

# Guide to the Austin Foster Hawes Papers

MS 637



compiled by Staff of Manuscripts and Archives

September 1996

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## Collection Overview

**REPOSITORY:** Manuscripts and Archives  
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**CALL NUMBER:** MS 637

**CREATOR:** Hawes, Austin F. (Austin Foster), 1879-1962

**TITLE:** Austin Foster Hawes papers

**DATES:** 1880-1968

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:** 3.25 linear feet (5 boxes)

**LANGUAGE:** English

**SUMMARY:** The papers consist of correspondence, diaries, manuscripts, photographs, and newspaper clippings, which document Austin Hawes's student life, his career as state forester of Connecticut, his controversial retirement from that position, and his travels in Central and South America. Also included are papers concerning his European travels, his job as state forester of Vermont, and as professor of history at the University of Vermont. Correspondents include Henry Graves and Gifford Pinchot.

**ONLINE FINDING AID:** To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/mssa.ms.0637>

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## Requesting Instructions

To request items from this collection for use in the Manuscripts and Archives reading room, please use the request links in the HTML version of this finding aid, available at <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/mssa.ms.0637>.

To order reproductions from this collection, please go to [http://www.library.yale.edu/mssa/ifr\\_copy\\_order.html](http://www.library.yale.edu/mssa/ifr_copy_order.html). The information you will need to submit an order includes: the collection call number, collection title, series or accession number, box number, and folder number or name.

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

b.      box  
f.      folder

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## Administrative Information

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### Immediate Source of Acquisition

Gift of Mrs. E. A. Currier, ca. 1963; and Kenneth Walthall, 1996.

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## Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

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## Conditions Governing Use

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## Preferred Citation

Austin Foster Hawes Papers (MS 637). Manuscripts and Archives, Yale University Library.

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## Biographical / Historical

Austin F. Hawes was born on March 17, 1879, in Danvers, Massachusetts, the son of Frank M. Hawes and Harriet (Foster) Hawes. He graduated from Tufts College with a B.A. in 1901, and from the Yale School of Forestry with an M.F. in 1903. He also studied forestry in Europe in 1906. In 1908 he married Alice Clapp.

Hawes was employed by the United States Forest Service during the summers of 1900, 1901, and 1902. In 1903 he assumed the position of forest assistant, and in 1904 that of state forester of Connecticut. From 1909 to 1917 he was state forester of Vermont, and professor of forestry at the University of Vermont.

In 1921 Hawes again took up the post of state forester of Connecticut, and remained there until 1943 when he resigned in protest over the re-organization of the Connecticut Forest and Park Commission.

Hawes was the author of numerous articles, and the co-author of several books, including *Forestry in New England* with R. C. Hawley (1912), *Manual of Forestry for the Northeastern United States* with R. C. Hawley (1918), and *Common Forest Trees of Connecticut* with W. R. Mattoon (1925).

Austin Hawes died in 1962.

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## Scope and Contents

The Austin F. Hawes Papers contain correspondence, writings, photographs, newspaper clippings, and other papers related to Hawes's student life, his career as state forester in Connecticut and Vermont and as professor of forestry at the University of Vermont, as well as to forestry, the history of forestry in New England, and related topics.

The rather fragmentary selection of correspondence falls into two groups. The early correspondence (1900-1911) is largely in the form of typed transcripts compiled by Hawes from his letters to his family and annotated and illustrated with photographs. The letters emphasize his experiences in forestry school and in his early career rather than family matters. Some additional correspondence of this period may be found in Hawes's 1906 notebook (folder 52). The later correspondence (1942-1959) consists mostly of incoming letters discussing Connecticut forestry history; various short writings and other materials are enclosed. Prominent correspondents include Wilbur Cross, Gifford Pinchot, and Herman Chapman.

Hawes's writings, both holographs and typescripts, constitute over one-third of the papers. They deal with various aspects of forestry and the history of forestry, the major work being a two-volume typescript, "History of Forestry in Connecticut 1849-1944." Many of the writings are at least in part autobiographical. There are also two short excerpts from Hawes's diary describing trips to the Midwest (1917) and to Cuba (1938), and two notebooks. One, "Notes Taken on the Forest Conditions in Baden and Eastern France, Fall 1906," contains laid-in photographs and correspondence. The other (1912-1916) contains scattered notes on topics in forestry.

Also in the papers are memoranda and other materials of the Connecticut Forest and Park Commission, its chairman George Waldo, and Herman Chapman, president of the Commission on Forests and Wild Life, collected by Hawes. The bulk of these concern controversial changes in the administrative structure of the commission which led Hawes to resign from the commission in protest in 1943. Other materials in the papers include a few items from the Society of American Foresters; a selection of short writings by various authors, including Dorothy Canfield Fisher, on forestry and related topics; newspaper clippings; over one hundred photographs of foresters and forest scenes in Connecticut and elsewhere; memorabilia such as Hawes's certificates of appointment to the Bureau of Forestry in the Department of Agriculture, and a guestbook signed by numerous foresters; and, finally, miscellaneous papers, including a list of courses at the Yale School of Forestry, pine tree statistics from 1901, and so forth.

These papers were donated to Yale University by Mrs. E. A. Currier, sister of Austin Hawes.

Related material may be found in the Herman H. Chapman Papers, Mss Group No. 134.

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## Collection Contents

### Inventory, 1899-1964

b. 1, f. 1-6	Correspondence	1900-1959
b. 1, f. 7-12	Selected letters (typed transcripts, compiled 1949)	1900-1904
b. 1, f. 13	Selected letters: "Studying Forestry in Europe, 1906" (typed transcripts)	1906 September- November
b. 1, f. 14-33	Writings on forestry and related topics	[1904]-1944
b. 2, f. 34-50	Writings on forestry and related topics	[1944?]-1959, undated
b. 2, f. 51	Diary (typed excerpts)	1917 March, 1938 March
Notebooks:		
b. 2, f. 52	"Notes Taken on the Forest Conditions in Baden and Eastern France, 1906 Fall" English	1906
b. 2, f. 53	Notes on forestry and related topics	1912-1916
b. 2, f. 54-56	Papers of the Connecticut Forest and Park Commission	1928-1944 June
b. 3, f. 57-62	Papers of the Connecticut Forest and Park Commission	1944 July-1959, undated
b. 3, f. 63	Papers of the Society of American Foresters	1928, undated
b. 3, f. 64	Writings of others on forestry and related topics	1908-1959, undated
b. 3, f. 65	Newspaper clippings	1899-1960
Photographs:		
b. 3, f. 66	Biltmore Forest School; Association of State Foresters; Charles Lathrop Pack; miscellaneous	1901-1944, undated
b. 3, f. 67	Forest scenes in Connecticut and elsewhere	[ca. 1935-1940]
Memorabilia:		
b. 3, f. 68	Certificates, programs, invitations	1901-1951
b. 3, f. 69	Guestbook	1941-1964
b. 3, f. 70	Miscellaneous	1901-1956, undated

**Accession 1997-M-004: Additional Material, 1880s-1968**

b.1	Biographical sketches, obituaries, memorial tributes	1943, 1961-1968
b.1	Correspondence	1890, 1919, 1961-1962
b.1	Correspondence of Myra D. Hawes relating to her husband	1962-1968
b.1	Diaries	1895, 1899-1908, 1939, 1961-1962
b.1	Memorabilia	Circa 1880s-1962
b.1	Notebooks	undated
b.1	Notes on Mexico and Guatemala	1944
b.1	Photographs	Circa 1880s-1962
	Albums	
b.1	Central and South America	
b.1	Cliff dwellings	
b.1	E. Spanish America, Mexico, Guatemala, and San Salvador	
b.1	Indian mounds [U.S.]	
b.1	Mexico	
b.1	Negatives	
b.1	Personal	
b.1	Scenery	
	Writings	
b.2	Christmas greetings [memoirs]	1956-1962
b.2	Notebooks [include typescripts for essays on various topics including "A Trip from Lake Atitlan, Guatemala to Oaxaca, Mexico in 1948"]	Circa 1940s-1962
b.2	On Central and South America	Circa 1940s-1950s
b.2	On forestry	Circa 1940s-1960s
b.2	On travel in Europe	Circa 1940s-1950s
b.2	On travel in the United States	Circa 1950s
b.2	Printed copies	1927-1960

Writings (continued)

b.2

Miscellaneous

undated

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## **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**

Conservation of natural resources  
Environmental protection  
Forests and forestry -- Connecticut  
Forests and forestry -- Vermont

### **Geographic Names**

Central America -- Description and travel  
Connecticut

### **Occupations**

Foresters

### **Names**

Graves, Henry Solon, 1871-1951  
Hawes, Austin F. (Austin Foster), 1879-1962  
Pinchot, Gifford, 1865-1946

### **Corporate Body**

Yale University -- Students