Guide to the Nathaniel T. Allen Collection

GEN MSS 1401

Karen Spicher

2016 February

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Orbis bib id; 12701780
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Paging Instructions

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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.

Overview

REPOSITORY: Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library  
P. O. Box 208240  
New Haven, CT 06520-8240  
Email: beinecke.library@yale.edu  
Phone: (203) 432-2972  
Fax: (203) 432-4047

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(S): In 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.

FINDING AID LINK: To cite or bookmark this finding aid, use the following address: http://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/beinecke.allen.

Administrative Information

Provenance

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

Information about Access

This material is open for research.
This collection may be housed off-site at Yale’s Library Shelving Facility (LSF). To determine if all or part of this collection is housed off-site please check the library’s online catalog, Orbis; material for which the location is given as “LSF” must be requested 36 hours in advance. Please consult with Beinecke Access Services for more information.

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Ownership & Copyright

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Cite As

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

Series I. Correspondence

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box</th>
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<th>Description</th>
<th>Date(s)</th>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Correspondence</td>
<td>1846-1855</td>
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<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Correspondence</td>
<td>1865 February-June</td>
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<td>1</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Correspondence</td>
<td>1869-1897</td>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>Correspondence</td>
<td>1897</td>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>Correspondence</td>
<td>1898-1902, undated</td>
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## Series II. Notebooks

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

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<td>Education</td>
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<td>Education in Germany</td>
<td>1869-1872, undated</td>
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<td>21</td>
<td>Francis Power Cobbe</td>
<td>undated</td>
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<td>22</td>
<td>Other subjects</td>
<td>1888-1901</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>23-24</td>
<td>Other subjects</td>
<td>undated</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>Newspaper articles and letters to editors</td>
<td>1874-1901, undated</td>
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<td>See also: Oversize</td>
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<td>Memberships</td>
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<td>28</td>
<td>Memoir</td>
<td>undated</td>
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<td>29</td>
<td>Memoir by Lucy Allen (excerpts)</td>
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<tr>
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<td>30</td>
<td>Other memoirs (excerpts)</td>
<td>1844-1901, undated</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>Published biographical sketches</td>
<td>1890-1929</td>
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<td>32</td>
<td>Eulogy by Julian Clifford Jaynes</td>
<td>[1903]</td>
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<td>Obituaries</td>
<td>1903</td>
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<td>34-36</td>
<td>Articles about Allen and the West Newton English and Classical School</td>
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## Series V. Other Papers

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<td>Financial accounts with James Theodore Allen</td>
<td>1875-1901, undated</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>Financial accounts with Joseph Addison Allen</td>
<td>1886-1898</td>
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<td>39</td>
<td>Other financial accounts</td>
<td>1843-1893</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>Photographs</td>
<td>1892, undated</td>
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<td>41</td>
<td>Printed material: Pellew, George, Woman and the Commonwealth, or, A Question of Expediency (Boston: Houghton, Mifflin and Company, 1892)</td>
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<td>Printed material about Maine</td>
<td>1893-1898, undated</td>
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<td>43-44</td>
<td>Printed material about Pinehurst Resort, North Carolina See also: Oversize</td>
<td>1897-1898, undated</td>
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<td>Other printed material See also: Oversize</td>
<td>1871-1896, undated</td>
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<td>46-47</td>
<td>Real estate deeds</td>
<td>1840s-1911, undated</td>
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<td>Real estate maps See: Oversize</td>
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<td>Real estate papers about Allen's house in Medfield, Massachusetts</td>
<td>1876-1878</td>
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<td>Notes by an unidentified researcher</td>
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<td>Box</td>
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<td>1865</td>
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Access Terms

This collection is indexed under the following access points in Orbis, the Yale University Library online catalog.

Subjects

Allen, Caroline Swift Bassett, 1830-1915.
Allen, Fanny Bassett.
Allen, George Ellis, 1817-1888.
Allen, James Theodore, 1831-
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.
Pinehurst Resort & Country Club (Pinehurst, N.C.)
Rensselaer Institute --Students.
State Normal School at Framingham, Mass.
State Normal School at West Newton (Mass.)
State Normal School (Bridgewater, Mass.) --Students.
West Newton English and Classical School.
Education --Massachusetts.
Education --Germany.
Educators --Massachusetts.
Abolitionists --Massachusetts.
Coeducation --Massachusetts.
School integration --Massachusetts.
Slavery --Southern States.
Slavery --United States.
Women --Suffrage --United States.
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.
Photographs.

Authors

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

Occupations and Functions

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