

# NEW HAVEN COLONY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

## LIBRARY

Manuscripts  
No. 6

Date processed: August, 1978

- I. Title Humiston, Wallace Dwight (1886 - 1941), Papers, 1886 - 1938.
- II. The papers of  
deposited in the Library on \_\_\_\_\_, by  
In \_\_\_\_\_ converted the deposit to a gift.
- III. Linear feet of shelf space occupied: 20 inches  
Approximate number of items: 255 (Including 9 volumes).
- IV. Restrictions: None
- V. Literary rights of the unpublished writings of  
in these papers, and in other collections of papers in the custody of  
the New Haven Colony Historical Society Library, have been dedicated  
to the New Haven Colony Historical Society.
- VI. Press release was issued on -----
- VII. Biographical note:

See Page 2.

VIII. Analysis: The Humiston Papers consist of four boxes as follows:

- Box I - Book of list of friends.  
Diary, volumes III and IV.
- Box II Diary, vol. V.  
Booklet, "The things that interest me most."
- Box III Diary, vol VI.  
Genealogy records.  
Newspaper clippings of articles on churches.
- Box IV Humiston Genealogy correspondence. (215 items)

## VII Biographical Note:

Rev. Wallace Dwight Humiston was born May 2, 1886 in Hamden, Connecticut. His parents were Katie Downs Humiston and Dwight L. Humiston who served a milk delivery and later an ice delivery route. He was also a farmer. Wallace Dwight Humiston had an older sister, Lillie May, a younger brother, Earl and a younger sister Leta. In 1893 the family moved to Bethany, Connecticut.

Nothing of Wallace Dwight Humiston's earliest years is recorded in these papers. One assumes he attended school and church in Bethany. But at what must have been a relatively early age he began a remarkable chronological listing in a bound volume of the names of those he considered his friends, beginning with his parents. In most instances he penned a few words about the meeting of a new friend, or something about him or her. With some names he drew a cartoon that related to the friendship. In many cases, he went back to a name in later years to note the marriage or burial date of a friend. There are family friends, school and college friends and, in later years, acquaintances of home and travel. The book was continued until 1933 when Humiston was 47 years old.

After graduating from high school, Wallace Dwight Humiston took courses at Connecticut Agricultural College (now the University of Connecticut), and took a summer course at Massachusetts Agricultural College. He attended the Willimantic (Connecticut) Normal School from which he was graduated in 1911. He then taught at several elementary schools in the Bethany area. In the fall of 1913 he entered Yale Divinity School, graduating in 1916 at the age of 30.

In 1903, on his 17th birthday, Humiston began a diary in which he made entries almost daily, and certainly at least once a week until October 1938. The entries are generally terse and note the barebone facts of daily living, and record local visits and travel far afield. Volumes I and II of the diary are missing from these papers; the diary begins with volume III (1908) and concludes with volume VI (1938). There are elaborate hand-printed indices in the back of each volume.

Humiston was unmarried and there are many diary entries of a bachelor nature ("Ironed shirts", "did washing", etc.) As a Minister he was very interested in the Boy Scouts and the Grange, and he must have enjoyed making parish calls because he records so many of them.

After graduating from the Yale Divinity School, Humiston did "fill-in" preaching in the Bethany area and in Vermont, eventually becoming permanent Minister to the Congregational churches in Northfield and Eagle Rock, Connecticut, which posts he held until the year of his death in 1941. He also held the post of Librarian at the Litchfield Town Library. The last entry in his diary was made in September 1938.

Humiston had a deep interest in the geneology of his family. When he was 19 years old he wrote a remarkably detailed

Bio graphical Note (cont'd.)

and researched geneology of the Humiston family, tracing it back to one Henry Humiston (d. 1663), one of the founders of New Haven County, and who spent the later part of his life in Wallingford. He notes that alternate spellings of the family name in ancient times have been Humberston, Hamerston and Humaston. In later years, he sought out people of the name Humiston from coast to coast, and these Papers include scores of replies from Humistons from all parts of the country. For twelve years (1921 - 1933) Humiston maintained a personal correspondence with the noted geneologist Donald Lines Jacobus, and even did some work for him.

Humiston died on August 20, 1941, at the age of 55.

One regrets that the entries in the diaries are so superficial. Humiston irons, cleans the house, does the washing, goes to the library, works on a sermon, preaches and visits. But no insight into the problems of his congregation, parish or community is given. From his diary we learn nothing about his relations with the Deacons of his church. Thirty years of diary entries reveal nothing of Humiston's philosophy, problems or innermost thoughts.

Content Guide  
Humiston, Wallace Dwight (1886 - 1941) Papers.

Box I

- Folder A - Record kept by Wallace Dwight Humiston of those he considered his friends, 1886 - 1933. Capsule descriptions of the incident of friendship, in many instances with accompanying cartoon illustrations. Frontispiece is a hand-drawn map of Humiston's childhood neighborhood in Bethany. Detailed hand-printed index at the back of the volume. (1 vol.)
- B - Diary of Wallace Dwight Humiston, vol III. Covers the period April 14, 1908 - October 21, 1916 with regular entries about his life in Bethany, local visits and conversations with friends, and a trip to Washington, D.C. It covers his training at the Willamantic Normal School, practice teaching, and his life at the Yale Divinity School. There is a complete hand-printed index at the back of the volume. (1 vol.)
- C - Diary of Wallace Dwight Humiston (vol. IV) for the period November 14, 1916 - September 26, 1926. This volume includes Humiston's ordination in October, 1917, his temporary preaching appointment in Granby, Vt., his appointment as pastor of the Northfield and Eagle Rock churches. It describes his association with the Grange and the Boy Scouts, and a camping trip in the west. There is an elaborate hand-written index at the end of the volume. (1 vol.)

Box II

- Folder A - Diary of Wallace Dwight Humiston (vol.V) November 10, 1926 - October 13, 1933. Describes trips to the Sesqui-Centennial in Philadelphia, and the Century of Progress in Chicago. Entries show the routine life of a country parson (Sermons, christenings, burials, etc.) Elaborate hand-printed index at back of volume. (1 vol.)
- B - Booklet "Things which interest me.", originally located inside cover above volume V of diary. (1 vol.)

Box III

- Folder A - Diary of Wallace Dwight Humiston (vol.VI), October 14, 1933 - September 17, 1938. Describes trips to Long Island, Cambridge and Concord, Marthas Vineyard and Nantucket, the Adirondacks and Fort Ticonderoga. Mention of Humiston's interest in geneology. Entries about friends, parish affairs and routine living. [This loose-bound volume is probably a typescript copy of a longhand original.] (1 vol.)

Content Guide  
Humiston, Wallace Dwight (1886 - 1941) Papers.

Box III (cont'd.)

- Folder B - Handwritten index for diary vol. VI above. (1 vol)
- C - Miscellaneous pocket notebooks and letters, some containing notes for diary. (12)
- D - Wallace D. Humiston notebooks on Humiston geneology, 4 volumes dated 1905. *(also on microfilm no. 33,* (4 vol)
- E - Geneology and geneological forms. (6)
- F - Magazine and newspaper clippings showing pictures of churches, mainly New England colonial. Church magazines. (3)
- G - Church magazines and publications. (6)

Box IV

- Folder A - Letters from Donald Lines Jacobus, noted geneologist, to Wallace Dwight Humiston, written between 1921 and 1933. (35)
- B - F - Letters to Wallace Dwight Humiston from Humistons and Humiston relatives from all parts of the country, solicited by Humiston. Letters concerning the geneology of the Humiston family. (175)
- G - - ALS from Henry C. Burroughs to NHCHS re genealogy Eli Humiston and Sarah P. Downs Kidd Humiston. 1927 (2)