

Sherwood Collection

Sherwood collection.....	2
Biographical sketch.....	2
Items.....	2
1.0 Diary of Henry Sherwood.....	2
2.0 Diary	2
3.0 Letter	2
4.0 Bible verse	2
5.0 Indenture	3
6.0 Release and covenant.....	3
7.0 Cameron Commonplace Book.....	3

Sherwood collection. – 1807 – 1892. – 3 bound books, 2 legal documents on vellum sheets, 1 ALS, and 1 signed sheet of paper.

Biographical sketch: Mary Martha [Butt] Sherwood (1775-1851) was the prolific author of morally didactic children's stories. She lived in India from 1804 until 1816 and began to write there, beginning with an adaptation of Bunyan's *The Pilgrim's Progress* for Indian readers, entitled *The Indian's Progress*. She progressed to original stories, the most famous being *The Fairchild Family*, an extremely successful and influential work that stayed in print throughout the 19th century. She was heavily influenced by the evangelical branch of Christianity, but her stories are well-written and exciting, as well as pious. Her breadth of experience and well-developed literary style made them highly readable. On her return to England, Captain and Mrs. Sherwood settled in Worcestershire, where she took in students and wrote prolifically. Some 350 titles, including tracts, essays and pamphlets can be traced to her.

Items

1.0 Diary of Henry Sherwood

Dates of creation: 1892

Physical description: 121 pages, bound in cloth.

Scope and content: 'Mimeo-holograph' transcript of the diary of Mary Sherwood's husband, Henry, made prior to their marriage and transcribed by their daughter, Sophia Kelly, with an inscription to her niece, Kitty Springett. The Diary begins with a letter to Miss Butt (later Mrs. Sherwood) and describes his life in France from 1791 to 1795.

2.0 Diary

Dates of creation: Originally written 1812-1823, date of transcription unknown.

Scope and content: Carbon copy of typed transcription of Volumes 7, 8 and 9 of Mrs. Sherwood's diaries, untitled. Bound into half-calf, with marbled boards. 134, 109, 76 pages, and 1 page list entitled 'books written from January 1823 to January 1824. Diaries cover the later part of her stay in India, the trip home and readjustment to English life, as well as details of family life, dealings with her publisher, Mr. Houlston

3.0 Letter

Dates of creation: January 28, 1841

Scope and content: To 'Dear Sir', evidently an autograph seeker; a single sheet, written on both sides, signed M. M. Sherwood, Worcester.

4.0 Bible verse

Dates of creation: January 9, 1841

Scope and content: Single sheet containing the Bible verse from Revelation 21 4, “And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes...” written by hand and signed M. M. Sherwood.

5.0 Indenture

Dates of creation: April 28 1869 and April 6, 1870

Scope and content: Legal document, written in ink on 2 sheets of vellum (each approximately 55 x 71 cm), with seals and signatures. A settlement on the marriage of Norman Slater and Annie Sherwood, the indenture promises a sum of one thousand pounds to be paid by Joseph Sherwood (uncle of Annie Sherwood) once the marriage has taken place, with an addendum adding a further 500 pounds.

6.0 Release and covenant

Dates of creation: June 10 1889

Scope and content: Legal document, written in ink on both sides of 3 vellum leaves (approximately 47 x 31 cm) and an accompanying list of names on a sheet of paper. The document relates to the will of Joseph Sherwood, of Peterborough, Ontario

7.0 Cameron Commonplace Book

Dates of creation: 1807-1834

Scope and content: Manuscript book, consisting of laid paper (watermarked 1807) and bound in vellum, the property of Charles Cameron, nephew of Mrs. Mary Martha Sherwood. The book contains transcriptions of letters, poems, essays, etc., beginning with the transcription of two letters from Mrs. Sherwood, dated 1805. The letters were evidently meant for circulation among her friends and family and describe in detail her journey to India and early activities there. Each letter is 24 pages in length. Other entries in the book consist of poems written or copied by Lucy Elizabeth Sherwood, transcriptions by Somerset R[ichard?]d. Maxwell, copies of Wordsworth’s “We are Seven” and other poems, religious tracts on Popery, predestination, the historical evidence of Christianity, etc., with a few clipped articles from newspapers pasted in at the end.