



2018

## Finding Aid to the Collection of Mary Low Carver Materials

Mary Low Carver

Colby College Special Collections

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### Recommended Citation

Collection of Mary Low Carver Materials, Colby College Special Collections, Waterville, Maine.

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# **Finding Aid to the Collection of Mary Low Carver Materials LOW.1**

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English

Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Colby College Special Collections

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## Summary Information

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<b>Repository:</b>	Colby College Special Collections
<b>Creator:</b>	Ruby (Mrs. Ruby D.H. Emerson) Carver
<b>Creator:</b>	Carver, Mary Low, 1850-1926 (United States. Librarian.)
<b>Title:</b>	Collection of Mary Low Carver Materials
<b>ID:</b>	LOW.1
<b>Date [inclusive]:</b>	1871-2005 and undated.
<b>Physical Description:</b>	0.5 Linear Feet
<b>Physical Location:</b>	Colbiana sequence.
<b>Language of the Material:</b>	English
<b>Language of the Material:</b>	English
<b>Abstract:</b>	The Low Collection contains various materials gathered about Mary Low Carver, the first woman to graduate from Colby College in 1875. Low was active in protesting the formation of a separate women's division at Colby in the 1890's.

### Preferred Citation

Collection of Mary Low Carver Materials, Colby College Special Collections, Waterville, Maine.

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## Biographical Note

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Mary Caffrey Low (later Carver), born on March 22, 1850, in Waterville, Maine, was the first woman to graduate from Colby College. In 1871, she enrolled as the college's first female student, to graduate four years later in 1875. She was one of the first women in New England to receive a regular A.B. degree. Low was the only female student at Colby until the fall of 1873, when she was joined by four other women, among them Louise Helen Coburn. In 1874, Low co-founded the Sigma Kappa Sorority. Low was the first woman to appear on the rolls of Sigma Kappa and the first to preside over an initiation. She was also the first woman to be invited to join the Phi Beta Kappa Honor Society. Low was not allowed to

deliver the the valedictory address to her class at graduation, rather, she recited the ode. In 1916, Colby awarded Low the degree of Litt.D. Low is known as the "grandmother of coeducation at Colby." In 1890, the president of Colby College initiated a plan to divide women and men into separate classes at the college. Low, along with Louise Coburn and several other alumnae, wrote and sent a petition protesting the formation of a separate women's division at Colby. The division was soon approved, however, and Colby did not go back to being truly coeducational until 1969. After graduation Low married Leonard D. Carver, a graduate of Colby who became the Maine State Librarian. Low herself became a librarian and worked as a cataloguer in the Maine State Library for many years. Low had a daughter, Ruby Carver Emerson, and a son, Dwight, who died at the age of 5. Low later lived with her daughter in Cambridge, Massachusetts. Low died on March 4, 1926, at the age of 76.

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## Scope and Contents

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The Low Collection contains various materials gathered about Mary Low Carver. The collection includes photographs of and clippings about Mary Low Carver, correspondence, especially to Louise Coburn and other women about the college's decision to create a separate women's division in 1890, as well as about the acquisition of Low's Sigma Kappa sorority pin and the pin itself. It contains a copy of the manuscript written by Low protesting the formation of a separate women's division at Colby.

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## Arrangement

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Materials arranged in 7 series: Correspondence, Published Materials, Clippings, Personal Documents, Photographs, Biographical Notes, and Memorabilia.

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## Administrative Information

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### Publication Statement

Colby College Special Collections

## Provenance and Acquisition Note

Materials acquired via gift or purchase.

## Conditions Governing Use

Materials to be used on site during regular Special Collections hours or by appointment.  
Photocopying or scanning may be possible at discretion of staff for nominal fee. Materials may be protected by copyright.

## Conditions Governing Access

Collection is open for research.

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## Controlled Access Headings

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- Maine, Waterville
- Alumnae and alumni
- Newspaper clippings
- Education
- Colby College -- History -- 19th century -- Correspondence
- Sigma Kappa Sorority -- Maine -- Waterville -- History
- Education of women -- History
- Colbiana
- Coeducation
- Photographs
- Bertha Louise Soule, 1863-1956
- Parmenter, Hattie M. , fl. 1900
- Coburn, Louise Helen, 1856-1949 (United States. Author.)

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## Collection Inventory

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### Series 1: Correspondence., 1985 - 2005 and undated.

Physical Description: 4 Folders.

Title/Description	Instances
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Folder 1: Correspondence between Mary Low Carver and Louise Helen Coburn., August 7, 1890 - March 3, 1891.	
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Physical Description: 1 Sheet.

Related Materials:

**Related Materials**

See correspondence between Mary Low Carver and Louise Helen Coburn on coeducation of women at Colby College, in Series: Correspondence, Folder 1, in the Collection of Louise Helen Coburn Materials.

Controlled Access Headings:

- Coburn, Louise Helen, 1856-1949 (United States. Author.)

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Folder 2: Letter from Ruby DH Emerson (Mary Low's daughter) to Mr. Dyer, Editor of the Alumnus., April 9th, unknown year.

Physical Description: 1 ALS.

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Folder 3: Materials Regarding Mary Low's Family History.

Physical Description: 3 Photocopies.

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Letter from Barbara Clarkson, Sigma Kappa Sorority, to the Town Clerk, Waterville, Maine., July 29, 1985.

Physical Description: 1 Photocopied TLS.

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Photocopies of Death Records of John P. Caffrey and Ivory H. Low., Undated.

Physical Description: 1 Sheet.

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Photocopy of Pedigree Chart for Mary Caffrey Low., Undated.

Physical Description: 1 Sheet.

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Folder 4: Sorority Pin Correspondence., 1999.

Physical Description: 2 TLS, 2 ALS.

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Letter from Margaret F. Viens, Director, Alumni Relations, Colby College, to Mrs. Ellen McNamara., November 29, 1999.

Physical Description: 1 Sheet, Typed.

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Letter from Ellen McNamara to Margaret Viens., December 8, 1999.

Physical Description: 1 Sheet, Handwritten.

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Letter from Margaret F. Viens, Director, Alumni Relations, Colby College, to Mrs. Ellen McNamara., December 14, 1999.

Physical Description: 1 Sheet, Typed.

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Letter from Nancy Fox, Office of Alumni Relations, Colby College, to Nancy., December 14, 1999.

Physical Description: 1 Sheet, Handwritten.

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Folder 5: Correspondence Regarding Fanny Low Sampler., MARCH 4, 2005 - March 7, 2005.

Physical Description: Printout of an email from Barbara Gunvaldsen, Fairfield Historical Society, to Stephen Collins, Colby College, which was forwarded to Patricia Burdick and E.H. Smith, Colby College, regarding a sampler created in 1834 by Fanny Low, aunt of Mary Low.

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## Series 2: Published Materials., Undated.

Physical Description: 2 Folders.

Title/Description	Instances
Folder 6: Address by Mary Low Carver, Unknown Publication Source., Undated. <u>Physical Description</u> : 1 Printed Copy, 1 Photocopy.	
Address by Mrs. Mary Low Carver on acceptance and ratification of the name of the Mary Low Residence Hall. Includes a poem, "Mary C. Low Hall," by Alice Lena Cole Kleene., Undated. <u>Physical Description</u> : 4 Pages.	
Photocopy of "Address by Mrs. Mary Low Carver." , Undated. <u>Physical Description</u> : 2 Pages, 2 Up.	
Folder 7: Coeducation at Colby., Undated. <u>Physical Description</u> : Printed copy of "Coeducation at Colby," Low's protest against a separate women's division at the college, from an unknown published source, 16 pages.	

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## Series 3: Clippings., 1875 - 1985

Physical Description: 1 folder.

Title/Description	Instances
Folder 8: Clippings related to Mary Low Carver., 1875 - 1985. <u>Physical Description</u> : 11 Articles.	
"The Alcestis of Euripides," English oration delivered at the recent commencement of Colby University. By Mary C. Low, of Waterville, Me. Printed in "The Watchman and Reflector.", August 19, 1875. <u>Physical Description</u> : 1 Sheet (plus photocopy).	
"A Pleasant Evening," article from The Colby Echo., June 12, 1897. <u>Physical Description</u> : 2 Sheets (Photocopied).	



"The Man of the Musket," poem written by Mary Low Carver (Mrs. L.D. Carver), published in The Colby Echo, vol.1, no. 17, p. 3., 1898.

Physical Description: 1 Sheet (Photocopied).

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"Respectfully Dedicated To Whom It May Concern.", June 10, 1899.

Physical Description: 1 Sheet (plus photocopy).

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"Maine's First Co-Ed.", 1911.

Physical Description: 1 Sheet (Photocopied).

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"First Woman In Alumnae Is Dead," article in The Colby Echo., March 10, 1926.

Physical Description: 3 Sheets (Photocopied).

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Mary Low Carver, '75, from The Colby Alumnus, vol. 15, no. 1, pp. 183-184., 1925 - 1926.

Physical Description: 2 Sheets (Photocopied).

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"Pioneer of Women Students," published in The Colby Echo., February 13, 1929.

Physical Description: 2 Sheets (Photocopied).

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"Mary Low Carver: A Pioneer in the Field of Women's Education," published in the Lewiston Journal Magazine Section, pp. A-6 - A-8., March 5, 1949.

Physical Description: 3 Sheets (plus photocopy).

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### **Physical Characteristics and Technical Requirements**

Extremely fragile original. Please use photocopy for use.

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"History From Our Files," from the Portland Press Herald., June 25, 1953.

Physical Description: 1 Sheet (plus photocopy).

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"English Department to Award Prizes in Annual Contest," published in The Colby Echo., March 9, 1956.

Physical Description: 2 Sheets (Photocopied).

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"Mary Caffrey Low Carter (sic) was Colby's first woman graduate," published in The Morning Sentinel., March 27, 1985.

Physical Description: 1 Sheet (plus photocopy).

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## **Series 4: Personal Documents., 1896 and undated.**

Physical Description: 2 Folders.

**Title/Description**

**Instances**

Folder 9: Sigma Kappa Odes., 1896.

Physical Description: Booklet of Sigma Kappa Odes, 15 pages.

Folder 10: Miscellaneous., Undated.

Physical Description: 3 Items.

"Toasts.", Undated.

Physical Description: 1 Sheet, Handwritten.

Page with written quote from Mary Low Carver., March 22nd, 1907.

Physical Description: 1 Sheet, Handwritten.

Typed card indicating that a copy of Robinson's first published book, "The Children of the Night," belonged to Mary Low Carver, and was presented to the Library by her daughter., Undated.

Physical Description: 1 Card, Typed.

Related Materials:

**Related Materials**

See Edwin Arlington Robinson Collection.

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## Series 5: Photographs., Undated.

Physical Description: 1 Folder.

**Title/Description**

**Instances**

Folder 11: Photographs of Mary Low Carver and Sigma Kappa., Undated.

Physical Description: 3 Mounted Photographs (Prints), 1 Black and White Copy Print (Enlarged), 1 Printed Photograph.

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## Series 6: Biographical Notes., Undated.

Physical Description: 1 Folder.

**Title/Description**

**Instances**

Folder 12: Biographical Notes About Mary Low Carver., Undated.

Physical Description: 1 Typed Card, 2 Handwritten Sheets, 1 Typed Sheet.

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"Mary Low Carver.", Undated.

Physical Description: 1 Typed Card.

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Handwritten notes on Mary Low Carver, unknown author.,  
Undated.

Physical Description: 2 Handwritten Sheets.

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Informational sheet on the Mary Low Carver Poetry Prize.,  
Undated.

Physical Description: 1 Printed Sheet.

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## **Series 7: Memorabilia., Undated.**

Physical Description: 1 Folder.

Title/Description	Instances
Folder 13: Sorority Pin., Undated. <u>Physical Description</u> : 1 Pin in Cloth Case.	

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