



FINDING AID

F. E. STRATTON FAMILY PAPERS

1895 June - 1895 July

Prepared by
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Yellowstone National Park Archives
P O Box 168
Yellowstone National Park, WY 82190-0168

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HISTORY

Frederick Eugene Stratton was born to Alice W. Mann and Joseph Stratton on July 5, 1847, at Athol, Massachusetts. He graduated from Williams College in Williamstown, Massachusetts, in 1871, probably with a degree in biology or botany, and participated in an expedition to Central America while at school. He received a PhD, probably in Greek or Classics, from Wesleyan University in 1891.

Stratton worked as a teacher and principal in Massachusetts beginning with the Orange High School in 1871, New Salem Academy (1873-1876), Powers' Institute (1876-1879), and various schools in Boston (1879-1883). In 1883, he moved to Davenport, Iowa, where he was principal of the high school until 1892. Stratton then moved to Northfield, Minnesota, where he was principal of the Carleton College Academy and, from 1904-1906, acting professor of Greek. From 1906 until its closure in 1922, he was a professor of Greek at Fargo College as well as dean (1906-1911) and librarian. For twelve summers, Dr. Stratton directed and taught teachers' training schools in Iowa and Minnesota. As F. E. Stratton he is likely the author of *Questions in Botany: Designed Especially to Accompany Gray's School and Field Book in Botany*, which was published in Davenport, Iowa, in 1891. He also authored the *Game of the Greek Verb*, a set of learning cards, published in 1915.

Stratton married Mary Tryphena Goddard on March 14, 1874. Mary was the daughter of Esther W. and the Reverend John Goddard who, in 1880, lived in Warwick, Massachusetts, where the Reverend served as a clergyman. Mrs. Stratton seems to have remained active in the church, participating in a Congregational Association of Minnesota meeting as a member of the Owatonna Conference, Northfield branch, in 1897.

The couple had one daughter, Alice Belle. Alice was born about 1879 in Massachusetts. Alice graduated from Carleton College with a B.A. in 1900, later serving as secretary for her alumni class. She received a M.A. from Wellesley College. She married Harry Emilius Stocker, a Moravian minister, on August 25 or 26, 1908 (two marriage licenses were granted for reasons unknown), in Cass County, North Dakota. By 1914, the couple was in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, where their son Arthur Frederick was born on January 24th. The family then moved to New York City in 1919. Arthur eventually followed in his grandfather's footsteps to Williams College studying classical languages; he later earned a PhD in from Harvard and spent his career as an educator and college professor.

Frederick Stratton died on June 4, 1928, in New York City while visiting his daughter. He was buried in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania. Dates of death for Mary and Alice are unknown.

SCOPE AND CONTENT

F. E. STRATTON FAMILY PAPERS
1895 June - 1895 July

CATALOG NUMBER YELL 185383

VOLUME 0.25 LF

DESCRIPTION The collection contains diaries, correspondence, and ephemera of the Stratton family's trip to Yellowstone National Park in 1895.

The collection consists of diaries, correspondence, and ephemera, including timetables of the Stratton family's trip to Yellowstone National Park in 1895. The trip was organized by medical doctor, author, lecturer, instructor at Oberlin College (Oberlin, Ohio), and adventurer Lyman Beecher Sperry, for whom Sperry Glacier in Glacier National Park was named after his discovery in 1894. The following year, Sperry advertised a trip to Yellowstone National Park and the Stratton family--Frederick E., Mary, and their daughter, Alice B.--joined the expedition. Other members of the party included Mrs. Sperry (Bellevue, Ohio) and a W. H. Sperry (Sherman, New York), W. J. Pell (Northfield, Minn.), George Pease (Faribault, Minn.), Dr. and Mrs. A. T. Bigelow (St. Paul, Minn.), Mr. and Mrs. Carl S. Pattee (Minneapolis, Minn.), and Mr. and Mrs. E. A. and C. E. Knowlton (Rochester, Minn.)

The diaries were recorded by Frederick and Alice. Frederick's diary is detailed, particularly in the descriptions of the natural and geothermal features of Park. His descriptions include scientific observations such as estimated measurements of features and eruptions. He also describes the train trip to and from the Park, including impressions of the landscapes and towns passed along the way. The diary is daily and, while descriptions of the built environment and people are briefer, offers a good depiction of the typical tour of the Park of the era: the logistics, expectations, and impressions of an educated tourist. The style of the narrative suggests that Stratton may have intended to publish and he makes note of suggestions for future visitors and adds some penciled illustrations. The diary also includes a record of expenses for the trip.

Alice's diary is also detailed. Her descriptions include the natural features visited, but are more descriptive of the activities and participants. Written in a simpler style, the diary is an excellent record of the social and logistical aspects of a tour. In addition to the daily entries, Alice also documents a number of yells (cheers) and poems the group apparently created and/or learned during the tour. Alice also names the stagecoach drivers she met.

The correspondence includes two letters to Alice, apparently in response to thank you notes she wrote following the journey. The correspondents are George Pease and Dr. Sperry, who briefly mention highlights of the trip and various members of the party.

The group travelled by train to Livingston, Montana, and the collection includes timetables and brochures by the Northern Pacific Railway Company. Other ephemera includes a published record of the trip by Dr. Sperry, listing the itinerary and the members of the party; a timetable giving the wagon and train schedules for the Park-specific aspects of the tour; a resolution praising Dr. Sperry's organization and leadership of the trip; room or place cards for the Lake Hotel and another, unknown venue; a note written aboard the train; and an envelope containing fine, possibly Holy, dirt.

ORGANIZATION

The collection is organized by document type and creator and filed alphabetically by folder title.

PROVENANCE

Gift of James P. Cox on behalf of the Arthur F. Stocker estate in 2010.

RESTRICTIONS

NO

ASSOCIATED MATERIALS

- *Frederick E. Stratton Papers*, documenting Stratton's work as a teacher and administrator in Iowa and North Dakota, Institute for Regional Studies & University Archives, North Dakota State University Libraries
- Photos of F. E. Stratton's home in Davenport, Iowa, and genealogical material, Richardson-Sloane Special Collections Center, Davenport (IA) Public Library
- *Letters to Alice: Life at Carleton from Strong to Sallmon*, Northfield, Minn.: Carleton College, 1982, publishes a historical manuscript written by Stratton.

CONTAINER LIST**Box 1**

File Unit Nbr	Title
01	Diary, F. E. Stratton, 1895
02	Diary, Alice B. Stratton, 1895
03	Correspondence, Alice B. Stratton, 1895
04	Drawings, Alice B. Stratton, 1895
05	Timetables and brochures, Stratton family, 1895