

Samuel W. Dike Papers
A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress



Manuscript Division, Library of Congress
Washington, D.C.
2012

Contact information: <http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/mss.contact>

Catalog Record: <https://lcn.loc.gov/mm73018499>

Additional search options available at: <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms011207>

Prepared by Don Schewe

Finding aid encoded by Library of Congress Manuscript Division, 2012

Collection Summary

Title: Samuel W. Dike Papers

Span Dates: 1870-1913

Bulk Dates: (bulk 1890-1913)

ID No.: MSS18499

Creator: Dike, Samuel W. (Samuel Warren), 1839-1913

Extent: 9,800 items

Extent: 28 containers

Extent: 12 linear feet

Language: Collection material in English

Location: Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

LC Catalog record: <https://lcn.loc.gov/mm73018499>

Summary: Congregational minister and social reformer. Correspondence, speeches, articles, book drafts, an unfinished autobiography, lecture notes, family papers, reports, newspaper clippings, and printed matter relating chiefly to Dike's correspondence with members of the National Divorce Reform League (later known as the National League for the Protection of the Family) and others pertaining mainly to business matters and social and family problems. Also included are reports, published material, and printed matter concerning the family, divorce, and temperance.

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

Adams, Herbert B. (Herbert Baxter), 1850-1901--Correspondence.

Baker, Newton Diehl, 1871-1937--Correspondence.

Dike family.

Dike, Samuel W. (Samuel Warren), 1839-1913.

Peabody, Francis Greenwood, 1847-1936--Correspondence.

Wright, Carroll D. (Carroll Davidson), 1840-1909--Correspondence.

Organizations

Committee of Fifty for the Investigation of the Liquor Problem.

National Divorce Reform League (U.S.)

National League for the Protection of the Family (U.S.)

United States. Bureau of Labor. A report on marriage and divorce in the United States, 1867-1886; including an appendix relating to marriage and divorce in certain countries in Europe. 1889.

Woman's Christian Temperance Union.

Subjects

Alcoholism--United States.

Congregational churches--Education--United States.

Congregational churches--United States.

Divorce--United States.

Domestic relations--United States.

Elections--United States--1884.

Elections--United States--1888.

Elections--United States--1892.

Families--United States.

Marriage--United States.

Mormon Church.

Mormons.

Polygamy.

Social problems--United States.

Temperance--United States.

Places

United States--Social conditions--1865-1918.

Occupations

Clergy.

Reformers.

Provenance

The papers of Samuel W. Dike, Congregational minister and social reformer, were given to the Library of Congress in 1944 by Elizabeth A. Dike.

Processing History

The papers of Samuel W. Dike were arranged and described in 1972, and the finding aid was revised in 2012.

Additional Guides

A select index of correspondents in the correspondence series is available as a [PDF](#) document.

Transfers

Two medals have been transferred to the Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C.

Copyright Status

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

Access and Restrictions

The papers of Samuel W. Dike 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, Samuel W. Dike Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Biographical Note

Date	Event
1839, Feb. 13	Born, Thompson, Conn.
1859-1863	Attended Williams College, Williamstown, Mass.
1866	Graduated, Andover Theological Seminary, Andover, Mass.
1866-1868	Acting pastor in Pomfret, Conn.
1868-1879	Pastor in West Randolph, Vt.

1869	Ordained to the Congregational ministry
1872	Married Augusta Margaret Smith
1879-1882	Pastor in Royalton, Vt.
1881	New England Divorce Reform League founded
1882-1913	Pastor in Auburndale, Mass.
1885	National Divorce Reform League founded
1889	Compiled material for <i>A Report on Marriage and Divorce in the United States, 1867-1886</i>
1893	Committee of Fifty for the Investigation of the Liquor Problem organized
1897	National Divorce Reform League changed to National League for the Protection of the Family
1909	Updated report on marriage and divorce issued by the Census Bureau
1913, Dec. 3	Died, Auburndale, Mass.

Scope and Content Note

The papers of Samuel Warren Dike (1839-1913) span the years 1870-1913, with the majority of the material dating from 1890 to 1913. The bulk of the collection pertains to Dike's activities as a Congregational minister and social reformer. The papers are in English and are organized into the following series: [Correspondence](#), [Speeches and Writings File](#), [Printed Matter](#), and [Miscellany](#).

The [Correspondence](#) series documents Dike's correspondence with members of the National Divorce Reform League (after 1897 the National League for the Protection of the Family) and other social reformers in connection with his responsibilities as corresponding secretary for both leagues. Much of this material relates to payment of dues, arrangements for meetings, and other perfunctory matters, but of particular interest are letters received by Dike from several prominent social reformers of the day. These letters reveal the attitudes toward society and societal problems among these reformers, and especially attitudes toward the family in society.

Dike annotated many of his incoming letters on envelopes, and wherever such annotation existed the envelopes were retained with the letter. Dike seems to have followed this practice more faithfully in his later years. Usually, an "R" followed by a date indicates when Dike received the letter and that he did not reply, while an "A" indicates the date Dike answered the letter.

Dike's philosophy about divorce, marriage and the place of the family in society is evidenced in the speeches, sermons, articles, lecture notes, and notes and outlines for correspondence courses located in the [Speeches and Writings File](#). Also in that series is an unfinished autobiography that discusses Dike's attitudes toward family life and how he became interested in the problems of divorce.

The [Printed Matter](#) series includes annual reports of the National Divorce Reform League and the National League for the Protection of the Family. Of particular interest are the reports for 1896 and 1905, which give overview statements of the progress of the league after fifteen and twenty-five years. *A Report on Marriage and Divorce in the United States, 1867-1886*, published by the United States Bureau of Labor in 1889, is devoted to marriage and divorce statistics, and much of it, particularly the portion on marriage and divorce in foreign countries, was compiled by Dike.

News clippings in the [Printed Matter](#) series are divided by subject, and include articles on divorce, the Mormons and polygamy, and the elections of 1884, 1888 and 1892. Also featured in the clippings are articles written by and about Dike. For a time Dike subscribed to a clipping service, and the divorce section contains several of the clippings provided by the service. The [Printed Matter](#) series contains published material on temperance including material published by the Committee of Fifty for the Investigation of the Liquor Problem, headed by Francis Greenwood Peabody of Harvard University, and the Woman's Christian Temperance Union. Dike was a member of the Committee of Fifty.

The [Miscellany](#) series contains a scrapbook of news clippings prepared by Dike. The clippings relate largely to divorce, but also to the development of the home study movement in the Congregational Church, a movement Dike helped originate and was interested in throughout his career. Also documented in the Miscellany series are copies of proposed divorce reform laws from various states and foreign countries.

Correspondents include Herbert Baxter Adams, Newton Diehl Baker, Francis Greenwood Peabody, and Carroll Davidson Wright. Prominent correspondents are listed in a select index of correspondents available in the Manuscript Reading Room and as a [PDF](#) document. The letters are referred to by the date of the correspondent's letter and will be found filed under that date in the [Correspondence](#) series.

Arrangement of the Papers

This collection is arranged in four series:

- [Correspondence, 1870-1913](#)
- [Speeches and Writings File, 1870-1913](#)
- [Printed Matter, circa 1880-1913](#)
- [Miscellany](#)

Description of Series

Container	Series
BOX 1-18	<p><u>Correspondence, 1870-1913</u></p> <p>Letters received and some copies of letters sent. Arranged chronologically.</p>
BOX 19-22	<p><u>Speeches and Writings File, 1870-1913</u></p> <p>Handwritten and typewritten drafts, notes, and galleys of speeches, articles, books, an unfinished autobiography, letters to the editor, and reports. Speeches and articles are arranged alphabetically by title.</p>
BOX 23-26	<p><u>Printed Matter, circa 1880-1913</u></p> <p>Annual reports and other publications of the National Divorce Reform League and the National League for the Protection of the Family, news clippings, journals containing articles contributed by Dike, <i>A Report on Marriage and Divorce in the United States, 1867-1868</i>, and material on temperance published by the Committee of Fifty for the Investigation of the Liquor Problem. Annual reports and the material on temperance are arranged chronologically; the news clippings are arranged by subject.</p>
BOX 27-28	<p><u>Miscellany</u></p> <p>Copies of proposed divorce reform laws, notes on divorce statistics, notes and an outline for a correspondence course on the family, notices of new books published by various presses, family papers, and a scrapbook of news clippings. Arranged by topic or type of material.</p>

Container List

Container	Contents
BOX 1-18	Correspondence, 1870-1913 Letters received and some copies of letters sent. Arranged chronologically.
BOX 1	1870-1881
BOX 2	1882, Jan.-1884, Feb.
BOX 3	1884, Mar.-1885, Dec.
BOX 4	1886, Jan.-1887, Feb.
BOX 5	1887, Mar.-1889, Apr.
BOX 6	1889, May-1892, July
BOX 7	1892, Aug.-1894, Oct.
BOX 8	1894, Nov.-1896, Dec.
BOX 9	1897, Jan.-1899, Dec.
BOX 10	1900, Jan.-1902, June
BOX 11	1902, July-1904, Sept.
BOX 12	1904, Oct.-1906, Feb.
BOX 13	1906, Mar.-1907, Sept.
BOX 14	1907, Oct.-1909, Aug.
BOX 15	1909, Sept.-1911, Mar.
BOX 16	1911, Apr.-1912, Dec.
BOX 17	1913
BOX 17	Jan.-May
BOX 18	June-Dec., undated
BOX 19-22	Speeches and Writings File, 1870-1913 Handwritten and typewritten drafts, notes, and galleys of speeches, articles, books, an unfinished autobiography, letters to the editor, and reports. Speeches and articles are arranged alphabetically by title.
BOX 19	Speeches
BOX 19	A-R
BOX 20	S-Z and untitled
BOX 20	Lecture notes
BOX 21	Articles
BOX 21	A-R
BOX 22	S-Z and untitled
BOX 22	Books, drafts
BOX 22	Unfinished autobiography, draft
BOX 22	Letters to the editor, drafts
BOX 22	Divorce reports, drafts

Speeches and Writings File, 1870-1913

Container	Contents
BOX 22	Temperance, notes on
BOX 23-26	Printed Matter, circa 1880-1913 Annual reports and other publications of the National Divorce Reform League and the National League for the Protection of the Family, news clippings, journals containing articles contributed by Dike, <i>A Report on Marriage and Divorce in the United States, 1867-1868</i> , and material on temperance published by the Committee of Fifty for the Investigation of the Liquor Problem. Annual reports and the material on temperance are arranged chronologically; the news clippings are arranged by subject.
BOX 23	Annual reports and other publications of the National Divorce Reform League
BOX 23	Annual reports and other publications of the National League for the Protection of the Family
BOX 24	News clippings
BOX 25	Journals containing articles contributed by Dike
BOX 25	<i>A Report on Marriage and Divorce in the United States, 1867-1886</i> , 1889
BOX 26	Temperance, published material
BOX 27-28	Miscellany Copies of proposed divorce reform laws, notes on divorce statistics, notes and an outline for a correspondence course on the family, notices of new books published by various presses, family papers, and a scrapbook of news clippings. Arranged by topic or type of material.
BOX 27	Divorce reform laws, proposed
BOX 27	Divorce statistics, notes
BOX 27	Correspondence courses, notes and outlines
BOX 27	New books, notices of
BOX 27	Family papers
BOX 28	Scrapbook