



Smithsonian

*National Museum of American History Kenneth E. Behring Center*

## Charles Grafton Page Papers

NMAH.AC.0933

Alison Oswald

November 2006

Archives Center, National Museum of American History

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## Collection Overview

<b>Repository:</b>	Archives Center, National Museum of American History
<b>Title:</b>	Charles Grafton Page Papers
<b>Date:</b>	1844-1870
<b>Identifier:</b>	NMAH.AC.0933
<b>Creator:</b>	Page, Charles Grafton, 1812-1868 (Creator)
<b>Source:</b>	Poinier, Lois W. (Donor)
<b>Extent:</b>	0.25 Cubic feet (1 box, 1 oversize folder)
<b>Language:</b>	English .
<b>Summary:</b>	Papers relate to American inventor Charles Grafton Page, an early developer of electromagnetic machinery.

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## Administrative Information

### Acquisition Information

This collection was donated by Lois Wodell Poinier, a descendant of Charles Grafton Page, 2006.

### Processing Information

Collection processed by Alison Oswald, November 2006.

### Preferred Citation

Charles Grafton Page Papers, 1844-1870, Archives Center, National Museum of American History. Gift of Lois W. Poinier.

### Restrictions

Collection is open for research.

### Conditions Governing Use

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## Biographical / Historical

Charles Grafton Page was born on January 25, 1812 in Salem, Massachusetts. He received a bachelor's degree in science from Harvard University (1832), and a medical degree (1836). In 1838, Page moved to Washington, D.C. where he practiced medicine and taught medicine at Columbian College (now George Washington University). During the late 1830s and 1840s, Page experimented with electricity and specifically with electromagnetism. Page developed an induction coil in 1836 and a self-acting circuit breaker and a primitive electric locomotive, which had a trial run in 1850. In 1841, Page was appointed Examiner of

Electricity at the United States Patent Office. He left the Patent Office in 1852 to start his own business, returned in 1861 where he remained until his death in 1868. Page died on May 5, 1868, in Washington, D.C.

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## Scope and Contents

These papers were created by Charles Grafton Page. The bulk of the papers relate to invention matters about electro magnetic engines (1844); axial galvanometer (1846); magnetic axial pump (1848); and electro dynamic axial engine (undated).

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## Arrangement

Divided into three series.

Series 1, Correspondence, 1844-1970

Series 2, Writings and drawings, undated

Series 3, Publications, 1846-1868.

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## Names and Subject Terms

This collection is indexed in the online catalog of the Smithsonian Institution under the following terms:

### Subjects:

- Electricity
- Electromagnetism
- Electromagnets
- Inventions
- Inventors

### Types of Materials:

- Correspondence -- 19th century
- Drawings -- 19th century

### Names:

- Poinier, Lois W.

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## Container Listing

Series 1: Correspondence, 1844 - 1870

*Box 1, Folder 1*

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## Writings and Drawings, undated

*Box 1, Folder 2*

[Image\(s\)](#)

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## Publications, 1846 - 1868

Box 1, Folder 3	Scientific American, October 19, 1850
Box 1, Folder 3	Scientific America , May 16, 1868
Map-folder 1	Daily National Intelligencer, May 12, 1851
Map-folder 1	The Sun Weekly, February 28, 1846
Map-folder 1	The Weekly Globe, October 22, 1859
Box 1, Folder 4	Statement of Disclosure for Invention of John James Greenough , undated

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