



Smithsonian
National Museum of American History
Kenneth E. Behring Center

Guide to the Horatio Allen Papers

NMAH.AC.1447

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2019

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives Center, National Museum of American History
Title:	Horatio Allen Papers
Identifier:	NMAH.AC.1447
Date:	1840-1872
Extent:	0.2 Cubic feet (1 box, 1 map folder)
Creator:	Allen, Horatio, 1802-1889
Language:	English
Summary:	The collection documents civil engineer Horatio Allen's work with the Croton Aqueduct Board in New York, and with the New York Bridge Company.

Administrative Information

Provenance

Transferred to the Archives Center in 2017 by the Division of Work and Industry.

Related Materials

Materials at Other Organizations

South Caroliniana Library at the University of South Carolina

Horatio Allen papers, 1830-1834

Processing Information

Collection processed by Miles Lawlor; supervised by Alison Oswald, archivist, August 2019.

Preferred Citation

Horatio Allen Papers, 1840-1872, Archives Center, National Museum of American History.

Restrictions

Collection is open for research.

Conditions Governing Use

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Biographical / Historical

Horatio Allen (May 10 1802 – December 31 1889) was an engineer in the early days of the American railroad industry. He also served as the Commissioner of the Croton Aqueduct Board and was involved in the New York Bridge Company, which built the Brooklyn Bridge.

Scope and Contents

The collection consists of civil engineer Horatio Allen's professional papers, documenting his work with the Croton Aqueduct Board in New York and with the New York Bridge Company. The collection does not contain materials related to his presidency of the American Society of Civil Engineers. Included are correspondence, technical writings, patents, specifications, and legal documents. The technical papers in this collection are primarily focused on hydrants, steam engines, and cut-off valves for steam engines.

Arrangement

The collection is arranged as a single series.

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

- Fire hydrants
- Hydraulic engineering and engineers
- Steam-engines
- Valves

Types of Materials:

- Correspondence -- 19th century
- Legal documents -- 19th century
- Patents -- 19th century
- Specifications -- 19th century

Names:

- New York (N.Y.). Croton Aqueduct Board
- New York Bridge Company

Geographic Names:

- Croton Aqueduct (N.Y.)

Container Listing

Box 1, Folder 1	Technical Reports, Correspondence, Patents and Commissioner of the Croton Aqueduct Board Materials, 1842-1848
Box 1, Folder 2	Reports on the Croton Aqueduct and Reports to Water Commissioners, 1840-1848
Box 1, Folder 3	Patent Applications and Specifications of Improvement to Patents, 1845-1868
Box 1, Folder 4	New York Bridge Company Correspondence, 1869-1872
Box 1, Map-folder 1	Patent Drawing, 1867