

Yale University Library
Yale Divinity Library

Guide to the Nott Family Papers

RG 304



Andover Newton Theological School and Yale Divinity Library staff

2018

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New Haven, CT 06511
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Collection Overview

REPOSITORY: Yale Divinity Library
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New Haven, CT 06511
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<http://web.library.yale.edu/divinity/special-collections>

CALL NUMBER: RG 304

CREATOR: Nott, Eliphalet, 1773-1866

TITLE: Nott Family Papers

DATES: 1797-1944

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: 1.5 linear feet (4 boxes)

LANGUAGE: English

SUMMARY: The Nott Family Papers document the life and work of three generations of family members. Eliphalet Nott (1773-1866) served as president of Union College for 62 years beginning in 1804. Eliphalet's brother Samuel Nott (1754-1852) was a Congregational minister in Franklin, Connecticut for 70 years. The bulk of the collection relates to Samuel's son, also named Samuel (1787-1869) who, with his wife Roxana Peck Nott, went to India as part of the first group of missionaries commissioned by the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions.

ONLINE FINDING AID: To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/divinity.304>

Requesting Instructions

To request items from this collection for use on site, please use the request links in the HTML version of this finding aid, available at <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/divinity.304>.

Key to the container abbreviations used in the PDF finding aid:

b. box
f. folder

Administrative Information

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Transferred from Andover Newton Theological School, 2017.

Custodial History

Donated to Andover Newton Theological School by Roxana Vivian, granddaughter of Gordon Hall Nott.

Conditions Governing Access

This collection is open for research.

Preferred Citation

Nott Family Papers (RG 304), Special Collections, Yale Divinity School Library.

Processing Information

Place names were modernized in the description, with the name originally used in the collection material or in an older version of the finding aid in parenthesis: e.g. "Beijing (Peking)" or "Benin (Dahomey)".

Biographical / Historical

Eliphalet Nott (1773-1866), a Presbyterian clergyman known as a gifted pulpit orator, served churches in New York state before becoming president of Union College in 1804, where he served for 62 years. Eliphalet's brother Samuel Nott (1754-1852) was a Congregational minister in Franklin, Connecticut for 70 years. During the course of his long ministry he instructed over 200 young men in his home, preparing some for college and some for theological training. His younger brother Eliphalet was one of the students he instructed.

Samuel Nott (1787-1869) was the son of Samuel (1750-1852). Roxana Peck (1785-1876) spent her childhood in Franklin, CT. Before her marriage to Samuel (1787-1869) in 1812, she had taught school at various places in Connecticut and Maine. Shortly after their marriage, Roxana and Samuel went to India as part of the first group of missionaries commissioned by the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions. They were compelled to return to the United States in 1816 because of ill health, and were released from Board service at that time. For several years Samuel taught in New York City. In 1823 the family moved to Galway, NY, where he became pastor of a Presbyterian church there; and in 1829 he became pastor of the Congregational church in Wareham, Ma. Samuel returned to teaching in 1849; and the family moved to Hartford in 1866.

Samuel and Roxana Nott had seven children: Eliphalet, Gordon Hall (d.1903?), Harriet, John Wade (1822-1911), Samuel (1815-1899), Sarah Maria (1826-1910?), and William (1817-1890). Little is known about the lives of Eliphalet, Harriet, and Sarah Maria. Gordon Hall and Samuel (1815-1899) were civil engineers whose professional work was with various railway companies. William was a seaman; and John Wade was an Episcopal rector.

Scope and Contents

This collection documents the life and work of three generations of the Nott family. Eliphalet Nott (1773-1866) served as president of Union College for 62 years beginning in 1804. Eliphalet's brother Samuel Nott (1754-1852) was a Congregational minister in Franklin, Connecticut for 70 years. The bulk of the collection relates to Samuel's son, also named Samuel (1787-1869) who, with his wife Roxana Peck Nott, went to India as part of the first group of missionaries commissioned by the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions. The lives and work of Samuel and Roxana's seven children are also documented.

The collection includes correspondence and memorabilia collected by Roxana Nott Vivian and Roxana H. Vivian, respectively daughter and granddaughter of Gordon Hall Nott. The material is arranged by generation, alphabetical order by given name within each generation.

Arrangement

The collection is organized into five series:

Series I. Papers of Eliphalet Nott (1773-1866).

Series II. Papers of Samuel Nott (1754-1852).

Series III. Papers of Papers of Roxana Peck Nott.

Series IV. Papers of Samuel Nott (1787-1869).

Series V. Papers of children of Roxana and Samuel Nott.

Collection Contents**Series I: Papers of Eliphalet Nott (1773-1866)**

Correspondence		
b. 1, f. 1-4	Letters from brother Samuel Nott (1754-1852), primarily written from Franklin, Connecticut	1797-1835
Memorabilia		
b. 1, f. 5	Horatio Potter, Address delivered at the Annual Commencement of Union College, June 23, 1875	1875
b. 1, f. 5	"Eliphalet Nott: a memorial" [three addresses delivered at Ashford, Conn.]	1933 October 21
b. 1, f. 5	Dixon Ryan Fox, "Dr. Eliphalet Nott (1773-1866) and the American spirit" (A Newcomen Address)	1944
b. 1, f. 5	"Perseventia vincit omnia nec non et in gloriam ducit"(Union College)	1858 March
b. 1, f. 5	George C. Chappell, "Eliphalet Nott: an address" [at the dedication of the Eliphalet Nott Memorial Highway]	1933 October 21
b. 1, f. 5	Invitation to unveiling of marker of Eliphalet Nott Memorial Highway	1933 October
b. 1, f. 5	"Reverend Eliphalet Nott Memorial dedication: programme"	1933 October 21
b. 1, f. 6	Photograph of Mrs. Joel Nott and Margaret Cooper	No date
b. 1, f. 6	"In memoriam: Mrs. Urania E. Nott"	1886?
Clippings		
b. 1, f. 6	"A daily lesson in history: Rev. Eliphalet Nott, the college president who invented a stove"	No date
b. 1, f. 6	"Mother and sons"	No date
b. 1, f. 6	Untitled, on Hon. Charles Cooper Nott, son of Eliphalet	No date
b. 1, f. 6	"Services tomorrow for Mrs. Sturges"	No date
b. 1, f. 6	"2 Liberty ships launched at South Portland yard"	No date
b. 1, f. 6	"In memory of Eliphalet Nott"	1904?
b. 1, f. 6	W. Scott, "Great American college presidents: Eliphalet Nott of Union College" (<i>The People</i> >, March-May 1908)	1908
b. 1, f. 6	"Letters from the people: 'The Everlasting Perkinses'"	1912 March 29
b. 1, f. 6	Photograph of memorial marker (<i>Union Alumni Monthly</i>)	1933 November
b. 1, f. 6	"News and comment: The Nott Highway" (<i>Union Alumni Monthly</i>)	1933 November
b. 1, f. 6	"1934 sees how students of 1834 lived"	1934
Writings		

Writings (continued)

b. 4, f. 1

Miscellaneous Works by Eliphalet Nott (Schenectady, 1810)

1810

Series II: Papers of Samuel Nott (1754-1852)

Correspondence

The correspondence includes some letters addressed to Lucretia Nott, wife of Samuel (1754-1852)

b. 1, f. 7	From son Samuel, including from Kolkata (Calcutta) and Mumbai (Bombay)	1810-1813
b. 1, f. 8	From son Samuel in Mumbai (Bombay)	1813-1815
b. 1, f. 9	From son Samuel in London and New York; from brother Eliphalet in Schenectady	1816-1817
b. 1, f. 10	From daughter-in-law Roxana and son Samuel in New York; from brother Eliphalet in Schenectady	1818-1820
b. 1, f. 11	To the Society Committee of Franklin Church; from son Samuel in New York	1821-1822
b. 1, f. 12	To David Brainerd Spencer, David Putnam; from George M. Selden	1825-1827
b. 1, f. 13	From son Samuel in Wareham; brother Eliphalet in Schenectady; Sherman Converse in New York	1829-1831
b. 1, f. 14	From son Samuel in Wareham; grandson Samuel in Springfield, MA; to/from Levi Hart Godard	1832-1835
b. 1, f. 15	From son Samuel in Wareham; to Levi Hart Godard and Charles Goddard	1836-1838
b. 1, f. 16	From C.H.B. Lord in Adams, Ohio; from son Samuel and daughter-in-law Roxana in Wareham; to John W. Allen and Thomas Lord	1839-1842
b. 1, f. 17	From son Samuel in Wareham; Timothy M. Cooley in Granville; A. Rankin in Chester, VT; to A. Rankin	1843-1844
b. 1, f. 18	From son Samuel in Wareham; Royal R. Hinman in Hartford	1845-1851
Memorabilia		
b. 1, f. 19	Six documents concerning land deed and legal transactions	
b. 1, f. 20	Account of Samuel Nott by Kingman Nott	1851
b. 1, f. 20	E.W. Robinson, "Lines addressed to Rev. Samuel Nott D.D., at his house, on his 97th birth day [sic], Jan. 23d, 1851" (printed, no source)	1851
b. 4, f. 2	Bound volume: "The Celebration of the One Hundred and Fiftieth Anniversary of the Primitive Organization of the Congregational Church and Society in Franklin, Connecticut"	1869

Series III: Papers of Roxana Peck Nott

Writings

b. 1, f. 21	Biblical lessons on Genesis written for her children	1821-1822, no date
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b. 1, f. 21	Memoir: "A Little story: recollections from her earliest years of Mrs. Roxana Nott, written in her ninetieth year" (typewritten transcript, no date)	
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Memorabilia

b. 1, f. 22	Stories of 1806 eclipse retold; how it scared cows on Common" (<i>Boston Herald</i>)	1906?
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b. 1, f. 22	How it seemed in the 1806 eclipse (Transcript, no date)	
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b. 1, f. 22	Two letters to Roxana Vivian from Stacy R. Warburton regarding his research on RPN	1934
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b. 1, f. 22	[Roxana Vivian], "Recollections" (Roxana Nott's memoir with additions and annotations)	
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Series IV: Papers of Samuel Nott (1787-1869)

Correspondence

b. 1, f. 23	From father Samuel and sister Susan in Franklin	1804–1809
b. 1, f. 24	From father Samuel in Franklin (including notes from mother Lucretia and sister Lucretia)	1810
b. 1, f. 25	From father Samuel in Franklin (including notes from mother and siblings); from George Burden, Levi Hart, Gordon Hall	1811
b. 1, f. 26	From Adoniram Judson in Andover; Charles B. King in Hartford; Robert Ralston in Philadelphia	1812
b. 1, f. 27	From Eleazer Lord in Andover; to unidentified person, written from Kolkata (Calcutta)	1812
b. 1, f. 28	From parents and siblings; from Adoniram Judson in Port Louis; from [Samuel Newell] and J.W. [Sheser?] in Kolkata (Calcutta)	1813 January - May
b. 1, f. 29	From Samuel Newell in Colombo; father Samuel in Franklin (includes letter to Roxana from Samuel's sister Lucretia); Margaret Cleveland in Norwich (includes letter from [W. & M.?] Cleveland)	1813 July - September
b. 1, f. 30	From Roxana in Mumbai (Bombay); parents and siblings in Franklin; Jonathan Hyde in Liverpool; [Roxana] to Samuel Newell from Mumbai (Bombay)	1813 October - November
b. 1, f. 31	To Samuel Worcester; from Gordon Hall and Samuel Newell; Jonathan Mason; parents	1814–1815
b. 1, f. 32	From Jeremiah Everts; [W.S. ___]; Samuel Newell; Samuel Worcester; Eliphalet Nott; Eleazar Lord; J. Hunter; Miron Winslow	1816
b. 1, f. 33	From Eleazer Lord; David Parker; Samuel Newell; Samuel Worcester; [Charles B.?] King; Robert Ralston; Daniel C. Banks; Gordon Hall and Samuel Newell; E.D. Griffin; Jeremiah Everts; Eliphalet Nott; Samuel Worcester; Eleazer Lord; [James Kent?]	1817
b. 1, f. 34	From [James Kent?]; [Rensselaer Havens?]; Roxana and father Samuel in Franklin; Samuel Newell in Mumbai (Bombay)	1818
b. 1, f. 35	From parents, siblings, and Roxana in Franklin; James M. Winchell in Boston; Adoniram Judson in Rangoon; Krishnabhat Bedekar Vaidya (in Marathi? with English translation)	1819–1820
b. 1, f. 36	From Eliphalet Nott in Schenectady; Gordon Hall in Kolkata (Calcutta); father Samuel and sister Lucretia in Franklin; Henry Hill in Boston	1823
b. 2, f. 1	From Eliza [Bruen?] in Boston; Forbes & Co. in Mumbai (Bombay) (includes copies of letters to Messrs. Percher & Co., London, June 3, 1815, and Messrs. Inglis, Forbes & Co., London, March 27, 1824); Benjamin Allen in Hyde Park, NY; Roxana in Galway, NY; Jeremiah Everts in Boston; Gordon Hall in Mumbai (Bombay); Inglis Forbes & Co. in London	1824–1825
b. 2, f. 2	From Jeremiah Everts in Boston; Leonard Woods in Andover; Inglis Forbes & Co. in London (2 copies); father Samuel in Franklin; Margaret Hall in West Granville; Eliza Converse (aunt) in New Haven (includes letter from sister Eliza)	1826

Correspondence (continued)

b. 2, f. 3	From father Samuel in Franklin; Luther Rice in Washington, D.C. (circular letter with handwritten note); M. Winslow in [Oodooville?]; J. West in New York	1827-1828
b. 2, f. 4	From Isaac Fobes in Wareham; Samuel Whittelsey in Utica; J. Hanes in Hartford; Caleb J. Tenney in Wethersfield, CT; father Samuel; Eliphalet Nott	1829
b. 2, f. 5	From Selah Otis in Galway (includes letter from Caroline Otis)	1830
b. 2, f. 6	From son Samuel	1833
b. 2, f. 7	From son Samuel	1834-1835
b. 2, f. 8	From son Samuel	1837
b. 2, f. 9-12	From sons Samuel and Eliphalet; from father Samuel	1838-1842
b. 2, f. 13	From son Samuel and father Samuel; from L. Ashburner; G.W. Blagden; M.B. Sedgwick; Gordon H. Nott; W.C. Woodbridge	1843-1844
b. 2, f. 14	From son Samuel and father Samuel; from S. Holmes; Thomas Williams	1845-1846
b. 2, f. 15	From son Samuel and father Samuel; from Lucretia Hyde (niece); Rufus Rood	1847-1850
b. 2, f. 16	From Samuel Nott Hyde (nephew); James Smith; Eliphalet Nott; Eli Hyde; E. Bigelow; son Samuel	1852-1855
b. 2, f. 17	Including from son Samuel; S. Holmes	1856-1860
b. 2, f. 18	From son Samuel	1861-1865
b. 2, f. 19	From Gordon Hall; L. Asburner	Undated; ca. 1816-1824
Memorabilia		
b. 2, f. 20	Photographs of Samuel, his ordination, and Wareham church	No date
b. 2, f. 20	Noble W. Everett, "Historical Paper, No. 10: Rev. Samuel Nott, Jr." (no source, no date)	
b. 2, f. 20	"The Haystack Meeting and its Outcome", reprinted from <i>In Lands Afar</i>	No date
b. 2, f. 21	Letter to Samuel from Chief Justice Taney, Aug. 19, 1857, printed with introduction by Massachusetts Historical Society, March 1873	
b. 2, f. 21	"The Door Opened: A Missionary Story" [pamphlet], May 1899, reprinted from <i>Religious Herald</i> , February 1892	
b. 2, f. 21	"The Haystack Centennial" (<i>Springfield Republican</i> , July 29, 1906)	
b. 2, f. 21	"Memorial boulder on Andover Hill," reprinted from <i>Andover Townsman</i> , July 29, 1910	
b. 2, f. 21	Letter to Roxana Vivian from C.C. Carpenter, Oct. 5, 1910	
b. 2, f. 21	"Proceedings at the unveiling of the monument to commemorate the organization of the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions" [pamphlet] Oct. 12, 1910	

Memorabilia (continued)

b. 2, f. 22	American Board Centennial, 1910: Pilgrimage to Andover: itinerary and dedication service, October 12, 1910	
b. 2, f. 22	Letter to Roxana Vivian from C.C. Carpenter, October 13, 1910	
b. 2, f. 22	"Andover pilgrimage" (<i>Phillips Bulletin</i> , January 1911)	
b. 2, f. 22	[Announcement of anniversary ordinations, February 6, 1912], Tabernacle Church	
b. 2, f. 22	[Invitation to anniversary ordinations, with RSVP request and ticket], January 15, 1912	
b. 2, f. 22	"Centenary of the ordination of the first missionaries ..." - order of worship and photographs] Tabernacle Church, February 6, 1912	
b. 2, f. 23	Five new missionaries ordained at Tabernacle (<i>Salem Evening News</i> , February 7, 1912)	
b. 2, f. 23	Commemorations of centennial of Samuel Nott, Jr. sailing as missionary	1912
b. 2, f. 24-27	Memoir: "In memoriam Rev. Samuel Nott, 1788-1869." Manuscript dated 12/19/95, copied and annotated by son Samuel from Samuel, Jr.'s manuscript	
b. 3, f. 1-2	Continuation of "In memoriam Rev. Samuel Nott, 1788-1869." Manuscript dated 12/19/95, copied and annotated by son Samuel from Samuel, Jr.'s manuscript	
b. 4, f. 3	"Memoirs of Harriet Newell"	1815
Writings		
b. 4, f. 3A	Writings by Samuel Nott, Jun.: "Memorial of Sarah Salwa, an African girl, who died in the New-York Hospital, Sept. 1822, about 18 years of age" in <i>The Christian Herald</i> ; <i>Sermons for Children</i> (1828); <i>The Telescope: or Sacred Views of Things Past, Present, and to Come</i> (1832)	1823-1832

Series V: Papers of Children of Roxana and Samuel Nott

Eliphalet Nott		
b. 3, f. 3	Journal	1835 July 30 - 1838 August 21
b. 3, f. 4	Loose pages from journal, March -October [1850] and envelope with notes by [R. Vivian]	
b. 3, f. 4	Obituary of Eliphalet 2 (<i>Chicago Tribune</i> , no date)	
b. 3, f. 4	Obituary of Richard Hartley Nott (Eliphalet's son) (<i>Biddeford Daily Journal</i> , January 23, 1915)	
b. 3, f. 4	List of "papers destroyed," Hartley Nott estate; with notes on H. Nott	
Gordon Hall Nott		
b. 3, f. 5	Correspondence, including from A. Webster, George Curtis Treadwell, Abram S. Hewitt, Samuel Babcock; to/from Theodore Roosevelt	1868, 1899, 1900, 1903
b. 3, f. 6	Memorabilia, including articles by Gordon Hall Nott regarding Chicago sewage system; obituary	1886-1903
b. Ovd9	Two photographs of residences of Gordon Hall Nott, Chicago, Hyde Park	Circa 1880
Harriet Nott		
b. 3, f. 7	Notebook, including biblical texts arranged by topic	
John Wade Nott		
b. 3, f. 8	Memorabilia including Confirmation certificate, Sept. 10, 1848, Certificate of completion, General Theological Seminary, June 26, 1851, Certificate of ordination as deacon, Sept. 23, 1851; Shares in Waukulla Mining Co., certificates 23, 25, 26, 28; Oct. 22, 1860	1848-1860
b. 3, f. 8	Article and sermon by J. W. Nott	1882-1885
b. 3, f. 9	Obituary and tributes to J. W. Nott	1911
b. 3, f. 9	Will and legal documents	1904-1912
b. 3, f. 10-11	Photographs of Nott, rectory and church, clergy	No date
Samuel Nott (1815-1899)		
b. 3, f. 12	Notebook; includes autobiographical notes made 1863-1890	
b. 3, f. 13-14	Correspondence, including to/from parents and siblings; from A. Huntington, Robert E. Winthrop, A. C. Thompson, DeWitt S. Clark, George E. Gray, S. E. Tinkham	1856-1895
b. 3, f. 15	Obituary and tributes to Samuel (1815-1899)	1899-1903
Photographs of Samuel		
Sarah Maria Nott		

Sarah Maria Nott (continued)

b. 3, f. 16	"A little story: recollections from her earliest years of Mrs. Roxana Nott," copied and annotated by Sarah Nott	
b. 3, f. 16	Obituary, will, account of estate of Sarah	1904-1910
b. 3, f. 17	Photograph of Sarah M. Nott	1902
b. 3, f. 17	Drawing of Washington's headquarters, Newburgh, N.Y., by Sarah M. Nott	
William Nott		
b. 3, f. 18	Account of clipper ship "Don Quixote", unidentified hand;Reference for William Nott from G.B. _of ship "Illinois"	No date
b. 3, f. 18	Obituary and memorial to William	1890
b. 3, f. 18	Photograph of wife Mary Nye Nott	No date

Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

Subjects

Clergy -- Connecticut
Missions -- India

Contributors

Nott, Eliphalet, 1773-1866
Nott, Samuel, 1788-1869
Nott, Samuel, 1754-1852