

E. Gwenda Smith (1929-2013)
Justin Smith Morrill Research Collection
Doc 709-710, MSA 830

Introduction

This collection contains research notes, photocopies, and articles assembled by E. Gwenda Smith as she learned about the life of U.S. Senator Justin Smith Morrill of Strafford, Vermont. The collection was given to the Vermont Historical Society by Ms. Smith's son, W. Morgan Smith, in 2017. It is housed in two records center boxes and one, thin, flip-top archival box. It consumes 2.25 linear feet of shelf space.

Biographical Note – E. Gwenda Smith

Elinor Gwenda Smith (1929-2013), a native of Wales, lived in Strafford, Vermont, for nearly 44 years. She was a copy editor and researcher for several educational and news organizations in the "Upper Valley" area of Vermont and New Hampshire. She served in practically every position on the Strafford Historical Society and wrote historical essays for the Strafford town report for 31 consecutive years. She was instrumental in the restoration of the Strafford Town House and was an authority on the history and significance of Justin Smith Morrill.

Biographical Note – Justin Smith Morrill

Justin Smith Morrill was born in Strafford, Vermont, on 14 April 1810 to parents Nathaniel Morrill and Mary Hunt Proctor. Justin attended the local district school and at age 14 years entered Thetford Academy in Thetford, Vermont, and later attended Randolph Academy. At age 15 years Justin became a clerk in the store of Royal Hatch in Strafford, Vermont. After a successful mercantile career he effectively resigned from business in 1848.

Morrill married Ruth Barrell Swan (1821-1898) of Easton, Massachusetts, on 17 September 1851 and they had two sons. Justin Harris Morrill (1853-1855) and James Swan Morrill (1857-1910).

After several years devoted to "agricultural pursuits," 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. Because of his long tenure in government, Morrill built a house in Washington, D.C. but maintained the house in Strafford. Justin Morrill died 28 December 1898.

Scope and Content

This collection contains research notes, photocopies, and articles assembled by E. Gwenda Smith as she became an authority on the life of U.S. Senator Justin Smith Morrill of Strafford, Vermont. The collection contains information about Morrill, his family, and his political career. The collection is especially rich in information about the Gothic-revival house that Morrill designed for himself in Strafford, Vermont. The collection also contains information on Morrill's seminal legislative achievement, the Land Grant Act of 1862, and a symposium that was held on the Act in Strafford in 1998.

Related Collections

The Leahy Library of the Vermont Historical Society holds two significant collections of Morrill's papers: the Justin Smith Morrill papers, 1830-1896 (MSC 31) and the Justin Smith Morrill letters, 1851-1897 (MSA 654-655). There are collections of Morrill's papers at the Library of Congress, Harvard Business School, Cornell University, Syracuse University, and the University of Vermont.

Inventory

I. Justin S. Morrill

- Doc 709:01 Articles and notes about his life
- 02 Busts
- 03 Catalog cards/bibliography
- 04 Plaque at the Library of Congress
- 05 Postage stamp/cancellation
- 06 Photographs
- 07 Articles and research notes
- 08 Speeches by Morrill
- 09 Speeches about Morrill

II. Justin S. Morrill Family

- 10 James Swan Morrill
- 11 Paul S. Morrill
- 12 Ruth Swan Morrill
- 13 Sidney Smith Morrill
- 14 Wilbur Fisk Morrill
- 15 Morrill family, genealogy
- 16 _____, photographs
- 17 Swan family

III. Coy F. Cross

- 18 Biography of Morrill, draft
- 19 Research material

20 Morrill Symposium, 16-17 July, 1998

IV. Morrill Homestead

- 21 Account books
- 22 Land records
- 23 News clipping and articles
- 24 Description
- 25 Furniture and furnishings
- 26 Dedication, 9 Sept. 1962
- 27 Photographs
- 28 Gardens
- 29 Barn exhibit, The Virginia Company, Folder A
- 30 _____, _____, Folder B
- 31 Harris Library
- 32 Kitchen wing, Liz Pritchett report
- 33 Research notes, brochures, miscellaneous
- 34 Tours, Farm and Garden, 1973 etc.
- 35 _____, Summer tour, 1997
- 36 _____, miscellaneous
- 37 Charrette on restoration and interpretation of the landscape, 8 October 1999
- 38 Committee and miscellaneous correspondence
- 39 Justin A. Morrill Foundation
- 40 Friends of the Justin S. Morrill Homestead

- Doc 710:01 Ice Harvest
- 02 Pent Road issue
- 03 Former owner Elizabeth Sullivan

V. Architecture Research

A. Historic architects

- 04 D. H. Arnot
- 05 A. J. Davis, *Rural Residences*, etc.
- 06 A. J. Downing, *The Horticulturist and Journal of Art and Taste*, etc.
- 07 "Rural Architecture in A. J. Downing & Henry D. Thoreau," *New England Quarterly*

B. Other authors

- 08 Wayne Andrews, *American Gothic: Its Origins, Its Trials, Its Triumphs*
- 09 "Luther Biggs and the Picturesque Pattern Books" by Edward F. Zimmer, *Old-Time New England*
- 10 Roger Kennedy articles
- 11 T. P. Thornton, "Moral Dimensions of Horticulture in Antebellum America" by Tamara Plakins Thornton, *New England Quarterly*

C. Historic houses

- 12 Holyroodhouse, Edinburgh, Scotland
- 13 Manship House, Jackson, Mississippi
- 14 Rosewood, Bowen House, Woodstock, Connecticut

D. Pattern Books

- 15 Donald J. Berg, *Country Patterns 1841-1883*
- 16 Gottfried & Jennings, *Pattern Book 1870-1940*

E. Gwenda Smith notes

- 17 New York City notes, Gothic Revival 1995, etc.
- 18 Gothic Revival in National Register and HABS

D. Miscellaneous

- 19 Boston City Directory, 1849-1850
- 20 HABS survey 1970, misc.
- 21 Various articles on Gothic and Victorian architecture

VI. Art

- 22 Morrill Homestead, art collection
- 23 _____, art photographs
- 24 Photocopies from art journals, ca. 1850s

VII. Artists

- 25 Zedekiah Belknap
- 26 Constantino Brumidi
- 27 Bertel Thorvaldsen
- 28 Joseph M. W. Turner
- 29 Miscellaneous

VIII. Land Grant Colleges

- 30 Morrill Land Grant Act of 1862
- 31 Alden Partridge, model for the Morrill Land Grant Act, 1998
- 32 Lectures
- 33 National Association of State & Land Grant Colleges, history
- 34 _____, miscellaneous
- 35 Brown University
- 36 Cornell University
- 37 _____, copies of Morrill papers
- 38 Iowa State University, Morrill Hall
- 39 Michigan State University
- 40 University of New Hampshire and New Hampshire College, 1892 & 1893
- 41 Syracuse University

- 42 University of Vermont
- 43 Miscellaneous
- 44 Kellogg Commission, April 1997
- 45 Morrill Documentary, Land Grant Colleges, January 1998
- 46 Land for Learning symposium, Strafford, Vt., July 16-17, 1998
- Tape M458.1 _____, James R. Anderson
- .2 _____, James R. Anderson & JSM Laniff
- .3 _____, Julianna Chaszar (Side A) & Roger Geiger (Side B)
- .4 _____, Roger Geiger
- .5 _____, Gary Lord
- .6 _____, _____, original recording
- .7 _____, Robert W. Welch
- .8 _____, _____, original recording

XII. Washington

- Doc 710:47 Political life
- 48 Washington house
- 49 Length of service in Congress
- 50 Political speeches
- 51 Visitors, annotated database
- MSA 830:01 Proposed Senate bills, land for library and railroad in Washington
- 02 Whig Party
- 03 Rutherford B. Hayes Center
- 04 Smithsonian Institute, G. P. Marsh speech to establish
- 05 United States Capitol, miscellaneous information, dome, etc.
- 06 Washington Monument

XIII. Miscellaneous

- 07 New York Historical Society
- 08 Town of Strafford, Vermont, and Historical Society
- Tape M458.9 Architectural Styles, Strafford, Vt. February 25, 1999, Gwenda Smith
(incomplete)
- MSA 830:09 Miscellaneous research information

Judeen Barwood and Paul Carnahan
January 2018
MorrillResearchCollection.docx