

Archives and Special Collections

Dickinson College

Carlisle, PA

COLLECTION REGISTER

Name: **Griffith, Thomas Miller (1834-1898)** **MC 2005.4**

Material: Papers (1854-1918)

Volume: 0.25 linear feet (1 Document box and 1 Oversized folder)

Donation: Gift of Thomas Miller Griffith's daughter, undated
Gift of Sara Cochran Coppes, 1985

Usage: These materials have been donated without restrictions on usage.

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Thomas Griffith was born on March 23, 1834 in Honey Brook, Pennsylvania. He attended Dickinson College and was a member of the class of 1858. During his career as a student at Dickinson College, Griffith became a member of the Belles Lettres Society. Griffith was also a student at Dickinson College during the time when the rebel troops attempted to occupy the campus and Carlisle during the Civil War. He wrote a couple of letters dealing with this topic to his family.

During his life after college, Griffith became a member of the Philadelphia Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church. Griffith was a member of this conference from 1859-1898. While working in this conference, Griffith served in many churches that were located in Pennsylvania. Griffith served at churches in Chestnut Hill, Churchtown, Cornwall, Carlisle, Harrisburg, Philadelphia, Lebanon, Mauch Chunk, and Media. While working in the church, Griffith published many tracts and review articles. He also received an honorary Doctor of Divinity from Dickinson College in 1891. Griffith died on April 8, 1898 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

COLLECTION DESCRIPTION

The Thomas Griffith collection is housed in one document box and one Diploma Collection folder. These papers have been combined from the donations of Griffith's daughter and Sara Cochran Coppes, a cousin of Griffith's daughter-in-law. It has been subdivided into five series: Correspondence, Speeches, Church Papers, Miscellaneous, and Oversized. The Correspondence series contains a small number of letters both to and from Thomas Griffith. It

contains correspondence with his brother and sister, including an 1863 letter describing events surrounding the Confederate occupation of Carlisle, Pennsylvania. It also contains a note from Thomas Murphy announcing Griffith's selection for an honorary degree from Dickinson College. These items are arranged in chronological order. The Speeches series contains several of Griffith's speeches arranged in alphabetical order by title. The Church Papers series includes various documents from Griffith's career in the church. Included are such things as sermons and preaching certificates, as well as some notes. The fourth series, Miscellaneous, includes some of Griffith's school papers, a scrapbook, and a copy of the Griffith Family Genealogical chart. These items are arranged in chronological order. Finally, the Oversized series includes Griffith's three Dickinson College diplomas: his B.A., M.A., and honorary D.D. degree.

COLLECTION INVENTORY

BOX 1 - MC 2005.4

CORRESPONDENCE

- Folder 01) Letter from Thomas Griffith to his sister – June 23, 1857
- Folder 02) Letter from Thomas Griffith to his brother and sister – July 3, 1863
- Folder 03) Letter from Thomas Murphy to Thomas Griffith – June 16, 1891

SPEECHES

- Folder 04) "The Doctrine of Necessity" – 1858
- Folder 05) "The Human Will"
- Folder 06) "Motives for Action," Dickinson Junior Prize Contest – July 1857
- Folder 07) "Pastoral Surgery"
- Folder 08) "The Pleasures of Mind"
- Folder 09) "Ruins," Master's Oration for Dickinson Commencement – July 1862
- Folder 10) "Universal Action"

CHURCH PAPERS

- Folder 11) Sermon notes – Matt. 8.45
- Folder 12) "A General Prayer"
- Folder 13) Sermon, "Edwards on the Will"
- Folder 14) Notes of thoughts on sins
- Folder 15) Preaching certificate, Philadelphia Conference – Mar.18, 1859
- Folder 16) Deacon certificate, Philadelphia Conference – Mar. 25, 1861
- Folder 17) Elder certificate, East Baltimore Conference – Mar. 8, 1863

MISCELLANEOUS

- Folder 18) "Bledsoe's Theodicy"
- Folder 19) "Summary of Remarkable Events in History" – July 7, 1854
- Folder 20) "The Maiden's Complaint" – 1855

BOX 1 - MC 2005.4 (cont.)

MISCELLANEOUS (cont.)

- Folder 21) Scraps – Jan. 22, 1855
- Folder 22) Program, Junior Oratorical Prize Contest – July 4, 1857
- Folder 23) Program , Burlesque on the Junior Prize Contest – July 4, 1857
- Folder 24) Griffith Family Genealogical Chart – April 24, 1918[?]

OVERSIZED – OC 2005.4

DIPLOMAS

- Folder 01) B.A. Dickinson College, July 8, 1858
- M.A. Dickinson College, July 11, 1861
- Honorary D.D. Dickinson College, June 18, 1891

This collection register was prepared by Thomas Flynn, November 2005.

This collection register was updated by Don Sailer, October 2019.