

Dr. J. M. Payson *Story of a North Country Town* Manuscript (1930-32)

MSS 186

.25 linear Feet

Biographical

Dr. James M. Payson was a founding faculty member of the State School of Agriculture, which was founded in 1907 at St. Lawrence University. He was born in South Freedom, Maine in 1848. He was educated in Maine and began a teaching career there until coming to Canton to enroll in the Universalist Theological School here. He married Flora Bassett just before graduating in 1874. He then spent 19 years as a minister in Sherman, New York, Minnesota and Wisconsin until returning to Canton to serve as pastor of the Universalist Church. Upon the founding of the Ag school, Dr. Payson was involved in curriculum development and teaching until 1927. He also served as a St. Lawrence University trustee and was a long-serving president of the Canton Board of Education. After retiring from active teaching, Dr. Payson turned to writing.

Scope and Content

This collection consists of typed and some hand-written manuscript materials of a column Payson wrote for the St. Lawrence *Plaindealer* called *The Story of a North Country Town* that were printed from 1930 to 1932. Also included are three other short manuscripts *Our North Country Civilization: Where it Came From*, *Canton Then, Canton Now and the Canton that is to Be*, and *Some Memories of Canton's Old Places, Old Houses and Once Familiar Faces*. Also, a copy of a sermon on "Canton Memorials" given by Rev. Harry Adams Hersey in May, 1926 and a list of directors at an unidentified bank between 1899 and 1919.

Provenance

The origin of these manuscripts is unknown.

Related Material

The Story of a North Country Town ODY Special Collections F 129.C35 P39 1932 folio

A bound reprint of the original St. Lawrence *Plaindealer* columns

Box 1

Folder 1— Chapters 1-10

Folder 2— Chapters 11-20

Folder 3— Chapters 21-30

Folder 4— Chapters 31-40

Folder 5— Chapters 41-51

Folder 6— Other manuscript writings

Folder 7— "Canton Memorials" sermon by Rev. Harry Adams Hersey

Folder 8— List of members of an unidentified bank board 1899-1919

Box 2

Unfolded—Bible given to Payson by Absalom Graves Gaines Feb. 1, 1899

Booklet—*Wanted—Someone to Hold Back* by James Milford Payson, D.D.