



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  
P.O. Box 37012  
Suite 1100, MRC 601  
Washington, D.C. 20013-7012  
archivescenter@si.edu  
<http://americanhistory.si.edu/archives>

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## Collection Overview

|                    |   |
|--------------------|---|
| <b>Repository:</b> | Archives Center, National Museum of American History  |
| <b>Title:</b>      | Charles Grafton Page Papers   |
| <b>Identifier:</b> | NMAH.AC.0933  |
| <b>Date:</b>       | 1844-1870   |
| <b>Extent:</b>     | 0.25 Cubic feet (1 box, 1 oversize folder)  |
| <b>Creator:</b>    | Page, Charles Grafton, 1812-1868<br>Poinier, Lois W.  |
| <b>Language:</b>   | English<br><br>Collection is in 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.

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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 (no date).

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

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