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MORGAN, SAMUEL DOLD
(1798-1880)
PAPERS
1828-1967

(THS Collection)

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INTRODUCTION

The papers of Samuel Dold Morgan (1798-1880) – merchant, manufacturer, industrialist, financier, and public-spirited citizen of Nashville, Tennessee – were given to the Tennessee Historical Society by R. Miles Burns, a descendant. The addition to the Morgan Papers is a gift of Mrs. Robert J. Warner, Jr. of Nashville, Tennessee.

The materials in this collection measure .63 linear feet. There are no restrictions on the materials.

Single photocopies of unpublished writings in the Samuel Dold Morgan Papers may be made for purposes of scholarly research.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The Samuel Dold Morgan Papers, containing approximately 180 items and spanning the years 1828-1967, are composed mainly of correspondence, dispatches, orders, receipts, etc., to Samuel Dold Morgan while he was engaged in the manufacture of percussion caps for the Confederacy in 1861.

Included is a list of subscribers to the Central Bureau of Military Supplies in Nashville, Tennessee (1861) of which Samuel Dold Morgan was chairman, accounts of the State of Tennessee with the Bureau, and orders from the State to the Bureau.

In addition, there are some papers of Samuel Dold Morgan's son, St. Clair MacIntosh Morgan (1831-1863), such as his resignation from the U.S. Military Academy in 1851, his letter (December 29, 1860) to the governor of South Carolina volunteering his services for "defense of the Republic of South Carolina," and his autograph book from Johnson's Island Prison in 1862.

Included are biographical sketches of Samuel Dold Morgan and of his two sons who were killed in the Civil War – his namesake, and St. Clair MacIntosh Morgan.

Miscellaneous items include autographs of Ulysses S. Grant, John Bell, Jefferson Davis, John Hunt Morgan, and Ambrose P. Hill (1825-1865); a land certificate for S.D. Morgan, signed by President John Quincy Adams (1828); a \$1,000 bond of the State of Tennessee for the Lebanon and Sparta turnpike (1840); and photographs and information about the Tiffany tea service that was given to Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Dold Morgan by their son-in-law, Charles John Cheney, in gratitude to the Morgans for raising his children after his wife's death in 1850.

An addition made to the Samuel Dold Morgan Papers consists of an autograph book of Henrietta Clark Cheney, clippings, correspondence, a court record, a diary of S.D. Morgan, III, a diploma awarded to Sarah Ann C.L. Morgan by the Nashville Female Academy, a program of the 100th anniversary of the death of Colonel Morgan and correspondence relating to this event, and a sketch of "The Story of the Morgan Tea Service" by Mrs. Robert J. Warner, Jr.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Samuel Dold Morgan – merchant, manufacturer, industrialist, financier, and public-spirited citizen of Nashville, Tennessee – was born in Staunton, Virginia, the son of Luther Morgan and Ann Cameron Dold. When a young man, he was in the mercantile business in Huntsville, Alabama, but in 1833 he moved to Nashville and started the house of Morgan, Allison & Company. In 1853 at the latest, this became Morgan & Company, a wholesale dry goods store on the public square. So good was Morgan's credit that during the panic of 1837 the Legislature of Tennessee, with full faith in the stability of his firm, authorized his house to issue scrip or paper money.

Samuel Morgan did much to advance the prosperity of Nashville and the South. He founded industries and constantly urged the development of the mineral resources of the South. He built a cotton mill at Huntsville, Alabama, another at Lebanon, Tennessee, and in his later years founded the Tennessee Manufacturing Company in 1875 in Nashville, which was succeeded by the Warioto Cotton Mills in 1908. He was the prime mover in the inauguration of the first railroad system in Tennessee, the Nashville-Chattanooga railroad, after whose charter all others were copied. His interests and contacts were many and wide ranging.

In 1861, he counseled calm, and with John Bell successfully opposed the secession of Tennessee and the June election, but when Lincoln called for Tennessee to furnish troops to fight her sister states, he along with Bell, gave all he had in knowledge and industry for the benefit of the South. (Two of his sons were killed in the war – his namesake and St. Clair MacIntosh Morgan.) With his usual foresight, Samuel Morgan knew that to produce munitions was now the first essential. In the South there was but one powder mill and no gun foundries or percussion cap factories. Morgan built a gun cap factory in South Nashville and provided the caps that made the victory at Manassas possible. He served as Chairman of the Central Bureau of Military Supplies in Nashville. After the war, although his business was destroyed along with others, Samuel Morgan paid off his debts to his northern creditors in full and with interest, although he was given the opportunity to repay any percent he thought fair and just.

In 1843, when the 25th General Assembly of Tennessee made an appropriation for the purpose of building a state capitol, Samuel Morgan was selected as president of the committee and so remained to the end. He was the only one of the original members who did remain until the building was completed. He played an increasingly important role, and after the death of Strickland (the architect), Morgan had the prime responsibility of completing the building. He had the imagination and knowledge to realize that the state capitol should be a thing of beauty, and it was due to this endeavors and leadership that such emerged. For ten years he worked with Strickland, and today both Strickland and Morgan are buried in the walls of the capitol. Morgan's crypt is at the south end of the building on the east side with his name and death date and this inscription, "The State here gives repose to the remains of this eminent and useful citizen in recognition of the valuable services rendered by him in the building of the capitol."

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Samuel Dold Morgan

- 1798 Born in Staunton, Virginia; son of Luther Morgan and Ann Cameron Dold Morgan
- 1825 (ca.) In the mercantile business in Huntsville, Alabama
- 1833 Moved to Nashville, Tennessee and founded the mercantile house of Morgan, Allison & Company, later Morgan, Crutcher & Company
- 1837 The State of Tennessee authorized his firm to issue scrip
- 1843 Selected to serve as president of the building committee for the Tennessee State capitol
- 1853 (ca.) Morgan & Company established (formerly Morgan, Crutcher & Company)
- 1861 Opposed the secession of Tennessee at election, but when the North called for troops from Tennessee to fight its fellow states, he went along with the South wholeheartedly
- Chairman of the Central Bureau of Military Supplies, Nashville; built a gun cap factory in South Nashville
- 1875 He founded the Tennessee Manufacturing Company in Nashville, which became the Warioto Cotton Mills in 1908
- 1880 Died in Nashville and is buried in the southeast wall of the State capitol in Nashville, Tennessee

CONTAINER LIST

Microfilm Roll #1

Box 1

1. Autographs (6)
2. Autograph Book – Johnson’s Island Prison, Sandusky Bay, Ohio, 1862
3. Biographical sketches
4. Central Bureau of Military Supplies, Nashville, Tennessee – List of subscribers and minutes, 1861
5. Commission, CSA, for St. Clair Morgan - 1861
6. Correspondence – Business, 1861 (45)
7. Correspondence – Military, 1861 (15)
8. Correspondence – Morgan, Samuel Dold, 1876
9. Correspondence – Perkins & Company, N.O., 1861 (11)
10. Correspondence – Wright, Major M.H., 1861-1862 (2)
11. Correspondence – Zollicoffer, Felix K., 1861 (2)
12. Dispatches – 1861 (17)
13. Furman & Company, Nashville, Tennessee – List of goods suitable for army purposes
14. Marmion by Walter Scott
15. Military and Financial Board, Nashville, Tennessee – Correspondence, orders, etc.
16. Miscellaneous
17. Notebook – 1850-1874
18. Receipts – 1861 (20)
19. Resignation, U.S. Military Academy - 1851
20. Scrapbook - 1872
21. State of Tennessee in account with the Central Bureau of Military Supplies
22. State of Tennessee - orders

Box 2 (addition)

1. Autograph book – Henrietta Clark Cheney – 1858-1866
2. Clippings – Samuel D. Morgan – 100th anniversary of death - 1980
3. Clippings – Samuel D. Morgan – “Protest Alters Grouchy Ghost Image...” – July 21, 1979
4. Correspondence – Morgan, S.D.
5. Correspondence – Morgan, Gardner, & Co.
6. Court records – Legal opinion – Sowell *et al* vs. Mr. Herbert *et al.*, n.d.
7. Diaries, memoirs, etc. – Morgan, S.D., III - 1877
8. Invitations – 100th anniversary of the death of Colonel Morgan – June 10, 1980
9. Photographs, drawings, etc. – Cheney, Chas. John, 1815-1871
10. Photographs, drawings, etc. – Cheney, Henrietta Clark – 1847-
11. Photographs, drawings, etc. – Flippen, Mrs.
12. Photographs, drawings, etc. – Morgan, Lucille Amanda, 1833-1921

13. Photographs, drawings, etc. – Morgan, S.D., 1798-1880
14. Photographs, drawings, etc. – Morgan, Sarah Ann Catherine Lawrence, 1822-1850
15. Photographs, drawings, etc. – Sherrod, Wm. Crawford, 1835-1919
16. Photographs, drawings, etc. – Sherrod, Wm. Crawford and Amanda (Morgan)
17. Photographs, drawings, etc. – Unidentified
18. Program – 100th anniversary of the death of Colonel Morgan – June 10, 1980
19. Sketches – “The Story of the Morgan Tea Service” – Ruth Warner

THS Map Drawer No. 1

School records – Diploma – Sarah Ann C.L. Morgan – Nashville Female Academy, 1838

NAME INDEX

This is a name index of only the correspondence in the Samuel Dold Morgan Collection, together with the dates of the letters and information regarding their contents. The figures in parentheses denote the number of letters, if more than one. The last numbers refer to the box and folder in which the material is to be found.

- Anderson, S.R., 1861, re: request for the number of percussion caps on hand, 1-7
Armstrong & Co., 1861, re: brimstone, 1-12
- B., J.W. (2), 1861, re: a blacksmith, 1-6
Bailey, J.E. (3), 1861, re: a gunsmith, ordinance manual, and amount of block tin, 1-15
Booth, J.C., 1861, re: request for percussion caps, 1-12
Brinkley, R.E., 1861, re: saltpeter shipment and plans to get more in Arkansas, 1-6
Brown, Neill Smith (5), 1861, re: price of pistols; introduction for Dr. John L. Findell of Mississippi; saltpeter; and request for S.D. Morgan to meet with the Bureau of the Military Board, 1-15
Buxman, John G. (?), 1861, re: saltpeter analysis of Big Bone Cave, 1-6
Cheatham, Benjamin Franklin, 1861, re: order for shirts and blouses, 1-7
Cheatham, E.F., 1861, re: need of money by Old Hickory (?) company, 1-7
Clark, C.I., 1861, re: unsuccessful attempt to get nitric acid, 1-6
Cravens, Robert (2), 1861, re: leaching for saltpeter in Nickajack Cave, 1-6
Creighton, G.C. (2), 1861, Re: asking for a position, 1-6; appointment with Samuel D. Morgan, 1-12
Davis, Samuel, 1861, re: his free shipment of saltpeter, 1-6
French, S.G. (2), 1861, re: buckshot, quicksilver, and cavalry sabers, 1-7
Gage, S.A., 1861, re: saltpeter shipment, 1-6
Garrott, J.W., 1861, re: inquiry as to price of percussion caps, 1-6
Glaze, William, 1861, re: manufacturing "Endfield" rifles, 1-6
Gonzalez, S.Z., 1861, re: copper shipment, 1-7
Goodrich & Co., 1861, re: brimstone and saltpeter, 1-12
Gorgas, Josiah (5), 1861, re: orders for percussion caps and arms, 1-7; victory at Manassas and thanks for percussion caps, and order for more, 1-12
Gray, Henry W., 1861, re: shipment of a steam engine, etc., 1-6
Hamilton, J.M., 1861, re: contract for ingot copper, 1-6
Harding, William Giles (3), 1861, re: percussion caps, saltpeter, purchases for the armory, 1-15
Harris, Isham G. (3), 1861, re: caps needed in Virginia and shipment of caps to Charleston, S.C., 1-22
Harris, James R. & Co., 1861, re: the making of saltpeter in Jackson County, Alabama, 1-7
Haviland, Chichester & Co., 1861, re: shipment of quicksilver, 1-6
Howard, B.R., 1861, re: obtaining machine for making guns, 1-6

Humphrey, F.C., 1861, re: percussion caps, 1-7
Hunt, Thomas H. (2), 1861, re: need for powder in Louisville, KY, 1-6
Hunt, William Richardson, 1861, re: saltpeter mines in Arkansas, 1-7
Johnson, John B., 1861, re: copper, 1-6
Jones, William E., 1861, re: saltpeter caves in Arkansas, 1-6
Kendrick, J.H., 1861, re: inability to leave his business, 1-6
Lanier, B., 1861, re: saltpeter caves near Rodgersville, AL, 1-6
Lipscott, W.H., 1861, re: cavalry sabers, 1-12
McClung, F.H. (2), 1861, re: saltpeter cave near Philadelphia, TN., and a bed of zinc ore, 1-6
McFarland, John D., 1861, re: his samples of copper sent to S.D. Morgan & Co., 1-6
Massenburg & Son, 1861, re: price of quicksilver, 1-6
Maxwell, A.L., 1861, re: offering his services to S.D. Morgan & Co., 1-6
Mitchell, P.A., 1861, re: making guns of "mainard" pattern, 1-6
Monserrat, G.H. (2), 1861, re: amount of caps on hand, 1-6; caps, 1-22
Moone, Thomas O., 1861, re: receipt for 200,000 percussion caps for LA., 1-6
Morgan, C.C., 1861, re: value of 50 Navy Colts asked, 1-12
Morgan, Gardner and Co. (5) to Messrs. Parks, Plunkett and Co., 1848-1849, re: orders for osnaburg and cotton goods; business matters, 2-5
Morgan, Irby, 1861, re: price of tin, 1-12
Morgan, S.D. to _____, 1847, re: furnishing spring supply of summer clothing to the convicts, 2-4
Morgan, S.D. (4) to James Plunkitt, 1847-1850, re: business matters; letter of introduction, 2-4
Morse, George W. (3), 1861, re: tools, his account, and need of better coal, 1-6
Parker, R.S., 1860, re: election in Palmetto Minutemen, 1-12
Patton, R.M., 1861, re: saltpeter in Alabama, 1-7
Perkins & Co. (4), 1861, re: lead, nitric acid, copper, and capture of U.S. troops by Van Dorn's Texas troops, 1-12 (see f. 9 for business letters from Perkins & Co.)
Prince, R.O. (?), 1861, re: request for saber belts, 1-6
Raht, Julius E., 1861, re: shipment of copper from Polk County Copper Mine, 1-6
Ramsey, T.C., 1861, re: request to be Quartermaster of Colonel John C. Brown's regiment, 1-6
Richardson, Jno., 1861, re: price of tin, 1-12
Robinson, J., 1861, re: difficulty in getting hands to work saltpeter cave, 1-6
Roche, F.G. (4), 1861, re: audit, credit Enfield Rifle and saber, 1-15
Sehorn, A.O.H.P., 1861, re: percussion caps of his make, 1-6
Shepperd, J.H., 1861, re: introduction for J.S. Smith, Elgin, AR, who wishes to establish a powder mill, 1-6
Snodgrass, J.H., 1861, re: saltpeter caves in White Co., TN, 1-6
Snodgrass, Thomas, 1861, re: factory tools, 1-6
Tate, Sam, 1861, re: saltpeter cave near Tusculumbia, AL, 1-6
Taylor, John D., 1861, re: saltpeter in Marshall Co., AL, 1-6

Twiggs, D.D., 1861, re: order for percussion caps, 1-7
Wadgyman, Arthur, 1861, re: order for laboratory supplies, 1-22
Walker, L.P., 1861, re: saltpeter, 1-12
Watkins, George C., 1861, re: lead mines in Arkansas containing silver, 1-6
Watson, Samuel, 1861, re: Cheatham, Watson & Co., 1-6
White, J.D. (3), 1861, re: muskets, 1-6; caps, quicksilver, and copper, 1-7
Wilson, Peter & Co., 1861, re: inability to ship contraband articles, 1-6
Winder, C.S., 1861, re: receipt of 150,000 percussion caps, 1-7
Wright, Moses H. (2), 1861, 1862, re: musket cap order, death of son of Samuel D.
Morgan in the war, 1-10
Zollicoffer, Felix Kirk (2), 1861, re: request for S.D. Morgan to come to the capitol, 1-11

OUTGOING CORRESPONDENCE

Morgan, St. Clair MacIntosh, 1860, re: volunteering his services in defense of the Republic of South Carolina, 1-16
Morgan, Samuel Dold (2), 1861, 1876, re: urgent requests for powder; the current political situation, 1-8

Incoming Correspondence to St. Clair MacIntosh Morgan

Parker, R.S., 1860, re: St. Clair Morgan's election, CSA, 1-12