

# Guide to the William Henry Morse Papers

MS 25



compiled by Joann Williamson

September 1969

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## Collection Overview

**REPOSITORY:** Manuscripts and Archives  
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P.O. Box 208240  
New Haven, CT 06520-8240  
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<http://www.library.yale.edu/mssa/>

**CALL NUMBER:** MS 25

**CREATOR:** Morse, William Henry, 1846-1940

**TITLE:** William Henry Morse papers

**DATES:** 1833-1959

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:** 1.5 linear feet

**LANGUAGE:** English

**SUMMARY:** The papers include personal and family correspondence, subject files, and photographs relating to the life and career of William Henry Morse. The collection also contains genealogical material relating to Morse family members, particularly Jedidiah Morse, the father of American geography.

**ONLINE FINDING AID:** To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/mssa.ms.0025>

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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.0025>.

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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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### Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

## Conditions Governing Use

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## Preferred Citation

William Henry Morse Papers (MS 25). Manuscripts and Archives, Yale University Library.

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## Existence and Location of Copies

Selected images have been digitally reproduced and are available through the Manuscripts and Archives Digital Image Database.

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## Related Material

Morse Family Papers, MS 358. Manuscripts and Archives, Yale University Library.

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## Biographical / Historical

William Henry Morse, born in 1846, was the son of Richard Cary Morse (Yale 1812), the grandson of Jedidiah Morse (Yale 1783), and a nephew of Samuel F. B. Morse (Yale 1810). A graduate of the Class of 1867, he served as class secretary from 1867 to 1940. After graduating from the New York University School of Law in 1870, Morse practiced law independently in New York City until 1874. He then studied stenography and became one of the first court stenographers. With the exception of short periods of employment elsewhere, Morse worked as a stenographer, reporter, and instructor in shorthand until 1897. He then held the position of night librarian of the Supreme Court Law Library in Washington until his retirement in 1930. In 1879, Morse married Louise Parish Townsend. The last surviving member of the Class of 1867, Morse died in 1940.

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## Scope and Contents

The papers include personal and family correspondence, subject files, and photographs relating to the life and career of William Henry Morse. The collection also contains genealogical material relating to Morse family members, particularly Jedidiah Morse, the father of American geography.

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## Arrangement

Collection is arranged in five series: I. Correspondence, 1850-1959. II. Fraternity Activities, 1833-1927. III. Legal Registers, n.d. IV. Subject Files, 1854-1925. V. Photographs, 1863-1921.

## Collection Contents

### Series I: Correspondence, 1850-1959

This series consists of two parts: Family Correspondence and General Correspondence, each part arranged alphabetically by name of correspondent. Family Correspondence includes correspondence of family members with William Henry Morse and with each other. General Correspondence consists of materials from non-family members.

#### Family Correspondence

##### Correspondence of William Henry Morse

b. 1, f. 1	Austen, Alice (Ally) (niece)	1920
b. 1, f. 2	Colgate, Austen (nephew)	1926
b. 1, f. 3	Colgate, Gilbert (nephew)	1920
b. 1, f. 4	Colgate, Russell (nephew)	1920
b. 1, f. 5	Colgate, ... (sister?)	undated
b. 1, f. 6	Daris, William H. (uncle)	undated
b. 1, f. 7	Delafield, Lily Morse (niece)	1920
b. 1, f. 8	League, collective letters	1915-1925
b. 1, f. 9	Morse, Anna C. (sister)	1920-1922
b. 1, f. 10	Morse, Harriet H.	1881
b. 1, f. 11	Morse, Libby (sister)	1891
b. 1, f. 12	Morse, Livingston B. (cousin)	1920
b. 1, f. 13	Morse, Louise (wife)	1857-1893, 1916
b. 1, f. 14	Morse, Marguerite (niece)	1920
b. 1, f. 15	Morse, Marie Louise (daughter)	1910-1925
b. 1, f. 16	Morse, Mary C.	1920
b. 1, f. 17	Morse, Molly (sister)	1884-1893
b. 1, f. 18	Morse, ...(mother)	1857, undated
b. 1, f. 19	Morse, O. C. (Olly) (brother)	1870, undated
b. 1, f. 20	Morse, Richard C. (brother)	1900-1926
b. 1, f. 21	Morse, Richard C., Jr. (Dixie) (nephew)	1919, 1926-1927
b. 1, f. 22	Morse, R. C. (father)	1850-1865
b. 1, f. 23	Morse, Rebecca (Becky) (sister)	1887

## Family Correspondence &gt; Correspondence of William Henry Morse (continued)

b. 1, f. 24	Morse, Sidney E. (brother)	1900-1959
b. 1, f. 25	Morse, ... (brother)	1881
b. 1, f. 26	Parmeles, Louise Morse (sister)	1857, 1889-1891
b. 1, f. 27	Pameles, M. L. (Meddie) (niece)	1920
b. 1, f. 28	(Penny, H. L.) (aunt) English	1919
b. 1, f. 29	Pope, Asa (nephew)	1920
b. 1, f. 30	Robertson, Jessie L. (cousin)	1920
b. 1, f. 31	Robinson, Gerald L. (cousin)	1920
b. 1, f. 32	Roome, Oscar, Jr. (distant cousin) [to folks, newspaper clipping]	1920
b. 1, f. 33	Townsend, Samuel	1920
Correspondence of Morse family members with others		
b. 1, f. 34	Morse, Louise from L. S. Augusta	undated
b. 1, f. 35	Morse, Louise from P. L. S. Cornelia	1883
b. 1, f. 36	Morse, Nolly to mother	undated
b. 1, f. 37	Morse, O. C. to Morse, R. C.	1862-1863
b. 1, f. 38	Morse, R. C. from Apthorp, E. D.	undated
b. 1, f. 39	Morse, Richard C. to Colgate, Austen	1925
General Correspondence		
b. 1, f. 40	Apthorp, E. D.	1857
b. 1, f. 41	Bonney, S. W.	1854
b. 1, f. 42	Burrell, David James [newspaper clippings]	1909-1910, 1920
b. 1, f. 43	Clark, Charles Hopkins [newspaper clipping]	1923
b. 1, f. 44	Claxton, J. H.	1891
b. 1, f. 45	Collin, A. P.	1909
b. 1, f. 46	Curtiss, Ethel	1921
b. 1, f. 47	Dillenbeck, M. H.	1897-1920
b. 1, f. 48	Douglas, R. A.	1924
b. 1, f. 49	Dunning, Charles	undated
b. 1, f. 50	Duyckinck, W. C.	1916
b. 1, f. 51	Flanders, Roger Y.	1906

## General Correspondence (continued)

b. 1, f. 52	Hart, S. R.	1902
b. 1, f. 53	Hodge, Eddie	1858
b. 1, f. 54	Kitchel, Mary	1904
b. 1, f. 55	Know, (George W.) Express Co.	1901
b. 1, f. 56	Miller, George	1902
b. 1, f. 57	Mills, George C. [telegram]	undated
b. 1, f. 58	Neely, M. M.	1928
b. 1, f. 59	Rahrl, Magdalena	1920
b. 1, f. 60	Reid	undated
b. 1, f. 61	Shepard, Frederick J.	1910
b. 1, f. 62	Wild, Isaac J. [newspaper clipping]	1920
b. 1, f. 63	Williams, Edward H., Jr.	1916
b. 1, f. 64	Williamson, Roland	1926
b. 1, f. 65	Wright, Henry P.	1916

**Series II: Fraternity Activities, 1833-1927**

Fraternity Activities contain correspondence, lists, and notes pertaining to the Phelps Association, fraternity affairs, Skull and Bones, Scroll and Keys, and honorary societies.

b. 1, f. 1	The Phelps Association	undated
b. 1, f. 2	Correspondence concerning fraternity affairs	1916-1927
b. 1, f. 3	Fraternity societies [membership list of Skull and Bones, Scroll and Keys]	1833-1875, 1902-1927
b. 1, f. 4	Honorary societies [lists and notes]	1906-1927



**Series III: Legal Registers, n.d.**

Legal Registers contains reports. Included are chronological registers of American and English reports by George E. Harris, various British colony reports, periodical reports, and a list of abbreviations of titles of legal periodicals.

b. 2, f. 1	Chronological register of American and English reports by George E. Harris	undated
b. 2, f. 2	English reports arranged [section 1, 2]	undated
b. 2, f. 3	Reports [English, Victorian, New Zealand, Irish, Scotch, Canada Law sections 3-12]	undated
b. 2, f. 4	Periodical reports	undated
b. 2, f. 5	Biographical [abbreviations of titles of legal periodicals]	undated

**Series IV: Subject Files, 1854-1925**

Subject Files contains notes, registers, reports, lists, speeches, newsclippings, and printed materials. Included are family documents; obituaries and material concerning Morse family genealogy; Yale history and reminiscences; and materials relating to William Henry Morse's professional concerns.

b. 3, f. 1	Family genealogy, ancestry notes, will and testament of William Morse	undated
b. 3, f. 2	Family genealogy, register of Jedidiah Morse	undated
b. 3, f. 3	Morse, S. F. B. [information concerning his radio experiments]	undated
b. 3, f. 4	Family expense list	1854
b. 3, f. 5	Andover Class of 1863 [reunion speech]	undated
b. 3, f. 6	Curriculum and class standing of William Henry Morse at Yale [copy]	1910
b. 3, f. 7	"College Reminiscences" of William Henry Morse English	undated
b. 3, f. 8	Certificate of reliability	1920
b. 3, f. 9	Library of Congress [sick leave cards]	1925
b. 3, f. 10	Notes concerning political life in Washington, D. C. [with newspaper clippings]	1920-1921
b. 3, f. 11	Sympathy cards on the occasion of the death of wife, Louise Morse	undated
b. 3, f. 12	Notes concerning the interment of wife, Louise Morse	undated
b. 3, f. 13	Wilkinson, John F. N. [assistant law librarian of Congress, obituary, newspaper clipping]	1912
b. 3, f. 14	Wedding announcement and picture of a home	1880
b. 3, f. 15	Notebook with shorthand notes	undated
b. 3, f. 16	Notebook with shorthand notes	undated
b. 3, f. 17	Newspaper clippings concerning ancestors and Yale	1907

**Series V: Photographs, 1863-1921**

Photographs are arranged by subject matter and alphabetically within a subject. Oversize photographs are at the end of the series.

People		
b. 4, f. 1	Austin, Alice	1883
b. 4, f. 2	Delafield, R.	undated
b. 4, f. 3	Hewins, Miss	undated
b. 4, f. 4	Hodge, Charlotte Morse, and Louisa Noyes Hodge	1890 December
b. 4, f. 5	Hodge, G. A.	undated
b. 4, f. 6	<a href="#">Morse, Maria, and Maria and Gertrude Morse [glass negatives, consult Manuscripts and Archives Digital Image Database, image numbers 5477, 5480-5483]</a>	1900 Nov, 1901, undated
	Morse, Maria [nitrate negatives discarded, consult Manuscripts and Archives Digital Image Database, image numbers 5484, 5485]	1901
b. 4, f. 7	Morse, Marie Louise	1883-1885, undated
b. 4, f. 8	Morse, Marie Louise Townsend	1902
b. 4, f. 9	Morse, William Henry	1863, 1916, 1918, undated
b. 4, f. 10	<a href="#">Morse family [glass negatives, consult Manuscripts and Archives Digital Image Database, image numbers 5478, 5479]</a>	1901
b. 4, f. 11 - 15	Morse family members	undated
b. 4, f. 16	Pope, Asa P.	1893
Places		
b. 4, f. 17	Augusta, GA	undated
b. 4, f. 18	Brandon, VT	undated
b. 4, f. 19	Chicago, IL [World's Columbian Exposition]	1893
b. 4, f. 20	Nantacket, MA	undated
b. 4, f. 21	Narrangansett, RI	undated
b. 4, f. 22	North Carolina	undated
b. 4, f. 23	Vassar College, NY	undated
b. 4, f. 24	Various places	1894, 1895, undated
b. 4, f. 25	Various places	undated

## Postcards

b. 4, f. 26	General	1910, 1921, undated
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b. 4, f. 27	Yale and New Haven	undated
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b. 4, f. 28	Unidentified	undated
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## Oversize

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b. 5, f. 29	Houses	undated
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b. 5, f. 30	Individuals	undated
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b. 5, f. 31	Needlework	undated
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b. 5, f. 32	Scenes [land, water]	undated
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## **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.

### **Names**

Morse, Jedidiah, 1761-1826

Morse, William Henry, 1846-1940

### **Families**

Morse family

### **Corporate Bodies**

Yale College (1718-1887). Class of 1867

Yale University -- Societies and clubs

Yale University -- Students

Zeta Psi Fraternity. Eta Chapter (Yale University)