

Rev. Levi Parsons, Jr. (1829-1901)
Family Papers
Finding Aid

Livingston County Historian's Office
5 Murray Hill Dr.
Mt. Morris, NY 14510
May 2015

I. Collection Summary

Title	Rev. Levi Parsons, Jr. (1829-1901) Family Papers
Collection Titles And Numbers	Rev. Levi Parsons Collection (C115); Parsons Family Collection (C114)
Extent	9 boxes, 6.5 cubic feet
Date Range	1794-1972 (Bulk 1850-1930)
Abstract	<p>This series comprises two collections pertaining to, and created by, Rev. Levi Parsons, Jr.¹ (1829-1901), his wives and children, and related ancestors, descendants, and friends. Records include Mt. Morris Presbyterian Church sacramental registers, personal daybooks and church account books, diaries, sermon notes, scrapbooks and clippings, photographs of family and friends, poetry, genealogical notes, documents relating to Lorenzo Warriner Pease's missionary work in Cyprus, correspondence between Rev. Levi Parsons, Jr.'s daughters during travels abroad, postcards from organizations such as the Rochester Poetry Society and the Mt. Morris Home Bureau, a booklet written in Moon type, and various seminary catalogues.</p> <p>A considerable portion of the collection is composed of correspondence between Parsons and Pease family members, also including members of the extended family with surnames Cady, Foley, Gilbert, Humphreys, Leonard, Platt, Rice, and Wadsworth.</p>
Names	<p>Gilbert, Catherine E. Pease Gilbert, Hiram W. (Rev.) Parsons, Almira Rice Parsons, Anne Cornelia Parsons, Gertrude Winifred Parsons, Harriet Maria Pease (1839-1905) Parsons, Israel (1821-1904) Parsons, Jonathan, Rev., M. A. Parsons, Levi (Rev., Jr.) (1829-1901) Parsons, Levi (Rev.) (d. 1865) Parsons, Mary Almira Pease, Lorenzo Warriner Pease, Lucinda Leonard Pease, Persis Chapin Wadsworth, Sarah Ann Pease</p>

¹ Rev. Levi Parsons, Jr., is most often referred to throughout the collection materials as Dr. Levi Parsons or Rev. Levi Parsons, D.D. Little research has been expended on the suffix of D.D. The suffix "Jr." has therefore been added in this finding aid as a measure of clarification to distinguish between the two generations of Levis.

Subjects

American Bible Society
Theological Seminary of Auburn, New York
Children of missionaries
Geneva Female Seminary
Missionaries—Cyprus
Missionaries' wives
Moon's type for the blind
Mt. Morris, New York
Presbyterian Church of Mt. Morris, New York
Ontario Female Seminary
Rochester Poetry Society
Woman's Christian Temperance Union (W.C.T.U.)

Languages

English, Greek, French, German.

**Access and
Restrictions**

Use of the documents in the collection is for serious research and by request and permission of the Livingston County Historian's Office. Any use of the material in publications must be cited as follows, "Courtesy of Livingston County Historian's Office, New York." Additionally, all documents should be handled with care.

To arrange to conduct research with the documents in the collection, contact the Livingston County Historian by mail at: 5 Murray Hill Drive, Mount Morris, NY, by phone at (585) 243-7955, or by e-mail at Historian@livingstoncountyny.gov.

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II. Biographical and Background Information

The Rev. Levi Parsons Collection and the Parsons Family Collections are closely linked. Many materials in the Rev. Levi Parsons Collection were created by Rev. Levi Parsons, Jr., and the Parsons Family Collection also relates directly to him, though records therein were also created by and relate to his ancestors, descendants, relatives, and friends.

Rev. Levi Parsons, Jr., was born 2 Jan. 1829 in Marcellus, New York, to Rev. Levi Parsons and Almira Rice. Rev. Levi, Sr., was from Northampton, Massachusetts and graduated from Williams College in 1801. He studied theology and served as a missionary in eastern and central New York, settling in Marcellus in 1807, where he preached for 37 years. Almira Rice was the daughter of Deacon Samuel Rice, who came to Marcellus from Connecticut.

Rev. Levi, Jr., passed his early years in Marcellus, studying under his accomplished father and at Moravia Academy. He graduated from Hamilton College in 1849. He paid his way through his studies by teaching school at Marcellus, New York, East Bloomfield, New York, and Flint, Michigan. Initially his plan was to study law, but he was converted to preaching and after becoming a member at his father's church, joined the ministry. Rev. Levi, Jr., settled in Mt. Morris, New York, in February of 1856, where he was ordained by the Ontario Presbytery to preach at the Presbyterian Church of Mt. Morris. He had wed Mary Wadsworth, daughter of Rev. Charles Wadsworth, in 1854, but in August of 1856, she died, leaving an infant son, Stoyell Cady Parsons. In 1858, Rev. Levi, Jr., married secondly to Harriet Maria Pease, who was born on the Island of Cyprus to missionary Rev. Lorenzo Warriner Pease and wife Lucinda Leonard Pease. When Rev. Lorenzo W. Pease died in 1839, he was buried on Cyprus, and his wife and two remaining daughters soon moved to Auburn, New York. Young Harriet taught music, and met Rev. Levi, Jr. when he boarded with Harriet's mother, Mrs. Pease. Shortly after she turned 18 and while she was engaged in teaching at Hornellsville, Harriet and Rev. Levi, Jr., were married, and raised nine children together. Their children were daughters Elizabeth, Harriet, Mary, Gertrude, and Anne Parsons, and sons Arthur, Frederick, Levi, and Dr. Henry T. Parsons. Additionally, Harriet organized a Women's Foreign Missionary Society at Mt. Morris in 1872 and, for children, the Cyprus Missionary Band.

In 1865, just after his father had died, Rev. Levi, Jr. was elected to succeed his father on the Board of Trustees of Auburn Theological Seminary, becoming its president in 1893. He served until his death as his father had done.

After preaching at the Presbyterian Church in Mt. Morris for 45 years, Rev. Levi, Jr. died 20 May 1901 at Mt. Morris. Harriet survived him, passing away in 1905. The family materials passed to their daughters, primarily Annie C. Parsons, who never married.

When Annie died in 1970, a friend and collector, Leslie Poste of Geneseo, New York, was given some of the records, known in this finding aid as the Parsons Family Papers (C114), in order to place them in a proper institution or library. He sent a subset of records primarily relating to Rev. Lorenzo Warriner Pease's missionary work to the Union Theological Seminary Library in New York City in the early 1970s, which still remain at that institution's Missionary Research Library. Mr. Poste reserved most of the items relating to the Parsons family. His daughter, Linda Poste, donated these remaining materials to the Livingston County Historian's Office in the early 2000s, the exact date being unknown.

The Rev. Levi Parsons Collection (C115), containing mostly Rev. Levi, Jr.'s diaries and records relating to the Mt. Morris Presbyterian Church, came to the Livingston County Historian's Office via the Livingston County Historical Society and Museum in 1984. It is not known how the items came to belong to the LCHS.

III. Family Tree

Information to compile the following outlines was collected from correspondence, genealogical notes, obituaries, and other references from within the collection and from outside sources. Though every effort was made to provide accurate information about relationships, dates, and other details, some errors may exist.

Rice

1. Samuel Rice m. Hannah Beach
 2. Abby Rice possibly m. _____ Humphreys
 2. Sophia Rice m. ___Ball
 2. **Almira Rice** m. **Rev. Levi Parsons** (-1864)

Parsons

1. Israel Parsons m. Mary Clark
 2. Jacob Parsons (1790-1857)
 2. **Rev. Levi Parsons, Sr.** (-1864) m. **Almira Rice**
 3. Edward Parsons (1810-1889) m. Sarah Baldwin
 4. Jacob Parsons
 4. James Parsons
 4. Almira Parsons m. to G. Russell Parker
 3. Israel Parsons (c. 1812-1814)
 3. Ann Eliza Parsons (1814-1855)
 3. Almira Rice Parsons (1817-1889) m. J. Causten Platt
 3. Mary A. Parsons, m. Artemas Stoyell Cady
 3. Israel Parsons (1821-1904), m. Cornelia Bowne
 3. Margaret F. Parsons (1823-1901)
 3. **Rev. Levi Parsons, Jr.** (1829-1901)
 - m. first 1854 to Mary Wadsworth (1824-1856)
 4. Stoyell Cady Parsons (b. c.1855), m. Nora Helen Knight
 - m. second 1858 to **Harriet Maria Pease** (1838-1905)
 4. Elizabeth Lucinda Parsons (1860-1935)
 4. Frederick Lorenzo Parsons (1862-1872)
 4. Mary Almira Parsons
 4. Levi Edward Parsons m. Jessie Garfield Pierce
 5. Levi Seymour Parsons
 5. Marion E. Parsons
 4. Harriet Maria Parsons (1868-1872)
 4. Henry Theodore Parsons
 4. Arthur Leonard Parsons m. (1902) Isabel Louise Smith
 5. Carlos Theodore Parsons
 5. Alice Harriet Parsons
 4. Gertrude Winifred Parsons (-1941)
 4. Anne Cornelia Parsons (-1970)

Pease

1. Erastus Pease (1785-1857) m. Persis Chapin (1784-1861)
 2. Lorenzo Warriner Pease (1809-1839) m. 1834 to Lucinda Anthony Leonard (1808-1897)
 3. Sarah A. Pease (1835-1898), m. to Charles Wadsworth c. 1858
 4. Eugene L. Wadsworth (1860-1903), m. Rena A. Colton
 3. **Harriet Maria Pease** (1838-1905), m. 1858 to **Rev. Levi Parsons, Jr.** (1829-1901)
 3. Lorenzo Erastus Pease (twin) (d. 1838)
 3. Lucinda Content Pease (twin) (d. 1838)
2. Henry Chapin Pease (1810-1895) m. Amy _____
2. Cordelia Pease (1813-1895) m. James Y. Brown
 3. Persis C. Brown
2. Harriet Maria Pease (1815-1837)
2. Laura Ann Pease (1817-1903), m. Addison Muzzy
2. Catherine Eliza Pease (1819-1900), m. Rev. Hiram W. Gilbert
 3. Charlotte Hortense Gilbert (1861-1863)
 3. S. Eugene Gilbert
 4. Donald Foster Gilbert (c. 1887-)
2. C. Charlotte Pease m. _____ Worden

IV. Contents List

Rev. Levi Parsons Collection

- Box 1** Rev. Levi Parsons, Jr., diaries, 1855-1884 (5 items)
- Box 2** Rev. Levi Parsons, Jr., diaries, 1885-1903 (4 items)
- Box 3** Rev. Levi Parsons, Jr., scrapbook of clippings, c. 1880s (1 item)
- Box 4** Rev. Levi Parsons, Jr., daybooks, 1861-1906 (14 items)
- Box 4** Parsons diary, kept by his daughter, 1880-1881 (1 item)
- Box 5** Parsons diary, kept by Mrs. Levi Parsons and daughters, 1903-1918 (1 item)
- Box 5** Rev. Levi Parsons, Jr., diary, 1877 (1 item)
- Box 5** Rev. Levi Parsons, Jr., register of marriages, baptisms, deaths, admissions, 1856-1901
- Box 5** Records of Marriages and affidavits, 1882-1899 (21 items)
- Box 5** Rev. Levi Parsons, Jr., account book, 1869-1899 (1 item)
- Box 5** Rev. Levi Parsons, Jr., pew rent book 1866-1867, and Army notes, 1864 (1 item)
- Box 5** Rev. Levi Parsons, Jr., church session meetings and collections, 1878-1884 (1 item)
- Box 5** Ladies Presbyterian Society, 1870-1872 (1 item)
- Box 5** Rev. Levi Parsons, Jr., sermon notes, c. 1869 and various years (1 item)
- Box 5** Rev. Levi Parsons, Jr., teaching and account book, 1850

Parsons Family Collection

Box 1	Folder 1	Leslie Poste, Parsons, and Union Theological Seminary Library correspondence, 1970-1972 (17 items)
Box 1	Folder 2	Lorenzo Warriner Pease booklets and correspondence, c. 1834-1839 (10 items)
Box 1	Folder 2	Lorenzo Warriner Pease and family documents (62 items)
Box 1	Folder 2	Seminary and college catalogues, 1825-1838 (5 items)
Box 1	Folder 3	Lucinda Leonard Pease correspondence, 1849-1871 (10 items)
Box 1	Folder 4	Pease family correspondence, 1839-1854 (10 items)
Box 1	Folder 5	Persis Pease and Pease family correspondence, 1855-1888 (13 items)
Box 1	Folder 6	Harriet Maria Pease Parsons correspondence, 1858-1904 (42 items)
Box 1	Folder 7	Rev. Levi Parsons, Jr. correspondence with friends, 1854-1903 (18 items)
Box 1	Folder 8	Sarah Ann Pease Wadsworth correspondence, 1858-1898 (52 items)
Box 1	Folder 9	Mary A. Parsons Cady correspondence, 1846-1883 (11 items)
Box 1	Folder 10	Rice and Parsons family correspondence, 1805-1848 (13 items)
Box 1	Folder 11	Parsons and Humphreys family correspondence, 1833-1857 (5 items)
Box 1	Folder 12	Rev. Levi Parsons, Sr., Levi Parsons, Jr., and Parsons family correspondence, 1850-1944 (22 items)
Box 1	Folder 13	Gertrude W., Annie C., Mary A., and Elizabeth L. Parsons correspondence, 1909 (24 items)
Box 1	Folder 14	Gertrude W., Annie C., Mary A., and Elizabeth L. Parsons correspondence, 1910
Box 1	Folder 15	Gertrude W., Annie C., Mary A., and Elizabeth L. Parsons correspondence, 1911 and 1913 (10 items)
Box 1	Folder 16	Children of Levi Parsons, Jr., correspondence, 1888-1948 (16 items)
Box 1	Folder 17	Parsons extended family and friends' correspondence, c. 1909-1927 (20 items)
Box 1	Folder 18	Children of Levi Parsons, Jr., notes on travels in Europe, c. 1909-1911 (14 items)
Box 1	Folder 19	Annie C. Parsons music career, 1909-1937 (68 items)
Box 1	Folder 20	Annie C. Parsons miscellaneous correspondence and W.C.T.U. materials, 1912-1956 (23 items)
Box 1	Folder 21	Genealogy of Parsons, Leonard, Rice, Pease, and related (33 items)
Box 1	Folder 22	Genealogy of Root, Wadsworth, Beach, Pratt and related (18 items)
Box 1	Folder 23	Lorenzo Warriner Pease missionary work and Mt. Morris Presbyterian Church papers, 1838-1954
Box 1	Folder 24	Address cards and miscellaneous papers (22 items)
Box 1	Folder 25	Envelopes saved for postage stamps (68 items, not described)
Box 1	Folder 26	Pease and Parsons family poetry, memoirs, and biographies (5 items)
Box 1	Folder 27	Various pamphlets and manuscripts, c. 1840-1929
Box 1	Folder 28	Articles for the Blind, by Moon Society
Box 2	Folder 1	Unlabeled photographs (4 items)
Box 2	Folder 2	Unlabeled photographs (7 items)
Box 2	Folder 3	Unlabeled photographs (5 items)
Box 2	Folder 4	Unlabeled photographs (12 items)
Box 2	Folder 5	Unlabeled photograph, H. M. Clark photograph (2 items)
Box 2	Folder 6	Unlabeled photographs, Parsons family, William A. Brodie (8 items)
Box 2	Folder 7	Unlabeled photographs, Parker (23 items)
Box 2	Folder 8	Unlabeled photographs (10 items)

Parsons Family Collection, cont'd.

Box 2	Folder 9	Parsons and Saluda Seminary photographs (4 items)
Box 2	Folder 10	Unlabeled photographs (10 items)
Box 2	Folder 11	Unlabeled photographs (6 items)
Box 2	Folder 12	Parsons photographs and other unlabeled photographs (5 items)
Box 2	Folder 13	Unlabeled cartes de visites, New York and Michigan (21 items)
Box 2	Folder 14	Mt. Morris High School, Parsons, and unlabeled photographs (4 items)
Box 2	Folder 15	Unlabeled photographs (5 items)
Box 2	Folder 16	Photograph, Synod meeting, Rev. Levi Parsons, Jr. (1 item)
Box 2	Folder 17	Parsons family photographs (16 items)
Box 2	Folder 18	Leonard, Parker, Rockafellow, Nott, other labeled photographs (15 items)
Box 2	Folder 19	Gilbert, Muzzy, and Bruce, and other labeled photographs (14 items)
Box 2	Folder 20	Bruce, Pease, Cady, McMasters, and other labeled photographs (15 items)
Box 2	Folder 21	Eggersdorf and unlabeled photographs (3 items)
Box 2	Folder 22	Glass negative, Rev. Levi Parsons, Jr. (1 item)
Box 3	Folder 1	Oversize Parsons and Parker family photographs (3 items)
Box 3		Parsons family scrapbook, c. 1870s-1950s, with clippings and obituaries
Box 3		Rev. Levi Parsons, Jr., scrapbook, c. 1876-1941
Box 4	Folder 1	Postcards, family and friends to the Misses Parsons, 1926-1964 (69 items)
Box 4	Folder 2	Postcards, businesses and others to Misses Parsons, 1911-1965 (70 items)
Box 4	Folder 3	Postcards, Rochester Poetry Society to Annie Parsons, 1933-1963 (73 items)
Box 4	Folder 4	Postcards, various organizations to Annie C. Parsons, including Mt. Morris Home Bureau, W.C.T.U., and Monday Club, 1933-1953 (34 items)
Box 4		American Almanac and Repository of Useful Knowledge, 1835 (1 item)
Box 4		Parsons family notebooks, c. 1877-1900s (3 items)
Box 4		Biography, <i>Levi Parsons, D.D., 1856-1901</i> (1 item)

V. Related Materials

Lorenzo Warriner Pease Papers, 1811-1896

Burke Library at Union Theological Seminary
Missionary Research Library Collection
3041 Broadway
New York, NY 10027
(212) 851-5606

Parsons Family Papers, 00020

Michigan State University Archives & Historical Collections
East Lansing, MI