

American Antiquarian Society

Manuscript Collections

Name of collection:

Bicknell, Thomas Williams, Papers, c. 1855-1924

Location:

Mss. boxes "B"

Size of collection:

1 mss. box (373 items)

N.U.C.M.C. number:

62-2744

RLIN id:

Sources of information on collection:

See manuscripts card catalog at the repository. For an autobiographical sketch of Bicknell, see Zachary Bicknell, *History and Genealogy of the Bicknell Family*, (Providence, R.I.: Thomas W. Bicknell, 1913), p. 474-491.

Source of collection:

Unknown

Collection description:

Thomas Williams Bicknell (1834-1925) was a figure long influential in New England educational circles. After being educated at Thetford Academy, Amherst College, and Brown University (M.A., 1860), Bicknell became a principal in Bristol, R.I. (1860-1864; 1867-1869), also serving in Providence (1864-1867). In 1869, he was named State Commissioner of Public Schools, which post he held until 1874. He became active in the American Institute of Instruction and was named editor of the New England Journal of Education. He also edited The Leader (Boston, 1875-1904) and became active in the National Education Association, of which he was elected president in 1883.

Bicknell was a staunch Republican and Unionist, interested not only in educational reforms, but temperance, conservation, and other reforms as well. He was an active Congregationalist especially interested in religious education. He was also an active genealogist.

This collection consists almost entirely of letters to Bicknell. These letters, arranged alphabetically by correspondent, cover a wide range of activity and show Bicknell to have been busy not only as an editor in the field of education, but also as a lecturer and officer in professional organizations.

Bicknell's interest in genealogy is amply demonstrated; many letters touching on contemporary issues are also included among the correspondence.

See Contents List.

4 December 1973

revised 16 February 2010

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Contents List

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