

**Morgan Family of Stockbridge, Vt.,
Books and Papers, 1788-1923
MSA 40**

Introduction

This collection contains papers and books related to the descendants of the famous horse breeder, Justin Morgan (1747-1798), who lived in Stockbridge, Vermont. The source of most of the collection is unknown, though most items came to the Vermont Historical Society before 1980. One folder (Misc File Add 424) was the gift of Ruth A. Ming in 1978. One other item (in MSA 40:16) was the gift of Mrs. Robert Wilson in November 1980 (ms. acc. 80.9). The collection is stored in one archival flip-top box and consumes .5 linear foot of shelf space.

Biographical Notes

Justin Morgan (1747-1798) is most famous for his association with the development of the Morgan horse as an American breed. He was also a singing master and composer. This collection is focused not directly on Justin himself, but on materials related to efforts to compile a genealogy and history of the Morgan family, by various descendants of Justin Morgan. The following are some of the most referenced individuals in the collection:

- Justin Morgan Jr., and Justin Morgan III, were the son and grandson (respectively) of Justin Morgan. Justin Morgan, Jr., lived 1786-1879, and his son, Justin III, lived 1815-1872. In documents included in this collection, Justin Morgan Jr. is often referred to as Justin Morgan Sr., while Justin Morgan III is referred to as Justin Morgan Jr., since the individuals composing the materials contained in this collection were working in the period after Justin Morgan Sr.'s death. Headings of folders refer to Justin Morgan, Jr. and Justin Morgan III as such.
- Ella J. Morgan Mahony lived from 1846 to 1914. She was the daughter of Justin Morgan III. Her son, Walter B. Mahony, lived from 1877 to 1954. Anna Morgan Rogers lived from 1872 to 1927; she was the granddaughter of Justin Morgan Jr., and cousin to Ella J. Morgan Mahony. Jessie M. Morgan (1868-?) was the (adopted) cousin of Ella J. Morgan Mahony, and granddaughter of Justin Morgan, Jr. Martha E. Morgan (1827-?) was the mother of Anna Morgan Rogers, aunt of Ella J. Morgan Mahony, and daughter of Justin Morgan, Jr. More details related to the Morgan family tree can be found in the chart created by Morgan scholar, Betty Bandel, in folder 40:21.

Organization

This collection is grouped into three series: I. Books owned by members of the Morgan family; II. Correspondence and early papers of Morgan family members; and III. Genealogical and biographical material created by the family and others.

Scope and Content Note

The first series includes books owned by the Morgan family. These are itemized in the inventory below, with inscriptions by family members noted for each title. Items three through eight in this series are listed individually in the library's online catalog; the first two items in this series are not in the catalog.

The second series encompasses records and papers from the lives of Justin Morgan's descendants between 1841 and 1933, arranged chronologically. Some highlights are the items related to Ella J. (Morgan) Mahony and her husband, Walter. These include Ella's school compositions and correspondence from both Vermont and Columbus, Ohio, where she moved to be with her father Justin Morgan, III, after his second marriage; a promissory note for seven thousand dollars from Walter to Ella J. Mahony in celebration of their twenty-fifth wedding anniversary; and letters from Emma C. Goodrich of Burke, Vt., to Ella. Emma Goodrich's letters include details contrasting life in Tennessee and Chicago to life in Vermont, as Goodrich traveled with her husband for his work. Correspondence and pictures between Ella Mahony's son, Walter B. Mahony and his cousin, Anna Rogers Andrews, is also included and spans from the topic of the exchange of Morgan family portraits to Walter Mahony's plans to refurbish the Stockbridge Common. The four unidentified photographs in this correspondence have been described by a previous researcher as likely being from the Mahony family's years in Columbus, Ohio. Also represented in this series are more limited materials from Justin Morgan, Jr., Justin Morgan III, and Martha E. Morgan.

The third series includes papers specifically related to efforts by members of the Morgan family to compile a comprehensive Morgan family genealogy. These genealogy papers include letters, notes and biographical sketches. They are arranged with completed and draft biographical sketches appearing first, followed by notes in preparation for writing the sketches, then correspondence related to genealogy. Families documented included the Durkees and Mahoneys as well as the Morgans.

Related Collections

The VHS museum collection includes charcoal portrait of Justin Morgan, Jr. (VHS-A-322), donated by Mrs. Leland Scott Brown and her father, Walter B. Mahony, who was a grandson of Justin Morgan III. Another gift from Mrs. Leland Scott Brown (1979.10.1 - .11) includes such things as a handkerchief, a dress, several day caps, a wallet and pair of shoes used by Justin Morgan, Jr., or his wife and children. This grouping also includes an 1849 diary (79.10.8) kept by Justin Morgan, Jr., with but two entries. The museum collections also include a hand-woven table scarf with knotted fringe at each end made by Sally Durkee Morgan, wife of Justin Morgan, Jr. (1986.22.1)

A daguerreotype of Justin Morgan, Jr., (1786-1879) was moved to the library's daguerreotype collection (FB 23).

The VHS Library collection also includes five Morgan family books donated by Mrs. Robert Whitelaw Wilson, Mrs. Leland Scott Brown, and Walter Butler Mahony, Jr., in 1991. They are shelved in the rare book stacks:

- *X 220.5 B471st *Scotts Bible*, Vol. I, Gen-Judg., 1830.
- *974.3 B388 c.3 Beckley, Hosea, Rev. *The History of Vermont with Descriptions, Physical and Topographical*, 1846.
- *S 210 P174n Paley, William. *Natural Theology: or, Evidences of the Existence and Attributes of the Deity, Collected from the Appearances of Nature*, 1803.
- *636 L655m c.3 Linsley, Daniel Chipman. *Morgan Horses: A Premium Essay on the Origin, History and Characteristics of this Remarkable American Breed...*, 1857.
- *636.1 B935 c.3 Burnham, Eleanor Waring. *Justin Morgan – The Romantic History of a Horse*, 1911.

Inventory

I. Books owned by various members of the Morgan family

- MSA 40:01 *Christian Pilgrim*, ca. 1840. Inscribed with Nancy C. Allen, Ella Morgan
- 02 *Directory and Rules of the Senate and House of Representatives [of Vermont]*, 1840. Inscribed to Justin Morgan (likely J. Morgan, III)
- 03 Arthur, T. S. *Angel of the Household*, 1854. Inscribed by Ella Morgan
- 04 Cartee, C. Soule. *The Souvenir Minstrel*, 1837. Inscribed by Justin Morgan (likely J. Morgan, III)
- 05 Galt, John. *The progress of genius, or, Authentic memoirs of the early life of Benjamin West, Esq. president of the Royal Academy, London*, 1831. Inscribed with Daniel A. Morgan
- 06 Knapp, Samuel L. *Memoirs of General Lafayette : embracing details of his public and private life*, 1825. Inscribed by Justin Morgan (likely J. Morgan, II)
- 07 Mead, William. *Meade's Family Prayers*, 1834. Inscribed with Justin Morgan (unknown which)
- 08a Porter, Ebenezer. *The Rhetorical Reader; Consisting of Instructions for Regulating the Voice with a Rhetorical Notation, Illustrating Inflection, Emphasis, and Modulation; and a Course of Rhetorical Exercises*, 1839. Inscribed by Martha E. Morgan

- 08b Young, Edward, *The Complaint, or, night thoughts, on life, death, and immortality*, 1808. Inscribed by Justin Morgan, (likely J. Morgan, II).

II. Correspondence and early documents

- MSA 40:09 Justin Morgan, Jr. and Justin Morgan III, promissory notes, 1841-1846
- Misc File Add 424 Azro Buck Morgan and Martha E. Morgan papers, 1850-1853
- MSA 40:10 Martha E. Morgan teaching licenses for Stockbridge, Vt., 1846-48
- 11 Ella J. Morgan Mahony, school compositions, 1849-1857
- 12 _____, assorted correspondence, 1849-1915
- 13 Justin Morgan Jr., estate inventory, 1853
- 14 Emma C. Goodrich, letters to Ella J. Morgan Mahony, 1878-1880
- 15 Walter B. Mahony and Anna Rogers Andrews, correspondence and photographs of Stockbridge Common, 1926-1933

III. Biographical and genealogical material

- 16 Justin Morgan, Jr. Family Bible, photocopy of births, marriages, deaths, 1890 (Original: *X220.5 B471St)
Manuscript, "Family Record," no date
- 17 Biographical sketch of Justin Morgan, Sr., by Ella J. Morgan Mahony (?), no date
- 18 Biographical sketches, Morgan and Durkee Family members by Anna Morgan Rogers, ca. 1906
- 19 _____, Ella J. Morgan Mahony, her life and life of her son, Walter B. Mahony, ca. 1906
- 20 Anna Morgan Rogers, notes for biographical sketches, ca. 1906
- 21 Typed chart of Morgan and Durkee descendants, created by Betty Bandel, 1979
- 22 Anna Morgan Rogers to Ella J. Morgan Mahony, letters about biographical sketches, ca. 1906
- 23 Walter B. Mahony and Ella J. Morgan Mahony, correspondence regarding genealogy, 1899-1913
- 24 Letter from Col. Albert Clarke to Jessie M. Morgan regarding genealogy, 1906

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