

Ethan Allen Hitchcock Papers

A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress

Prepared by Manuscript Division Staff
Revised by Donna Ellis



Manuscript Division, Library of
Congress

Washington, D.C.

2010

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

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Collection Summary

Title: Ethan Allen Hitchcock Papers

Span Dates: 1793-1888

Bulk Dates: (bulk 1830-1865)

ID No.: MSS26062

Creator: Hitchcock, Ethan Allen, 1798-1870

Extent: 3,000 items; 13 containers plus 1 oversize; 5.2 linear feet

Language: Collection material in English

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

Abstract: Army officer and author. Collection includes correspondence, notes, speeches and writings, and printed matter relating to Hitchcock's military career and his interest in metaphysics and philosophy.

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.

People

Bell, John, 1797-1869--Correspondence.

Bliss, William Wallace Smith, 1815-1853--Correspondence.

Cullum, George W. (George Washington), 1809-1892--Correspondence.

Eliot, William Greenleaf, 1811-1887--Correspondence.

Fowler, Joseph Smith, 1820-1902--Correspondence.

Herndon, William Henry, 1818-1891.

Herndon, William Henry, 1818-1891--Correspondence.

Hitchcock, Charles M., 1812-1885--Correspondence.

Hitchcock, Ethan Allen, 1835-1909--Correspondence.

Hitchcock, Henry, 1791-1839--Correspondence.

Hitchcock, Samuel, 1808-1851--Correspondence.

Hitchcock, Samuel, 1808-1851. Samuel Hitchcock papers.

Larnard, Charles H., d. 1854--Correspondence.

Lieber, Francis, 1800-1872--Correspondence.

Lincoln, Abraham, 1809-1865.

Mann, Mary Tyler Peabody, 1806-1887--Correspondence.

Miller, James--Correspondence.

Parker, Theodore, 1810-1860--Correspondence.

Scott, Winfield, 1786-1866--Correspondence.

Sherman, William T. (William Tecumseh), 1820-1891--Correspondence.

Worth, William Jenkins, 1794-1849--Correspondence.

Organizations

United States. Army.

United States Military Academy.

United States. War Dept.

Subjects

Alchemy.

Hermetism.

Metaphysics.

Philosophy.

Places

California--History, Military.
California--San Francisco--Commerce.
Florida--History, Military.
Mexico--History, Military.
Missouri--Commerce.
Saint Louis (Mo.)--History
San Francisco (Calif.)--History.
United States--History--Civil War, 1861-1865.

Occupations
Army officers.
Authors.

Administrative Information

Provenance

The papers of Ethan Allen Hitchcock, army officer and author, were deposited in the Library of Congress by Mrs. E. A. Hitchcock and Mrs. William A. Croffut between 1905 and 1934. In 1938 the material remaining on deposit was purchased by the Library from the Croffut estate.

Processing History

The papers of Ethan Allen Hitchcock were arranged and described in 1963. An addition was made in 1984 and the finding aid was revised in 2010.

Other Repositories

Hitchcock's diaries, previously on deposit, are now located in the Thomas Gilcrease Institute of History and Art, Tulsa, Oklahoma.

Related Material

The William A. Croffut Papers includes a manuscript memoir based on Hitchcock's diary.

Copyright Status

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

Access and Restrictions

The papers of Ethan Allen Hitchcock 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, Ethan Allen Hitchcock Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Biographical Note

<i>Date</i>	<i>Event</i>
1798, May 18	Born, Vergennes, Vt.
1817	Graduated, United States Military Academy, West Point, N.Y.

1824-1827	Instructor, United States Military Academy, West Point, N.Y.
1829	Commandant of corps, United States Military Academy, West Point, N.Y.
1833	Offered governorship of Liberia by American Colonization Society
1833-1836	Frontier duty, Fort Crawford, Wis.
1837-1840	Indian duty, Northwest
1841-1843	General duty, Florida
1846	Published, <i>The Doctrines of Spinoza and Swedenborg Identified</i>
1851	Published, <i>Christ the Spirit</i>
1855	Resigned from army
1857	Published, <i>Remarks upon Alchemy and the Alchemists</i>
1858	Published, <i>Swedenborg, a Hermetic Philosopher</i>
1862	Commissioner for Exchange of Prisoners
1865	Published, <i>Remarks on the Sonnets, and Colin Clouts</i> Commissary General of Prisoners of War
1866	Published, <i>Notes on the Vita Nuova</i>
1868	Married Martha Rind Nichols
1870, Aug. 5	Died, Sparta, Ga.

Scope and Content Note

The papers of Ethan Allen Hitchcock (1798-1870) span the years 1793-1888, with the bulk of the material dating between 1830 and 1865. The papers are in English and are organized into five series: [General Correspondence](#), [Speech, Article, and Book File](#), [Subject File](#), [Miscellany](#), and [Oversize](#).

The [General Correspondence](#) series includes letters, originals and copies, sent and received by Hitchcock primarily during his long military career. The letters describe events at the United States Military Academy in West Point, New York, and at his other posts in Florida, Mexico, and California, as well as his War Department experience during and after the Civil War. Information concerning Hitchcock's property in St. Louis and San Francisco may be gleaned from his correspondence with his business agents, one of whom was William T. Sherman. A large part of the correspondence deals with his interest in metaphysics and philosophy which led to a pursuit of the study of alchemy and hermetic philosophy. Principal correspondents include members of the family and the many military and political figures with whom Hitchcock came into contact during his career, including William Greenleaf Elliot, William Jenkins Worth, Samuel Hitchcock, Henry Hitchcock, Mary Tyler Peabody Mann, Charles M. Hitchcock (no relation), Ethan Allen Hitchcock (nephew), George W.

Cullum, Charles H. Larnard, William Wallace Smith Bliss, John Bell, and James Miller, along with some letters from Theodore Parker, Francis Lieber, and Winfield Scott.

The [Speech, Article, and Book File](#) contains Hitchcock's writings, including notes and drafts, pertaining to alchemy and hermetic philosophy. The reference notes contain not only Hitchcock's own scholarship, but that of his brother Samuel Hitchcock and various friends. These items are supplemented by various volumes annotated by Hitchcock.

The [Subject File](#) includes correspondence, financial records, and notes chiefly from the Civil War period. Additionally, there is a manuscript entitled "The paternity of Abraham Lincoln" by William Henry Herndon and three letters about Lincoln from Herndon to Joseph Smith Fowler dated between 1887 and 1888.

The [Miscellany](#) series contains Samuel Hitchcock's diaries, alchemical and occult manuscripts from Ethen Allen Hitchcock's library, newspaper clippings, and printed matter. An [Oversize](#) series consists of appointments and commissions signed by George Washington, John Adams, John C. Calhoun, John Marshall, James Monroe, Thomas Jefferson, and others. These autographs are supplemented by several Abraham Lincoln endorsements included in the [General Correspondence](#).

Arrangement of the Papers

This collection is arranged in five series:

- [General Correspondence, 1810-1872](#)
- [Speech, Article, and Book File, 1846-1866](#)
- [Subject File, 1817-1888](#)
- [Miscellany, 1793-1852](#)
- [Oversize, 1793-1852](#)

Description of Series

<i>Container</i>	<i>Series</i>
BOX 1-4	<u>General Correspondence, 1810-1872</u> Letters, originals and copies, sent and received by Hitchcock relating to his personal and professional activities. Arranged chronologically
BOX 4-10	<u>Speech, Article, and Book File, 1846-1866</u> Writings by Hitchcock including notes, drafts, and reference material Arranged topically
BOX 11	<u>Subject File, 1817-1888</u> Correspondence, financial records, and notes chiefly from the Civil War period. Arranged topically.
BOX 11-13	<u>Miscellany, 1793-1852</u> Diaries, alchemical and occult manuscripts, appointments and commissions, newspaper clippings, and printed matter. Arranged topically.
BOX OV 1	<u>Oversize, 1793-1852</u> Appointments and commissions. Arranged according to the series, folders, and boxes from which the items were removed.

Container List

<i>Container</i>	<i>Contents</i>
BOX 1-4	General Correspondence, 1810-1872 Letters, originals and copies, sent and received by Hitchcock relating to his personal and professional activities. Arranged chronologically
BOX 1	1810-1842
BOX 2	Jan. 1843-Mar. 1862
BOX 3	Apr. 1862-Dec. 1863
BOX 4	1864-1872
BOX 4	Letters and fragments of letters, undated
BOX 4	Lincoln endorsements, undated
BOX 4-10	Speech, Article, and Book File, 1846-1866 Writings by Hitchcock including notes, drafts, and reference material Arranged topically
BOX 4	"On the Meaning of Isaiah VII. 14," undated
BOX 5	Reference
BOX 5	Shakespeare, notes, extracts, drafts, and published volumes, undated
BOX 6	Spinoza, translations by Samuel Hitchcock, undated
BOX 7	Spinoza, notebooks of extracts, undated
BOX 8	Miscellaneous notes, extracts, and drafts, undated
BOX 9	Alchemy [bibliography transferred to case file] and printed material, undated
BOX 9	Published material
BOX 9	"Vita Nuova of Dante" (translation) and Parker sermon, undated
BOX 10	"Goethe's Meister's Apprenticeship," translation by T. Carlyle, undated
BOX 10	Books written by Ethan Allen Hitchcock
BOX 10	<i>Redbook of Apin</i> , 1865
BOX 10	<i>Swedenberg, a Hermetic Philosopher</i> , 1865
BOX 10	<i>Christ the Spirit</i> , second edition annotated in preparation for third edition, undated
BOX 11	Subject File, 1817-1888 Correspondence, financial records, and notes chiefly from the Civil War period. Arranged topically.
BOX 11	Abraham Lincoln
BOX 11	"The Paternity of Lincoln," by William H. Herndon, 1887
BOX 11	Correspondence from William H. Herndon to Joseph Smith Fowler, 1888
BOX 11	Bills and receipts, 1817-1873
BOX 11	Endorsements, 1857-1863

Subject File, 1817-1888

<i>Container</i>	<i>Contents</i>
BOX 11	Invoices, military, 1848
BOX 11	Memoranda, 1840-1868
BOX 11	Notes on McClellan's report, undated
BOX 11	Correspondence of Commissary General of Prisoners, undated
BOX 11-13	Miscellany, 1793-1852 Diaries, alchemical and occult manuscripts, appointments and commissions, newspaper clippings, and printed matter. Arranged topically.
BOX 11	Journal, expedition, 1842
BOX 11	Diaries of Samuel Hitchcock, undated
BOX 11	Appointments and commissions, 1793-1852 <i><u>See also Oversize</u></i>
BOX 12	Printed matter, undated
BOX 12	Newspaper clippings, undated
BOX 12	General, undated
BOX 13	Alchemical and occult manuscripts from Hitchcock's library, undated
BOX OV 1	Oversize, 1793-1852 Appointments and commissions. Arranged according to the series, folders, and boxes from which the items were removed.
BOX OV 1	Appointments and commissions of Samuel and Ethan Allen Hitchcock, 1793-1842 (Container 11)