

Guide to the Enoch Hale Papers

RG 66



Compiled by Martha Lund Smalley

1981

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Collection Overview

REPOSITORY: Yale Divinity Library
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CALL NUMBER: RG 66

CREATOR: Hale, Enoch, 1753-1837

TITLE: Enoch Hale Papers

DATES: 1764-1980

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: 4 linear feet (10 boxes)

LANGUAGE: English

SUMMARY: Correspondence relates to Hale's roles as minister, father, educator, Secretary of the General Association of Congregational Churches and Ministers of Massachusetts, and Secretary of the Hampshire Missionary Society. Diaries contain brief daily entries describing the weather, notable activities and events, sermons written and preached, town meetings attended, marriages performed, visitors received, journeys taken and chores performed. Also included is information regarding births and deaths in Westhampton. The diaries provide fifty years of consistent and valuable documentation of the daily activities of a Congregational minister in a small New England town. Notes and memoranda reflect Hale's interest in politics, his administrative and ministerial duties, and Biblical studies. Over 1200 sermons with indexes are included. Enoch Hale, born in Coventry, Connecticut on October 28, 1753, was the brother of the famed Nathan Hale. He graduated from Yale College in 1773 and served as a Congregational clergyman in Westhampton, Massachusetts from 1778-1828. He also served as Secretary of the General Association of the Congregational Churches and Ministers of Massachusetts from 1804-1824, and was Secretary of the Hampshire Missionary Society for many years. He was involved in the educational and public interests of his community and represented Westhampton in the State Constitutional Convention of 1820. He died on January 19, 1837.

ONLINE FINDING AID: To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/divinity.066>

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.066>.

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

b. box

f. folder

Administrative Information

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Gift of the Westhampton Congregational Church, Westhampton, Massachusetts, 1980

Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

Preferred Citation

Enoch Hale Papers (RG 66), Special Collections, Yale Divinity Library.

Separated Materials

The original diaries from the years 1776 to 1780 were evidently removed from the Westhampton Congregational Church at some earlier time and are held at the David Library of the American Revolution, now part of the American Philosophical Society Library, within the [Sol Feinstone Collection of the American Revolution](#).

Biographical / Historical

Date	Event
1753 October 28	○ Born in Coventry, CT, son of Richard and Elizabeth Hale
1773	○ Graduated from Yale College. Taught school near Windsor, CT, and studied theology
1775	○ Licensed to preach by Windham County Association of Ministers
1778 November	○ Began preaching in Westhampton, MA
1779 September	○ Ordained; Hale served the Congregational church in Westhampton for fifty years. He was involved in the educational and public interests of his community, serving, for example, as the representative of the town in the State Constitutional Convention of 1820. He was Secretary of the General Association of the Congregational Churches and Ministers of Massachusetts from 1804 to 1824. He also served as Secretary of the Hampshire Missionary Society for many years and took occasional mission trips.
1781	○ Married Octavia Throop: eight children. Eldest son named Nathan Hale after Enoch's famous younger brother
1799	○ Published <i>A Spelling Book; or the First Part of a Grammar of the English language, as written and spoken in the United States</i>
1804	○ Published <i>Asking Amiss and Not Receiving</i> , a sermon preached 1804 Apr 5
1837 January 19	○ Died

Biographical information taken from: *Yale Biographies and Annals 1763-1778*, by Franklin Bowditch Dexter

Scope and Contents

The letters of Series I date from 1778 to 1832 and are all addressed to Enoch Hale, with the exception of four. In content, the letters relate to Hale's roles as minister, father, educator, Secretary of the General Association of Congregational Churches and Ministers of Massachusetts, and Secretary of the Hampshire Missionary Society. As minister of the Congregational Church of Westhampton, Hale received letters from other Congregational churches throughout New England and from individuals seeking transfer of church membership. In most cases there are only one or two letters from each of Hale's correspondents. A total of fifty-seven letters of Hale's eldest son, Nathan, span the years 1814 to 1826. They touch on family matters and on the younger Hale's work in Boston as a lawyer and editor of the *Daily Advertiser*. In a few cases the letters are actually written by Nathan's wife, Sarah, on his behalf. Among Enoch Hale's more prominent correspondents were Jeremiah Evarts (1 letter) and Jedidiah Morse (3 letters).

The diaries of Series II contain very brief daily entries describing the weather and notable activities or events. The earliest diary, which was identified only as "Hale college diary", has entries of a few words for each day. Diaries from the years 1776 to 1780 are available on microfilm. Beginning with 1783, diaries are available for each year until 1833, with the exception of the year 1793. The entries in the later diaries are somewhat longer, always reporting the weather, but also touching on sermons written and preached, town meetings attended, marriages performed, visitors received, etc. At the end of each diary, Hale wrote a page or more of summary notes, indicating the most notable events of the year and including information regarding births and deaths in the town of Westhampton. These diaries provide fifty years of consistent and valuable documentation of the daily activities of a Congregational minister in a small New England town.

The notes and memoranda of Series III are a mixture of varying interest. Some are fragmentary and difficult to identify, but as a body they serve to shed light on various aspects of Hale's career. Hale's interest in politics, his administrative duties, his ministerial activities, and his interpretation of Biblical passages are documented. The material related to the Westhampton Congregational Church includes a few items from after Hale's death, and the 1980 church bulletin recording the transferral of the Hale Papers to the Yale Divinity School Library.

Series IV, the largest of this record group, contains more than 1200 sermons, most of which are arranged chronologically in two numerical sequences. The sermons vary in length from four pages to more than twenty, and are written in legible handwriting. Some of the sermons have suffered water damage and are difficult to decipher. The date and location where the sermon was preached is generally noted on the first page. No sermons exist for the period 1793 to 1810. The earliest sermon in the chronological sequence is quite certainly not authored by Hale, as he would have been only eleven years old in 1764. In the first folder of this series are detailed registers indexing the sermons. A chronological register records sermons from 1777 to 1833. More fragmentary indices according to Biblical texts are available for some of the years between 1810 and 1829. At the end of this series are undated, unnumbered sermons and sermon fragments, ten charges to new ministers, and the published record of the sermon, charge, and right hand of fellowship at the ordination of Enoch Hale in 1779.

Arrangement

- I. Correspondence, 1778-1832
- II. Diaries, circa 1773-1833
- III. Notes and Memoranda, 1773-1980, undated
- IV. Sermons, 1764-1833, undated

Collection Contents

Series I: Correspondence, 1778-1832

The location from which the correspondence was sent follows each entry. Towns are in Massachusetts unless otherwise noted.

b. 1, f. 1	Abbot, J. / Amherst	1828 December 12
b. 1, f. 1	Armstrong, Samuel T. / Boston	1816 August 19
b. 1, f. 1	Association of Ministers in Franklin County / Heath	1817 March 24
b. 1, f. 1	Avery, David / Northampton	1816 December 25
b. 1, f. 2	Baldwin, T. / Boston	1824 May 4
b. 1, f. 2	Bates, I.C. / Washington	1829 January 14, 1830 January 4
b. 1, f. 2	Bates, Lemuel / Whately	1829 March 12
b. 1, f. 2	Beach, George / Hartford	1826 February 7
b. 1, f. 2	Berkshire Association / Pittsfield	1817 February 28
b. 1, f. 2	Bliss, George, Jr. / Springfield	1826 November 1
b. 1, f. 2	Bodman, Joseph / Williamsburg	1831 May 20
b. 1, f. 2	Bond, Alvan / Sturbridge	1824 August 16
b. 1, f. 2	Bound, John / Northampton	1814 September 25
b. 1, f. 2	Brewer, Jonas / Westhampton	1828 July 10
b. 1, f. 3	Cannon, Josiah W. / Amherst	1810 January 17
b. 1, f. 3	Chapin, Horace B. / Bennington, VT; Hadley	1829 May 25, 1829 June 10
b. 1, f. 3	Chickering, Joseph / Woburn	1813 August 7
b. 1, f. 3	Church of Christ in Hatfield / Hatfield	1827 January 3
b. 1, f. 3	Church of Christ in Northampton / Northampton	1824 February 23
b. 1, f. 3	Church of Christ in Norwich / Norwich	1831 June 28, 1832 August 20
b. 1, f. 3	Church of Christ in Southampton / Southampton	1832 January 4
b. 1, f. 3	Church of Christ in Stockbridge / Stockbridge	1817 June 14
b. 1, f. 3	Clafin, L.F. / Pittsfield	1830 March 22

b. 1, f. 3	Clapp, Bela P. / Westhampton	1827 March 17
b. 1, f. 3	Clark, Dorus / Boston, Beverly	1819 January 28, 1820 May 10
b. 1, f. 4	Coleman, Lyman / Belchertown	1829 March 4, 1829 April 27
b. 1, f. 4	Cook, Phinehas / Acworth; Lebanon	1829 February 20, March 6, April 6
b. 1, f. 4	Cooley, Timothy N. / Granville	1816 April 9
b. 1, f. 4	Cragin, John / Temple, NH	1778 September 1
b. 1, f. 4	Edwards, B.B. / Amherst	1827 June 16
b. 1, f. 4	Ely, William / Washington	1815 February 17
b. 1, f. 4	Evarts, Jeremiah / Charlestown	1813 June 19
b. 1, f. 5	First Congregational Church and Society / Northampton	1832 March 11
b. 1, f. 5	Garvin, Isaac / Butterworth	1817 July
b. 1, f. 5	Gould, Vinson / Southampton	1828 April 21, June 26, July 28
b. 1, f. 5	Griswold, J.F. / South Hadley Canal	1830 April 6
	Hale, Nathan (son) / Boston	
b. 1, f. 6	1814-1815	1814-1815
b. 1, f. 7	1816-1819	1816-1819
b. 1, f. 8	1820-1821	1820-1821
b. 1, f. 9	1822-1823	1822-1823
b. 1, f. 10	1824-1826	1824-1826
b. 1, f. 11	Hawes, J. / Hartford	1829 May 15
b. 1, f. 11	Hopkins, John / Boston	1816 November 27
b. 1, f. 11	Howard, Bezaleel / Springfield	1816 November 18
b. 1, f. 11	To the inhabitants of Westhampton / from E. Hale (Westhampton)	1811 April 1
b. 1, f. 11	Judd, Jonathan (see also: Hawes, J.) / Hartford	1828 November 24
b. 1, f. 11	To Judd, Jonathan / from E. Hale	1802 May 29

b. 1, f. 12	Knapp, Isaac / Westfield	1829 July 29
b. 1, f. 12	Knight, Caleb / Washington	1832 February 16
b. 1, f. 12	Lathrop, Joseph / West Springfield	1817 January 7
b. 1, f. 12	Lesslie, Jonathan / Harpersfield	1814 May
b. 1, f. 12	Lewis, Wales / Northampton	1826 March 21
b. 1, f. 12	Loomis, Amasa / Painesville, OH	1818 May 28
b. 1, f. 12	Ludlow, H.G. / New York	1830 October 12
b. 1, f. 12	Lyman, Joseph / Hatfield	1812 May 20
b. 1, f. 12	Mann, Cyrus / Westminster	1824 April 12
b. 1, f. 13	Massachusetts Society for Promoting Agriculture / Boston	1813 March 15
b. 1, f. 13	Mayhew, Willmot / Gill	1817 November 13
b. 1, f. 13	Mead, Samuel / Amesbury	1817 January 23
b. 1, f. 13	Morse, Jedidiah / Charlestown	1814 November 21, 1815 February 16, 1816 June 24
b. 1, f. 13	Newman, M. / Andover	1814 January 22
b. 1, f. 13	Northrop, B. F. / Manchester	1828 November 26
b. 1, f. 13	Norton, Elijah / Westhampton	1820 December 18
b. 1, f. 14	Oliphant, David / Beverly	1823 August 18
b. 1, f. 14	Osgood, Erastus / Lebanon	1815 May 6
b. 1, f. 14	To <i>Panoplist and Missionary Magazine</i> editors / from E. Hale	undated
b. 1, f. 14	Partridge, J.L. / Northampton	1828 May 27
b. 1, f. 14	Perkins, Nathan / Amherst	1813 August 22, 1829 March 6, 1829 June 3
b. 1, f. 14	Pond, Enoch / Boston	1831 February 21
b. 1, f. 14	Porter, Experience / Belchertown	1816 December 3
b. 1, f. 14	To Rand, Thomas / from E. Hale	1820 June 12
b. 1, f. 15	Scott, Jonathan / Minot, ME	1803-1812
b. 1, f. 16	Second Congregational Church in Deerfield / Deerfield	1827 August 28

b. 1, f. 16	Shepard, Thomas / Ashfield	1822 May 22
b. 1, f. 16	Smith, Hervey / Westhampton	1824 November 16
b. 1, f. 16	Stoddard, C. / Boston	1825 December 2
b. 1, f. 16	Stoddard, S., Jr. / Boston	1823 June 12
b. 1, f. 16	Strong, Joseph / Norwich	1829 January 19
b. 1, f. 16	Sylvester, Eliakim / Chesterfield	1814 September 18
b. 1, f. 17	Treasury Department / Washington, D.C.	1824 September 23, 1825 November 23
b. 1, f. 17	Truair, John / Northampton	1825 March 16, 1825 December 20
b. 1, f. 17	Tucker, James / Rowley	1815 May 2
b. 1, f. 17	Tucker, Mark / Northampton	1825 March 30, 1825 April 13, 1826 October 24
b. 1, f. 17	Waters, Ira / Chesterfield	1831 April 26
b. 1, f. 18	Whitmarsh, Alva / Springfield	1821 January 3
b. 1, f. 18	Whitney, D.S. / Northampton	1824-1829
b. 1, f. 18	Williams, E. / Northampton	1828 June 6
b. 1, f. 18	Williams, Solomon / Northampton	1827 January 8, 1827 April 10
b. 1, f. 18	Williams, Thomas / South St. Louis (?)	1811 February 16
b. 1, f. 19	Williston, P. / Easthampton	1824 April 7, 1828 August 25
b. 1, f. 19	Woodbridge, John / Hadley	1828 May 31
b. 1, f. 19	Yeomans, J.W. / North Adams	1828 May 30

Series II: Diaries, circa 1773-1833

The diaries are arranged chronologically.

b. 2, f. 20	Originals	circa 1773, 1783-1789
b. 2A, f. 20a	On microfilm <i>1 Film Reel (35mm)</i> Includes entries on Enoch Hale's wedding in 1781. Microfilm of original diary from the Sol Feinstone Collection at The David Library of the American Revolution, Washington Crossing, PA	1776-1781
b. 2, f. 21-27	Originals	1790-1792, 1794-1833

Series III: Notes and Memoranda, 1773-1980, undated

The notes and memoranda are arranged topically, with dates and numbers of items indicated.

b. 2, f. 28	Confessions of Faith and Church Covenants	undated
b. 2, f. 29	Lists of members of state and national Congresses	1820-1828
b. 2, f. 30	Material related to General Association of Massachusetts, Hampshire Education Society and Hampshire Missionary Society	1815, 1822, 1825, undated
b. 2, f. 31	Material related to Westhampton Congregational Church	1818-1980, undated
b. 2, f. 32	Miscellaneous and unidentified records and notes, including re: land ownership of Enoch Hale, location of planets, money received after Enoch Hale's house destroyed by fire, the English attack on New Orleans, the death of A.G. Bridgeman	1773-1826
b. 2, f. 33	Miscellaneous notes on Biblical texts	1817-1824
b. 2, f. 34	Manuscript on English grammar, possibly related to Hale's publication on that subject (1799)	undated

Series IV: Sermons, 1764-1833, undated

The first folder of this Series contains a chronological register of sermons preached by Hale and registers by Biblical text. These are followed by seven early sermons dating 1764-1786, not all of which are by Hale. Hale's first numerical sequence begins in 1789 with #1033 and ends in 1816 with #3533, with a large gap between #1299 and #3113. A new numerical sequence was begun in 1817 extending with only small gaps until #1327 in 1833.

b. 3, f. 35	Chronological register of sermons	1777-1833
b. 3, f. 35	Registers of sermons by text	1810-1829, undated
b. 3, f. 36	Early sermons (probably not all by Enoch Hale)	1764-1786
b. 3, f. 37	Sermons #1033, 1035-1038, 1041-1043, 1046, 1047, 1049-1052, one unnumbered	1789
b. 3, f. 38	#1053-1067	1789
b. 3, f. 39	#1069-1081	1789
b. 3, f. 40	#1082-1091	1789
b. 3, f. 41	#1092-1105	1790
b. 3, f. 42	#1106-1119, 1121-1127	1790
b. 3, f. 43	#1128-1145	1790
b. 3, f. 44	#1146, 1147, 1150-1164	1790
b. 3, f. 45	#1166-1174, 1176, 1177, 1179, 1180, 1184	1790
b. 4, f. 46	#1188, 1191, 1194, 1204-1217	1791
b. 4, f. 47	#1218-1232	1791
b. 4, f. 48	#1233-1241, 1248, 1252, 1259	1791
b. 4, f. 49	#1260-1265, 1268-1270	1791
b. 4, f. 50	#1271-1277, 1280, 1281, 1283, 1291, 1299	1791-1792
b. 4, f. 51	#3113, 3128, unnumbered	1811
b. 4, f. 52	#3178, 3205, 3279, 3280, 3307	1812-1813
b. 4, f. 53	#3317, 3337, 3339, 3360, 3363, 3369, 3383, 3403, 3533	1814-1816
b. 4, f. 54	#38, 48-54, 56, 57, 59, 60	1817
b. 4, f. 55	#62-72	1817
b. 4, f. 56	#74-80, 82-89	1817
b. 4, f. 57	#90, 92-100	1817
b. 4, f. 58	#101, 102, 104, 106-111	1817

b. 4, f. 59	#112-121, 123-126	1817
b. 5, f. 60	#127-139	1818
b. 5, f. 61	#140-150, 152-155	1818
b. 5, f. 62	#156-170	1818
b. 5, f. 63	#171-185	1818
b. 5, f. 64	#186-200	1818
b. 5, f. 65	#201-213	1818
b. 5, f. 66	#214-233	1818
b. 5, f. 67	#235-246	1819
b. 5, f. 68	#247-265	1819
b. 5, f. 69	#266-272, 278, 288-290	1819
b. 5, f. 70	#291-295, 297-304	1819
b. 6, f. 71	#305-315	1819
b. 6, f. 72	#317-324, 326	1819
b. 6, f. 73	#327-334, 336-338	1819
b. 6, f. 74	#339-350	1820
b. 6, f. 75	#351-369	1820
b. 6, f. 76	#370-389	1820
b. 6, f. 77	#390-396, 398-406	1820
b. 6, f. 78	#407-416	1820
b. 6, f. 79	#417-434	1821
b. 6, f. 80	#435-450	1821
b. 6, f. 81	#451-466	1821
b. 6, f. 82	#467-481, 483, 484	1821
b. 6, f. 83	#486-495, 497, 499, 500, 502	1821
b. 7, f. 84	#505, 507, 508, 510-517, 519-526	1821
b. 7, f. 85	#527-537	1822
b. 7, f. 86	#538-544, 547	1822
b. 7, f. 87	#548-557	1822
b. 7, f. 88	#558-567	1822

b. 7, f. 89	#568-577	1822
b. 7, f. 90	#578-587	1822
b. 7, f. 91	#589-597	1822
b. 7, f. 92	#598-605, 607	1822
b. 7, f. 93	#618-624, 626, 627	1822
b. 7, f. 94	#628-636	1822
b. 7, f. 95	#628-636	1822
b. 7, f. 96	#637-642, 644-650	1823
b. 7, f. 97	#651-660	1823
b. 7, f. 98	#661-670	1823
b. 7, f. 99	#671-683, 685-689	1823
b. 7, f. 100	#690-693, 695-699, 701, 703-707, 709	1823
b. 8, f. 101	#711-713, 715-725	1823
b. 8, f. 102	#726-740	1823
b. 8, f. 103	#741, 742, 745-751	1823
b. 8, f. 104	#752, 754, 757-764	1823
b. 8, f. 105	#765-780	1824
b. 8, f. 106	#781-796	1824
b. 8, f. 107	#797-812	1824
b. 8, f. 108	#813, 814, 816-822, 824-830	1824
b. 8, f. 109	#831, 833-840, 842-845	1824
b. 8, f. 110	#846-849, 853-857, 859, 860	1824
b. 8, f. 111	#861-865, 868, 871-878	1824
b. 8, f. 112	#879-888, 890, 891	1825
b. 8, f. 113	#892-898, 900-906	1825
b. 8, f. 114	#907-910, 915-921	1825
b. 8, f. 115	#922-931, 933-935, 944, 946, 948	1825
b. 9, f. 116	#950-953, 955, 958, 961-965, 967-970, 972, 973, 977, 980, and two unnumbered	1825
b. 9, f. 117	#983, 984, 990, 1002-1004, 1011, 1022, 1029, 1033-1035, 1041, 1044, 1056, 1058	1826
b. 9, f. 118	#1061, 1062, 1064-1068, 1070-1077	1826

b. 9, f. 119	#1078-1088	1826
b. 9, f. 120	#1089-1093, 1095-1099, 1101-1106	1827
b. 9, f. 121	#1107-1111, 1113, 1114, 1116-1121, 1123-1127	1827
b. 9, f. 122	#1128-1140	1827
b. 9, f. 123	#1141-1150	1827
b. 9, f. 124	#1151-1155, 1157-1161	1827
b. 9, f. 125	#1162, 1164-1174	1827
b. 9, f. 126	#1175-1178, 1180-1187, 1189, 1190	1827
b. 9, f. 127	#1191-1195, 1197, 1199, 1201, 1202, 1204, 1205	1828
b. 10, f. 128	#1206, 1208-1223	1828
b. 10, f. 129	#1224-1231, 1233	1828
b. 10, f. 130	#1234-1236, four unnumbered	1828
b. 10, f. 131	#1237-1239, 1241, 1242, 1245, 1250, 1266	1829
b. 10, f. 132	#1276 (fragment), 1282, two unnumbered	1830
b. 10, f. 133	#1224 (revised), 1294, 1295, 1299, 1301, four unnumbered	1831
b. 10, f. 134	#1310, 1312	1832
b. 10, f. 135	#1319, 1321, 1323, 1324, 1326, 1327	1833
b. 10, f. 136	Sixteen unnumbered sermons	undated
b. 10, f. 137	Sermon fragments	undated
b. 10, f. 138	Charges to new ministers (10 items)	1822-1830, undated
b. 10, f. 139	Discourse at ordination of Enoch Hale by Joseph Huntington; with Charge by Mr. Judd and Right Hand of Fellowship by Mr. Williams	1779

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
Congregational churches -- Massachusetts
Religion and politics
Sermons, American
Weather

Geographic Names

Massachusetts -- History
Massachusetts -- Religion
United States -- Religion

Genres / Formats

Diaries
Sermons

Names

Hale, Enoch, 1753-1837
Hale, Nathan, 1784-1863

Corporate Bodies

General Association of Congregational
Churches and Ministers of Massachusetts
Hampshire Missionary Society
Westhampton Congregational Church
(Westhampton, Mass.)