Title: Reverend Thomas R. Cook journals
Identifier/Call Number: ARC Mss 82
Contributing Institution: UC Santa Barbara Library, Department of Special Collections
Language of Material: English
Physical Description: 0.4 linear feet (1 document box)
Date (inclusive): 1870-1936
Date (bulk): 1870-1881
Abstract: Consists of fifteen journals written by Reverend Thomas Cook, a Methodist preacher, who wrote about his experience growing up during the Western Expansion, Civil War, and life as Reverend preaching across the mining towns of Colorado.
Physical Location: Special Research Collections, UC Santa Barbara
Creator: Cook, Thomas R., Reverend, 1848-1937
 Acquisition Information
Purchased by Special Research Collections in 2016.
Preferred Citation
[Identification of Item], Reverend Thomas R. Cook journals, ARC Mss 82. Department of Special Collections, UC Santa Barbara Library, University of California, Santa Barbara.
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Use Restrictions
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Biographical Note
Reverend Thomas R. Cook was born on May 18, 1848 in Middletown, Pennsylvania, to William Cook, a saddlemaker and later a farmer, and Mary Katherine Rice Cook. As a young child Cook’s family journeyed from Ohio to Iowa in 1853 to begin a life of farming. At the time, Iowa was largely unsettled and had only received statehood seven years prior. In 1858, Cook’s mother died of consumption and soon after his father remarried. During the Civil War, Cook’s father and two uncles joined the 35th Regiment of Company K, a Muscatine located Union volunteer infantry, leaving Cook to take on the responsibilities of the farm and family. In 1870, Cook graduated from Cornell College in Mount Vernon, Iowa. The college was founded in 1853 by Methodist minister from North Carolina, one of the many colleges stemming from the Third Great Awakening. Cook initially took up teaching but by 1875 had become a Methodist preacher himself and moved to Colorado. Cook would preach among the small mining towns and, as his journals indicates, tutor a Chinese immigrant. His adult life was filled with descriptions of the Western Expansion experience with community conflicts during the Civil War, Native Americans (aftermath of the Meeker Massacre), and mining town life. By 1879, Cook had married a family friend by the name of Mary and settled in Fairplay, Colorado. They had a daughter, Leonara and a son, who died as infant. At the age of eighty-nine Cook died in Sierra Nevada, California.
Scope and Content
The collection consists of fifteen journals detailing Reverend Thomas Cook’s life and work. A few of the journals detail his childhood, which include accounts his family’s move to Iowa and the conflicts within the community between Union and Confederate neighbors. Moreover, one of the journals detail Cook’s short career as a teacher. The bulk of the journals relate to Cook’s life as a Methodist preacher throughout Colorado. Those journals include poems, funeral service descriptions, drafts of letters, spiritual text, church administrative notes, and stories chronicling his ministry.
Maintains original file titles of the creator.
Arrangement
Arranged roughly in chronological order.
Subjects and Indexing Terms
Gold mines and mining--Colorado
Iowa--History--Civil War, 1861-1865--Personal narratives
Journals
Methodism--History
Missouri--History--Civil War, 1861-1865--Personal narratives
Native Americans
United States--History--Civil War, 1861-1865--Anecdotes

Box-folder 1:1  
**Early days, undated**

Scope and Content
Includes three journals detailing his childhood and a unsent letter in 1936.

Box-folder 1:2  
**At school-In Missouri, 1870**

Box-folder 1:3  
**My first years work in the itinerancy, 1874-1875**

Box-folder 1:4  
**Saguache and Del Norte, second year, 1875-1876**

Scope and Content
Includes two journals

Box-folder 1:5  
**Silverton, third year, 1876-1877**

Box-folder 1:6  
**1873-Crisis-Colo. Poem, circa 1873**

Box-folder 1:7  
**Fairplay no.3-4, 1878-1881**

Scope and Content
Includes two journals detailing ministering in Fairplay and Alma, Colorado. In addition, the journals include salaries and monetary disputes within the Church and Utah missions.

Box-folder 1:8  
**Burial services, 1870s-1881**

Box-folder 1:9  
**From Mrs. Stenhouse’s book, undated**

Scope and Content
Includes quotes from *Tell it All- A Woman’s Life in Polygamy* (1857) by Fanny Stenhouse.

Box-folder 1:10  
**Sermons and notes, undated**

Box-folder 1:11  
**1908**