

Hill Family Manuscript Collection

Description and Finding Aid

1 file box, 1 flat box

Processor: Zinaida Tsemel

Date of processing: 2014

Acquisition: The Hill family manuscript collection was received by the Norwalk Public Library from the Norwalk Museum during the restructuring of the Museum in 2013.

Access: There are no restrictions to items in this collection.

Related Materials: Photographs of family members are housed in Portraits files, Hill: [4782, 4897-4916, 4925-4935, 4937, 4947, 4951, 4956-4958, 5280]

Permission to Publish: Requests for permission to publish from the collection should be made to the Norwalk History Room.

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Introduction

Ebenezer J. Hill was born in Redding, CT in 1845 to Rev. Moses Hill and Charlotte Isley Hill, nee McLellan. He graduated from Yale in 1866, served in the Union Army in 1863-1865, and subsequently engaged in banking and business in Norwalk, CT. In 1915, after having worked at the national Bank of Norwalk for 37 years, including 25 as its vice-president, he was elected its president, to succeed his cousin, also named Ebenezer Hill. He served as a member of the Connecticut Senate in 1886-1887 and as a Republican member of Congress in 1895-1913 and in 1915-1917. He died in 1917.

Ebenezer J. Hill was married to Mary Ellen Hill, nee Mossman who was active in the Daughters of the American Revolution. They had four children: Frederick Asbury, Clara Mossman, Helena Charlotte and Elsie Mossman. All their daughters were involved in the women's suffrage movement, especially Elsie and Helena.

Elsie Hill (1883-1970) graduated from Vassar in 1906 and taught French in Washington, D.C. She was very active in the women's suffrage movement. She acted as a leader of the Washington branch of the College of Equal Suffrage alongside Alice Paul and Lucy Burns and headed efforts to establish its branches in South Carolina and Virginia. Elsie Hill was arrested in 1918 for speaking at a Lafayette Square meeting and in 1919 for picketing President Wilson in Boston upon his return from Europe. In 1921 Elsie Hill chaired the National Women's Party's convention, and she was the chairwoman of its National Council in 1921-1925.

Helena Hill (1875-1958) also graduated from Vassar and subsequently from the Montana School of Mines and made a career as a geologist. She was a founding member of the Women's Press Club, a vice-president of the Daughters of the American Revolution and the national secretary of the Haiti-Santo Domingo Independence Society. Helena Hill was also an active member of the women's suffrage movement, getting arrested three times, once for picketing the White House with the banner, "Governments derive their just powers from the consent of the governed."

Scope and Content Note

The Hill collection is housed in two boxes. The first box contains mostly newspaper articles, letters and various documents of the Hill family, as well as some of the result of the Hill sisters' genealogical research into their ancestors. The second box contains Mr. Hill's memorabilia from the trip he undertook in 1901.

Description of the Collection

Box 1

Folder 1: Articles

"Mrs. Helena Hill Weed, daughter of former Rep. Hill, who is suing her geologist husband for divorce," portrait with caption cut out of a newspaper.

"Prospective Engineer Defendant in Divorce," *The Norwalk Hour*, Jan. 7, 1914.

"Mrs. Weed Sues for a Divorce," 1914.

"Geologist Sued by Wife," *The Washington Post*, Jan. 11, 1914.

A notice in *The Washington Herald* of Jan. 11, 1914, that Mrs. E. J. Hill had been elected vice-president of the Daughters of the American Revolution.

"Hill is Witness in Divorce Suit of His Daughter," *The South Norwalk Sentinel*, May 16, 1914.

"Rev. Mr. Thomas Lauds Eben Hill," 1915.

"Congressman Hill a Bank President," 1915.

"Congressman Hill is Successor to Eben Hill," 1915.

"Eben Hill," 1915.

Obituary of Ebenezer Hill [Sr.], from the *Record Book* of the National Bank of Norwalk, March 2, 1915.

"Largely Attended Funeral of Ebenezer Hill," 1915.

Congressional Record, Vol. 56, No. 65, March 3, 1918.

"Treadwell Resigns Post Under [U. S. Attorney Martin] Conboy," *The New York Times*, Oct. 5, 1934.

Obituary of Mrs. Lillie Henrietta Hill, widow of Gershom Hill, *The Norwalk Hour*, Feb. 26, 1936.

Obituary of Deborah Hill Gorham, a cousin of Repr. E. J. Hill, *The Norwalk Hour*, Oct. 27, 1937.

"Dewey Insists State Police Gave Hines Aid," *The Bridgeport Post*, Sept. 9, 1938.

"50 Years Ago," *The Norwalk Hour*, March 15, 1965.

"Frederick A. Hill, General Frost's Staff," 1967.

"A Flowering of Freedom," *National Geographic*, April 2002.

Folder 2: Legal and financial papers and other documents

1834 – 1850, notes about a toy pitcher given to Edward P. Mozman and a white cup and a toy bureau given to Mrs. E. J. Hill.

14 National Bank of Norwalk checks signed by E. J. Hill Jr. in 1875-1877 and 1900.

Oct. 5, 1934, letter from Mabel Y. Young to Miss Clara Hill about some family heirlooms.

July 25, 1936, letter from Laura Berrien at Matthews & Berrien in Washington D.C. to Miss Elsie Hill about "Maud's will."

1936, Elsie M. Hill driver's license and vehicle registration.

1936-1938, Elsie M. Hill's notices from the Fairfield County Savings Bank and her checkbook.

July 13, 1937, letter from Elsie M. Hill to Barry-Pate Co. Inc. in Washington D.C. that she would take care of the bill for repairs.

Aug. 4, 1939, Elsie M. Hill's receipt for the payment of the local taxes in Redding, CT.

1939, Elsie M. Hill's receipts from the Howland Dry Goods Co., A. Bergstrom cabinet making and upholstering and Printcraft Press.

March 21, 1939, Elsie M. Hill's receipt from the Continental Casual Assurance Co. for the accident and disability insurance.

Sept. 16, 1940, letter from Elsie M. Hill to Connecticut Light & Power Co. that she has a right to the piece of land in Redding, CT, which they had purchased.

Folder 3: Copies of old family documents from the 17th-19th centuries

Folder 4: Suffragist materials

June 8, 1915, "Government by Consent of the Governed" by Hon. E. J. Hill – "an address to the Connecticut Branch of the Congressional Union for Equal Suffrage," 2 copies.

Envelopes with the Susan B. Anthony stamp.

Stamps dedicated to the 50th anniversary of the women's suffrage.

May 25, 1917, card to E. J. Hill, inviting him to "come and hear what President Wilson said about National Woman Suffrage as a War Measure."

Invitation from the National Executive Committee of the Congressional Union for the Woman Suffrage to attend a reception in honor of the Members of the Woman's Party Convention.

Dec. 15, 1937, Elsie M. Hill's ticket to the National Woman's Party luncheon on the topic: "1917-1937: Woman Marches On."

1938, Elsie M. Hill's card certifying her membership in the American Association of University Women.

"Elsie Hill to Discuss Suffrage on Radio," *The Norwalk Hour*, Nov. 6, 1939.

An envelope from the National Woman's Party addressed to Elsie M. Hill.

"The march of the Women," music and lyrics.

Letter from Helen Paul to the *Sunday Post*, praising them for their articles on the Hill sisters.

"First Lady to Head Earhart Campaign."

Aug. 26, 1951, photograph from the celebration of the 31st anniversary of the proclamation of the ratification of the 19th Amendment in Santa Monica, CA.

Newspaper notice about an interview with Elsie M. Hill about women's suffrage which was to air on TV.

Folder 5: Correspondence

April 11, 1861, letter from M. H. Hill to his father.

March 7, 1876, letter to Rev. C. W. Morse from his "old friend and early associate," containing "recollections of an itinerant." A separate handwritten copy of the "recollections of an itinerant."

Nov. 13, 1908, card from "Mary P. C." in Norwalk to Clara Hill in Rome, Italy. (The card shows "an old time residence in South Norwalk.")

Feb. 15, 1915, card: "Mr. and Mrs. James F. Fargo announce the marriage of their daughter Clara to Mr. Joseph B. Thomas."

Sept. 27, 1917, card: "The National Bank of Norwalk announces... the death of its president Mr. Ebenezer J. Hill."

Nov. 24, 1918, letter from Henry S. Loomis to the parents of his comrade Alvin Hill Treadwell who had been missing in action since Nov. 6.

Nov. 21, 1927, card from Mary A. Smith to Elsie Hill.

April 23, 1932, card: "Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Bishop Smith announce the marriage of their daughter Eunice Stoddard to Mr. Julian Hill Whittlesley."

June 10, 1934, letter from "Mary" to her aunt Clara M. Hill.

Nov. 6, 1934, letter from "Mary" to her aunt Clara M. Hill.

Aug. 14, 1935, letter from Joseph B. Thomas to Clara M. Hill.

June 22, 1935, invitation to an event honoring the life and work of poet and statesman Joel Barlow (in an envelope with the inscription "Mrs. Julia Hill Brooke and family").

April 11, 1937, letter from Clara M. Hill to her sister Elsie Hill.

June 6, 1938, letter from Martin Beckwith to Elsie Hill.

Dec. 8, 1938, card from the Daughters of the American Revolution to Elsie Hill, confirming her appointment as organizing regent for Redding, CT for the coming year.

Feb. 1, 1939, letter from Mrs. George D. Schermerhorn, Organizing Secretary General of the Daughters of the American Revolution, to Elsie M. Hill that the National Board had confirmed the Joel Barlow chapter.

Undated and unsigned letter to the editor of an unnamed publication regarding Orange Scott.

Envelope of the Patent Agency in San Francisco, addressed to George W. Palmer.

Card of Elsie Hill.

Entwined cards of Mr. and Mrs. Charles D. Hill and Linda Wylie Hill.

Folder 6: Photographs

12 3.5x5" photographs of the Lockwood mansion (interiors and people), 1962.

Photograph of McLellan House in Gorham, ME.

Photograph of the house at 14 Woodlawn Ave. in South Norwalk in the process of building.

Photograph of Mrs. Lynch.

8x10 photograph of a group of people at the Lockwood mansion.

Folder 7: Miscellanea

Handwritten list of people.

Handwritten list of people and their addresses.

Clara M. Hill's 1911 French notebook.

"Le Cento Citta d'Italia Illustrate San Marino."

"El Evangelista Mexicana," Feb. 3, 1931.

"Is God Leaving the Campus?" by James R. de Foe, *This Week*, March 6, 1964, pp. 6-7, 12.

"Women of the Revolution" by Roderick Nordell, *The Christian Science Monitor*, May 8, 1975, pp. 16-17.

Genealogy materials

Folder 8: Ordered Genealogy Lists

Folder 9: Genealogy Notes

Folder 10: Genealogy Correspondence

Box 2

Memorabilia of the Trip Undertaken by Ebenezer J. Hill in 1901

Folder 1: Ship Memorabilia

Folder 2: Manila and Beijing Memorabilia

Folder 3: Siberia Memorabilia

Folder 4: Hawaii and Utah Memorabilia

Folder 5: Japan memorabilia

Folder 6: Commercial Photographs of the Places He Visited Collected by Hill