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John Curtis and Mary Snell Smith Papers

RG 207



Elizabeth C. Stevens

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New Haven, CT 06511
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Collection Overview

REPOSITORY: Yale Divinity Library
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CALL NUMBER: RG 207

CREATOR: Smith, John Curtis

TITLE: John Curtis and Mary Snell Smith Papers

DATES: 1837-1873

BULK DATES: 1853-1869

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: 3 linear feet (7 boxes)

LANGUAGE: English

SUMMARY: John Curtis Smith and Mary Snell Steele Smith were Congregational missionaries from New England who served in Sri Lanka (Ceylon), which was then part of the India Mission of the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions (ABCFM). This collection provides intensive documentation for the lives of missionary families, especially "missionary children" and their extended families in the 1850s through the early 1870s. Of particular value in this collection is the large number of letters written by the Smith children themselves. The six children in the Smith family were all born in Sri Lanka (Ceylon) and spent at least half of their childhoods there before being sent or taken to live in the United States, where they resided with relatives and friends in New England.

ONLINE FINDING AID: To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/divinity.207>

Requesting Instructions

To request items from this collection for use on site, please use the request links in the HTML version of this finding aid, available at <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/divinity.207>.

Key to the container abbreviations used in the PDF finding aid:

b. box
f. folder

Administrative Information

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Gift of Philip C. Smith, grandson of Henry Hill Smith, 2006.

Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

Conditions Governing Use

Copyright has been transferred to Yale University.

Preferred Citation

John Curtis and Mary Snell Smith Papers (RG 207), Special Collections, Yale Divinity School Library.

Processing Information

Place names were modernized in the description, with the name originally used in the collection material or in an older version of the finding aid in parenthesis: e.g. "Beijing (Peking)" or "Benin (Dahomey)".

Biographical / Historical

John Curtis Smith and Mary Snell Steele Smith were Congregational missionaries from New England who served at posts in Sri Lanka (Ceylon), then part of the India Mission of the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions (ABCFM), in the mid-nineteenth century. Mary Snell (21 September 1814-14 May 1873) was born in Plainfield, Massachusetts. A teacher, she embarked for India in November, 1836 with her husband, Dr. John Steele, a physician-missionary. John Curtis Smith (24 September 1812—21 March 1884) was born and raised in Williamstown, Vermont and was a graduate of Middlebury College (1838) and Andover Seminary (1841). After graduation, he married in 1841 and embarked for Ceylon on 14 October 1841 with his wife, who was a teacher, Eunice Taft Morse Smith (15 April 1815-9 May 1842). Soon after they arrived in India, Eunice Morse Smith died of consumption. Dr. John Steele died in October 1842, after an illness.

John Curtis Smith and Mary Snell Steele were married in Sri Lanka (Ceylon) on 13 October 1843. In the years following their marriage, Mary Snell Smith gave birth to six children, all were born in Sri Lanka (Ceylon): Thomas Snell Smith (24 January 1845—16 December 1900); Eunice Morse Smith (11 February 1846—August 1872), named for Smith's first wife; Laura Parkhurst Smith (31 December 1847--3 June 1872), William Halleck Smith (10 August 1850--24 July 1924), Henry Hill Smith (6 December 1851—19 January 1934) and Mary Elizabeth Smith (28 March 1853—December, 1929). Eight-year-old Thomas Snell Smith and his sister, seven-year-old Eunice Morse Smith sailed from Chennai (Madras), India in December 1853 in the company of a missionary couple, Susan Tolman Mills and Cyrus T. Mills. After spending several weeks in Cape Town, South Africa, the two children, with their escorts, arrived at Boston in mid-May 1854; arrangements had been made for them to live with relatives in Amherst, Massachusetts.

After sojourns in Sri Lanka (Ceylon) of fourteen and twenty years respectively, John Curtis Smith and Mary Snell Steele Smith journeyed to the United States via London, leaving Sri Lanka (Ceylon) in late 1856 and arriving in Boston in May, 1857, with their four younger children—Laura, William, Henry, and Mary. After John and Mary Smith traveled around New England to visit their two older children, and then to see relatives, both in New England and in Illinois and Minnesota, the family seems to have united briefly in Central Village (MA or CT), while arrangements were made to leave Laura, William, Henry, and their oldest children Thomas and Eunice behind in the United States. John Curtis Smith and Mary Snell Smith, with their youngest child, Mary, returned to Sri Lanka (Ceylon) in 1860. Mary was sent to the United States in 1865, while her parents remained in Sri Lanka (Ceylon).

For more detailed biographical accounts of the Smith parents and children, especially during the time period covered in this collection (1850s and 1860s), see biographical sketches written by Elizabeth C. Stevens in Series IV, Box 7.

Scope and Contents

The John Curtis Smith and Mary Snell Steele Smith Family Papers consist primarily of seven letterbooks (originally eight letterbooks; one letterbook which was in poor condition was dismantled and the letters put in folders), three journals, one memorandum book, and a number of unbound letters, now in folders, which may have been intended for several more letterbooks. Counting the letters in the letterbooks as individual items, the collection consists of a total of just over 2,000 items. Other items beside letters and journals include small bits of fabric (samples from the girls' dresses), a few programs from various school ceremonies, essays written by the children, a parrot feather, an ordination sermon, certificates for a children's fund-raising project, a copy of the printed sermon preached at John Curtis Smith's funeral service, a few family genealogical papers, and photographs of John Curtis and Mary Snell Smith and their children. However, the collection is almost exclusively letters; most of them are from the 1840s, 1850s and 1860s.

The vast majority of the correspondence in this collection concerns the offspring of John Curtis Smith and Mary Snell Steele Smith. The children were sent or brought to the United States to live with relatives. There are scores of letters from the families with whom the children stayed, as well as letters from the Smith children in the United States to their parents in Sri Lanka (Ceylon), and letters from the children to each other in the United States and Sri Lanka (Ceylon). For instance, one letterbook consists of letters that her siblings sent to Mary E. Smith, the youngest child, who lived alone with her parents in Udupitty, Sri Lanka (Ceylon), from 1861-1865, while her five older siblings were residing in the United States. Some letters from John Curtis Smith and Mary Snell Smith to their children survive in the collection, the majority of letters are ones sent out to John and Mary Smith in Sri Lanka (Ceylon) by their children, their children's caregivers and other relatives during their long separation from each other. Other items in the collection include a "memorandum book," (a daily journal kept by Smith with detailed accounts of his work in Sri Lanka (Ceylon) during 1861-65), notebooks that Smith wrote detailing his two voyages out to Sri Lanka (Ceylon) (1841-42, 1860-61), an account of Mary E. Smith's voyage to the United States from Sri Lanka (Ceylon) when she was twelve years old, and a letterbook (which has been dismantled; the contents are now in folders) with letters to John Curtis Smith from his siblings, four of whom were living in the United States and one of whom, Asa B. Smith, served for a time as a missionary to Native Americans in the American West and in Hawaii.

This collection provides intensive documentation for the lives of missionary families, especially "missionary children," and their extended families in the 1850s and especially the 1860s and early 1870s. By traveling to distant lands to convert the "heathen" to Christianity, missionaries were considered by those in America to have made the ultimate sacrifice of health and material comfort. In deciding to send their children back to the United States, thousands of miles away from their foreign households, missionaries made additional sacrifice. Missionary mothers, like Mary Smith, gave up their children so they could continue their missionary work abroad. In nineteenth century culture, indeed, even today, the extended separation of a mother from her children is considered to be a most painful experience. To have "given up" six of her children by sending them thousands of miles away from her for years at a time, Mary Snell Smith placed her calling as a missionary above the temporal earthly maternal ties that were so celebrated by her culture.

Pious relatives in New England also made a sacrifice on behalf of faith. "I never thought I would see you again in this world," wrote Mary Snell Smith's father to her of her departure from Boston in 1836; she did not return to the United States until more than twenty years later. The piety of those left behind who believed fervently in the "mission" of their loved ones in far off lands is nowhere more evident than in their willingness to take in the "orphaned missionary children" who were sent back to the States to be educated. Some sheltering relatives had already raised families and most were hard-working farmers; some had never married and had little experience with child-rearing, or had several children and grand-children of their own to care for. Many letters began with apologies for not writing sooner or more often, and a laundry list of the chores and illnesses and difficulties that had prevented keeping up the correspondence. These were not affluent families; expense was often an issue. Hard-working farm families accepted the Smith children into their households, where the children were educated. Smith boys helped with farm chores and the Smith girls learned the household arts. In several cases, the labor of the children was considered payment for their "board" while living with aunts, uncles and cousins. The relatives' letters to the Smiths in Sri Lanka

(Ceylon) are not only filled with updates on the children, "home news" and a chronicle of the health, births and deaths in their own and neighboring families, news of their local churches and clergy, but profound expressions of their own Christian faith, in the value of the Smiths' missionary work and the awesome responsibility of raising the missionaries' children.

A particular value in this collection is the great number of letters written by the Smith children themselves. There may be few collections of any kind that hold so many letters written by child siblings in mid-nineteenth century America. The six children in the Smith family were all born in Sri Lanka (Ceylon) and spent at least half of their childhoods there before being sent or taken to live in the United States. The "culture shock" was both wonderful for them (snow!!!) and difficult (bland Yankee farm cooking, separation from parents and moving from household to household). Even though all five Smith children lived in New England, months or years would pass when they would not see one other, and they were only all five together in one place, perhaps three or four times in the years that their parents were away. The children felt varying degrees of attachment to their sheltering relatives, and accepted that they had little choice in the matter. In their letters back to Sri Lanka (Ceylon), the children expressed compliance with their parents' wishes to have them live apart from them, there was a great deal of sadness and sense of loss which the children openly explained and some rebellion. When Thomas Snell Smith, the oldest sibling reached his mid-teens he began to assume a paternal role in overseeing the education and well-being of his younger siblings in the United States, and in assuring that a regular stream of letters from the siblings reached their parents in Sri Lanka (Ceylon). The letters created a "virtual household" for the children and their parents during the time of separation.

Aside from the value of these letters to those studying missionary culture, the documents in this collection provide an important window into nineteenth century American culture in general. The letters, written by relatives, many of whom were from pious New England farm families, detail daily life in New England towns and on the farms—money problems, the Civil War, deaths, births, harvesting, cooking, celebrating holidays, church life are all documented here. The Smiths' relatives, while literate, clearly found letter-writing a chore, and were the sorts of people who wouldn't have ordinarily left such a complete documentation of their lives. . A sister of John Curtis Smith, Laura Smith Parkhurst, married and moved to a remote part of Illinois in the 1840's. Her comprehensive letters detail living in a log cabin in isolation from neighbors, and her struggle to bear a living child would be of interest to women's history scholars and students of the American West. Any student of nineteenth century American children would find these letters of value for the accounts of the daily activities of the Smith children and especially the various ways they were educated—in small village schools that met for three-month terms, in their relatives' homes, with local clergy, and in boarding schools and colleges. There are particularly rich and detailed accounts of Thomas's four years at Amherst College in the mid-1860's, and the months spent at Mt. Holyoke Female Seminary by Eunice and Laura. For those studying children and evangelical religion in the nineteenth century, these letters provide documentation of the spiritual struggles of children and young adults. The diagnoses and treatment of Eunice's and Laura's fatal illnesses would be of interest to scholars in the history of medicine and to those investigating nineteenth century women's health, or tuberculosis.

This description is excerpted from a more detailed essay about the collection prepared by Elizabeth C. Stevens, which is available in Series IV, Box 7.

Arrangement

- I. Correspondence, 1837-1873
- II. Letterbooks, 1853-1868
- III. Journals, 1841-1865
- IV. Personal Items and Memorabilia, 1841-1866

Collection Contents

Series I: Correspondence, 1837-1873

Family Correspondence

Mary Snell Smith journal letters

Letters written by Mary Snell Smith to her children on a regular basis throughout the 1860s and into the 1870s until her return to the United States in 1872, mainly from the mission station at Udupitty. Each letter was written over a period of days and was intended to be seen by all the Smith children who were living in the United States. The journal letters describe Mary Snell Smith's daily activities and thoughts, unusual weather, events, and interesting anecdotes, as well as reports of Mary Snell Smith's and John Curtis Smith's health, and news of other missions and missionary families. The journal letters from 1861-1865 also contain news of youngest sibling Mary E. Smith, who was in Sri Lanka (Ceylon) with her parents (Mary left Sri Lanka (Ceylon) in 1865 to live in the United States). In the letters, Mary Snell Smith provides general comments on everything from political happenings in the States (e.g. the Civil War, elections), her children's activities, and religious exhortations. The Smith children, living in the United States, had a system for passing their mother's journal letters among one another. Before sending a journal letter on to another sibling, a Smith child would usually initial the front page of the letter in the upper left hand corner.

b. 1, f. 1	Journal letters	1861 Feb 14-Jul 16
b. 1, f. 2	Journal letters	1861 Jul 15-Nov 27
b. 1, f. 3	Journal letters	1862 Jan 11-Apr 29
b. 1, f. 4	Journal letters	1862 May 17-Oct 15
b. 1, f. 5	Journal letters	1862 Oct 29-1863 Feb 7
b. 1, f. 6	Journal letters	1863 Mar 28- Jul 31
b. 1, f. 7	Journal letters	1863 Aug 29-Dec 17
b. 1, f. 8	Journal letters	1864 Jan 1- May 12
b. 1, f. 9	Journal letters	1864 Jun 3- Dec 6
b. 1, f. 10	Journal letters	1865 Jan 21- Aug 16
b. 1, f. 11	Journal letters	1865 Aug 26-1866 May 2

Family Correspondence > Mary Snell Smith journal letters (continued)

b. 1, f. 12	Journal letters	1866 May 16- Aug 7
b. 1, f. 13	Journal letters	1866 Sep 19- Nov 16
b. 1, f. 14	Journal letters	1867 Feb 19- Jul 18
b. 1, f. 15	Journal letters	1867 Jul 26- Nov 6
b. 1, f. 16	Journal letters	1867 Nov 15- 1868 Jan 30
b. 1, f. 17	Journal letters	1868 Feb 17- Apr 20
b. 1, f. 18	Journal letters	1868 May 5- Jul 13
b. 1, f. 19	Journal letters	1868 Jul 28- Oct 6
b. 1, f. 20	Journal letters	1868 Oct 16- Dec 26
b. 1, f. 21	Journal letters	1869 Jan 7- Apr 6
b. 1, f. 22	Journal letters	1869 May 7- Jul 26
b. 1, f. 23	Journal letters	1869 Aug 11- Oct 19
b. 1, f. 24	Journal letters	1869 Nov 1- Dec 13
b. 1, f. 25	Journal letters	1870 Jan 1- Feb 19
b. 1, f. 26	Journal letters	1870 Mar 7- May 30
b. 1, f. 27	Journal letters	1870 Jun 13- 1871 Mar 6
b. 1, f. 28	Journal letters	1871 Mar 6- Nov 10
b. 1, f. 29	Journal letters	1872 Jan 1- Mar 31
Mary Snell Smith letters to children		
b. 1, f. 30	To Eunice	1859 Jul 13- 1861 Jul 20

Family Correspondence > Mary Snell Smith letters to children (continued)

b. 1, f. 31	To Eunice	1861 Sep 5- 1862 Jan 2
b. 1, f. 32	To Eunice	1862 Feb 18- Aug 22
b. 1, f. 33	To Eunice	1862 Oct 3- 1865 Sep 9
b. 1, f. 34	To Eunice	1865 Oct 14- Dec 22
b. 1, f. 35	To Eunice	1866 Jan 8- Mar 22
b. 1, f. 36	To Eunice	1866 Apr 9- Jun 23
b. 1, f. 37	To Eunice	1866 Sep 24- Dec 18
b. 1, f. 38	To Eunice	1867 Jan 8- May 14
b. 1, f. 39	To Eunice	1867 May 21- Jun 28
b. 1, f. 40	To Eunice	1867 Jul 9- Sep 23
b. 1, f. 41	To Eunice	1867 Oct 10- Dec 23
b. 1, f. 42	To Eunice	1868 Jan 7- Mar 4
b. 1, f. 43	To Eunice	1868 Apr 1- May 21
b. 1, f. 44	To Eunice	1868 Jun 5- Aug 15
b. 1, f. 45	To Eunice	1868 Sep 14- Nov 16
b. 1, f. 46	To Eunice	1869 Jan 4- Feb 27
b. 1, f. 47	To Eunice	1869 Mar 29- 1871 Dec 10
b. 1, f. 48	To Thomas	1856 Jul 2, 1861 Oct 9
b. 1, f. 49	To Henry	1859 Jul 13
b. 1, f. 50	To Mary E.	1859 Jul 13- 1867 May 10

Family Correspondence > Mary Snell Smith letters to children (continued)

b. 1, f. 51	To all describing sister Laura's death	1872 Jun 7
John Curtis Smith		
b. 1, f. 52	To Eunice	1860 Dec 25- 1864 May 7
b. 1, f. 53	To Eunice	1864 May 23- 1867 Aug 19
b. 1, f. 54	To Eunice	1867 Dec 5- 1869 May 22
b. 2, f. 55	To children	1861 Apr 6- 1864 Feb 9
b. 2, f. 56	To children	1864 Feb 23- 1866 Jul 20
b. 2, f. 57	To children	1867 Feb 10- 1869 Jun 5
b. 2, f. 58	To children	1869 Jun 18- 1870 Jun 8
Thomas Snell Smith (Son)		
b. 2, f. 59	To parents	1868 Oct 11- Dec 16
b. 2, f. 60	To parents	1868 Dec 19- 1869 Jan 29
b. 2, f. 61	To parents	1869 Feb 5- Mar 8
b. 2, f. 62	To parents	1869 Mar 10- Apr 8
b. 2, f. 63	To parents	1869 Apr 15- May 2
b. 2, f. 64	To parents	1869 May 3- May 19
b. 2, f. 65	To parents	1869 May 28- Jul 3
b. 2, f. 66	To parents	1869 Aug 9- Aug 23
b. 2, f. 67	To sister Mary	1861 May 25- Aug 27
Eunice Morse Smith		
b. 2, f. 68	To parents	1859 Nov 2- 1868 Nov 21

Family Correspondence > Eunice Morse Smith (continued)

b. 2, f. 69	To parents	1868 Nov 30- Dec 29
b. 2, f. 70	To parents	1869 Jan 4- Feb 15
b. 2, f. 71	To parents	1869 Feb 26- Apr 6
b. 2, f. 72	To parents	1869 Apr 14- May 12
b. 2, f. 73	To parents	1869 May 20- Jun 21
b. 2, f. 74	To parents	1869 Jun 24- Aug 30
b. 2, f. 75	To parents	1868 Oct 15- Dec 19
b. 2, f. 76	To parents	1868 Dec 28- 1869 Feb 4
b. 2, f. 77	To parents	1869 Feb 15- Mar 22
b. 2, f. 78	To parents	1869 Mar 29- May 1
b. 2, f. 79	To parents	1869 May 7- May 31
b. 2, f. 80	To parents	1869 Jun 10- Aug 13
b. 2, f. 80a	Laura to sister Eunice	1870 Nov 30
b. 2, f. 81	To dear ones: journal on board "Winged Hunter"	1870 Jan 28- Apr 25
	William H. Smith	
b. 2, f. 82	To parents	1868 Jul 24- 1869 May 19
	Henry H. Smith	
b. 2, f. 83	To parents	1868 Oct 4- 1869 May 23
	Mary E. Smith	
b. 2, f. 84	To parents	1865 Mar 3- 1868 Dec 20
b. 2, f. 85	To parents	1869 Jan 1- Feb 15

Family Correspondence > Mary E. Smith (continued)

b. 2, f. 86	To parents	1869 Feb 27- Mar 25
b. 2, f. 87	To parents	1869 Mar 30- Apr 28
b. 2, f. 88	To parents	1869 May 4- Jun 5
b. 2, f. 89	To parents	1869 Jun 12- Jul 10
b. 2, f. 90	To parents	1869 Jul 14- Aug 25
b. 2, f. 91	To brother Thomas	1865 Sep 29
Extended family to MSS/JCS		
b. 2, f. 92	From parents to MSS	1837 Sep 27-1842 Oct 9
b. 2, f. 93	From parents to MSS	1843 Sep 31- 1848 Oct 21
b. 2, f. 94	From parents to MSS	1846 May 30- 1849 Aug 23
b. 2, f. 95	From parents, sisters, niece to JCS	1844 Oct 10- 1951 Mar 3
b. 2, f. 96	Asa Smith (brother) to JCS	1841 Feb 7- 1843 Mar 29
b. 2, f. 97	Asa Smith (brother) to JCS	1843 Jul 26- 1843 Dec 4
b. 2, f. 98	Asa Smith (brother) to JCS	1844 Feb 5- 1844 Jun 29
b. 2, f. 99	Asa Smith (brother) to JCS	1844 Jul 31- 1844 Nov 26
b. 2, f. 100	Asa Smith (brother) to JCS	1844 Dec 14- 1845 Nov 24
b. 2, f. 101	Asa Smith (brother) to JCS	1846 Jun 9- 1846 May 26
b. 3, f. 102	Asa and Sarah Smith to JCS and MSS	1844 Dec 14- 1852 Jun 22
b. 3, f. 103	Laura Smith Parkhurst (sister) to JCS and MSS	1838 Mar 23- 1846 Mar 21
b. 3, f. 104	Laura Smith Parkhurst (sister) to JCS and MSS	1846 Jul 20- 1849 Mar 4

Family Correspondence > Extended family to MSS/JCS (continued)

b. 3, f. 105	Laura Smith Parkhurst (sister) to JCS and MSS	1850 Jun 27- 1952 Jul 11
b. 3, f. 106	Laura and Wm Parkhurst to JCS	1842 Sep 24- 1846 Mar 24
b. 3, f. 107	Marcia Smith Lynn (sister) to JCS	1842 Sep 28- 1845 Apr 20
b. 3, f. 108	Marcia Smith Lynn (sister) to JCS	1845 Sep 8- 1847 Aug 31
b. 3, f. 109	Marcia Smith Lynn (sister) to JCS	1847 Oct 6- 1852 Aug 5
b. 3, f. 110	James Lynn to JCS	1851 Aug 11- 1855 Feb 10
b. 3, f. 111	Lucia and Marcia (sisters) to JCS	1842 Jun 7- 1843 Nov 12
b. 3, f. 112	Lucia and Marcia (sisters) to JCS	1844 May 20- 1847 Jan 28
b. 3, f. 113	Lucia and Marcia (sisters) to JCS	1847 Mar 10- 184? Aug 28
b. 3, f. 114	Lucia and Marcia (sisters) to JCS	1844 Apr 17- 1850 Feb 3
b. 3, f. 115	Lucia and Marcia (sisters) to JCS	1850 Jun 2- 1852 Mar 11
b. 3, f. 116	Lucia Smith to JCS	1842 Sep 10- 1845 Jun 21
b. 3, f. 117	Lucia Smith to JCS	1845 Aug 26- 1851 Mar 30
b. 3, f. 118	Lucia Smith to JCS and MSS	1845 Mar 23- 1849 Jul 8
b. 3, f. 119	Laura, Lucia and Marcia to JCS and first wife	1841 Jul 31- 1842 Jan 18
b. 3, f. 120	Lucia and Marcia to MSS	1845 Dec 19- 1849 Mar 28
b. 3, f. 121	Eliza P. Hallock (sister) to MSS	1861 Mar 29- 1863 Sep 19
b. 3, f. 122	Martha S. Rood (niece) to MSS	1863 Jun 10
b. 3, f. 123	Harriet Smith (sister-in-law) to MSS	1862 Feb 18
b. 3, f. 124	Eben Snell (brother) to MSS	1863 Dec 1
b. 3, f. 125	Ebenezer Snell (cousin) and his dtr to MSS	1847 Dec 29- 1866 Mar 1

Family Correspondence > Extended family to MSS/JCS (continued)

b. 3, f. 126	Phebe Snell Thorpe (cousin) to MSS	no date
Extended family to others		
b. 3, f. 127	Laura S. Parkhurst to her mother Polly Waller Smith	1843 Sep 6- 1851 Mar
b. 3, f. 128	Laura S. Parkhurst to her mother Polly Waller Smith	1851 May- 1851 Jul 31
b. 3, f. 129	Asa and Polly Smith to daughters	1844 Dec 5
b. 3, f. 130	Laura S. Parkhurst to sisters Marcia and Lucia	1840 Jul 19- 1842 Jul 18
b. 3, f. 131	Laura S. Parkhurst to sisters Marcia and Lucia	1842 Aug 19- 1843 Nov 9
b. 3, f. 132	Laura S. Parkhurst to sisters Marcia and Lucia	1843 Dec 17- 1849 Jan 21
b. 3, f. 133	Laura S. Parkhurst to sisters Marcia and Lucia	1849 Mar 4- 1850 May 19
b. 3, f. 134	Lucia, Marcia and Laura to parents	1844 Jul 15- 1851 Feb 14
b. 3, f. 135	Sarah White (sister) to Polly W. Smith	1845 Jan 31
b. 3, f. 136	Misc. letters between family members	1845 Feb 17- 1850 Apr 22
Non family correspondence		
Letters to JCS		
b. 3, f. 137	Clark, L.S	1846 Dec 15- 1851 Sep 18
b. 3, f. 137	Farr, Jonathan Jr.	1844 Dec 18
b. 3, f. 137	"B.F.H."	1846 Feb 22- 1851 Mar 3
b. 3, f. 137	Morse, Esther	1869 Mar 29
b. 3, f. 138	Taylor, Rev E.W	1845 Apr 12- 1851 Jul
b. 3, f. 138	Townshend, Harriet	1873 Mar 12
b. 3, f. 138	Ward, N.	1847 Nov 15
b. 3, f. 138	Whiting, Lyman	1845 Oct 29
b. 3, f. 138	Wight, Daniel	1848 Feb 16
Letters to MSS		

Non family correspondence > Letters to MSS (continued)

b. 3, f. 139	Alen, Lizzie	1862 Apr 2
b. 3, f. 139	Cope, E. Mrs.	1862 Sep 11
b. 3, f. 139	Green, J.E.	1862 Jul 16- 1864 Dec 29
b. 3, f. 139	Hayward, Esther W	1862 Jul 4
b. 3, f. 140	Howland, S. S.	1862 Dec 11
b. 3, f. 140	Howland, W.W.	1868 Aug 19
b. 3, f. 140	Hyde, Hattie L.	1863 Jun 14
b. 3, f. 140	Lakewood, Sarah	1869 Feb 2
b. 3, f. 140	Nash, N.S.	1862 Feb 27- 1863 Jun 28
b. 3, f. 141	Townshend, Harriet	1872 May 2, 1872 May 20, 1872 Jul 10, 1872 Jul 26, 1872 Aug 8
b. 3, f. 142	Townshend, Harriet	1872 Sep 4, 1872 Nov 5, 1872 Dec 18, 1873 Jan 1, 1873 Jan 6
b. 3, f. 143	Townshend, Harriet	1873 Jan 24
b. 3, f. 143	Townshend, Harriet	1873 Mar 7
b. 3, f. 143	Townshend, Harriet	1873 Apr 6
b. 3, f. 143	Townshend, Harriet (letter and fragment)	n.d.
Letters to JCS and MSS		
b. 3, f. 144	Cleveland, Charles	1862 Jun 17
b. 3, f. 144	Cleveland, Lucy F and Charles	1862 Oct 19
b. 3, f. 144	Hillis, H	1872
b. 3, f. 144	Spalding, Levi	1862 Sep 9
b. 3, f. 144	Tracy, Dr. Stephen	1869 Apr 27
b. 3, f. 144	Townshend, Harriet	1872 Nov 5,17
b. 3, f. 145	Letters to Laura P. Smith	1872 Apr 18- Jul 4
b. 3, f. 146	Letters to Eunice M. Smith	
b. 3, f. 146	M. Elizabeth Childs	1866 Jan 9

Non family correspondence > Letters to JCS and MSS (continued)

b. 3, f. 146	M. Elizabeth Childs	1866 Oct 21
b. 3, f. 146	Mary W. Godding	1866 Feb 16
b. 3, f. 146	Mary W. Godding	1867 Dec 25
b. 3, f. 146	W.W. Howland	1866 Dec 5
b. 3, f. 146	W.W. Howland	1868 Jan 27
b. 3, f. 146	Amelia Lockwood	1869 May 11
b. 3, f. 146	Mt. Holyoke Seminary Class Song	1865
b. 3, f. 147	Letter to Mary E. Smith	1869 Jul 4
b. 3, f. 148	Daniel Poor to Rev. Galie	1854 Dec 25

Series II: Letterbooks, 1853-1868

Correspondence in the letterbooks was arranged according to system. For instance, one letterbook contains correspondence between John Curtis Smith and his siblings and parents and Andover classmates, during the 1840's; another contains only letters written by children Thomas, Eunice, Laura, William and Henry to their parents, and letters from the childrens' caregivers between 1861 and 1864, etc. Within the letterbooks, letters are organized, chronologically, by correspondent (e.g., within one letterbook, all of Thomas' letters are bound together, in chronological order, followed by Eunice's in a similar arrangement, Laura's, William's and Henry's).

Volume 2

b. 4, f. 149	Section A. Snell Family members to MSS & JCS regarding arrival of children in U.S.	1853 Sep 27- 1854 Apr
b. 4, f. 149	Section B. Susan & Cyrus Mills to MSS & JCS regarding trip to America with Thomas and Eunice Smith.	1853 Dec 26- 1854 Mar 18
b. 4, f. 149	Section C. Thomas Smith, shipboard journal.	1853 Dec 21- 1854 Feb 11
b. 4, f. 149	Section D. Eunice Smith shipboard journal.	1853 Dec 21- 1854 Mar 4
b. 4, f. 149	Section E. Susam Mills' account of voyage to America	1854 Mar 30
b. 4, f. 149	Section F. Shipboard journals of Thomas & Eunice Smith	1854 Mar 3- May 15
b. 4, f. 149	Section G. Letters concerning arrival of Thomas & Eunice Smith in U.S.	1854 May 17- 25
b. 4, f. 149	Section H. Thomas & Eunice Smith's journal letters and letter from Eliza Halleck, to MSS and JCS	1854 May 19- Sep 20
b. 4, f. 149	Section I. Letters from Thomas and Eunice, and from Eliza Halleck and her children to MSS and JCS	1854 Nov 24- Dec 30
b. 4, f. 149	Section J. Letters from Thomas and Eunice, and from Eliza Halleck to Susan Mills	1854 Jun 20-1855 Feb 26
b. 4, f. 149	Section K. Letters from Eliza Halleck, Ebenezer Snell, Susan Mills and Eunice Smith to MSS and JCS	1855 Jan 1- Mar 3
b. 4, f. 149	Section L. Hand-drawn map of New England by Thomas Smith	c.1855
b. 4, f. 149	Section M. Letters from Susan Mills, Halleck family and Eunice Smith to MSS and JCS	1855 Apr 13- May 22
b. 4, f. 149	Section N. Letters from Halleck relatives and one letters from Eunice Smith, to MSS and JCS	1855 Jul 2- Jul 27
b. 4, f. 149	Section O. Letters from Halleck relatives and Eunice Smith to JCS and MSS	1855 Sep 5- Oct 20
b. 4, f. 149	Section P. Letters from Halleck and Snell relatives, Susan Mills, and Thomas Smith to MSS and JCS and from Eliza Halleck to Susan Mills	1855 Sep 7- 1856 Jan 15
b. 4, f. 149	Section Q. Letters from Thomas and Eunice Smith, Halleck and Snell relatives to MSS and JCS	1856 Jan 1- Mar 28

Volume 2 (continued)

b. 4, f. 149	Section R. Letters from Thomas and Eunice Smith, Thomas Snell (MSS cousin) and Halleck relatives to MSS and JCS	1856 Apr 15- May 9
b. 4, f. 149	Section S. Letters from nieces, Eliza Halleck Rouse and Fannie Halleck Hazeltine to MSS	1856 Jul 27- Aug 26
b. 4, f. 149	Section T. Letters from Thomas and Eunice Smith and Eliza Halleck to MSS and JCS	1856 Jul 28- Aug 26
b. 4, f. 149	Section U. Map of Minnesota and house plan from Eben Snell (brother) to MSS, also letters from Thomas and Eunice Smith and Eliza Halleck to MSS and JCS, and small watercolor painting of a hummingbird	1856 Jun 24- Oct 8

Volume 3.

b. 4, f. 150	Letters from MSS, JCS, siblings, cousins and other relatives to William H. Smith, including a letter from Henry H. Smith to sister Mary, and ABCFM certificates and donation receipts	1858 Jan 9- 1865 Feb 2
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Volume 4

b. 5, f. 151	Section A. Letter from John S. Green to MSS	1861 Dec 4
b. 5, f. 151	Section B. Letters from Gilsum, N.H. relatives and acquaintances to MSS and JCS	1860 Dec 18- 1864 Dec 9
b. 5, f. 151	Section C. Letters from friends in Winchendon, Mass., including Mary W. Gooding, J.B. Hyde and Sarah Hyde, to MSS and JCS	1861 Jan 15- 1863 Dec 22
b. 5, f. 151	Section D. Letters from Thomas Smith to MSS and JCS, including Monson Academy programs and song and letter from Monson Academy principal Mr. Grout	1861 Mar 5- 1862 Aug 16
b. 5, f. 151	Section E. Letters from Thomas Smith to MSS and JCS, written while at Amherst College	1862 Sep ?- 1863 Jul 25
b. 5, f. 151	Section F. Letters from Thomas Smith to MSS & JCS written while at Amherst College.	1863 Sep 28- 1864 Aug 19
b. 5, f. 151	Section G. Letters from Thomas Smith to MSS & JCS, written while at Amherst College	1864 Sep 2- Dec 20
b. 5, f. 151	Section H. Letters from Eunice Smith to MSS & JCS, written principally from Gilsum, N.H.	1860 Dec 8- 1863 Jul 27
b. 5, f. 151	Section I. Letters from Eunice Smith to MSS & JCS, written while at Mt. Holyoke Seminary	1863 Sep 12- 1864 Dec 28
b. 5, f. 151	Section J. Letters from Laura Smith to MSS & JCS. written from Winchendon, Mass.	1860 Dec 27- 1863 Oct 3
b. 5, f. 151	Section K. Letters from Laura Smith to MSS & JCS, written from Brookfield, Mass.	1863 Dec 14- 1864 Aug 18
b. 5, f. 151	Section L. Letters from Laura Smith to MSS & JCS. written from Mt. Holyoke Seminary.	1864 Sep 24- Dec 20
b. 5, f. 151	Section M. Letters from William Smith to MSS & JCS. written from Gilsum, N.H.	?1860 Nov 30- 1862 Nov 25

Volume 4 (continued)

b. 5, f. 151	Section N. Letters from Henry Smith to JCS & MSS, written from Winchendon & Brookfield, Mass.	1861 Aug 21- 1864 Dec 1
b. 5, f. 151	Section O. Hannah M. Fish to MSS & JCS with house diagram, also Thomas Smith financial accounts & his "vital statistics," & "Plan of Mr. Hyde's house"	1861 ca. Mar - 1862 Sep
b. 5, f. 151	Section P. 'Cure for Cholera' (handwritten), letter from S.A.B. to MSS, 7 October, no year, and ca. 12 fabric samples pasted on back cover."	No date
Volume 5		
b. 5, f. 152	Section A. Letters from Thomas Smith to Mary E. Smith (sister)	1862 Jun 22- 1864 Oct 19
b. 5, f. 152	Section B. Letters from Eunice Smith to Mary E. Smith (sister)	1861 Mar 12- Jul 2
b. 5, f. 152	Section C. Letters from Laura Smith to Mary E. Smith (sister), including a "dialogue" with President Lincoln, also letter from Hannah Fish to Mary E. Smith	1861 Mar 20- Jul 2
b. 5, f. 152	Section D. Letters from William Smith to Mary E. Smith (sister)	1861 Nov 18- [1864?] Oct 14
b. 5, f. 152	Section E. Letters from Henry Smith to Mary E. Smith (sister)	1861 Nov 14- 1865 Feb 13
b. 5, f. 152	Section F. Letters from Hattie Hyde, including one from Hattie Hyde & Laura Smith (sister)	1861 Nov 18-1864 Oct 19
b. 5, f. 152	Section G. Miscellaneous letters to Mary E. Smith, including from Samuel F. Green, Mr. and Mrs. Sanders, "Joseph" (servant). Includes also patriotic stickers and address label.	1863 Feb 3- Feb 21
Volume 6		
b. 5, f. 153	Section A. Letters from children's caregivers to MSS & JCS, including from Hannah M. Fish & Elisha S. Fish	1864 Jan 2- Aug 29
b. 5, f. 153	Section B. Letters from children's caregivers to MSS & JCS, including Mary W. Godding, Sarah H. Hyde, and Mary Fish Snell.	1864 Aug- 1865 Mar 30
b. 5, f. 153	Section C. Letters from cousins in Gilsum, N.H. who are children's caregivers to MSS & JCS, including from Janette Landon Fish, Elisha Fish, and Hannah M. Fish.	1865 Nov 1- 1866 Apr 19
Volume 7		
b. 6, f. 154	Section A. Letters from Thomas Smith to MSS & JCS, written while at Amherst College.	1865 Jan 14- Aug 29
b. 6, f. 154	Section B. Letters from Thomas Smith to MSS & JCS, written while at Amherst College.	1865 Sep 12- 1866 Jun 4
b. 6, f. 154	Section C. Letters from Thomas Smith to MSS & JCS	1864 Jun 29- 1866 Dec 29
b. 6, f. 154	Section D. Letters from Eunice Smith to MSS & JCS, written from Mt. Holyoke Seminary.	1864 Feb 3- 1865 Nov 6

Volume 7 (continued)

b. 6, f. 154	Section E. Letters from Eunice Smith to MSS & JCS	1865 Dec 2- 1866 Dec 12
b. 6, f. 154	Section F. Letter from Mary W. Godding to MSS	1866 Dec 12
b. 6, f. 154	Section G. Letters from Laura Smith to MSS & JCS, from Mt. Holyoke Seminary	1865 Jan 3- Jul 1
b. 6, f. 154	Section H. Letters from Laura Smith to MSS & JCS	1866 Jul 27- Dec 9
b. 6, f. 154	Section I. Letters from William Smith to MSS & JCS, including letter to Thomas Smith (brother)	1866 Jan 4- Dec 29
b. 6, f. 154	Section J. Letters from Henry H. Smith to MSS & JCS.	1865 Jan 2- 1866 Nov 16
b. 6, f. 154	Section K. Letters from Mary Smith to MSS & JCS, including letter to Thomas Smith (brother)	1865 Mar 1- 1866 Dec 21
Volume 8		
b. 6, f. 155	Section A. Letters from Thomas Smith to MSS & JCS	1866 Jan 8- 1867 Sep 9
b. 6, f. 155	Section B. Letters from Thomas Smith to MSS & JCS, from Andover Seminary	1867 Sep 19- Dec 21
b. 6, f. 155	Section C. Letters from Thomas Smith to MSS & JCS, from Andover Seminar.	1868 Jan 4- Oct 17
b. 6, f. 155	Section D. Letters from Eunice Smith to MSS & JCS, including letters to siblings	1867 Feb 1- Dec 27
b. 6, f. 155	Section E. Letters from Eunice Smith to MSS & JCS, including letters to siblings	1868 Jan- Oct 6
b. 6, f. 155	Section F. Letters from Laura Smith to MSS & JCS	1867 Jan 12- Dec 26
b. 6, f. 155	Section G. Letters from Laura Smith to MSS & JCS	1865 Jan 2- 1868 Aug 16
b. 6, f. 155	Section H. Letters from William Smith to MSS & JCS	1867 Jan 18- 1868 Oct 15
b. 6, f. 155	Section I. Letters from Henry H. Smith to MSS & JCS	1867 Jan 14- 1868 Oct 1
b. 6, f. 155	Section J. Letters from Mary E. Smith to MSS & JCS, including note from Laura Smith	1866 Jan 19- 1868 Sep 2

Series III: Journals, 1841-1865

JC Smith

b. 7, f. 156	Begins on board "Brenda" to Sri Lanka (Ceylon)	1841 October 14 - 1842 December
b. 7, f. 157	On board "Sea King" to Chennai (Madras)	1860 November 8 - 1861 March
b. 7, f. 157	On land	1861 Mar 12- May 15
b. 7, f. 158	Memorandum book: daily journal kept by Smith with detailed accounts of his work in Sri Lanka (Ceylon)	1861 June - 1865 July 12

Mary E. Smith

b. 7, f. 159	On board the "Lord Wardon"	1865 Jan 18- [1865 Dec?]
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Series IV: Personal Items and Memorabilia, 1841-1866

b. 7, f. 160	Childrens' expense accounts	1863-1866
b. 7, f. 161	Fabric scraps	1861-1863
b. 7, f. 162	Blank stationery, fragments	1841
b. 7, f. 163	Laura Smith's notebook	1861 Dec 18- 1861 Dec 27
b. 7, f. 164	Family photographs	1869-1872, n.d.
b. 7, f. 165	Detailed biographical sketches of Smith family members, and an essay about the collection, including information about the families that cared for the Smith children, written by Elizabeth C. Stevens.	2008

Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

Subjects

Children of missionaries
Missionaries
Missions -- Sri Lanka

Geographic Names

New England -- History

Names

Smith, Asa Bowen, 1809-1886

Corporate Bodies

American Board of Commissioners for Foreign
Missions -- China
Amherst College
Mount Holyoke College

Contributors

Smith, John Curtis
Smith, Mary Snell Steele