

**Register of the
Stephen N. Haskell
Collection
Collection 233**

Center for Adventist Research
James White Library
Andrews University
Berrien Springs, Michigan
September 2004, December 2025
Processed by Carol N. Williams / Katharine Van Arsdale

Stephen N. Haskell Collection

Collection 233

Biographical History

Stephen Nelson Haskell (1833-1922) was an evangelist and administrator. He began preaching for the non-Sabbatarian Adventists in New England in 1853, and later the same year began to observe the Sabbath. In 1850 he married Mary How, who, in 1869 assisted in organizing the first Vigilant Missionary Society. After doing self-supporting work in New England, he was ordained in 1870 and became president of the New England Conference (1870-1876, 1877-1887). In 1870 he organized the first conference Tract and Missionary Society, and subsequently organized similar societies in various parts of the eastern United States. In addition to being president of the New England Conference he was also president of the California Conference (1879-1887) and the Maine Conference (1884-1886), and part of that time was out of the country.

In 1885 he was in charge of a group that was sent to open denominational work in Australia. His preaching in New Zealand was climaxed by forming the first group of Seventh-day Adventists in that country. In 1887 with three Bible instructors he began SDA work in London, England, and organized a church there. He made a world tour on behalf of missionary work in 1889-1890, visiting western Europe, Southern Africa, India, China, Japan, and Australia. In 1918, some 28 years later, in a report to the General Conference, he related that on that world tour he baptized one individual in China and another in Japan, the first in these countries (see *Review and Herald* 99:17, Dec. 14, 1922). No other reports of these baptisms are extant, nor do later historians on SDA denominational history mention them. He was again president of the California Conference from 1891 to 1894. His first wife died in January of that year. Again in Australia (1896-1899), he engaged in evangelistic work and taught Bible at the Avondale school. While there he married Hetty Hurd in February 1897 whom he subsequently married.

Another of Haskell's "firsts" was the organization of the first African-American SDA church in New York City (1902). After this, he conducted a series of Bible training schools and evangelistic series in Tennessee and California, and once again served as president of the California Conference (1908-1911).

He led in temperance work in Maine (1911), began printing books for the blind (1912), and assisted in the development of the White Memorial Hospital (1916). Until near the time of his death he attended institutes and camp meetings, and promoted the general work of the denomination. His written works include *The Story of Daniel the Prophet*, *The Story of the Seer of Patmos*, and *the Cross and Its Shadow*.

Scope and Content

This collection contains two acquisitions of papers by or about Stephen N. Haskell and his wife Hetty Haskell. The first acquisition came to the Center for Adventist Research circa 2003 when the Ellen G. White Estate Branch Office merged with the Adventist Heritage Center. This part of the collection contains photocopies of correspondence by, to, and about S. N. Haskell and his wife Hetty Haskell. The correspondence is primarily directed to Ellen G. White and W. C. White. Other names included in the correspondence are Josphine Gotzian, Sister Sara, Sister Harris, G. B. Starr, E. E. Franke, John H. Kellogg, Arthur G. Daniells, G. B. Thompson, W. H. Covell, A. T. Jones, Clarence Crisler, S. N. Curtiss, W. W. Prescott, and H. W. Cottrell. It is likely that the photocopies were made from original correspondence held by

the General Conference Office of Archives, Statistics, and Research (see Box 3892, Record Group 009 for Haskell correspondence 1891-1914).

The second acquisition contains original material from Atlantic Union College's Heritage Collection, where it was supposedly stored in Stephen N. Haskell's desk. The papers are primarily mortgages, deeds, titles, and receipts related to properties Haskell purchased or sold in South Lancaster. Other notable items in this half of the collection include an autograph book and a ledger containing membership information for Massachusetts Seventh-day Adventist churches circa 1878-1881.

Extent: 1.88 linear feet (4 full Hollinger boxes; 1 half Hollinger box)

Arrangement

The collection is organized by acquisition into two groupings: 1) photocopied correspondence arranged chronologically, and 2) original materials. Original materials are organized into series by material type.

Provenance

This first acquisition in this collection was held unprocessed by the *Ellen G. White Estate Branch Office* at Andrews University until 2004 when it was incorporated into the manuscript collections of the *Center for Adventist Research* at the James White Library, Andrews University. It is unknown who selected letters for inclusion, who made the photocopies, or how they were brought to Michigan.

The second acquisition in this collection was selected from Atlantic Union College's Heritage materials by Merlin Burt and came to CAR in July 2020. It was packaged in a bubble mailer labeled "Stephen Haskell's desk - Fragile!" so it is suggested that these items came directly from his desk.

Use

All users of this collection will complete the "Application to Use Unpublished Records," and observe the regulation specified in the "Patron's Agreement" and "Researcher's Code of Conduct." All records in this collection are open and available for research. **Any form of copying will be limited by the White Estate's copy policy.** Suggested citation for this collection:

Box ____, fld ____, Stephen N. Haskell Collection (Collection 233), Center for Adventist Research, James White Library, Andrews University, Berrien Springs, MI.

Stephen N. Haskell Collection

(Collection 233)

INVENTORY

I. Photocopied Correspondence by Date

Box 1 Fld 1	1892
Box 1 Fld 2	1893 and March 9, 1894
Box 1 Fld 3	1895
Box 1 Fld 4	1896
Box 1 Fld 5	1897
Box 1 Fld 6	1898
Box 1 Fld 7	1899
Box 1 Fld 8	1900
Box 2 Fld 1	1901
Box 2 Fld 2	1902
Box 2 Fld 3	1903
Box 2 Fld 4	1904
Box 2 Fld 5	1905
Box 2 Fld 6	1906
Box 2 Fld 7	1907
Box 3 Fld 1	1908
Box 3 Fld 2	1909
Box 3 Fld 3	1910 – January to August
Box 3 Fld 4	1910 – September to December
Box 3 Fld 5	1911 – January to June

Box 4 Fld 1 1911 – July to December

II. Original Materials

Personal Papers

- Box 5 Fld 1 Ledger, 1879-81
 Personal ledger of Stephen N. Haskell dating from 1879 to 1881. It contains a record of Seventh-day Adventists in New England—membership by churches and financial records. Also included is an interesting “pledge to pay tithe” by many prominent pioneers in the church.
- Box 5 Fld 2 Autograph book, 1884-88
 Signatures related to South Lancaster Academy.
- Box 5 Fld 3 Mortgages, deeds, and titles - 1877
- Box 5 Fld 4 Mortgages, deeds, and titles - 1887-94
- Box 5 Fld 5 Mortgages, deeds, and titles - 1901-03
- Box 5 Fld 6 Mortgages, deeds, and titles - 1909-19
- Box 5 Fld 7 Mortgages, deeds, and titles - 1922
- Box 5 Fld 8 Handwritten receipts dated Dec 14, 1920 - Sep 19, 1922
- Box 5 Fld 9 Handwritten notes recording interest payments, 1900-01

Related to South Lancaster Academy

- Box 5 Fld 10 SLA Dining Hall order form (3 fragments - fragile)
- Box 5 Fld 11 SLA Stock Share Certificate, May 22, 1893

Photographs

- Box 5 Fld 12 Portraits of the Haskell
 Contains one portrait of S.N. Haskell alone and one of Stephen and Hetty together.

Artifacts

- Box 5 Fld 13 Corn cobs, eyeglasses, and tassel
 Includes explanatory notes about corn cobs and eyeglasses. Tassel is not explained but seems to have come from Haskell's desk.

ITEMS REMOVED

Items removed are catalogued and available through the Center for Adventist Research collection of printed material.

Circular: New England School, [1882].

Tract published by "the committee" with facts and information about upcoming terms at the New England School, assumed to be South Lancaster Academy. Based on the content of the tract, it was likely published in the summer of 1882, after SLA's first "term," which began in April 1882.

Annual Catalogue and Announcement of South Lancaster Academy, 1886.

The True Educator, Vol. 1, No. 8, November, 1884

❖ ❖ ❖ ❖ The End ❖ ❖ ❖ ❖