



Smithsonian

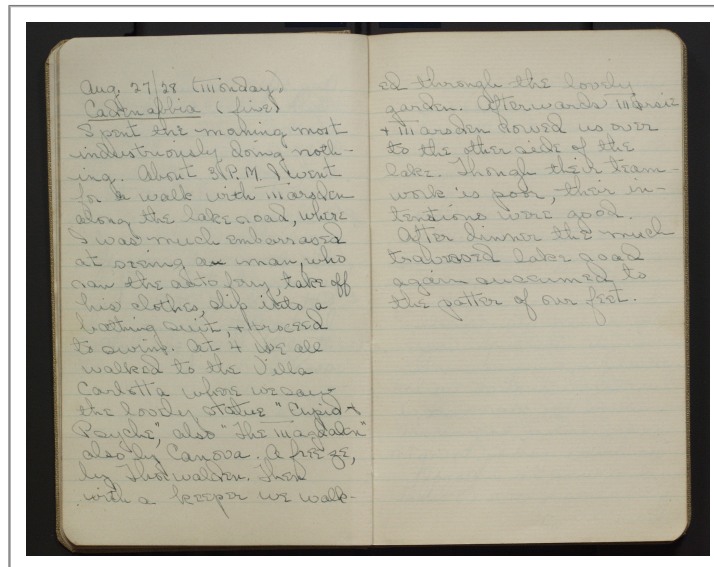
National Museum of American History Kenneth E. Behring Center

## Guide to the Dr. Joseph Underwood Hall Jr. Papers

NMAH.AC.1317

Vanessa Broussard-Simmons

2017



Archives Center, National Museum of American History  
P.O. Box 37012  
Suite 1100, MRC 601  
Washington, D.C. 20013-7012  
Business Number: Phone: 202-633-3270  
Fax Number: Fax: 202-786-2453  
archivescenter@si.edu  
<https://americanhistory.si.edu/archives>

## Table of Contents

Collection Overview .....	
Administrative Information .....	1
Biographical / Historical .....	2
Scope and Contents .....	3
Arrangement .....	3
Names and Subjects .....	
Container Listing .....	
Series 1: Dr. Joseph Underwood Hall Jr., 1868-1967, undated .....	4
Series 2: Hall, White, and Montague Families, 1780-1976, undated .....	8

## Collection Overview

<b>Repository:</b>	Archives Center, National Museum of American History
<b>Title:</b>	Dr. Joseph Underwood Hall, Jr. Papers
<b>Date:</b>	1780-1976, undated
<b>Identifier:</b>	NMAH.AC.1317
<b>Source:</b>	Downs, Darian (Donor)
<b>Creator:</b>	Hall, Joseph Underwood, Jr. (Creator)
<b>Extent:</b>	4 Cubic feet (13 boxes and 2 oversize folders)
<b>Language:</b>	Collection text is in English.
<b>Summary:</b>	The collection primarily documents the personal life and medical career of Dr. Joseph Underwood Hall Jr. Hall who was among the first to use the new X-ray technology and built his own X-ray machine.

---

## Administrative Information

### Acquisition Information

The collection was donated to the Archives Center in 2014 by Dr. Hall's granddaughter, Darian Downs.

### Location of Originals

Box seven contains inactive mold present on the materials, which has been reduced with surface cleaning and vacuuming. Mold is dormant, but spores may spread and reactivate in certain conditions. Please practice the following hygiene guidelines to keep yourself and the collections safe. Photo-safe (nitrile synthetic, non-latex) gloves must be used when handling these materials. If you have difficulty writing or keyboarding notes, wear one glove on your non-dominant hand to turn pages while leaving the other ungloved. Avoid touching your eyes, mouth, and nose while and immediately after handling contents. Wash hands thoroughly after use. Persons with allergic sensitivities or breathing conditions should consider wearing an N-95 particulate mask when paging through these volumes. Gloves and masks are available from Reference staff. After use, gloves and masks should be discarded and surfaces should be cleaned.

### Related Materials

Archives Center, National Museum of American History  
Central Film Service Collection (AC1247)  
Robert Ledley Papers (AC1135)  
Dr. Edward H. Angle Orthodontics Papers (AC0724)  
James W. Queen & Company Collection (AC0015)  
Elmer Gates Papers (AC1123)  
Medical Sciences Film Collection (AC0222)

## Available Formats

Marian Spencer Hall travel diary (1928) digitized in 2014.

## Processing Information

Processed by Vanessa Broussard- Simmons, archivist, 2014.

## Preferred Citation

Dr. Joseph Underwood Hall Jr. Papers, Archives Center, National Museum of American History, Smithsonian Institution

## Restrictions

Collection is open for research but is stored off-site and special arrangements must be made to work with it. Contact the Archives Center for information at [archivescenter@si.edu](mailto:archivescenter@si.edu) or 202-633-3270.

## Conditions Governing Use

Collection items available for reproduction, but the Archives Center makes no guarantees concerning copyright restrictions. Other intellectual property rights may apply. Archives Center cost-recovery and use fees may apply when requesting reproductions.

## Accruals

Additional materials were added to the collection in 2014.

---

## Biographical / Historical

Dr. Joseph Underwood Hall Jr. was born on February 9, 1868 at Gold Hill, Story County, Nevada, the second child of Dr. Joseph Underwood Hall Sr. (1822-1898) and Katherine Bess White (1844-1918). Hall received his primary education at Gold Hill High School where he graduated in 1883 at the age of fifteen. Upon graduation, he left Nevada and traveled to San Francisco, California where he worked at a drug store while pursuing an education at the University of California School of Pharmacy. Following this phase of his education, he acquired a position at the Quicksilver Mining Company in New Almaden, California as a clerk and druggist for the Miners Fund Dispensary. In 1886, Hall studied medicine under Dr. S. E. Winn and assisted him in visiting patients, prescribing treatments, and performing surgical procedures. In 1887, Hall attended Cooper Medical College and served as chief assistant at Dr. L. C. Lane's private clinic. Upon completion of this course of study, he moved to Philadelphia to attend Jefferson Medical College where he received his medical degree in April 1889.

Dr. Hall returned to California, in the summer of 1889, and served as resident physician to the Quicksilver Mining Company in New Almaden, California, remaining there until 1894. He then pursued more medical training in Chicago and New York before returning to San Jose, California. He married Grace May Spencer (1871-1954), the daughter of Judge Francis Elias Spencer (1835-1898) and Mary Catherine Pray (1838-1903) on December 27, 1894 and opened a medical practice. To this union four children were born: Francis Spencer Hall (1896-1998), Joseph Underwood Hall III (1906-1907), Marshall Spencer Hall (1908-1990), and Marian Catherine Hall (1910-2003).

It was during this time Hall began working with the O'Connor Sanitarium and remained a valuable employee for twenty-five years. On September 17, 1917, the United States Army appointed him Captain in the medical section of the Officer's Reserve Corps. He served on active duty at Fort Riley, Kansas until December 15, 1918. Upon his discharge, he opened a medical office in San Francisco, California. He continued to open offices throughout California during his medical career serving the local communities well. Dr. Hall's significance to the medical profession is his use of the new X-ray technology and the creation of his own X-ray machine, which is documented in this collection.

Dr. Joseph Underwood Hall Jr. died on October 25, 1946 at the age of seventy-eight in San Francisco, California as the result of a rare type of bone cancer. He had attended the medical needs of others for fifty-seven years.

## Scope and Contents

Collection primarily documents the personal life and medical career of Dr. Joseph Underwood Hall Jr. There is a substantial amount of material relating to both his paternal and maternal families. The collection is arranged into two series. Series one contains the personal papers of Dr. Joseph Underwood Hall Jr. Series two consists of the personal papers of his family.

---

## Arrangement

The collection is arranged into two series.

**Series 1: Dr. Joseph Underwood Hall Jr., 1868-1967, undated**

**Series 2: Hall, White and Montague Families, 1780-1976, undated**

---

## Names and Subject Terms

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

### Subjects:

- Mining -- California
- Physicians -- California
- X-rays

### Types of Materials:

- Letters (correspondence)
- Photographs

### Names:

- Downs, Darian

## Container Listing

### Series 1: Dr. Joseph Underwood Hall Jr., 1868-1967, undated

**Scope and Contents:** Materials document the personal and professional life of Dr. Joseph Underwood Hall, Jr. Some of these materials relate to his early education and his medical training including graduation essays. Correspondence date from 1884-1945 and include information about both his personal and profession activities. There is a small amount of information relating to his military career. A scrapbook compiled by Dr. Hall contains poetry; quotations; writings, including his opinion about women's suffrage; articles on medical subjects and his X-Ray experiments; people he knew in San Jose; articles about the New Almaden mine; speeches; announcements and invitations for events; items relating to Jefferson Medical College; and photographs of Dr. Hall, his family, his homes, his offices, the town of New Almaden, and his x-ray machine. In addition, to these materials is a pocket diary containing accounting notes and addresses. A ledger book from the New Almaden Mine details accounting activities dating from 1890-1893. Lastly, there are a few cashbooks. The materials are arranged in chronological order.

Box seven contains inactive mold present on the materials, which has been reduced with surface cleaning and vacuuming. Mold is dormant, but spores may spread and reactivate in certain conditions. Please practice the following hygiene guidelines to keep yourself and the collections safe. Photo-safe (nitrile synthetic, non-latex) gloves must be used when handling these materials. If you have difficulty writing or keyboarding notes, wear one glove on your non-dominant hand to turn pages while leaving the other ungloved. Avoid touching your eyes, mouth, nose while and immediately after handling contents. Wash hands thoroughly after use. Persons with allergic sensitivities or breathing conditions should consider wearing an N-95 particulate mask when paging through these volumes. Gloves and masks are available from Reference staff. Gloves, masks should be discarded after use. Surfaces should be cleaned afterwards.

Box 12, Folder 1            Joseph Underwood Hall, Sr. Rocky Hill, Kentucky, 1850

Box 9                            Photographs, 1868-1942

Box 1, Folder 1            Report card, 1879-1880

Box 1, Folder 2            Essays and examination papers, 1879-1881

Box 7, Folder 1            Graduating essay and examination papers, original, 1879-1883

Box 1, Folder 3            Graduation essay and examination papers, copy, 1879-1883

Box 1, Folder 4            Notes, 1883-1919

Box 1, Folder 5            Correspondence, 1884

Box 1, Folder 6            Correspondence, 1885

Box 9                            Joseph Underwood Hall Jr., 1885-1939

Box 1, Folder 7	Correspondence, 1886
Box 1, Folder 8	Correspondence, 1887
Box 1, Folder 9	Diary, 1888 October 2
Box 1, Folder 10	Correspondence, 1888
Box 1, Folder 11	Correspondence, 1889
Box 2, Folder 1	Correspondence, 1890
Box 13, Folder 1	Expense book, March 1890
Box 2, Folder 2	Correspondence, 1891
Box 2, Folder 3	Correspondence, 1892
Box 2, Folder 4	Correspondence, 1892
Box 2, Folder 5	Correspondence, 1893
Box 2, Folder 6	Correspondence, 1894
Box 2, Folder 7	Business and membership cards, 1894-1924, undated
Box 2, Folder 8	Correspondence, 1895
Box 13, Folder 3	Scrapbook, 1895-1936, undated
Box 2, Folder 9	Correspondence, 1896
Box 2, Folder 10	Correspondence, 1898
Box 2, Folder 11	Correspondence, 1899
Box 2, Folder 12	Correspondence, 1900
Box 2, Folder 13	American Medical Association membership certificate, 1900
Box 2, Folder 14	Correspondence, 1901
Box 2, Folder 15	Correspondence, 1902
Box 2, Folder 16	Correspondence, 1903
Box 2, Folder 17	Correspondence, 1904

Box 2, Folder 18	Correspondence, 1908-1910
Box 12, Folder 4	Photograph Album, 1910-1920
Box 2, Folder 19	Information relating to vision, 1911-1918
Box 2, Folder 20	Correspondence, 1912-1919
Box 3, Folder 1	Fourth Street property, 1912-1919
Box 3, Folder 2	Sixth Street property, 1913-1914
Box 3, Folder 3	American College of Surgeons, 1914
Box 3, Folder 4	Van Ness property papers, 1913-1919
Box 12, Folder 5	Appointment papers, 1917
Box 3, Folder 5	Announcements and license, 1918
Box 7, Folder 2	United States Army, Medical Corps, letters and orders, 1918
Box 12, Folder 5	Discharge papers from military service, 1918
Box 3, Folder 6	Dental Radiograph, 1919
Box 3, Folder 8	Information relating to health, 1924
Box 3, Folder 9	Oest Consolidated Mines Company, 1926
Box 3, Folder 10	Pennsylvania Railroad Itinerary, 1928 May 19
Box 3, Folder 11	Belmont Forums and Livestock Company, 1932
Box 3, Folder 12	Correspondence, 1933-1939
Box 3, Folder 13	Adjusted service certificate, Veterans Administration, 1936
Box 3, Folder 14	Materials relating to tobacco, 1938
Box 3, Folder 15	Cashbook, 1941
Box 3, Folder 16	Correspondence, 1942-1945
Box 3, Folder 17	Cashbook, 1942
Box 4, Folder 1	Cashbook, 1943



Box 4, Folder 2          Notebook, 1944

Box 4, Folder 3          Cashbook, 1944

Box 4, Folder 4          Cashbook, 1945

Box 4, Folder 5          American College of Surgeons, 1946

Box 5, Folder 1          Publication relating to Joseph Underwood Hall Jr., 1965

Box 5, Folder 2          Publications relating to Joseph Underwood Hall Jr., 1967

Box 5, Folder 3          Correspondence, undated

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

## Series 2: Hall, White, and Montague Families, 1780-1976, undated

**Scope and Contents:** Include the personal papers of the Hall, White, and Montague families. Most notable is a bound copy of the family history, based on a genealogy, written in 1898 by Joseph Underwood Hall Sr. Joseph Underwood Hall Jr. provided additional content including photographs in 1942. Many of the documents and photographs included in this publication can also be found in the personal papers of each family member. The family history begins with Judge John Hall who was born in Scotland in 1749. Judge Hall was a teacher, surveyor, mathematician, farmer, and sheriff in Barren County, Kentucky. Other materials not found in the published account of the family history include travel diaries, baby books, correspondence between family members, financial documents, and property records. The materials are arranged first in chronological order and then by the creator or collector of the materials.

Box 5, Folder 4	Birthdates for Hall and White families, 1780-1881
Box 5, Folder 5	Michael Washington Hall, 1790-1820
Box 5, Folder 6	John Alexander Hall, 1802-1859
Box 5, Folder 8	Susannah Wellington Hall, 1820-1862
Box 5, Folder 9	Joseph Underwood Hall Sr., 1840-1870
Box 10	Joseph Underwood Hall, Sr., 1850-1898
Box 6, Folder 16	Correspondence, 1860, undated
Box 5, Folder 10	Joseph Underwood Hall Sr., 1871-1896
Box 5, Folder 11	Katherine Bess White Hall, 1871
Box 5, Folder 12	Household expenses, 1871-1872
Box 11	Katherine Bess White, 1876, 1885
Box 5, Folder 13	Leon Montague Hall, 1884-1924
Box 11	Unidentified photographs, circa 1886-1950s
Box 10	Graily Hewitt Hall, 1888, undated
Box 11	Pearl Wellington Hall, 1888, 1892
Box 5, Folder 14	Body measurements, 1889
Box 10	Leon Montague Hall, 1891-1905

Box 10	Christopher C. Hall, 1892, undated
Box 5, Folder 16	Graily Hewitt Hall, 1893
Box 6, Folder 1	Sarah Francis Montague, 1893-1896
Box 6, Folder 2	Grace May Spencer Hall, 1895-1935
Box 6, Folder 3	Genealogy of Hall family written by Joseph Underwood Hall Sr., 1898
Box 10	Katherine Bess Montague Hall, 1898
Box 6, Folder 4	Cypress Lawn Cemetery Association address, 1898-1928
Box 6, Folder 5	Hal Vernon Hall, 1898-1941
Box 6, Folder 6	Katherine Montague Hall, 1899
Box 6, Folder 7	Frances Spencer Hall, 1901
Box 6, Folder 8	Graily Hewitt Hall, 1901
Box 6, Folder 9	Marian Catherine Hall, 1910-1911
Box 6, Folder 10	Marian Catherine Hall, 1910-1925
Box 6, Folder 11	Grace Alexander Hall, 1915
Box 6, Folder 12	Marian Catherine Hall, 1918-1952
Box 6, Folder 13	Marian Spencer Hall, 1919-1930
Box 6, Folder 13	[Marion Spencer Hall's Travel Diary], 1928 August 17 to 1928 September 14, 1928 1 Item (8.5" x 7.1".) <a href="#">Image(s): Marion Spencer Hall (travel diary)</a> <a href="#">Digital Content</a> Author: Hall, Joseph Underwood, 1881-1936 Language: English. Notes: Ink on paper. Travel diary written by Marion Spencer Hall while on a trip across Europe in 1928.. Topic: Travel -- Europe Genre/Form: Diaries -- 20th century
Box 10	Grace May Spencer Hall, 1928, undated
Box 6, Folder 14	Hall family history, 1942

Box 13, Folder 2	Notebook, 1943-1946
Box 10	Marian Catherine Hall, 1950-1958
Box 11	Marshall Spencer Hall, 1952
Box 6, Folder 15	Marshall Spencer Hall, 1976
Box 6, Folder 17	Montague family geneology, undated
Box 6, Folder 18	Expense account, undated
Box 6, Folder 19	Envelopes, undated
Box 8	Photographs, undated
Box 10	Elthida Mercedes Hall, undated
Box 10	Francis Spencer Hall, undated
Box 10	Grace Alexander Hall, undated
Box 10	Hal Vernon Hall, undated
Box 10	Hal Vernon Hall, undated
Box 10	John A. Hall, undated
Box 10	John Alexander Hall, undated
Box 10	Mary Jane Hall, undated
Box 11	Ella White, undated
Box 11	Sarah Frances White, undated
Box 11	Montague family, undated
Box 12, Folder 2	Thomas Jefferson White, undated
Box 12, Folder 3	Gustavus Adolphus Montague, undated
Map-folder 1	Victoria, British Columbia and Island touring map, undated

Map-folder 2

World map, undated

[Return to Table of Contents](#)