

Guide to the Nathaniel T. Allen Collection

GEN MSS 1401



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2016 February

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Collection Overview

REPOSITORY: Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library
P. O. Box 208330
New Haven, CT 06520-8330
(203) 432-2977
beinecke.library@yale.edu
<http://beinecke.library.yale.edu/>

CALL NUMBER: GEN MSS 1401

CREATOR: Allen, Nathaniel T. (Nathaniel Topliff), 1823-1903

TITLE: Nathaniel T. Allen collection

DATES: 1834-2009

BULK DATES: 1843-1903

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: 1.54 linear feet (5 boxes + 1 broadside)

LANGUAGE: English

SUMMARY: The collection contains correspondence, writings, and other papers of educator and social reformer Nathaniel T. Allen, and biographical and research materials about him. Manuscripts in each series are accompanied by additional photocopied materials, some annotated by an unidentified researcher; for most, locations of originals are unidentified.

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

Requesting Instructions

To request items from this collection for use in the Beinecke Library reading room, please use the request links in the HTML version of this finding aid, available at <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/beinecke.allen>.

To order reproductions from this collection, please send an email with the call number, box number(s), and folder number(s) to beinecke.images@yale.edu.

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

b. box
f. folder

Administrative Information

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Purchased from M & S Rare Books on the Jockey Hollow Fund, 2012.

Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

Conditions Governing Use

The Nathaniel T. Allen Collection is the physical property of the Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University. Literary rights, including copyright, belong to the authors or their legal heirs and assigns. For further information, consult the appropriate curator.

Conditions Governing Use

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Preferred Citation

Nathaniel T. Allen Collection. General Collection, Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University.

Biographical / Historical

Nathaniel T. (Nathaniel Topliff) Allen (1823-1903) was an American educator and social reformer. Allen graduated from the State Normal School (Bridgewater, Mass.) in 1845, and attended the Rensselaer Institute (later Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute) in 1847. During 1848-1853, he was principal of the Model School in West Newton, Massachusetts, which was associated with the State Normal School at West Newton (later Framingham State University), founded by Horace Mann, Secretary of the Massachusetts State Board of Education. Allen founded the West Newton English and Classical School in 1854, and served as its director until 1900. Teachers at the West Newton English and Classical School included Allen's wife, Caroline Swift Bassett Allen (1830-1915); his brothers George Ellis Allen (1817-1888), Joseph Addison Allen (1819-1904), and James Theodore Allen (1831-1900); and his daughters, Fanny Bassett Allen (1857-1913) and Lucy Ellis Allen (1867-1943), who also founded the Misses Allen School in West Newton in 1904. Nathaniel T. Allen was an advocate of social reforms including abolition and women's suffrage, and his educational reforms and innovations included kindergarten, co-education of boys and girls, racial integration, and study of natural science and physical fitness.

Scope and Contents

The collection contains correspondence, writings, and other papers of educator and social reformer Nathaniel T. Allen, and biographical and research materials about him. Manuscripts in each series are accompanied by additional photocopied materials, some annotated by an unidentified researcher; for most, locations of originals are unidentified.

Correspondence with family, colleagues, and students, 1846-1902, includes letters from Allen to his family, 1851, about travel from Charleston, South Carolina, to New Orleans, Louisiana, with observations on slavery and other impressions of the South; letters to Allen from colleagues, 1865, about his acquittal on charges of assaulting and causing the death of a student; and condolence letters following the death of his daughter, Sarah Caroline Allen Cooney (1861-1897).

Notebooks include student notes from the State Normal School (Bridgewater, Mass.), 1845-1846, about arithmetic, algebra, geometry, physiology, geography, and grammar, and the Rensselaer Institute, 1847, about botany and chemistry; teaching notes relating to the Model School in West Newton, 1852-1853; notes, accounts, and a scrapbook from travel in Europe and research on education in Germany, 1869-1871; and catalogs of his library and mineral specimens, undated. Other writings include a draft biography of Irish

social reformer and suffragist Frances Power Cobbe, undated; and notes, articles, and speeches, 1869-1902 and undated, relating to education, politics, religion, travel, and other subjects.

Biographical materials include memoirs by Allen, 1884 and undated; biographical sketches from published reference sources, 1890-1929; a typescript eulogy by Julian Clifford Jaynes, minister of the First Unitarian Society in West Newton; obituaries; and other articles about Allen and the West Newton English and Classical School, 1853-1993.

Other papers include real estate deeds and maps for properties owned by Allen and his family in West Newton and Medfield, Massachusetts, 1840s-1911; financial accounts with James Theodore Allen, Joseph Addison Allen, and others, 1843-1893; a photograph of a school picnic, 1892, and reproductions of photographs of Allen, 1840s and undated; printed material including advertisements for Pinehurst Resort, North Carolina, 1897-1898 and undated; and a small amount of notes and research material by an unidentified researcher, 2009 and undated.

Arrangement

Organized into five series: I. Correspondence, 1846-1902. II., Notebooks, 1843-1871. III. Other Writings, 1869-1902. IV. Biographical Materials, 1834-1993. V. Other Papers, 1840s-2009.

Collection Contents

Series I: Correspondence, 1846-1902

0.21 linear feet (1 box)

b. 1, f. 1	Correspondence	1846-1855
b. 1, f. 2	Correspondence	1865 February- June
b. 1, f. 3	Correspondence	1869-1897
b. 1, f. 4	Correspondence	1897
b. 1, f. 5	Correspondence	1898-1902, undated

Series II: Notebooks, 1843-1871, undated*0.42 linear feet (1 box)*

b. 1, f. 6	Autograph collection	1843-1844
b. 1, f. 7	State Normal School (Bridgewater, Mass.)	1845
b. 1, f. 8	State Normal School (Bridgewater, Mass.)	1846
b. 2, f. 9	Rensselaer Institute (botany)	1847
b. 2, f. 10	Rensselaer Institute (chemistry)	1847
b. 2, f. 11	State Normal School at West Newton (Mass.)	1852-1853
b. 2, f. 12-14	Travel in Europe	1869-1871
b. 2, f. 15	Travel in Europe (materials formerly laid in)	1864-1870
b. 2, f. 16	Travel in Europe scrapbook	1869-1871
b. 2, f. 17	Library catalog	undated
b. 2, f. 18	Mineral specimens catalog	undated

Series III: Other Writings, 1869-1902, undated*0.21 linear feet (part of 1 box)*

b. 3, f. 19	Education	1902, undated
b. 3, f. 20	Education in Germany	1869-1872, undated
b. 3, f. 21	Francis Power Cobbe	undated
b. 3, f. 22	Other subjects	1888-1901
b. 3, f. 23-24	Other subjects	undated
b. 3, f. 25	Newspaper articles and letters to editors See also: Oversize	1874-1901, undated

Series IV: Biographical Materials, 1834-1993, undated*0.21 linear feet (part of 1 box)*

b. 3, f. 26	Memberships See also: Oversize	1834-1903
b. 3, f. 27	Memoir	1884
b. 3, f. 28	Memoir	undated
b. 3, f. 29	Memoir by Lucy Allen (excerpts)	1885
b. 3, f. 30	Other memoirs (excerpts)	1844-1901, undated
b. 3, f. 31	Published biographical sketches	1890-1929
b. 4, f. 32	Eulogy by Julian Clifford Jaynes	[1903]
b. 4, f. 33	Obituaries	1903
b. 4, f. 34-36	Articles about Allen and the West Newton English and Classical School	1853-1993

Series V: Other Papers, 1840s-2009*0.21 linear feet (part of 1 box)*

b. 4, f. 37	Financial accounts with James Theodore Allen	1875-1901, undated
b. 4, f. 38	Financial accounts with Joseph Addison Allen	1886-1898
b. 4, f. 39	Other financial accounts	1843-1893
b. 4, f. 40	Photographs	1892, undated
b. 4, f. 41	Printed material: Pellew, George, Woman and the Commonwealth, or, A Question of Expediency (Boston: Houghton, Mifflin and Company, 1892)	1892
b. 4, f. 42	Printed material about Maine	1893-1898, undated
b. 4, f. 43-44	Printed material about Pinehurst Resort, North Carolina See also: Oversize	1897-1898, undated
b. 4, f. 45	Other printed material See also: Oversize	1871-1896, undated
b. 4, f. 46-47	Real estate deeds	1840s-1911, undated
	Real estate maps See: Oversize	
b. 4, f. 48	Real estate papers about Allen's house in Medfield, Massachusetts	1876-1878
b. 4, f. 49	Notes by an unidentified researcher	2009, undated

Oversize Materials

b. 5, f. 50	Newspapers articles and letters to editors (Series III)	1900, undated
b. 5, f. 51	Memberships (Series IV)	1865
b. 5, f. 52	Printed material about Pinehurst Resort, North Carolina (Series V)	1898
b. 5, f. 53	Other printed material (Series V)	1891, undated
b. 6 (Broadside)	Real estate maps (Series V)	1902, 1910

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

Abolitionists -- Massachusetts
Coeducation -- Massachusetts
Education -- Germany
Education -- Massachusetts
Educators -- Massachusetts
School integration -- Massachusetts
Slavery -- Southern States
Slavery -- United States
Women -- Suffrage -- United States

Corporate Bodies

Pinehurst Resort & Country Club (Pinehurst, N.C.)
Rensselaer Institute -- Students
State Normal School (Bridgewater, Mass.) -- Students
State Normal School at Framingham, Mass
State Normal School at West Newton (Mass.)
West Newton English and Classical School

Geographic Names

Medfield (Mass.: Town) -- Maps
Medfield (Mass.: Town) -- Social life and customs
Pinehurst (N.C.) -- Social life and customs
Southern States -- Description and travel
West Newton (Newton, Mass.) -- Social life and customs

Genres / Formats

Photographs

Occupations

Abolitionists -- Massachusetts -- 19th century
Educators -- Massachusetts -- 19th century

Names

Allen, Caroline Swift Bassett, 1830-1915
Allen, Fanny Bassett
Allen, George Ellis, 1817-1888
Allen, James Theodore, 1831-1900
Allen, Joseph Addison, 1819-1904
Allen, Lucy, 1793-1889
Allen, Lucy Ellis
Allen, Nathaniel T. (Nathaniel Topliff), 1823-1903
Cobbe, Frances Power, 1822-1904
Cooney, Sarah Allen
Jaynes, Julian Clifford, 1854-1922