

Perrin Family Collection
Wellesley Historical Society

Repository Identifier

mawelhs

Local Identifier

2017.02

Name and Location of Repository

The Wellesley Historical Society
229 Washington Street
Wellesley, MA 02481
(781) 235-6690
www.wellesleyhistoricalsociety.org

Title

Perrin Family Collection, 1843 – 1973

Date

1843 – 1973

Extent

7.5 linear feet, 15 boxes

Name of Creators

Marshall L. Perrin
Harold Perrin
Perrin Family

Biographical Note

Marshall Perrin was born in West Needham, Massachusetts on July 31, 1855; West Needham was incorporated as the town of Wellesley in 1881. After graduating from Harvard in 1874, Perrin became secretary of the United States Fisheries Commission in California, a post he held for one year. He returned to Wellesley, earned an MA from Harvard in 1878 and became a teacher at a private school in Waltham. Seven years later, in 1883, Perrin left for Germany, where he spent the next five years studying German. Upon obtaining his Ph.D. from Gottingen University (1888), Perrin began a lifelong association with Boston University, first as a German language instructor and later as a professor of linguistics. In 1889, he married Mary Josephine Williams, but she passed away one year later, not long after giving birth to their son Harold.

In addition to joining the Faculty of Boston University, Perrin was active in several areas. Professionally, he was a member of a Modern Language Association and is credited with writing several textbooks on the German language. On the local level, he served on Wellesley's first elected school committee (1881-1883), was appointed as this town's first school superintendent (1893-1909) and was a library trustee for twenty years. During the later years of his life, Perrin traveled extensively. In 1920, he taught modern languages at the University of Nanking in China.

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In 1928, he visited the Far East and, on a later trip, North Africa. Perrin died at his home located at 312 Washington Street in Wellesley on Nov. 30, 1935.

Other notable family members include Marshall Perrin's father, Noah Perrin, 1810-1894; his mother, Philenia Perrin, 1823-1907; and his brother Willard Perrin, 1850-1929. Marshall's son Harold, 1889-1938 married Edith Midwood Perrin, 1888-1979 in 1918. Harold was a graduate of Boston University and successfully campaigned for a seat in the State Legislature of Massachusetts in 1916. After winning the election Perrin served in the position of representative in 1916 and 1917 and then as a senator in the State Legislature of Massachusetts in 1918 and 1919.

Scope and Content Note

The bulk of this collection contains materials pertaining to the life, professional and scholarly work of Marshall L. Perrin. These materials include correspondence, photographs, research materials, published writings. Other materials include correspondence belonging to his parents, brother and son. Of particular note is the collection of correspondence related to Harold Perrin's campaign for the position of representative in the General Court of Massachusetts, as well as correspondence from his term served as senator.

Index Terms

6 Maugus Avenue (Wellesley, Mass.) — Photographs
Boston University — Faculty
California — Photographs
China — Photographs
Correspondence
Dwellings — Massachusetts — Wellesley — Photographs
Europe — Photographs
German teachers — Massachusetts — Boston
Göttingen (Germany) — Photographs
Harvard University — Photographs
Harvard University — Students
India — Photographs
Italy — Photographs
Legislators — Massachusetts
Massachusetts — Politics and government — 20th century
Massachusetts. — General Court — Senate
Norway — Photographs
Perrin, Edith Midwood, — 1888-1979
Perrin, Harold L. — (Harold Livingston) — Archives
Perrin, Marshall Livingston, — 1855-1935 — Archives
Perrin, Mary Josephine Williams, — 1857-1890 — Correspondence
Perrin, Noah, — 1810-1894 — Correspondence
Perrin, Philenia, — 1823-1907 — Correspondence

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Perrin, Willard, — 1850-1929

School superintendents — Massachusetts — Wellesley

Schools — Massachusetts — Wellesley

Students, Foreign — Germany — Göttingen — Correspondence

Switzerland — Photographs

Universität Göttingen — Graduate students — Correspondence

Wellesley (Mass.) — Buildings, structures, etc. — Photographs

Wellesley (Mass.) — History

System of Arrangement

This collection is organized into thirteen series organized by subject:

- I. Marshall L. Perrin Papers, 1896 – 1935, & undated
- II. Marshall L. Perrin Writings; 1871 – 1926, & undated
- III. Marshall L. Perrin Harvard Materials; 1870 – 1902
- IV. Marshall L. Perrin Göttingen University Materials; bulk undated
- V. Marshall L. Perrin Education Materials; 1870 – 1932, & undated
- VI. Marshall L. Perrin Religion Materials; bulk 1880s – 1920s
- VII. Marshall L. Perrin Travel Materials; 1880s – 1930s
- VIII. Perrin Family Materials; 1843 – 1940, & undated
- IX. Harold Perrin Materials; 1889 – 1960
- X. Perrin Family Correspondence; 1882 – 1972
- XI. Photographs; bulk undated

Conditions Governing Access

The papers are open for research purposes by appointment only. Please contact the Wellesley Historical Society for more information.

info@wellesleyhistoricalsociety.org

(781) 235-6690

Physical Access

Some of the materials are fragile.

Conditions Governing Reproduction and Use

Copyright restrictions may apply.

Languages and Scripts of the Material

English

German

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Unknown

2014.05

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Related Materials

Wellesley Historical Society: Photograph Collection: People: Perrin

Wellesley Historical Society: Photograph Collection: People: A-Z Oversized

Accruals

The Historical Society may add materials to the collection in the future; however, no further accruals are currently expected.

Description

Processing of this collection was made possible through a grant from the Wellesley Community Preservation Committee.

DACS Finding Aid created by Taylor C. Kalloch in December 2016.

Bibliography

“Harold L. Perrin,” *The Wellesley Townsman* (Wellesley, Mass), May 13, 1938.

“Perrin, Marshall Livingston”, *Who Was Who in America, Vol I 1897 – 1942*. Marquis-Who’s Who Books, 1968.

Public Officials of Massachusetts, 1919. Boston, MA: The Boston Review, 1919.

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Container List

I. Marshall L. Perrin Papers; 1896 – 1935, & undated

This series contains an assortment of materials related to the life and work of Marshall L. Perrin. Included are biographical materials; materials related to his social life, information concerning his estate, as well as his early work for the U.S Commission of Fish and Fisheries and as a Translator for the Army during WWI.

Box 1

- Folder 1: Biographical Notes, Marshall L. Perrin; 1902, 1905, & undated
- Folder 2: Broadsides Announcing Speeches by Marshall L. Perrin; 1906 – 1931, & undated
- Folder 3: Calling Cards & Invitations, Marshall L. Perrin; bulk undated
- Folder 4: Clippings, Marshall L. Perrin; bulk undated
- Folder 5: Marshall L Perrin's Passport; 1920s
- Folder 6: Marshall L. Perrin Estate, Correspondence; 1935 – 1936
- Folder 7: Marshall L. Perrin Estate, Inventory; bulk undated
- Folder 8: Marshall L. Perrin's Obituaries; 1935
- Folder 9: Materials Regarding MLP as Translator for the U.S. Army, WWI; 1918
- Folder 10: Membership Cards & Letters, Marshall L. Perrin; bulk undated
- Folder 11: U.S. Commission of Fish and Fisheries. "The Artificial Propagation of Salmon on the Pacific Coast of the United States"; 1896

Archives Oversize Box 6

- Folder 5: Membership Information; 1892
- Folder 6: Broadsides Announcing Speeches by MLP; 1888
- Folder 7: MLP's Sketches; undated

II. Marshall L. Perrin Writings; 1871 – 1928, & undated

This series contains materials written by Marshall L. Perrin. The bulk of the materials were published.

Box 1

- Folder 12: Articles Written as Superintendent; undated
- Folder 13: "Constitution of the Wellesley High School Alumni Association"; 1871
- Folder 14: "Declension of German Nouns", Publication Agreement; 1912
- Folder 15: "Drill Book in the German Language"; 1914
- Folder 16: Handwritten Journal of MLP's California Trip; 1874

Box 2

- Folder 1: Letters to the Boston Sunday Herald on Asia Visit; 1928

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- Folder 2: Newspaper Articles Written by MLP; 1880s
- Folder 3: Notebooks & Workbooks; bulk undated
- Folder 4: "Perrin's Drill Book in Algebra"; 1883
- Folder 5: Travel Writings; 1900, 1928, & undated
- Folder 6: Writings & Speeches, General; bulk undated

Archives Oversize Box 6

- Folder 4: Writings & Speeches; undated

III. Marshall L. Perrin Harvard Materials; 1870 – 1902

This series contains materials from the time Marshall L. Perrin spent at Harvard (1871-1874), along with information about the class of 1874 published after their graduation.

Box 2

- Folder 7: Class of 1874 Materials; 1874, 1899, & 1926
- Folder 8: "The Harvard Echo"; 1880
- Folder 9: Harvard Materials; 1870

Box 3

- Folder 1: Harvard Materials; 1871
- Folder 2: Harvard Materials; 1872
- Folder 3: Harvard Materials; 1873
- Folder 4: Harvard Materials; 1874
- Folder 5: "The Harvard Monthly"; February 1902
- Folder 6: Pi-Eta Society Materials; 1875, 1890, & undated
- Folder 7: "Scribner's"; May 1897

IV. Marshall L. Perrin Gottingen University Materials; bulk undated

This series contains materials from Marshall L. Perrin's time spent studying at Gottingen University in Germany. Some materials are in German.

Box 3

- Folder 8: Gottingen University Materials; bulk undated

Archives Oversize Box 6

- Folder 1: Gottingen University Materials; 1889

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V. Marshall L. Perrin Boston University Materials; 1873 – 1973

This series contains materials relating to the time Marshall L. Perrin spent teaching at Boston University.

Box 3

Folder 9: “Boston University The College of Liberal Arts: 1873 – 1973”, Warren O. Ault; 1973

Folder 10: Boston University Alumni Magazines; 1933 – 1934

Box 4

Folder 1: “Boston University, The College of Business Administration: Manual of Examinations”; 1917

Folder 2: “The Hub”, Vol IV; 1894

VI. Marshall L. Perrin Education Materials; 1870 – 1932 , & undated

This series contains materials related to the subject of education collected by Marshall L. Perrin as well as materials related to the time Marshall L. Perrin spent as Superintendent of Wellesley Public Schools.

Box 4

Folder 3: Boston Area Schools Reports; 1870 – 1873

Folder 4: Education Research, #1; bulk undated

Folder 5: Education Research, #2; 1892, 1895, 1897, 1905, & undated

Folder 6: Education Research, #3; 1897, 1898, 1900, & undated

Folder 7: Education Research, #4; bulk undated

Box 5

Folder 1: Framed Quotation about Education by Marshall L. Perrin; 1932

Folder 2: Manual Training Magazine, Pencil Sketching; 1910

Folder 3: Marshall L. Perrin’s Education Correspondence; bulk undated

Folder 4: Marshall L. Perrin’s Superintendent Letterhead; undated

Folder 5: Wellesley School Reading Lists; bulk undated

VII. Marshall L. Perrin Language Materials; 1880s – 1930s, & undated

This series contains materials collected by Marshall L. Perrin regarding German and Sanskrit languages as well as materials related to the Modern Language Association. Some materials are in German or Sanskrit.

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Box 5

- Folder 6: German Language Materials; 1880s – 1930s, & undated
Folder 7: Modern Language Association Materials; 1884, 1893, 1904, & undated
Folder 8: Sanskrit Language Materials; bulk undated

VIII. Marshall L. Perrin Religion Materials; bulk 1880s – 1920s

This series contains materials regarding religion collected by Marshall L. Perrin.

Box 5

- Folder 9: Religion Materials, #1; bulk 1880s – 1920s
Folder 10: Religion Materials, #2; bulk 1880s – 1920s

IX. Marshall L. Perrin Travel Materials; 1880s – 1930s

This series contains materials related to or from Marshall L. Perrin's extensive travels. The bulk of the series related to travel in China and other areas of Asia.

Box 6

- Folder 1: "Bulletin of the Union of East and West"; 1922
Folder 2: China; 1920s – 1930s
Folder 3: Travel Materials, General; bulk 1880s – 1890s

Archives Oversize Box 6

- Folder 8: Maps; undated
Folder 9: Travel Materials, General; 1899

X. Perrin Family Materials; 1843 – 1940s, & undated

This series contains materials regarding the Perrin Family. Prominent family members include Noah, Philenia, and Willard Perrin. The bulk of the series is made up of biographical and genealogical materials.

Box 6

- Folder 4: Noah Perrin, Papers; 1843, 1882, 1892, & undated
Folder 5: Perrin Family, 6 Maugus Avenue; 1938 & 1940
Folder 6: Perrin Family, Biographies; 1906, 1907, 1938, 1942, & 1979
Folder 7: Perrin Family, Genealogy; undated
Folder 8: Philenia Perrin, Clippings; undated
Folder 9: Willard Perrin, Class workbook; 1862
Folder 10: Willard Perrin, Clippings; 1918
Folder 11: Willard Perrin, Harvard Materials; 1860s

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Archives Oversize Box 6

Folder 3: Genealogy; undated

XI. Harold Perrin Materials; 1889 – 1960

This series contains belonging to Harold Perrin. Included is correspondence from Harold Perrin's campaign for and terms served in the General Court of Massachusetts. Also include is correspondence for Harold's early life and materials pertaining to his education.

Box 6

- Folder 12: "Analysis of the Sherman Act" by Harold Perrin, Ph.D. Dissertation, Unpublished; 1914
- Folder 13: Campaign, Clippings; 1916
- Folder 14: Campaign, Correspondence; April – July 1917
- Folder 15: Campaign, Correspondence; August 1 – 3, 1917
- Folder 16: Campaign, Correspondence; August 2 – 5, 1917

Box 7

- Folder 1: Campaign, Correspondence; August 16 – 21, 1917
- Folder 2: Campaign, Correspondence; August 22 – 23, 1917
- Folder 3: Campaign, Correspondence; August 23 – November 12, 1917
- Folder 4: "Class Day Book", Boston University Law School; 1912
- Folder 5: Clippings, General; undated
- Folder 6: Correspondence, From Harold, 1896 – 1905
- Folder 7: Correspondence, To Harold; 1894
- Folder 8: Correspondence, Regarding to Harold Perrin; 1935
- Folder 9: Harold Perrin, General; 1900, 1907, & 1960
- Folder 10: "History of Legislation in Massachusetts", by Herold Perrin, For Corporation Law; undated
- Folder 11: Home Rule Pamphlets, Commonwealth of Massachusetts; 1918
- Folder 12: Lectures; undated
- Folder 13: Life Event Announcements; 1889, 1918
- Folder 14: "List of Members and Committees and Rules of the General Court of Massachusetts for the Year"; 1917
- Folder 15: Massachusetts Legislature Materials; 1919
- Folder 16: "Republican Campaign Textbook"; 1916

Box 8

- Folder 1: Senator, Correspondence; January 1918
- Folder 2: Senator, Correspondence; February 1918
- Folder 3: Senator, Correspondence; March 1918

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- Folder 4: Senator, Correspondence; April 1918
- Folder 5: Senator, Correspondence; May 1918
- Folder 6: Senator, Correspondence; June – November 1918
- Folder 7: Senator, Special Committee on the Sheep Industry; May 1918
- Folder 8: Senator, Special Committee on the Sheep Industry, Correspondence; May 1918
- Folder 9: “A Souvenir of the Massachusetts Legislature”; 1916

Archives Oversize Box 6

- Folder 2: Harold Perrin, General; 1917

***XII.* Perrin Family Correspondence;**

This series contains correspondence by members of the Perrin family. The bulk of the series is made up of correspondence written to or from Marshall L. Perrin. Other family members include Noah, Philenia, Willard, and Harold Perrin.

Box 8

- Folder 10: 1882
- Folder 11: September 12, 1883 – December 1885
- Folder 12: September 24, 1883 – December 1886
- Folder 13: 1883 – 1886
- Folder 14: 1883 - 1891
- Folder 15: August 2, 1883 – October 28, 1883

Box 9

- Folder 1: July – December 1883
- Folder 2: July 27, 1883 – September 1, 1883
- Folder 3: November 12, 1883 – December 24, 1883
- Folder 4: October 7, 1883 – December 29, 1883
- Folder 5: September 9, 1883 – October 4, 1883
- Folder 6: August 21, 1884 – February 8, 1885
- Folder 7: January – December 1884
- Folder 8: January 13, 1884 – April 27, 1884
- Folder 9: January 25, 1884 – June 2, 1884
- Folder 10: July 20, 1884 – September 29, 1884
- Folder 11: May 6, 1884 – August 7, 1884
- Folder 12: January 1885 – June 1886
- Folder 13: October 30, 1885 – May 13, 1886
- Folder 14: February 17, 1885 – July 11, 1885
- Folder 15: January 11, 1885 – December 13, 1885

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Box 10

- Folder 1: September 7, 1886 – February 9, 1887
- Folder 2: December 1886 – July 1888
- Folder 3: January 1886 – October 16, 1888
- Folder 4: May 31, 1886 – August 29, 1886
- Folder 5: 1887 – 1888
- Folder 6: January 1887 – July 18, 1889
- Folder 7: 1887 – 1923
- Folder 8: August 27, 1887 – October 21, 1887
- Folder 9: February 12, 1887 – April 17, 1887
- Folder 10: May 2, 1887 – August 22, 1887
- Folder 11: October 24, 1887 – December 22, 1887
- Folder 12: October 25, 1888 – February 1889

Box 11

- Folder 1: January 6, 1888 – March 19, 1888
- Folder 2: January 7, 1886 – August 24, 1888
- Folder 3: March 27, 1888 – September 5, 1888
- Folder 4: September 2, 1888 – October 20, 1888
- Folder 5: July 10, 1896 – October 30, 1899
- Folder 6: November 3, 1899 – January 1, 1904
- Folder 7: 1911 – 1921
- Folder 8: 1925 – 1972
- Folder 9: Business Correspondence #1; bulk 1887 – 1934
- Folder 10: Business Correspondence, #2; bulk 1883 – 1935
- Folder 11: Letters Regarding the 100th Anniversary of the U.S.S. Constitution; 1897
- Folder 12: Postcards; 1888 – 1904

Box 12

- Folder 1: Postcards; 1905, #1
- Folder 2: Postcards; 1905, #2
- Folder 3: Postcards; 1906 – 1931
- Folder 4: Postcards, To Perrin Family; bulk 1874 – 1876 [Acc # 2014.5]
- Folder 5: Undated Correspondence, in English
- Folder 6: Undated Correspondence, in German
- Folder 7: Letters of Condolence to Perrins; 1935 – 1936

XIII. Photographs; bulk undated

This series contains photographs belonging to the Perrin Family. The series includes portraits of various Perrin Family members as well as a large collection of photographs taken during Marshall L. Perrin's extensive traveling.

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Box 13

- Folder 1: Asia
- Folder 2: California
- Folder 3: China
- Folder 4: Europe
- Folder 5: Germany
- Folder 6: Glass Negative

Box 14

- Folder 1: Harold Perrin
- Folder 2: Harold Perrin, Photographs Taken By
- Folder 3: India, #1
- Folder 4: India, #2
- Folder 5: Italy
- Folder 6: Marshall L Perrin
- Folder 7: Marshall L. Perrin & Harold Perrin
- Folder 8: Mary Josephine Perrin
- Folder 9: Negatives, Identified

Box 15

- Folder 1: Negatives, Unidentified
- Folder 2: Non-Photographic Images
- Folder 3: Norway
- Folder 4: Perrin Homestead, Just Before Torn Down; 1940
- Folder 5: Philenia Perrin [?]
- Folder 6: Photographic Postcards
- Folder 7: Switzerland
- Folder 8: Tintypes
- Folder 9: Unidentified People
- Folder 10: Unidentified Places
- Folder 11: Unidentified Places & Things
- Folder 12: Wellesley

Archives Oversize Box 6

- Folder 10: Oversize Photographs, General; undated
- Folder 11: Photographs, Harvard; undated