

The Filson Historical Society

Thomas Guthrie Morrison, 1831-1903
Diary, 1859-1869

For information regarding literary and copyright interest for these papers, see the Curator of Special Collections.

Size of Collection:

1 volume

Location Number:

Mss./A /M882

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Scope and Content Note

Collection includes a multi-use diary kept by Morrison, containing a detailed description of a roundtrip transatlantic journey aboard the steamship *Edinburgh* to his birthplace in Glasgow, Scotland, in 1859. He described many characteristics and events involving numerous passengers and crew members and harrowing encounters with storms and an iceberg. Following Morrison's travel accounts, the diary includes the Constitution, Rules and Regulations of the Morrison Light Guard, organized by Morrison in 1861 as Co. A, 2nd Regiment, Indiana State Militia. The diary also includes 74 pages of poetry written by Morrison between 1867 and 1869, most having romantic or patriotic themes.

A printed broadside consisting of a poem written by Morrison, entitled "Ode to the Army of the Tennessee", published in 1869, was separated from the diary and located in the Thomas Guthrie Morrison Miscellaneous Papers at Mss./ C/M.

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Biographical Note

Thomas Guthrie Morrison was born in Glasgow, Scotland, 29 September 1831. In 1851 he immigrated to the United States. In 1853 he married Jessie, who had also emigrated from Scotland in 1851. They established residence in Louisville, Ky., ca. 1855. Around 1860 the family moved to New Albany, Ind. In February 1861 Morrison organized the Morrison Light Guard in New Albany, which constituted Company A of the 2nd Regt, Indiana Militia. In 1862, he was promoted to 1st Lt., Major and Lt. Col. in the 66th Indiana Infantry Regiment. After the war, Morrison was employed as an architectural carver and later as a fruit grocer in New Albany. He and Jessie had 8 children. Morrison died March 28, 1903, at the age of 71.

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Added Entry List

Edinburgh (steamship)
Morrison Light Guards
New Albany (Ind.) – History – Civil War, 1861-1865
Ocean travel
Patriotic poetry – American
Poetry, Modern – 19th century
Poetry – United States
Steamboat workers – United States
Steamboats – Passenger accommodation
Transatlantic voyages
United States. Army – Regulations