

# Guide to the Noyes Family Papers

MS 851



compiled by Janet Elaine Gertz

November 1981

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## Collection Overview

**REPOSITORY:** Manuscripts and Archives  
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**CALL NUMBER:** MS 851

**CREATOR:** Noyes family

**TITLE:** Noyes family papers

**DATES:** 1851-1922

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:** 1.5 linear feet

**LANGUAGE:** English

**SUMMARY:** Correspondence, printed matter, and memorabilia of Atherton Noyes (1862-1938) and his brother Edward Parish Noyes (1857-1913). Material concerns the undergraduate years of his brothers at Yale, classes of 1880 and 1885, Atherton Noyes' life in Colorado, and his trip to Europe in 1894-1895.

**ONLINE FINDING AID:** To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/mssa.ms.0851>

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## 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.0851>.

To order reproductions from this collection, please go to [http://www.library.yale.edu/mssa/ifr\\_copy\\_order.html](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

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## Administrative Information

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### Immediate Source of Acquisition

Purchase and gift from Leroy E. Wilson, 1976.

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## Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

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## Conditions Governing Use

Copyright status for collection materials is unknown, though much of the material in this collection is likely in the public domain. Transmission or reproduction of materials protected by U.S. Copyright Law (Title 17, U.S.C.) beyond that allowed by fair use requires the written permission of the copyright owners. Works not in the public domain cannot be commercially exploited without permission of the copyright owners. Responsibility for any use rests exclusively with the user.

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## Preferred Citation

Noyes Family Papers (MS 851). Manuscripts and Archives, Yale University Library.

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## Biographical / Historical

Atherton Noyes, B.A. 1885.

Born June 14, 1862, in New York City.

Died November 19, 1938, in Cambridge, Mass.

Father, Rev. Daniel Parker Noyes, '40. Mother, Helen McGregor (Means) Noyes. Yale relatives include: Edward P. Noyes, '80 (brother); Frederic Adams, '62, and D. McGregor Means, '68 (cousins).

Phillips-Andover. Oration appointment Junior year; dissertation appointment Senior year; member Dunham Boat Club three years; Class tennis club Junior year; teacher at Temple Street Mission School Senior year; member Debating Club, Ivy Committee, Gamma Nu, and Psi Upsilon.

Private tutor New York City 1885-86; attended Harvard Medical School 1886-87; because of ill-health went to Colorado in 1887 and until 1892 had no regular occupation other than being in banking business in Aspen, Colo., for a short time and in real estate business in Colorado Springs; secretary Colorado Summer School 1892-93 and director 1896; teacher in Cutler Academy; instructor in English Colorado College 1893-99 and in Greek 1894-99, assistant professor of English 1899-1913 and of Greek 1899-1903, professor of English 1913-18, and dean of the faculty 1895-1901; exchange professor at Harvard 1915-16; instructor in English Harvard 1919-25 and Radcliffe 1918-28; retired in 1928 and had since resided in Cambridge; author: *Matthew Arnold's Poetry; an Appreciation* (1916) and "Katharsis in Literature and Life," (*Sewanee Review*, October, 1921); M.A. Harvard 1916; member Archaeological Institute and First Church (Congregational), Boston, Mass.

Married July 10, 1901, in Intervale, N.H., Margaret Davenport, daughter of William Eliot and Eliza Heyer (Polhemus) Fette. Children: Atherton, Jr. (B.A. Harvard 1926, M.A. 1928, M.S. 1929, S.D. 1934); Marion MacGregor (died June 21, 1906); Eliot Fette (B.A. Harvard 1932, M.Arch. 1938); and Margaret (B.A. Radcliffe 1934).

Death due to bronchopneumonia and carcinoma. Buried in Mount Auburn Cemetery, Cambridge. Survived by wife, two sons, daughter, and two grandchildren.

(Taken from *Yale University Obituary Record*).

\* \* \* \* \*

Edward Parish Noyes

Son of Rev. Daniel Parker Noyes (B.A. Yale 1840), Tutor in Yale College from 1843 to 1847, and Helen McGregor (Means) Noyes, was born September 26, 1857, in New York City, where his father was then secretary of the American (now Congregational) Home Missionary Society. During his boyhood he also lived at Orange, N. J., and Brookline and Rockport, Mass. He was prepared for college at Phillips Academy, Andover, Mass.

After graduation he learned the machinist's trade in the Lowell (Mass.) Machine Shops, studying especially the construction of cotton machinery. He spent considerable time for the company in the South superintending the equipment of cotton mills, especially in South Carolina and Tennessee, continuing this line of work until 1884, when he entered the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and took a special one-year course. For nine years following he was connected with the Neverslip Horseshoe Co. of Boston, and after that was treasurer of the Hancock Inspirator Co. until July, 1896. Since then he had been an expert in mechanical engineering, his office being in Boston and his residence since 1892 in Winchester.

Mr. Noyes died suddenly of heart trouble at his home in Winchester, September 20, 1913, in the 56th year of his age.

He married, November 7, 1891, in Hastings, England, Jessie Porter Hill, daughter of Richard and Harriet (Winter) Hill, of Davenport, Ia. She died July 22, 1897, but two daughters and a son survived him. A brother (B.A. Yale 1885) is Assistant Professor of English in Colorado College.

(Taken from *Yale University Obituary Record*).

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## Scope and Contents

The Noyes Family Papers consist of correspondence, memorabilia, and printed matter relating to Atherton and Edward Parish Noyes and their families. The bulk of the papers is made up of letters written by the brothers to each other and to other family members and friends. Included is correspondence from their years at Yale University (Edward was a member of the class of 1880, Atherton of the class of 1885) and their later lives; in particular there are numerous letters from Atherton describing his life in Colorado from 1887 on, and his visit to Europe in 1894-1895. As well as correspondence, the papers contain a good deal of Yale memorabilia and some other printed matter, and several photographs of Atherton.

The papers of the two brothers have been separated, and their correspondence arranged chronologically. Letters between the two are filed under the author's name. These papers were acquired by Yale University by purchase and gift from LeRoy E. Wilson in 1976.

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## Collection Contents

Atherton Noyes		
b. 1, f. 1 - 32	Outgoing correspondence	1881-1922, undated
b. 2, f. 33	Incoming correspondence	1881-1884, undated
b. 2, f. 34	Scrapbook of Yale memorabilia	1881-1885
b. 2, f. 35 - 36	Loose papers removed from scrapbook	1881-1885
b. 2, f. 37	Photographs	1880, undated
Edward Parish Noyes		
b. 3, f. 38 - 60	Outgoing correspondence	1875-1913, undated
b. 3, f. 61	Incoming correspondence	1881-1887, undated
b. 3, f. 62	Yale memorabilia	1878-1890, undated
b. 3, f. 63	Correspondence of other family members	1851-1906, undated
b. 3, f. 64	Yale printed matter	1876-1886, undated
b. 3, f. 65	Other printed matter	1888-1920, 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**

Businessmen  
Educators  
Families

### **Geographic Names**

Colorado -- Social life and customs  
Europe -- Description and travel

### **Names**

Noyes, Atherton, 1862-1938  
Noyes, Daniel  
Noyes, Edward Parish, 1857-1913

### **Families**

Noyes family

### **Corporate Body**

Yale University -- Students