

Guide to the William S. Morrill Papers, 1843-1918

Administrative Information

Title and Dates:

William S. Morrill Papers, 1843-1918

Repository:

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

Collection Number:

2000.016

Author of Finding Aid:

Mylynda Gill; updated by Korrena Cowing

Creator:

Morrill, William S., 1821-1905

Language:

The materials in this collection are in English.

Extent:

1 box ; 0.21 linear feet

Abstract:

The William S. Morrill Papers consist of diaries, records, a handwritten memoir, and miscellaneous papers, such as writings and receipts related to Reverend William S. Morrill and his son, William S. Morrill Jr. This collection dates from 1843 to 1918.

Access and Use

Acquisition Information and Provenance:

The William S. Morrill Papers were a gift of the great-grandchildren of Rev. W. S. Morrill on May 17, 2000.

Processing Information:

This collection was processed by an unknown person at an unknown date, reprocessed by Mylynda Gill in April 2023, and finalized by Korrena Cowing in August 2023. The finding aid was written by Mylynda Gill in April 2023 and updated by Korrena Cowing in August 2023. 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:

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, William S. Morrill Papers, 2000.016. New Hampshire Historical Society, Concord, NH. Date accessed.

Collection Overview

Biographical Information:

William Seward Morrill was born on January 28, 1821 to Stephen (1798-1852) and Susan (Dean) Morrill (1801-1873) in Springfield, NH. He married Minerva True Dickerson (1825-1875) on May 23, 1844. Their son, Alva H. Morrill (1848-1922), followed his father's footsteps into the clergy.

William S. Morrill was ordained on July 4, 1844. Throughout his career, he served many towns in New Hampshire, including Grafton, Danbury, Stewartstown, Columbia, Clarksville, Pittsburg, Marlow, Webster, West Salisbury, Tuftonboro, and West Andover. He stayed in Marlow from 1862 to 1866, and represented the town of Marlow in the state legislature in 1865 and 1866. Morrill then purchased a farm in South Danbury, which he worked while serving a number of churches in the area.

His first wife, Minerva, died on March 29, 1875, and he married Eliza J. Mason (1845-1936) in January 1878. They had a son named William Sewell Morrill (1879-1921). In 1903, they moved to Franklin, NH. Reverend William S. Morrill died on September 27, 1905 in Franklin.

Collection Scope and Content Note:

The William S. Morrill Papers consist of diaries, records, a handwritten memoir, and miscellaneous papers, such as writings and receipts, related to Reverend William S. Morrill and his son, William S. Morrill Jr. The materials in this collection date from 1843 to 1918. A volume of funerals attended by Reverend Morrill is dated 1843 to 1881 and covers a number of towns in New Hampshire, as well as a few in Vermont. These include: Clarksville, Colebrook, Columbia, Danbury, Grafton, Marlow, Pittsburg, Springfield, Stewartstown, and Wilmot, NH; and Canaan, VT. A short list of baptisms is included, dating from 1845 to 1879.

An autobiography of Reverend William S. Morrill covers from his birth on January 28, 1821 to November 2, 1868. This volume provides details of his life, travels, where he was living, and his service as minister, noting yearly totals for preaching, funerals, baptisms, and marriages, as well as payments and expenses. This volume also provides comments on the Civil War, noting his brother True Merrill died near New Orleans in 1863, and at the end of 1864, he provides a summary of the war and political situation. A transcription of this volume is available in the library. See: *Rev. William S. Morrill: The Life of a New Hampshire Clergyman*, 920 M874m.

There are three diaries of Reverend William S. Morrill, which cover the period 1879 to 1881, 1886 to 1887, and 1900 to 1902. This last diary lists Morrill as living in Danbury, NH, and all the diaries provide brief entries on daily activities, including the weather, farm work, travel to Springfield and Andover, paying bills, going to the post office, and attending church and town meetings. There are also some entries on funerals he attended. The final entry, dated 1902, provides a brief note on his service in the ministry, stating he had attended more than five hundred funerals and married one hundred and forty couples.

Other items in this collection include a diary transcription titled “William S. Morrill, Diaries, Selections, 1899-1920,” however, the pages included only contain selections from 1899 to 1903. This transcription is for William S. Morrill Jr., son to Reverend William S. Morrill. There is also a page of a journal titled *The Congregationalist and Advance* from 1918 and letterhead from the New Hampshire House of Representatives.

Arrangement:

This collection was arranged first by who the materials belonged to and then by type.

Contents List

Box 1

- Folder 1 Reverend William S. Morrill autobiography, undated
- Folder 2 Reverend William S. Morrill diaries, 1879-1881, 1886-1887, 1900-1902
- Folder 3 Reverend William S. Morrill obituary, 1905
- Folder 4 Reverend William S. Morrill papers, 1864, 1866, 1893, undated
- Folder 5 Reverend William S. Morrill records of baptisms and funerals, 1843-1881

Folder 6 William S. Morrill Jr. transcription of diaries, selections, 1899-1903
Folder 7 *The Congregationalist and Advance*, pages 45-46, 1918 January 10

Subject Terms

People:

Morrill, William S., 1821-1905
Morrill, William S., 1879-1921

Organizations:

New Hampshire. General Court. House of Representatives

Subjects:

Autobiography
Baptism
Diaries
Farm life
Funeral rites and ceremonies
Politics and government
Religion
United States--History--Civil War, 1861-1865

Places:

Canaan, VT
Clarksville, NH
Colebrook, NH
Columbia, NH
Danbury, NH
Grafton, NH
Marlow, NH
Pittsburg, NH
Springfield, NH
Stewartstown, NH
Wilmot, NH

Occupations:

Clergy
Farmers
Politicians

Related Materials

Library

Morrill, William S. *Rev. William S. Morrill: The Life of a New Hampshire Clergyman ; covering the years 1821 to 1868*. Ashland, OR: Jim Martin, 2000. Call number: 920 M874m