

Guide to the Dutton Family Papers

RG 63



Compiled by Martha Lund Smalley

1980

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

CALL NUMBER: RG 63

TITLE: Dutton Family Papers

DATES: 1800-1880

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: 9 linear feet (18 boxes)

LANGUAGE: English

SUMMARY: The collection is valuable for the documentation it provides concerning a New Haven area clergy family during the period 1800 to 1880. Daily events and family relationships are revealed in substantive family correspondence. Of particular interest are Samuel Dutton's notebooks from his student days at Yale. The bulk of the collection is comprised of manuscript sermons written by Aaron and Samuel Dutton during their pastorates in Guilford and New Haven. These sermons touch on topics such as slavery, the Civil War, "Millerism", temperance and immigration. The sermons span the careers of both Duttons, who were known for their abolitionist stances, and thus provide an opportunity for tracing the development of their thought over a number of years. Aaron Dutton was born in Watertown, Connecticut on May 21, 1780. He served as minister of the First Congregational Church in Guilford, Connecticut from 1806 until 1842, at which time he resigned due to the dissension in the congregation regarding his abolitionist stance. In 1843, he went to Iowa in service of the American Home Missionary Society. He died in New Haven in 1849. His son, Samuel William Southmayd Dutton was born in Guilford, Connecticut on March 14, 1814. After receiving his Bachelor of Arts degree from Yale in 1833, he held positions as teacher, tutor, rector, minister (North Church, New Haven, Connecticut), publisher and editor. He was a noted champion of the antislavery cause. He died in Millbury, Massachusetts in 1866.

ONLINE FINDING AID: To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/divinity.063>

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.063>.

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

Dutton Family Papers (RG 63), Special Collections, Yale Divinity School Library.

Biographical / Historical

Aaron Dutton

- 1780 May 21 ○ Born in Watertown, CT
 - 1803 ○ B.A., Yale
 - 1803-1804 ○ Preceptor of Woodstock Academy, then pursued study of theology under Timothy Dwight
 - 1805 ○ Licensed to preach
 - 1806 ○ Married Dorcas Southmayd. Their children were: Mary Dutton (1807-1887), Dorcas Southmayd Dutton Gilbert (1810-1849), Thomas Dutton (1812-1885), Samuel William Southmayd Dutton (1814-1866), Aaron Rice Dutton (1816-1885), John Southmayd Dutton (1818-1834), Anna Dutton (1820-1831), Matthew Henry Dutton (1822-1841)
 - 1806-1842 ○ Minister of First Congregational Church, Guilford. Besides his pastoral duties he also prepared many young men for college.
 - 1825-1849 ○ Member of Yale Corporation
 - 1842 ○ Resigned from position in Guilford, due to dissension in congregation regarding his abolitionist stance. The party which stood by him formed the Third Congregational Church of Guilford in November, 1843.
 - 1843 ○ Went to Iowa in service of American Home Missionary Society. He was invited to the pastoral charge of the church in Burlington, capital of the Iowa Territory. Illness prevented him from accepting the position.
 - 1849 ○ Died in New Haven
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Biographical / Historical

Samuel Southmayd Dutton

- 1814 March 14 ○ Born in Guilford, CT, son of Aaron and Dorcas Southmayd Dutton
- 1833 ○ B.A., Yale
- 1833-1834 ○ Taught at Mount Hope College, Baltimore, MD
- 1834 ○ Rector of Hopkins Grammar School, New Haven

Samuel Southmayd Dutton

- 1836-1838 ○ Tutored at Yale and pursued theological studies
- 1838 ○ Married Harriet Waters, who died in 1864; daughter of Asa Waters of Millbury, MA
- 1838-1866 ○ Minister at North Church, New Haven, CT. Was a noted champion of the antislavery cause
- 1842 ○ Published *A History of the North Church in New Haven*
- 1843 ○ *New Englander* established, of which Dutton was an associate editor; contributed 46 articles
- 1865 ○ D.D., Brown University
- 1866 January ○ Died in Millbury, Ma.

The discourse delivered at his funeral by the Rev. Leonard Bacon has been published. A sketch of his life appeared in the *Congregational Quarterly* for April 1866.

Scope and Contents

This collection is valuable for the documentation it provides concerning a New Haven area clergy family during the period 1800 to 1880. Daily events and family relationships are revealed in substantive family correspondence. Letters were most often exchanged when a family member had left the New Haven area to live in the Midwest. Mary Dutton, daughter of Aaron, for example, lived in Cincinnati, Ohio for a number of years. Letters exchanged with her parents reveal a conflict between her desire to continue her work there and her parents' desire to have their daughter living at home. Mary eventually returned to Connecticut and headed a girls' school in New Haven. The general correspondence in the collection is not extensive but includes letters from Charles Beecher, George Edward Day, and Increase Tarbox.

The notebooks and diaries of Series II highlight various facets of the lives of Mary and Samuel Dutton. Of particular interest are Samuel's notebooks from his student days at Yale. Notes on sermons preached in the Yale College Chapel are included, as well as class notes. Pocket diaries of Samuel Dutton for the years 1861 to 1864 are available. A series of account books of Mary Dutton with Austin and Gilbert, grocers, provide interesting detail on New Haven life during the period 1855 to 1865.

The bulk of the collection is comprised of manuscript sermons written by Aaron and Samuel Dutton during their pastorates in Guilford and New Haven. These sermons touch on topics such as slavery, the Civil War, "Millerism," temperance, and immigration. The sermons span the careers of both Duttons and thus provide an opportunity for tracing the development of their thought over a number of years.

The writings other than sermons in Series III are also of interest. Those of Aaron Dutton include college compositions and "disputes" from his Yale years, essays on theological subjects, and drafts of articles on subjects such as slavery, Congregationalism, and missionary work. The writings of Samuel Dutton include college compositions, speeches delivered before the Linonian Society, an address delivered at the Yale Commencement of 1833, reviews of works by Horace Bushnell, and others. Historical information regarding the North Church in New Haven is available in an 1860 statement of Dutton to its United Society.

The personal items and memorabilia of Series IV include a portrait of Aaron Dutton and the memorial sermon preached at the funeral of Samuel Dutton's wife.

Arrangement

- I. Correspondence, 1825-1880
- II. Notebooks and Diaries, 1829-1868

III. Writings, 1800-1866

IV. Personal Items and Memorabilia, 1864, undated

Collection Contents

Series I: Correspondence, 1825–1880

Family Correspondence

Aaron Dutton

b. 1, f. 1	1 ALS to son Aaron Rice	1842
b. 1, f. 2	2 ALS to son Samuel	1843
b. 1, f. 3	2 ALS to son Matthew	1841
b. 1, f. 4	14 ALS to daughter Mary	1825-1843

Dorcas (Southmayd) Dutton

b. 1, f. 5	7 ALS to daughter Mary	1833-1836
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Aaron Rice Dutton

b. 1, f. 6	8 ALS to father	1840-1847
b. 1, f. 7	1 ALS to mother	1841
b. 1, f. 7	3 ALS to sister Dorcas	1841, 1846, 1847
b. 1, f. 8	15 ALS to brother Samuel	1842-1865
b. 1, f. 9	2 ALS to brother Thomas	1840, 1842
b. 1, f. 10-16	To sister Mary	1833-1880

Samuel William Southmayd Dutton

b. 1, f. 17	2 ALS to father	1833, 1834
b. 1, f. 18-20	To sister Mary	1833-1863
b. 1, f. 21	2 ALS to Harriet Waters	1828, 1838
b. 2, f. 22	1 ALS to brother Samuel	1849
b. 2, f. 22	2 ALS to sister Mary	1866

Mary Dutton

b. 2, f. 23	7 ALS to mother	1834-1838
b. 2, f. 24	1 ALS to brother Samuel	1835
b. 2, f. 24	2 ALS to brother Thomas	1835
b. 2, f. 24	1 ALS to brother John	1834
b. 2, f. 25	9 ALS to sister Dorcas	1833-1836

Edwin Randolph Gilbert (husband of daughter Dorcas)

Family Correspondence > Edwin Randolph Gilbert (husband of daughter Dorcas) (continued)

b. 2, f. 26	2 ALS to brother-in-law Samuel	1862
b. 2, f. 26	1 ALS to sister-in-law Mary	1851
General Correspondence		
Samuel William Southmayd Dutton		
b. 2, f. 27	2 ALS from L.G. Buckingham	1841, 1842
b. 2, f. 27	2 ALS from William Carter	1859
b. 2, f. 27	1 ALS from William Chauvenet	1841
b. 2, f. 27	1 ALS to Rev. Dr. Cleaveland	1856?
b. 2, f. 27	2 ALS from J.I.T. Coolidge	1858, 1859
b. 2, f. 27	1 ALS from O.K. Daggett	1864
b. 2, f. 28	5 ALS from George Edward Day	1841-1844
b. 2, f. 28	1 ALS from J. DeForest	1857
b. 2, f. 28	1 ALS from James T. Dickinson	1859
b. 2, f. 28	1 ALS from L. Griggs	1864
b. 2, f. 28	1 ALS from J. Guernsey	1861
b. 2, f. 28	1 ALS from Horace James	1865
b. 2, f. 29	Extract of ALS to Horace Mann	1842
b. 2, f. 29	1 ALS from Alphonso Taft	1864
b. 2, f. 29	18 ALS from Increase N. Tarbox	1844-1847
b. 2, f. 29	1 ALS from Asa Turner	1861
Harriet Waters Dutton		
b. 2, f. 30	2 ALS from Increase N. Tarbox	1845
Mary Dutton		
b. 2, f. 31	1 ALS from Charles Beecher	undated
b. 2, f. 31	1 ALS from Sara I. Gillette	1838
b. 2, f. 31	1 ALS from O.P. Hubbard	1864
b. 2, f. 31	1 ALS from M. Peters	1833
b. 2, f. 31	1 ALS from Mary Thomas	1855
Edwin Randolph Gilbert		
b. 2, f. 32	1 ALS to W.B. Clarke	1866

Series II: Notebooks and Diaries, 1829–1868

Samuel William Southmayd Dutton

b. 2, f. 33	Pocket diaries	1861- 1864
b. 2, f. 34	Index of subjects	1835
b. 2, f. 35	Notebook of sermons in Yale College Chapel by Dr. Fitch and others	undated
b. 2, f. 35	Notebook containing subjects for compositions, orations, etc., questions for debate, passages of poetry and of prose, missionary subjects, texts, and notes on European history	1832
b. 2, f. 36	Notebook recording visits with parishioners	1855, 1860
Mary Dutton		
b. 3, f. 37	Account and note book	circa 1829-1831
b. 3, f. 37	Account record regarding payment received for music lessons	1858-1868
b. 3, f. 37, 38	Account books with Austin and Gilbert, grocers in New Haven	1855-1865

Series III: Writings, 1800–1866

Aaron Dutton

Sermons

b. 3, f. 39-41	1812 February-1813 March	1812 February-1813 March
b. 4, f. 42-47	1813 April-1826	1813 April-1826
b. 5, f. 48-52	1827-1831	1827-1831
b. 6, f. 53-59	1832-1838	1832-1838
b. 7, f. 60-62	1839-1843, undated	1839-1843, undated
b. 7, f. 63	Fragments	undated

Other writings

b. 7, f. 64,65	College compositions and "disputes"	circa 1800-1803
b. 7, f. 66	Notes on sermons and lectures of Dr. Dwight	undated
b. 8, f. 67, 68, 69, 70	Essays on theological subjects	circa 1803-1804
b. 8, f. 71	Notes for sermons	undated
b. 8, f. 72	Drafts of articles - on slavery, on Congregationalism, on report of American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions (ABCFM), re: Professor Bush's view of the resurrection	1846, undated

Samuel William Southmayd Dutton

Sermons

b. 9, f. 73-79	1837-1840	1837-1840
b. 10, f. 80-85	1841-1843	1841-1843
b. 11, f. 86-90	1844-1846	1844-1846
b. 12, f. 91-95	1846-1848	1846-1848
b. 13, f. 96-101	1849-1851 Includes "An Address at the Funeral of Hon. David Daggett" (1851)	1849-1851
b. 14, f. 102-108	1852-1854	1852-1854
b. 15, f. 109-114	1855-1857	1855-1857
b. 16, f. 115-121	1858-1861	1858-1861
b. 17, f. 122-127	1862-1866	1862-1866
b. 17, f. 128	Fragments	undated

Samuel William Southmayd Dutton (continued)

Other writings

b. 18, f. 129	College compositions	undated
b. 18, f. 130	Speeches delivered before Linonian Society	1832-1833
b. 18, f. 131	"Colloquy on the Utility of Philosophical Criticism", delivered at Yale Commencement	1833
b. 18, f. 132	Statement directed to the United Society of North Church regarding possibility of Samuel W.S. Dutton's dismissal	1860?
b. 18, f. 133	Addresses for use in ordinations and installations	undated
b. 18, f. 134, 135	Notes and essays on theological subjects	undated
b. 18, f. 136	Reviews of works by Horace Bushnell, Jeremiah Day, Orville Dewey, and Henry Tappan	1839-1864

Series IV: Personal Items and Memorabilia, 1864, undated

b. 18, f. 137	Address at funeral of Harriet Dutton by L.G. Buckingham	1864
b. 18, f. 137	Portrait of Aaron Dutton (reproduction)	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

Church work
Clergy
Congregationalism
Editors
Educators
Emigration and immigration
Missions
Sermons, American
Slavery
Temperance

Geographic Names

Guilford (Conn.) -- Church history -- Sources
New Haven (Conn.) -- Church history -- Sources
New Haven (Conn.) -- History -- Sources
United States -- History -- Civil War, 1861-1865

Genres / Formats

Sermons

Names

Beecher, Charles, 1815-1900
Day, George Edward, 1815-1905
Dutton, Aaron, 1780-1849
Dutton, Samuel W. S. (Samuel William Southmayd), 1814-1866
Tarbox, Increase N. (Increase Niles), 1815-1888

Corporate Bodies

Church of Christ (New Haven, Conn.)
Congregational Home Missionary Society
First Congregational Church (Guilford, Conn.)
Yale University