

Asaph Hall Papers
A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress



Manuscript Division, Library of Congress
Washington, D.C.
2023

Contact information: <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/mss.contact>

Catalog Record: <https://lcn.loc.gov/mm73024505>

Additional search options available at: <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms008080>

Prepared by Manuscript Division staff
Revised by Karen Linn Femia

Finding aid encoded by Library of Congress Manuscript Division, 2008
Revised 2023 May

Collection Summary

Title: Asaph Hall Papers

Inclusive Dates: 1837-1998

Bulk Dates: 1860-1920

ID No.: MSS24505

Creator: Hall, Asaph, III, 1829-1907

Extent: 1,180 items

Extent: 10 containers plus 2 oversize

Extent: 4.8 linear feet

Language: Collection material in English

Location: Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

LC Catalog record: <https://lccn.loc.gov/mm73024505>

Summary: Astronomer. Correspondence, diaries, journals, speeches, writings, scientific notebooks, biographical material, family papers, printed matter, photographs, and other papers relating to astronomers Asaph Hall, III, (1829-1907) and his son, Asaph Hall, IV, (1859-1930). Documents the career of Asaph Hall, III, (1829-1907) at the United States Naval Observatory, Washington, D.C. and to his discovery of the moons of Mars.

Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the LC Catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically.

People

Bell, Alexander Graham, 1847-1922--Correspondence.

Clark, Alvan, 1804-1887--Correspondence.

Gould, Benjamin Apthorp, 1824-1896--Correspondence.

Hall family.

Hall, Asaph, II, 1800-1842--Correspondence.

Hall, Asaph, III, 1829-1907.

Hall, Asaph, III, 1829-1907. Asaph Hall, III, papers.

Hall, Asaph, IV, 1859-1930. Asaph Hall, IV, papers.

Hall, Chloe Angeline Stickney, -1892--Correspondence.

Hall, Mary Estella Cockrell--Correspondence.

Marsh, Othniel Charles, 1831-1899--Correspondence.

Struve, Hermann, 1854-1920--Correspondence.

Organizations

United States Naval Observatory.

Subjects

Astronomical observatories--Washington (D.C.)

Astronomy.

Places

Mars (Planet)--Satellites.

Occupations

Astronomers.

Acquisition Information

The papers of Asaph Hall, III, astronomer, educator, and discoverer of the moons of Mars, were given to the Library of Congress by the Hall family from 1969 to 1985. An addition was transferred to the Library of Congress from the United States Naval Observatory in 2009.

Processing History

The papers of Asaph Hall were arranged and described in 1972 and 1983. The papers were expanded and revised in 1997. The register was revised in 2008. An addition was processed in 2017. The finding aid was updated in 2023 by Maria Farmer as part of a division-wide remediation project by the Inclusive Description Working Group.

Transfers

Some photographs and slides have been transferred to the Library's Prints and Photographs Division where they are identified as part of the Asaph Hall Papers.

Copyright Status

The status of copyright in the unpublished writings of Asaph Hall is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.).

Access and Restrictions

The papers of Asaph Hall are open to research. Researchers are advised to contact the Manuscript Reading Room prior to visiting. Many collections are stored off-site and advance notice is needed to retrieve these items for research use.

Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: Container number, Asaph Hall Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Biographical Note

Asaph Hall, III

Date	Event
1829, Oct. 15	Born, Goshen, Conn.
1856	Married Chloe Angeline Stickney (died 1892)
1857-1862	Assistant, Harvard College Observatory, Cambridge, Mass.
1862	Aide, U.S. Naval Observatory, Washington, D.C.
1864	Professor of mathematics, U.S. Naval Observatory, Washington, D.C.
1877	Discovered the two moons of Mars
1891	Retired from the U.S. Naval Observatory
1897	Married Mary Bertha Gauthier
1907, Nov. 22	Died, Annapolis, Md.

Asaph Hall, IV

Date	Event
1859, Oct. 6	Born, Cambridge, Mass.
1882	A.B., Harvard College, Cambridge, Mass.
1882-1885	Assistant, U.S. Naval Observatory, Washington, D.C.
1885-1889	Assistant Astronomer, Yale Observatory, New Haven, Conn.
1889	Ph.D., Yale University, New Haven, Conn.

1889-1892	Professor of Astronomy and Director of the Observatory, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Mich.
1889	Married Mary Estella Cockrell
1905-1908	Assistant, U.S. Naval Observatory, Washington, D.C.
1908	Professor of mathematics, U.S. Navy
1930, Jan. 12	Died

Scope and Content Note

The papers of astronomer Asaph Hall, III, (1829-1907) include papers of his son Asaph Hall, IV, (1859-1930), also an astronomer, and other family members. The papers span the years 1837-1998 with the bulk of the material dating from 1860 to 1920. They consist of correspondence, a diary, journal, biographical material, genealogical papers, scientific notebooks, writings, speeches, lectures, and printed matter. Hall's long tenure at the United States Naval Observatory in Washington, D.C., and his discovery of the moons of Mars are documented in the papers. Correspondents include Alexander Graham Bell, Alvan Clark, Benjamin Apthorp Gould, Othniel Charles Marsh, and Hermann Struve, as well as family members including Hall's father (Asaph Hall, II, 1800-1842), Chloe Angeline Stickney Hall (married to Hall, III), and Mary Estella Cockrell Hall (married to Hall, IV).

Arrangement of the Papers

This collection is arranged into diaries and journals; family correspondence; general correspondence; speech, article, and lecture file; miscellany; addition; and oversize, and therein alphabetically.

Container List

Container	Contents
BOX 1	Diaries and journals
BOX 1	Diaries, 1869, 1875
BOX 1	Journal of Wladiwostik Party, transit of Venus, 1874
BOX 1	Family correspondence
BOX 1	Gauthier, Mary Bertha, 1897-1903 (2 folders)
BOX 1	Humphry, Mary Hall, 1896-1898
BOX 1	Miscellaneous
BOX 1	1837-1881 (6 folders)
BOX 2	1882-1929, undated (15 folders)
BOX 3	General correspondence
BOX 3	Agassiz, Alexander, 1894
BOX 3	Angell, James B., 1892
BOX 3	Barnard, Edward E., 1899
BOX 3	Bell, Alexander Graham, 1885
BOX 3	Clark, Alvan, 1876, 1887
BOX 3	Gould, Benjamin Apthorp, 1892-1893
BOX 3	Hale, Edward E., 1904-1909
BOX 3	Harvard College, Cambridge, Mass., 1887-1899
BOX 3	Hind, John R. <i>See same container Royal Astronomical Society</i>
BOX 3	Institute of France, 1878, 1893, undated
BOX 3	Leland, O. M., 1908
BOX 3	Letterbook, 1864-1869
BOX 3	Lincoln, Robert Todd, 1912
BOX 3	Marsh, Othniel Charles, 1894
BOX 3	McNair, F. V., 1891
BOX 3	Mitchell, S. Weir, 1890
BOX 3	Navy Department, 1862-1913, 1920-1924
BOX 3	New York Central College, McGrawville, N.Y., 1856
BOX 3	Newcomb, Simon, 1901
BOX 3	Patenôtre, Jules, 1896
BOX 3	Peters, Christian H. F., 1867, 1887
BOX 3	Roosevelt, Eleanor Butler (Mrs. Theodore, Jr.), 1929
BOX 3	Royal Astronomical Society, 1879
BOX 3	Ruskin, John, 1881
BOX 3	State Department, 1897
BOX 3	Struve, Hermann, 1884, 1892
BOX 3	Tisserand, François F., 1880
BOX 3	Trouvelot, E. L., 1878
BOX 3	Walcott, H. P., 1901

Container List

Container	Contents
BOX 3	Watson, James C., 1878
BOX 3	Welles, Gideon <i>See same container</i> Navy Department
BOX 3	Wendell, Barrett, 1901
BOX 3	Yale University, New Haven, Conn., 1897
BOX 3	Speech, article, and lecture file
BOX 3	Articles, 1879, undated (3 folders)
BOX 4	Lectures, 1896, undated (4 folders)
BOX 5	School compositions, 1874-1877, undated
BOX 5	Scientific notebooks
BOX 5	General, undated
BOX 5	"On the Computation of Special Perturbations," 1859-1860
BOX 5	Speeches, 1874-1893
BOX 5	Miscellany
BOX 5	Awards, certificates, and degrees, 1870-1894, 1901, 1908-1912, 1920-1924 <i>See also Oversize</i>
BOX 5	Biographical papers, 1873, 1887, 1897-1908, 1929-1930, 1947
BOX 6	Hall, Angelo, "Life of Angeline Hall," 1896
BOX 6	Hall, Lawrence P., "Ancestors by the Dozen: Study of collateral lines supplementing the Hall line from John Hall of New Haven and Wallingford," 1983
BOX 6	Indexes
BOX 6	A-Ho (3 folders)
BOX 7	Hu-W (4 folders)
BOX 7	Fan chart
BOX 7	Notes, 1908, undated
BOX 7	Photographs, 1879, undated
BOX 7	Printed matter, 1877-1916, 1930, 1943, 1980, undated
BOX 7	Trips to Europe, 1912-1913, 1925
BOX 8	Addition, 1837-1998
BOX 8	Family papers
BOX 8	Genealogy, circa 1882, 1953, 1969-1983, 1989, undated (3 folders)
BOX 8	Hall, Angelo, 1885, 1892, 1912, 1968
BOX 8	Hall, Estella Cockrell, 1891, 1937, 1965 <i>See also Oversize</i>
BOX 8	Kilpatrick, Mary Hall
BOX 8	"Asaph Hall IV: Recollections of my Father Forty Years After his Death," 1970
BOX 8	Correspondence with the United States Naval Observatory, 1974-1975
BOX 8	Diplomas, 1916, 1924 <i>See Oversize</i>
BOX 8	Photographs
BOX 8	Miscellaneous, circa 1905, 1920, undated
BOX 8	Miss Madeira's School, Washington, D. C., 1920-1924
BOX 8	Miscellany, 1895, 1939, 1972, 1987-1989, undated
BOX 8	Hall, Asaph, III, (1829-1907)
BOX 8	Biographical booklets, 1908, undated
BOX 8	Correspondence transcripts, 1837, 1842, 1857-1906

Container List

Container	Contents
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BOX 8	Photographs, 1869-1901 (2 folders)
BOX 9	Writings, 1878, 1894, 1906, 1988
BOX 9	Hall, Asaph, IV, (1859-1930)
BOX 9	Harvard University photograph album, circa 1882
BOX 9	Miscellany, 1877, 1882, 1901, 1930, undated
BOX 9	Personal library, 1930
BOX 9	Photographs, circa 1865-circa 1910
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BOX 10	United States Naval Observatory, Washington, D. C., 1919-1929, undated
BOX 10	Yale University Observatory, New Haven, Conn., 1889
BOX 10	Library of Congress, 1926, 1935, 1946-1947, 1969, 1978-1987
BOX 10	Mars
BOX 10	Discovery of moons of Mars 100th Anniversary, 1977-1978
BOX 10	Miscellany, 1878-1880, 1970-1978, 1988-1989
BOX 10	Miscellany, 1909, 1925, 1935, 1967, 1985, undated
BOX 10	United States Naval Observatory, Washington, D. C.
BOX 10	Correspondence, 1966, 1974-1975, 1990
BOX 10	Miscellany, 1941, 1965, 1972-1976, 1983-1989, undated
BOX 10	Photographs of the 26 inch equatorial telescope with Asaph Hall IV, circa 1905
BOX 10	Presentation ceremony of Asaph Hall III awards, 1998
BOX OV 1	Oversize
BOX OV 1	Miscellany
BOX OV 1	Awards, certificates, and degrees, 1870-1894, 1901, 1908-1912, 1920-1924 (Container 5)
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BOX OV 2	Hall, Estella Cockrell, diploma, 1891 (Container 8)
BOX OV 2	Kilpatrick, Mary Hall, diplomas, 1916, 1924 (Container 8)