



Smithsonian Institution Archives

## Fielding B. Meek Papers, 1843-1877 and undated

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Washington, D.C.  
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## Collection Overview

<b>Repository:</b>	Smithsonian Institution Archives, Washington, D.C., <a href="mailto:osiaref@si.edu">osiaref@si.edu</a>
<b>Title:</b>	Fielding B. Meek Papers
<b>Identifier:</b>	Record Unit 7062
<b>Date:</b>	1843-1877 and undated
<b>Extent:</b>	5.69 cu. ft. (10 document boxes) (1 16x20 box)
<b>Creator::</b>	Meek, F. B. (Fielding Bradford), 1817-1876.
<b>Language:</b>	Language of Materials: English

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## Administrative Information

### Preferred Citation

Smithsonian Institution Archives, Record Unit 7062, Fielding B. Meek Papers

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## Historical Note

Fielding B. Meek (1817-1876) was born December 10, 1817, in Madison, Indiana, of Irish Presbyterian ancestry. His father was an eminent local lawyer who died when Meek was only three years old. Meek's early education in Indiana, and later Kentucky, was constantly interrupted due to ill health. Health problems, including deafness and tuberculosis, continued to plague him throughout his life. Meek attended good public schools, but was largely self-educated in the natural sciences. His first practical scientific experience was gained as an assistant in David Dale Owen's U.S. Geological Survey of Iowa, Wisconsin, and Minnesota in 1848 and 1849. During 1852-1858 (excepting three summers) Meek was employed at Albany, New York, by the paleontologist James Hall. The summer of 1853 was spent in the Bad Lands of Nebraska in association with Ferdinand Vandeveer Hayden, while those of 1854 and 1855 were spent with George Clinton Swallow's Geological Survey of Missouri. Meek's association with Hall was terminated in 1858 when a dispute arose over the discovery of the occurrence of Permian fossils in North America.

Meek joined the staff of the Smithsonian Institution in 1858 as the Institution's first full-time paleontologist. In lieu of salary, Joseph Henry allotted Meek living quarters in the Smithsonian Castle Building. Until his death, Meek continued to live in the Castle, eventually gaining the title of resident collaborator in paleontology. At the Smithsonian Meek also renewed his acquaintance with F. V. Hayden, joining him on many of Hayden's surveys of the western territories. Meek and Hayden's most notable resulting publication was *Paleontology of the Upper Missouri* (1865). Meek also worked for the Ohio Geological Survey under John Strong Newberry, and with Amos Henry Worthen on the Geological Survey of Illinois. Although Meek was responsible for most of the invertebrate fossil work for the Illinois Survey, the reports were published jointly under the names of Worthen and Meek. Meek's bibliography contains 106 titles, including those publications written in conjunction with Hayden, Worthen, and others. His most important publication was his "Report on the Invertebrate Cretaceous and Tertiary Fossils of the Upper Missouri Country" (1876). Fielding B. Meek died of tuberculosis in his quarters at the Smithsonian on December 21, 1876.

## Descriptive Entry

The collection consists of correspondence 1849-1876, mostly incoming, concerning specimens and geological observations; notebooks, 1846-1872 and diaries, 1871-1875, resulting from Meek's field work; manuscripts and original plate illustrations; and miscellaneous personal papers, including a catalogue of the Meek library made soon after his death.

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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:

- Geologists
- Geology
- Paleontologists
- Paleontology

Types of Materials:

- Diaries
- Field notes
- Manuscripts
- Plates (illustrations)

Names:

- Hayden, F. V. (Ferdinand Vandever), 1829-1887
- Meek, F. B. (Fielding Bradford), 1817-1876

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## Container Listing

### Series 1: INCOMING AND OUTGOING CORRESPONDENCE, 1849-1876, ARRANGED ALPHABETICALLY.

#### Box 1

Box 1 of 11	Folder 1 A - Al
Box 1 of 11	Folder 2 Am
Box 1 of 11	Folder 3 An - Az
Box 1 of 11	Folder 4 B - Bai
Box 1 of 11	Folder 5 Baird, Spencer
Box 1 of 11	Folder 6 Bak - Baz
Box 1 of 11	Folder 7 Be - Big
Box 1 of 11	Folder 8 Billings, E.
Box 1 of 11	Folder 9 Bin - Bla
Box 1 of 11	Folder 10 Ble - Bra
Box 1 of 11	Folder 11 Bre - Bu
Box 1 of 11	Folder 12 C - Case
Box 1 of 11	Folder 13 Cass - Com
Box 1 of 11	Folder 14 Conrad
Box 1 of 11	Folder 15 Cook - Cooper
Box 1 of 11	Folder 16 Cope
Box 1 of 11	Folder 17 Cou - Cr

#### Box 2

Box 2 of 11	Folder 1 D - Dall
Box 2 of 11	Folder 2 Dana, 1857-1860
Box 2 of 11	Folder 3 Dana, 1861-1862

Box 2 of 11	Folder 4 Dana, 1863-1864
Box 2 of 11	Folder 5 Dana, 1865-1867
Box 2 of 11	Folder 6 Dana, 1868-1871
Box 2 of 11	Folder 7 Dana, 1872-1876
Box 2 of 11	Folder 8 Dan - Dav
Box 2 of 11	Folder 9 Daw - Daz
Box 2 of 11	Folder 10 De
Box 2 of 11	Folder 11 Di - Dy
Box 2 of 11	Folder 12 E - Ell
Box 2 of 11	Folder 13 Elm - Es
Box 2 of 11	Folder 14 Et - Ez
Box 2 of 11	Folder 15 F
Box 2 of 11	Folder 16 Gabb
Box 2 of 11	Folder 17 Gac - Gib
Box 2 of 11	Folder 18 Gilbert, G. K.
Box 2 of 11	Folder 19 Gill
Box 2 of 11	Folder 20 Go - Gu

Box 3

Box 3 of 11	Folder 1 H - Hale
Box 3 of 11	Folder 2 Hall
Box 3 of 11	Folder 3 Ham - Hay
Box 3 of 11	Folder 4 Hawn, #1-17, 1856-1857
Box 3 of 11	Folder 5 Hawn, #18-26, 1857-1858
Box 3 of 11	Folder 6 Hayden, 1850-1855
Box 3 of 11	Folder 7 Hayden, 1856
Box 3 of 11	Folder 8 Hayden, 1857

Box 3 of 11	Folder 9 Hayden, 1858
Box 3 of 11	Folder 10 Hayden, 1859
Box 3 of 11	Folder 11 Hayden, 1860-1861
Box 3 of 11	Folder 12 Hayden, 1862-1865
Box 3 of 11	Folder 13 Hayden, 1866-1869
Box 3 of 11	Folder 14 Hayden, 1870-1873
Box 3 of 11	Folder 15 Hayden, 1874-1875
Box 3 of 11	Folder 16 Hayden, 1876
Box 3 of 11	Folder 17 He
Box 3 of 11	Folder 18 Hi - Ho
Box 3 of 11	Folder 19 Hu - Hy
Box 3 of 11	Folder 20 I - Ja
Box 3 of 11	Folder 21 Jewett
Box 3 of 11	Folder 22 Ji - Ki
Box 3 of 11	Folder 23 Kl - Ky

Box 4

Box 4 of 11	Folder 1 L - La
Box 4 of 11	Folder 2 Lea
Box 4 of 11	Folder 3 Leb - Leh
Box 4 of 11	Folder 4 Leidy
Box 4 of 11	Folder 5 Lew - Li
Box 4 of 11	Folder 6 Lej - Les
Box 4 of 11	Folder 7 Lo - Ly
Box 4 of 11	Folder 8 M - Marc
Box 4 of 11	Folder 9 Mard - May
Box 4 of 11	Folder 10 Me - Mi

Box 4 of 11	Folder 11 Mo - My
Box 4 of 11	Folder 12 N - Newberry, 1859-1861
Box 4 of 11	Folder 13 Newberry, 1862-1870
Box 4 of 11	Folder 14 Newberry, 1871-1872
Box 4 of 11	Folder 15 Newberry, 1873-1875
Box 4 of 11	Folder 16 Newt - Nol
Box 4 of 11	Folder 17 Nor - On
Box 4 of 11	Folder 18 Orton
Box 4 of 11	Folder 19 Os - Pa
Box 4 of 11	Folder 20 Pe - Po
Box 4 of 11	Folder 21 Pr - Pu

Box 5

Box 5 of 11	Folder 1 R - Ric
Box 5 of 11	Folder 2 Rid - Roe
Box 5 of 11	Folder 3 Rog - Ru
Box 5 of 11	Folder 4 S - Sa
Box 5 of 11	Folder 5 Scarborough, Edwin - George, 1851-1858
Box 5 of 11	Folder 6 Scarborough, George, 1859-1867
Box 5 of 11	Folder 7 Scarborough, George, 1868-1876
Box 5 of 11	Folder 8 Sch - Sh
Box 5 of 11	Folder 9 Shumard, 1849-1856
Box 5 of 11	Folder 10 Shumard, 1857-1866
Box 5 of 11	Folder 11 Shun - Sim
Box 5 of 11	Folder 12 Sinclair, 1864-1871
Box 5 of 11	Folder 13 Sinclair, 1872-1873
Box 5 of 11	Folder 14 Sinclair, 1874-1876



Box 5 of 11 Folder 15 Sind - Stevens

Box 5 of 11 Folder 16 Stevenson

Box 6

Box 6 of 11 Folder 1 Stimpson, 1861-1866

Box 6 of 11 Folder 2 Stimpson, 1867-1871

Box 6 of 11 Folder 3 Sto - Su

Box 6 of 11 Folder 4 Sw

Box 6 of 11 Folder 5 T

Box 6 of 11 Folder 6 U - Wac

Box 6 of 11 Folder 7 Wad - Whe

Box 6 of 11 Folder 8 White, C. A., 1865-1867

Box 6 of 11 Folder 9 White, C. A., 1868-1869

Box 6 of 11 Folder 10 White, C. A., 1870-1873

Box 6 of 11 Folder 11 White, C. A., 1874-1876

Box 6 of 11 Folder 12 White, J. - Whitfield

Box 6 of 11 Folder 13 Whitney, 1858-1864

Box 6 of 11 Folder 14 Whitney, 1865-1874

Box 6 of 11 Folder 15 Whitt - Winchell, A., 1856-1865

Box 6 of 11 Folder 16 Winchell, A., 1866-1874 - Winchell, N. H.

Box 6 of 11 Folder 17 Wing - Wor

Box 6 of 11 Folder 18 Worthen, A. H., 1857-1861

Box 6 of 11 Folder 19 Worthen, A. H., 1862-1865

Box 7

Box 7 of 11 Folder 1 Worthen, A. H., 1866-1867

Box 7 of 11 Folder 2 Worthen, A. H., 1868-1876 - Worthen, T. A.

Box 7 of 11 Folder 3 Wu - Z

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Folder 4 Unidentified Correspondence

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**Series 2: MANUSCRIPTS AND RELATED PAPERS, 1865-1876 AND UNDATED.  
ARRANGED CHRONOLOGICALLY.**

Box 7

Box 7 of 11 Folder 5 Paleontology of the Upper Missouri, Part 1, Plates #1-2, 4-5 (plate #3 is missing), 1865

Box 7 of 11 Folders 6-12 Paleontology of the Upper Missouri, Part 2, Plates #1-35, 1865 (7 folders)

Box 8

Box 8 of 11 Folders 1-2 Paleontology of the Upper Missouri, Part 2, Plates #36-45, 1865

Box 8 of 11 Folder 3 Ohio Paleontology, Plates A-W, circa 1873

Box 8 of 11 Folder 4 Report of the Paleontological Collections of the Expedition, 1876 (from Explorations Across the Great Basin of Utah in 1859, by J. H. Simpson)

Box 8 of 11 Folder 5 "Fossils of the Fresh and Brackish-water Lignite Series," undated

Box 8 of 11 Folders 6-9 Unidentified manuscript, pp. 1-99, undated - mostly specimen descriptions

Box 8 of 11 Folder 10 Incomplete manuscript notes, undated

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## Series 3: MISCELLANY, 1843-1877 AND UNDATED, UNARRANGED.

### Box 8

- Box 8 of 11 Folder 11 Miscellaneous notes, undated (mostly specimen descriptions)  
(continued)
- Box 8 of 11 Folder 12 Photographs and drawings, 1875 and undated (Meek's family and  
friends, some specimens)  
[Digital Content: Meek's Cat Lives in the "Castle" \[Image No. 92-15019 \(from  
Negative in Acc. 11-009\)\]](#)
- Box 8 of 11 Folder 13 Newspaper clippings, 1855-1876 and undated
- Box 8 of 11 Folder 14 Circulars and announcements, 1858-1876 and undated
- Box 8 of 11 Folder 15 Financial Records, 1858 and 1866-1874 (mostly re: real estate  
taxes)
- Box 8 of 11 Folder 16 Catalogue of the Library of Fielding B. Meek, 1877
- Box 8 of 11 Folder 17 Lawrence, Byrem. A Concise Description of the Geological  
Formations and Mineral Localities of the Western States; ...Boston, 1843, 48  
pp.
- Box 8 of 11 Folder 18 Certificates, 1854-1873

### Box 9

- Box 9 of 11 Folder 1 Certificate from the Philadelphia Academy of Natural Sciences, April  
29, 1836
- Box 9 of 11 Folder 2 Certificate from the American Philosophical Society, April 22, 1867
- Box 9 of 11 Folder 3 Certificate from the Academy of Science of St. Louis, August 11,  
1856
- Box 9 of 11 Folder 4 Certificate of Membership in the National Academy of Sciences,  
September 1, 1869

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## Series 4: NOTEBOOKS AND DIARIES, 1846-1875, ARRANGED CHRONOLOGICALLY.

### Box 10

- Box 10 of 11 Folder 1 Sketchbook - Kentucky and Minnesota, undated  
[Digital Content: Sketchbook - Kentucky and Minnesota, undated \[Field Book Registry Item 470\]](#)
- Box 10 of 11 Folder 2 Notebooks 2-4; 2, Kentucky, 1846; 3, David Dale Owen's Survey, circa 1848; 4, David Dale Owen's Survey, April 1848-July 1848  
[Digital Content: Kentucky, 1846 \(Geological Definitions\) \[Field Book Registry Item 471\]](#)  
[Digital Content: David Dale Owen's Survey, ca. 1848 \[Field Book Registry Item 473\]](#)  
[Digital Content: David Dale Owen's Survey, April 1848-July 1848 \[Field Book Registry Item 475\]](#)  
[Digital Content: Kentucky, 1846 \[Field Book Registry Item 6924\]](#)  
[Digital Content: David Dale Owen's Survey, ca. 1848 \[Field Book Registry Item 6926\]](#)  
[Digital Content: David Dale Owen's Survey, April 1848-July 1848 \[Field Book Registry Item 6932\]](#)
- Box 10 of 11 Folder 3 Notebooks 5-6; 5, David Dale Owen's Survey, July 1848-November 1848; 6, David Dale Owen's Survey, 1849, Part I  
[Digital Content: David Dale Owen's Survey, July 1848-November 1848 \[Field Book Registry Item 477\]](#)  
[Digital Content: David Dale Owen's Survey, 1849, Part I \[Field Book Registry Item 478\]](#)  
[Digital Content: David Dale Owen's Survey, July 1848-November 1848 \[Field Book Registry Item 6938\]](#)  
[Digital Content: David Dale Owen's Survey, 1849, Part I \[Field Book Registry Item 6939\]](#)
- Box 10 of 11 Folder 4 Notebook 7, David Dale Owen's Survey, 1849, Part II  
[Digital Content: David Dale Owen's Survey, 1849, Part II \[Field Book Registry Item 483\]](#)
- Box 10 of 11 Folder 5 Notebooks 8-10; 8, Notes, circa 1852; 9, Owensboro, Kentucky, and Albany, New York, 1852-1853, Washington, D.C., 1861; 10, Notes, 1853  
[Digital Content: Notes ca. 1852 \[Field Book Registry Item 484\]](#)  
[Digital Content: Notes, 1853 \[Field Book Registry Item 485\]](#)
- Box 10 of 11 Folder 6 Notebook 11, Missouri Geological Survey, 1853-1854. Catalogue of Professor James Hall's library, undated  
[Digital Content: Missouri Geological Survey, 1853-1854, catalogue of Prof. James Hall's library, n.d. \[Field Book Registry Item 488\]](#)
- Box 10 of 11 Folder 7 Notebooks 12-14; 12, Missouri Geological Survey, Notebook No. 2, 1854; 13, Kentucky, 1857; Account with Ferdinand Vandever Hayden,

1857-1859; Montana and Wyoming, undated; List of addresses of foreign geologists, undated; List of books on paleontology in Smithsonian Institution library, undated; 14, Nebraska Territory (?), 1858

[Digital Content: Missouri Geological Survey, notebook no. 2, 1854 \[Field Book Registry Item 489\]](#)

[Digital Content: Kentucky, 1857; account with Ferdinand Vandeveer Hayden, 1857-1859; Montana and Wyoming, n.d.; list of addresses of foreign geologists, n.d.; list of books on paleontology in S.I. library, n.d. \[Field Book Registry Item 490\]](#)

[Digital Content: Nebraska Territory \(?\), 1858 \[Field Book Registry Item 491\]](#)

#### Box 11

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Folder 1 Notebooks 15-16; 15, Wisconsin, Missouri, etc., 1858-1859; Washington, D.C., 1862; 16, Illinois, Indiana, Nebraska, New York, 1860-1869

[Digital Content: Wisconsin, Missouri, etc., 1858-1859, Washington, D.C., 1862 \[Field Book Registry Item 492\]](#)

[Digital Content: Illinois, Indiana, Nebraska, New York, 1860-1869 \[Field Book Registry Item 494\]](#)

Box 11 of 11

Folder 2 Notebooks 17-19; Maryland, Delaware, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, 1862; 18, New Jersey, 1863; 19, Account book with the Ridgely National Bank, 1866-1869

[Digital Content: Maryland, Delaware, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, 1862 \[Field Book Registry Item 497\]](#)

[Digital Content: New Jersey, 1863 \[Field Book Registry Item 499\]](#)

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Folder 3 Notebook 20. Iowa and Nebraska, 1867 (also contains loose material from Kansas and Missouri, undated)

[Digital Content: Iowa and Nebraska, 1867 \(also contains loose material from Kansas and Missouri, n.d.\) \[Field Book Registry Item 500\]](#)

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Folder 4 Notebooks 21-22; 21, Notes, circa 1868; 22, Ohio, 1870-1871

[Digital Content: Ohio, 1870-1871 \[Field Book Registry Item 501\]](#)

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Folder 5 Notebooks 23-24; 23, Diary, 1871; 24, Diary, 1872

[Digital Content: Diary, 1872 \[Field Book Registry Item 502\]](#)

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Folder 6 Notebooks 25-26; 25, Union Pacific Railroad (with Henry M. Bannister), 1872; 26, Diary, 1873

[Digital Content: Union Pacific Railroad \(with Henry M. Bannister\), 1872 \[Field Book Registry Item 504\]](#)

[Digital Content: Diary, 1873 \[Field Book Registry Item 507\]](#)

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Folder 7 Notebooks 27-28; 27, Diary, 1874; 28. Diary, 1875

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