



What's a Subject Librarian Doing with Minimal Computing?

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DH Pedigree (or how I learned to use the command line... sort of)

Morningside Heights Digital History (<https://mhdh.library.columbia.edu/>)

In which I led the intrepid Development Team, learned CSS and GitHub, and found new and inventive ways to curse my laptop!

The screenshot shows the website for Morningside Heights Digital History. At the top, there is a navigation bar for Columbia University Libraries with links for 'My Library Account' and 'Help'. Below this is a search bar and a navigation menu with options: 'About', 'Interactive Map', 'Browse Exhibits', 'Browse Collections', 'Browse Items', and 'Credits'. The main content area features a large historical map of the Morningside Heights neighborhood. A pink square on the map is labeled 'BLOOMINGDALE ASYLUM'. A green button with the text 'CLICK ME' is overlaid on the bottom right of the map. To the right of the map is a list of links to various historical sites: [Bloomingdale Asylum](#), [Butler Library Mural](#), [St. John the Divine](#), [Engine Company No. 47](#), [Interborough Rapid Transit](#), [Leake & Watts Orphan House](#), [Lion Brewery](#), [The Riverside Church](#), [Riverside Park](#), and [St. Luke's Hospital](#). At the bottom of the page, there is a logo for the Digital Humanities Center and a link to 'Terms and Conditions'.

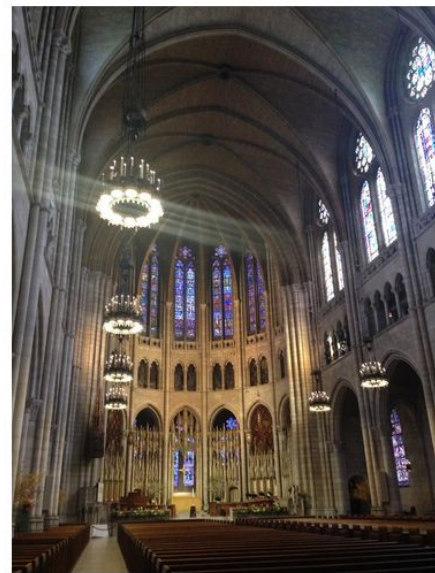
[About](#)[Interactive Map](#)[Browse Exhibits](#)[Browse Collections](#)[Browse Items](#)[Credits](#)[The Riverside Church](#)[Riverside's Ecumenical Foundations](#)[Recruiting Reverend Fosdick](#)[Choosing the Architects and the Architecture](#)[Limestone and Steel: Constructing a 'Skyscraper Church'](#)[A Space for the Community \(Not Just to Worship...\)](#)[Riverside Today](#)

RIVERSIDE TODAY

"Cities nowadays groan under the weight of uncommonly heavy social and economic problems. The temptation is strong in such times to see the country as God's place and the city as belonging to the devil. The Riverside Church is committed to the belief that God's love goes out to all in equal measure regardless of place or time."

-Dr. Ernest D. Campbell, Riverside Minister 1968-1976

When Rev. Fosdick and John D. Rockefeller, Jr. founded Riverside in 1930, they determined that the church's mission was interdenominational, interracial and international [1] Over the years the church has hosted an impressive list of activists and reformers who have striven to fulfill that mission- Martin Luther King, Jr. spoke out against the Vietnam War at Riverside in 1967 (following in Fosdick's anti-war footsteps); the Rev. Jesse Jackson delivered an impassioned eulogy for Jackie Robinson at Riverside in 1972; and, more recently, then U.N. Secretary General Kofi Annan spoke at Riverside following the Sept. 11 attacks in 2001. Hudnut-Beumler has asserted that "most people in the city and elsewhere assume that this church is the proper place to host major public celebratory events, and the following dignitaries have been honored at the church: Fidel Castro, Daniel Ortega, Olaf Palme, Archbishop Desmond Tutu, Martin Luther King Jr., Oliver Tambo, Nelson Mandela, and Coretta Scott King, to mention only a few." He also notes that an overflow audience of thousands attended a moving interreligious service of mourning following the 9/11 attacks, "in which Christian, Jewish, Muslim, and Buddhist clergy and laity united in proclaiming messages of comfort and hope to a grieving city." [2] Riverside has been committed to serving the Morningside Heights community religiously and socially since it first opened its doors and it remains one of the most iconic places in New York City's skyline and history.



Riverside's magnificent nave, June 2014.

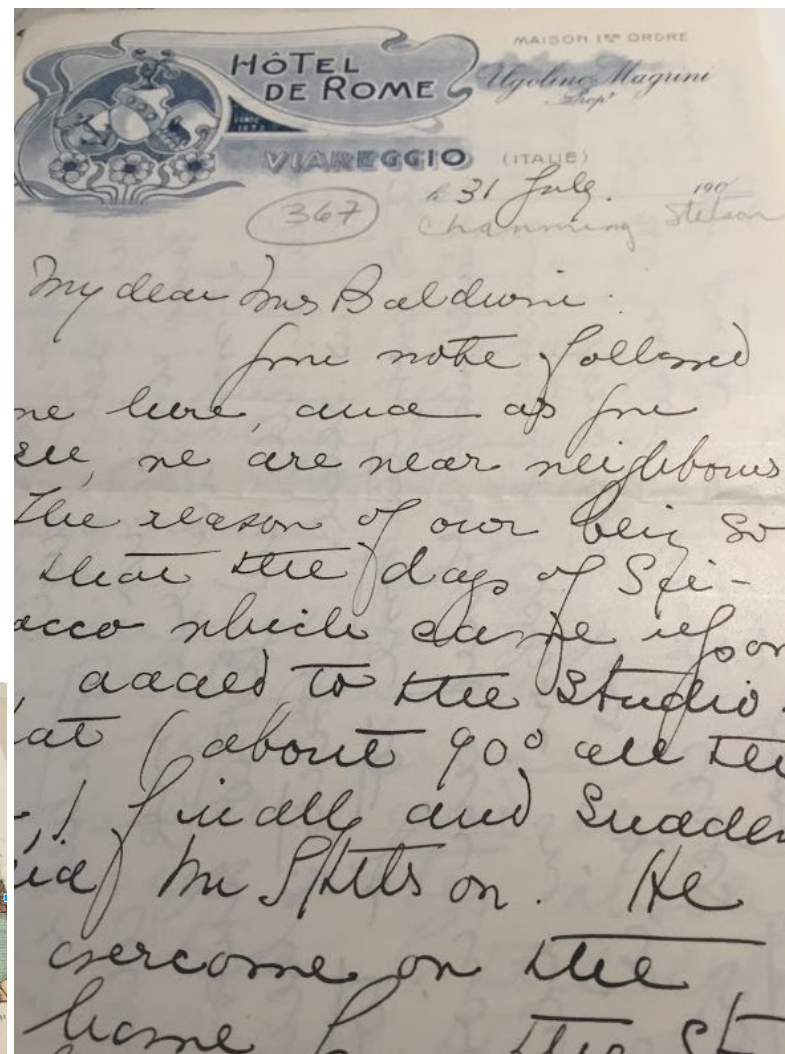
My very low-tech,
low-maintenance exhibit
on The Riverside
Church

Enter Dr. William Wilberforce Baldwin!

- American expatriate doctor living in Florence and Rome between the late-19th and early-20 centuries.
- Patients and friends included **Henry and William James, Mark Twain, Edith Wharton,** etc.
- His collection of unpublished letters from famous Anglo-American and European correspondents is at the **Pierpont Morgan Library in New York.**



Portrait of Dr. Baldwin (ca. 1890)
by his friend and
correspondent, Sir Hubert von
Herkomer



Ahhhh, minimal computing!

Using Ed/Jekyll enables me to create a quick, user-friendly, gorgeously clean digital edition of the interesting letters in Baldwin's archive.

How Beautiful The World Is

Anglo-American Travelers in Europe, 1880-1910

Exploring Social Networks of the European Grand Tour

This site features transcriptions of letters, telegrams and other documents sent to Dr. William Wilberforce Baldwin, an American expatriate doctor living in Florence and Rome at the end of the 19th century and the beginning of the 20th century. Baldwin's interlocutors were a veritable who's who of Anglo-American and European arts, letters and high society, making this body of correspondence, some 3,000 letters, a treasure for cultural historians. The collection, held at the Pierpont Morgan Library and Museum in New York City, has never been digitized or published and remains largely unstudied by scholars.

Sample texts

- James Lane Allen to Dr. William Wilberforce Baldwin, 25 November 1905
- Adolfo Apolloni to Dr. William Wilberforce Baldwin, no date
- Adolfo Apolloni to Dr. William Wilberforce Baldwin, no date
- George Arbuthnot to Dr. William Wilberforce Baldwin, 15 August 1883
- Virginia Woodbury Lowery de Arcos to Dr. William Wilberforce Baldwin, 21 August 1907
- William Waldorf Astor to Dr. William Wilberforce Baldwin, 29 January 1883

Sample letter layout

- I customized the metadata for location and date because it's important to contextualize these letters.
- I haven't figured out how I want to indicate unclear spelling so I'm using (?) for now.
- As I add more letters and documents in other formats, I may need to tweak the metadata fields again.

How Beautiful The World Is

Anglo-American Travelers in Europe, 1880-1910

Virginia Woodbury Lowery de Arcos to Dr. William Wilberforce Baldwin, 21 August 1907

Location: *San Sebastian, Spain*

Date: *21 August 1907*

Introductory and Biographical Notes

1840-1934. *Fundacion Casa Ducal de Medinaceli*

Physical Description of the Letter

No envelope; written on stationery from Hotel du Palais, San Sebastian, August 21, 1907

Transcription

Dear Doctor Baldwin,

Your letter as forwarded to me at Venice, one of our stopping places in the perfect journey we have made of 3000 kilometers- without a contretemps- via the Tyrol Pinnacle(?), Ballon, Besancon, Perijeux to this place.

How beautiful the world is! & how forcibly one realizes it when traveling in this ideal manner.

I am so sorry we missed seeing you before leaving, but as we have decided to become nomads(?) I hope we shall meet on our return.

How Beautiful The World Is

Anglo-American Travelers in Europe, 1880-1910

William Waldorf Astor to Dr. William Wilberforce Baldwin, 29 January 1883

Location: *Rome, Italy*

Date: *29 January 1883*

Introductory and Biographical Notes

1848-1919. 1st Viscount Astor. Prolific correspondent of Dr. Baldwin's. United States Minister to Italy, 1882-1885.

Physical Description of the Letter

No envelope; written on Legation of the United States of America letterhead.

Transcription

My dear Dr. Baldwin,

Mrs. Astor desires me to write & ask you for "the spray & prescription": she is troubled with white spots or pimples in her throat. Her condition, otherwise, is steadily improving.

My Father used to tell me, as a boy, that "short reckonings make long friends."
My cheque is at your disposal whenever you please.

Faithfully yours,

W.W. Astor

Do you have basic coding skills?

THINGS TO DO TO WORK WITH JEKYL/ED

1. open terminal
2. `cd /Users/Meredith/Sites/baldwin`
3. `rvm gemset use jekyll`
4. bundle install (optional unless you get an error)
5. `jekyll serve` (to test or see your changes live)
- 5a. Copy and paste the url in the terminal to the browser
`http://127.0.0.1:4000/baldwin/`
6. If you're running the `jekyll` server open a new tab in terminal to keep working on the site (Command + T)

Keep 3 windows open: text editor, terminal and browser

On text browser open folder not individual files

Use narrative layout

Remember to do soft wrap on Text Wrangler

the homepage is index.html at the top level folder

To stop the server hit `ctrl-c` on your terminal (you only need to do this when you're done working for the day, or when you change your config file)

```
baldwin -- fsevent_watch -- 80x24
Last login: Sun Oct 30 19:40:53 on console
Meredith-Levins-MacBook:~ Meredith$ cd /Users/Meredith/Sites/baldwin
Meredith-Levins-MacBook:baldwin Meredith$ rvm gemset use jekyll
Using ruby-2.3.0 with gemset jekyll
Meredith-Levins-MacBook:baldwin Meredith$ jekyll serve
Configuration file: /Users/Meredith/Sites/baldwin/_config.yml
Source: /Users/Meredith/Sites/baldwin
Destination: /Users/Meredith/Sites/baldwin/_site
Incremental build: disabled. Enable with --incremental
Generating...
done in 0.917 seconds.
Auto-regeneration: enabled for '/Users/Meredith/Sites/baldwin'
Configuration file: /Users/Meredith/Sites/baldwin/_config.yml
Server address: http://127.0.0.1:4000/baldwin/
Server running... press ctrl-c to stop.
```


TextWrangler is your friend!



```
allen_letter01.md -- Disk Browser 1 (baldwin -- ~/Sites)
File Path v: ~/Sites/baldwin/_texts/allen_letter01.md
(no symbol selected)
1
2 layout: narrative
3 title: "James Lane Allen to Dr. William Wilberforce Baldwin, 25 November 1905"
4 date: 25 November 1905
5 author: James Lane Allen
6 recipient: "Dr. William Wilberforce Baldwin"
7 location: Naples, Italy
8 source: Pierpont Morgan Library Dept. of Literary and Historical Manuscripts, MA 3564
9 order: 1
10
11 ## Introductory and Biographical Notes
12
13 Allen, James Lane, 1849-1925- Autograph letter, signed, dated Naples, 25 November 1905, to
14 Dr. Baldwin. *describes travels in Italy, especially Castel Gandolfo. [MJL biographical
15 note: American novelist who described the culture and dialects of Kentucky; possibly
16 homosexual?]
17
18 ## Physical Description of the Letter
19
20 Envelope: Dr. W.W. Baldwin, 25 Via Gregoriana, Rome.
21
22 Letter on Grand Hotel Hauser & Doepfner Naples stationery
23
24 ## Transcription
25
26 November 25, 1905
27
28 My Dear Doctor Baldwin,
29
30 I regret not having found you at home when I called on Thursday morning, as I wished to
31 make to you some report of my stay at Albano, and also some acknowledgement professional
32 and unprofessional of your services and your kindness.
33
34 At Castel Gandolfo there was a single small vacant room adjoining the household kitchen;
35 and while, upon reaching there, I was disposed to try this for a week, the experience of a
36 few hours made it clear that for several reasons any satisfactory arrangement would be
37 impossible. At Albano, however, I happened upon two connecting rooms (always occupied by
38 D'Annunzio when he is there), commanding a magnificent view of the Campagna; and I staid
39 there two weeks very happily.
```

The Delaware, Lackawanna
& Western Railroad

PASS CHECK.

PASS ONE WAY ONLY.

In accordance with accompanying Pass,
but in the opposite direction.

WORTHLESS IF DETACHED.

Issued by

W. H. TRUESDALE.

No.

3440

The Delaware, Lackawanna
& Western Railroad

No. 3440

Oct 11 - 1905.

Pass Mr & Mrs W. W. Baldwin

From Hallstead To New York

Account Complimentary

Good for One Trip Only Until Oct 31 1905.

Unless otherwise ordered, when
Countersigned by

T. E. CLARKE,
GEN'L SUPT.

W. H. Truesdale
President.

Countersigned:
T. E. Clarke

NOT TRANSFERABLE.

Great Bend, Pa.
My dear doctor:

I thank you very much indeed for your kind letter
of recent date, received during a very busy time. I fully
intended writing you before this time and depended upon
as affording the convenience without
much pressed for time
York. I shall

Thank you!

Questions?

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[@mjl361](#) on Twitter (but I'm a bad millennial and basically don't tweet...)