

Wilmington Historical Society
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Finding Aid for the Frederick William Morris Collection, 1892-1918

Collection Overview

Title: Frederick William Morris Collection

Dates: 1892-1918

ID: FWM

Primary Creator: Morris, Frederick William, 1865-1938

Extent: 0.25 linear feet

Arrangement: Arranged at the collection level, alphabetically by subject.

Forms of Material: Documents, photographic materials, scrapbook

Language of materials: English

Abstract

The Frederick William Morris Collection primarily documents his career as a professional printer in the Los Angeles area between 1902 and 1906, but also contains examples of his work while living in Portland, Oregon, and a small amount of material related to family history.

Biographical History

Frederick William Morris was born on July 19, 1865, in Lambeth, Surrey, England to parents William Frederick and Jane Elizabeth Morris (née Perkins). The Morris family descended from a long line of printers. With the promise of employment, and at the urging of relatives who had left England and settled in America in 1868, William and Jane and their four young sons immigrated to Chicago, Illinois in 1872.

By the time they arrived, the Chicago fire of 1871, followed by the financial panic of 1872-1873, had created difficult circumstances for the family. As the eldest son, Frederick soon left school to work as a print shop errand boy in an effort to help support the growing family. In 1879, he was apprenticed to a printing firm, where he worked until 1888.

Frederick married Mary Alice Ponnay on March 28, 1887, at the home of his parents in Chicago. The couple relocated to Portland, Oregon in October 1888, where they later had two sons, Frederick William, Jr., born in October 1893, and Joseph Edward, born in December 1897. In 1904, while the family vacationed in Southern California, an opportunity arose to start a weekly newspaper in Wilmington, California. Frederick and his brother-in-law, Joseph David Ponnay,

bought the *Wilmington Journal* and published their first issue on November 5, 1904. By the following fall, the paper had been sold to T. W. Williams.

After selling the *Wilmington Journal*, Frederick was hired as a printer for the *Los Angeles Express* newspaper, where he spent the remainder of his career. He was deeply involved in the Freemasons, having been sponsored by his employers in the 1880s, and rose up the ranks of the organization throughout his lifetime. Frederick William Morris passed away on September 20, 1938.

Scope and Contents

The Frederick William Morris Collection primarily documents his career as a professional printer in the Los Angeles area between 1902 and 1906, but also contains examples of his work while living in Portland, Oregon, and a small amount of material related to family history. The collection is arranged at the collection level, alphabetically by subject. It is worth noting that the first issue of the *Wilmington Journal*, published on November 5, 1904, has been digitized by the University of California, Riverside, and can be viewed by accessing the [California Digital Newspaper Collection](#).

Subjects/Access Terms

Creators

Personal Names:

Morris, Frederick William, 1865-1938

Organization Name:

Wilmington Journal

Subject Headings

Topical Terms:

Family history

Newspaper editors

Newspapers—ownership

Geographical Locations:

Los Angeles County (Calif.)

Multnomah County (Or.)

Wilmington (Los Angeles, Calif.)

Documentary forms:

Documents

Photographic materials

Scrapbook

Administrative Information

Processing Information: Holli Teltoe, 2023

Processing of this collection is made possible by generous donations from Marathon Petroleum Corporation, Wilmington Neighborhood Council, Fast Lane Transportation, I.L.W.U. Credit Union, Wilmington Chamber of Commerce, and Russell and Laura Mohberg.

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Conditions Governing Access: The collection is open for research use.

Preferred Citation: Frederick William Morris Collection. Wilmington Historical Society.

Acquisition: The source and date of acquisition are unknown.

Collection Contents

Box 1

Folder 1: Family History Sketch

Folder 2: Historic Reprints, Piccadilly Circus, Rotten Row, London

Folder 3: *The Hourly Typo*, November 27-28

Folder 4: Letter to Fred William Morris from W. C. Wilson, 1905 May 9

Folder 5: Morris, Joseph Edward, Polytechnic High School Diploma, 1918 June 20

Folder 6: Newspaper Clippings, 1902, 1905-1906

Folder 7: Newspaper Clippings

Folder 8: Newspaper Clippings Scrapbook, 1904-1906

Folder 9: *The Ore-Groan-lan*, vol. 1, no. 1, 1892 March 26

Folder 10: Tintypes, Unidentified Individuals

Folder 11: Wilmington Promotional Envelope

Map Case 8

Flat File 1: *Los Angeles Daily Times Newspaper Clippings, Wilmington Journal Newspaper Clippings*, 1904-1905

Flat File 2: Untitled Newspaper Clippings

[end of box list]