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James Morris Whiton papers4492516

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Description is written in: English.

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Burke Library at Union Theological Seminary

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URL: <https://library.columbia.edu/locations/burke.html>

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Summary Information

Repository:	Burke Library at Union Theological Seminary
Creator:	Whiton, James Morris, 1833-1920
Title:	James Morris Whiton papers
ID:	4492516
Date [inclusive]:	circa 1819 -- 1929
Physical Description:	10.5 linear feet 10.5 linear feet; 22 boxes
Language of the Material:	English .
Abstract:	James Morris Whiton (1833-1920) was a Congregational minister, teacher, and author, recognized as a writer on theological and ethical themes, and a preacher of the social gospel. The collection contains writings, correspondence, journals, material on the New York State Conference of Religion, photographs, and scrapbooks.

Preferred Citation

Item description, UTS1: James Morris Whiton papers, series #, box #, folder #, The Burke Library at Union Theological Seminary, Columbia University in the City of New York.

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Biographical / Historical

James Morris Whiton, Jr. was born April 11, 1833 in Boston, Massachusetts to James Morris Whiton (1809-1857) and Mary Elizabeth (Knowlton) Whiton (1809-1906). At the age of 11 he began at Boston Latin School. In 1849, James Whiton entered Yale College; his first connection with the press came during his sophomore year when he began to write book notices for a periodical. He graduated from Yale in 1853 and soon after accepted a teaching position at a high school in Worcester, Massachusetts. His interest in the ministry continued to grow, having joined the church after his younger sister's death in 1847. He later accepted the position of Rector at Hopkins Grammar School in New Haven, Connecticut. James married Mary Bartlett, the sister of a close friend, on May 1, 1855. In 1859, Whiton was licensed to preach by the

New Haven West Association. He wrote a Latin Primer and Greek Primer while pursuing his PhD from Yale from which he graduated in 1861. This was the first year that a PhD degree was awarded at Yale, with James being one of three individuals earning the degree. It is said that his thesis was comprised of six pages all in Latin. In May 1865, Whiton was ordained and installed as minister of the First Congregational Church in Lynn, Massachusetts, having studied theology at Andover Seminary for a year. He became principal of the Williston Seminary in Easthampton, Massachusetts in 1876, but resigned two years later because of "theological animosities excited by his book, 'Is Eternal Punishment Endless?'" From 1879-1885 he was pastor of the First Congregational Church in Newark, New Jersey, followed in 1886 by Trinity Congregational Church in New York City. Due to poor health, he retired from pastoral work in 1891 and dedicated himself to teaching, writing, and occasional preaching. Over the next twenty years, Whiton would travel extensively as a guest preacher both on the northeast and into England. He was a member of the staff of Outlook, a large publishing house, and contributing editor for the Homiletic Review. Whiton is recognized as a writer on theological and ethical themes, and a preacher of the social gospel. He authored countless newspaper and magazine articles, and ten books. James Morris Whiton Jr. died in New York City on January 25, 1920 (1919 in some reports) and is buried at the Grove Street Seminary in New Haven, Connecticut.

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Scope and Contents

This collection contains writings, correspondence, journals, material on the New York State Conference of Religion, photographs, and scrapbooks.

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Arrangement

This collection is arranged in five series: Series 1: Journals; Series 2: Correspondence; Series 3: Writings; Series 4: New York State Conference of Religion; and Series 5: Photographs and scrapbooks.

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Administrative Information

Publication Statement

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Revision Description

PDF converted to EAD and description updated by Leah Edelman. 2024-04-29

Conditions Governing Access

This collection is open for research.

Conditions Governing Access

All boxes in this collection are located offsite. Please note that requests for use of boxes held in offsite storage must be made three business days in advance.

Immediate Source of Acquisition

The exact provenance of this collection is unknown.

Processing Information

Some metal clips and staples were removed from materials and folded items were flattened. Materials were placed in new acid-free folders and boxes. Acidic items were separated from one another by interleaving with acid-free paper as needed. Any items in an advanced state of deterioration were placed in Mylar envelopes. The collection was updated in 2015 as part of the Henry Luce Foundation grant. At this time the collection was fully processed and certain boxes were combined. The Project Archivist, Brigitte Kamsler, was assisted in the refolding and describing of materials by two student assistants, Carolyn Bratnober and Alex W. Black. The finding aid was updated and edited by Leah Edelman in 2024.

Conditions Governing Use

Some material in this collection may be protected by copyright and other rights. Information concerning copyright, fair use, and reproduction requests can be consulted at Columbia's Copyright Advisory Office.

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Controlled Access Headings

- Diaries
- Scrapbooks
- Sermons
- Clergy
- Educators
- Authors
- Whiton, James Morris, 1833-1920 -- : Archives
- New York State Conference of Religion

Burke Library record group:

Union Theological Seminary Archives: UTS 1, papers of faculty and students

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Collection Inventory

Series 1: Journals, 1847 -- 1920

Physical Description: 1.5 linear feet 1.5 linear feet; 3 boxes

Conditions Governing Access:

Conditions Governing Access

This series is open for research.

Arrangement

This series is arranged roughly chronologically.

Scope and Contents

This series contains diaries and logs of journeys for Whiton. There are multiple diaries for the late 1880s period specifically.

Title/Description	Instances
Journals , 1847, 1850 -- 1880	box 1:1

Journals and supplement, 1858 -- 1901	box 1:2
Journals, 1902 -- 1920	box 1:3

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Series 2: Correspondence, circa 1819 -- 1929

Physical Description: 2.5 linear feet 2.5 linear feet; 5 boxes

Conditions Governing Access:

Conditions Governing Access

This series is open for research.

Arrangement

This series is arranged by type of correspondence.

Scope and Contents

This series contains letters to individuals, publishers, companies, organizations and committees that Whiton was involved with. Included are letters from Herbert A. Youtz at Auburn Seminary and letters regarding an essay prize that Whiton won at Talladega College. In the folders with the topic of Modern Theology are writers such as Walter Rauschenbusch and McGiffert, W. Dougla MacKenzie at Hartford Theological Seminary, Charles Francis Carter, Nathaniel Schmidt, and Frederic Palmer. Also contained in the series are two bound letter books. The first, called "Valuable Letters," contains material related to a proposition to become pastor at a church in Pittsfield, Massachusetts; settlement in Lynn; and overtures from other churches that Whiton declined. These letters are from a variety of locations, not just Massachusetts. Also includes letters from parents regarding their sons' work during the term and a memorial service booklet for President James A. Garfield from 1881. The second book, "Letters worth keeping," contains similar material including from the American Home Missionary Society; about his emigration to England; the New York Society of Christian Socialists; and from a variety of theological seminaries.

Title/Description	Instances	
A-Z, 1872 -- 1919	box 2:1	folder 1-7
Correspondence, 1864 -- 1919	box 2:1	folder 8
Scope and Contents		
Outlook Company, 1907-1919 Publication of and about Latin and Green Works, 1864-1889		
Correspondence, 1903 -- 1920	box 2:1	folder 9
Scope and Contents		
The Life of God in the Life of his World, 1918-1919 Talladega College, 1903; 1918-1920		
Works on Modern Theology, 1898 -- 1908	box 2:1	folder 10-11
Correspondence, 1878 -- 1918	box 2:2	folder 1

Scope and Contents

Publications, 1878; 1885; 1917 The Bible as a Self-Correcting Book, 1890; 1918

British letters, 1888 -- 1891	box 2:2	folder 2
Rectorship, Hopkins Grammar School, 1854 -- 1864	box 2:2	folder 3
First Congregational Church, Lynn, Massachusetts, 1865 -- 1869	box 2:2	folder 4
First Congregational Church, Log Pastoral Activity, 1865 -- 1869	box 2:2	folder 5
History, North Congregational Church of Lynn, Massachusetts, 1868 -- 1875	box 2:2	folder 6
North Congregational Church, Log Pastoral Activity, 1868 -- 1875	box 2:2	folder 7
Newark Council, 1879	box 2:2	folder 8
Willistoniana School, East Hampton, 1876 -- 1878	box 2:2	folder 9
History, First Congregational Church of Newark, New Jersey, 1879 -- 1885	box 2:2	folder 10
Trinity Congregational Church, New York City, 1887 -- 1891	box 2:3	folder 1
Correspondence, 1901	box 2:3	folder 2
Scope and Contents		
Haworth New Jersey Parish, 1901 Ministerial Conferences and Advertisements of Congregations		
Correspondence, 1899 -- 1900	box 2:3	folder 3
Scope and Contents		
Second International Congregational Council, 1899 Ecumenical Conference on Foreign Missions, 1900		
Family correspondence, 1877 -- 1917	box 2:3	folder 4
Scope and Contents		
Biographical Data and Bibliography 25th Marriage Anniversary Event, 1880 Draft Poems to Mary Elya, 1877-1917		
Family correspondence, 1920	box 2:3	folder 5
Scope and Contents		
Helen [daughter], 1920 Little Morris		
12 Sermons by J.M. Whiton's Father[?], 1819 -- 1850	box 2:3	folder 6

Family correspondence, 1902 -- 1919	box 2:3	folder 7
Scope and Contents		
From Bartlett and Howard Whiton to Grandparents, 1902-1919 Helen Herrick to J.M. Whiton, 1907-1911		
Family correspondence, 1844 -- 1920	box 2:3	folder 8
Condolences on death of Whiton's Mother, 1906	box 2:3	folder 9
Death of J.M. Whiton, 1920 -- 1921	box 2:3	folder 10
Memorial Service: Address, Correspondence, Notices, circa 1920 -- 1929	box 2:3	folder 11
Book, "Valuable Letters," 1864 -- 1888	box 2:4	
Book, "Letters Worth Keeping," 1889 -- 1910	box 2:5	

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Series 3: Writings, 1848 -- 1919

Physical Description: 3.25 linear feet 3.25 linear feet; 7 boxes

Conditions Governing Access:

Conditions Governing Access

This series is open for research.

Arrangement

This series is arranged by material type.

Scope and Contents

This series contains manuscript and print addresses, essays, and notes, as well as sermons. The newspaper articles were either by or about Whiton. There are also articles that influenced or were collected by Whiton himself. Whiton was an active reviewer of books and other publications, and this series also contains information on those. The "topic files" contain information and articles on specific organizations and people that influenced Whiton. This includes Henry Ward Beecher, the Federal Council of Churches in America, liturgy, slavery, Church Union, and Westminster Catechism.

Title/Description	Instances	
Articles, essays, and notes, circa 1866 -- 1919	box 3:1	folder 1
Scope and Contents		
"The Alleged Infallibility of the Scriptures Practically Considered," "The Anti-Christian Use of the Bible," "Business Ethics," "Christology," "Church Action for Political Morality," "The Coming of the Son of Man"		
Articles, essays, and notes, circa 1866 -- 1919	box 3:1	folder 2

Scope and Contents

"Damage by a Good Word," "The Divine Trilogy as Biological Reality"

Articles, essays, and notes, circa 1866 -- 1919 box 3:1 folder 3

Scope and Contents

"An Ethical Creed," "Ethical Regulations," "The Gambling Evil," "The God-Consciousness of Jesus," "Inefficient Religion and Efficient," "The Inspiration of the Prophets," "Introduction to the Meeting of the General Assembly of Congregational Churches of Massachusetts"

Articles, essays, and notes, circa 1866 -- 1919 box 3:1 folder 4

Scope and Contents

"John Wiclif as a Social Leader," "Missions and Massacres," "Modern Theology," "Moorehead Lake," "The Moral Crisis Confronting the Church," "Moral Defects in Recent Sunday School Teaching," "Morality Real and Unreal," "Outworn Theological Ideas"

Articles, essays, and notes, circa 1866 -- 1919 box 3:1 folder 5

Scope and Contents

"The Place of Departed Spirits," "Practicing the Presence of God," "Public Sentiment," "Premature Burial," "The Reaction of Ethics upon Economics"

Articles, essays, and notes, circa 1866 -- 1919 box 3:1 folder 6

Scope and Contents

"Religion in Our Public Schools," "Religion Versus Customary Morality," "Religious Solidarity"

Articles, essays, and notes, circa 1866 -- 1919 box 3:2 folder 1

Scope and Contents

"Report on the Work of the Churches and State of Religion," "Retrospect and Prospect," "The Revival of Atheism," "Selections, Chiefly from the Holy Scriptures, for Devotional Use in Public and Social Worship," "Self Realization as the Christian Aim," "Some Implicates of Theism"

Articles, essays, and notes, circa 1866 -- 1919 box 3:2 folder 2

Scope and Contents

"The Teaching of Christ Respecting the Duration of Future Punishment," "The Teaching of Paul Respecting the Duration of Future Punishment," "Theological

Bearings of Modern Philosophy and Science," "Through
the Phenomena of Change to the Reality of God,"
"Trinity and/or Creed," "U.R.S.," "Victim or Warrior?"

For "The Christian Union", 1888 -- 1896	box 3:2	folder 3-4
For "The Homiletic Review", 1899 -- 1917	box 3:2	folder 5-6
Interludes in a Time of Change (Reviews), 1909	box 3:3	folder 1
For "The Outlook", 1895 -- 1910	box 3:3	folder 2
For "The Universalist Leader", 1915	box 3:3	folder 3
General, 1894 -- 1919	box 3:3	folder 4
Sermons, 1885 -- 1901	box 3:3	folder 5
Scope and Contents		
"Peace by Power," "Contrasts of a Century," "Reconciled to God," "A Quarter Century Retrospect of Change and Progress in Christian Thought," "Fiftieth Anniversary of North Church," "The Law of Christ," "Christian Morality,"		
Sermons, general, 1868 -- 1910	box 3:3	folder 6-8
Sermon scrapbook, 1871 -- 1874	box 3:4	
"New Theology," Controversy over Whiton's sermons, General Content by Whiton, circa 1866 -- 1919	box 3:5	folder 1-2
Articles that Influenced Whiton, circa 1866 -- 1919	box 3:5	folder 3-4
Contributed and Editorial, circa 1866 -- 1919	box 3:5	folder 5
Articles about Book Reviews, National Tribune and New York Herald, circa 1866 -- 1919	box 3:5	folder 6
Articles by Whiton, Washington D.C. and London, circa 1866 -- 1919	box 3:5	folder 7
Scraps from English Papers, circa 1866 -- 1919	box 3:5	folder 8
Correspondence from journals, circa 1866 -- 1919	box 3:5	folder 9
Reviews of Books and Publications, circa 1866 -- 1919	box 3:6	folder 1-4
Publications Collected by Whiton, circa 1866 -- 1919	box 3:6	folder 5-6
Topic Files, circa 1866 -- 1919	box 3:6	folder 7-11
Poetry, circa 1890 -- 1910	box 3:7	folder 1
Prizes for Writing, 1848 -- 1891	box 3:7	folder 2
Translation Notes, Lecture on Cato the Elder, circa 1848 -- 1891	box 3:7	folder 3
Practical Ethics, 1863 -- 1904	box 3:7	folder 4-5

Henry Ward Beecher, circa 1863 -- 1904	box 3:7	folder 6
Unpublished Manuscript: From Seers to Prophets, 1885	box 3:7	folder 7-9

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Series 4: New York State Conference of Religion, 1898 -- 1915

Physical Description: 2.25 linear feet 2.25 linear feet; 5 boxes

Conditions Governing Access:

Conditions Governing Access

This series is open for research.

Arrangement

This series is arranged by material type.

Scope and Contents

This series contains information about the New York State Conference of Religion (NYSCR). Included is the original register of those in attendance, correspondence related to the Conference, published proceedings of the conference, and addresses to and related to the Conference. The addresses before the New York State Conference of Religion usually contained four numbers in the series with meetings being held regularly through the year. Some of the numbers are missing in each year. Meetings were held throughout the state, including in Poughkeepsie and Schenectady. Whiton was very involved in the conference and served as the Chairman of the Executive Committee. Other members of the Executive Committee were Josiah Strong, Henry Mottet, Reverend W. C. Gannett, and L. A. Maynard. Reverend Leighton Williams served as the General Secretary, with Thomas Whittaker as Treasurer.

Title/Description	Instances	
Conference register book and correspondence, circa 1899	box 4:1	
Correspondence, 1899 -- 1900	box 4:2	
Proceedings, 1900 -- 1906	box 4:3	
Published Addresses, Series 1-13, 1903 -- 1915	box 4:4	
Statement of Purpose, 1898 -- 1899	box 4:5	folder 1
Meetings, Correspondence, Minutes and Reports, 1900 -- 1915	box 4:5	folder 2-7
Ancient Hebrew Ethics, 1902	box 4:5	folder 8
Chairman's Address, circa 1903 -- 1913	box 4:5	folder 9
Typed and Annotated Addresses, circa 1903 -- 1913	box 4:5	folder 10
Presentations: Ethics of Money, Applied Morality, Moral Crisis and Revival, 1905	box 4:5	folder 11
Presentations: Music; Protestant Reformers, circa 1904	box 4:5	folder 12
Newspaper Clippings about Conference, 1900 -- 1906	box 4:5	folder 13

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Series 5: Photographs and scrapbooks, circa 1870 -- 1916

Physical Description: 1 linear feet 1 linear foot; 2 boxes

Conditions Governing Access:

Conditions Governing Access

This series is open for research.

Arrangement

This series is arranged by format.

Scope and Contents

This series contains photographs depicting Whiton himself, locations he lived, and other well-known theologians in the field, as well as scrapbooks with loose papers, pamphlets, correspondence, and newspaper clippings.

Title/Description	Instances
Photographs, circa 1870 -- 1906	box 5:1
<p>Scope and Contents</p> <p>Including Mrs. W.B. Brown; Dr. W. B. Brown, predecessor in Newark; Unidentified, Oxford, 1886; Portraits of James Morris Whiton, 1891; Antrim, New Hampshire; H. Trumbull; Rev. J. Brierley, 1906; Whiton Portrait, Lynn, Massachusetts; Whiton Portrait, Birmingham, 1887; Whiton Portrait, Newark, New Jersey, 1882; Whiton Portrait, August 1891; Baldwin Coolidge; [A.] W. Dale; Alfred R. Wallace</p>	
Scrapbooks, 1876 -- 1916	box 5:2

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