

Guide to the Edward C. Starr Papers

MS 1166



compiled by Janet Elaine Gertz

August 1983

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Collection Overview

REPOSITORY: Manuscripts and Archives
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CALL NUMBER: MS 1166

CREATOR: Starr, Edward C. (Edward Comfort), 1844-1941

TITLE: Edward Comfort Starr papers

DATES: 1854-1916

BULK DATES: 1868-1916

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: 0.5 linear feet

LANGUAGE: English

SUMMARY: Correspondence of family members and associates sent to Edward C. Starr from Connecticut and China, including items relating to the Congregational Church.

ONLINE FINDING AID: To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/mssa.ms.1166>

Requesting Instructions

To request items from this collection for use in the Manuscripts and Archives reading room, please use the request links in the HTML version of this finding aid, available at <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/mssa.ms.1166>.

To order reproductions from this collection, please go to http://www.library.yale.edu/mssa/ifr_copy_order.html. The information you will need to submit an order includes: the collection call number, collection title, series or accession number, box number, and folder number or name.

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

b. box
f. folder

Administrative Information

Conditions Governing Access

The collection is open for research.

Conditions Governing Use

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Preferred Citation

Edward Comfort Starr Papers. Manuscripts and Archives, Yale University Library.

Biographical / Historical

Edward Comfort Starr, B.A. 1866.

Born January 12, 1844, in Guilford, Conn.

Died January 16, 1941, in Cornwall, Conn.

Father, John Shipman Starr, a farmer in Guilford; son of Comfort and Sally (Pratt) Starr of Guilford. Mother, Lydia Austin (Lay) Starr; daughter of Steuben and Martha (Wright) Lay of Westbrook, Conn. Yale relatives include: Thomas Ruggles (B.A. 1723) and Nathaniel Ruggles (B.A. 1732) (great-great-great-uncles); John W. Starr, '71 (brother); and John K. H. DeForest, '68 (brother-in-law).

Guilford Institute. First colloquy appointment Junior year; second dispute appointment Senior year; member Kappa Sigma Epsilon, Linonia, and Delta Kappa Epsilon.

Teacher at Royalton (Vt.) Academy 1866-67; attended Yale Divinity School 1867-68, 1869-70 (B.D. 1870), and Andover Theological Seminary 1868-69; home missionary in the West 1870-71; ordained in Congregational church, Waseca, Minn., March 20, 1871, and minister there 1871-75; minister Wethersfield Avenue Church, Hartford, Conn., 1876-80, Northfield, Conn., 1881-87, and First Congregational Church, Cornwall, 1888 until retirement 1915; superintendent of the Sunday School 1891-1904 and 1921-23; author: *A Catechetical Introduction to the Pentateuch* (1881), *A General Introduction to the Holy Scriptures, An Introduction to the Sunday School Lessons* (1886), and *A History of Cornwall, Connecticut...* (1926); editor: *Parish Papers of the Northfield Congregational Church* (1882-87); supplied notes for *Diary of Ebenezer Dibble* (1903); president Cornwall Water Company 1915-30 and Village Improvement Society; treasurer and member executive committee Cornwall Library 1888-1913; member Cornwall Library Association 1888-1935 (president 1913-35); trustee Housatonic Valley Institute 1907-30; chairman school board for many years; moderator of town meeting; president Cornwall University Club and Cornwall Law and Order League; vice-president Litchfield County University Club.

Married January 12, 1878, in Hartford, Emily Amelia, daughter of Charles Jackson and Martha Delia (Winship) Shew. Children: Charles Comfort, '00 S., Edward Burgis, '07, and Mabel Emily. Mrs. Starr died March 9, 1937.

Death due to old age. Buried in Cornwall Cemetery. Survived by children, six grandchildren, and six great-grandchildren.

Mr. Starr was the last surviving member of his Class. Since February 8, 1940, he had enjoyed the distinction of being the oldest living graduate of Yale.

(Taken from *Yale University Obituary Record*, 1940-43, pp. 5-6).

Scope and Contents

Over four hundred letters and cards addressed to Edward Comfort Starr make up this collection. A few of the letters are from relatives, including one from his sister-in-law Lizzie DeForest written during a visit to China in 1907 and describing, among other things, victims of famine in Nanking; there are also several letters to members of the Lay family (the family of Starr's mother) who were involved with mission work. The majority of the letters, however, are from fellow ministers and missionaries of the Congregational Church, most of them in Connecticut, although there are also a few letters from missionaries in Asia. The letters deal with church business and other professional matters, such as the activities of various missionary societies, the setting up of Sunday schools and other aspects of religious education. The letters are arranged in alphabetical order.

The provenance of these letters is unknown.

Collection Contents

b. 1, f. 1 - 22	Letters, A-W	
b. 1, f. 23	Notebook: Sketch of the life of Asa Lay (1749-1814), by Emmie Elizabeth Lay (1828-1903); notes on Westbrook, Conn., church records, by E. C. Starr	1883-1885, undated

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

Clergy
Congregational churches -- Connecticut
Missionaries
Missionaries -- Biography

Geographic Names

China -- Religion

Names

DeForest, Lizzie
Starr, Edward C. (Edward Comfort), 1844-1941