John Mahelm Berry Sill reference collection
02.JMBS
Finding aid prepared by Natalie Morath

This finding aid was produced using the Archivists' Toolkit
April 25, 2013
Describing Archives: A Content Standard
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Summary Information

Repository: Eastern Michigan University Archives

Creator: Sill, John Mahelm Berry

Title: John Mahelm Berry Sill reference collection

Date [inclusive]: 1892-1963

Extent: 0.2 Linear feet 1 archive box

Language: English

Abstract: The John Mahelm Berry Sill papers document the eighth president of Michigan State Normal College, who served from 1886 to 1893. His papers consist of such materials as researcher biographies, press clippings, CVs, handwritten speeches, and memorials and obituaries.

Preferred Citation note

Please cite materials from the University Archives in the following manner: Item. Collection Title. Eastern Michigan University Archives.
Biographical Note

John Mahelm Berry Sill was born on October 23, 1831 in Black Rock, New York. In 1836 the Sill family relocated to Jonesville, Michigan, where Sill attended the district school and worked on the family farm. Sill's mother and father passed away in 1842, and for the next few years Sill worked on neighboring farms while attending school. In 1847, Sill founded the first Union School in Michigan with A.S. Welch; when the Michigan State Normal College was established, Welch was appointed the first principal, and Sill transferred with him to serve as assistant and continue his studies. Sill was one of the three persons who composed the first graduating class of 1854; Sill then took charge of the MSNC Department of English and the Model School. In 1863, Sill was appointed as the first Superintendent of the Detroit public schools. After two years, Sill resigned and accepted a position as head of the Detroit Female Seminary, a position he held for ten years. Finally, in 1886, Sill was elected as principal of the MSNC. Sill resigned in 1893 and was appointed as the Minister to Korea by the United States Department of State.

Scope and Contents

John Mahelm Berry Sill was the eighth president of Michigan State Normal College, serving from 1886 to 1893. His papers consist of such materials as researcher biographies, press clippings, CVs, handwritten speeches, and memorials and obituaries.

The John Mahelm Berry Sill papers include the following files: Biographies, Clippings, CVs, correspondence from the Department of State, memorial programs and obituaries, photographs, and handwritten speeches.

Administrative Information

Publication Information

Eastern Michigan University Archives 2013 February 14

Conditions Governing Access note

Researchers are asked to request materials 24 hours prior to visiting the University Archives.
Related Materials

Related Archival Materials note

For more on John Mahelm Berry Sill, please see the Biography and Photograph files in the University Archive file collection; see also the Presidential Correspondence records in the University Archives.

Controlled Access Headings

Subject(s)

- College presidents
- Michigan State Normal College
# Collection Inventory

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
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<td>Speeches 1892</td>
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