



Guide to the Cate Family (of Wolfeboro, NH) Papers, 1831-1917

Administrative Information

Title and Dates:

Cate Family Papers, 1831-1917

Repository:

New Hampshire Historical Society

30 Park Street

Concord, NH 03301

603-228-6688

<http://www.nhhistory.org/>

Collection Number:

M 1981.110

Author of Finding Aid:

Unknown. Finding aid reformatted and rewritten by Sandra L. Wheeler in 2014.

Creator:

Cate Family

Language:

The materials in this collection are in English.

Extent:

2 boxes, 24 folders; includes two diaries.

Abstract:

The Cate Family Papers, 1831-1917, contain correspondence, diaries, and notes on medical records related to the Cate – Morrison Family of Wolfeborough, NH.

Access and Use

Acquisition Information and Provenance:

Gift of Lucia Cate in April, 1881.

Processing Information:

Processed and finding aid written by an unknown person at an unknown date; finding aid rewritten and formatted by Sandra L. Wheeler in March, 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:

The papers are in archival folders in two archival 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:

Cate Family Papers, M 1981.110. New Hampshire Historical Society, Concord, NH. Date accessed.

Collection Overview

Biographical Information:

Moses T. Cate (1817-1898) was born in Ossipee, NH, and lived in Wolfeboro, NH. Her served in the Civil War from September 1864 to June 1865 as First Lieutenant and Quartermaster in the 18th New Hampshire Volunteers and was a successful trader and manufacturer of shoes at the Lake Boot & Shoe Co. He was a choir master, superintendent of schools, and lectured on music teaching. He married Mary Ann Morrison (1818-1907) and they had three boys: George Herbert, Edward F. and Arthur T.

The Reverend George Herbert Cate was the son of Moses and Mary Ann and went by his middle name, Herbert. A minister, his first parish in 1879 was the First Congregational Church in Essex, CT. He married Lois C. Read, a musician. They had a son, Sheridan (“Sherry”), named after his uncle, Sheridan P. Read.

Dr. John Morrison (1790-1878), Moses T. Cates father-in-law, was a physician in Alton, NH. He had two daughters, Mary Ann and Ada L. Morrison.

Collection Scope and Content Note:

Moses T. Cate’s correspondence concerns his music teaching. There are two letters from Lowell Mason and two printed items from the Boston Academy of Music. His love letters to his future wife, Mary Ann, are dramatic but have little substantive content. There are a few letters to him during the time he was away during the Civil war: one from his twelve year old son, one from his brother, one from Charles H. Hill, and one from Martha Curtise with some political content. His Civil War letters are full of religious and ‘philosophical’ ramblings and with little substantive content, although he mentions prices of goods in Virginia, a diphtheria death, loneliness and seldom seeing ‘white women.’ He gives advice to his wife and son on the farm and speculates on when he will get home. There are letters in 1871 to his three sons, Edward, Arthur and George.

Mary Ann Morrison Cate’s diaries are filled with daily activities such as making applesauce, quilting, washing, weaving, spinning, sewing, rug making and attending religious meetings. On June 11, 1840, she describes her wedding day. Her correspondence includes such topics as spinning and carding, health, farming activities. She describes a meal (“tapioca and fried beef steak, raised bread, pumpkin and apple pie”) as well as drying apples, making cheeses, trips to Winnipisseogue Lake and mountains near Dartmouth and in Vermont. She frequently writes her sister, Ada, regarding family matters.

George Herbert Cate wrote and received letters from his brother while he was in school. They write about health, school, teachers and teaching. George writes from Germany and mentions Miss (Lois) Read, who is there studying music. There are love letters to her from Italy, Germany, Egypt and France in 1881, some with descriptions of what he is seeing. There are also letters regarding his looking for a parish in Michigan in 1888.

Lois Read Cate’s folder contains cards for parlor concerts and piano recitals by her in 1889. A newspaper clipping reveals that she played piano while her husband, The Reverend George H. Cate, lectured on Chopin. There are two long letters from her sister, Anne G.N. Read, in London in 1912 and 1913 in which she relates details of the death of Sheridan P. Read, Lois’s brother, and the ill health of their son, John. Sheridan P. Read

started as a publisher in Wolfeboro, NH, publishing his work, Read's HUB Code. He writes of problems with publication and details why the cost of living in Wolfeboro is high. He has constant health problems. Most of his letters are written on proof sheets for his code.

Dr. John Morrison writes Joshua Varney in 1831 about a medical course in Hanover and seeing Dr. Mussy operate. His manuscript notes of Dartmouth College lectures on Chemistry, Anatomy and Surgery are in Box 2, folder 1. The remaining letters are to his daughter, Mary Ann, re her schooling, family, health and other activities, and his medical practice. His sister adds a note on a letter of May 18, 1837, about an Irish family of boarders, 36 family members in shanties in their pasture.

Jane Betsy Morrison's diary is from November, 1836 to June, 1838. She writes of attending singing school, working at housework, the weather, visits, funerals, and religious thoughts.

Arrangement:

Each family member's materials are together and arranged chronologically. Box one contains Cate and Read family papers and Box two those of the Morrison family.

Contents List

Box 1: Cate/Read families

Moses T. Cate

Folder 1: Correspondence, 1836-1846 (16 items)

Folder 2: Correspondence, 1848-1851 (10 items)

Folder 3: Correspondence, 1861-1894 (14 items)

Folder 4: Civil War letters, 1864-May, 1865 (3 items)

Mary Ann Morrison Cate

Folder 5A: Early papers (5 items)

Folder 5B: Diaries, 1836-1841, 1861 (5 items)

Folder 6: Correspondence, 1831-1839 (9 items)

Folder 7: Correspondence, 1846-1907 (12 items)

George Herbert and Lois Read Cate

Folder 8: GHC and brother, 1865-1878 (5 items)

Folder 9: GHC to LRC, 1881-1888 (15 items)

Folder 10: GHC correspondence, 1881-1911 (3 items)

Folder 11: GHC to and from LRC, 1911-1913 (19 items)

Sheridan 'Sherry' Cate
Folder 12: Correspondence, 1916-1917 (19 items)

Olivia Cate
Folder 13: Correspondence, 1911-1917 (6 items)

Sheridan P. Read
Folders 14-15: Correspondence, 1858-1912 (19 items)

Box 2: Morrison Family

Dr. John Morrison
Folder 1: Notes of medical lectures at Dartmouth College given by Dr. Nathan Smith of
London, 1807
Folder 2: Correspondence, 1831-1834

Jane Betsy Morrison
Folder 3: Diary, 1836 (1 item)

Morrison Family
Folder 4: Family correspondence, 1833-1855 (5 items)
Folder 5: Cousin Lois in Bethel, VT to Aunt Lucia, 1853 (4 items)
Folder 6: To Louise from Kate Thornton in IL, 1862 (2 items)
Folder 7: Frances McKay to Lois, 1876-1881 (24 items)
Folder 8: Cate/Morrison/Read/Smith Correspondence (12 items)
Folder 9: Memoranda and accounts (9 items)

Subject Terms

People:

Cate, George Herbert
Cate, Lois Read
Cate, Mary Ann Morrison, 1818-1907
Cate, Moses T., 1817-1898
Cate, Olivia
Cate, Sheridan
Mason, Lowell
Morrison, Jane Betsy
Morrison, John, 1790-1878
Read, Sheridan P.

Organizations:

United States – History – Civil War

United States – History – Civil War – 18th NH Volunteers

Subjects:

Farm life
Immigrants – Irish
Music
Music – Religious
Travel - Europe
Women – Diaries
Women - Music

Locations:

Egypt
France
Italy
Germany
Wolfeboro, NH

Occupations:

Ministers
Physicians
Publishers