

# Guide to the Sarah Josepha Hale Papers, 1850-1877 (bulk 1863-1867)

## Biographical Note

Sarah Josepha Buell was born in Newport, N.H., on October 24, 1788. She married David Hale, a lawyer, in 1813 and they had five children. Widowed in 1822, she turned to writing to earn a living. She published several books of verse and a novel, *Northwood*, in the 1820's, and became editor of the *Ladies' Magazine* in 1828. She had high standards as an editor, and the magazine reflected her interests, primarily what she called the "women's sphere;" she was opposed to woman's suffrage but was a great proponent of education for women and the kindergarten movement. In 1837 she became editor of *Godey's Lady's Book*, a magazine which made a practice of avoiding the controversial issues of the day. Despite these somewhat conservative views, she was committed to advancing the interests of women--her efforts on behalf of Vassar College are reflected in this group of letters. In the 1850's she became interested in careers for women--such as medicine, foreign missionary work. Sarah Hale, however, should be remembered not primarily as a feminist but as a highly skilled editor. She did not retire from *Godey's* until she was ninety; she died in Philadelphia the following year, 1879.

[Top](#)

## Scope and Content Note

Thirty original letters by Hale and typescript copies of letters to and from Hale (originals also available) concerning the inclusion of the word "female" in Vassar Female College, women's education, other business of Vassar College, missionary work, and women in the church. Other correspondents include Milo P. Jewett, Benson J. Lossing, John H. Raymond, and Matthew Vassar.

[Top](#)

## Correspondence from Hale

Folder 1.1 to Horace Greeley, 2 September 1850 Folder 1.2 to Milo P. Jewett, 17 February 1864 Folder 1.3 to Pliny Earle, n.d. Folder 1.4 to Horace Greeley, 2 September 1850 Folder 1.5 to Matthew Vassar, 30 April 1860 Folder 1.6 to Matthew Vassar, 5 April 1861 Folder 1.7 to Benson Lossing, 21 December 1863 Folder 1.8 to Milo P. Jewett, 17 February 1864 Folder 1.9 to Milo P. Jewett, 20 February 1864 Folder 1.10 to Matthew Vassar, 19 March 1864 Folder 1.11 to John H. Raymond, 6 June 1864 Folder 1.12 to John H. Raymond, 21 June 1864 Folder 1.13 to John H. Raymond, 3 November 1864 Folder 1.14 to Matthew Vassar, 21 January 1865 Folder 1.15 to Benson Lossing, 6 February 1865 Folder 1.16 to Benson Lossing, 6 February 1865 Folder 1.17 to John H. Raymond, 24 February 1865 Folder 1.18 to Benson Lossing, 25 February 1865 Folder 1.19 to John H. Raymond, 2 March 1865 Folder 1.20 to John H. Raymond, 8 March 1865 Folder 1.21 to Matthew Vassar, 30 March 1865 Folder 1.22 to Benson Lossing, 4 April 1865 Folder 1.23 to Benson Lossing, 30

March 1865 Folder 1.24 to John H. Raymond, 5 April 1865 Folder 1.25 from Matthew Vassar [unclear if there was a to MV as of 1 May 2014], 7 June 1865 Folder 1.26 to John H. Raymond, 8 August 1865 Folder 1.27 to Benson Lossing, 26 August 1865 Folder 1.28 to Martin B. Anderson, 14 June 1866 Folder 1.29 to Matthew Vassar, 2 December 1867 Folder 1.30 to Matthew Vassar, 27 March 1868 Folder 1.31 to John H. Raymond, 31 March 1871 Folder 1.32 to John H. Raymond, 12 February 1875 Folder 1.33 to John H. Raymond, 18 June 1877 Folder 1.34 to John H. Raymond, n.d. Folder 1.35 to Matthew Vassar, n.d.

### **Correspondence to Hale**

Folder 2.36 from Matthew Vassar, 8 May 1860 Folder 2.37 from Matthew Vassar, 11 December 1862 Folder 2.38 from Henry W. Lee, 21 December 1863 Folder 2.39 from Milo. P Jewett, 17 February 1864 Folder 2.40 from Matthew Vassar, 31 March 1864 Folder 2.41 from Milo P. Jewett, 2 May 1864 Folder 2.42 from Matthew Vassar, 8 June 1864 Folder 2.43 from Matthew Vassar, 26 September 1864 Folder 2.44 from Matthew Vassar, 26 December 1864 Folder 2.45 from John H. Raymond, 26 October 1864 Folder 2.46 from Matthew Vassar, 7 June 1865 Folder 2.47 from Matthew Vassar, 28 August 1865 Folder 2.48 from Matthew Vassar, 28 October 1865 Folder 2.49 from Matthew Vassar, 4 December 1865 Folder 2.50 from Matthew Vassar, 4 December 1865 Folder 2.51 from Matthew Vassar, 29 January 1866 Folder 2.52 from Matthew Vassar, 27 June 1866 Folder 2.53 from Matthew Vassar, 25 August 1866 Folder 2.54 from Matthew Vassar, 5 December 1866 Folder 2.55 from Matthew Vassar, 22 February 1867 Folder 2.56 from Matthew Vassar, 7 March 1867 Folder 2.57 from Matthew Vassar, 22 March 1867 Folder 2.58 from Matthew Vassar, 20 June 1867 Folder 2.59 from Matthew Vassar, 20 June 1867 Folder 2.60 from Matthew Vassar, 11 July 1867 Folder 2.61 from Matthew Vassar, 9 September 1867 Folder 2.62 from Matthew Vassar, 3 October 1867 Folder 2.63 from Pliny Early, n.d.