Finding Aid prepared by:
R. Tonkiss Cameron, with additions by D. Watkins, May 2005

Summary Information

Creator: Morton Fitch Trippe, 1847 - 1916
Title: Morton Fitch Trippe Papers
Inclusive dates: 1871-1947
Bulk dates: 1871 - 1915
Abstract: Morton Fitch Trippe, an Auburn graduate, and his wife, Sarah Louise were well known as missionaries with the Home Mission in the Alegany, Cattaraugus, Tonawanda and Tuscorora Indian reservations. The collection covers sermons and miscellaneous papers throughout Trippe’s career, as well as documents reflecting events in the mission and some of Mrs. Trippe’s later historical notes.

Size: 2.50 linear feet
Storage: Onsite storage
Repository: The Burke Library
Union Theological Seminary
3041 Broadway
New York, NY 10027
Email: burkearchives@library.columbia.edu
Administrative Information

Provenance: M. F. Trippe's Papers were donated to the Auburn Seminary archive in 2000 by Morton Kelsey of California, a descendent of Sarah and Morton Trippe. The Auburn Seminary archive is on deposit in The Burke Library.

Access: Archival papers are available to registered readers for consultation by appointment only. Please contact archives staff by email to burkearchives@library.columbia.edu, or by postal mail to The Burke Library address on page 1, as far in advance as possible Burke Library staff is available for inquiries or to request a consultation on archival or special collections research.

Access Restrictions: The collection is unrestricted to readers. Certain materials, however, are in a fragile condition, and this may necessitate restriction in handling and copying.

Preferred Citation: Item description, Auburn Seminary Archives, Morton Fitch Trippe Papers, series#, box #, and folder #, The Burke Library Archives, Columbia University Libraries, at Union Theological Seminary, New York.

Biography

Morton Fitch Trippe was born in Bridgewater, NY on September 15, 1847 and joined the 9th NY Artillery in 1864. Following the Civil War he graduated from Hamilton College, 1872, and from Auburn in the class of 1875.

He married Sarah Louise Holmes of Bloomsburgh, PA on May 18, 1875 and was ordained in Augusta, NY, Utica presbytery, on June 15, 1875. He held pastorates in Augusta, NY, 1875 – 9, with Vernon Centre, 1878-9 and Sodus, 1879 – 1881.

He was missionary to the Indians on Cattaraugus Reservation, from 1881 to 1893, firstly under the Foreign Board 1893 – 1916, then under the Home Board, with its headquarters in Salamanca, NY, for part of 1916.


“The Presbyterians have two churches on the Allegany reservation, one at Jimersontown, the other at Old Town, with a membership of 125 and fifty-two respectively. There is also a church on the Complanter reservation just over the line in Pennsylvania, with a membership of sixty-one. There are Sunday-schools connected with these churches. Rev. M. F. Trippe, of Salamanca, has charge of these churches, and also of the Presbyterian mission work on the Tonawanda and Tuscarora reservations. He spends one Sunday each month with each reservation, and the work is carried on by native helpers during the interim.”

Trippe received the honorary degree of D.D. from Hamilton College, 1907 and died, in Salamanca, NY on May 7, 1916.
Sarah Louise Trippe was born on July 18, 1850, in Davenport, NY., the daughter of Rev and Mrs William Holmes. She was a graduate of Bloomsburg Normal at Bloomsburg, Pa. and taught in schools in that area. Late in life [1929/1930?] she published a book, *Early times among the Iroquois, 1535-1790.*

She died on the Tuesday before April 10, 1931 in Salamanca, NY.

Both of the Trippes were well known for their missionary work on the Allegany, Cattaraugus, Tonawanda and Tuscorora Indian reservations.

At her death in 1931, Mrs Trippe was survived by three daughters: Mrs Caroline T Hawkey (with whom Mrs. Trippe lived in Salamanca), Mrs (Myra) W M Kelsey (of Palmerton, Pa.), and Mrs (Mary) S S Board (of Hempstead, L. I.) and by one son Dr Clarence Trippe (of Asbury Park, N J.), one sister Mrs A D Dorsheimer and 12 grandchildren as well as nieces and nephews.

**Collection Scope and Content Note**

- **Series 1: Sermons, 1871 – 1881 (3 boxes, 1.50 linear ft.)*
  These sermons are arranged by Trippe’s’ number order or, if no number was assigned in chronological order of the date on which the sermons were first delivered.

  It is clear from their content that written sermons date to the earlier period and more of the sermon plans and minimal notes are marked Res [Reservation]. It is possible that the minimal paper notes assisted in maintaining the oral traditions in which Trippe would have found himself working.

- **Series 2: Plans for Sermons, 1877 – 1915, bulk dates 1902-1914 (1 box, 0.5 lin. ft.)*
  “Much used” notes for sermons, annotated with the places and dates that the sermons were given, including some markings of ‘Res’ [Reservation]. Occasionally notes are written on the reverse of receipts, previous correspondence, or notices. All had previously been kept tightly folded into 2 1/2” strips and in large bundles in envelopes, tied with string. There is no clear subject, bible citation, date or other order and the plans have been kept as far as possible in the order in which they originally came to the library.

  **NOTE: Series 3 – 5 are located in one box**

- **Series 3: Talks & Addresses**
  This series includes addresses on temperance or religious themes.

- **Series 4: Miscellaneous**
  This series contains documents of interest on matters concerning the Reservation and the land disputes of the 1880s – 1890s, as well as miscellanea such as portrait photographs and financial notebooks, quarterly reports to the Board of Home Missions and correspondence.
• **Series 5: Historical notes and writings by Mrs M F Trippe, 1916 – 1947**
  Various documents on the history of the reservations and Native American conditions are to be found collected by Mrs Trippe along with newspaper articles and other later documents including a Daughters of the American Revolution Certificate in the name of Trippes’ daughter, Myra.
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9. *I am he...* Rev. 1:18, Augusta Sept. 1878

**Sermons, 1879**

1. *But if we walk in the light John 1:7, Augusta Jan. 7, 1879*
2. *But it is good...* Ecc. 4:18, Augusta Jan. 19, 1879; Sodus Jan. 9, 1881
3. *Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord...* Ex. 20:7, Augusta March 2, 1879 (Res)
4. *Unbelief...* Augusta March 9, 1879; VC, ibid. (Sodus July 8, 1880)
5. *But this one thing I do...*, Phil 3 13-14, Augusta March 11, 1879; VC June 16, 1878
6. *They shall prosper...* Ps. 122:6, Augusta March 16, 1879; VC, ibid; Sodus August 31, 1879
8. *Judges 5:23 [1879?]*
9. *Unto...Lord belong..., Ps 68:20; Young man I say unto them, Luke 7:14, Funeral, David Morrison May 19, 1874; Funeral Martha Finn, April 28, 1879*
**Series 1: Sermons, 1871 – 1881**

**Series Box Folder Description**

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<td><strong>Sermons, 1879 (cont’d)</strong></td>
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<td>This same Jesus…Acts 1:11, Augusta July 9, 1879, VC ibid.; Sodus, Sept. 7, ‘79</td>
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<td>The Prayer Meeting, Augusta July 23, 1879; VC ibid.; Sodus Apr. 25, 1880</td>
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<td>And they continued steadfastly…, Acts 2:42, Augusta Aug 5; VC March 2, 1879; Sodus July 6, 1879</td>
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<td>Beloved, now are we the sons of God, I John 3.2:3, Augusta March 25, 1879; Sodus Aug 17, 1879</td>
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<td>But I say unto you I will not drink henceforth this fruit of the vine…, Matt 26:29, Communion Sodus Oct.5, 1879</td>
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<td>Sin &amp; folly of a half hearted consecration, Sodus Dec 14, 1879</td>
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<td>Isaiah 64:1, Sodus Oct. 19, 1879</td>
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<td>James 2:26, Sodus Oct. 26, 1879</td>
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<td>A Clear perception…Sodus Nov. 2, 1879</td>
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<td>Increase of faith…Sodus Nov. 9, 1879</td>
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<td>Joshua 7:13…Sodus Nov. 30, 1879</td>
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<td>Leadership of the spirit…Sodus Dec. 21, 1879</td>
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<td>Matt. 25:29…[1879?]</td>
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<td><strong>Sermons, 1880-1881</strong></td>
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<td>The spiritual law of life…Joy May 23, 1880</td>
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<td>Rigjah, Sodus May 30, 1880</td>
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<td>Self deception, Sodus Sept. 26, 1880</td>
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<td>Sodus, Nov. 7, 1880</td>
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<td>The naming…Sodus Dec. 12, 1880</td>
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<td>A mind to think…Sodus Dec. 19, 1880</td>
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<td>Moral Darkness…Sodus March 27, 1881</td>
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<td>Luke 9:6, Joy April 3, 1881; Res Apr. 19, 1884</td>
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<td>Elements of Jesus’ future…Joy July 6, 1881; Res July 31, ‘87</td>
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<td>Old age, the twilight of life (Funeral/Mr Leighton), Sodus July 17, 1881</td>
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<td>Law &amp; Order…Sodus &amp; Joy July 20, 1881; Sodus July 27, 1881</td>
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<td><strong>Sermons, 1883</strong></td>
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<td>I will go out as at other…Judges 16:20, Res. September 1883</td>
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**Series 2: Plans for Sermons, 1877 – 1915, bulk dates 1902-1914**

Note: Sermon plans are in the order as received and do not follow date or text arrangement, a number are written on the reverse of other documents.

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<td>Plans for Sermons, 1877-1915</td>
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**Series 3: Talks & Addresses**

Series  Box  Folder  Description
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3  1  1-2  Talks, Addresses, Notes & Sermon Plans

**Series 4: Miscellaneous**

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|4 | 1 | 4 | Notes, correspondence, news clippings on ‘Indian Matters’

*Southern Workman and Hampton School Record*, vol. 26, #8 Aug. 1897

*Journal of Seneca Mission* from Jan. 1834 by Mrs. Might

Documents re: Claim of Ogden Land Co. to the Allegany and Cattaraugus Indian Res. in the State of NY:

Congressional Bill HR 158, May 21, 1888; Letter from Sec. of the Interior, printed, Feb. 1, 1895; Letter by Phillip Garrett to Sec. of Interior, t/s, Dec. 4, 1896

|4 | 1 | 5 | Quarterly Reports to the Board of Home Missions, 1903 – 1907 |
|4 | 1 | 6 | Correspondence arranged by date, Nov. 19, 1833-June 16, 1908 |

**Series 5: Historical notes and writings by Mrs M F Trippe, 1916 – 1947**

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|5 | 1 | 5 | Notebook containing:

A photo pasted on the outer cover; Three photos pasted on inside cover;

*Historical Facts Concerning Peter Crouse the Captive, His Wife Rachel, Their Descendents and Their Times* by Mrs. Trippe, autograph ms, 22 p, June 1928;

*Da-ne-da-do* [person’s name] by author unknown [Mrs. Trippe?], ms, 22p;

History of Cattaraugus Res. and communication with Mission Board, covering 1821-1851, [by M. F. T?], auto

*Seneca or ‘Buffalo Creek’,* from 1811, [by M. F. T?], autograph ms.

|5 | 1 | 6 | Daughters of the American Revolution Certificate for Myra Trippe Kelsey, Sept. 19, 1947. Myra was one of the daughters of Morton and Sarah Trippe. |