



Smithsonian

Institution Archives

James Henry Coffin Papers, 1848-1884

Finding aid prepared by Smithsonian Institution Archives

Table of Contents

Collection Overview	1
Administrative Information	1
Historical Note.....	1
Introduction.....	1
Descriptive Entry.....	1
Names and Subjects	2
Container Listing	3
Series 1: Correspondence and Newspaper Clippings.....	3
Series 2: Manuscripts.....	4

Collection Overview

Repository:	Smithsonian Institution Archives, Washington, D.C., osiaref@si.edu
Title:	James Henry Coffin Papers
Date:	1848-1884
Identifier:	Record Unit 7060
Creator::	Coffin, James H. (James Henry), 1806-1873
Extent:	0.25 cu. ft. (1 half document box)
Language:	English

Administrative Information

Preferred Citation

Smithsonian Institution Archives, Record Unit 7060, James Henry Coffin Papers

Historical Note

James Henry Coffin (1806-1873) was a mathematician and meteorologist who specialized in the study of wind velocity. Coffin graduated from Amherst College in 1828 and taught at various schools and colleges. Coffin began his meteorological studies in 1838. While at Williams College, 1840-1843, he installed an apparatus on Mount Greylock, New York, for automatically recording the direction and the velocity of the wind. From 1846 until his death, Coffin held a chair of mathematics and natural philosophy at Lafayette College. In 1846, he began his collaboration with the Smithsonian Institution in meteorology. Two of Coffin's studies, *Winds of the Northern Hemisphere* and *Winds of the Globe* were published by the Institution in 1853 and 1875, respectively.

Introduction

This finding aid was digitized with funds generously provided by the Smithsonian Institution Women's Committee.

Descriptive Entry

These papers consist of correspondence concerning temperature, wind, and weather reports of the Hudson Bay region, 1848; resolutions of condolence to Coffin's son, Seldon J. Coffin, from students and alumni of Lafayette College after Coffin's death, 1873; newspaper articles; an illustration of James H. Coffin; and the original manuscript of *Winds of the Northern Hemisphere*. Additional correspondence of James Henry Coffin exists elsewhere in the Smithsonian Institution Archives, especially in the Joseph Henry Collection, Record Unit 7001, and Meteorological Project Records, Record Unit 60.

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

Meteorology

Names:

Amherst College
Coffin, James H. (James Henry), 1806-1873
Coffin, Seldon J.
Henry, Joseph, 1797-1878
Lafayette College (Easton, Pa.)
Smithsonian Institution. Meteorological Project
Williams College

Preferred Titles:

Winds of the Globe
Winds of the Northern Hemisphere

Container Listing

Series 1: Correspondence and Newspaper Clippings

Box 1

Box 1 of 1	Folder 1 Correspondence, 1848, 1873
Box 1 of 1	Folder 2 Newspaper Articles; and an illustration of James Henry Coffin, 1873, 1884

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Series 2: Manuscripts

Box 1

Box 1 of 1

Folder 3 Winds of the Northern Hemisphere

[Return to Table of Contents](#)