

The Reverend Dorus Clarke, D.D.
1797-1884
Papers, 1820-1883

2 linear feet
No Access Restrictions
MS 0845

Congregational Library
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Introduction

Dorus Clarke was born in Westhampton, Mass. on January 2, 1797. His parents were Jonathan and Jemima (Lyman) Clarke. In 1817 he graduated from Williams College, and in 1820, Andover Theological Seminary. He was ordained at Blandford, Mass. on February 5, 1823, and dismissed two years later on February 17th. In 1824 he married Hannah Alvard, daughter of Gad and Deborah (Alcott) Bliss (Hannah died 1878). They had five children. On March 4, 1835, he was installed at Chicopee Falls, Springfield, and he remained there until November 4th, 1840. Upon retiring from the ministry he served as editor of *New England Puritan* (1841-5); *Christian Parlor Magazine* (1845-7); *Christian Times* (1845-51); and *Christian Alliance and Family Visitor*. In 1868 he received the honorary Doctor of Divinity degree from his alma mater. Dorus was a member of the New England Historical Genealogical Society. He died March 8, 1884, aged 87 years, 2 months, 6 days.

During his lifetime Dorus published several essays, sermons, and tracts. 1) The True Foundation of Christian Hope, a sermon at the ordination of his brother (Tertius S. Clarke, South Deerfield, Mass), 1827; 2) Lectures to Young People, 1836; 3) Sermon: Funeral of William L. Wyman, 1839; 4) Evangelists (A Tract) (date unknown); 5) Fugitives from the Escritoire of a Retired Editor, 1864; 6) Westhampton Reunion, 1866; 7) The Oneness of the Christian Church, 1869; 8) Orthodox Congregationalism and the Sects, 1871; 9) Revision, 1874; 10) Life and Writings of M. Guizot, 1875; 11) Ancestry and Writings (privately printed), 1876; 12) What is the True Idea of the Trinity of God? 1877; 13) One Hundred Years of a New England Church, 1879; 14) "Saying the Catechism," 1879; 15) Centenary Memorial, Westhampton, Mass., 1879; 16) Open Letter to Rev. Dr. Crosby, 1881; 17) The Alleged Progress in Theology, 1883.

Source: Congregational Yearbook.

Scope and Content

Series A

Sermon Manuscripts, July 1820-March 1875 (including one folder of undated sermon manuscripts). These comprise the bulk of the Clarke papers. It is difficult at times to determine the difference between a rough and final draft. Dorus was extremely attentive to recording on each manuscript the dates and places where the sermon was read. Most were read three times; many were read more than fifteen. They have been arranged by the earliest date read.

Series B

Published Writings, 1869-1883. These are the extant manuscripts in the Congregational Library's possession of Dorus' published writings. As with the sermons, it is often

difficult to establish the finality of a manuscript. They have been arranged according to the date written by Dorus on the manuscript.

Series C

Unpublished Writings, 1828-1883. Folder 34, Biographical Sketches, is arranged alphabetically by the surname of the essay's subject. The remainder of the folders is arranged chronologically. There is a folder of undated, unpublished, yet apparently completed writings.

Series D

Hannah (Bliss) Clarke. Several documents in Dorus' wife's hand, including a diary of the year 1820.

Series E

Miscellaneous. This series consists mostly of scraps or portions of various writings in Dorus' hand. Folder 40 is arranged by date (1825-1848); the subsequent folders are undated.

Series A.

- Folder 1: July-December 1820
- Folder 2: January-April 1821
- Folder 3: April 1821-November 1822
- Folder 4: March-July 1823
- Folder 5: September-December 1823
- Folder 6: January-February 1824
- Folder 7: March-April 1824
- Folder 8: May-July 1824
- Folder 9: August-December 1824
- Folder 10: January- August 1825
- Folder 11: September-December 1825
- Folder 12: January-May 1826
- Folder 13: June-November 1826
- Folder 14: January-October 1827
- Folder 15: January-December 1828
- Folder 16: January-November 1829
- Folder 17: January-June 1830
- Folder 18: September-December 1830
- Folder 19: March-May 1831
- Folder 20: June 1831-June 1832
- Folder 21: July 1832-December 1833
- Folder 22: January-November 1834
- Folder 23: March 1835-July 1836

Folder 24: December 1836-October 1839
Folder 25: 1845 (no month)-January 1854
Folder 26: March-November 1854
Folder 27: February 1855-November 1856
Folder 28: January 1857-October 1875
Folder 29: Undated Sermons

Series B

Folder 30: 1869-1876
Folder 31: 1877-1879
Folder 32: 1879
Folder 33: 1883

Series C

Folder 34: Biographical Sketches, Bacon-Smith
Folder 35: 1828-1866
Folder 36: 1867-1876
Folder 37: 1878-1883
Folder 38: Undated

Series D

Folder 39: 1811-1820, and undated

Series E

Folder 40: 1825-1848
Folder 41: Undated
Folder 42: Undated