

Guide to the Franklin Elmer Hamilton Papers 1855-1934



DREW

Franklin Elmer Ellsworth Hamilton Papers

1855-1934

1.81 cubic feet

drew.ms.2388

The purpose of this finding aid is to help you understand the nature of this collection and to assist you in the retrieval of material from this collection. The following pages contain a brief biographical history of the person, or persons, who created or collected these papers; followed by a general description of the collection in the scope and content note. If more detailed information is warranted then series descriptions also appear.

The container listing appears last and is the listing of material in each box, or container, of this collection. To request material you need to turn to the container listing section. It is essentially a listing of file folders, or artifact items, in the collection. Each folder, or item, has a call number associated with it. Each folder also lists the inclusive dates of the material in the folder. On the material request form list both the call number and the folder, or item, title. Use a different line for each folder, or item, requested. When your request sheet is complete, or full, bring it to the archivist and the material will be retrieved.

Biographical Note

Franklin Elmer Ellsworth Hamilton (1866-1918), Methodist Episcopal Church minister and bishop, spent many years of his life serving in a pastoral capacity in the state of Massachusetts. He was born in Pleasant Valley, Ohio, on August 9, 1866. He graduated from Harvard University in 1887. Hamilton then served as a professor of Latin and Greek at Chattanooga University from 1887-1888. He joined the New England Conference in 1891 and served as pastor in Newtonville, Massachusetts for five years. In 1892, Hamilton graduated from the Boston University School of Theology. At the end of his five years in Newtonville, he then carried on his education for approximately three years in post-graduate study in both Berlin and Paris. He then returned to the United States and received his doctorate in philosophy at Boston University in 1899 in the field of Speculative Philosophy. Hamilton returned to ministry by serving as pastor of the First Methodist Episcopal Church of Boston from 1899 to 1907. From 1905 to 1906, however, he made a trip around the world to study missions and comparative religions. In 1908, he became chancellor of the American University at Washington, and served in that capacity until he was elected bishop in 1916 and was assigned to the Pittsburgh area. He died on May 5, 1918 at Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

Scope Note

This collection contains materials related to the life of Franklin Elmer Ellsworth Hamilton and his brother, John William Hamilton. Part of the collection specifically pertaining to Franklin involves two large scrapbooks containing a great diversity of material. The first of these scrapbooks includes newspaper clippings of deceased associates and important societal figures. Other records include letters, certificates from being accepted to various prestigious groups, photos, pictures, and articles from his time spent in Germany and France, and an assortment of songs of primarily a religious, patriotic, or military nature. The second of these scrapbooks contains material that is predominantly college related. Another part of this collection involves three smaller scrapbooks. The first entitled Scrap Book contains random memorabilia of mostly college or church related material. The second entitled In Memoriam Franklin Elmer Ellsworth Hamilton contains some biographical information after his death. The third of these contains information concerning the impact of his death on annual meetings. There are many other materials pertaining to his death in this collection, including letters between his wife and other individuals concerning biographical information and tributes in newspapers, such as Zion's Herald and The Christian Advocate, New York. Another newspaper article focuses on his attendance at a conference while the other letters written to him include asking him to make donations or purchase lecture tickets. His letters written to others often involve congratulations, recommendations, or seeking employment. This collection also contains documents including a photograph of him, his philosophy doctorate, two certificates acknowledging both his appointment and reappointment as a Justice of the Peace, and his commencement



thesis from Boston University entitled *The Results of the Crusades*. The collection also contains three pages of general biographical information.

The section of the collection specifically pertaining to John William Hamilton contains mostly letters. These letters concern general cordial greetings, expressions of gratitude, apologies, requests for both his preaching at another congregation and doing an opening prayer at a senate meeting, financially related material, subscriptions, and employment acknowledgement. There are also two letters from Herbert Hoover concerning the declining of a request for his membership and an exchange concerning the death of an ambassador. There are two sermons in this part of the collection. The first of these sermons is given as a memorial for Charles Russell Lowell. The second sermon is a more general sermon entitled "Going Forward" by Going Backward. There are two copies of a pamphlet entitled *In Memoriam John William Hamilton* as a tribute to his death. There are also newspaper clippings in this collection including a reprint of a newspaper article concerning John Wesley, a tribute in *Zion's Herald* to John William Hamilton, and three scraps containing memorials to J. W. Hamilton. Finally, the collection contains some miscellaneous material that could belong to either of the Hamilton's. This material includes a letter containing a prayer, a pamphlet for the memorial service of Queen Victoria, and a letter entitled *Lincoln and the Church Beside the Highway* in both handwritten and typed formats.

Arrangement

Material has been arranged in the following manner. Material is arranged by record type or date.

Related Material

John William Hamilton Papers

Administrative files of United Methodist Communications

Mission Biographical Reference Files

Access Restrictions

No restrictions.

Restrictions on Use

Detailed use restrictions relating to our collections can be requested from the office of the archivist at the General Commission on Archives and History. Photocopying is handled by the staff and may be limited in certain instances. Before using any material for publication from this collection a formal request for permission to publish is expected and required.

Preferred Citation

When citing material from this collection please use the following format: Direct reference to the item or its file folder, Franklin Elmer Hamilton Papers, Methodist Collection - Drew University, Madison, New Jersey. Do not make use of the item's call number as that is not a stable descriptor.

Index Terms

Added Creators - Personal Names

Hamilton, John William

Subject Corporate Names

Methodist Episcopal Church



Occupation

Bishop

Genre

Certificates

Clippings

Correspondence

Journals

Memorials

Newspapers

Photographs

Scrapbooks

Sermons

Geographic Terms

France

Germany

Massachusetts

United States

Topics

Education, Higher

Finance

Fund raising

Prayer

Container List

Call Number	Folder Title	Date(s)
2143-3-1:1	Scrap Book	1881-1883
2143-3-1:2	In Memoriam Franklin Elmer Ellsworth Hamilton	1919
2143-3-1:3	Resolutions Passed at Annual Meeting of the General Deaconess Board	1918
2143-3-1:4	Biographic Information - Hamilton Brothers	Undated
2143-3-1:5	Franklin's Commencement Thesis - Boston University - The Results of the Crusades	1892
2143-3-1:6	Newspaper Tributes to Franklin	1918-1920
2143-3-1:7	Letters Concerning Franklin after his Death	1918-1919
2143-3-1:8	Miscellaneous Correspondence - Franklin Elmer Ellsworth Hamilton	1906-1912
2143-3-1:9	Sermons by John William Hamilton	1883-1884
2143-3-1:10	Tributes to John William Hamilton	1934
2143-3-1:11	Miscellaneous Correspondence - John William Hamilton	1926-1932
2143-3-1:12	Miscellaneous Correspondence - Hamilton Brothers	1901
2143-3-2:1	Scrap Book - Scholastic Related	1883-1887
2143-3-3:1	Scrap Book - Miscellaneous Material	1855-1919
2143-3-4:1	Documents	1892-1899