

**The Burke Library Archives, Columbia University Libraries,
Union Theological Seminary, New York**

Union Theological Seminary Archives 1

Finding Aid for

Julia Valentine Dobbs Briggs Papers, 1875-1919



Julia on her Wedding Day, 1865. Credit to: UTS1: Charles Augustus Briggs Papers, series 3D, box 1, and folder 4, The Burke Library at Union Theological Seminary, Columbia University in the City of New York.

Finding Aid prepared by: Brigette C. Kamsler, June 2015
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Summary Information

Creator: Julia Valentine Dobbs Briggs, 1848-1933
Title: Julia Valentine Dobbs Briggs Papers
Dates: 1875-1919
Abstract: Julia Valentine Dobbs Briggs was the wife of Charles Augustus Briggs. Collection contains three scrapbooks on the family.
Size: 1 box, 0.50 linear feet
Storage: Onsite storage
Repository: The Burke Library
Union Theological Seminary
3041 Broadway
New York, NY 10027
Email: burkearchives@library.columbia.edu

Administrative Information

- Provenance: Collection was most likely donated by Julia's daughter, Emilie Grace, who donated her own papers to Union Theological Seminary in 1941.
- Access: Archival papers are available to registered readers for consultation by appointment only. Please contact archives staff by email to burkearchives@library.columbia.edu, or by postal mail to The Burke Library address on page 1, as far in advance as possible
Burke Library staff is available for inquiries or to request a consultation on archival or special collections research.
- Access Restrictions: The collection is unrestricted to readers. Certain materials, however, are in a fragile condition, and this may necessitate restriction in handling and copying.
- Preferred Citation: Item description, UTS1: Julia Valentine Dobbs Briggs Papers, box #, and folder #, The Burke Library at Union Theological Seminary, Columbia University in the City of New York.

Biography

Julia Valentine Dobbs was born March 23, 1848 in New York, NY. Both of her parents were from New York, although their names are unknown.

At the age of 17, she married Charles Augustus Briggs on October 19, 1865 at 17 years old. They had 7 children, five of whom were alive at the time of Charles Brigg's death in 1913: Emilie Grace Briggs, Agnes Briggs (Mrs. Philip Ketteridge), Alanson Tuthill Briggs, Herbert Wilfrid Briggs and Olive M. Briggs.

Julia was active in the Salvation Army and was an accomplished musician. After marriage to Charles, they lived in both New Jersey and Manhattan, New York. She traveled with Charles Briggs, being issued a passport in 1907 and returned with him in 1912. Her passport application in 1907 indicated she was 5'3" with brown hair, a fair complexion and blue eyes.

After Charles' sudden death in 1913, she continued to live in New York. In the 1920 census, she was living with her daughter Emilie Grace in Lakewood Township, New Jersey. In 1930, Julia was living in New York City as a lodger at the Hotel Holley 36 Washington Square West. Her daughter Olive was living with her; the census indicates Julia never attended school.

Julia Valentine Dobbs Briggs died October 17, 1933 at the age of 86.

Collection Scope and Content Note

The collection contains three scrapbooks about the family and is arranged by the date of the scrapbook. The first book contains poetry from approximately 1875. The second scrapbook consists of newspaper clippings about the Briggs family: Mrs Briggs, Agnes Briggs (deaconess), Emilie Grace Briggs, and Herbert W Briggs. It also includes a note that says "Return to Rockwell." This is most likely William Walker Rockwell, who was a professor at Union

Theological Seminary as well as librarian in the UTS library. The third and final book contains clippings about Julia's husband, Charles Augustus Briggs.

Processing

Materials were placed in new acid-free folders and boxes.

Further Sources

The Burke Library Archives house and offer the collection of Julia's husband, Charles Augustus Briggs. The finding aid for the collection [is available online](#).

Burke Library also offers the papers of Julia's daughter, Emilie Grace; the finding aid is available [online here](#).

The Burke Library offers the collection pertaining to the Song of Songs, which Emilie Grace worked on with her brother Alanson Tuthill Briggs. This finding aid [is available here](#).

Contents list

Box	Folder	Contents
1	1	Poetry and Clippings about Poets, [1875?]
1	2	Newspaper Clippings about the Briggs' family, [1880?]-1897
1	3	Cuttings about Charles Augustus Briggs, 1903-1919