

Lyman Family Papers, 1846 to 1883

Overview of the Collection

Creator	Lyman Family
Title	Lyman Family Papers
Dates	1846 to 1883 (inclusive) 1846 1900
Quantity	1.0 cubic feet, (1 box)
Collection Number	MS.31
Summary	The Lymans were a family of early Oregon settlers who were active in missionary, educational and literary activities. The bulk of the collection is comprised of correspondence between member of the Lyman family and their friends between the years of 1846 to 1883.
Repository	Pacific University, Archives Pacific University Archives 2043 College Way Forest Grove, OR 97116 Telephone: 503-352-1400 archives@pacificu.edu
Access Restrictions	Collection is open for research.
Languages	English
Sponsor	Sponsored by a grant from the National Historical Publications and Records Commission

Biographical Note

The Lymans were a family of early Oregon settlers who were active in missionary, educational and literary activities. The elder Reverend Horace Lyman was born in 1815 in East Hampton, Massachusetts. He graduated from Williams College and obtained a graduate degree from Andover Theological Seminary in 1846. He left for the West Coast under the auspices of the American Home Missionary Society. Together with his wife, Mary Denison of Vermont, he made the long journey to San Francisco by ship. After spending about one year teaching in San Jose, California, fellow Congregationalist missionary George Atkinson invited him to Oregon. The Lymans arrived in Portland in 1849, founding the city's First Congregational Church there. Horace Lyman served as the church's first pastor, and also founded another church and school near Dallas, Oregon. In 1857, the Lymans moved to the town of Forest Grove on the invitation of Sidney H. Marsh, who was the president of Pacific University. Reverend Lyman taught ancient history, mathematics, English literature and rhetoric there for about twenty years. Mary Denison Lyman died in 1874, and Reverend Lyman followed her in 1887.

Horace and Mary Denison had several children. William Denison Lyman, was born in 1852. He graduated from Pacific University in 1873 and taught there from 1877-1887. He later became a professor at Whitman College and published several books. The bulk of William Denison Lyman's papers are preserved at Whitman College.

Another son, Horace Sumner Lyman was born on December 18, 1855. A childhood malady required him to use crutches throughout his life. After graduating from Pacific University in 1878 with a classical education, Horace S. Lyman went to study at Oberlin College, and then returned to Portland, Oregon. He worked as a pastor, an author, and an educator. Among his writings were the four-volume "History of Oregon" and portions of "The History of Oregon and its Indian Wars." He was a newspaper editor in Portland from 1885-1889. After 1889, he lived on a farm in Clatsop County and served as its superintendent of schools. He died after a short illness on December 22, 1904. Additional papers of Horace Sumner Lyman can be found in the Denver Public Library Archives.

The Lymans had two other recorded children: Sarah, born about 1851; and Mary Frances, born about 1858. Sarah appears not to have married and her occupation is unknown. Mary Frances graduated from Pacific University in 1878 and married, becoming Mary Frances McCoy.

Content Description

The bulk of the collection is comprised of correspondence between member of the Lyman family and their friends between the years of 1846 to 1883. The papers appear to have come to Pacific University via the estate of the elder Reverend Horace Lyman; nearly all the material is addressed either to him or his immediate family members. Many of the personal letters demonstrate the efforts by various family members in Vermont, Massachusetts and Michigan to stay in touch with their far-off relatives in the Oregon territory. Some of them also illuminate what living conditions were like in Oregon during the mid-nineteenth century. One notable letter from an unidentified woman in Salem comments on race relations between black and white community members during the Civil War. Other letters testify to the difficulties in securing work and funding for educational and missionary activities on the frontier. Some aspects of student and faculty life at Pacific University in the 1860s-1880s are likewise apparent in the letters. In addition to the letters, the collection also includes several printed ephemeral items and photographs of family members.

Use of the Collection

Preferred Citation

[item identification], Lyman Family Papers, Pacific University Archives, Forest Grove, Oregon.

Restrictions on Use

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Administrative Information

Future Additions

No accruals are expected.

Detailed Description of the Collection

Correspondence

Lyman, Horace

Container(s)		Description	Dates
Box	Folder		
1	1	Adam, William L. to Horace Sumner Lyman	1880
1	2	American Home Missionary Society to Reverend Lyman Consists of one letter signed by Secretary Milton Baelyor (1864), and one letter signed illegibly by multiple officers (1882)	1864, 1882
1	3	Ann (niece) to Mary Denison Lyman	1862
1	4	A. Roberts Clothier, Merchant Tailor and Hatter. Receipt.	1861-1882
1	5	Atkinson, George H. to Reverend Lyman	1867
1	6	Atkinson, Edward M. to Reverend Lyman Concerning the estate of Mr. Hyde.	1880
1	7	Beecher, Willis S. to to Reverend Lyman? Circular letter from the Auburn Theological Seminary.	1880
1	8	Benton, L.A. to to Reverend Lyman	1873
1	9	Bodwell, Lewis to Reverend Lyman Concerning the church and the slavery issue in Kansas.	1859
1	10	Cassy to Mary Denison Lyman	1864
1	11	C.H. Myers, Plumber, Gas and Steam Fitter. Invoice to Reverend Lyman	1870
1	12	Clark, Horace M. to Reverend Lyman	1882
1	13	Coburn, Hilda?, probably to one of the Lyman daughters	1878

Container(s)	Description	Dates
1 14	Corbett, Henry Winslow (Pacific University Treasurer) to Reverence Lyman Includes letter and ledger of Reverend Lyman's account.	1863
1 15	Creegan, C.C. (Secretary of the New York Home Missionary Society) to Reverend Lyman	1883
1 16	Denison, Edward H. (brother) to Mary Denison Lyman	1850-1858
1 17	Denison, William? and Caroline (brother and sister-in-law?) to Mary Denison Lyman	1847-1850
1 18	Duncan, John T. to Mary Denison Lyman	1854
1 19	Duncan, John T. Jr., to Reverend and Mary Denison Lyman	1852-1883
1 20	Dwinell, J.E. to Reverend Lyman	1873
1 21	Eaton, Mary S. to Sarah Lyman	1877
1 22	Eells, Myra and Myron, to Reverend and Mary Denison Lyman	1865-1880
1 23	Ella? to Mary Denison Lyman	1878
1 24	Forrey?, Mrs. A.E. to Reverend Lyman Concerning a marriage proposal from Reverend Lyman, who was at this time a widower.	1880
1 25	Geer?, Lucy H. (niece) to Reverend Lyman	1883
1 26	George, Mrs. C.E. to Mary Denison Lyman	1873
1 27	Griffith & Deal (Law, Real Estate & Exchange Office), to Reverend Lyman	1872
1 28	Griff?, Reverend H. to Reverend Lyman	1880
1 29	Guernsey, J.H. (nephew) and his wife Mary, to Mary Denison Lyman	1860
1 30	Guernsey, Lucy (niece) to Mary Denison Lyman	1851-1852

Container(s)		Description	Dates
1	31	Hetzler, P.C. (District Superintendent of the American Bible Society) to Reverend Lyman	1880
1	32	Higley, Erastus, to Reverend and Mary Denison Lyman Letter inscribed with a poem, "The Consolation," on the occasion of the Lymans' departure for Oregon.	1848
1	33	Himes, George H. (Printer in Portland), to Reverend Lyman	1880
1	34	Kellorn, John H. (Principal of Munro Academy) to Reverend Lyman Written on the blank leaf of a pamphlet from Munro Academy, Elbridge.	1852
1	35	Lee, J.D. to Reverend Lyman	1883
1	36	Lyman, Addison (brother) to Reverend Lyman and Mary Denison Lyman.	1852-1880
1	37	Lyman, A.J. (cousin) to Reverend Lyman. Accompanied by handwritten notes related to Horace Lyman's "Lecture on Oregon."	1878-1879
1	38	Lyman, Eunice (cousin) to Sarah or Mary Frances Lyman.	1873
1	39	Lyman Family in East Hampton, Massachusetts, to Reverend Lyman and his family. Letters from various Lyman family members in East Hampton, frequently written together on the same sheets, to Reverend Lyman and his family. Correspondents include: Daniel Lyman (his father), Lauren Lyman (his brother), Daniel Lyman (his brother?), Daniel W. Lyman (his nephew), Payton W. Lyman (his nephew), Sarah Lyman (his niece), Henry L. Lyman (his nephew) and A.S.? Lyman.	1851-1863
1	40	Lyman, Horace (the Reverend). Outgoing letters. Outgoing mail to: his wife, Mary Denison Lyman; and to George H. Atkinson regarding Greek Letter societies at Pacific University.	1860-1870
1	41-42	Lyman, Horace Sumner. Outgoing letters. Mostly consists of letters to his parents and siblings. Multiple letters are addressed from Oakland (California),	1846-1876

Container(s)		Description	Dates
		Oberlin College, Riceville, Walla Walla, and White Salmon (Washington).	
1	43	Lyman, James (brother) to Reverend Lyman	1851-1880
1	44	Lyman, Josiah (brother) to Reverend and Mary Denison Lyman. One letters includes transcribed recommendations for Josiah Lyman's invention, the "Protracting Trigonometer."	1852-1880
1	45	Lyman, Margaret (niece) to Reverend Lyman and (wife/cousin) to Horace Sumner Lyman Margaret Lyman appears to have been the niece of Reverend Lyman and was married to her cousin Horace Sumner Lyman.	1881-1883
1	46	Lyman, Mary Frances to her parents Reverend and Mary Denison Lyman	1880-1883
1	47	Lyman, Mary Denison. Incoming letter, unsigned, regarding race relations in Salem.	1863
1	48	Lyman, Mattie Clark (daughter-in-law) to Reverend Lyman	1882
1	49	Lyman, Payson (nephew) to Reverend Lyman See also the file for "Lyman Family in East Hampton, Massachusetts"	1860-1880
1	50	Lyman, Sarah E. (cousin) to Mary Frances Lyman Also see the "Lyman Family in East Hampton" folder for an additional letter.	1876
1	51	Lyman, Sarah to her parents, the Reverend and Mary Denison Lyman, and to her sister, Mary Frances	1873-1883
1	52	Lyman, William Denison. Outgoing letters. Chiefly letters to his parents, Reverend and Mary Denison Lyman; also a letter to Sidney Harper Marsh (President of Pacific University); to his sisters Mary Frances ("My darling Mimi") and Sarah.	1878-1882
1	53	Marsh, Sidney Harper to Reverend Lyman Includes an account ledger of house construction materials.	1860-1873

Container(s)		Description	Dates
1	54	Matthews, Jacob to Reverend Lyman	1882
1	55	Mendenhall, J.C. (Washington County District Clerk). Receipt.	1856
1	56	Norris, Isabelle J. to Sarah Lyman	1878
1	57	Oregon Railway and Navigation Company. Letter Fragment.	1880
1	58	Pacific University students. Petition to form a literary society.	1874
1	59	Pearson, Edward Harrison (cousin) to Mary Denison Lyman	1855
1	60	Peck, Mrs. A. J. to Reverend Lyman	1880
1	61	Peck, E.L. to Reverend Lyman	1879
1	62	Perkins, Lola Guernsey (sister) to Mary Denison Lyman	1855-1864
1	63	Pope, Charles W. and George Abernathy to Mr. W. Geyer	1859
1	64	Post, Henry D. (nephew) to Reverend and Mary Denison Lyman	1852-1880
1	65	Post, Hoyt G. (nephew) to Mary Denison Lyman	1852
1	66	Powell, G.J. to the Lyman Family	1881
1	67	Robb, J.S.? to Reverend Lyman	1879
1	68	Roberts, William to Reverend Lyman	1862
1	69	Rogers, Jane B. to Reverend Lyman	1880
1	70	Sites, O.F. to Reverend Lyman?	1880
1	71	Smith, Judson to Horace Sumner Lyman	1880
1	72	Smith, C.J.? to Reverend Lyman	1882

Container(s)	Description	Dates
1 73	Sons of New England. Invitation and ticket to the New England Festival in Portland, to Reverend Lyman.	1853
1 74	Spencer, Sarah L. to Reverend Lyman Apparently concerning a marriage proposal from Reverend Lyman, who was at this time a widower.	1878-1880
1 75	Taylor, John W. (nephew) to Reverend Lyman	1880
1 76	Unidentified letters and fragments	1861-1880
1 77	United States Sanitary Commission to Reverend Lyman	1864
1 78	Wells, E.A. to Reverend Lyman	1883
1 79	White, W.C. to Reverend Lyman	1883
1 80	Wm. Garretson & Co. to Reverend Lyman Accompanied by a pamphlet advertisement: "The Bible Looking-Glass: Reflector, Companion and Guide."	1864
1 81	Young, D.B. to Reverend Lyman	1883
Folders		
1 82-85	Empty Envelopes At some point before the current arrangement of this collection, the letters were separated from their envelopes. Because of the difficulty in reuniting the two, we have placed all of the envelopes together in this sub-series.	1830-1885

Pamphlets, clippings and other printed fragments, 1872-1880

Includes: Washington Stock Exchange "Regular Call" listing, completed in manuscript (1883); "\$1,200 needed now, and \$3,000 this year from us. To the Congregation Churches and Ministers of Oregon and Washington" (1883); "Dr. Probert's Malarial Remedy" (1880); "Fifteenth Annual Report ... American Home Missionary Society; General Association California" (1879); and others.

Container(s)	Description	Dates
Box	Folder	
1 86	1872-1880	

Photographs, circa 1865-1900

Portraits of Reverend Horace Lyman, Horace Lyman Jr., William D. Lyman, and Mary F. Lyman McCoy. Includes a carte-de-visite and cabinet cards; in albumen print and silver gelatin print formats.

Container(s)	Description	Dates
Box	Folder	
1	87	Circa 1865-1900

Names and Subjects

Subject Terms :

Congregational churches
Forest Grove, Or.
Missionaries--Oregon
Pacific University
Universities and colleges--Oregon

Personal Names :

Lyman, Horace
Lyman, Horace Sumner, 1955-1904
Lyman, Mary Denison

Form or Genre Terms :

Correspondence

Finding aid prepared by Jessie Sweeney
2012