

Hale Family 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/mm75024463>

Additional search options available at: <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms010033>

Prepared by Manuscript Division staff

Finding aid encoded by Library of Congress Manuscript Division, 2010
Revised 2023 June

Collection Summary

Title: Hale Family Papers

Inclusive Dates: 1698-1916

Bulk Dates: 1810-1909

ID No.: MSS24463

Creator: Hale family

Extent: 7,500 items

Extent: 34 containers

Extent: 13.6 linear feet

Language: Collection material in English

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

LC Catalog record: <https://lccn.loc.gov/mm75024463>

Summary: Correspondence, biographical material, business records, writings, legal documents, memorabilia, and genealogies of the Hale, Everett, Hill, and Sears families. The collection consists primarily of the papers of Nathan Hale (1784-1863), pioneer railroad builder and journalist; Alexander Hill Everett (1790-1847), diplomat and editor; and Edward Everett Hale (1822-1909), author and Unitarian minister.

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, Horatio, 1802-1889--Correspondence.

Bliss, George, 1830-1897--Correspondence.

Chandler, Peleg W. (Peleg Whitman), 1816-1889--Correspondence.

Davis, John, 1787-1854--Correspondence.

Dwight, Edmund, 1780-1849--Correspondence.

Everett family--Genealogy.

Everett family.

Everett, Alexander Hill, 1790-1847. Alexander Hill Everett papers.

Everett, Edward, 1794-1865--Correspondence.

Everett, Oliver, 1752-1802.

Forbes, John Murray, 1813-1898--Correspondence.

Freeman, Harriet E.--Correspondence.

Grinnell, Joseph, 1788-1885--Correspondence.

Hale family--Genealogy.

Hale family.

Hale, Charles, 1831-1882.

Hale, E. (Enoch), 1790-1848.

Hale, Edward Everett, 1822-1909.

Hale, Edward Everett, 1822-1909. Edward Everett Hale papers.

Hale, Nathan, 1743-1780--Correspondence.

Hale, Nathan, 1784-1863. Nathan Hale papers.

Hale, Robert, 1607-1659--Family.

Hill family--Genealogy.

Hill family.

Hill, Alexander.

Latrobe, John H. B. (John Hazlehurst Boneval), 1803-1891--Correspondence.

Parsons, Theophilus, 1797-1882--Correspondence.

Pierce, Ulysses G. B. (Ulysses Grant Baker), 1865-1943--Correspondence.

Quincy, Josiah, 1772-1864--Correspondence.

Reed, William B. (William Bradford), 1806-1876--Correspondence.

Sears family--Genealogy.
Sears family.
Tyler, Daniel, 1799-1882--Correspondence.
Whittlesey, Elisha, 1783-1863--Correspondence.
Winthrop, Robert C. (Robert Charles), 1809-1894--Correspondence.

Organizations

Boston and Worcester Railroad Corporation.

Subjects

American newspapers--Massachusetts--Boston.
Canals--Maryland.
Canals--Washington (D.C.)
Railroads--Massachusetts.

Places

Chesapeake and Ohio Canal (Md. and Washington, D.C.)
Massachusetts--Politics and government--1775-1865.
United States--History--Revolution, 1775-1783.
United States--Politics and government--1783-1865.

Titles

Boston daily advertiser.

Occupations

Authors.
Clergy.
Diplomats.
Editors.
Journalists.
Railroad builders.

Acquisition Information

The papers of the Hale family were given to the Library of Congress by Albert E. Lownes in 1954. Additional material was given by Charles E. Feinberg in 1957-1958 and Ernest A. Hale in 1971. Other items were purchased in 1969-1970 and 2022.

Processing History

The papers of the Hale family were arranged and described in 1974 by Ned Bachman. The letters of Nathan Hale (1743-1780), originally arranged and described as a separate collection, were transferred to the Hale Family Papers in 2005. The 2005 addition and revision was completed by Margaret McAleer. Additional materials were processed and described in 2023 by Melissa Capozio Jones. The finding aid was revised in 2010. The finding aid was updated in 2023 by Rachel Telford as part of a division-wide remediation project by the Inclusive Description Working Group.

Copyright Status

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

Access and Restrictions

The papers of the Hale family 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, Hale Family Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Biographical Notes

Nathan Hale (1784-1863)

Date	Event
1784, Aug. 16	Born Westhampton, Mass.
1804	B.A., Williams College, Williamstown, Mass.
1810	M.A., Dartmouth College, Hanover, N.H.
1816	Married Sarah Preston Everett
1814-1854	Owner and editor, Boston <i>Daily Advertiser</i>
1820-1822	Member, Massachusetts House of Representatives
1829-1830	Member, Massachusetts Senate
1831-1849	President, Boston and Worcester Railroad
1863, Feb. 8	Died, Boston, Mass.

Alexander Hill Everett (1790-1847)

Date	Event
1790, Mar. 19	Born, Boston, Mass.
1806	Graduated, Harvard College, Cambridge, Mass.
1809-1811	Secretary to John Quincy Adams, United States minister to Russia
1815-1816	Secretary to the United States legation, the Hague, the Netherlands
1825-1829	United States minister to Spain
1830-1835	Editor, <i>North American Review</i>
1845-1847	United States minister to China
1847, June 29	Died, Canton, China

Edward Everett Hale (1822-1909)

Date	Event
1822, Apr. 3	Born, Boston, Mass.
1839	Graduated, Harvard College, Cambridge, Mass.
1846-1856	Minister, Church of the Unity, Worcester, Mass.
1852	Married Emily Baldwin Perkins
1856-circa 1899	Minister, South Congregational (Unitarian) Church, Boston, Mass.
1863	Published "The Man Without a Country," <i>Atlantic Monthly</i>
1903-1909	Chaplain, United States Senate
1909, June 10	Died, Boston, Mass.

Scope and Content Note

The papers of the Hale family span the period 1698-1916, with the bulk of the material covering the years 1810-1909. The papers consist of correspondence, biographical material, business records, writings, legal documents, memorabilia, and genealogies primarily relating to one particular line of the descendants of Robert Hale who settled in Massachusetts in 1632. Included in this branch of the family were Nathan Hale (1755-1776), who was executed as an American spy during the American Revolution, his nephew Nathan Hale (1784-1863), and the latter's son, Edward Everett Hale. All have material in the collection. Also included are papers regarding families related by marriage to the Hale family and close acquaintances, including the Everett, Hill, and Sears families, and Harriet E. Freeman, assistant to Edward Everett Hale. The collection is arranged in eight series: [General Family Correspondence](#), [General and Special Correspondence of Edward Evert Hale](#), [Genealogical and Biographical Material](#), [Business Records](#), [Writings](#), [Memorabilia](#), [2005 Addition](#), and [2023 Addition](#).

The [General Family Correspondence](#) series is arranged in two parts comprising the Hale and Everett family correspondence. The correspondence of the Hale family is made up almost entirely of letters exchanged between Nathan Hale (1784-1863) and his brother-in-law Alexander Hill Everett. Nathan Hale's letters primarily relate to his business interests and discuss his activities as owner and editor of the Boston *Daily Advertiser* and president of the Boston and Worcester Railroad. Other topics include national and local politics, construction of the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal, and demands of foreign creditors that the state of Pennsylvania pay the interest on its debt. Also included in the Hale family correspondence is material relating to Hale's son, Charles Hale, and Alexander Hill. Additional material relating to Hale's business activities, particularly those pertaining to the Boston and Worcester Railroad, is located in the [Business Records](#) series.

The Everett family correspondence in the [General Family Correspondence](#) series consists largely of letters from Alexander Hill Everett to his brother Edward Everett (1794-1865). The correspondence discusses family matters as well as national and local politics. Of particular note are the letters dated 1815-1816 when Alexander Hill Everett was secretary of the American Legation at the Hague and 1825-1829 when he was the American minister in Madrid.

The [General and Special Correspondence of Edward Everett Hale](#) series is arranged in two parts as general correspondence and special correspondence. Hale's general correspondence is largely personal in nature and includes a number of letters to one of his personal assistants and to Ulysses G. B. Pierce of Washington, D.C., who often assisted him with his duties as chaplain of the United States Senate. The special correspondence file consists of letters exchanged between Hale and Harriet E. Freeman, one of his assistants. The letters are primarily personal, detailing daily events with occasional reflections on their thoughts and feelings. Freeman took numerous trips throughout Europe, the United States, and Canada, and her letters from these places constitute a virtual travel journal. When Hale became chaplain of the United States Senate and centered his activity in Washington, political events and topics figured more prominently in their letters. This is particularly true for the period of Theodore Roosevelt's presidency, reflecting Hale's friendship with the president. At this time, Freeman became active in movements to preserve forest lands and protect the rights of Native Americans, writing about both causes to Hale. The letters between Hale and Freeman include a coded shorthand style of writing. Author Sara Day deciphered the shorthand used by Hale and Freeman. Researchers may wish to consult her book, *Coded Letters, Concealed Love: The Larger Lives of Harriet Freeman and Edward Everett Hale*, for more information about the content of coded correspondence of Hale and Freeman.

The [2005 Addition](#) contains typed transcripts of letters from Nathan Hale (1743-1780) of Rindge, New Hampshire, to his wife Abigail Hale. The letters date from 1775 to 1780 and chronicle his military experiences during the American Revolution prior to his death as a prisoner of the British.

The [2023 Addition](#) contains correspondence by and to Harriett E. Freeman. The series is arranged into two parts as general and special correspondence. Freeman's general correspondence contains a small amount of personal letters as well as letters related to her work with Edward Everett Hale, including transcripts of two of his sermons. The special correspondence consists of letters from Freeman to Edward Everett Hale during her travels through Italy and Tunisia from December 1905 to May 1906. The letters from Freeman to Hale include a coded shorthand style of writing. Researchers wishing to translate the letters should refer to the aforementioned book by author Sara Day.

Among the many correspondents in the collection are Horatio Allen, George Bliss, Peleg W. Chandler, John Davis, Edmund Dwight, John Murray Forbes, Joseph Grinnell, John H. B. Latrobe, Theophilus Parsons, Josiah Quincy, William B. Reed, Daniel Tyler, Elisha Whittlesey, and Robert C. Winthrop.

Arrangement of the Collection

This collection is arranged in eight series:

- [General Family Correspondence, 1698-1876](#)
- [General and Special Correspondence of Edward Everett Hale, 1841-1916](#)
- [Genealogical and Biographical Material, 1843-1914](#)
- [Business Records, 1782-1860](#)
- [Writings, 1781-1900](#)
- [Memorabilia, 1798-1912](#)
- [2005 Addition, 1775-1780](#)
- [2023 Addition, 1892-1910](#)

Description of Series

Container	Series
BOX 1-12	<p><u>General Family Correspondence, 1698-1876</u></p> <p>Letters sent and received by members of the Hale and Everett families, consisting chiefly of the correspondence of Nathan Hale (1784-1863) and correspondence from Alexander Hill Everett to his brother Edward Everett. Also included are miscellaneous legal and financial documents, such as deeds, receipts, and shares of stock, largely belonging to Alexander Hill.</p> <p>Arranged as Hale and Everett family correspondence and therein chronologically.</p>
BOX 13-25	<p><u>General and Special Correspondence of Edward Everett Hale, 1841-1916</u></p> <p>Correspondence to and from Edward Everett Hale, including a large quantity of correspondence with Harriet E. Freeman, which is filed as special correspondence.</p> <p>Arranged as general correspondence and special correspondence and therein chronologically.</p>
BOX 26-28	<p><u>Genealogical and Biographical Material, 1843-1914</u></p> <p>Genealogical correspondence, notes, and printed matter relating to the Everett, Hale, Hill, and Sears families.</p> <p>Arranged alphabetically by type of material and therein by name of individual or family.</p>
BOX 28-32	<p><u>Business Records, 1782-1860</u></p> <p>Financial accounts, legal documents, journals, notes, indexes, and printed matter, primarily relating to railroads and other business activities of Nathan Hale (1784-1863).</p> <p>Arranged by type of material or topic.</p>
BOX 32-33	<p><u>Writings, 1781-1900</u></p> <p>Essays and some letters, probably written by Alexander Hill Everett; a lecture by Edward Everett; lectures, an essay, and miscellaneous writings of Edward Everett Hale; sermons and lectures, probably written by Enoch Hale; and unidentified material written either by a man named Hopkins or by Moses Hale.</p> <p>Arranged by name of author with miscellaneous and unidentified writings filed at the end.</p>
BOX 33-34	<p><u>Memorabilia, 1798-1912</u></p> <p>Journals, handwritten digest of congressional debates, portraits, programs, clippings, and other printed matter, as well as locks of hair and pressed flowers sent by Edward Everett Hale to Harriet E. Freeman.</p> <p>Arranged by type of material or name of individual.</p>
BOX 34	<p><u>2005 Addition, 1775-1780</u></p> <p>Typed transcripts of letters from Nathan Hale (1743-1780) to his wife, Abigail Hale, prior to his death as a prisoner of the British.</p> <p>Arranged chronologically.</p>
BOX 34	<p><u>2023 Addition, 1892-1910</u></p> <p>Correspondence to and from Harriet E. Freeman, including a large quantity of correspondence with Edward Everett Hale, which is filed as special correspondence.</p> <p>Arranged as general correspondence and special correspondence and therein chronologically.</p>

Container List

Container	Contents
BOX 1-12	General Family Correspondence, 1698-1876 Letters sent and received by members of the Hale and Everett families, consisting chiefly of the correspondence of Nathan Hale (1784-1863) and correspondence from Alexander Hill Everett to his brother Edward Everett. Also included are miscellaneous legal and financial documents, such as deeds, receipts, and shares of stock, largely belonging to Alexander Hill. Arranged as Hale and Everett family correspondence and therein chronologically.
BOX 1	Hale family
BOX 1	1698-1836, Mar.
BOX 2	1836, May-1843, June 7
BOX 3	1843, June 11-1844, Apr. 23
BOX 4	1844, Apr. 24-1847, Jan.
BOX 5	1847, Feb.-1849, Apr. 14
BOX 6	1849, Apr. 25-1849, Nov., undated
BOX 7	1850-1853, Sept.
BOX 8	1853, Nov.-1876
BOX 9	Everett family
BOX 9	1806-1824, Feb.
BOX 10	1824, Dec.-1831, Jan.
BOX 11	1831, Feb.-1837, June
BOX 12	1837, Aug.-1847
BOX 13-25	General and Special Correspondence of Edward Everett Hale, 1841-1916 Correspondence to and from Edward Everett Hale, including a large quantity of correspondence with Harriet E. Freeman, which is filed as special correspondence. Arranged as general correspondence and special correspondence and therein chronologically.
BOX 13	General correspondence, 1841, 1852-1909, undated
BOX 14	Special correspondence
BOX 14	1870, 1882-1885
BOX 15	1887-1889
BOX 15	1890
BOX 15	Jan.-July
BOX 16	Aug.-Dec.
BOX 16	1891-1892
BOX 17	1893-1894
BOX 17	1895
BOX 17	Jan.-June
BOX 18	July-Dec.
BOX 18	1896-1897
BOX 19	1898
BOX 19	1899

General and Special Correspondence of Edward Everett Hale, 1841-1916

Container	Contents
BOX 19	Jan.-Aug.
BOX 20	Sept.-Dec.
BOX 20	1900
BOX 20	1901
BOX 20	Jan.-Aug.
BOX 21	Sept.-Dec.
BOX 21	1902
BOX 21	Jan.-Aug.
BOX 22	Sept.-Nov.
BOX 22	1903
BOX 23	1904-1905
BOX 24	1906-1909, circa 1916
BOX 25	Undated
BOX 25	By month
BOX 25	By day of the week
BOX 25	Miscellaneous letters
BOX 25	Miscellaneous fragments
BOX 26-28	Genealogical and Biographical Material, 1843-1914 Genealogical correspondence, notes, and printed matter relating to the Everett, Hale, Hill, and Sears families. Arranged alphabetically by type of material and therein by name of individual or family.
BOX 26	Genealogical correspondence, 1843-1914, undated
BOX 26	Genealogical notes and genealogies
BOX 26	Everett family
BOX 26	Hill-Sears families
BOX 27	Hale family (8 folders)
BOX 27	Miscellaneous (4 folders)
BOX 28	Printed and other biographical material
BOX 28	Hale, Edward Everett, and Enoch Hale
BOX 28	Hale, Nathan (4 folders)
BOX 28	Hale family
BOX 28-32	Business Records, 1782-1860 Financial accounts, legal documents, journals, notes, indexes, and printed matter, primarily relating to railroads and other business activities of Nathan Hale (1784-1863). Arranged by type of material or topic.
BOX 28	Fragments
BOX 28	Chesapeake and Ohio Canal, Md. and Washington, D.C., 1841-1847
BOX 28	Boston Water Power Co., 1846-1849, 1860
BOX 28	Brookline Reservoir and Newton and Brookline tunnels, Mass., 1847-1849
BOX 29	York & Cumberland Railroad, Maine, legal case, minutes of evidence, 1854 (2 folders)

Business Records, 1782-1860

Container	Contents
BOX 29	Railroad journals kept by Charles Hale, 1839-1844 (4 folders)
BOX 30	Railroad miscellany (5 folders)
BOX 31	(5 folders)
BOX 31	Account book kept by Oliver Everett, 1782-1801
BOX 32	Notes
BOX 32	Notes in the hand of Nathan Hale (1784-1863) (2 folders)
BOX 32	Printed material (2 folders)
BOX 32	Index to the Boston <i>Daily Advertiser</i> , 1855
BOX 32	Pennsylvania miscellany
BOX 32-33	Writings, 1781-1900 Essays and some letters, probably written by Alexander Hill Everett; a lecture by Edward Everett; lectures, an essay, and miscellaneous writings of Edward Everett Hale; sermons and lectures, probably written by Enoch Hale; and unidentified material written either by a man named Hopkins or by Moses Hale. Arranged by name of author with miscellaneous and unidentified writings filed at the end.
BOX 32	Everett, Alexander Hill, essays
BOX 32	Everett, Edward, lecture
BOX 32	Hale, Edward Everett, lecture, essay, and miscellaneous writings
BOX 32	Miscellaneous
BOX 33	Lectures and sermons (7 folders)
BOX 33-34	Memorabilia, 1798-1912 Journals, handwritten digest of congressional debates, portraits, programs, clippings, and other printed matter, as well as locks of hair and pressed flowers sent by Edward Everett Hale to Harriet E. Freeman. Arranged by type of material or name of individual.
BOX 33	Congressional debates on the Smithsonian Institution, 1836
BOX 33	Daily journals by Nathaniel Fletcher, 1798-1800 (2 folders)
BOX 33	Hale, Edward Everett Hale
BOX 33	Portraits and ephemera
BOX 34	Locks of hair and pressed flowers (2 folders)
BOX 34	Miscellany
BOX 34	2005 Addition, 1775-1780 Typed transcripts of letters from Nathan Hale (1743-1780) to his wife, Abigail Hale, prior to his death as a prisoner of the British. Arranged chronologically.

2005 Addition, 1775-1780

Container	Contents
BOX 34	Letters of Nathan Hale (1743-1780), 1775-1780
BOX 34	2023 Addition, 1892-1910 Correspondence to and from Harriet E. Freeman, including a large quantity of correspondence with Edward Everett Hale, which is filed as special correspondence. Arranged as general correspondence and special correspondence and therein chronologically.
BOX 34	General correspondence
BOX 34	1892-1893
BOX 34	1906-1910, undated
BOX 34	Special correspondence
BOX 34	1905, Dec.
BOX 34	1906, Jan.
BOX 34	1906, Feb.
BOX 34	1906, Mar.
BOX 34	1906, Apr.-May
BOX 34	circa 1906