William S. Dutt Correspondence: Finding Aid

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Manuscripts Department
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San Marino, California 91108
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Overview of the Collection
Title: William S. Dutt Correspondence
Dates (inclusive): 1859-1864
Collection Number: mssDutt correspondence
Creator: Dutt, William S.
Extent: 36 items, photostats.
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Abstract: This collection contains photostat copies of 36 letters written by William S. Dutt (1836-1866) to his family, writing about his life and people he encountered in Missouri and Colorado in 1859-1860, and his military experiences in various Southwestern towns following his enlistment in the New Mexico Volunteers in 1862, as well as his experiences with Native Americans.
Language: English.
Access
Open to qualified researchers by prior application through the Reader Services Department. For more information, contact Reader Services.
Publication Rights
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Preferred Citation
[Identification of item]. William S. Dutt Correspondence, The Huntington Library, San Marino, California.
Provenance
Copies made from originals owned by Jack R. Smith, November 1946.
Biographical Note
William S. Dutt (1836-1866) was born in 1836. He left Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, in April 1859 on a steamboat, first to Cincinnati, Ohio, and then to St. Louis, Missouri. From there, he moved to “Shoal Creek Prairie,” close to Aviston, Illinois. After farming for three months, he moved again to Gasconade County, Missouri, where he taught grade school until March 1860. Dutt continued to make his way West, first to Leavenworth, Kansas, in May 1860, and then to Denver, Colorado, by July. When the Civil War started, Dutt was mining in Colorado. He planned to return to his family in the East but instead was recruited in October 1862 by the New Mexico Volunteers to serve in Company M, 1st Cavalry. Dutt worked his way up to sergeant and remained in the military until his death. Dutt allegedly died at the age of 30 in a battle with Native Americans on December 25, 1866, at Tetterman’s Gap near Butte, Montana.
Scope and Content
The collection includes 36 letters, all photostats, written by William S. Dutt to his family. During his time in Missouri, Dutt wrote about the people he encountered including “darkeys,” and immigrants from the South and Germany. During his time in Colorado, Dutt expressed his derogatory views about Mexicans, “greasers,” “savages,” slaves, and the Confederacy. After October 1862, Dutt talks about his military experiences in various Southwestern towns, military forts, and with various Hispanic and Native American groups. Among the military installations he visited were: Fort Garland, Colorado; Fort Union, Fort Sumner, Fort Wingate, and Fort Bascom, New Mexico. Among the places he visited were Taos and Santa Fe, New Mexico. He also wrote thorough descriptions of his experiences with Apache, Comanche, Navajo, and Pueblo Indians.
Arrangement
The letters are arranged chronologically.
Indexing: Subjects
Comanche Indians
• Subject in William S. Dutt letter (1864, Aug. 11) to “Brother David.” Box 1 (34).
• Subject in William S. Dutt letter (1864, Sep. 11) to “Brother.” Box 1 (35).

Fort Bascom (N.M.)
• Subject in William S. Dutt letter (1864, Apr. 25-26) to “Brothers.” Box 1 (32).
• Subject in William S. Dutt letter (1864, May 13) to “Brother.” Box 1 (33).
• Subject in William S. Dutt letter (1864, Aug. 11) to “Brother David.” Box 1 (34).
• Subject in William S. Dutt letter (1864, Sep. 11) to “Brother.” Box 1 (35).

Mexicans--New Mexico
• Subject in William S. Dutt letter (1864, Apr. 25-26) to “Brothers.” Box 1 (32).
• Subject in William S. Dutt letter (1864, May 13) to “Brother.” Box 1 (33).

Navajo Indians
• Subject in William S. Dutt letter (1864, Jan. 20-Feb. 3) to “Brothers.” Box 1 (29).
• Subject in William S. Dutt letter (1864, Apr. 25-26) to “Brothers.” Box 1 (32).

Pueblo Indians
• Subject in William S. Dutt letter (1864, May 13) to “Brother.” Box 1 (33).

Indexing Terms
The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Huntington Library's Online Catalog.

Subjects
Dutt, William S.
Comanche Indians.
Mexicans -- New Mexico -- 19th century -- History -- Sources.
Navajo Indians.
Pueblo Indians.
Colorado -- History -- 19th century -- Sources.
Fort Bascom (N.M.)
Fort Garland (Colo.)
Fort Sumner (N.M.)
Fort Union (N.M.)
Fort Wingate (N.M.)
Missouri -- History -- 19th century -- Sources.
New Mexico -- Description and travel.
New Mexico -- History -- Civil War, 1861-1865 -- Personal narratives.
Santa Fe (N.M.)
Taos (N.M.)
United States -- History -- Civil War, 1861-1865 -- Personal narratives.

Forms/Genres
Letters (correspondence) -- United States -- 19th century.
Stats (copies)

Box 1  Correspondence [photostats]
Folder 2  1859, Apr. 21. William S. Dutt letter to [unknown addressee]. 1 item.
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Folder</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>Folder 10</td>
<td>1860, Apr.</td>
<td>William S. Dutt letter to “Parents.” 1 item.</td>
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<td>Folder 12</td>
<td>1861, July 4</td>
<td>William S. Dutt letter to “Sister.” 1 item.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Folder 13</td>
<td>1861, Aug. 21</td>
<td>William S. Dutt letter to Sister.” 1 item.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Folder 14</td>
<td>1861, Nov. 7</td>
<td>William S. Dutt letter to “Sister.” 1 item.</td>
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<td>Folder 15</td>
<td>1862, Jan. 6</td>
<td>William S. Dutt letter to “Sister.” 1 item.</td>
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<td>Folder 16</td>
<td>1862, Feb. 7</td>
<td>William S. Dutt letter to “Sister.” 1 item.</td>
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<td>Folder 17</td>
<td>1862, Feb. 11</td>
<td>William S. Dutt letter to John Martz. 1 item.</td>
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<td>1862, May 25</td>
<td>William S. Dutt letter to “Mother.” 1 item.</td>
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<td>Folder 22</td>
<td>1862, June 8</td>
<td>William S. Dutt letter to “Sister.” 1 item.</td>
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<td>1863, Mar. 9-14</td>
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<td>Folder 35</td>
<td>1864, Sep. 11</td>
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