



BHC-MSS 0032  
Guide to the Papers of Reverend Samuel Orcutt  
By Meg Rinn  
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**Descriptive Summary**

**Creator:** Reverend Samuel Orcutt

**Title:** Papers of Reverend Samuel Orcutt

**Dates:** 1844-1893

**Quantity:** 3 manuscript boxes

**Abstract:** One of the greatest resources for the Bridgeport History Center is the work of Reverend Samuel Orcutt, who wrote one of the first major histories of Bridgeport. Within his papers are correspondence as well as the research notes he used in creating this important book.

**Language:** English

**Repository:** Bridgeport History Center

**Biographical History**

Reverend Samuel Orcutt was born sometime around 1824 to James Orcutt and Salina Crosby in Albany, New York. Orcutt is best known for his extensive history of Bridgeport and outlying areas, *Bridgeport and Vicinity*, a key text that the Bridgeport History Center goes back to again and again.

Orcutt became a minister in the Methodist Episcopal Church, and he preached in New York City and Long Island. A freak train accident ended his life in 1893.

Other works Orcutt wrote include histories of Wolcott, Torrington, New Milford, Derby, and the Native Americans of the Housatonic Valley.

**Scope and Content Note**

Most of the material within the papers of Reverend Orcutt relate to his work on the histories of Bridgeport and Stratford, although most of the notes are undated. They include gravestone transcriptions, genealogical notes, and other general historical notes that he used in his later works. There are also letters, mostly from the 1870s onwards.

**Arrangement note:**

The collection is arranged into three series – the first relates to Orcutt’s life and primarily contains correspondence. Series II focuses on his general research for the various histories he wrote. The third series is dedicated to the genealogy of the Tomlinson family, due to the extent of material.

**Administrative information:**

**Provenance:** Unknown

**Preferred Citation:**

Papers of Reverend Samuel Orcutt (BHC-MSS 0032), Bridgeport History Center.

## **Names and Subject Tracings**

### *Personal Names*

Orcutt, Samuel (1824-1893)

### *Subject tracings*

Bridgeport, Conn.

Stratford, Conn.

## **Detailed box and folder listing**

### **Series I Correspondence and life information**

#### Box 1

1. Letters, 1844
2. Letters, 1875
3. Letters, 1877
4. Letters, 1878
5. Letters, 1879 1 of 2
6. Letters, 1879 2 of 2
7. Letters, 1880
8. Letters, 1881
9. Letters, 1882
10. Letters, 1883
11. Letters, 1884
12. Letters, 188 1 of 2
13. Letters, 1885 2 of 2
14. Letters, 1886
15. Letters, 1887-1888
16. Letters, 1889-1890

#### Box 2

1. Letters, 1892
2. Letters, 1892
3. Letters, undated
4. Letters from his family after his death, 1893

### **Series II General Research**

5. Accounts, 1880s
6. Commission from American Home Mission, 1874
7. Naugatuck Railroad Passes, 1879-1880
8. Obituary clippings, February 1893
9. Genealogy notes, Stratford, undated
10. Genealogy notes, Tomlinson and Thompson families, undated

11. Genealogy notes, undated
12. Genealogy notes, undated
13. Genealogy notes, undated
14. Other historical notes, undated
15. Gravestone transcriptions, undated
16. History of Stratford and Bridgeport printing
17. Sermons and religion notes, undated
18. Engravings, undated
19. Portraits of Orcut, undated
20. Gravestone of Orcutt, after 1893

### Series III, Tomlinson Genealogy

21. Tomlinson genealogy 1 of 3, undated
22. Tomlinson genealogy 2 of 3, undated
23. Tomlinson genealogy 3 of 3, undated

### Box 3

1. Tomlinson genealogy correspondence, 1887
2. Tomlinson genealogy correspondence, 1890
3. Tomlinson genealogy correspondence, 1890
4. Tomlinson genealogy correspondence, 1891
5. Tomlinson genealogy , notes, undated
6. Tomlinson genealogy , notes, undated
7. Notes on Tomlinson family
8. Tomlinson genealogy , 2<sup>nd</sup> rough draft
9. Tomlinson genealogy , 3<sup>rd</sup> rough draft
10. Tomlinson genealogy , printed copy, uncut
11. Tomlinson genealogy , printed copy, cut