William Goodell Papers
A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress

Manuscript Division, Library of Congress
Washington, D.C.
2003

Contact information: https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/mss.contact

Catalog Record: https://lccn.loc.gov/mm84061775

Additional search options available at: https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms009025

Prepared by Manuscript Division staff

Finding aid encoded by Library of Congress Manuscript Division, 2009
Revised 2022 August
Collection Summary
Title: William Goodell Papers
Inclusive Dates: 1818-1917
ID No.: MSS61775
Creator: Goodell, William, 1792-1867
Extent: 50 items
Extent: 2 containers
Extent: 0.8 linear feet
Language: Collection material in English and Armeno-Turkish
Location: Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.
LC Catalog record: https://lccn.loc.gov/mm84061775
Summary: Clergyman and missionary to Armenians in the Turkish empire. Correspondence, journals, religious and other writings, Goodell’s translation of the New Testament from Greek into Armeno-Turkish, and other items primarily related to Goodell’s missionary work in the Turkish empire under the sponsorship of the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions. Also includes letters of Goodell’s daughter and granddaughter describing conditions at Harput, Turkey, during the massacre of Armenians by the Kurds, 1895-1896.

Selected Search Terms
The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the LC Catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically.

People
Barnum, Emma--Correspondence.
Barnum, Mary Goodell--Correspondence.
Goodell family.
Goodell, Abigail--Correspondence.
Goodell, William, 1792-1867.

Organizations
American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions.

Subjects
Armenian massacres, 1894-1896.
Armenians--Turkey.
Cholera--Turkey.
Congregational churches--Missions--Turkey.
Fires--Turkey.
Kurds--Turkey.
Massacres--Turkey.
Plague--Turkey.

Places
Harput (Turkey)--History.
Turkey--History.

Titles

Occupations
Clergy.
Missionaries.
Acquisition Information

The papers of William Goodell, clergyman and missionary to the Turkish empire, were received in the Library of Congress by purchase and gift between 1939 and 2000. A single item was given to the Library in 1939 by E. J. Van Lennep. Additions were given in 1988, 1996, and 2000 by Carmen D. Valentino.

Processing History

The papers of William Goodell were arranged and described by Patrick Kerwin in 1996. The collection was expanded and revised with the addition of two items of miscellaneous correspondence in 2003 by Karen Linn Femia.

Additional Guides


Copyright Status

The status of copyright in the unpublished writings of William Goodell is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.).

Access and Restrictions

The papers of William Goodell are open to research. Researchers are advised to contact the Manuscript Reading Room prior to visiting. Many collections are stored off-site and advance notice is needed to retrieve these items for research use.

Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: Container number, William Goodell Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Biographical Note

William Goodell was born in 1792 in Templeton, Massachusetts. He graduated from Dartmouth College and Andover Theological Seminary and became a Congregationalist missionary stationed in Malta and Beirut, and finally a missionary to the Armenians in the Ottoman Empire, 1831-1865. Goodell translated the Bible into Armeno-Turkish. In 1865, he returned to the United States and died in 1867.

Scope and Content Note

The papers of William Goodell (1792-1867) span the years 1818-1917 and consist of correspondence, journals, religious and other writings, Goodell's translation of the New Testament from Greek to Armeno-Turkish, genealogical material, legal papers, autographs, a drawing, and printed material.

The journals, 1831-1849, and correspondence, 1823-1898, pertain chiefly to Goodell's missionary work among Armenians in Turkey under the sponsorship of the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions and document the difficulties faced by Goodell's mission, including fire, outbreaks of plague and cholera, the death of a fellow missionary, and the hostility of the ruling government. Correspondence includes letters of his wife, Abigail Goodell, and letters from
Mary and Emma Barnum, daughter and granddaughter of William Goodell, who were in Harput, Turkey, during the massacre of Armenians by Kurds in 1895.

**Arrangement of the Papers**

Arranged alphabetically by type of material.
## Container List

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Container</th>
<th>Contents</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BOX 1</td>
<td>Correspondence</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOX 1</td>
<td>Barnum, Mary and Emma, 1895-1898</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOX 1</td>
<td>Goodell, William and Abigail, 1823-1867</td>
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<tr>
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<td>(2 folders)</td>
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<tr>
<td>BOX 1</td>
<td>Miscellaneous, 1825, 1846</td>
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<tr>
<td>BOX 1</td>
<td>Journals</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOX 1</td>
<td>1831-1849</td>
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<td>(3 folders)</td>
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<tr>
<td>BOX 2</td>
<td>Legal papers, 1917</td>
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<tr>
<td>BOX 2</td>
<td>Miscellany, 1830-1832, undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOX 2</td>
<td>Religious exercises, 1818-1819</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOX 2</td>
<td>Writings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOX 2</td>
<td>&quot;Historical Sketch of the Missions of the American Board in Turkey, 1878&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOX 2</td>
<td>&quot;Missionary Work in Turkey,&quot; 1887</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOX 2</td>
<td>&quot;New Testament&quot; (Armeno-Turkish), 1856</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOX 2</td>
<td>Sermon on the occasion of the ordination of William Goodell, by Samuel Miller, 1822</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOX 2</td>
<td>&quot;Three Chapters in the Life of an Armenian Girl,&quot; undated</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>