

**Justin Smith Morrill (1810-1898)**  
**Letters, 1851-1897**  
**MSA 654-655, Size C**

**Introduction**

This collection contains 84 letters written to U.S. Congressman and Senator Justin Smith Morrill of Strafford, Vermont, one letter written by him, and other printed materials from the period 1851-1897. The collection was donated by the Vermont Division for Historic Preservation to the Vermont Historical Society in 2014. It is housed in two archival flip top boxes and one oversized folder; it consumes .75 linear feet of shelf space.

**Biographical Note**

Justin Smith Morrill was born in Strafford, Vermont, April 14, 1810, the son of Nathaniel and Mary Hunt Morrill. He began his mercantile career as a clerk for Royal Hatch in Strafford Village. After working in stores in Strafford and Portland, Maine, Morrill returned to Strafford, working for Jedediah Harris, and in 1834 he became his partner in a store known as Harris and Morrill. Although still nominally involved in several partnerships, Morrill effectively resigned from business in 1848. At the time of his early retirement from business Morrill was preparing to build a house in Strafford in anticipation of his 1851 marriage to Ruth Barrell Swan (ca. 1820-1898).

He entered politics in 1854 and served in both the United States House of Representatives and Senate for nearly 44 years. While in the House, he served as chairman of the Committee on Ways and Means in the Thirty-ninth Congress. He also served on the Joint Committee on Reconstruction, which drafted the Fourteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution. In 1867, as a senator, he gained recognition for his Land Grant College Acts of 1862 and 1890. Justin and Ruth Morrill had two children: Justin Harris (1853-1855), and James Swan (b. 1857). Because of his long tenure in government the Morrills built a house in Washington, D.C. but maintained the house in Strafford. Justin Morrill died December 28, 1898.

**Scope and Content**

This collection contains 84 letters written to Justin Smith Morrill, one letter written by him in 1875, 19 newspaper clippings, 11 pamphlets and government documents, and 14 printed bills, amendments, and remarks from the period 1851 to 1897, the year before Morrill died. Most of the items in this collection relate to Morrill's tenure in Washington, D.C., but 35 of the letters are from the period before Morrill arrived in Washington in 1855.

This collection was organized into numbered series prior to its arrival at the Vermont Historical Society. Each item was given a number and housed in an individual envelope. The collection of envelopes seemed to be labeled "Dunbar's envelopes." This organizational scheme has been preserved, but the items have been removed from their envelopes. Item numbers 85-86, 133-134, and 136 were not received with the rest of the collection.

The 84 letters written to Morrill are arranged alphabetically by the author. There are two groups of letters from B.F. Tenney and J. A. Veazie, both of Boston, from the period prior to Morrill's election to Congress. Tenney and Veazie seem to be managing Morrill's investments.

The letters written after Morrill's election to Congress mostly deal with financial arrangements, political appointments, and constituent service. The one letter written by Morrill himself is an 1875 piece of constituent service correspondence related to the discharge papers of B. F. Still [i.e. Benjamin W. Still].

Each item includes a typed summary of its contents and/or background information about the correspondent or issue. These summaries, originally typed onto envelopes, have been preserved and clipped to the original documents.

**Inventory****Letters to Justin S. Morrill (MSA 654, Folders 1-6):**

Series	No.	Name	Town/Identification	yyyy-mm-dd	Notes
A.2.	1	Bacon, Lement	Chelsea, Vt.	1852-04-26	Pres. Of Bank of Orange Co.
A.2.	2	Ballou, W. S.	Strafford, Vt.	1852-04-06	Funeral of Daniel Morrill
A.2.	3	Barrett, Hiram	Strafford, Vt.	1862-01-05	
A.2.	4	Bass, C. A.	Chelsea, Vt.	1852-02-28	
A.2.	5	Baxter, P(ortus)	Derby Line, Vt.	1851-08-24	
A.2.	6	Beaman, George H.	Center Rutland, Vt.	1869-02-02	
A.2.	7	Bentley, J(ohn) A.	Comm. Pensions, Washington, D.C.	1879-06-13	
A.2.	8	Bingham, N. W.	Washington, D.C.	1869-03-03	
A.2.	9	Blodgett, B(enjamin)	Chelsea, Vt.	1852-05-05	
A.2.	10	Blodgett, B(enjamin)	Chelsea, Vt.	1852-08-06	
A.2.	10	Colburn, J.W.	Springfield, Vt.	1869-01-30	
A.2.	11	Blodgett, B(enjamin)	Chelsea, Vt.	1854-03-28	Directed to R.H. Rollins, Esq.
A.2.	12	Bramhall, Hon. Charles H.	Falls Church, Va.	1869-03-25	
A.2.	13	Brastow, G.O.	Somerville, Mass.	1852-02-21	
A.2.	14	Carpenter, Willard	Troy, N.Y.	1853-09-07	
A.2.	15	Childs, A(sa) P.	Bennington, Vt.	1876-07-08	
A.2.	16	Chute, Richard	Washington, D.C.	1868-06-27 or later	
A.2.	16	Chute, Richard	Washington, D.C.	1868-06-27 or later	
A.2.	17	Cobb, Daniel Bryant Bliss	Derby Line, Vt.	1853-09-09	
A.2.	18	Cobb, Daniel Bryant Bliss	Derby Line, Vt.	1853-10-16	
A.2.	20	Colburn, J.W.	Springfield, Vt.	1869-02-01	
A.2.	21	Danforth, William C.	Barnard, Vt.	1869-03-09	
A.2.	22	Dieter, Anderson D.	New Orleans, La.	1869-01-25	
A.2.	23	Dudley, Daniel B(liss), Esq.	New York City, N.Y.	1869-01-30	
A.2.	24	Dudley, Daniel B(liss), Esq.	New York City, N.Y.	1869-02-16	
A.2.	25	Dudley, Daniel B(liss), Esq.	New York City, N.Y.	1869-03-22	
A.2.	26	Dudley, M(yron) S(amuel)	New York City, N.Y.	1869-01-18	
A.2.	27	Emery, L. S.	Washington, D.C.	1869-03-15	Quartermaster-

					General's Office
A.2.	28	Fairbanks, Hon. Erastus	New York City, N.Y.	1853-11-30	Staying at metropolitan Hotel
A.2.	29	Fairbanks, Hon. Erastus	St. Johnsbury, Vt.	1855-10-22	
A.2.	30	French, James G.	Montpelier, Vt.	1869-02-26	
A.2.	31	Gordon, O.B. (Mrs. Thomas E.)	Pleasantville, Pa.	1869-02-03	
A.2.	32	Hagar, (Prof.) A(lbert) D.	Proctorsville, Vt.	1868-12-19	
A.2.	33	Haines, D.W.	Washington, D.C.	1867-1877 (no date)	
A.2.	34	Hall, John	North Springfield, Vt.	1869-03-01	
A.2.	35	Hammond, Hon. Edwin	Middlebury, Vt.	1869-01-06	
A.2.	36	Harris, George S.	Boston, Ma.	1852-05-20	
A.2.	37	Kennedy, Joseph D.G.	Washington, D.C.	1870-01-18	
A.2.	38	Kiblinger, Samuel S(tillman)	Strafford, Vt.	1851-12-11	
A.2.	39	Leslie, George	Chelsea, Vt.	1854-04-22	
A.2.	40	Leslie, George	Chelsea, Vt.	1855-10-30	
A.2.	41	Lovell, George T.	Washington, D.C.	1878-06-19	
A.2.	42	McIndoe, L. J.	Windsor, Vt.	1869-02-17	
A.2.	43	Montgomery, Hon. Zach	Washington, D.C.	1866-03-08	Interior Department
A.2.	44	Merrill, George A.	Rutland, Vt.	1869-03-03	
A.2.	45	Morrill, J(edidiah) N.	Boston, Ma.	1869-03-25	
A.2.	46	Morris, S(ylvester)	Norwich, Vt.	1859-08-19	
A.2.	47	Nichols, Hon. George	Montpelier, Vt.	1870-12-01	Secy. of State
A.2.	48	Nichols, Hon. George	Montpelier, Vt.	1874-11-23	Secy. of State
A.2.	49	Pease, Simeon & Co.	Boston, Mass.	1852-08-02	The Exchange Bank
A.2.	50	Potter, Orin C.	Charlestown, (N.H.?)	1852-05-11	
A.2.	51	Powers, Hon. T(homas) E.	Woodstock, Vt.	1869-03-11	
A.2.	52	Ranney, General Nathan	St. Louis, Mo.	1870-01-11	
A.2.	53	Reed, (Miss) E.J.	New York City, N.Y.	1869-01-12	
A.2.	54	Rockwell, Col. A.F.	Washington, D.C.	1884-01-29	
A.2.	55.	Stebbins, G. B.	Washington, D.C.	1868-06-24	
A.2.	56	Steele, Hon. Benjamin H(inman)	St. Johnsbury, Vt.	1868-04-06	
A.2.	57	Steele, Hon. William	Sharon, Vt.	1869-04-03	
A.2.	58	Tenney, B.F.	Boston, Ma.	1851-11--11	

A.2.	59	Tenney, B.F.	Boston, Ma.	1851-11-19	
A.2.	60	Tenney, B.F.	Boston, Ma.	1852-07-06	
A.2.	61	Tenney, B.F.	Boston, Ma.	1853-04-29	
A.2.	62	Tenney, B.F.	Boston, Ma.	1853-10-18	
A.2.	63	Tenney, B.F.	Boston, Ma.	1855-08-16	
A.2.	64	Thayer, G.W.	Boston, Ma.	1860-07-09	Pres. Exchange Bank
A.2.	65	Thompson, J. R.	Washington, D.C.	1870-06-27	Auditor's Office, Treasury Department
A.2.	66	Thurston, John C.	North Pomfret, Vt.	1869-03-23	
A.2.	67	Tyler, F.	Brattleboro, Vt.	1869-04-03	
A.2.	68	Veazie, J(oseph) A.	Boston, Ma.	1853-05-21	
A.2.	69	Veazie, J(oseph) A.	Boston, Ma.	1853-05-23	
A.2.	70	Veazie, J(oseph) A.	Boston, Ma.	1853-05-27	
A.2.	71	Veazie, J(oseph) A.	Boston, Ma.	1853-05-27	
A.2.	72	Veazie, J(oseph) A.	Boston, Ma.	1853-03-31	
A.2.	73	Veazie, J(oseph) A.	Boston, Ma.	1853-07-09	
A.2.	74	Veazie, J(oseph) A.	Boston, Ma.	1853-08-13	
A.2.	75	Veazie, J(oseph) A.	Boston, Ma.	1853-12-06	
A.2.	76	Veazie, J(oseph) A.	Boston, Ma.	1854-01-02	
A.2.	77	Veazie, J(oseph) A.	Boston, Ma.	1854-04-14	
A.2.	78	Veazie, J(oseph) A.	Boston, Ma.	1854-04-27	
A.2.	79	Veazie, J(oseph) A.	Boston, Ma.	1854-05-22	
A.2.	80	Waite, S. M.	Brattleboro, Vt.	1869-04-07	Cashier, First Nat. Bank of Brattleboro
A.2.	81	Wharton, Joseph	Philadelphia, Pa.	1878-06-10	
A.2.	82	Wharton, Joseph	Philadelphia, Pa.	1878-06-12	
A.2.	83	Whitmore, A. W.	Portland, Me.	1852-03-18	
A.2.	84	Wright, B. H.	Rome, Oneida Co., Ny.	1870-03-05	

**Notes (Size C):**

A.4a.	91-94	Statistics on trade with the Hawaiian Islands, 1860-1869	1869	Prepared by Francis Amasa Walker (1840-1897), for Senator Morrill.
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**Notes (MSA 654: Folder 7):**

A.4a.	95	Express receipt, Bonds, addressed to G. P. Chapman, Boston, Mass.	1883	
A.4a.	96	Shares of Chicago, Burlington & Quincy Railroad sold to Franklin Haven, Jr.	1890	Letterhead of Lee, Higginson & Co., 44 State St., Boston, Mass.

**Newspaper Clippings (MSA 655, Folder 1):**

Series	No.	Title	Year	Source
A.4b.	97	"The Morrill Tariff Works."	1862	A Vermont paper, 1862
A.4b.	98	"The Republican Party Justified"	1868	The Boston Journal, Supplement, Sept. 10, 1868
A.4b.	99	"Free Trade in the States"	1869	A N.Y. paper, May, 1869
A.4b.	100	"Ohio Republicans for Revenue Reform"	1869	The New York Evening Post, June 19, 1869
A.4b.	101	"Fallacies of American Protectionists", By Dr. Francis Lieber of Columbia College, N.Y.	1869	a N.Y. paper, June (22?), 1869
A.4b.	102	"Free Trade is Freedom"	1869	The New York Evening Post, July (28?), 1869
A.4b.	103	"Cheese and Butter Factories" in the U.S. as a factor in international trade.	1871	a Boston paper, Aug. (16?), 1871
A.4b.	104	"The Wool Market"	1872	a Vt. paper, (Jan.7), 1872
A.4b.	105	"The Currency", a Letter from Judge William B. Kelley of Penn.	1873	The Philadelphia <u>Press</u> , Nov. 6, 1873
A.4b.	106	"Gold and Silver"	1877	Boston Advertiser of Monday, Jan. 1, 1877.
A.4b.	107	"One of Lincoln's Cases"	188-	A Vt. paper of the 1880s.
A.4b.	108	"Manufacturers and Wool Growers"	1897	A letter to the Editor of the new York American, Feb. or Mch. 1897
A.4b.	109	"Why the Wool Growers will not Agree to Accept the Wool Duties in the Tariff Act of 1890"	1897	Letter to the Editor, Wool Markets and Sheep
A.4b.	110	"The Wool Tariff"	1897	A letter "to the Editor of the Journal"
A.4b.	111	"Judge Lawrence on Wool"	1897	An open letter to the Hon. Justin S. Morrill, Chairman, Committee on Finance, U.S. Senate.

**Pamphlets and Government Documents (MSA 655, Folder 2):**

Series	No.	Name	Title	yyyy-mm-dd	Notes
A.4b.(2)	112	Bancroft, Hon. George	Oration in Memoriam of Abraham Lincoln	1866-02-12	
A.4b.(2)	113	Field, Cyrus West	Memorial (on a projected submarine telegraph cable to China)	1870-03-31	
A.4b.(2)	114	Stebbins, G. B.	Free Trade Falsehood that "A Tariff is a Tax"	1871-08	
A.4B.(2)	115	Grant, President Ulysses Simpson	Message of the President of the U.S.	1870-01-10	
A.4b.(2)	116	Johnson, President	Message of the President of	1869-10-24	

		Andrew	the U.S.		
A.4b.(2)	117	Pacific Submarine Telegraph Company	An Act to Incorporate	undated	
A.4b.(2)	118	Sherman, Hon. John	A Speech against Free Coinage of Silver.	1823-1900	
A.4b.(2)	119	Hoffman, Charles F.	Topographical Map Showing the Location of the Sutro Tunnel and the Comstock Lode	1866-03	
A.4b.(2)	120	Colton, J.H. & Co., New York	Map of established and submarine cables	1867-1877	
A.4b.(2)	121	Ward, Hon. John E.	Remarks of the Hon. John E. Ward on submarine telegraph cable to China	1870-05-26	
A.5a.	122-132	Personal Finances	Shares of stock in Vermont banks which stood in the names of Senator and Mrs. Morrill on April first of each year ...	1855-1888	Filed in the town clerks' office in Strafford

**Letter from Justin Morrill (MSA 655, Folder 3):**

B.1	135	Morrill, Justin S.	Washington, D.C.	1875-01-23	To Solon Franklin Frary, South Strafford
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**Bills, Amendments, Remarks (MSA 655, Folder 4):**

Series	No.	Title	Year	Bill No.
B.3b.	137	A Bill to Authorize the Taking of Certain Parcels of Land for the Congressional Library, and for Other Purposes.	1877	S.1235
B.3b.	138	An Act Authorizing the construction of a building for the accommodation of the Congressional Library.	1881	S.1988
B.3b.	139	Papers from the President of the United States in relation to the Executive Mansion.	1882	
B.3b.	140	JOINT RESOLUTION Providing for the termination of the reciprocity treaty of 30 <sup>th</sup> of Jan., 1875, between the United States of America and his majesty the King of the Hawaiian Islands.	1883	S.R.122
B.3b.	141	A Bill Relating to the improvement of the coinage.	1884	S.1459
B.3b.	142	A Bill to define the routes of steam-railroads entering the City of Washington, and for other purposes.	1884	S.1783
B.3b.	143	Amendment Intended to be proposed by Mr. Morrill, from the Committee on Finance, to the bill (H. R. )	1885	

		making appropriations for sundry civil expenses of the Government for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1885, and for other purposes.		
B.3b.	144	Address of Mr. Morrill, of Vermont. The Memorial Addresses on the life and Character of William B. Kelley.	1890	
B.3b.	145	Tariff of 1890: Remarks by Mr. Morrill of Vermont, in the Senate of the United States.	1890	S.9416
B.3b	146	Papers in relation to the amendment proposed by Mr. Morrill in the Naval appropriation bill.	1894	S.6748
B.3g`	147	Speech of Hon. Justin S. Morrill of Vermont in the Senate of the U.S. "Some marvelous Senatorial Bills and Quack Panaceas for Real and Imaginary Grievances."	1894	
B.3g	148	Speech of Hon. Justin S. Morrill of Vermont in the Senate of the U.S., Dec. 11, 1894.	1894	
B.3g	149	Speech of Mr. Justin S. Morrill of Vermont, "Free Coinage Substitution for the House Bond Bill".	1896	
B.3g	150	Speech of the Hon. Justin S. Morrill, of Vermont, in the Senate of the United States, Tuesday, May 11, 1897: "Remarks against the Annexation of Cuba as a State, and against a Botched Version of the Monroe Doctrine".	1897	S.26

Ruth Finn and Paul Carnahan  
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