



## **Guide to the Thomas Morrill Carter Papers, 1824-1934, bulk 1855-1879**

### Administrative Information

**Title and Dates:**

Thomas Morrill Carter Papers, 1824-1934, bulk 1855-1879

**Repository:**

New Hampshire Historical Society  
30 Park Street  
Concord, NH 03301  
603-228-6688  
<http://www.nhhistory.org/>

**Collection Number:**

2004.014

**Author of Finding Aid:**

Original author Lisa Bouchard, March, 2004; edited by Bill Copeley, November 2009;  
rewritten and formatted by Laura Heath Reboul, September, 2014

**Creator:**

Unknown

**Language:**

The materials in this collection are in English.

**Extent:**

4 boxes

**Abstract:**

The Thomas Morrill Carter Papers contain materials related to Carter's career as an accomplished band leader and composer and his personal life. Items in the collection include an extensive collection of letters written by Carter to his son from 1855 to 1879, postcards, photographs, sheet music, newspapers, the Carter family Bible and genealogy, and sheet music. At the time of his death, in 1934 age 92, Carter was the most celebrated and oldest musician alive in the New Hampshire and Massachusetts area.

## Access and Use

### **Acquisition Information and Provenance:**

The Thomas Morrill Carter Papers were a gift of Jean L. Lewis in January, 2004

### **Processing Information:**

This collection was processed by Lisa Bouchard in March, 2004 and edited by Bill Copeley in November, 2009. This finding aid was written by Laura Heath Reboul in September, 2014. This finding aid follows the standards set forth by *Describing Archives: A Content Standard*.

### **Access Restrictions:**

Available for research

### **Location:**

The collection is housed at the New Hampshire Historical Society in Concord, New Hampshire.

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

4 boxes

### **Copyright/Conditions Governing Use:**

For permission to reproduce or publish materials from this collection, please contact the New Hampshire Historical Society. Researchers are responsible for following all copyright and intellectual property laws.

### **Preferred Citation:**

Thomas Morrill Carter Papers, M 2004.014. New Hampshire Historical Society, Concord, NH. Date Accessed.

## Collection Overview

### **Biographical Information:**

Thomas Morrill Carter was born on December 25, 1841 in Newton, NH and grew up with an interest in music. For one year at the age of 18, he set type in the office of the *Newbury Herald*. Starting at age 20, he had a long successful career in music and was honored for his accomplishments as a band leader and composer. He also had a lifelong connection with the Freemasons. In 1875, he married Percy (or Percie) Simpson Hazen, a singer from Woodstock, VT. Their children, son Carter Merrill and daughter Ann, became accomplished musicians.

Carter's professional career began with the formation of the Newton Band in 1860. The following year, he joined Hall's Band and became its leader in 1869. At this time he also studied violin with A. P. Holden. From 1869 to 1870, he conducted the orchestra of the Steamer "Providence" of the Fall River Line. In 1869, and again in 1872, he was a member of the Peace Jubilee Orchestra. In 1871, he organized Carter's Band which continued for 62 years until his death. He led that band on its first parade in

1871 at the laying of the cornerstone of the Soldiers' Monument in Boston, MA. In 1885, he joined the Boston Commandery. From 1906 to 1919, Carter's Band played at Nantasket Beach, MA.

Carter was also an active member of the Freemasons in Newburyport, MA. In 1874, he joined the Freemasons, and his band played at Masonic conclaves in Boston, Denver, Pittsburgh, Saratoga Springs and San Francisco. In 1930, he received an honorary membership in the DeMolay. Carter died at his home in Boston at age 92 in 1834. At the time of his death, he was the most celebrated and oldest musician alive in the New Hampshire and Massachusetts area.

### **Collection Scope and Content Note:**

The Thomas Morrill Carter Papers (1824-1924) is a collection letters written by Carter to his son, postcards, photographs, sheet music, newspapers, genealogy and other miscellaneous items.

The collection contains an extensive collection of letters Thomas Morrill Carter wrote to his son from 1855 to 1879. These letters give a glimpse of everyday life in Newton, NH. Carter's son traveled often as a musician and did not see his father on a regular basis. The letters also reveal a father longing for his son to return home. Thomas Morrill Carter's son had the same name, but usually Carter addressed him as Morrill. This is not always the case, and so sometimes it is unclear if the father or son is being mentioned. A collection of newspaper articles in the papers shows the many accomplishments of Carter and the recognition he received from his fellow musicians. The collection contains several legal documents, such as a marriage license and an Internal Revenue Service license. There are many items in the collection that Thomas Morrill Carter collected himself, such as calling cards, programs from musical events and postcards.

There is also some sheet music in the collection. Carter was an impressive composer and wrote much of his own music. There are two books of sheet music on the Peace Jubilee of 1869 and 1872, which were important events in his musical career. The collection also contains the Carter Family Bible.

### **Arrangement:**

The materials are organized in four boxes. Boxes 1-3 contain a total of 57 folders of letters, postcards, photographs, newspapers, genealogy and miscellaneous items. The only items arranged chronologically in these boxes are the letters written by Thomas Carter to his son. Box 4 contains 4 books, including the Carter family genealogy, and 5 collections of sheet music.

### **Contents List**

#### **Box 1**

- |          |  |
|----------|--|
| Folder 1 | Undated letters                                      |
| Folder 2 | Carter family genealogy letters, May 5, 1925         |
| Folder 3 | Six newspaper articles about Carter                  |
| Folder 4 | Old ledger for the Carter family store in Newton, NH |
| Folder 5 | Old envelopes  |

- Folder 6 Old postcards
- Folder 7 Wedding certificate and envelope, 1875
- Folder 8 Original copy of *New York Herald*, "Lincoln Shot", April 15, 1865
- Folder 9 Original Internal Revenue Service License, May 1, 1864, and a reward of merit
- Folder 10 Letter of recommendation, expense account for travels, postcard
- Folder 11 Letters about Carter's Masonic affiliation
- Folder 12 Newspaper clippings – copies and originals
- Folder 13 Historical information about Carter and copies of pictures
- Folder 14 Three receipts
- Folder 15 Handwritten journal "The Rose" East Kingston, New Hampshire, 1854
- Folder 16 Letters from Bandsmen in service, 1861
- Folder 17 Letters and postcards written during trip to California by Boston Commandery Band, August - September, 1904
- Folder 18 Postcards from T. Carter to T. M. Carter, 1876-1877
- Folder 19 Letters to T. M. Carter from friends, 1861, 1920, not dated
- Folder 20 Tickets and receipt of Peace Jubilee, 1872
- Folder 21 Saratoga Springs dance cards, newspaper articles, concert bill, stationery letterhead, 1863
- Folder 22 Letters written by T. Carter to T. M. Carter, 1855 (father to son)
- Folder 23 Letters written by T. Carter to T. M. Carter, 1856
- Folder 24 Letters written by T. Carter to T. M. Carter, 1857
- Folder 25 Letters written by T. Carter to T. M. Carter, 1858
- Folder 26 Letters written by T. Carter to T. M. Carter, 1859
- Folder 27 Letters written by T. Carter to T. M. Carter, 1860
- Folder 28 Letters written by T. Carter to T. M. Carter, 1861
- Folder 29 Letters written by T. Carter to T. M. Carter, 1862
- Folder 30 Letters written by T. Carter to T. M. Carter, 1863

**Box 2**

- Folder 1 Letters written by T. Carter to T. M. Carter, 1865, and old receipt
- Folder 2 Letters written by T. Carter to T. M. Carter, 1866
- Folder 3 Letters from T. M. Carter to T. Carter, 1866
- Folder 4 Letters written by T. Carter to T. M. Carter, 1867
- Folder 5 Letters written by T. Carter to T. M. Carter, 1868
- Folder 6 Letters written by T. Carter to T. M. Carter, 1869
- Folder 7 Letters written by T. Carter to T. M. Carter, 1870
- Folder 8 Letters written by T. Carter to T. M. Carter, 1871
- Folder 9 Letters written by T. Carter to T. M. Carter, 1872
- Folder 10 Letters written by T. Carter to T. M. Carter, 1873
- Folder 11 Letters written by T. Carter to T. M. Carter, 1874
- Folder 12 Letters written by T. Carter to T. M. Carter, 1875
- Folder 13 Letters written by T. Carter to T. M. Carter, 1876
- Folder 14 Letters written by T. Carter to T. M. Carter, 1877
- Folder 15 Letters written by T. Carter to T. M. Carter, 1878
- Folder 16 Letters written by T. Carter to T. M. Carter, 1879

- Folder 17 Carter family letters, 1855-1879
- Folder 18 Photos and negatives of Carter house in Newton, NH from Uncle Carter
- Folder 19 Pictures of T. M. Carter and Percie Hazen
- Folder 20 Pictures of Carter family, house and band

**Box 3**

- Folder 1 Program for “A Night with the Old Folks”, 1874
- Folder 2 Original programs from 1869-1895
- Folder 3 Program for Largest Military Band, 1911
- Folder 4 Old calling cards, Newton, New Hampshire
- Folder 5 Miscellaneous
- Folder 6 Miscellaneous – “An Argument Before the Tewksbury Investigation Committee by Governor Benjamin F. Butler”, July 15, 1883
- Folder 7 Miscellaneous – Nantasket Hotel pamphlet and The World’s Peace Jubilee ticket, 1872

**Box 4**

- Item 1 *The Child’s First Reader*, 1855
- Item 2 *The New-Hampshire Justice of the Peace*, 1824
- Item 3 *The Pilgrim’s Progress from This World to That Which Is to Come*, 1828
- Item 4 Carter family *Bible*, 1841
- Item 5 *Peace Jubilee*, 1869 (book of sheet music)
- Item 6 *The Old Clock on the Stairs* (sheet music)
- Item 7 *War Songs for Anniversaries and Gatherings of Soldiers*, 1883 (sheet music)
- Item 8 *The World’s Collection of Patriotic Songs and Airs of the Different Nations*, 1893 (sheet music)
- Item 9 *Peace Jubilee*, 1872 (book of sheet music)

**Subject Terms**

**People:**

- Carter, Ann
- Carter, Thomas Morrill, 1841-1934
- Carter, Thomas Morrill
- Hazen, Percy (Percie)

**Organizations:**

- Boston Commandery Band
- DeMolay
- New York Herald*

**Subjects:**

- Band music
- Freemasons
- Instrumentation and orchestration (Band)
- Marching bands
- Military bands

National Peace Jubilee and Music Festival (1869 : Boston, Mass.)

World's Peace Jubilee and International Music Festival (1872 : Boston, Mass)

**Locations:**

Boston, MA

East Kingston, NH

Nantasket Beach, Hull, MA

Newton, NH

Saratoga Springs, NY

**Occupations:**

Bandmasters

Composer

Musician