

Collection #  
P 0168

**SARAH PARKE MORRISON  
COLLECTION, CA. 1870-1911**

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## **COLLECTION INFORMATION**

**VOLUME OF COLLECTION:** 1 folder of photographs, 1 ambrotype

**COLLECTION DATES:** ca. 1870-1911

**PROVENANCE:** Robert (Bob) Cathcart Martindale, Tucson, AZ

**RESTRICTIONS:** None

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**REPRODUCTION RIGHTS:** Permission to reproduce or publish material in this collection must be obtained from the Indiana Historical Society.

**ALTERNATE FORMATS:**

**RELATED HOLDINGS:**

**ACCESSION NUMBER:** 1976.0611v001

**NOTES:** The ambrotype in this collection is stored in a group box of cased images arranged by accession number.

## BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Sarah Parke Morrison (September 7, 1833-July 9, 1919) was born to John Morrison and Catherine (Morris) Morrison in Salem, Indiana. Sarah's parents were both well educated, her father a graduate of Miami University and her mother received her education at the Westoun boarding school near Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. The couple started the Salem Female Seminary adjacent to the Washington County Seminary in 1835. Sarah grew up in this community but also received private instruction and attended various girls' schools. She graduated from Mount Holyoke in 1857 and spent some years doing teaching stints at Vassar College and Williams College. Sarah returned to Salem, Indiana in 1867, and her father, a former president of the Indiana University Board of Trustees, asked her to appeal to the university to allow women to enroll. She did so, and the Trustees of the university did not find anything that would bar women from attending. At the time, Sarah was 34 years old and already had years of study behind her, but no other woman came forward upon the co-educational announcement to attend Indiana University, so she felt it was up to her to enroll in the fall of 1867. She completed a four-year degree in two years and graduated in 1869. Sarah stayed on as a tutor and in 1874 she became Indiana University's first female faculty member when she was named adjunct professor of English literature. However, she only stayed at the university for one more year as the male students didn't accept her as their superior. In the 1880 census, she is listed as living in Knightstown with her parents and her younger brother Robert and her occupation is listed as "minister". Sarah was a member of the Quaker meeting in Knightstown and died in Indianapolis, Indiana.

### Sources:

Kellams, Dina. "Women's History Month: IU's First Coed, Sarah Parke Morrison."  
<https://blogs.libraries.indiana.edu/iubarchives/tag/sarah-parke-morrison/>

Ancestrylibrary.com

## **SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE**

This collection contains one ambrotype portrait of Sarah Parke Morrison, most likely during the time she spent at Indiana University. The other items in the collection are a copy photograph of the ambrotype, a portrait of Sarah taken in her later years that appeared in an Indiana University publication, and a postcard that Sarah sent to her sister Alice Morrison Cathcart with an image of Knightstown High School on the front.

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Portraits of Sarah Parke Morrison, ca. 1870s; ca.  
1900s

Postcard image of Knightstown High School, 1911

Ambrotype Portrait of Sarah Parke Morrison, ca.  
1870s

### CONTAINER

Photographs,  
Folder 1 of 1

Cased Images:  
1976.0611v001