

MHS Digital Volunteers

TRANSCRIPTION TIPS FOR LUMAN BOYDEN MISSIONARY JOURNALS

<https://www.masshist.org/mymhs/index.php/projecthub/project/3>
April 2022

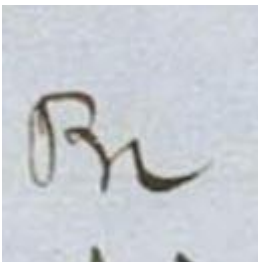
We hope you enjoy transcribing Luman Boyden’s journals. Here are some things we’ve learned from working with his phrasing and abbreviations.

Luman Boyden writes in his own form of shorthand or notes and doesn’t always use complete sentences. His diary entries are meant to be a record for himself. He knows what he means when he writes things like “4 sector 5 families 2 new 2 sick.” Transcribe these exactly as written.

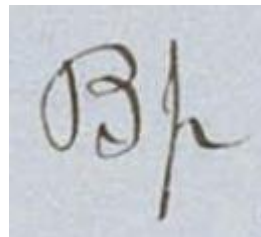
Boyden sometimes writes notes in the left-hand margin of the page. These should be transcribed as [Marginal note: Mrs Sandford sick] or whatever the note happens to say. The transcriber can write this at the beginning of the page, after the date, if they like.

Boyden often refers to streets in East Boston. For example Maverick St (he spells it many different ways), London St, Chelsea St, Bennington St, and Meridian St (which he spells Meredean).

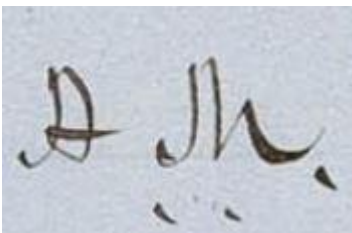
You will become more familiar with Luman Boyden’s handwriting as you work with it more. Here are some examples to help you get started:



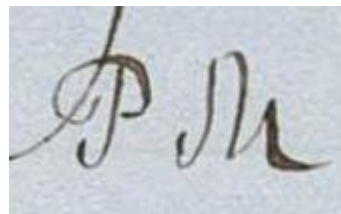
“Br” for “Brother”—commonly refers to Br Moffats, presumably a colleague



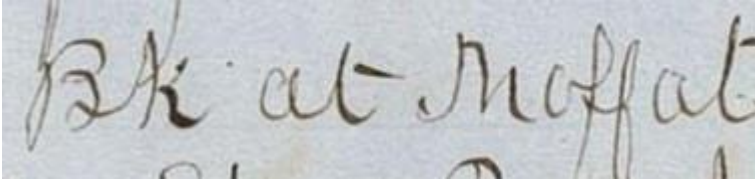
“Bp” for “Bishop”



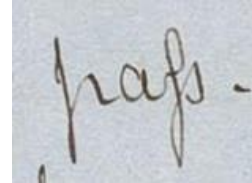
“AM” for morning



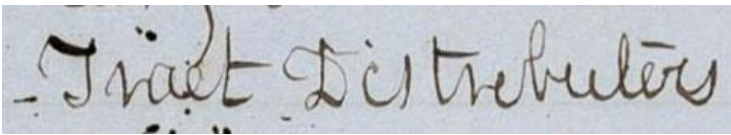
“PM” for evening



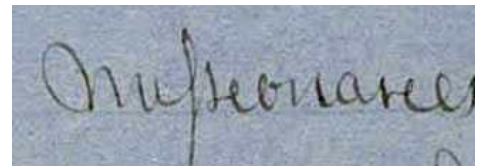
"Bk" for "breakfast"



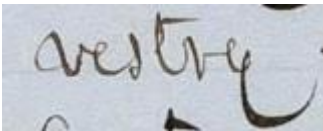
The word "pass" looks like "pafs" because it uses a long "s" which can be mistaken for an "f".



Boyden commonly refers to "Tract Distributors"



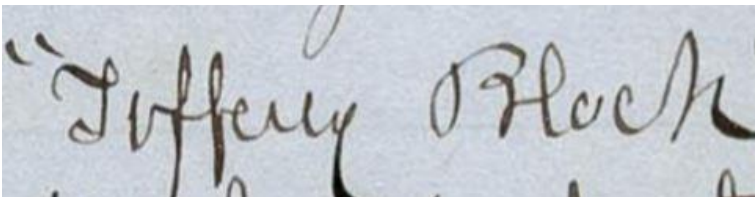
Commonly refers to "missionaries"



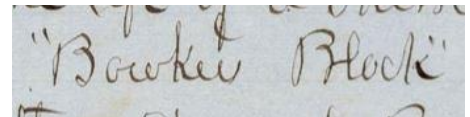
Boyden sometimes uses the term "vestry," an office of the church



"Delirium Tremens" is the condition which happens when a person physically withdraws from alcohol. Boyden uses this term in some of his diary entries and it is a scientific term



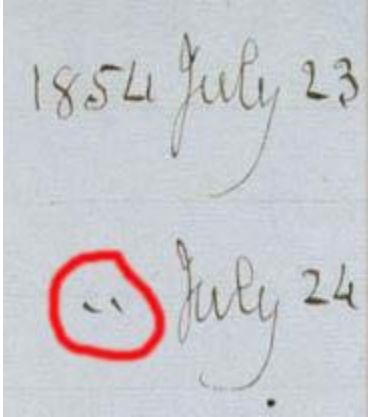
Boyden frequently refers to locations by their block name, in this case, "Tiffany Block"



Or "Bowker Block"

And a few more tips

- A quotation mark before a date means “ditto,” that is, the year is repeated. In the 19th century this was a common way to say that something is repeated. It can be transcribed as a quotation mark, just the way it looks. [“ June 8, Saturday]



- Page numbers penciled into the corner of a page, either the left-hand corner or the right-hand corner, were added later and do not need to be transcribed.
- If an entry continues onto the next page, the transcriber can put the word [break] at the end of the text on that page. This will indicate to the reader that the entry continues on the following page image.

Have fun transcribing!