

Yale University Library
Yale Divinity Library

Guide to the Beach Family Papers

RG 60



Compiled by Martha Lund Smalley

1979

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New Haven, CT 06511
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<http://web.library.yale.edu/divinity/special-collections>

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Collection Overview

REPOSITORY: Yale Divinity Library
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(203) 432-5301
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<http://web.library.yale.edu/divinity/special-collections>

CALL NUMBER: RG 60

TITLE: Beach Family papers

DATES: 1858-1961

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: 6 linear feet (15 boxes)

LANGUAGE: English

SUMMARY: The papers document various aspects of the lives of brothers David Nelson Beach and Harlan Page Beach, including their student days at Yale (1868-1878), Harlan's work in North China (1883-1890), and David's work as a clergyman and with the Anti-Saloon League while in Cambridge, Minneapolis and Denver. David Nelson Beach, 1848-1926, was a prominent Congregational clergyman in Cambridge, Massachusetts, Minneapolis, Minnesota and Denver, Colorado and was active in temperance reform. He was president of Bangor Theological Seminary from 1903-1921. Harlan Page Beach, 1854-1933, was a missionary to China under the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions (ABCFM) from 1883-1890. He was professor of missions at Yale Divinity School from 1905-1921 and librarian of Yale's Day Missions Library from 1911-1925.

ONLINE FINDING AID: To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/divinity.060>

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.060>.

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

b. box
f. folder

Administrative Information

Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

Preferred Citation

Beach Family Papers (RG 60), Special Collections, Yale Divinity Library.

Biographical / Historical

Chronology of David Nelson Beach

- 1848 November 30 ○ Born in South Orange, NJ, son of Joseph Wickliff and Mary Angeline (Walkley) Beach
- 1865-1868 ○ Golden Hill Institute, Bridgeport, CT
- 1868-1872 ○ Yale University, B.A. 1872. Class poet. New Haven correspondent, New York Tribune
- 1872-1873 ○ Assistant city editor, *New York Tribune*
- 1873-1876 ○ Yale Divinity School, B.D.
- 1876-1879 ○ Pastor of Pawcatuck Congregational Church, Westerly, RI
- 1878 ○ Married Lilian Tappan who became the mother of Dorothea, John, Joseph, and David Nelson Jr. before her death June 30, 1902
- 1879-1884 ○ Pastor of Congregational Church, Wakefield, MA
- 1884-1896 ○ Pastor of Prospect Street Church, Cambridge, MA
- 1896-1898 ○ Pastor, Plymouth Congregational Church, Minneapolis, MN
- 1896 ○ D.D. Western Reserve University
- 1899-1902 ○ Pastor of First Congregational Church, Denver, CO
- 1903 ○ Married Dora Freeman who died March 14, 1915
- 1903-1921 ○ President and Professor of Sacred Rhetoric, Bangor Theological Seminary
- 1916 ○ Married Ellen Olive Walkley (his cousin).
- 1921-1926 ○ Pastor-at-large, residing in Guilford and Southington, CT
- 1926 October 18 ○ Died in Southington, CT

Beach was active in temperance work and in work for church unity. He was a member of the Liberal Congress of Religion. His published works included: *The Newer Religious Thinking* and *The Annie Laurie Mine*.

Chronology of Harlan Page Beach

- 1854 ○ Born in South Orange, NJ, son of Joseph Wickliff and Mary Angeline (Walkley) Beach
- 1870, 1871 ○ Worked in Plantsville, CT as a bookkeeper
- 1871 ○ Entered Phillips Academy, Andover, MA
- 1878 ○ B.A. Yale University

Chronology of Harlan Page Beach

- 1883 ○ B.D. Andover Theological Seminary
- 1883-1890 ○ Missionary in North China under the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions (ABCFM), with his wife Lucy Ward Beach.
- 1901 ○ M.A. (honorary) Yale
- 1905-1914 ○ Professor of the Theory and Practice of Missions, Yale.
- 1911-1925 ○ Librarian, Day Missions Library, Yale
- 1913 ○ D.D. Amherst College
- 1914-1921 ○ Willis James Professor of the Theory and Practice of Missions, Yale
- 1921-1933 ○ Professor Emeritus
- 1933 March 4 ○ Died in Florida

Scope and Contents

Rather than providing complete documentation of the lives and work of David Nelson Beach and Harlan Page Beach, the papers of this collection highlight certain aspects of their lives while leaving others untouched. The college years at Yale of both David and Harlan are well documented through letters and diaries. David's career as a prominent Congregational clergyman is traced through correspondence and newspaper clippings up until the year 1903, when he became president of Bangor Theological Seminary. Regular letters to family members document the period when Harlan and his wife Lucy were missionaries in China. Extensive information regarding Beach family relationships and history is available in the collection.

The larger portion of the papers in this collection are related to David Nelson Beach, with only several folders of family correspondence and one item of general correspondence relating to Harlan. Harlan's work as a professor of missions at Yale is touched upon only in a bound volume of letters from former students. No material related to David's work as president of Bangor Theological Seminary is available in this collection.

The first series, Correspondence dates from 1863 to 1961 and is divided into Family Correspondence and General Correspondence. The General Correspondence of David Nelson Beach documents his connection with the Liberal Congress of Religion and the American Anti-Saloon League and includes letters from Henry Cabot Lodge, Charles F. Thwing and Henry Clay Trumbull.

The Diaries and Journals of Series II date from the Beaches' student days, 1862 to 1876, and from a trip to Europe taken by David in 1885.

The writings of David Nelson Beach in Series III date from 1862 to 1909 and include many compositions and poems written while a student. The series also contains two items related to mission work which were written by Harlan Page Beach, and one essay related to Congregationalism which was written by David Nelson Beach, Jr. in 1957.

The Personal Items and Memorabilia of Series IV date from 1858 to 1919. The series contains primarily biographical material relating to David Nelson Beach, newspaper clippings, printed material, school reports and so forth. Reviews and correspondence related to his published writings are also in this series.

The Photographs of Series V include one folder of portraits of David and Harlan and several folders of photographs from the travels of Harlan and his wife in Africa, India and the Far East.

Arrangement

- I. Correspondence, 1863-1961, undated
- II. Diaries, Journals, 1862-1885
- III. Writings, 1860-1957
- IV. Personal Items and Memorabilia, 1858-1919
- V. Photographs, 1872-1898, undated

Collection Contents
Series I: Correspondence, 1863-1961, undated

Family Correspondence

David Nelson Beach

b. 1, f. 1-6	With parents and sisters	1863-1896, undated
b. 1, f. 7-11	With Harlan P. Beach/Lucy W. Beach	1864-1877
b. 2, f. 12	With Harlan P. Beach/Lucy W. Beach	1880-1901, undated
b. 2, f. 13-17	With aunts/uncles/cousins	1860-1903, undated
b. 2, f. 18-22	With Lilian Tappan Beach	1878-1897
b. 3, f. 23-26	With Lilian Tappan Beach	1898-1901, undated
b. 3, f. 27	With Dora Freeman Beach	1903
b. 3, f. 28	With his children	1888-1901

Lilian Tappan Beach

b. 3, f. 29	With her children	1896, 1897, 1902, undated
b. 3, f. 30	Letters to family during trip to Europe	1888
b. 3, f. 31	Letters to family during trip to Europe	1891
b. 3, f. 32	With mother/aunts/cousins/sister	1894-1897, undated

Harlan Page Beach / Lucy Ward Beach

b. 3, f. 33-34	With family members	1871, 1877-1884
b. 4, f. 35-42	With family members	1885-1933, undated

Correspondence Regarding J.W. Beach Estate

b. 4, f. 43-50	J.W. Beach estate	1891-1906, undated
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General Correspondence

David Nelson Beach

b. 5, f. 51-63	Correspondence	1864-1896 February
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General Correspondence > David Nelson Beach (continued)

b. 6, f. 64-77	Correspondence	1896 March-1997
b. 7, f. 78-92	Correspondence	1898 January-1901 June
b. 8, f. 93-102	Correspondence	1901 July-1909, undated
b. 8, f. 103	About American Board (ABCFM) controversy	1887
b. 8, f. 104	About American Board (ABCFM) controversy	1900-1905
	Lilian Tappan Beach	
b. 8, f. 105	Correspondence	1896 January- February
b. 9, f. 106-111	Correspondence	1896 March-1902, undated
	Harlan P. Beach	
b. 9, f. 112	Correspondence	1892

Series II: Diaries, journals, 1862-1885

The diaries and journals are arranged chronologically within two categories:

A. Diaries and journals of David Nelson Beach (1862-1870, 1874, 1885)

B. Diaries of Harlan Page Beach (1870-1876)

b. 10, f. 114	Diaries: David Nelson Beach	1862-1870, 1874
b. 10, f. 115	Journal of trip to Europe: David Nelson Beach	1885
b. 10, f. 116	Diaries: Harlan Page Beach	1870, 1872-1876

Series III: Writings, 1860-1957

	David Nelson Beach	
b. 11, f. 117-127	Writings	1860-1909
b. 12, f. 128-131	Writings	undated
	Harlan Page Beach	
b. 12, f. 132	Writings	1927, undated
	David Nelson Beach, Jr.	
b. 12, f. 132	Writings	1957

Series IV: Personal items and memorabilia, 1858-1933

David Nelson Beach: Personal Items and Memorabilia

Miscellaneous

b. 13, f. 133	Autobiographical, biographical	1871-1902, undated
b. 13, f. 134	Church-related notices	1888-1902
b. 13, f. 135	Notes, printed material	1858-1901, undated
b. 13, f. 136	Reviews, correspondence re: his writings	1892, 1893, 1903
b. 13, f. 137	School reports	1868-1871
Newspaper clippings		
b. 13, f. 138	Biographical and Church-related	1872-1895
b. 13, f. 139	Biographical and Church-related	1896
b. 13, f. 140	Biographical and Church-related	1897-1902
b. 13, f. 141	General subjects	1870-1898, undated
Printed material		
b. 13, f. 142	Biographical and Church-related	1876-1883, undated
b. 13, f. 143	Biographical and Church-related	1896-1919
b. 14, f. 144	General subjects	1878-1902
Lecture notes taken by David Nelson Beach		
b. 14, f. 157	Small notebook; notes from Yale College classes	1872
b. 15, f. 158	Notes on Church History; Professor Fisher, Yale Divinity School (YDS)	1874-1875
b. 15, f. 159	Notes on Natural Theology and Doctrinal Theology or Dogmatics; Professor Harris, YDS	1873-1874
b. 15, f. 160	Notes on Doctrinal Theology or Dogmatics; Professor Harris, YDS	1874-1876
Harlan Page Beach		
b. 15, f. 145	"In Memoriam", receipt	
b. Ov1	Scrapbook of letters written to Harlan Page Beach by former students now on the mission field	1921
General personal items and memorabilia		
b. 15, f. 146	Including advertisements and Greek Grammar book and re: Lilian Tappan Beach	1872-1902, undated

Series V: Photographs, 1872-1898, undated

Portraits of David Nelson and Harlan Page Beach, arranged chronologically, are followed by undated photographs of the Far East, Africa, and India, arranged by geographical area.

b. 14, f. 147	Portraits	1872-1898, undated
b. 14, f. 148	Africa	
b. 14, f. 149	Myanmar (Burma)	
b. 14, f. 150	China	
b. 14, f. 151	India	
b. 14, f. 152	Japan, Okinawa	
b. 14, f. 153	Korea	
b. 14, f. 154	Thailand (Siam)	
b. 14, f. 155-156	Unidentified	

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 -- United States
Educators
Librarians
Missionaries
Missions
Missions -- China
Religious education
Universities and colleges -- Religion

Names

Beach, David Nelson, 1848-1926
Beach, Harlan P. (Harlan Page), 1854-1933
Lodge, Henry Cabot, 1850-1924
Thwing, Charles Franklin, 1853-1937
Trumbull, H. Clay (Henry Clay), 1830-1903

Corporate Bodies

American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions
Anti-saloon League of America
Liberal Congress of Religion
Yale University. Divinity School