Bauer, Charlotte Andrews, collector.

Henry Mills Alden letters collection
1860-1949
(bulk dates 1860-1908)

Abstract: American editor and author Henry Mills Alden (1836-1919) served as editor of Harper's Magazine for 50 years from 1869 to 1919. The collection consists of 45 items dating between 1860 and 1949, with the majority comprising letters to Alden from contemporary literary figures between 1860 and 1908.
Descriptive Summary

Identification: MSS 636
Title: Henry Mills Alden letters collection
Inclusive Dates: 1860-1949
Bulk Dates: 1860-1908
Extent: 45 items (1 box) and oversize removals
Language: Materials entirely in English.

Administrative Information

Citation: MSS 636, Henry Alden Mills letters collection, Special Collections, University of Delaware Library, Newark, Delaware.

Shelving Summary: Box 1: Shelved in SPEC MSS manuscript boxes; F28: Removed to SPEC MSS oversize boxes (18 inches)

Location: Special Collections Department, University of Delaware Library Newark, Delaware 19717-5267 Phone: 302-831-2229 Fax: 302-831-6003 URL: http://www.lib.udel.edu/ud/spec/


Processing: Processed and encoded by Julia Pompetti, April 2011.

Materials Available in Alternative Format: Preservation photocopies of the material in this collection are available at the end of Box 1 of the collection.

Access Restrictions: The collection is open for research.

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Biographical Note

American editor and author Henry Mills Alden (1836-1919) was editor for 50 years of Harper's Magazine from 1869 to 1919. A descendant of John and Priscilla Alden of Mayflower fame, Alden was born in Mount Tabor, Vermont, on 3 November 1836.

In 1853, he entered Williams College where his fellow students included James A. Garfield, John J. Ingalls, and Horace E. Scudder. He then attended Andover Theological Seminary with the intention of becoming a preacher; however, Alden changed course and pursued a literary career after two of his articles on the Eleusinian Mysteries were accepted for publication in the Atlantic Monthly. These essays had been submitted to the magazine without his knowledge by his friend, the American author Harriet Beecher Stowe. Alden moved to New York City in 1861 and supported himself through teaching while he continued to submit articles to national periodicals. In 1862, Harper and Brothers commissioned Alden to write a guidebook to the Central Railroad of New Jersey. This relationship with Harper and Brothers led to Alden becoming an assistant editor of Harper's Weekly and in 1869 the editor of Harper's New Monthly Magazine, a position which he held until his death in 1919. In his role as editor of Harper's New Monthly Magazine, which changed its title to Harper's Monthly Magazine in 1900, Alden viewed the periodical as a democratizing tool that provided the public access to current literary talents, and he supported the emerging realism movement for this reason. During his tenure, Harper's Monthly Magazine became the highest circulating periodical in the United States.

In addition to the monthly essays that Alden wrote for Harper's Magazine, he published three books: God in His World (1890), A Study of Death (1895), and Magazine Writing and New Literature (1908). He also edited several volumes of American literature and short stories with American author and editor William Dean Howells. A member of the American Academy of Arts and Letters, Alden received the honorary degrees of Doctor of Literature and Doctor of Laws in 1890 and 1907, respectively, from his alma mater.

Alden married Susan Frye Foster in 1861, and the couple had four children. Susan Alden died in 1895, and Alden eventually remarried Virginia poet Ada Foster Murray. Henry Mills Alden passed away in 1919 at the age of 83.

Upon his death, Alden left the present collection of letters to his nephew John Alden, who was a poet and editor of the Brooklyn Eagle. John Alden bequeathed the letters to the daughter of his first cousin, T. Clifton Andrews, who was Charlotte Andrews (Bauer). Charlotte Andrews had been like a daughter to John Alden and his wife, Cynthia Westover, and according to family lore, the Aldens provided significant emotional support to Charlotte Andrews when she eloped and married Mr. Bauer against the wishes of her mother. Charlotte Andrews Bauer organized the letters and accompanying envelopes and clippings into two albums. Before her death in 1980, Charlotte Andrews Bauer passed the letters on to her son, Rollin G. Bauer, Jr. (died 2004), who in turn willed joint ownership of the letters to his wife Merry Jo Bauer and his brother Jeffrey Bauer.

Sources:
Scope and Content Note

The Henry Mills Alden letters collection consists of 45 items including letters, photographs, and clippings dating between 1860 and 1949 with the majority of the material comprising letters to Alden from contemporary literary figures dating between 1860 and 1908. There are also two long letters written by Alden to his first wife, Susan Foster, during their courtship in 1860 and 1861, as well as several items relating to Charlotte Andrews Bauer and her family from the 1930s and 1940s, including letters requesting information about the history of the family and a letter and photograph from a trip Bauer took to John Alden's summer estate.

This collection documents Alden's participation in a New England literary circle of the mid- to late-nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, as well as his personal reflections on that circle, his writing, philosophical questions, and religious matters. Items in the collection also contextualize the provenance of the letters within the family's history. The collection is arranged into three series: I. Letters to Henry Mills Alden and family; II. Letters from Henry Mills Alden to Susan Foster; and III. Other correspondents.

Series I. contains 32 letters dating from 1873 to 1908 from literary and intellectual contemporaries, the majority of which are addressed to Alden. Correspondents include the editors of the *Atlantic Monthly*; James Russell Lowell (1819-1891), who served from 1857 to 1861 and accepted Alden's first published essays; William Dean Howells (1837-1920), who served from 1871 to 1881; Thomas Bailey Aldrich (1836-1907), who served from 1881 to 1890; and Horace Elisha Scudder (1838-1902), who served from 1890 to 1898. Topics in the letters ranged from the business of articles submitted to Alden for *Harper's Monthly Magazine* to personal condolence letters to Alden on the death of his wife Susan Foster Alden in 1895. Several letters also commented on Alden's book *God in His World: An Interpretation* (1890). One highlight is a short letter from American poet Henry Wadsworth Longfellow (1807-1882) requesting revisions to his poem "Kéramos," which was first published in *Harper's Monthly Magazine*. American author Henry James (1843-1916) wrote to Alden in 1908 to accept a request for a short essay for publication, which prompted James to discuss his writing process. There are also three letters addressed to Mrs. Susan Alden, two of which discussed literary topics. The first letter was from Margaret Elizabeth Munson Sangster (1838-1912), an editor at various times for *Harper's Young People, Harper's Bazaar*, and *Ladies' Home Journal*, who discussed her literary preferences. The second letter was from Scottish author William Sharp (1855-1905), a central figure of the Celtic Renaissance who also wrote under the pseudonym Fiona Macleod. Sharp invoked Celtic mythology throughout his letter to Mrs. Alden in which he wished her good health. Finally, there is a condolence letter addressed to Henry Mills Alden's daughter Annie Alden from Horace Elisha Scudder, who had been a friend of Alden's since they were both students at Williams College.

Series II. comprises two long letters John Alden wrote to Susan Foster in 1860 and 1861 during their courtship. In the letters, Alden discussed the sermons he was giving in local parishes as well as his literary pursuits. He planned his future career and discussed the intellectual merits of their impending marriage. Of particular interest are the insights into Alden's writing process and his opinions on religion and literary merit.

Series III. consists of four letters, four photographs, and some notes by Charlotte Andrews Bauer, all pertaining to her and her family, dating from 1933 to 1949. The items in the first grouping concern trips that Bauer and her father's sister, "Aunt Charlotte," took to visit John Alden's summer home, "a pleasant old
farm" called Bushy Crest. The farm was so named in honor of Alden's deceased wife, Cynthia May Westover Alden (1862-1931), who was known as "Bushy." Included is a letter from John Alden to Aunt Charlotte Andrews, in which he looked forward to her visit and discussed family news, including Charlotte Andrews Bauer's recent marriage. Also included are several photographs of Charlotte Andrews Bauer and her new husband along with other family members at the farm and an autograph note by Bauer briefly describing the history of Bushy Crest. The second grouping comprises two letters dated 1942 from a lawyer, John D. Dwyer, seeking descendants of American free thinker and reformer Stephen Pearl Andrews (1812-1886) for the inheritance of property. The third grouping consists of two letters dated in 1949 from a researcher named Jean Burton, who was interested in writing a biography and was looking for materials on Stephen Pearl Andrews.
Selected Search Terms

Personal Names

Alden, Henry Mills, 1836-1919.

Uniform Titles

Harper's monthly magazine.
Harper's new monthly magazine.

Topical Terms

Authors, American--19th century--Correspondence.
Editors, American--19th century--Correspondence.
Periodicals, American--19th century.

Form/Genre Terms

Correspondence.
Photographs.
Clippings.

Occupation

Authors.
Editors.

Personal Contributors

Lowell, James Russell, 1819-1891.
Howells, William Dean, 1837-1920.
James, Henry, 1843-1916.
Sangster, Margaret Elizabeth Munson, 1838-1912.
Sharp, William, 1855-1905.
Alden, John, collector.

**Related Materials in this Repository**

MSS 197 Henry Mills Alden papers
Arrangement

I. Letters to Henry Mills Alden and family
II. Letters from Henry Mills Alden to Susan Foster
III. Other correspondents
Detailed Description of the Collection

Series I. Letters to Henry Mills Alden and family, 1873-1948

Series I. contains 32 letters dating from 1873 to 1908 from literary and intellectual contemporaries, the majority of which are addressed to Alden. Correspondents include the editors of the *Atlantic Monthly* James Russell Lowell (1819-1891), who served from 1857 to 1861 and accepted Alden's first published essays; William Dean Howells (1837-1920), who served from 1871 to 1881; Thomas Bailey Aldrich (1836-1907), who served from 1881 to 1890; and Horace Elisha Scudder (1838-1902), who served from 1890 to 1898. Topics in the letters range from the business of articles submitted to Alden for *Harper's Monthly Magazine* to personal condolence letters to Alden on the death of his wife Susan Foster Alden in 1895. Several letters also comment on Alden's book *God in His World: An Interpretation* (1890). One highlight is a short letter from American poet Henry Wadsworth Longfellow (1807-1882) requesting revisions to his poem "Kéramos" first published in *Harper's Monthly Magazine*. American author Henry James (1843-1916) wrote to Alden in 1908 to accept a request for a short essay for publication which prompted James to discuss his writing process. There are also three letters addressed to Mrs. Susan Alden, two of which discuss literary topics. The first letter is from Margaret Elizabeth Munson Sangster (1838-1912), an editor at various times for *Harper's Young People, Harper's Bazaar*, and *Ladies' Home Journal*, who discussed her literary preferences. The second letter is from Scottish author and a central figure of the Celtic Renaissance William Sharp (1855-1905), who also wrote under the pseudonym Fiona Macleod. Sharp invoked Celtic mythology throughout his letter to Mrs. Alden in which he wished her good health. Finally, there is a condolence letter addressed to Henry Mills Alden's daughter Annie Alden from Horace Elisha Scudder who had been a friend of Alden's since they were both students at Williams College.

Aldrich, Thomas Bailey, 1895 May 24 [Box 1 F1]

1 p.

Autograph letter signed. Condolence letter on the death of Alden's first wife Susan Foster Alden to whom he was married from 1861-1895.

Bowker, R.R. (Richard Rogers), 1895 June 16 [Box 1 F2]

1 p.

Autograph letter signed. A condolence letter to Annie Fields Alden, Henry Mills Alden daughter by first wife Susan Foster, on the death of her mother.

Curtis, George William, 1888 [Box 1 F3]

2 p.

Davis, Richard Harding, [1895] May 11 [Box 1 F4]

4 p.
Autograph letter signed. Condolence letter for the death of Alden's wife Susan Foster. Also included by the collector are two clippings with a photo and caption of Harding and a brief biography.

Dobson, (Henry) Austin , 1890 June 7 [Box 1 F5]

1 p.

Autograph letter signed. Dobson thanked Alden for the copy of Alden's anonymously published book *God in His World: An Interpretation* (1890) and included a few cursory impressions.

Eliot, Charles William , 1875 October 1 [Box 1 F6]

3 p.

Autograph letter signed. Eliot declined the request to provide an article about "inter-collegiate contests in writing" for *Harper's Magazine*, but shared his opinion on them nonetheless.

Howells, William Dean , 1894-1897

American author William Dean Howells (1837-1920) was an American realist who wrote close to 200 books in his lifetime and was a frequent contributor to periodicals. He was editor of the *Atlantic Monthly* from 1871 to 1881. Alden and Howells edited several American short story collections together.

To Mrs. Alden , 1894 January 7 [Box 1 F7]

3 p.

Typed letter signed. A friendly letter from Howells to Mrs. Alden. He mentioned that she was out when he stopped by to visit. He goes on to discuss his own family and travels.

To H.M. Alden , 1895 May 12 [Box 1 F7]

3 p.

Autograph letter signed. A condolence letter on the death of Alden's first wife Susan Foster.

To H.M. Alden , 1897 August 1 [Box 1 F7]

4 p.


Hutton, Laurence , 1895 June 1 [Box 1 F8]

1 p.

Autograph letter signed. A condolence letter written by Hutton on the death of Alden's first wife Susan Foster.
Ingersoll, Ernest, 1897 May 14 [Box 1 F9]

2 p.

Autograph letter signed. Ingersoll thanked Alden for payment for his article on "nests and eggs" published in Harper's Monthly Magazine and remarked his pleasure at its reception. He also discussed his progress on a book of nature essays to be published by Macmillan Company.

James, Henry, 1908 November 20; 1948 [Box 1 F10]

2 p.

Typed letter signed. Writing from Lamb House in England, James agreed to write a story for publication in Harper's Monthly Magazine and discussed his writing process. Also included by the collector is a clipping from an unidentified newspaper titled "Henry James' Niece Plans Lamb House Sale" from 1948.

Johnston, Richard Malcolm, 1895 May 30 [Box 1 F11]

3 p.

Autograph letter signed. Malcolm expressed his sympathy for Alden's loss of his first wife Susan Foster.

Lathrop, Rose Hawthorne, [1895] June 15 [Box 1 F12]

3 p.

Autograph letter signed. A condolence letter to Alden on the death of his first wife and Lathrop's good friend Susan Foster. Lathrop wrote from Montreal, Canada.

Longfellow, Henry Wadsworth, 1877 August 27 [Box 1 F13]

3 p.

Autograph letter signed. Longfellow asked Alden to make some revisions to his poem "Kéramos" before publication.

Lowell, James Russell, 1890 July 22 [Box 1 F14]

2 p.

Autograph letter signed. Lowell's letter discussed the publication of one of his poems as well as his reaction to Alden's book which he deems "refreshing and wholesome." Lowell was probably referring to Alden's book God in His World: An Interpretation (1890), which was published anonymously.

Matthews, Brander, 1908 November 12 [Box 1 F15]

3 p.

Pyle, Howard, 1895 May 12 [Box 1 F16]

2 p.

Autograph letter signed. A condolence letter for the death of Alden's wife Susan Foster.

Rives, Amelie, 1895 June 12 [Box 1 F17]

4 p.

Autograph letter signed. A sympathy letter from Rives to Alden on the death of his first wife Susan Foster.

Roe, Edward Payson, 1881 July 11 [Box 1 F18]

2 p.

Autograph letter signed. Roe apologized that his children's recent case of the mumps prevented a planned visit with the Alden family and promises to reschedule. The letter was addressed from his home at Cornwall-on-Hudson.

Sangster, Margaret Elizabeth Munson, 1879 August 14 [Box 1 F19]

2 p.

Autograph letter signed. To Mrs. Susan Foster Alden. Sangster wrote about what she was currently reading and enjoying.

Scudder, Horace Elisha, 1895 May 23 [Box 1 F20]

4 p.

Autograph letter signed. Scudder wrote a condolence letter to Annie Fields Alden on the death of her mother. Annie was Alden's daughter with first wife Susan Foster.

Sharp, William, 1895

Scottish author William Sharp, pseudonym Fiona Macleod, (1855-1905) was a central figure in the Celtic Renaissance and frequently published his mythic stories in both British and American periodicals.

1895 April 17 [Box 1 F21]

2 p.

Autograph letter signed. Sharp wrote to wish Mrs. Alden good health and sent her a copy of some stories about St. Brigitte (not included).

1895 June 15 [Box 1 F21]

2 p.
Autograph letter signed. Condolence letter for the death of Susan Foster.

Stedman, Edmund Clarence , 1897 May 10 [Box 1 F22]

1 p.

Autograph letter signed. A brief letter in which Stedman asked Alden to confirm that he received a poem Stedman sent for publication.

Stoddard, Richard Henry , 1897 February 30 [Box 1 F23]

1 p.

Autograph letter signed. Stoddard wrote to ask if Alden has received a poem Stoddard had sent. Letter mistakenly dated "February 30."

Trask, Kate Nichols , [1895] [Box 1 F24]

5 p.

Autograph letter signed. A condolence letter for the death of Alden's wife Susan Foster.

van Dyke, Henry , 1890 May 10 [Box 1 F25]

2 p.

Autograph letter signed. Van Dyke thanked Alden for the copy of his book, possibly God in His World: An Interpretation, and expressed his praise for it.

Wallace, Lew , 1888 January 14 [Box 1 F26]

1 p.


Warner, Charles Dudley , 1892-1895

American author and editor Charles Dudley Warner (1829-1900) was a contributing editor to Harper's New Monthly Magazine from 1884 to 1898 during which time Alden was also an editor. Warner coauthored the satirical novel The Gilded Age (1874) with Mark Twain.

1892 September 21 [Box 1 F27]

2 p.

Autograph letter signed. Warner asked Alden's opinion of a writer he was thinking of asking to do a "Life of" piece, possibly for the Biographical Dictionary and Synopsis of Books Ancient and Modern (1896). He also commented on Alden's book God in His World: An Interpretation (1890).
1895 June 1 [Box 1 F27]

3p.

Autograph letter signed. Condolence letter for Alden's first wife Susan Foster.

Whitman, Walt , 1873 November 4 [Box 1 F28] (Removed to SPEC MSS oversized boxes (18 inches))

1 p.

Color photo reproduction of autograph letter signed in a frame. Whitman acknowledged payment for the publication of his poem "Song of the Redwood Tree" in *Harper's Monthly Magazine*.

Wister, Owen , undated [Box 1 F29]

1 p.

Autograph letter signed and dated "Thursday night." Wister discussed an essay by an unnamed author he gave to Alden for possible publication in "The Magazine."

**Series II. Letters from H.M. Alden to Susan Foster , 1860-1861**

Series II. comprises two long letters Alden wrote to Foster in 1860 and 1861 during their courtship. H.M. Alden and Susan Frye Foster were married from 1861 to her death in 1865. In the letters, Alden discussed the sermons he is giving in local parishes as well as his literary pursuits. He planned his future career and discussed the intellectual merits of their impending marriage. Of particular interest are the insights into Alden's writing process and his opinions on religion and literary merit.

To Susan Foster , 1860 [October] 29 [Box 1 F30]

8 p.

Autograph letter signed. Alden wrote to Susan Foster during their courtship. He outlined the sermon he was to give the following Sunday and discussed his desire to obtain a position at a small church in order for him to have time to pursue his intellectual interests. He also mentioned his work on the "Eleusinian papers," which would become his first published work appearing in the *Atlantic Monthly*.

To Susan Foster , 1861 March 24 [Box 1 F30]

4 p.

Autograph letter signed. Alden discussed his writing at length, the articles he on which he was working, and what he hoped to achieve with them. He also mentioned his friendship with Horace Scudder and his desire to live in New York. Alden discussed marriage on a philosophical level.

**Series III. Other correspondents , 1933-1949**
Series III. consists of four letters, four photographs, and some notes by Charlotte Andrews Bauer, all pertaining to her and her family, dating from 1933 to 1949. The items in the first grouping concern trips that Bauer and her father's sister, "Aunt Charlotte," took to visit John Alden's summer home, "a pleasant old farm" called Bushy Crest. The farm was so named in honor of Alden's deceased wife Cynthia May Westover Alden (1862-1931), who was known as "Bushy." Included is a letter from John Alden to (Aunt) Charlotte Andrews in which he looked forward to her visit and discussed family news including Charlotte Andrews Bauers' recent marriage. Also included are several photographs of Charlotte Andrews Bauer and her new husband at the farm along with other family members and an autograph note by Bauers briefly describing the history of Bushy Crest. The second grouping comprises two letters dated 1942 from a lawyer, John D. Dwyer, seeking descendants of American free thinker and reformer Stephen Pearl Andrews (1812-1886) for the inheritance of property. The third grouping consists of two letters dated in 1949 from a researcher named Jean Burton who was interested in writing a biography and looking for materials on Stephen Pearl Andrews.

From John Alden, 1933-1934, undated

To Charlotte Andrews from John Alden, 1933 September 30 [Box 1 F31]

2 p.

Typed letter signed. John Alden provided directions to his summer home Bushy Crest and expressed surprise at "Charlotte" Jr.'s marriage to Bauer.

Envelope, undated [Box 1 F31]

Envelope bears handwritten note about John Alden's acquisition of Bushy Crest from neighbors and that it returned to their ownership after his death.

Photographs, circa 1934 [Box 1 F31]

Four black and white photographs, presumably of Charlotte Andrews Bauer and her husband at Bushy Crest in 1934.

From John D. Dwyer, 1942 [Box 1 F32]

2 p.

Two typed letters signed addressed to Clifton Andrews, Charlotte Andrews Bauer's father. Both letters were attempts by lawyer John J. Dwyer to trace the descendants of Stephen Pearl Andrews concerning the inheritance of property.

From Jean Burton, 1949

Jean Burton indicated in her letters that she has published several biographies through Knopf and Farrar, Straus and is mentioned in Who's Who in America.
1949 August 9 [Box 1 F33]

1 p.


1949 August 22 [Box 1 F33]

1 p.

Typed letter signed. Burton acknowledged Bauer's response that the family did not have any of Stephen Pearl Andrews's papers.