 contains copies of letters, 1738-1769, from various persons primarily to William Brown, though also to other members of the Brown family, on religious matters. Elijah Sr. had several kinsman named William Brown, including a brother and an uncle. “Elijah Brown his book 1769” is written in very faded ink on the title page of this volume.

True to Elijah Sr.’s tradition of reusing materials, the cover of volume 14 is a 1796 newspaper. A variety of news clippings, poems, and several copied writings comprise the bulk of volume 15, which is dated 1751 to 1796, n.d. Among the titles of the copied writings are “Some minutes, (left by my Dear friend Kinsman Thomas Brown) on a visit to [Friends] meetings in the country” and “An apology for the Bible” by R. Watson, addressed to Thomas Paine. This volume also contains an excerpt of a religious writing on the subject of disobedience to one’s parents, which is prefaced by the following: “If I have any judgment the following lines well deserve a serious and frequent perusal of all those wishing to live well and die happily particularly of Eliza & Stacey Horner.”

In addition to the fourteen commonplace books, also included in this series is a manuscript copy of *Alcuin: A Dialog*, written by Elijah Sr.’s son, Charles Brockden Brown (volume 15). Although there is a note, made at much later date, stating that the volume is in Charles’s hand, the penmanship is clearly Elijah’s, and he followed his usual habit of quoting from his son and marking “C.B. Brown” at the end. This story takes the form of a conversation with a woman about the differences between male and female roles in society. In the story, it is asserted that, “it is a branch of that prejudice which has so long darkened the world, and taught men that Nobles and Kings were creatures of an order superior to themselves.”

Lastly, a single folder contains a few sheets of paper written to James Brown in Edenton. The primary content of these sheets are a “Dialog between the Gout and Doc. Franklin.” The first few lines of the play are as follows:

Doc. F: Eh! oh! eh! What have I done to merit these cruel sufferings?
Gout: Enough, enough, you have ate, and drank and indulged too much those legs
of yours in their indolence.
Doc. F: Who is it that accosts me thus?
Gout: 'Tis even I the Gout.

Also included on these sheets are several other excerpts from contemporary publications, followed by a note from Elijah to James, dated April 5, 1794, in which Elijah reported on the health and well being of James's siblings.

Series 2. Elijah Brown Jr., 1801-1837 (Vols. 16-23)

This series consists of eight small volumes belonging to Elijah Brown Jr. Five of the eight volumes are comprised mostly of journal entries and include Brown's experiences on journeys to Cuba, Portugal, and England, as well as voyages through New England and the southern states. Occasionally these volumes also include copied passages from published works, brief statements of account, or other miscellaneous notes. Brown was a merchant and may have served as a supercargo on a number of these voyages. Journal entries indicate the trips were of a business nature and not merely for pleasure.

The earliest journal, 1801 to 1805 (volume 16), begins by chronicling a voyage to Cuba, Belize, and other Caribbean destinations. After complaining about the speed with which the pilot guided their boat from Philadelphia, Brown went on to describe a tumultuous few days at sea: "after getting to sea fell very sick and so continued for 4 or 5 days discharged some of the Bile off my stomach." In addition to describing his voyage, Brown also used this volume to copy passages from published works, including some by Dryden and Goldsmith, as well as one passage entitled "Description of a Hag." Other entries include notes on grammar, guidelines for choosing acquaintances, comments on slavery, a comparison of the agricultural productivity of Pennsylvania and Louisiana, and lists of cargo.

Volume 17, an 1811 journal, contains a mixture of journal entries that document trips to Lisbon, England, and Ireland, as well as journeys from Savannah to Charleston and travels throughout New England. Many pages were written in pencil and are difficult to read. Entries include factual information such as distances and population, and observations regarding buildings and ports. There are a few records of items shipped aboard various vessels, some recipes for preserving fruits, and several copied passages (signified by quotations and sometimes a title) about foreign countries.

Volume 18 contains accounts of two different voyages by sea. The first is an 1811 voyage from Philadelphia to Lisbon, made by Elijah Jr. and his brother Armit. Entries include accounts of each day's passage on the sea, coordinates, and distances, but end before the author has reached land. It is noted by the author that this portion of the travel journal was originally contained in a different book that

contained other things, “which induced me to burn it. What it contained on this subject,” he wrote, “is now brought into this [book.]”

The second journey detailed in this volume is an 1816 travel journal with descriptions of buildings, castles, and sights at various cultural institutions throughout England, which begins, “having filled a book like this I continue in succession herein.” A May 15, 1816, entry detailed a visit to Buckingham Palace to “obtain a peep at the visitors of the Queen’s drawing room.” There the author had the opportunity to observe “the fashion prescribed by court etiquette,” which consisted “of those enormous hoops I have so often heard of with a head ornament of feathers. The ladies were obliged to get out of their carriages and into the palace door sideways cutting quite a ludicrous figure.” The voyage ends with an arrival in Philadelphia. This volume also includes several pages that list types and quantities of clothing and cloth, in addition to hats, a tooth brush, shoes, and books.

Volume 19 is a record, 1820, of the Brown’s mercantile affairs, with mentions of accounts, debts, and cargo. Other notations mention letters that were begun, and there are many references to “affairs.” Entries appear to have been made very quickly, and the handwriting and style renders this volume a challenge to read.

Volume 20 begins with several pages of an 1827 voyage by boat to Reading, Pennsylvania, presumably from Philadelphia, with details regarding distances, prices of tolls, and the system of locks and dams along the river. The last entry is made in Norristown before Reading was reached. The volume also contains information regarding railroads, land prices, and coal mines in Pottstown, Pennsylvania, made during 1829, and several accounts of travels between Savannah and Norfolk from 1830 to 1832 with many pages devoted to a discussion of the medical benefits of hot springs in Virginia. The volume ends with more travel accounts from throughout Pennsylvania dated 1833 to 1837.

In addition to Brown’s journal entries and notes, the volume also includes some copied passages, including “An Essay on Morbid Sensibility of the Stomach and Bowels” by James Johnson, M.D., of the Royal College of Physicians. Following this passage is a journal entry from 1832, written while in Savannah, recounting Brown’s experiences with various treatments for his own stomach ailments and hypotheses for improving his health. For example, he felt that he might not have given ample consideration to Dr. Johnson’s suggestion about “tepid bathing.” Later in the journal is also copied “Particulars in O Halsted’s mode of treating dyspepsia from his book.”

Although Brown’s journals often include copied passages from published works, he also kept other volumes exclusively for that purpose. A religious notebook (volume 21) contains copied biblical passages and summaries of sermons heard at Baptist and Presbyterian churches in Norfolk from 1827 to 1829. The volume is prefaced by the following statement: “This book I shall use exclusively for matters connected with Religion which ought to occupy the first place in the mind of every rational individual of the human family.”

Volume 22 is a small volume containing many passages copied from a variety of sources. The primary text is “An analysis of the mineral waters of Saratoga and Ballston [New York] with practical remarks on their use in various diseases,” published in 1819, written by Dr. John Steel. Other passages were copied from medical texts, poems, literature, the Bible, and some recipes and riddles are interspersed.

Also included in this series is a small volume of accounts, 1823 to 1824 (volume 23), which contains daily records of the amount of cash on hand in silver, gold, and notes. Amounts were tabulated monthly. 22 - 03398/7 1823-1824 Accounts

Series 3. Charles Brockden Brown, 1801, n.d. (Vols. 24-25)

This series is comprised of two volumes relating to Charles Brockden Brown’s literary endeavors. A small notebook contains remarks for Brown’s novel *Wieland*, among which are plot developments for various scenes, lists of names, and alternate titles, including “Skywalk, or the man unknown to himself,” “Bedloe, or the self devoted,” and “Gower, or the dead recalled.” This volume appears to have subsequently fallen into the hands of Charles’s father Elijah Sr., who used it as a commonplace book. Elijah’s smaller, more meticulous penmanship appears around the edges of Charles’s earlier notes. Among the excerpts copied by Elijah is a copy of a 1649 sermon delivered by John Own before the House of Commons in Parliament, a few unlabeled architectural drawings, lists of prepositions and prefixes, charts of unspecified data, and a poem without an identified author on page seventy-six. Among the other copied passages from books and newspapers is a recording of an incident entitled “Lady Hamilton’s handkerchief,” which concerned tears shed by Lady Hamilton and Lord Nelson while visiting General Demourier.

Another small notebook, perhaps also shared by Charles and his father, contains notes about a story involving characters named “Jessy,” “Harriet Finch,” and “Mr. Finch.” Jessy, who “was once in love,” is described as “young, independent & rich.” The story, outlined over the course of two pages in this notebook, involves an extended visit to Italy, as well as a duel. At the end of the description it reads, “These memoirs should be interesting. The character no common one.” These notes appear to have been written by Elijah Sr. The notebook also contains lists of prepositions and prefixes, furniture inventories, charts of unspecified data, building plans, and notes on a war between the “Chinize” and Tartars.

Series 4. Mary Brown, 1785-1811, n.d. (Vols. 26-27)

This series consists of two volumes. The first is a tiny notebook with tabulations for cords of wood and barrels of “flower” (flour) and some records of the births and deaths of family members, including “my dear sun [sic] Charles Brockden Brown,” “my dear daughter Elizabeth,” and “my dear husband Elijah Brown,” who “departed thys life...after a lingring illness.”

The second volume is a commonplace book, with “Mary Brown, her book” written on the first page. This volume contains an architectural sketch for a property at the corner of Second Street and the “Road from Moyamensing Road into Gloucester point Road,” religious passages, and the narrative “Some Account of the Convincement Christian Experiences and Travels of Jane Hoskins, deceased.” It appears that this volume was probably copied for Mary’s use by Elijah. The handwriting, which appears to be Elijah’s, and the spelling in the commonplace book is much more consistent than what appears in the small notebook, and on page fifty-three, in the preface to a section on upright living, is a passage entitled “Mary Brown’s Book wrote by her Husband:”

And the following is what he most affectionately wishes and prays may be often perused and most seriously observed... may be impressed on their Minds of his beloved offspring in order that they may experience the real benefits and advantage gained by a due attention to the Important Truths which is found herein Recommended.

Series 5. Maurice Lisle, 1715-1799 (Vols. 28-29)

Maurice Lisle was an ancestor of the Browns on the Armitt side of the family. His daughter Elizabeth married Joseph Armitt, and it was their daughter Mary who married Elijah Brown Sr. This series consists of two journals. The first, 1715 to 1717, contains sporadic entries that detailed the business of the day, which normally consisted of going to the “plantacon” and speaking with various captains. The journal also often recorded work done by “our negroes” for various people. Written on the first page of the journal and initialed in 1820 by “E.B.” and “G.L.” is, “M.L. married Mary Baderick(?) one of their daughters married Jos. Armit and their daughter Mary married Elijah Brown.” A few pages at the end of the journal record amount spent for meat and a heavily abbreviated record of goods shipped in the *Mary and Frances* for Jamaica in the years 1716 and 1717.

The second journal, 1715-1799, is comprised of short daily entries that summarized the conversations of the day, which were mainly with various captains; references were often made to wharves and cargo. Other daily highlights, including “my wife’s birthday,” were also recorded. Some pages contain tabulations for foodstuffs such as coffee, sugar, and oysters, and other pages record amounts of money in pounds, “dollars,” and quarters received from various people, primarily for rent. Most of the journal is dated 1715; there are only a few pages of entries dated 1799. The author of the later entries is not known.

Series 6. Charles Brown, 1783-1786, n.d. (Vol. 30)

This curious volume contains entries in the hands of several different individuals, most of which are undated. Written on the inside cover is “Joseph Brown,” followed by “Charles Brown,” which is written twice. The inside of the reverse cover reads “Poems on several occasions by Charles Brown of Philadelphia and North Carolina.” A poem in the book is noted as written by Charles Brown at the age of 16. There is nothing to indicate that this is Charles Brockden Brown, who seems to have always been known by his middle name, as well.

There is quite a bit of material in this volume concerning Bridget (Clark) Gray and her family, including some family history and copies of letters addressed to Joseph and James Brown about obtaining copies of her will. There is also an undated letter from Elijah Brown to the managers of Schuylkin Point Meadows, acknowledging receipt of a letter to his sons, Joseph and James Brown.

It appears that the initial use of this volume was as an account book; there are entries for Davy's Farm in Passyunk from 1783 to 1784. Much of the middle of the volume is dedicated to a copy of "Essay on Toleration, or Mr. O'Leary's Plea for Liberty of Conscience."

Separation report

None.

Related materials

At the Historical Society of Pennsylvania:
Brown Family Papers, Collection 1341

At other institutions:

Charles Brockden Brown Travel Journal, Rare Book and Manuscript Library,
University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, Pa.

Charles Brockden Brown Papers, George J. Mitchell Department of Special
Collections & Archives, Bowdoin College Library,
<http://library.bowdoin.edu/arch/mss/cbbg.shtml> (accessed August 27, 2004)

Institute for Bibliography and Editing Records, Department of Special Collections
and Archives, Kent State University,
<http://speccoll.library.kent.edu/uarchives/ibe.html> (accessed Sept. 10, 2004)

Bibliography

Brown, Charles Brockden. *The novels and related works of Charles Brockden Brown*, ed. Sydney J. Krause, S.W. Reid, and Alexander Cowie. Kent, Ohio: Kent State University Press, 1977-1987.

Kafer, Peter. *Charles Brockden Brown's Revolution and the Birth of American Gothic*. Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 2004.

Smith, Mary Williams. *The Browns of Nottingham, Penna. and related families*. 1969

Subjects

Christian life – 18th century
Christian life – 19th century
England – Description and travel – 19th century
Family – Religious life – 18th century
Family – Religious life – 19th century
France – Politics and government, 1789-1815 – Public opinion
Ireland – Description and travel – 19th century
Lisbon (Portugal) – Description and travel – 19th century
London (England) – Description and travel – 19th century
Louisiana – Description and travel – 19th century
Merchants – Pennsylvania – Philadelphia – 18th century
Merchants – Pennsylvania – Philadelphia – 19th century
Ocean travel – 19th century

Quakers – 18th century
Quakers – 19th century
West Indies – Description and travel – 19th century

Brown, Charles Brockden, 1771-1810
Brown, Charles Brockden, 1771-1810 – Notebooks
Brown, Elijah Sr., 1740-1810
Brown, Elijah Jr., 1776-1859
Brown, Mary Armitt, d. 1825
Horner, Eliza, 1775-1807
Lisle, Maurice, d. 1721 or 2

Administrative Information

Restrictions

None.

Acquisition information

Volumes 2, 5, 11, 15, 17-23, 26, 28, 29: Purchased, Keim Fund, 1925.

Volume 16: Gift of James D. Campbell, 1916.

Volume 27: Gift of Mrs. Dorothy Burr Thompson, 1941.

Volumes 1, 3, 4, 6-10, 12-14, 24, 25, 30: Provenance unknown.

Alternative format

None.

Preferred citation

Cite as: [Indicate cited item or series here], Brown Family Papers (Collection 84), The Historical Society of Pennsylvania.

Processing note

Two collections were merged into Collection 84 when processed: Collection 1230 (also known as Am .03399) and Collection 86 (also known as Am .0342). Collection 84 was previously known as the call number Am .03398. A key that translates old call numbers to the new volume numbers assigned in this finding aid is available (see appendix A).

Processing made possible by a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities. Any views, findings, conclusions, or recommendations expressed in this finding aid do not necessarily reflect those of the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Volume listing

Series 1. Elijah Brown Sr.

Folder title	Date	Volume
Commonplace book	1787-1796	1
Commonplace book	1793-1797	2
Commonplace book	1794	3
Commonplace book	1794	4
Commonplace book	1798-1799	5
Commonplace book	1805-1809	6
Commonplace book	1806	7
Commonplace book	1806-1808	8
Commonplace book	1742-1808	9
Commonplace book	1808	10
Commonplace book	1808-1809	11
Commonplace book	1805-1810	12
Commonplace book	n.d.	13
Commonplace book	nd	14
Transcription of excerpts of <i>Alcuin</i>	n.d.	15
Elijah Brown to James Brown	1794	Box 1

Series 2. Elijah Brown Jr.

Folder title	Date	Volume
Journal	1801-1805	16
Journal	1811	17
Journal	1811, 1816	18
Journal	1820	19
Journal	1827-1837	20
Religious notebook	1827-1829	21
Commonplace book	1819, n.d.	22
Accounts	1823-1824	23
Item removed from vol. 23		Box 1

Series 3. Charles Brockden Brown

Folder title	Date	Volume
Notebook [continued by Elijah Brown as a commonplace book]	1801, n.d.	24
Notebook	n.d.	25

Series 4. Mary Brown

Folder title	Date	Volume
Notebook	1804-1811	26
Commonplace book	1785, n.d.	27

Series 5. Maurice Lisle

Folder title	Date	Volume
Journal	1715-1717	28
Journal	1715-1799	29

Series 6. Charles Brown

Folder title	Date	Volume
Commonplace book	1783-1786, n.d.	30