

## Guide to the Herrick Family Papers, 1829, 1863-1939

### Administrative Information

**Title and Dates:**

Herrick Family Papers, 1829, 1863-1939

**Repository:**

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

**Collection Number:**

2001.010

**Author of Finding Aid:**

Korrena Cowing

**Creator:**

Herrick family

**Language:**

The materials in this collection are in English.

**Extent:**

1 box ; 0.42 linear feet

**Abstract:**

The Herrick Family Papers, 1829, 1863-1939, consist primarily of correspondence to Francis Hobart Herrick from his mother Hannah and sister Lizzie [Elizabeth], while he is away at school and working. Other papers in this collection consist of Elizabeth Herrick's will, a short biography of Francis Herrick, and numerous family photographs, including a photograph album and identified portraits.

## Access and Use

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

The Herrick Family Papers were a gift of Mrs. Inie Platenius on January 30, 2001.

### **Processing Information:**

This collection was processed by an unknown person at an unknown date and partially rehoused by Jason Lewis in 2023; rehousing was completed by Korrena Cowing in March 2024. The finding aid was written by Korrena Cowing in March 2024. This finding aid follows the standards set forth by *Describing Archives: A Content Standard*.

The photograph album was deconstructed at an unknown date. The images have been placed into folders, though the original order of the images is unknown.

### **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:**

The materials in this collection are paper based and have no special technical requirements for use.

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

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

### **Preferred Citation:**

Item title, Herrick Family Papers, 2001.010. New Hampshire Historical Society, Concord, NH.  
Date accessed.

## Collection Overview

### **Biographical Information:**

Marcellus Aurelius Herrick was born in Reading, VT, on August 27, 1822 to Ebenezer and Mary (Nye) Herrick. He worked on the family farm as a child, before going to work in a broadcloth factory at the age of 15. Interested in becoming a doctor, he initially studied with a physician for two years in Newburg, NY, before devoting himself to the ministry. He was ordained a deacon of the Episcopal Church on June 16, 1847, and a priest in 1848. He became the rector of St. James' parish in Woodstock, VT, until 1861, when he and his family moved to Northfield, NH, to Trinity Church. He oversaw the building of a new church in Tilton, which was opened on Easter 1873.

Marcellus Herrick married Hannah Andrews Putnam on June 4, 1844 in Proctorsville, VT. She was born on July 16, 1817 in Newbury, NH, the daughter of Israel and Hannah (Andrews) Putnam. Marcellus and Hannah had three children: Elizabeth “Lizzie” Adelaide (1851-1940), Charles Putnam (1854-1925), and Francis Hobart (1858-1940). Marcellus died at Northfield, NH, on November 30, 1875; Hannah died there on November 12, 1899.

Elizabeth “Lizzie” Adelaide Herrick was born on July 20, 1851 in Woodstock, VT, to Rev. Marcellus Aurelius and Hannah Andrews (Putnam) Herrick. She became a drawing teacher by 1880 and was living with the family in Northfield, NH. She later taught at schools in Vermont and Massachusetts, including the Saint Agnes’ Hall in Bellows Falls, VT, and the North Bennet Street Industrial School in Boston, MA. Elizabeth Herrick died on August 17, 1940 and is buried in Tilton, NH.

Francis Hobart Herrick was born in Woodstock, VT, on November 19, 1858 to Rev. Marcellus Aurelius and Hannah Andrews (Putnam) Herrick. He attended St. Paul’s School in Concord, NH, before graduating from Dartmouth College in 1881. He received his Ph.D. from Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, MD, in 1888. After graduating, Francis then became an instructor of biology at Adelbert College in Cleveland, OH, being appointed head of the department in 1891.

Actively involved in research, Francis published such papers as the “Natural History of the American Lobster” and “The American Eagle on the Shores of Lake Erie,” as well as a two-volume biography of John James Audubon titled “Audubon the Naturalist: A History of his Life and Time” in 1917. He was also a member of a number of organizations, including the American Association for the Advancement of Science, the American Ornithologists’ Union, and the American Society of Zoologists. He became professor emeritus of Adelbert College in 1929.

Francis Herrick married Josephine Herkomer on June 24, 1897 in Cuyahoga County, OH, and together they had two children: Agnes Elizabeth (1898- ) and Francis Herkomer (1900-1996). Francis Sr. died in Cleveland on September 11, 1940. Josephine died in Alameda County, CA, on August 30, 1952.

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

The bulk of the Herrick Family Papers, 1829, 1863-1939, consists of letters to Francis Hobart Herrick from his mother Hannah and his sister Lizzie [Elizabeth], as well as a few letters from his father Reverend Marcellus and brother Charles. The letters from this close-knit family detail daily life to Francis while he is at St. Paul’s School, Dartmouth College, the Vermont Episcopal Institute, and John Hopkins University. Most of the letters are written from Tilton, NH, though census data states the family lived in Northfield, NH.

Throughout the letters, Francis’ mother and sister often remark on how much they miss him and love him. In a letter from October 23, 1873, as Francis is at St. Paul’s School in Concord, Lizzie writes, “I would rather be poor and have you than have all the money in the world and no dear brother Frank.” She goes on to send him “1000000 double kisses 500 bear hugs and a whole heartful of love. Cold days just put one of the hugs inside your jacket and two or 3 kisses on the end of your nose and you will keep warm.”

The letters from his family also provide updates on the church, their friends, and their father's work, as well as inquiries about Francis' school, relaying updates they have heard from his teachers at St. Paul's School. After the death of his father in 1875, the letters also contain reminiscences of Marcellus around holidays and the anniversary of his death. Many local illnesses and deaths are also touched upon in their letters.

Starting in 1882, Lizzie's letters describe schools she is teaching at, including Saint Agnes' Hall in Bellows Falls, VT; an art school in Boston, MA; and a brief note on her work at the North Bennet Street Industrial School. Only one letter in this collection is from Francis. Dated September 6, 1888, he writes from Adelbert College in Cleveland, OH, writing about his journey to Cleveland, his living arrangements, and life as a teacher there.

The later correspondence is predominately from Lizzie to Francis and his wife, Josephine, during her travels to London in 1897, and France and Italy in 1898. She spends time with Josephine's family in London, telling of her travel from home to London and her trips to museums and art galleries, including that of Josephine's brother, Herman Gustave Herkomer. There are a few letters from Josephine to Francis during this time, while he is away visiting his mother.

Other papers in this collection consist of Elizabeth Herrick's will, a short biography of Francis Herrick, an appointment of Israel Putnam as Justice of the Peace, and numerous family photographs, including a photograph album and identified portraits. Consisting of family photographs, the album contains images of children, adults, and numerous photographs of pets (cats, dogs) and farm animals (horses, cows, and geese). Some events are included, as well as images of gardens and an unidentified family member in military uniform. Only three images are dated: 1908, 1913, and 1914. The only identified image in the album is that of a dog named Douglas. Also included is one image of a man and woman in front of the Great Sphinx and a pyramid in Egypt.

### **Arrangement:**

The materials in this collection are arranged alphabetically by type, then chronologically.

## **Contents List**

### **Box 1**

|           |   |
|-----------|---|
| Folder 1  | Correspondence, 1872-1873               |
| Folder 2  | Correspondence, 1874-1875               |
| Folder 3  | Correspondence, 1877-1881               |
| Folder 4  | Correspondence, 1882-1884               |
| Folder 5  | Correspondence, 1885                    |
| Folder 6  | Correspondence, 1886-1888               |
| Folder 7  | Correspondence, 1897                    |
| Folder 8  | Correspondence, 1898                    |
| Folder 9  | Correspondence, 1905, 1934, 1938        |
| Folder 10 | Envelopes, 1877-1938, undated           |
| Folder 11 | Herrick, Elizabeth A. will, 1939        |
| Folder 12 | Herrick, Francis Hobart biography, 1930 |

Folders 13-14 Photograph album, 1908-1914, undated  
Folder 15 Photographs: Herrick family, 1871-1890, undated  
Charles Putnam Herrick  
Elizabeth Adelaide Herrick  
Francis Hobart Herrick  
Hannah Andrews (Putnam) Herrick  
Folder 16 Photographs: Herrick family, 1863-1907, undated  
Marcellus Aurelius Herrick  
Martha Herrick  
Folder 17 Photographs: miscellaneous, 1931, undated  
Group of men outside Dartmouth Hall  
Tilton, NH

**Separated Materials:**

The following document was moved to the Broadside Collection – Appointments – Justice of the Peace:

Appointment of Israel Putnam as Justice of the Peace, 1829

**Subject Terms**

**People:**

Herrick family  
Herrick, Charles Putnam, 1854-1925  
Herrick, Elizabeth Adelaide, 1851-1940  
Herrick, Francis Hobart, 1858-1940  
Herrick, Hannah Andrews, 1817-1899  
Herrick, Josephine, 1860-1952  
Herrick, Marcellus Aurelius, 1822-1875  
Herrick, Martha, 1888-1971

**Organizations:**

Adelbert College  
Dartmouth College  
Johns Hopkins University  
North Bennet Street Industrial School (Boston, Mass.)  
St. Paul's School (Concord, N.H.)  
Vermont Episcopal Institute

**Subjects:**

Art  
Biography  
Cats  
Correspondence  
Death  
Dogs  
Education  
Families  
Photographs

Religion  
Travel  
Wills

**Locations:**

Baltimore, MD  
Boston, MA  
Burlington, VT  
Cleveland, OH  
Concord, NH  
Egypt  
Italy  
London, England  
Northfield, NH  
Paris, France  
Tilton, NH

**Occupations:**

Artists  
Clergy  
Soldiers  
Teachers

**Related Materials**

Library

Herrick, Francis Hobart. *Audubon the Naturalist: A History of His Life and Time*. New York: D. Appleton and Company, 1917. Call number: 920 A9164