Halstead Collection
Dates: 1826-1942
Creator: Halstead, Agnes Carpenter
Extent: 1.01 ft (2 boxes)
Level of description: Folder

Administration Information
Restrictions: None
Copyright: Consult repository for details.
Citation: Loyola University Chicago. Archives and Special Collections. Halstead Collection, 1826-1942. Box #, Folder #.
Provenance: The Halstead Collection was donated to Loyola University Chicago by Agnes Carpenter Halstead, granddaughter of Matthew Hale Carpenter, lawyer and US Senator from Wisconsin.
Separations: None
See Also:

Biographical Sketch of Matthew Hale Carpenter

Decatur Merritt Hammond Carpenter, later known as Matthew Hale Carpenter, was born in Moretown, Vermont, on 22 December 1824, the eldest son of Ira and Esther Ann (Luce) Carpenter. He attended local schools until the age of fourteen when he moved to Waterbury, Vermont. There he continued his education and studied law with Paul Dillingham (later the governor of Vermont) into whose home he was accepted as a family member.

In June of 1843 Carpenter entered the United States Military Academy at West Point where he remained until August of 1845 when he resigned his cadetship and returned to study law with Dillingham. After passing the Vermont bar examination in November of 1847, he moved to Boston, continuing his law studies with Rufus Choate for six months before moving to Beloit, Wisconsin, in June of 1848. In the fall of that year he contracted an eye disease which left him blind for nearly two years. During this period he returned to the East Coast for medical treatment.

In 1850, with his sight restored although impaired, Carpenter returned to Beloit where he was elected district attorney of Rock County, a position he held until 1854. During this period he became known as Matthew Hale Carpenter. In 1855, while continuing to practice law in Beloit, he married Caroline Dillingham, the daughter of his benefactor. They moved to Milwaukee in 1858 where Carpenter was for a short time the law partner of Edward G. Ryan and where he began a career in railroad litigation, which gained him the reputation as the “Webster of the West” and which contributed to the creation of railroad law principles.

Until the Civil War, Carpenter belonged to the Douglas wing of the Democratic Party. In 1861 he became Judge Advocate General of Militia for Wisconsin. He defended
President Lincoln’s war measures in response to the 1862 Democratic platform advanced by Edward G. Ryan. Following the war, Carpenter helped shape Reconstruction policy in the North through his briefs for the U.S. Supreme Court in the Garland, McCardle, and Slaughterhouse cases, becoming known as one of the foremost authorities in constitutional law. He also won a reputation as a champion of women’s rights, advocating women’s suffrage and representing Myra Bradwell before the U.S. Supreme Court in her efforts to practice law in the state of Illinois.

Elected to the U.S. Senate as a Republican from Wisconsin, Carpenter served from 1869 to 1875 and was generally identified with the Radical supporters of President Ulysses S. Grant. An unsuccessful candidate for reelection in 1875, he resumed the practice of law in Washington, D.C., and Milwaukee, representing Secretary of War William W. Belknap in his impeachment trial and Samuel Tilden at the Electoral Commission inquiry into the 1876 presidential election. In 1879 he was again elected as a Republican from Wisconsin to the U.S. Senate where he served until his death in Washington, D.C., on 24 February 1881.

Matthew Hale and Caroline Dillingham Carpenter had four children: Lillian, born 30 June 1857; twin daughters Ada and Annie, born 4 February 1860, who died in infancy; and Paul Dillingham, born 26 January 1867, who married Eunice M. Falk in 1891.

**Scope and Content**

The Halstead Collection spans the years 1826-1942 and contains correspondence pertaining mainly to Matthew Hale Carpenter, lawyer and United States Senator from Wisconsin. To a lesser extent the collection relates to Carpenter’s wife, Caroline Dillingham; his daughter, Lillian; and his son, Paul Dillingham, father of Agnes Carpenter Halstead who gave the collection to Loyola University Chicago. Several additional letters relate to Murat Halstead, a prominent nineteenth century journalist, war correspondent, author, and editor. The balance of the collection is composed of letters and clipped signatures of prominent individuals which appear to have been collected for their autograph value.

**Series**

**Series 1: Matthew Hale Carpenter (1824-1881), 1848-1881, Boxes 1-2**
Primarily incoming correspondence of Carpenter concerning legal, political, legislative, personal, and social matters. Arranged alphabetically by name of correspondent.

**Series 2: Caroline Dillingham Carpenter, 1867-1897, Box 2**
Primarily incoming correspondence of a social nature as well as letters and eulogies relating to the death of her husband, Matthew Hale Carpenter, and the disposition of his library and briefs. Arranged alphabetically by name of correspondent.

**Series 3: Lillian Carpenter (b. 6 June 1857), Box 2**
Incoming correspondence of a personal and social nature. Arranged by name of correspondent.
Series 4: Paul Dillingham Carpenter (b. 26 January 1867), 1871-1889, Box 2
Correspondence of a personal nature, arranged by name of correspondent. The letter of James Road Doolittle was addressed to Carpenter’s grandfather Paul Dillingham.

Series 5: Murat Halstead (1829-908), 1880-1889, Box 2
Correspondence of and concerning Halstead and the Franco-Prussian War as well as the publishing business. Arranged alphabetically by name of correspondent.

Series 6: Autograph Collection, 1826-1942, Box 2
Correspondence and clipped signatures of prominent nineteenth-century personages, generally of a literary, political, or legal character, arranged alphabetically by name of correspondent, with miscellaneous and unidentified letters as well as envelopes and clipped autographs following at the end.

Subjects:
Bancroft, Elizabeth
Barrow, Frances Elizabeth M.
Burnside, Ambrose E.
Carpenter, Caroline Dillingham
Carpenter, Lillian
Carpenter, Paul Dillingham
Carpenter, Matthew Hale
Chambrun, Madame de
Choate, Rufus
Colfax, Schuyler
Conkling, Roscoe
Davis, David
Decatur, Stephen
Dewey, George
Dillingham, Paul, 1800-1891
Edmonds, George F.
Ewing, Thomas
Floyd, Charles
Fremont, John Charles
Gibbons, James Cardinal
Grant, Julia Dent
Grant, Ulysses S.
Trumbull, Lyman
Halstead, Murat
Hunt, Ward
Peabody, Elizabeth E.
Pierrepont, Edward
Pope, John W.
Sherman, John
Thornton, Mary
Miller, Samuel F.
Sartoris, Nellie Grant
Seymour, Horatio
Waite, Morrison Remick
Stanton, Edwin M.
Doolittle, James Rood
Stoughton, Edwin W.
Sumner, Charles
Lincoln, Abraham
Taney, Roger B.
Webster, Daniel Marshfield
Accession No.: UA1982.49, NUCMC #71-246  
Creator: Halstead, Alice Carpenter

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**Series 2: Caroline Dillingham Carpenter, 1867-1897**

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Series 3: Lillian Carpenter, 1866-1908

2 47 Barrow, Frances Elizabeth M. Feb. 22, 1866; Aug. 19, 1867; Mar. 16, 1868
2 48 Chambrun, Duke de Nov. 16, 1879
2 49 Gibbons, James Cardinal Jun. 21, 1893
2 51 Sartoris, Nellie Grant Oct. 2, 1886
2 52 Waite, Morrison Remich, 7th chief justice of the Supreme Court Jan. 9, 1888
2 53 Warner, Charles Dudley

Series 4: Paul Dillingham Carpenter, 1875-1889

2 54 Bielak, Father J. 1887
2 55 Doolittle, James Road Jul. 29, 1871
2 56 Logan, John A. Mar. 1, 1875
2 57 MacArthur, Arthur Jul. 16, 1886
### Series 5: Murat Halstead, 1880-1889

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<td>Sept. 15, 1862</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>Lincoln, Abraham</td>
<td>Nov. 12, 1864</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>Phillips, Wendell</td>
<td>Jun. 29, 1868</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>Randolph, I.</td>
<td>Aug. 15, 1866</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Smith, Gerrit</td>
<td>Apr. 13, 1857; Dec. 21, 1862</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Taney, Roger B.</td>
<td>Sept. 18, 1849</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Webster, Daniel Marshfield</td>
<td>n.d.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Facsimile copy of various Matthew Hale Carpenter signatures</td>
<td>n.d.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Misc. &amp; Unidentified letters as well as envelopes &amp; clipped autographs</td>
<td>1826-1942, n.d.</td>
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