Guide to the Collection of William Jones Skillman,
1870 – 1900 (bulk)

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Collection Summary

Repository: Special Collections and University Archives, Archibald S. Alexander Library

Creator: Skillman, William J. (William Jones), 1835-1914

Title: Collection of William Jones Skillman

Inclusive Dates: (1870-); (1880-); and (1900-)

Bulk Dates:

Quantity: cubic ft (3 boxes)
Abstract: Correspondence, charts, genealogy, manuscripts, miscellaneous documents, scrapbooks relating to Skillmans's work on the manuscript entitled The Skillman's of American and their Kin.

Collection Note

It may interest you to learn that in the issue for January, 1906 of the New York Genealogical and Biographical Record a series of papers will begin on "The Skillman's of American and Their Kin." Giving the genealogy from the beginning in this country of this extended family for several generations along with its close alliance with such families, its kindred by blood bearing such names as: Petit, Aten, Hull, Vandewater, Van Alst, Beekman, Dougherty, Fine, Coe Messerole, Stryker, Stockton, Veghte, Quick, Gracie, Runyon, Titus, Voorhees, Schenck, Van Zandt, Paynter, Mersereau, Hunt, Janney, Ten Eyck, Scudder, Conselyea, Onderdonk and Hageman. WJS, 1906

Biographical Note

William J. Skillman was born on April 19, 1835 at Ten Mile Run, Somerset, New Jersey, the third of five children born to Jacob Runyon Skillman and Mary Jones Scudder. Skillman was a farmer in Franklin, Somerset, New Jersey and in 1863 graduated from the New Brunswick, New Jersey Theological Seminary of the Dutch Reformed Church. From 1863 to 1868 he was pastor of the Reformed Church at Macon, Lenawee, Michigan. He served part of the time the Congregational (afterward Presbyterian) Church of Raisin. From 1868 to 1872 he was pastor of the Reformed Church in South Bend, Saint Joseph, Indiana; and from 1872 to 1883 pastor of the First Reformed Church of Bethlehem at Albany, New York. From 1883 to June of 1894 Skillman served as pastor of the Presbyterian Church at Sioux Falls, Minnehaha, South Dakota. He served for nearly two years alternately the Presbyterian Churches of Dell Rapids and Flandreau; was acting professor of Greek and English literature in the Northwestern academy at Orange City, Iowa. For a few months at the opening of 1886 Skillman took full charge of the First Reformed Church of Sioux Falls where he remained until June, 1894 when he removed to Philadelphia having accepted the pastorate over a large congregation at that city.

William J. Skillman was united in marriage on June 4, 1863 by the Reverend J.S. Lord of the Reformed Church of USA to Susan Eleanor, daughter of Hartshorne Willett Gilliland and Ann Brown. Mrs. Skillman was born on August 23, 1841 at New York City; and died on January 26, 1909 at Philadelphia. Mrs. Skillman was a teacher and vice-principal in the public schools of New Brunswick, New Jersey. The couple is buried at the West Laurel Cemetery, Philadelphia.

William and Susan Skillman were the parents of nine children; Mary, wife of Francis Marion Hatch, Willett Runyon, Ernest Dumont, Herbert, Regner, Anna Francesca, Arthur Davenant, Lionel Gilliland and Edith.
REV. WILLIAM JONES SKILLMAN.

By Tobias A. Wright.

In the death of Mr. Skillman, which occurred in Corona, Borough of Queens, N. Y., February 23, our Society loses one of its useful workers. After a ministry of over fifty years in the Reformed Dutch Church he retired to spend the closing years of his life largely in gathering and arranging genealogical records of his own and allied Dutch families, many of which have appeared in the pages of this magazine. Possessed of a wonderful faculty for finding missing links, he succeeded in unraveling tangles that had long baffled others. A special intuition seemed to guide him on the ancestral trial, and hundreds of the present generations are indebted to him for all that they know of their early Dutch progenitors. A beautiful pen-printed and illuminated volume of his unpublished genealogical notes is indicative of the painstaking care displayed in all his work. This collection he generously presented to the New York Genealogical and Biographical Society and may be seen in its library.

At a time of life when most men cease to labor, Mr. Skillman continued his contributions to religious literature. The infirmities of age rested lightly upon him, and his genial kindly personality was a joy to his friends and an inspiration to young men. He died at the age of 79 and his long and useful life was well worthy of emulation. The genealogical records of the Skillman family, compiled by him, may be found in The New York Genealogical and Biographical Record, beginning in vol. 37, page 22.

Scope and Content Note

Correspondence, manuscripts and scrapbooks include The Longstreet’s of New Jersey; The Skillman’s of American and Their Kin; The Nicolls Expedition; Skillman scraps from the winter in South Bend, Indiana; 150 envelopes with one or more letters and/or postcards in each, mostly addressed to the Reverend Skillman and postmarked circa 1870’s – 1900’s and sent to Reverend Skillman in from many regions of the country, including Sioux Falls. One packet is titled “Scudder Letters.” They all seem to pertain to family genealogy and many are several pages long with some dating as far back as the 1870’s; There are seven pocket-sized oblong notebooks, each of approximately 100 pages, each filled with Skillman family genealogy. One example is title Records, Births, Baptisms, Marriages and Deaths: Also Church
Members: “Harlingen, NJ.” Another is “Antiquarian and Family Notes” (Nos. I & II); included in this is a newspaper photograph of New York stage actress Louise Skillman [Mrs. Thomas Maguire] (02 August 1871 – 22 December 1953); A small leather pocket account book has a record of church expenses, beginning in 1864; Also in the lot is an 1892 printed history of the Skillman’s of New York, by Francis Skillman, which the Reverend has heavily annotated thru-out in his hand, with other miscellaneous material laid in; Another packet of at least 100 leaves of manuscript in entitled the Skillman’s of American and Their Kin, by William Jones Skillman of the seventh generation from the ancestry of the name, a collection of papers first printed in the Princeton Press, Princeton, NJ, 1903; Another packet of approximately 100 pages of letters, mostly dated in the 1870’s is labeled “Letters from Francis Skillman;” A small vest-pocket notebook is titled “Notes various and of more or less utility, etc. Historical and Genealogical,” includes military records of the Revolutionary War and later Skillman’s; A file folder labeled “Sport clippings, etc., Willett R. Skillman, (30 + leaves) typescript records of military records from the early 1700’s and later; one 6 & ½ x 8 notebook has 16 ms. Pp entitled The Skillman’s, followed by a foreword, The history of the Surname, a lengthy section on Thomas Skillman and his Descendants (First or Ancestral Generation.) Thomas Skillman and Sara Petit (11 pp.) followed by the heading Second Generation. Thomas Skillman and Annetje Aten. Blank afterwards.

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Access and Use

To be determined by the Alexander Library.

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Related Material

The collection was purchased by three Skillman descendants, Jay Edward Skillman, John Earle Skillman and Michael Jeffrey Wrona from Kinsey Baker of the Book Haven, at 2022 Marietta Avenue, Lancaster, Pennsylvania for the amount of $350.00. The intent was to preserve the collection and pass it on to the Archibald S. Alexander Library at Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey.

The acquisition of the Skillman collection by Mr. and Mrs. Fisher Ames Buell is unknown to this writer, although, a letter in the collection from the Reverend's grandson Maurice Harrison Skillman, of White Plains, Westchester, New York, could be a clue how the collection passed into the hands of a commercial solicitor.

(Baker, 2010) I contact the Skillman descendants from their presences on the internet. “In the first box I discovered an archive of well over a thousand pages of paper (?), including manuscript genealogical and historical notes, manuscript histories of various family members and letters about numerous generations of Skillman’s both in England and later, here in America. The American history/genealogy begins with Thomas sailing from Portsmouth in the mid-1600’s...

There seems to be several important references to an early 1600’s expedition under Colonel Nicolls. It would take some time to go thru all of it, but the manuscript material appears to mostly from the turn of the century (1900) and probably most is in the hand of the person whose name appears over and over in regards to the archives, the Reverend William Jones Skillman. Addresses include those in Philadelphia and New York City. A number of the manuscript writings also pertain to religious philosophy; presumably in the Reverends own thoughts.” KB, 2010.

Subject Headings

Crook, Katharine E. (Kate) nee Titus
Joline, Charles Van Dyke, Esq.
Maguire, Louise, nee Skillman, 1871-1953; (newspaper photograph)
Sater, Catharine Elizabeth (Kate) nee Skillman
Skillman, Albert Furman
Skillman’s of American and their Kin, published manuscript, NYGBS
Skillman, Charles Edward
Skillman Family
Skillman, Francis, Roslyn, New York
Skillman, Susan Eleanor (Susie) nee Gilliland
Skillman, William J. (William Jones); 1835-1914

Box 1 Correspondence

Box 1 F 1 Skillman, Reverend William Jones, Correspondence to Reverend William Jones
Skillman from: Elizabeth O.S. Andrews (Mrs. Samuel H. Andrews), Brooklyn, NY; 27 March 1907.

Box 1 F2  Skillman, Reverend William Jones, Correspondence to Reverend William Jones Skillman from: T.P. Annis, assistant postmaster, Bowenville, Ga; 16 February 1881.

Box 1 F3  Skillman, Reverend William Jones, Correspondence to Reverend William Jones Skillman from: Robert Bayles, 15 and 22 December 1900.

Box 1 F4  Skillman, Reverend William Jones, Correspondence to Reverend William Jones Skillman from: Eliza H. Burke, Princeton, NJ; 27 March, 20 July, 5 December, 1876 and 13 January 1877.

Box 1 F5  Skillman, Reverend William Jones, Correspondence to Reverend William Jones Skillman from: Mary Rogers Clay, Louisville, KY; 2 February 1901.

Box 1 F6  Skillman, Reverend William Jones, Correspondence to Reverend William Jones Skillman from: Katharine Ann Crook, nee Titus various locations, 29 January 1898 – 10 May 1902. (Daughter of Lewis Johnson Titus and Mary Beekman Holcombe, granddaughter of Major Emley Holcombe and Mary Beekman Skillman, great-granddaughter of John T. Skillman and Maria Veghte Stryker.)

Box 1 F7  Skillman, Reverend William Jones, Correspondence to Reverend William Jones Skillman from: Betsey Skillman Cole, Syracuse, NY; 13 February 1893.

Box 1 F8  Skillman, Reverend William Jones, Correspondence to Reverend William Jones Skillman from: Isabel H. Crombie, nee Vandewater, NYC; 14 February 1899 and 27 March 1902.

Box 1 F9  Skillman, Reverend William Jones, Correspondence to Reverend William Jones Skillman from: D.D. Demarest, New Brunswick, NJ; 19 December 1889.

Box 1 F10  Skillman, Reverend William Jones, Correspondence to Reverend William Jones Skillman from: Mary S. Harris, College Hill, O; 23 June 1902 – 15 May 1904.

Box 1 F11  Skillman, Reverend William Jones, Correspondence to Reverend William Jones Skillman from: Reverend P. Hartwell, Hopewell, NJ; 29 September 1875.

Box 1 F12  Skillman, Reverend William Jones, Correspondence to Reverend William Jones Skillman from: Mrs. John A. Hinckle, Philadelphia; 27 September 1902.

Box 1 F13  Skillman, Reverend William Jones, Correspondence to Reverend William Jones Skillman from: Dr. John Van Dyke Joline, Camden, NJ; 16 May 1876.

7 June 1902 – 19 March 1905.

Box 1 F30 Skillman, Reverend William Jones, Correspondence to Reverend William Jones Skillman from: John Bodine Thompson, Readington and Trenton, NJ; 6 December 1894 – 5 September 1894.

Box 1 F31 Skillman, Reverend William Jones, Correspondence to Reverend William Jones Skillman from: Lawrence Vandeveer, Rocky Hill, NJ; 10 November 1875.

Box 1 F32 Skillman, Reverend William Jones, Correspondence to Reverend William Jones Skillman from: C.L. Wells, Flatbush, Long Island; 19 January 1877.

Box 1 F33 Skillman, Reverend William Jones, Correspondence to Reverend William Jones Skillman from: Mrs. Frank A. Wetherbee, nee Annice A. Skillman, Transit, O; 16 June 1902 – 25 February 1903.

Box 1 F34 Skillman, Reverend William Jones, Correspondence to Reverend William Jones Skillman from: Guy D. Woodin, Attorney-at-law, son-in-law, behalf of Emma F. Runyon, widow of Dr. Evan Henton Skillman, Jr.; Sigourney, Ia., 28 January 1892.

**BOX 2**

Correspondence

Box 2 F1 Skillman, Reverend William Jones, Correspondence to Reverend William Jones Skillman from: Albert Furman Skillman, Cincinnati, O; 11 June 1902 – 30 June 1902.

Box 2 F2 Skillman, Reverend William Jones, Correspondence to Reverend William Jones Skillman from: Charles A. Skillman, Counselor-At-Law, Lambertville, NJ; 28 September 1871 - 17 December 1891.

Box 2 F3 Skillman, Reverend William Jones, Correspondence to Reverend William Jones Skillman from: Charles Bowmer Skillman, Cloverport, KY; 1 March 1884.

Box 2 F4 Skillman, Reverend William Jones, Correspondence to Francis Skillman from: Elias Scudder Skillman (C.R. Messereau); Union, NY; 6 March 1876.

Box 2 F5 Skillman, Reverend William Jones, Correspondence to Reverend William Jones Skillman from: Mrs. Elizabeth Ann (Eliza Ann) Skillman, nee Browder, Sigourney, IA; 8 April 1891.


Box 2 F7 Skillman, Reverend William Jones, Correspondence to Reverend William Jones Skillman from: Francis Skillman, Rosyn, Li; 30 April 1875 – 15 December 1892.
Skillman, Reverend William Jones, Correspondence to Reverend William Jones Skillman

Skillman, Reverend William Jones, Correspondence to Reverend William Jones Skillman
from: Frederick Van Dyke Skillman, Jersey City, NJ; 25 February 1901 – 18 June 1904.

Skillman, Reverend William Jones, Correspondence to Reverend William Jones Skillman
from: George W. Skillman, NYC; 30 April 1897 – 4 May 1897.

Skillman, Reverend William Jones, Correspondence to Reverend William Jones Skillman
from: Isaac Newton Skillman, Mount Healthy, O; n/d

Skillman, Reverend William Jones, Correspondence to Francis Skillman from: Jacob
Skillman, Jersey City, NJ; 18 January 1876.

Skillman, Reverend William Jones, Correspondence to Reverend William Jones Skillman
from: Jacob Skillman, Rochester, NY; 28 December 1876.

Skillman, Reverend William Jones, Correspondence to Reverend William Jones Skillman
from: James Carnaham Skillman, Butler, PA; 14 May 1892.

Skillman, Reverend William Jones, Correspondence to Reverend William Jones Skillman
from: John [Runyon] and Ellen Skillman, née Lucretia Ellen Hoff, Flemington, NJ; 7
February 1876.

Skillman, Reverend William Jones, Correspondence to Reverend William Jones Skillman
from: John Adams Skillman, Cincinnati, O; 9 June 1902.

Skillman, Reverend William Jones, Correspondence to Reverend William Jones Skillman
from: Joseph Palmer Skillman, NYC; 22 January 1897 – 1 April 1901.

Skillman, Reverend William Jones, Correspondence to Reverend William Jones Skillman
from: Joseph Payne Skillman, Dresden and Pape, MO; 8 June 1898 – 10 Oct. 1898.

Skillman, Reverend William Jones, Correspondence to Reverend William Jones Skillman
from: Mabel McLean Skillman, Trenton, NJ; 29 March 1901 – 1 April 1901.

Skillman, Reverend William Jones, Correspondence to Reverend William Jones Skillman
from: Mrs. Mary J. Skillman, née Wagner, Pittsburg, PA; 11 August 1902 – 12 Sep. 1903.

Skillman, Reverend William Jones, Correspondence to Reverend William Jones Skillman
from: Miss Rose Skillman, Gano, O; 3 Nov. 1902 – 14 Jan. 1903.

Skillman, Reverend William Jones, Correspondence to Reverend William Jones Skillman
From: Mrs. Sarah C. Skillman, née Carle, Cincinnati, O; 16 June 1902.
Skillman, Reverend William Jones, Correspondence to Reverend William Jones Skillman from: William E. Skillman, Cincinnati, O; 13 February 1897.

Skillman, Reverend William Jones, Correspondence to Reverend William Jones Skillman from: Richard Stith Skillman, Hardinsburg, KY; 27 July 1898.

Skillman, Reverend William Jones, Correspondence to Reverend William Jones Skillman from: William B. Skillman, University, CA; 15 February 1893.


Skillman, Reverend William Jones, Correspondence to Reverend William Jones Skillman From: David S. Supthen?; 26 January 1877 Letter about Baptism Margrita daughter of Johannes and Anna Schillman July 27 1754 at Bushwick, also mentioned in Box 2 F7 letter 12.

Charts, Genealogy, Manuscripts and Miscellaneous documents


Skillman, Reverend William Jones, miscellaneous Skillman genealogy scraps, [undated]

Skillman, Willett Runyon, biography of John and Catharine Beekman Skillman, by Reverend William Jones Skillman, 01 February 1932.

Skillman, Maurice Harrison, New York City, from Leonard Bushong, Los Angeles, Cal., Perrine, Gilliland and Willett genealogy material. Miscellaneous dates 1932.

Skillman, Reverend William Jones, genealogy scraps from various city directories, Indexes and charts.

Skillman, Reverend William Jones, copies of Skillman wills and inventory of estates. [undated]
Box 2 F36 Crook, Katharine M. from William B. Aiken, Attorney-at-law, 5 Nassau Street, New York City. Cornelius Beekman and Christiaan Huygens biography. [undated]

Box 2 F37 Skillman, Reverend William Jones, Vandewater genealogy materials. [undated]

Box 2 F38 Skillman, Reverend William Jones, Longstreet genealogy materials. [undated]

Box 2 F39 Skillman, Reverend William Jones, Willett and Perrine, scraps [undated]

Box 2 F40 Miscellaneous newspaper clippings, Skillman family, [undated]

Box 2 F41 Skillman, Reverend William Jones, Quick genealogy.

Box 2 F42 Morrell genealogy material related to John and Elizabeth Skillman Morrell [Including photograph of Morrell homestead.]

Box 2 F43 Skillman, Reverend William Jones, genealogy materials relating to New York Genealogical and Biographical Record, [1906-1908]

Box 2 F44 Skillman, Reverend William Jones, newspaper scraps relating to sermons and theology of the Reverend William Jones Skillman. [undated]

Box 3 Scrapbooks


Box 3 F2 Skillman, Reverend William Jones, [scrapbook 1, mixed] records, Birth, Baptisms, Marriages, and Deaths: Also church members: Harlingen, NJ; commentary and Interpretation of correspondence; inclusion of newspaper article [undated] Miss Louise Skillman, (1871-1953) [Mrs. Thomas Maguire]; (inaccurately identified as Laura Skillman) stage actress, daughter of Franklin B. and Sarah Louise Voorhees Skillman, of Jersey City. Correspondence of George C. Beekman, Blawenburg Records and Longstreet genealogy.

Box 3 F3 Skillman, Reverend William Jones, [scrapbook 2] Notes various and more or less utility and Historical and Genealogical.


Box 3  F6  Skillman, Reverend William Jones [scrapbook 4, mixed] miscellaneous notes of New Jersey families including Skillman's.

Box 3  F7  Skillman, Reverend William Jones [scrapbook 5] expense ledger.


Box 3  F9  Skillman, Reverend William Jones [scrapbook 7] Old Book, 1875-1902; miscellaneous genealogical notes on Skillman's


Box 3  F11  Skillman, Reverend William Jones [scrapbook 9, mixed] Antiquarian and Family notebook II. Note original finding aid had Box 3 F12 listed, but does not exist, appears to be a duplicate notation of F10.