

Guide to the Moses Fifiel Papers

1805-1928

Moses Fifield Papers

1805-1928

2 cubic feet

gcsh.ms.606

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

Moses Fifield (1790-1859), American minister, was born in Unity, New Hampshire on December 7, 1790. He taught school for a time. In 1816 he joined the New England Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church. He married Celia Knight (1786-1874) on March 5, 1820.

Fifield served the following appointments as an itinerant preacher: Sandwich Circuit, 1816; Harwich, 1817; Providence, Rhode Island, 1819; Warehouse Point, 1822; Springfield, 1820; Connecticut Circuit, 1823; Tolland circuit, 1824. By 1824, his health had deteriorated, and he could no longer fulfill his duties. He chose to leave the ministry and the conference granted him an honorable location. After that time, he moved to Centreville, Rhode Island, and engaged primarily in secular business as a banker. He continued to serve the church in a limited capacity until his death on April 19, 1859.

Scope Note

The collection spans the years 1805-1928, with most of the material dating from before Fifield's death in 1859. The bulk of the material consists of letters, sermons and various documents. It also includes oil portraits and daguerreotypes of Fifield and his wife, Celia. A few of the sermons date from Fifield's years as a secular banker; this indicates that he probably continued to preach somewhat during those years. It should be noted that several of Fifield's sermons are written on the back of correspondence which he received. Many of the documents are in poor condition and should be handled carefully, as should the oil paintings which are both cracked and flaking.

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Arrangement

Material has been arranged in the following manner. The collection is arranged by record type.

Access Restrictions

There are no restrictions regarding this collection.

Preferred Citation

When citing material from this collection please use the following format: Direct reference to the item or its file folder, Moses Fifield Papers, 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

Additional Creators - Personal

Fifield, Celia Knight

Fifield, Lucy Livingstone.

Subject Names - Corporate

Methodist Episcopal Church

Subject Topics

Preaching, Methodist.

Sermons

Subject Geographic

Connecticut

Massachusetts

Rhode Island.

Genre

Correspondence

Daguerreotypes.

Genealogies

Marriage records

Portrait paintings

Publications

Occupations

Itinerant Preacher.

Container List

Call Number	Folder Title	Date(s)
1637-7-4:1	Correspondence	1833-1858
1637-7-4:2	Sermons and Addresses	1805-1843
1637-7-4:3	Daguerreotypes	Undated
1637-7-4:4	Record of Marriages	1829-1858
1637-7-4:5	Certificates and recommendations	1809-1857
1637-7-4:6	Family Records	1880-1911
1637-7-4:7	Publications	1928
1637-7-4:8	Financial	1820-1824
2447-1-1:1	Oil Portrait: Moses Fifield	Undated
2447-1-1:2	Oil Portrait: Celia Knight Fifield	Undated