

Guide to the James Taylor Dickinson Papers

MS 183



compiled by Staff of Manuscripts and Archives

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Collection Overview

REPOSITORY: Manuscripts and Archives
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CALL NUMBER: MS 183

CREATOR: Dickinson, James Taylor, 1806-1884

TITLE: James Taylor Dickinson papers

DATES: 1821-1884

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: 0.75 linear feet (2 boxes, 1 folio)

LANGUAGE: English

SUMMARY: Missionary and teacher in Singapore, 1835-1844. Correspondence, a journal covering his years in Singapore, genealogical notes, a Malay lexicon and a Chinese-English vocabulary. Principal correspondents are Lyman Beecher, Horace Dickinson, Mercy Amelia Dickinson, Horace Greeley, Edward Everett Hale, Mary Ann Moseley Dickinson Perkins, and Lebbeus B. Ward.

ONLINE FINDING AID: To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/mssa.ms.0183>

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.0183>.

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

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Gift of Mrs. Alfred Howe Terry, 1941.

Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

Conditions Governing Use

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Preferred Citation

James Taylor Dickinson Papers (MS 183). Manuscripts and Archives, Yale University Library.

Biographical / Historical

JAMES TAYLOR DICKINSON, 1806-1884

The James Taylor Dickinson Collection consists of two manuscript boxes of the correspondence and journal of James Taylor Dickinson.

The following account of Mr. Dickinson's life appears in the Yale Obituary Record, June 1885.

James Taylor Dickinson, the eldest child of Horace and Mary Ann (Taylor) Dickinson (both from Western Massachusetts), was born in Lowville, Lewis county, N.Y., October 27, 1806. His parents removed to Canada in 1816, and he entered College from Montreal in 1822.

After graduating he began the study of law in Montreal; but in 1827 he became convinced that he ought to enter the Christian ministry and removed to Andover Theological Seminary; he took last year of his course (1829-30) in the Yale Divinity School.

He was ordained pastor of the Second (Congregational) church in Norwich, Conn., April 4, 1832, and on the 21st of November following married Mary, daughter of Samuel Hikok, of Burlington, Vt., where he had been preaching for some time and had declined a call to settle. She died in Norwich, April 6, 1834, at the age of 19; and on the 20th of August next, he resigned his pastorate that he might fit himself for the work of a foreign missionary. After one year of preparatory studies in medicine, he embarked in July, 1835, for Singapore, in the East Indies, under an appointment from the American Board. Five years passed in the study of the Chinese and Malay languages, and in missionary labor. For four years from 1840 he was employed as a teacher in the Singapore Institution, till the loss of his health obliged him to return home.

In 1845, he settled in Middlefield, Conn., where he married, May 15, Sarah C., daughter of Deacon William Lyman, who survives him. Owing to his shattered health, he lived in seclusion, in the midst of his large and continually replenished library, chiefly occupied in reading and study. He published a few articles in periodicals, and contributed to Appleton's Cyclopaedia an account of the Malay language; he also wrote a brief memoir of his brother-in-law, the Reverend George W. Perkins (Y.C. 1824), prefixed to a volume of sermons in 1859. These are the only results in print of his broad culture and accurate scholarship.

He died of paralysis, at his home in Middlefield, July 22, 1884, in his 78th year.

By his last will he added to a fund already established by him for the benefit of the College, which thus amounts to nearly \$50,000; about 1,000 volumes of his valuable library were also bequeathed to the College.

The papers were the gift of Mrs. Alfred Howe Terry in 1941.

Scope and Contents

Missionary and teacher in Singapore, 1835-1844. Correspondence, a journal covering his years in Singapore, genealogical notes, a Malay lexicon and a Chinese-English vocabulary. Principal correspondents are Lyman Beecher, Horace Dickinson, Mercy Amelia Dickinson, Horace Greeley, Edward Everett Hale, Mary Ann Moseley Dickinson Perkins, and Lebbeus B. Ward.

General

A genealogy and family tree are included only in print version of the finding aid available in the repository.

Collection Contents

b. 1, f. 35	Journal	1835-1837, 1840, 1848
b. 2, f. 41	"Logat Malayu: Malay Lexicon in two parts" English	1876
b. 2, f. 42	"Logat Malayu: Malay Lexicon in two parts" (revision) English	1876, 1877
b. 2, f. 43	"Chinese and English Vocabularies" English	1884
b. 1, f. 1-34	Correspondence	1821-1824, undated
b. 1, f. 36	Sermon (copy in another hand)	1838
b. 1, f. 37	Notes on his 30-year reunion	1856
b. 1, f. 38	Memorial booklet	[1884?]
b. 1, f. 39	Genealogical notes	undated
b. 2, f. 40	"Malay Pirate Song" English	1843

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

Chinese language -- Dictionaries -- English
Clergy
Educators
English language -- Dictionaries -- Malay
Malay language -- Dictionaries -- English
Missionaries
Missions -- China
Missions -- Malaysia -- Malaya

Geographic Names

Asia
China -- Description and travel
China -- Social conditions
Singapore -- Description and travel

Genres / Formats

Diaries

Names

Beecher, Lyman, 1775-1863
Dickinson, Horace, 1780-1832
Dickinson, James Taylor, 1806-1884
Dickinson, Mercy Amelia Bigelow
Greeley, Horace, 1811-1872
Hale, Edward Everett, 1822-1909
Perkins, Mary Ann Moseley Dickinson,
1808-1851
Ward, Lebbeus Baldwin, 1804-1885

Corporate Body

Yale University -- Students