

# Guide to the Parrish Family Papers 1828- 1944





## Parrish Family Papers

1828- 1944

1.8 cu. feet

gcsh.ms.4237

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

Josiah Lamberson Parrish (1806-1895) was an early American missionary to the Indians, U.S. Indian agent and leader in Christian education in the Pacific northwest. He was born in Onondaga County, New York, on January 14, 1806. He learned the blacksmith trade from his father, and worked on the Erie Canal.

Parrish was converted in 1816 and renewed (?) in 1824 before being licensed to preach in 1830. Parrish heard the call to the Indian mission in Oregon in 1839. Jason Lee, the superintendent of the Indian mission, had already filled his quota of ministers, so Parrish entered the Indian mission as a blacksmith.

Parrish arrived in Oregon in 1840, having come by ship around Cape Horn. He served for two years as a blacksmith at the main mission station in the Willamette Valley, before he was given charge of his own station among the coast Indians in 1842.

From 1843 to 1846, Parrish was a missionary to the Clatsop Indians. After the close of the Indian Mission in 1846, he worked as a preacher among the white settlers, first as a lay preacher and later as a conference member in full connection. From 1847 to 1848 Parrish served the Yamhill circuit. In 1844 he became a trustee of Willamette University. Between 1849 and 1854, at a time when the government was trying to move the Indians of the Pacific northwest onto reservations, Parrish was a government Indian agent.

Parrish was interested in public affairs, and helped establish the provisional government of Oregon, which was the only government in Oregon until the United States Government established the Oregon territorial government in 1846.

Parrish was admitted to the Oregon Conference in 1853 and ordained elder by Bishop Ames. Parrish was one of the first men in the Oregon Conference to be ordained elder. In 1854, Parrish returned to missionary work on the Grande Ronde Indian reservation, but retired for health reasons in 1856.

In 1857, Parrish returned to active service and was active until 1879.

Though he spent a lot of time with the Native American people on the reservations, Parrish maintained a home on his Donation Land Claim, land used for homesteading in Oregon, in what is now the city of Salem.

After his retirement, Parrish served for sixteen years as a prison chaplain at the state prison. He was an original member of the board of directors of the Oregon Institute, which was chartered as Willamette University in 1853, and remained a member of the board for the rest of his life. In fact Parrish was elected

president of the board of trustees of Willamette University in 1869.

Parrish was married three times.

He married Elizabeth Winn in 1833, and had four children with her, all boys - Lamberson, Norman, Samuel, and Charles. Elizabeth Winn Parrish died in 1859.

In 1860, Parrish married Jennie L. Lichtenthaler, by whom he had two children, both girls - Josie and Grace. Jennie died in 1887.

The next year, 1888 Parrish married Mattie A. Pierce, who had one child, LaRonda Pierce, from a previous marriage.

## Scope Note

This collection is comprised mostly of correspondence. The first series consists of Josiah L. Parrish's correspondence, documents, and records. These records and letters cover several topics, including biographical and family information, information regarding business affairs and history. The biographical information deals with Josiah L. Parrish's family. There is limited information regarding his children from his first wife, Elizabeth Winn Parrish, his second wife Jennie Litchenthaler Parrish, and their daughters (Josie and Grace), and his third wife Mattie A. Pierce and her son LaRonda Pierce.

Parrish, being important in the history of Oregon, has a great deal of historical information in his collection. Also included in the history section is a copy of the general instructions to missionaries. Included in the business affairs materials are correspondences and records related to prospecting, agriculture, and real estate, as well as personal business records. Parrish's papers also include three oversized documents - one making him a member of the New York State Militia, one making him an Indian Agent, and one signed by President Andrew Johnson granting him land in Oregon.

The second series contains Mattie A. Parrish's papers, mostly letters. The biographical and family information contains correspondence between Mattie and her relatives - including her husband and his children, as well as her own child LaRonda.

The business affairs material is divided into financial records, legal records, and solicitations. The financial records cover banking, loans, notes, groceries, dry goods, livestock, clothiers, hardware, insurance, furniture, appliances and lumber.

The legal documents consist of letters from lawyers, court cases, and deeds. The collection also contains several clippings. These clippings cover multiple women's rights, socialism, the history of Oregon and its first Methodist pioneers, articles on Oregon and its politics, obituaries of relatives and neighbors, birthday announcements, Arbor Day, editorials, Helen Keller and the blind, and labor disputes.

## Arrangement

Material has been arranged in the following manner.

Series: J. L. Parrish

*SUBSERIES: BIOGRAPHICAL AND FAMILY.*

*SUBSERIES: BUSINESS AFFAIRS.*

*SUBSERIES: GENERAL.*

*SUBSERIES: HISTORY.*

*SUBSERIES: OVERSIZED DOCUMENTS.*

Series: Mattie A. Parrish

*SUBSERIES: BIOGRAPHICAL AND FAMILY.*

*SUBSERIES: BUSINESS AFFAIRS.*

*SUBSERIES: CLIPPINGS.*

*SUBSERIES: FRIENDS AND ACQUAINTANCES.*

## Access Restrictions

There are no restrictions regarding this collection.

## 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, Parrish Family Collection, United Methodist Church Archives - GCAH, Madison, New Jersey. Do not make use of the item's call number as that is not a stable descriptor.

## Subject Terms

### *Additonal Creators - Personal*

Parrish, Mattie A..

### *Subject Names - Personal*

Johnson, Andrew.

### *Subject Names - Corporate*

Methodist Episcopal Church

### *Subject Topics*

Agriculture  
Education  
Finance  
Indians-Missions  
Labor.  
Loans  
Methodism  
Pioneers  
Politics  
Prospecting  
Real Estate  
Socialism  
Spanish-American War  
Women's rights and spiritualism

### *Subject Geographic*

Oregon.

### *Genre*

Certificates.  
Clippings  
Correspondence  
Deeds

Obituaries

***Occupations***

Missionary Indian Agent.

## Container List

### *J. L. Parrish Biographical and Family*

Call Number	Folder Title	Date(s)
1554-6-4:1	Biographical	1855-1866
1554-6-4:2	Biographical	1869-1894
1554-6-4:3	Personal Health	1889-1897
1554-6-4:4	Sons	1868-1904
1554-6-4:5	Jennie Lichenthaler	1877-1892
1554-6-4:6	George W. and David W. Lichenthaler	1888-1889
1554-6-4:7	Grace	1889-1894
1554-6-4:8	Grace	1885-1937
1554-6-4:9	Josie	1887-1925
1554-6-4:10	Josie	1888-1923
1554-6-4:11	Josie	1881-1928
1554-6-4:12	Social	1869-1894

### *Business Affairs*

Call Number	Folder Title	Date(s)
1554-6-5:1	Business Affairs	1862
1554-6-5:2	Business Affairs	1845-1855
1554-6-5:3	Business Affairs	1855-1857
1554-6-5:4	Business Affairs	1857-1859
1554-6-5:5	Business Affairs	1859-1861
1554-6-5:6	Business Affairs	1862-1863
1554-6-5:7	Business Affairs	1863-1866
1554-6-5:8	Business Affairs	1867-1877
1554-6-5:9	Business Affairs	1869-1895
1554-6-5:10	Business Affairs	1863-1895
1554-6-5:11	Agriculture	1858-1860
1554-6-5:12	Agriculture	1858-1862
1554-6-5:13	Agriculture	1864-1866
1554-6-5:14	Agriculture	1870-1897
1554-6-5:15	Agriculture	1870-1897
1554-6-5:16	Beers Family	1853-1855
1554-6-5:17	Estate	1889
1554-6-5:18	Prospecting	1860
1554-7-1:1	Prospecting	1860
1554-7-1:2	Prospecting	1860-1891
1554-7-1:3	Real Estate	1848-1859
1554-7-1:4	Real Estate	1859-1874
1554-7-1:5	Real Estate	1866-1889

### *General*

Call Number	Folder Title	Date(s)
1554-7-1:21	Miscellaneous Subjects	1852-1866
1554-7-1:22	Miscellaneous Documents	1847-1877
1554-7-1:23	Miscellaneous	1889-1917
1554-7-2:1	Organizations	1852-1872
1554-7-2:2	Organizations	1869-1893

### *History*

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Call Number	Folder Title	Date(s)
1554-7-1:6	Indian Affairs	1852-1857
1554-7-1:7	Indian Affairs (Vouchers and Property Returns)	1854
1554-7-1:8	Indian Affairs (Abstract)	1854
1554-7-1:9	Indian Affairs (Abstract)	1854
1554-7-1:10	Indian Affairs	1853-1858
1554-7-1:11	Indian Affairs	1889-1944
1554-7-1:12	Methodist Church (General Instructions to Missionaries)	1839-1855
1554-7-1:13	Methodist Church	1856-1877
1554-7-1:14	Methodist Church	1864-1894
1554-7-1:15	Oregon Education	1853-1857
1554-7-1:16	Oregon Education	1870-1893
1554-7-1:17	Oregon History (Laws and Legislation)	1859
1554-7-1:18	Oregon History (Laws and Legislation)	1861-1868
1554-7-1:19	Oregon History (Laws and Legislation)	1840-1896
1554-7-1:20	U.S. History	1860-1863

*Oversized Documents*

Call Number	Folder Title	Date(s)
1554-7-5:1	Sub-Indian Agent Appointment	1849
1554-7-5:2	New York State Militia	1828
1554-7-5:3	Land Grant	1865

*Mattie A. Parrish  
Biographical and Family*

Call Number	Folder Title	Date(s)
1554-7-2:3	Correspondences: Arnold, J.W.	1905
1554-7-2:4	Correspondences: Clark, Susan P.	1903
1554-7-2:5	Correspondences: Ella (Niece)	1893-1900
1554-7-2:6	Correspondences: Elsie (Niece)	1925
1554-7-2:7	Correspondences: Grace	1890-1922
1554-7-2:8	Correspondences: Hiatt, Clara R.	1899-1925
1554-7-2:9	Correspondences: Hiatt, Oliver C.	1894-1899
1554-7-2:10	Correspondences: Josie	1923-1931
1554-7-2:11	Correspondences: Pierce, LaRonda M.	1892-1924
1554-7-2:12	Correspondences: Lichenthaler, George W.	1891
1554-7-2:13	Correspondences: Parrish, Josiah Lamberson	1878-1894
1554-7-2:14	Correspondences: Social	1891-1929

*Business Affairs*

Call Number	Folder Title	Date(s)
1554-7-3:7	Financial	1888-1894
1554-7-3:8	Financial	1895-1898
1554-7-4:1	Financial	1899-1916
1554-7-4:2	Financial	1919-1931
1554-7-4:3	Legal	1889-1916
1554-7-4:4	Solicitations	1894-1930

*Clippings*

Call Number	Folder Title	Date(s)
1554-7-4:5	Clippings	1892-1898





*Friends and Acquaintances*

Call Number	Folder Title	Date(s)
1554-7-2:15	Correspondences: Barhan, Nannie	1924-1929
1554-7-2:16	Correspondences: Behle, A.E.	1897-1901
1554-7-2:17	Correspondences: Chappell, Lida	1919-1926
1554-7-2:18	Correspondences: Clyde, Jermina	1890-1892
1554-7-2:19	Correspondences: Davenport, Lizzie	1899
1554-7-2:20	Correspondences: Jones, O.W.	1893-1901
1554-7-2:21	Correspondences: Lymn, H.S.	1899
1554-7-2:22	Correspondences: Martin, Mellie M.	1888-1892
1554-7-2:23	Correspondences: Minto, John	1895
1554-7-3:1	Correspondences: Muelhaupt, Oscar and Walter	1889-1915
1554-7-3:2	Correspondences: Sepmeyer, Anna	1904-1929
1554-7-3:3	Correspondences: Zachurt, Bess Bloom and William Bloom	1914-1925
1554-7-3:4	Correspondences: Additon - Himes	1889-1924
1554-7-3:5	Correspondences: Hollbrook - Smith	1875-1930
1554-7-3:6	Correspondences: Storey - Worley	1892-1930