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# A guide to the Charles H. Morgan papers

Worcester Polytechnic Institute

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# MS 03 Morgan Papers

07/20/2010

## Charles H. Morgan Papers

MS 03

Diary

### BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Charles Hill Morgan was born in Rochester, New York January 8, 1831. He grew up in Clinton, Massachusetts and attended Clinton schools and Lancaster Academy. He worked in his uncle's machine shop in Clinton, focusing on mechanical drawing, mechanics, and increasing his technical skill. In 1863 he received a patent for manufacture of paper bags.

In 1864, Mr. Morgan became general superintendent of the wire mills of Washburn & Moen. He continued with the company for 23 years, eleven of which he was director of the corporation. He founded Morgan Spring Company in 1881, and Morgan Construction Company in 1891. Morgan Spring manufactured steel springs, and Morgan Construction manufactured rolling-mill and wire-drawing machinery. He was president of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers in the late 1800s.

Mr. Morgan was married twice (his first wife died), and he had six children.

In 1866, at the suggestion of Ichabod Washburn, Mr. Morgan was elected a trustee of the Free Institute of Industrial Science (later Worcester Tech and WPI). He was given responsibility for erecting and equipping the machine shop, and he was credited with much of its success. Until the early 1900s he was actively involved as a trustee. He died Jan. 10, 1911.

[Note: biographical information is from The Journal of the Worcester Polytechnic Institute, Vol. XIV, p. 162-165; Two Towers, by Mildred McClary Tymeson, WPI: 1965, p. 30; Historic Homes & Institutions & Genealogical & Personal Memoirs of Worcester County, Massachusetts, by Ellery Bicknell Crane, NY: Lewis Publishing Co., 1907, Vol. 1, p. 105]

### SCOPE AND CONTENT

This collection consists primarily of diaries and journals which Mr. Morgan kept, from 1852-1909. Most of the information contained in the diaries relates to Mr. Morgan's businesses. There are diagrams and drawings of machines, financial and other business records, and descriptions of trips he took. Journal No. 6 is a record of New England soldiers at U. S. Hospital, Turners Lane, in Philadelphia in 1862. Journal No. 56 contained letters and other materials of Mr. Morgan's, most from the 1880s, which apparently had been sent to him after he left Washburn & Moen. These materials have been removed from the book and placed in folders at the back of Box 3. Journal No. 55 has a few entries, written by someone else after Mr. Morgan's death. Included in this is a tribute to him related to his church. Some of the journals have inserts, with business information, news articles or poems. While many of the books are diaries, some span several years and were used for lists, addresses, or subject matter related to his businesses. Not all the books are in a strict date order.

### Container List

Container	Folder	Date	Title
Box 1	Number 01	March 14, 1854-April 27, 1857 -- 132 pages	<i>Pages 1-54 contain drawings and diagrams of Brussels Carpet Loom with possible improvements to design. Pages 55-99 blank. Page 100: details of Lace Loom</i>

Box 1	Number 02	July 1852-November 27, 1854 -- 172 pages <i>Page 19: Design for Boiler Plate Punch; page 52: Diagram of Spooler Frame. This book contains many drawings.</i>
Box 1	Number 03	September 8, 1852-January 21, 1875 -- 240 pages <i>Page 25: Diagram of Clamp Hand Drill; pages 200-225: Alphabetical index. This book contains many notes and diagrams of Pacific Loom and the operations of different mills.</i>
Box 1	Number 04	January 1, 1855-December 31, 1855 -- 138 pages <i>Daily calendar summarizing purchases, accomplishments, and activities of the day. Record of daily cash account. One letter enclosed in back of journal along with small diagram.</i>
Box 1	Number 05	May 31, 1858-June 1860 - 165 pages <i>Lists, particulars, sketches, etc. of one of Smith and Morgan's #2 paper bag machines</i>
Box 1	Number 06	November 1, 1862 - 77 pages <i>Record of New England Soldiers at U. S. Hospital Turners Lane, Philadelphia. Pasted to inside cover is certificate of Morgan's membership in the New England Soldiers' Relief Association</i>
Box 1	Number 07	May 15, 1866-June 11, 1867 - 226 pages <i>Primarily a "to do" list. Diagram on Page 17 and page 96, as well as other less-detailed sketches spaced throughout</i>
Box 1	Number 08	July 1, 1867-January 29, 1872 - 254 pages <i>Notes on operations of various mills and companies. Diagrams on pages 93, 97, other rough sketches throughout.</i>
Box 1	Number 09	January 1869-August 1886 - 240 pages, plus appendix <i>Layout and floor plan of new mill. Pages 106-130 contain several detailed drawings of various mechanical components. Several notes and documents in back binding pertain to a legal battle.</i>
Box 1	Number 10	Feb. 8, 1872-June 1872 - 60 pages <i>Daily calendar/planner</i>
Box 1	Number 11	September 1872-January 1875 <i>26 pages, with several pages in back Business records, data, etc. Inside cover contains a pasted page with letters and symbols.</i>
Box 1	Number 12	1874 <i>Pocket calendar/daily planner. Largely empty.</i>
Box 1	Number 13	1883 - 16 pages <i>Small pocket notebook containing personal notes and accounts of daily activities. Only first 16 pages contain writing; the rest are blank.</i>
Box 1	Number 14	June 20, 1877-July 17, 1888 - 128 pages <i>Notes, measurements, weights, and calculations. Then journal entries of daily experiences on a trip to London.</i>
Box 1	Number 15	1878 - 4 pages <i>First two pages contain peoples' names followed by a number. Middle is empty, and last pages contain a note about someone's expenses.</i>
Box 1	Number 16	November 20, 1878-May 1880 - 97 pages <i>Small pocket notebook inside white envelope. Contains daily activities/events and other notes.</i>

Box 1	Number 17	January 1, 1880-December 31, 1880 - 374 pages <i>Daily Planner/Calendar</i>
Box 1	Number 18	January 1, 1881-December 31, 1881 - 127 pages <i>Daily Planner/Calendar</i>
Box 1	Number 19	book - 674 pages <i>Engineers' and Mechanics' Pocket Book by Chas. H. Haswell</i>
Box 1	Number 21	June 1884-March 1, 1894 - 118 pages <i>Only first 12 pages and last four pages have any writing; rest are blank. Technical and business-related notes.</i>
Box 1	Number 22	January 1, 1885-December 31, 1885 - 384 pages <i>Daily Planner/Calendar. Also contains a small notepad with calculations and small notes.</i>
Box 1	Number 20	1884 <i>Pocket Handbook of Iron and Copper Wire in Electric Transmission by the Washburn &amp; Moen Manufacturing Co.</i>
Box 1	Number 23	July 16, 1885-January 7, 1895 - 190 pages <i>Notes, lists, tables, etc. Newspaper clippings: pages 12 and 32.</i>
Box 1	Number 24	January 1, 1886-December 31, 1886 - 384 pages <i>Daily Planner/Calendar</i>
Box 1	Number 25	dates from 1868-1886 are mentioned - 67 pages <i>Small notepad. Mostly money-related calculations and records. Sketches and drawings on pages 39, 41, 42, 56, 57, 64.</i>
Box 1	Number 26	January 1, 1887-December 31, 1887 - 384 pages <i>Daily Planner/Calendar. Inserted is a note which appears to be a loan or payment of \$510 dated December 28, 1894.</i>
Box 1	Number 27	January 1, 1887-December 31, 1887 - 128 pages <i>Small daily calendar</i>
Box 1	Number 28	January 1, 1888-December 31, 1888 - 384 pages <i>Daily Planner/Calendar</i>
Box 1	Number 29	1888-1889 - 125 pages <i>Business notes, lists, etc. Newspaper clipping page 78. Diagrams and figures pages 6, 7, 101, 111-116.</i>
Box 2	Number 30	January 1, 1889-December 31, 1889 - 384 pages <i>Daily Planner/Calendar. Contains a brief letter from the Trenton Iron Company.</i>
Box 2	Number 31	January 1, 1890-December 31, 1890 - 398 pages <i>Daily Planner/Calendar</i>
Box 2	Number 32	January 1, 1891-December 31, 1891 - 384 pages <i>Daily Planner/Calendar. Towards the back is a card/advertisement for Columbus Watch Co.</i>
Box 2	Number 33	January 1, 1892-December 31, 1892 - 386 pages
Box 2	Number 34	1892-1894 - 132 pages <i>Notes, calculations, and financial notes</i>

- Box 2      Number 35      January 5, 1893-March 2, 1898 - 162 pages  
*Pages 1-20, 52-70, and 142-162 contain writing. The rest of the pages are blank. Mostly business-related notes, summaries of conversations with other engineers, calculations, etc.*
- Box 2      Number 36      September 29, 1893-August 16, 1900 - 88 pages  
*Business notes, specifications and costs, conversation summaries, etc.*
- Box 2      Number 37      January 1, 1894-December 31, 1894 - 400 pages  
*Daily Planner/Calendar*
- Box 2      Number 38      January 1, 1895-December 31, 1895 - 400 pages  
*Daily Planner/Calendar*
- Box 2      Number 39      January 1, 1896-December 31, 1896 - 400 pages  
*Daily Planner/Calendar*
- Box 2      Number 40      1896-1897 - 200 pages  
*Very neat, organized, and detailed list of specifications for various products (mostly wires)*
- Box 2      Number 41      January 1, 1897-December 31, 1897 - 400 pages  
*Daily Planner/Calendar*
- Box 2      Number 42      January 1898-December 1898 - 400 pages  
*Daily Planner/Calendar. Pasted to February 20th page is a pledge to pay 100 dollars per year for three years to the Whitman Memorial Fund.*
- Box 2      Number 43      January 1, 1899-December 31, 1899 - 384 pages  
*Daily Planner/Calendar. Between pages for November 28 and 29 is a card pledging \$1,000 to Berea College.*
- Box 2      Number 44      January 1, 1900-December 31, 1900 - 400 pages  
*Daily Planner/Calendar*
- Box 2      Number 45      January 1, 1901-December 31, 1901 - 400 pages  
*Daily Planner/Calendar*
- Box 2      Number 46      January 1, 1902-December 31, 1902 - 400 pages  
*Daily Planner/Calendar*
- Box 2      Number 47      January 1, 1903-December 31, 1903 - 400 pages  
*Daily Planner/Calendar*
- Box 2      Number 48      January 1, 1904-December 31, 1904 - 400 pages  
*Daily Planner/Calendar. Newspaper clipping between April 17-18*
- Box 3      Number 49      January 1, 1905-December 31, 1905 - 400 pages  
*Daily Planner/Calendar*
- Box 3      Number 50      January 1, 1906-December 31, 1906 - 400 pages  
*Daily Planner/Calendar. Pasted on page 399 is a "List of Self Supporting Stacks." Pasted on page 400 are specifications for "Coatesville High Duty Return Tubular Boilers."*
- Box 3      Number 51      January 1, 1907-December 31, 1907 - 400 pages  
*Daily Planner/Calendar. Between July 31 and August 1 are a newspaper clipping and an invitation from the Worcester County Historical Society. Newspaper clippings - August 2, September 12, November 8 & 19, December*

7, 15, and page 366 (memoranda)

Box 3	Number 52	January 1, 1908-December 31, 1908 - 400 pages <i>Daily Planner/Calendar. Newspaper clippings - January 14, May 15 &amp; 31, July 7, and page 373 (memoranda)</i>
Box 3	Number 53	January 1, 1908-December 31, 1908 - 384 pages <i>Daily Planner/Calendar. Conversion table inside back cover, along with newspaper clipping.</i>
Box 3	Number 54	January 1, 1909-December 31, 1909 - 384 pages <i>Daily Planner/Calendar. Yellow cloth bookmark with poem "Love's Banner" on January 15. Blue cloth bookmark with poem "A Happy Christmas to You" on February 2. Newspaper clipping February 9.</i>
Box 3	Number 55	January 1, 1912-December 31, 1912 - 368 pages <i>Daily Planner/Calendar. Contains only a few entries, some relating to the death of C. H. Morgan the year prior.</i>
Box 3	Number 56	<i>Large folder containing many important letters, correspondence, papers, deeds, etc. [these papers are now in a folder at the back of this box]</i>
Box 3	Number 57	1858 - 100 pages <i>List of orders by customer name, grouped by state</i>
Box 3	Number 58	date unknown - 135 pages <i>Notebook containing many detailed diagrams, engineering notes, calculations, specifications, etc.</i>
Box 3	Number 59	date unknown - 182 pages <i>Possibly an address book (sections divided by letter). Only 3 pages contain Writing, in sections E, G. and P</i>
Box 3	Number 60	November 1897-January 1899 - 92 pages <i>Small pocket notebook with quick notes, calculations, scribbles, etc.</i>
Box 3	Number 61	Book - 784 pages <i>Two pocket books in one: Molesworth's Pocket Book of Engineering Formulae," and "Hurst's Architectural Surveyor's Handbook"</i>
Box 3	Number - none	<i>Non-English book, Stampelbok for Svenska Jernverken. Contains letter From Paul S. Morgan from 1977.</i>
Box 3	Letter Book 1	Letter book, 1859-1868
Box 3	Letter Book 2	Letter book, 1865-1870
Box 3	Photograph	Photograph <i>appears to say Eastgate Street, Clinton, n.d.</i>