



Smithsonian

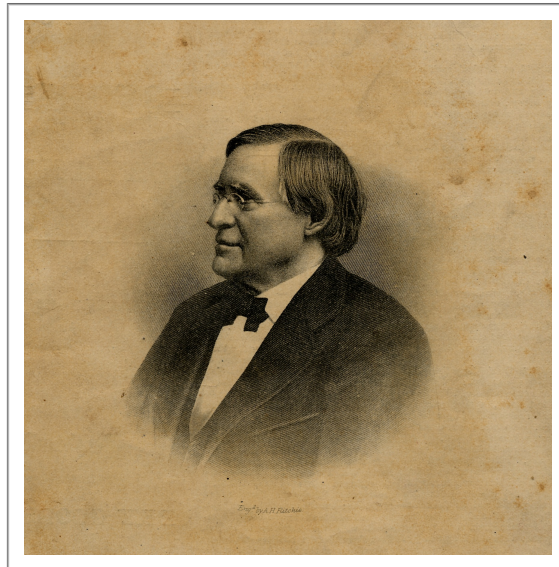
*National Museum of American History Kenneth E. Behring Center*

## Guide to the Samuel Morse Felton Family Papers, 1841-1930

NMAH.AC.0170

Robert S. Harding

September 1991



Archives Center, National Museum of American History

P.O. Box 37012

Suite 1100, MRC 601

Washington, D.C. 20013-7012

[archivescenter@si.edu](mailto:archivescenter@si.edu)

<https://americanhistory.si.edu/archives>

# Table of Contents

Collection Overview .....	1
Administrative Information .....	1
Arrangement.....	2
Biographical / Historical.....	1
Scope and Contents.....	2
Names and Subjects .....	2
Container Listing .....	4
Series 1: Biographical, 1841 - 1921.....	4
Series 2: Correspondence, 1861-1927.....	5
Series 3: Reports, 1847 - 1919.....	7
Series 4: Publications, undated.....	8
Series 5: News Clippings, 1889-1930.....	9

---

## Collection Overview

<b>Repository:</b>	Archives Center, National Museum of American History
<b>Title:</b>	Samuel Morse Felton Family Papers
<b>Date:</b>	1841-1930
<b>Identifier:</b>	NMAH.AC.0170
<b>Source:</b>	National Museum of American History (U.S.). Division of Transportation
<b>Creator:</b>	Felton, Samuel Morse, (civil engineer), 1809-1889 (Creator) Felton, Samuel Morse, (son), 1853-1930 (Creator)
<b>Extent:</b>	0.3 Cubic feet (2 boxes)
<b>Language:</b>	English .

---

## Administrative Information

### Acquisition Information

Immediate source of acquisition unknown.

### Provenance

Collection transferred to the Archives Center from the Division of Transportation (now Division of Work and Industry) on July 3, 1985.

### Processing Information

Robert S. Harding 9/91, David Haberstich, Revised 11/28/05, David Haberstich, Revised 5/19/06

### Preferred Citation

Samuel Morse Felton Family Papers, 1841-1930, Archives Center, National Museum of American History.

### Restrictions

Collection is open for research.

### Conditions Governing Use

Collection items available for reproduction, but the Archives Center makes no guarantees concerning copyright restrictions. Other intellectual property rights may apply. Archives Center cost-recovery and use fees may apply when requesting reproductions.

---

## Biographical / Historical

Samuel Morse Felton (1809 1889), civil engineer, became Superintendent and engineer of the Fitchburg Railroad in 1843 and left in 1851 to become President of the Philadelphia, Wilmington and Baltimore Railroad (PWBRR). Under Felton's able management this unsuccessful and financially failing railroad was rebuilt, restored and prospered. The road was of great strategic importance during the Civil War and performed a great service by transporting troops and supplies for the Union. In 1857, he installed the locomotive engine

"Daniel Webster" in service on the PWBRR. It was probably the first really successful coal burning passenger engine in regular service upon any RR in the U.S. In 1865 he left the PWBRR to become President of the Pennsylvania Steel Company. This was the first attempt in the United States to manufacture steel rails as a commercial enterprise. During this period he also served as director of many railroads including the Philadelphia, Wilmington & BRR, the Lehigh Coal & Navigation Co., the Northern Pacific, the Ogdensburg & Lake Champlain and several others. He was director for ten years of the Pennsylvania RR. In 1869 he was appointed by President Grant as a Commissioner to inspect Pacific Railroads.

His son, Samuel Morse Felton (1853-1930), followed in this father's footsteps. He graduated from MIT in 1873 and began a life long career in American railroading. In 1889 he became President of the Chicago and Alton Railroad, later assumed the Presidency of the Mexican Central Railroad, and became President of the Chicago Great Western Railroad in 1909. During WWI he was appointed Director General of Military Railways and in that capacity had charge of the organization and dispatch to France of all American railway forces and supplies. He continued in that position during the World War years. By 1928 he was Chairman of the Board of the Chicago Great Western Railroad, President of the Western Railroad Association, and Chairman of the Western Association of Railway Executives, to name only a few of his positions. At his death he was an advisor and associate of the Central Trust Company of Illinois.

---

## Scope and Contents

This collection contains biographical material on both Feltons; a handwritten bound report by Felton on the construction of the Norfolk Co. Railroad, 1847-1849; correspondence, 1861-1927, to and from both Feltons; various reports on military railroads during the World War years; and news clippings and articles on the Feltons, 1889-1930.

---

## Arrangement

Collection divided into five series.

Series 1: Biographical, 1841-1921

Series 2: Correspondence, 1861-1927

Series 3: Reports, 1847-1919

Series 4: History of Transportation Department, undated

Series 5: News clippings, 1889-1930

---

## Names and Subject Terms

This collection is indexed in the online catalog of the Smithsonian Institution under the following terms:

Subjects:

- Business records -- 1840-1930
- Civil engineers
- Railroads
- Slavery -- United States
- Transportation
- United States -- History -- Civil War, 1861-1865

Types of Materials:

- Clippings -- 1840-1940

Correspondence -- 1840-1930  
Reports

Names:

American Locomotive Sales Corporation.  
Ames, Oliver  
Atterbury, W.W.  
Cooke, Jay  
Davis, Robert C.  
Fletcher, Andrew  
Lincoln, Abraham, 1809-1865  
Lomonosoff, G.  
Louisville Southern Railway Co.  
McAdoo, W.G.  
Milliken, J.  
National Museum of American History (U.S.). Division of Transportation  
Philadelphia RR.  
Philadelphia, Wilmington, and Baltimore RR.  
Scott, Thomas A.  
Smith, M.H.  
Southern Railway and Steamship Association.  
United States War Department  
United States. Army

Places:

Pennsylvania

---

## Container Listing

### Series 1: Biographical, 1841 - 1921

Box 1, Folder 1	"Extract From an Autobiography by Samuel Morse Felton For His Children 1841-1889"; Articles of Agreement, 185?, between PWBRR & SMF
Box 1, Folder 2	Preamble and Resolution by Citizens of Philadelphia on behalf of Felton, Apr. 17, 1865
Box 1, Folder 3	"Excerpts from Statements by Felton", January 17, 1866
Box 1, Folder 4	Doane, Thomas & Charles Harris. "S. M. Felton -A Memoir," Boston: Committee of the Boston Society of Civil Engineers, 1891
Box 1, Folder 5	Memorial to Samuel Morse Felton, Jr. (one typed page by Central Trust of Illinois)
Box 1, Folder 6	Military Trip to Europe, 1918 August 30
Box 1, Folder 6	A Trip to Europe, 1921 July 16-1921 August 3

*[Return to Table of Contents](#)*

## Series 2: Correspondence, 1861-1927

## Subseries 2.1: Incoming, 1861-1922

Box 1, Folder 7	from Thomas A. Scott, Pres., Pennsylvania RR, 8/16/ ?
Box 1, Folder 7	from Quarter Master General's Office, 2/16/186?
Box 1, Folder 7	from Jay Cooke (& Co. Bankers), 2/22/1861
Box 1, Folder 7	from unknown correspondent, 2/11/1862
Box 1, Folder 7	agreement between G. Lomonosoff and Felton, 1/25/1918
Box 1, Folder 7	from G. Lomonosoff, President, Russian Mission of Ways of Communication, 1/26/1918
Box 1, Folder 7	from J. Milliken, Col. of Engineers, War Dept., 2/26/1919
Box 1, Folder 7	from W. W. Atterbury, V.P. Pennsylvania, 3/23/1922
Box 1, Folder 7	from Robert C. Davis, Acting Adjutant General, War Dept., 5/15/1922

## Subseries 2.2: Outgoing, 1918-1927

Box 1, Folder 8	From W.G. McAdoo, Director General of Railroads (Russian Order), 1/15/1918
Box 1, Folder 8	Memo regarding Russian government order for locomotives, 1/19/1918
Box 1, Folder 8	Representing the Sec. of War, to G. Lomonosoff, President, Russian Mission of Ways of Communication, 1/24/1918
Box 1, Folder 8	To Dorothy Rogers regarding an article IN THE HARVARD MONTHLY by her Uncle CONWAY Felton, "The Baltimore Plot," about an attempt to assassinate Lincoln, 10/6/1926
Box 1, Folder 8	article IN THE HARVARD MONTHLY
Box 1, Folder 8	ANOTHER LETTER, FROM FELTON TO DOROTHY ROGERS, 4/22/1927

## Subseries 2.3: Other Correspondence, 1886-1922

Box 1, Folder 9	Memorandum on "contract system" of operating the Philadelphia, Wilmington & Baltimore RR prior to and during the Civil War, undated
-----------------	---

Box 1, Folder 9	Unknown correspondents, undated
Box 1, Folder 9	Unknown correspondents, 11/15/1886
Box 1, Folder 9	to Hon Oliver Ames, from unknown correspondent, 11/15/1886
Box 1, Folder 9	Pres. & Members of the Executive committee of the Southern Railway and Steamship Ass., from M.H. Smith, President of the Louisville Southern Railway Co., 2/13/1894
Box 1, Folder 9	To Pres. & Members of the Executive Committee of the Southern Railway and Steamship Ass., from S.M. Felton, Receiver, 2/28/1894
Box 1, Folder 9	from Andrew Fletcher, Pres. The American Locomotive Sales Corporation, 1/24/1918
Box 1, Folder 9	to G. Lomonosoff, from unknown correspondent representing Director General Military, 1/31/1918
Box 1, Folder 9	to W. W. Atterbury, from Secretary of the Pennsylvania Railroad Company, 1/03/1922

---

*[Return to Table of Contents](#)*



## Series 3: Reports, 1847 - 1919

Box 2, Folder 1	<a href="#">Handwritten Report by S.M. Felton on the construction of Norfolk Company Railroad (line ran between Boston &amp; Blackstone, Massachusetts), 1847-1849</a>
Box 2, Folder 1	<p>[Construction of Norfolk Company Railroad: report], 1847 to 1849 1 Item (Ink on paper.; 10.8" x 8.0".) <a href="#">Image(s)</a> <a href="#">Image(s)</a></p> <p>Author: Felton, Samuel Morse, (civil engineer), 1809-1889 Language: English. Notes: AC0170-0000002-01 (AC scan no.) AC0170-0000002-02 (AC scan no.) Handwritten. Linked images of cover and one page.</p> <p>Names: Felton, Samuel Morse, (civil engineer), 1809-1889 Topic: Railroads Civil engineering Genre/Form: Reports</p>
Box 2, Folder 2	Comparative chart of expenditures and statistics for Northern Pacific Railway, 1899-1903
Box 2, Folder 2	"Report on Work of Military Railway Commission", From Maj.Wm. Barclay Parsons, War Dept., 1917 June 22
Box 2, Folder 2	"Report of Purchases Made for U.S. Engineer Corps by the Pennsylvania RR Co. Purchasing Department, 1917-1919"
Box 2, Folder 2	"Report of operations of Transportation Service" from C. M. Bunting, to Director General of Transportation, 1918 December 10
Box 2, Folder 2	Memorandum to Felton "History Military Railways: Nevers and La Pallice Shops", undated
Box 2, Folder 2	"Troops in France up to Armistice", undated

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

## Series 4: Publications, undated

Box 2, Folder 3

"History of Transportation Department" Chapter 1: Introduction; Chapter 3:  
'Period of Organization' , undated

*[Return to Table of Contents](#)*

## Series 5: News Clippings, 1889-1930

Box 2, Folder 4	"The Death of Samuel M. Felton," The Bulletin, Philadelphia, January 30, 1889
Box 2, Folder 4	<a href="#">Biography of S.M. Felton, including image, Sparrow Point Times, Baltimore, May 30, 1890</a>
	<p><a href="#">[Samuel Morse Felton: lithograph], Circa 1860</a>  1 Item (Ink on paper.; 5.9" x 5.9".)  Collector: Felton, Samuel Morse, (son), 1853-1930  Language: English.  Notes: AC0170-0000001 (AC scan no.)  In box ?, folder ?.  Engraved by A. H. Flitchie.  Names: Felton, Samuel Morse, (civil engineer), 1809-1889  Topic: Railroads  Civil engineering  Genre/Form: Lithographs</p>
Box 2, Folder 4	"Samuel Morse Felton," p. 78, undated, "Railroads Report Big Year," Chicago Examiner, , 1910 January 1
Box 2, Folder 4	"Map of Murmansk Petrograd Railway and Adjoining Region", 1910
Box 2, Folder 4	Distinguished service Medal [G.O.18] Announcement S.M. Felton, January 27, 1919
Box 2, Folder 4	"Felton named U.S. Rail Chief,... Will Direct Purchasing For And Operations of Army Roads", undated
Box 2, Folder 4	"S.M. Felton Elected Chairman Of Great Western," Railway Age, 1925 November 7
Box 2, Folder 4	"Remarks of S.M. Felton, President and Receiver, at Luncheon given to officials of the Pere Marquette Railroad", April, 1, 1914
Box 2, Folder 4	Packet of obituaries/clippings on Samuel M. Felton Jr.'s death, 1930

*[Return to Table of Contents](#)*