



BHC-MSS 0217

Guide to the Papers of the Hitchcock and Emerson Families

by Meg Rinn

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Descriptive Summary

Creator: Hitchcock family, Emerson family

Title: Papers of the Hitchcock and Emerson Families

Dates: 1870-1982

Quantity: 2 ½ manuscript boxes

Abstract: Andrew

Language: English

Repository: Bridgeport History Center

Biographical History:

The branch of the Hitchcock family represented in this collection descends from Edward and Orra White Hitchcock. Based in Amherst, Mass. the two were major figures in the mid-1800s on the campus of Amherst College. Edward was a theologian and geologist whose diverse positions included that of professor and president at the college as well as the state geologist for Massachusetts. Orra originally taught at Deerfield Academy and was an accomplished artist, often illustrating her husband's books on the natural sciences. Their papers reside at Amherst College, and are especially important given the outsized role they had on the revitalization and development of the school in the 19th Century.

Together, Edward and Orra had eight children, including Edward "Old Doc" Hitchcock. The couple's eldest son, he too would go on to serve as a professor at Amherst, focusing on hygiene and physical education. He was especially well liked on campus due to his personality, and made a point to collect the colleges' history in addition to his other duties including teaching and serving as the college's doctor. He married his wife, Mary L. Judson, in 1853. Mary brought the Judson family, another old family, into the mix. She and Edward had ten children. The donor of the collection, Margaret Emerson, was the granddaughter of Mary and Edward.

Margaret herself was a graduate of Smith College and Columbia University, although much of her own work was focused on Amherst. The finding aid for her papers at Amherst notes that she did much work in the early archives at Amherst, not unlike her grandfather.

Henry Seelye Emerson, Margaret's husband, was a biology professor at Amherst. His material is briefly represented in the collection.

Bibliography

Amherst College, "Edward and Orra Hitchcock." Accessed 26 March, 2022

<https://www.amherst.edu/library/archives/holdings/hitchcock>

Edward (AC 1849) and Mary Judson Hitchcock Family Papers (MA.00002), Amherst College Archives and Special Collections

Edward and Orra White Hitchcock Papers (MA.00027), Amherst College Archives and Special Collections

Margaret Hitchcock Emerson Papers (MA.01006), Amherst College Archives and Special Collections

Scope and Content note:

Material mostly contains genealogical research on the Hitchcock and Emerson families, with some work into the Seelye and Judson families as well. Photographs are also numerous, although they mostly relate to the Hitchcock family. The genealogical research is useful for the Connecticut branches of these families.

Arrangement note:

Collection is divided into four series. The first is genealogy research, reflecting an original order of several folders containing groups of genealogy research. Series II contains material related to the Hitchcock family, mostly genealogy based and some clippings. Photographs are placed at the end of the series. Series III relates to the Emerson family, mostly Henry Emerson's publications and obituary. Series IV contains materials on more distant families such as the Judsons and Seelyes and are all photographs.

Administrative information:

Provenance: 1985.04, gift of Margaret Randolph Hitchcock Emerson

Preferred Citation:

Papers of the Hitchcock and Emerson Families (BHC-MSS 0217), Bridgeport History Center, Bridgeport Public Library.

See Also

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Margaret Hitchcock Emerson Papers (MA.01006), Amherst College Archives and Special Collections

Names and Subject Tracings

Personal names

Corporate names
Amherst College

Subject tracings
Emerson family

Genealogy
Hitchcock family
Judson family

Detailed box/folder listing

Box 1

Series I, Genealogy research

1. Key and charts, undated
2. Judson genealogy, undated
3. Judson, Curtis, and Trubee genealogies, undated
4. Bassete, Baem, Hutchinson, and Williams genealogy, undated
5. Lewis genealogy, undated
6. Pixlee Judson genealogy, undated

Series II, Hitchcock family

7. Genealogy notes and narratives, undated
8. Clippings, obituaries, and announcements from inside pages of Hitchcock genealogy, 1909-1925, undated
9. Genealogy notes and correspondence, Horner article, 1906-1931
10. Genealogy notes and correspondence, 1890-1972
11. Clippings about Hitchcock family, undated
12. Other notes and correspondence, 1901-1939
13. Photographs, John Sawyer Hitchcock, 1870s-1890s
14. Photographs, Mary L. and Edward Hitchcock, undated
15. Photographs, John Hitchcock, brother of Margaret Hitchcock Emerson, 1934, undated

Box 2

1. Photographs, Hitchcock family, 1870s-1930s
2. Photographs, Hitchcock homes and buildings, undated
3. Photographs, Hitchcock negatives, 1870s-1930s
4. Photographs, Hitchcock negatives, undated
5. Glass plate negatives, undated

Series III, Emerson family

6. Correspondence to Mrs. B.K. Emerson, 1938
7. Henry Emerson Diploma, Awards. 1939, 1982
8. Henry Emerson publications, 1940-1946
9. Henry Emerson, publications, 1940-1946
10. Obituary, Henry Emerson, 1947
11. Piety and intellect at Amherst College dedicated to Peggy Hitchcock Emerson, 1946

Box 3

1. Photographs, Emerson family, undated

Series IV, Other families

2. Photographs, Clarke, Seelye, and other families, 1880s-1946
3. Photographs, Judson family, 1880-1910s
4. Photographs, Judson and Hitchcock family homes, 1880s-1910s
5. Photographs, Buildings, undated