

NEW HAVEN COLONY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

LIBRARY

Manuscripts

No. 91

Date processed: September, 1978.

I. Title Talcott, Alvan (1804 - 1891). Papers (1831 - 1889).

II. The papers of
deposited in the Library on _____, by
In _____ converted the deposit to a gift.

III. Linear feet of shelf space occupied: 3 feet 6 inches.
Approximate number of items: 3 pages, 16 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V. Literary rights of the unpublished writings of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 papers consist of three boxes and four oversize items.*

Material is filed as follows:

- a. Dr. Talcott personal records of patients seen, babies delivered, etc.
- b. Copies of vital statistics.
- c. Genealogical material.
- d. Oversize item.

* Boxes IV and V added November, 1978.

Alvan Talcott, M.D.

Alvan Talcott (1804. - 1891) was born in North Bolton, near Vernon, Connecticut, on August 17, 1804, the only son of Alva and Philomela (Root) Talcott. He graduated from Yale College in 1824 and then taught school for five years while studying various branches of medicine. After apprenticeship to a doctor in Wethersfield, he attended Yale Medical School, receiving his M.D. degree in 1831. Talcott married Olive N. Chittenden of Guilford in March 1831. Neither she nor any of their three children survived him.

Dr. Talcott began his medical career in Vernon but moved to Guilford in 1841 where he continued in active medical practise for about forty years. His papers include a record of the more than 1500 child deliveries he handled.

Talcott's avocation was genealogy and in 1882 he published a book on the Chittendens, his wife's family. In 1884 he completed a book on the genealogy of the Leete family which had remained unfinished after the death of the original author, Edward Leete. His genealogical interests were capped by a 612 page handwritten manuscript recording the genealogy of all of the Guilford families between 1639 and 1888. It is a masterpiece of genealogical research. The many detailed studies upon which this manuscript must be based are not among these papers.* We have only the magnificent end result.

Dr. Talcott served as Registrar of Guilford which gave him unlimited access to Guilford town and family records. He was in charge of the 1880 census in Guilford and served on numerous town committees, including the Centennial celebration committee. He was a distinguished citizen.

In 1888 Alvan Talcott created A Professorship of Greek in his name at Yale and willed his surgical instruments and medical books to the Yale Medical School.

Unlike his Guilford contemporary Ralph D. Smyth (MSS #90), Alvan Talcott did not write on the general history of Guilford or the native indians but limited himself to the genealogy of Guilford families. It is an astonishing coincidence that two such able men as Ralph Dunning Smyth and Alvan Talcott should be studying the same genealogical material in the same small village, serving on many of the same civic committees, etc. at the same time. They must have exchanged views frequently. Alvan Talcott assisted the editor of Ralph D. Smyth's "History of Guilford, Connecticut" in preparing it for posthumous publication.

Dr. Alvan Talcott died of old age in his 87th year, January 1891.

*See boxes IV and V added in November, 1978.

Mss. 91

Content Guide

Talcott, Alvan (1804 - 1891). Papers (1831 - 1889).

Box I

- Folder A - Dr. Alvan Talcott, obstetrical record, 1831 - 1834. (1 vol.)
- B - Typescript copy of the obstetrical record of Dr. Alvan Talcott. (1 vol.)
Vernon and vicinity, 1831 - 1839.
Guilford, 1841 - 1844.
- C - Guilford, births, marriages and deaths, 1851 - 1859. (1 vol.)
- D/- Alvan Talcott copy of Guilford town records showing all births, marriages and deaths recorded in the town records 1639 - 1889. (1 vol.)

Box II

- Folder A - Guilford, register of deaths, 1639 - 1847. (1 vol.)
- B - Hand-size notebook giving some financial accounts and recording births and deaths, 1816 - 1874, author unknown. (1 vol.)
- C - Guilford census, 1850 and 1860. (2 vols.)
- D - Guilford census, 1880. Alvan Talcott, supervisor. (1 vol.)
- E - Regiments in which Guilford Civil War soldiers served. (1 vol.)
Guilford military deaths in the Civil War.
- F - William V. Chittenden, incomplete bond for the purchase of land in Guilford. Undated. (1)
- G - Modern photostat copy of Pelatiah Leete's will, 1784. (2)
- H - Talcott family genealogy. (2 vols.)

Box III

- Folder A - Notes on the genealogies of various early Guilford families. (2 vols.)
- B - Modern typescript copy of the genealogy of eight Guilford founding families from Talcott manuscript. (1 vol.)
- C - Index to Talcott manuscript. (1 vol.)
- D - "Genealogy of the Coan Family" compiled by Alvan Talcott, Guilford, Connecticut, 1876 (1 ms. vol.)

Mss. 91

Content Guide

Talcott, Alvan (1804 - 1891). Papers (1831 - 1889).

Item I - Oversize - Talcott manuscript. Record of all the families (1 vol. in Guilford between 1639 and 1888. Prepared in manuscript by Alvan Talcott, 612 pages.

Note: On the shelves of the Society's library there is a photostatic copy of the Talcott Manuscript, produced in three volumes.

Addendum, November, 1978

Box IV

Folder A - Original manuscript, Talcott Genealogies, c. 1880. (1 vol.)

Box V

Folder A - Original manuscript, Talcott Genealogies, c. 1880 . (1 vol.)

Addendum, December, 1978

Box II

Folder I - Letters to Dr. Alvan Talcott from relatives concerning family matters, and from one Nate Smith of Newburgh, Mich. who was interested in genealogical matters. Photos of Talcott, his sister and grand-niece are included. These letters were removed from the Leffingwell Collection and placed in MSS. #91 on December 7, 1978.

Addendum, January 1979

Box V

Folder B - Alvan Talcott's college notebook, 1822. (1 vol.)

Addendum, September 1992

Box II

Folder I - cont. Letter from Edwin Hill requesting use of Talcott Manuscripts