

Guide to the Theodore James Holmes Papers

MS 831



compiled by Marguerite S. Witkop

September 1978

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Collection Overview

REPOSITORY: Manuscripts and Archives
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CALL NUMBER: MS 831

CREATOR: Holmes, Theodore James, 1833-1906

TITLE: Theodore James Holmes papers

DATES: 1846-1910

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: 0.5 linear feet

LANGUAGE: English

SUMMARY: The most significant part of the papers consists of the correspondence of Holmes and his wife, Ellen Holmes, between 1863 and 1865 during his service as chaplain in the 1st Connecticut Cavalry. Also in the papers are correspondence, minutes of meetings and resolutions relating to church affairs, 1859-1893.

ONLINE FINDING AID: To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/mssa.ms.0831>

Requesting Instructions

To request items from this collection for use in the Manuscripts and Archives reading room, please use the request links in the HTML version of this finding aid, available at <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/mssa.ms.0831>.

To order reproductions from this collection, please go to http://www.library.yale.edu/mssa/ifr_copy_order.html. The information you will need to submit an order includes: the collection call number, collection title, series or accession number, box number, and folder number or name.

Key to the container abbreviations used in the PDF finding aid:

b. box
f. folder

Administrative Information

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Gift of Margaret Owen, 1978.

Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

Conditions Governing Use

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Preferred Citation

Theodore James Holmes Papers. Manuscripts and Archives, Yale University Library.

Biographical / Historical

Theodore James Holmes was born in Utica, New York, April 26, 1833, the son of Sylvanus and Elizabeth Hoyt Holmes. He graduated from Yale College in 1853, taught for three years in the Asylum for the Deaf and Dumb in Hartford, and then entered Union Theological Seminary. After graduation in 1859 he went to a mission church in Richmond, Vermont, and in 1861 was called to the Congregational Church in East Hartford, Connecticut. In the same year he married Ellen Louisa Goldsmith, who was born in Little Compton, Rhode Island, December 26, 1841, the daughter of Reverend Alfred and Sarah Merrill Goldsmith. In 1863 Theodore was granted a leave of absence to enlist in the Union forces and was commissioned Chaplain in the 1st Connecticut Cavalry and served until his resignation in 1865. He returned to East Hartford where he remained until 1873. He later held pastorates in Brooklyn, Baltimore, Newton Center, Hopkinton, Massachusetts, and finally returned to Richmond, Vermont for the last few years of his active ministry. He died in Concord, New Hampshire in 1906. (Margaret Owen, donor, 1978).

Scope and Contents

Most of the letters included in the papers were written by Theodore to his wife, a few by her to her parents. The plan apparently was to make a formal Journal to cover his war experiences. He wrote frequently and fully to Ellen and she copied the letters, slightly edited, into the Journal. The existing letters, however, cover only a part of the war period; gaps in the account are filled by entries from the Journal.

The Alfred mentioned by Ellen was her younger brother. Theodore mentions his sister Julia, and his brothers Louis, Charlie, and Frank. The Olmsteds in East Hartford were life-long friends. The word "contraband" refers to escaped slaves. (Margaret Owen, 1978).

Collection Contents

b. 1, f. 1	Civil War correspondence of TJH and of his wife Ellen Louisa Goldsmith Holmes	1863 November 24-1864 June 6
b. 1, f. 2	Civil War correspondence of TJH and of his wife Ellen Louisa Goldsmith Holmes	1864 July 22-1865 February 15
b. 1, f. 3	Civil War journal with correspondence and military orders bound in	1864-1865
b. 1, f. 4	Typescript of the journal and of the letters of TJH and of his wife Ellen Holmes A copy of this material is available in digital form from Manuscripts and Archives. Contact Manuscripts and Archives at beinecke.library@yale.edu to request access to the digital copy.	1863-1865
b. 1, f. 5	Civil War memorabilia (See also: MG Common folio, No. 19)	1864, 1866, 1906, undated
b. 1, f. 6	Church correspondence	1861-1902
b. 1, f. 7	Church minutes of meetings, resolutions	1859-1893, undated
b. 1, f. 8	Posthumous tributes	1906, 1910, undated
b. 1, f. 9	Clippings	1864, 1869, undated
b. 1, f. 10	Photographs (2) of TJH	undated
b. 1, f. 11	Student memorabilia	1846-1847, undated
	Diplomas: Yale BA 1853, Yale MA 1856, Union Theological Seminary 1859	
b. 1, f. 12	Printed material: <i>First Congregational Church, East Hartford, Conn., 1702-1902</i>	1902
b. 1, f. 13	Printed material: <i>The Eclectic Club of Baltimore: A Historical Sketch</i> , by Oliver Huckel	1905
b. 2	Seminary diploma, Yale diploma	1859

Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

Subjects

Clergy
Military chaplains
Religion

Geographic Names

United States -- History -- Civil War, 1861-1865

Genres / Formats

Diaries

Names

Holmes, Ellen Louise Goldsmith, b. 1841
Holmes, Theodore James, 1833-1906

Corporate Body

United States. Army. Connecticut Cavalry
Regiment, 1st (1861-1865)