

**Elisha Hunt Allen Papers**  
**A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress**



**Manuscript Division, Library of Congress**  
**Washington, D.C.**  
**2010**

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

Catalog Record: <https://lcn.loc.gov/mm73010447>

Additional search options available at: <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc/mss/eadmss.ms010271>

Prepared by Manuscript Division Staff

Finding aid encoded by Library of Congress Manuscript Division, 2010

## Collection Summary

**Title:** Elisha Hunt Allen Papers

**Span Dates:** 1849-1934

**Bulk Dates:** (bulk 1867-1882)

**ID No.:** MSS10447

**Creator:** Allen, Elisha Hunt, 1804-1883

**Extent:** 2,000 items

**Extent:** 6 containers plus 1 oversize

**Extent:** 3 linear feet

**Language:** Collection material in English

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

**LC Catalog record:** <https://lccn.loc.gov/mm73010447>

**Summary:** Diplomat, jurist, lawyer, and United States representative from Maine. Correspondence, speeches and writings, notes, photographs, printed matter, and miscellaneous material largely concerning Hawaiian economic and political conditions, sugar plantations and trade, Chinese labor, the Hawaiian supreme court, of which Allen was chief justice, and the United States-Hawaiian Reciprocity Treaty of 1876.

## 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

Allen family--Correspondence.  
Allen, Elisha Hunt, 1804-1883.  
Allen, Mary Hobbs, 1829-1880--Correspondence.  
Bishop, Charles Reed, 1822-1915--Correspondence.  
Green, William Lowthian, 1819-1890--Correspondence.  
Harris, Charles Coffin, 1822-1881--Correspondence.  
Kalakaua, David, King of Hawaii, 1836-1891--Correspondence.  
Severance, Henry W., 1828-1908--Correspondence.  
Welch, Andrew, Sr., approximately 1838-1889--Correspondence.

### Organizations

Hawaii. Supreme Court.

### Subjects

Chinese--Hawaii.  
Courts--Hawaii.  
Labor--Hawaii.  
Plantations--Hawaii.  
Reciprocity (Commerce)--Hawaii.  
Reciprocity (Commerce)--United States.  
Sugar trade--Hawaii.  
Working class--Hawaii.

### Places

Hawaii--Commerce--United States.  
Hawaii--Economic conditions.  
Hawaii--Foreign relations--United States.  
Hawaii--Politics and government--To 1893.  
Maine--Politics and government.  
United States--Commerce--Hawaii.  
United States--Foreign relations--Hawaii.

United States--Foreign relations--Treaties.

### **Occupations**

Diplomats.

Judges.

Justices, State--Hawaii.

Lawyers.

Representatives, U.S. Congress--Maine.

## **Provenance**

The papers of Elisha Hunt Allen, diplomat, jurist, lawyer, and United States representative from Maine, were given to the Library of Congress by Mary Jane Allen and Frederick Allen in 1935.

## **Processing History**

The papers of Elisha Hunt Allen were arranged and described in 1963. The finding aid was revised in 2010.

## **Copyright Status**

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

## **Access and Restrictions**

The papers of Elisha Hunt Allen 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, Elisha Hunt Allen Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

## **Biographical Note**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Event</b>
1804, Jan. 28	Born, New Salem, Mass.
1823	Graduated Williams College, Williamstown, Mass.
1826	Admitted to Massachusetts bar
1828	Married Sarah Elizabeth Fessenden (died 1845)
1835-1840	Member, Maine House of Representatives
1841-1843	Member, United States House of Representatives from Maine
1849	Member, Massachusetts House of Representatives
1850-1853	United States consul to Hawaii
1853-1857	Minister of finance, Kingdom of Hawaii
1857	Married Mary Harrod Hobbs
1857-1877	Chancellor and Chief Justice of the Kingdom of Hawaii Supreme Court
1876	Negotiated the United States-Hawaii Reciprocity Treaty
1876-1883	United States minister to Hawaii

1883, Jan. 1

Died, Washington, D.C.

## Scope and Content Note

The papers of Elisha Hunt Allen (1804-1883) span the years 1849-1934, with the bulk of the material dating from 1867 to 1882. The papers consist of correspondence, speeches and writings, notes, awards and diplomas, invitations, passports, photographs, statistical tables, printed matter, and miscellaneous items and are organized into the following series: [Family Correspondence](#), [General Correspondence](#), [Hawaiian Legation Correspondence](#), [Subject File](#), [Miscellany](#), and [Oversize](#).

The [Family Correspondence](#) contains letters from Allen to his second wife, Mary Hobbs Allen, and a few letters to other members of the Allen family. Correspondents in the [General Correspondence](#) include Charles Reed Bishop, W. L. Green, Charles Coffin Harris, Henry W. Severance, and Andrew Welch. The [Hawaiian Legation Correspondence](#) contains drafts and a letterbook of official letters sent from the Hawaiian Legation. Subjects of interest covered in the several correspondence series as well as in the [Subject File](#) and [Miscellany](#) include the United States-Hawaiian Reciprocity Treaty of 1876, the Hawaiian supreme court, sugar plantations and trade, Chinese labor, and Hawaiian economic and political conditions from 1850 to 1882.

## Arrangement of the Papers

This collection is arranged in six series:

- [Family Correspondence, 1849-1934](#)
- [General Correspondence, 1857-1882](#)
- [Hawaiian Legation Correspondence, 1877-1883](#)
- [Subject File, 1853-1882](#)
- [Miscellany, 1867-1883](#)
- [Oversize, 1867-1880](#)

## Description of Series

<b>Container</b>	<b>Series</b>
BOX 1-2	<p><b><u>Family Correspondence, 1849-1934</u></b> Letters from Allen to family members including his second wife, Mary Hobbs Allen. Arranged alphabetically by name of family member.</p>
BOX 3-4	<p><b><u>General Correspondence, 1857-1882</u></b> Correspondence and miscellaneous items. Arranged alphabetically by name of correspondent.</p>
BOX 4	<p><b><u>Hawaiian Legation Correspondence, 1877-1883</u></b> Letters sent and received and letterbook. Arranged by type of material.</p>
BOX 5	<p><b><u>Subject File, 1853-1882</u></b> Treaties, trade records, and miscellaneous items. Arranged alphabetically by subject.</p>
BOX 6	<p><b><u>Miscellany, 1867-1883</u></b> Invitations, passports, photographs, speeches and writings, statistical tables, and printed matter. Arranged by type of material.</p>
BOX OV 1	<p><b><u>Oversize, 1867-1880</u></b> Commissions, statistical tables, and letters of credence Arranged and described according to the series, containers, and folders from which the items were removed.</p>

# Container List

Container	Contents
BOX 1-2	<b>Family Correspondence, 1849-1934</b> Letters from Allen to family members including his second wife, Mary Hobbs Allen. Arranged alphabetically by name of family member.
BOX 1	Allen, Elisha H., Jr., 1877-1882
BOX 1	Allen, Mary Hobbs
BOX 1	1849-1871 (7 folders)
BOX 2	1872-1880 (6 folders)
BOX 2	Allen, William F., 1867-1882
BOX 2	Miscellaneous, 1861-1934
BOX 3-4	<b>General Correspondence, 1857-1882</b> Correspondence and miscellaneous items. Arranged alphabetically by name of correspondent.
BOX 3	Bishop, Charles Reed., 1869-1880
BOX 3	Carter, H. A. P., 1875-1882
BOX 3	Cheng Tsao Ju, 1882
BOX 3	Frelinghuysen, Frederick T., 1882
BOX 3	Gibson, Walter Murray, 1879-1882
BOX 3	Green, W. L., 1874-1881
BOX 3	Harris, Charles Coffin, 1857-1881
BOX 3	Hitt, Robert R., 1881
BOX 3	Kalakaua, David, King of Hawaii, 1876-1882
BOX 3	Severance, Henry W., 1878-1882
BOX 3	Smith, J. Mott, 1869-1882
BOX 4	Welch, Andrew, 1875-1882
BOX 4	Miscellaneous, A-Y, 1867-1882
BOX 4	<b>Hawaiian Legation Correspondence, 1877-1883</b> Letters sent and received and letterbook. Arranged by type of material.
BOX 4	Letters received on death of Allen, 1883
BOX 4	Letters sent, drafts, 1877-1882
BOX 4	Letterbook, 1877-1879
BOX 5	<b>Subject File, 1853-1882</b> Treaties, trade records, and miscellaneous items. Arranged alphabetically by subject.

## Subject File, 1853-1882

Container	Contents
BOX 5	Trade, 1857-1882
BOX 5	Treaties, miscellaneous, 1853-1880
BOX 5	Treaty, U.S.-Hawaii, 1855-1882
BOX 6	<b>Miscellany, 1867-1883</b> Invitations, passports, photographs, speeches and writings, statistical tables, and printed matter. Arranged by type of material.
BOX 6	Biographical material
BOX 6	Commissions, statistical tables, and letters of credence, 1867, 1874-1880 <i>See Oversize</i>
BOX 6	Invitations
BOX 6	Obituaries, 1883
BOX 6	Passports
BOX 6	Photographs
BOX 6	Speeches and other writings
BOX 6	Miscellaneous
BOX 6	Printed matter
BOX 6	Allen family
BOX 6	Hawaii
BOX 6	Portrait of Allen
BOX 6	Hawaiian royal family
BOX 6	Miscellaneous
BOX OV 1	<b>Oversize, 1867-1880</b> Commissions, statistical tables, and letters of credence Arranged and described according to the series, containers, and folders from which the items were removed.
BOX OV 1	Miscellany
BOX OV 1	Commissions, statistical tables, and letters of credence, 1867, 1874-1880 (Container 6)