

New Hampshire State Library



N.H. Association of Military Chaplains: Papers

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Finding Aid

Prepared by Nicole Thomas and edited by Amber Cushing, 2007;
revised and expanded by Linda Kent,
Technical Services, NHSL
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Scope and content note: This collection consists of biographies and correspondence created or compiled by the New Hampshire Association of Military Chaplains in the late 19th and early 20th centuries about members of the clergy who served as chaplains to New Hampshire regiments, primarily in the Civil War. Important as documentation of the formation and function of the NH Association of Military Chaplains, the collection also provides information for researchers and genealogists on the chaplains themselves. Also included is the constitution of the NH Association Military Chaplains.

Organizational Background of the N.H. Association of Military Chaplains:

The New Hampshire Association of Military Chaplains was formed in 1899 by the Reverends Stephen Gano Abbott, John W. Adams, and E.R. Wilkins (Meservey, 1901, p. 189). One of the organization's purposes, as stated in its constitution, was to "collect, arrange, publish and preserve the records of New Hampshire men who have served this or other states of the federal government as military chaplains..." (Constitution of the NH Association of Military Chaplains, n.d.).

A committee was formed to carry out this part of the organization's mission by sending requests to clergy and other citizens for biographical sketches about those New Hampshire clergy known to have served as military chaplains in any of the country's national or colonial wars. The committee consisted of J.K. Ewer, Stephen Gano Abbott, and Wm. Hurlin. The efforts of the committee produced a compilation of several biographies, some of which had already been published, and others which were written specifically for the committee.

Provenance: The collection came as gift to the New Hampshire State Library, presumably sometime in the first half of the twentieth century.

Span Dates: The Association was in existence from the approximate dates of 1888 - 1903, although some of the published materials included are dated earlier.

Collection Strengths: The collection is an asset to students of the military and religious history of New Hampshire, and to genealogists.

Collection Size: There are thirteen legal size folders, contained in one standard legal size archival box (5 linear inches).

Copyright Status and Access: The collection is owned by the New Hampshire State Library and may be viewed by patrons of the library.

Subjects, People, Names:

Military chaplains—New Hampshire	Billings, Liberty
Genealogy—New Hampshire	Carter, Nathan F.
New Hampshire—Military history	Coffin, Enoch
Clergy—New Hampshire—History	Evans, Israel
N. H. Association of Military Chaplains	Hurlin, William
Abbott, Stephen Gano	Krut, Charles U.
Adams, John W.	Lyford, Edward T.
Barnes, George Seymour	Parker, Henry Elijah
Bartlett, Samuel Colcord	Peabody, Stephen
Batchellor, Albert S.	Stinson, Robert

Thorne, John Calvin
Todd, William C.

Willis, Martin Wyman
Wilkins, E.R.

Arrangement and Description: The collection is arranged into five series and 14 folders. Series I contains the biographies collected or created by members of the NH Association of Military Chaplains. There are three subseries, the first for published biographies, the second for manuscripts, and the third for biographical data forms.

Series II contains several lists of military chaplains, from Maine and Massachusetts as well as from New Hampshire, and notes.

Series III consists of the several copies of the constitution of the association, including copies owned by individual members.

Series IV contains correspondence by Albert S. Batchellor.

Series V contains general correspondence.

Container List

Series I: Biographies of chaplains

I. Subseries a: Published Biographies

Folder

- 1: 1. Bartlett, Samuel Colcord., An address on the life and character of the late Henry Elijah Parker, D.D., Daniel Webster Professor of Latin in Dartmouth College: delivered at the funeral services in the college church, Hanover, November 9, 1896. Cambridge: John Wilson & Son, University Press, 1897.
2. Thorne, John Calvin. Reverend Enoch Coffin: Concord's first preacher, 1726-'28., [n.d.]
3. Thorne, John Calvin. A monograph of the Rev. Israel Evans, A.M., chaplain in the American Army during the entire Revolutionary War, 1775-1783, the second settled minister of Concord, New Hampshire, 1789-1797. Presented by the author, 1902.
4. Todd, William C., Rev. Stephen Peabody and wife of Atkinson, N.H.: an old time pastor. Boston: David Clapp & Son. 1894.
- 2: Batchellor, A.S. "[Sketches of Rev. George S. Barnes]". From Granite Monthly (v.16, 1894) and History of First New Hampshire Regiment, by S.G. Abbott.
- 3: Krut, Charles U., "Barnes reminiscences", from History of the Seventeenth Regiment New Hampshire Volunteer Infantry, by Charles U. Krut, 1898, pp. 139-143.

I. Subseries b: Biographical Manuscripts

Folder

- 4: Beane, Samuel C., "Biographical sketch of Rev. Martin Wyman Willis", n.d.
- 5: Hurlin, William, "Biographical sketch of Rev. Edward T. Lyford", 1900.
- 6: McC[ollester], S.H., "Chaplain Robert Stinson", n.d.
- 7: Reed, [Rev.], "Autobiographical sketch", n.d.
- 8: Author not indicated, "Rev. George Seymour Barnes", n.d.
- 9: "By an editor", "Reverend Liberty Billings", n.d.

I. Subseries c: Biographical Data Forms

Folder

- 10: 15 completed forms

Series II: Lists of chaplains

Folder

- 11:
 - 1. Sheet of paper with heading "Colonial Chaplains" and the name Rev. Henry True, Hampstead.
 - 2. List of chaplains from 1811 to 1856, from adjutant general's office: names, denominations, residence at time of appointment
 - 3. List of chaplains from 1811 to 1856, from adjutant general's office: name, appointed, vacated.
 - 4. List of chaplains of New Hampshire regiments in the Civil War (2 sheets).
 - 5. New Hampshire Baptist ministers who were chaplains, compiled by William Hurlin, Antrim, Jan. 19, 1900.
 - 6. Request from Howard F. Hill, secretary of the NH Association of Military Chaplains, to unnamed addressee to collect biographical information on Rev. Thos. Lyford, chaplain of the NH 12th regiment, dated Oct. 15, 1899.
 - 7. Lists of names of chaplains of NH regiments, provided by the U.S. Department of the Interior; 5 sheets, dated ca. 1900.
 - 8. Biographical notes written on scraps of paper, glued or fastened together.
 - 9. Small notebook containing a few pages with handwritten lists of names and NH towns.
 - 10. [List of chaplains], State of Maine, adjutant general's office
 - 11. List of chaplains in Massachusetts regiments

12. List of chaplains in Massachusetts regiments [copy]

13. Program of the Sunday morning service on April 8, 1900 at the Methodist Episcopal Church in Antrim, NH. [Contains photo of Rev. W.A. Loyne, pastor.]

Series III, Folder 12: Constitution of the NH Association of Military Chaplains
Contains one blank copy and 27 copies of individual members of the Association.

Series IV, Folder 13: A.S. Batchellor correspondence: 35 letters, dates 1888-1902.

Series V, Folder 14: General correspondence: 35 letters, dates 1898-1903 and n.d.

Other resources at NHSL about military chaplains

Batchellor, A.S. "Rev. Stephen Gano Abbott, A.M., chaplain of the First Regiment of New Hampshire Volunteers in the War for the Union".

Headley, Joel Tyler. The chaplains and clergy of the Revolution. New York: C. Scribner 1864.

NC 973.37092 H4332c

Meservey, Atwood Bond. "Necrology". The Granite Monthly, vol. XXX, no. 3 (March, 1901).
G 051 G759

New Hampshire Civil War Centennial Commission. New Hampshire and the Civil War, (v. 1, nos. 1-4), 1962-1965.

BV 973.7442 B4

Waite, Otis F.R. New Hampshire in the Great Rebellion: containing histories of the several New Hampshire regiments and biographical notices of many of the prominent actors in the Civil War of 1861-65. Claremont, N.H.: Tracy, Chase & Co., 1870.

BV 973.7442 W1451n

Internet resources relevant to New Hampshire military chaplains

(all websites last accessed 10/28/2008)

Langdon, Samuel, 1723-1797. Papers of Samuel Langdon: an inventory
[Langdon was a Portsmouth N.H. chaplain in the French and Indian War, and in the Revolution.]

<http://oasis.lib.harvard.edu/oasis/deliver/~hua04005>

"Reverend Israel Evans, 1747-1807". Likenesses of New Hampshire war heroes and personages in the collections of the New Hampshire State House & State library. Compiled by Russell Bastedo, NH state curator.

<http://www.nh.gov/nhdhr/publications/warheroes/evansrev.html>

The letters of Henry E. Parker: pastor, Civil War chaplain, scholar, gentleman.

<http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~henryparker/>

Stearns, Ezra S. "Ellen Elvira Gibson". History of the Town of Rindge, New Hampshire, from the date of the Rowley Canada or Massachusetts charter, to the present time, 1736-1874, with a genealogical register of the Rindge families. Boston: Press of George H., Ellis, 1875, p. 530-531. [Ellen Elvira Gibson of Rindge, N.H. was a military chaplain in the Civil War.] http://books.google.com/books?id=KIsBpKIxgDkC&pg=PA530&lpg=PA530&dq=ellen+elvira+gibson&source=web&ots=BOe_59tJV&sig=LYNacn_qRffetjJdysob5EZWfW4&hl=en&sa=X&oi=book_result&resnum=5&ct=result

U.S. Army Chaplain Center and School

<http://www.usachcs.army.mil/HISTORY/Brief/TitlePage.htm>