Guide to the Papers of Reverend Samuel Orcutt
By Meg Rinn
December 2018

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, 1881 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, 2nd rough draft
9. Tomlinson genealogy, 3rd rough draft
10. Tomlinson genealogy, printed copy, uncut
11. Tomlinson genealogy, printed copy, cut