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A guide to the Charles H. Morgan papers

Worcester Polytechnic Institute

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Charles H. Morgan Papers

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.


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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Container</th>
<th>Folder</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Box 1</td>
<td>Number 01</td>
<td>March 14, 1854-April 27, 1857 -- 132 pages</td>
<td>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</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Page 1
Page 19: Design for Boiler Plate Punch; page 52: Diagram of Spooler Frame. This book contains many drawings.


January 1, 1855-December 31, 1855 -- 138 pages
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.

May 15, 1866-June 11, 1867 - 226 pages
Primarily a "to do" list. Diagram on Page 17 and page 96, as well as other less-detailed sketches spaced throughout

July 1, 1867-January 29, 1872 - 254 pages
Notes on operations of various mills and companies. Diagrams on pages 93, 97, other rough sketches throughout.

January 1869-August 1886 - 240 pages, plus appendix
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.

Feb. 8, 1872-June 1872 - 60 pages
Daily calendar/planner

September 1872-January 1875
26 pages, with several pages in back Business records, data, etc. Inside cover contains a pasted page with letters and symbols.

1874
Pocket calendar/daily planner. Largely empty.

1883 - 16 pages
Small pocket notebook containing personal notes and accounts of daily activities. Only first 16 pages contain writing; the rest are blank.

June 20, 1877-July 17, 1888 - 128 pages
Notes, measurements, weights, and calculations. Then journal entries of daily experiences on a trip to London.

1878 - 4 pages
First two pages contain peoples' names followed by a number. Middle is empty, and last pages contain a note about someone's expenses.

November 20, 1878-May 1880 - 97 pages
Small pocket notebook inside white envelope. Contains daily activities/events and other notes.
Box 1  Number 17  
**Daily Planner/Calendar**  
January 1, 1880-December 31, 1880 - 374 pages

Box 1  Number 18  
**Daily Planner/Calendar**  
January 1, 1881-December 31, 1881 - 127 pages

Box 1  Number 19  
Engineers’ and Mechanics’ Pocket Book by Chas. H. Haswell - 674 pages

Box 1  Number 21  
**Only first 12 pages and last four pages have any writing; rest are blank. Technical and business-related notes.**  
June 1884-March 1, 1894 - 118 pages

Box 1  Number 22  
**Daily Planner/Calendar. Also contains a small notepad with calculations and small notes.**  
January 1, 1885-December 31, 1885 - 384 pages

Box 1  Number 20  
**Pocket Handbook of Iron and Copper Wire in Electric Transmission by the Washburn & Moen Manufacturing Co.**  
1884

Box 1  Number 23  
**Notes, lists, tables, etc. Newspaper clippings: pages 12 and 32.**  
July 16, 1885-January 7, 1895 - 190 pages

Box 1  Number 24  
**Daily Planner/Calendar**  
January 1, 1886-December 31, 1886 - 384 pages

Box 1  Number 25  
**Small notepad. Mostly money-related calculations and records. Sketches and drawings on pages 39, 41, 56, 57, 64.**  
dates from 1868-1886 are mentioned - 67 pages

Box 1  Number 26  
**Daily Planner/Calendar. Inserted is a note which appears to be a loan or payment of $510 dated December 28, 1894.**  
January 1, 1887-December 31, 1887 - 384 pages

Box 1  Number 27  
**Small daily calendar**  
January 1, 1887-December 31, 1887 - 128 pages

Box 1  Number 28  
**Daily Planner/Calendar**  
January 1, 1888-December 31, 1888 - 384 pages

Box 1  Number 29  
**Business notes, lists, etc. Newspaper clipping page 78. Diagrams and figures pages 6, 7, 101, 111-116.**  
1888-1889 - 125 pages

Box 2  Number 30  
**Daily Planner/Calendar. Contains a brief letter from the Trenton Iron Company.**  
January 1, 1889-December 31, 1889 - 384 pages

Box 2  Number 31  
**Daily Planner/Calendar**  
January 1, 1890-December 31, 1890 - 398 pages

Box 2  Number 32  
**Daily Planner/Calendar. Towards the back is a card/advertisement for Columbus Watch Co.**  
January 1, 1891-December 31, 1891 - 384 pages

Box 2  Number 33  
**Daily Planner/Calendar**  
January 1, 1892-December 31, 1892 - 386 pages

Box 2  Number 34  
1892-1894 - 132 pages

**Notes, calculations, and financial notes**
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.

Business notes, specifications and costs, conversation summaries, etc.

Daily Planner/Calendar

Very neat, organized, and detailed list of specifications for various products (mostly wires)

Daily Planner/Calendar

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.

Daily Planner/Calendar. Between pages for November 28 and 29 is a card pledging $1,000 to Berea College.

Daily Planner/Calendar

Daily Planner/Calendar. Newspaper clipping between April 17-18

Daily Planner/Calendar

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.”

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
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box 3</th>
<th>Number 52</th>
<th>January 1, 1908-December 31, 1908 - 400 pages</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
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<td><em>Daily Planner/Calendar. Newspaper clippings - January 14, May 15 &amp; 31, July 7, and page 373 (memoranda)</em></td>
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<td>Number 53</td>
<td>January 1, 1908-December 31, 1908 - 384 pages</td>
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<td><em>Daily Planner/Calendar. Conversion table inside back cover, along with newspaper clipping.</em></td>
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<td>Number 54</td>
<td>January 1, 1909-December 31, 1909 - 384 pages</td>
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<td>Box 3</td>
<td>Number 55</td>
<td>January 1, 1912-December 31, 1912 - 368 pages</td>
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<td><em>Large folder containing many important letters, correspondence, papers, deeds, etc. [these papers are now in a folder at the back of this box]</em></td>
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<td>Box 3</td>
<td>Number 57</td>
<td>1858 - 100 pages</td>
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<td><em>List of orders by customer name, grouped by state</em></td>
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<td>Box 3</td>
<td>Number 58</td>
<td>date unknown - 135 pages</td>
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<td></td>
<td><em>Notebook containing many detailed diagrams, engineering notes, calculations, specifications, etc.</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>Box 3</td>
<td>Number 59</td>
<td>date unknown - 182 pages</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><em>Possibly an address book (sections divided by letter). Only 3 pages contain Writing, in sections E, G. and P</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>Box 3</td>
<td>Number 60</td>
<td>November 1897-January 1899 - 92 pages</td>
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<td><em>Small pocket notebook with quick notes, calculations, scribbles, etc.</em></td>
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<td>Box 3</td>
<td>Number 61</td>
<td>Book - 784 pages</td>
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<td><em>Two pocket books in one: Molesworth’s Pocket Book of Engineering Formulae,” and “Hurst’s Architectural Surveyor’s Handbook</em></td>
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<td>Number - none</td>
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<tr>
<td>Box 3</td>
<td>Letter Book 1</td>
<td>Letter book, 1859-1868</td>
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<tr>
<td>Box 3</td>
<td>Letter Book 2</td>
<td>Letter book, 1865-1870</td>
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<tr>
<td>Box 3</td>
<td>Photograph</td>
<td>Photograph</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><em>appears to say Eastgate Street, Clinton, n.d.</em></td>
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