

**The Burke Library at Union Theological Seminary  
Columbia University in the City of New York**

Union Theological Seminary Archives 1

Finding Aid for

**John Goodman Hall, 1837 - 1863**

Finding Aid prepared by: Ruth Tonkiss Cameron, 2008, updated 2014

**Summary Information**

Creator: John Goodman Hall, 1816 - 1900  
Title: John Goodman Hall Papers, 1837 - 1863  
Inclusive dates: 1837 - 1863  
Bulk dates: 1846 - 1863  
Abstract: One of first graduates of Union Theological Seminary, 1836 – 1839. Congregational Pastor in South Egremont, Mass., Cherry Valley, NY, Fort Plain, NY and Ohio. Two Private journals, Notebook of clippings including selection from Hall's sermons and letters, Pew plan, brief family history.  
Size: 1 box, 0.50 linear feet  
Storage: Onsite storage  
Repository: The Burke Library  
Union Theological Seminary  
3041 Broadway  
New York, NY 10027  
Email: [burkearchives@library.columbia.edu](mailto:burkearchives@library.columbia.edu)

**Administrative Information**

- Provenance: Purchased from Charles Apfelbaum, Rare book dealer, New Jersey, May 2008 with the assistance of the Friends of The Burke Library.
- Access: Archival papers are available to registered readers for consultation by appointment only. Please contact archives staff by email to [burkearchives@library.columbia.edu](mailto:burkearchives@library.columbia.edu), or by postal mail to the Burke Library address on page 1, as far in advance as possible. [Burke Library staff](#) is available for inquiries or to request a consultation on archival or special collections research.
- Access Restrictions: The collection is unrestricted to readers. Certain materials, however, are in a fragile condition, and this may necessitate restriction in handling and copying.
- Preferred Citation: Item description, box #, folder #, UTS1: John Goodman Hall Papers, 1837 - 1863, The Burke Library at Union Theological Seminary, Columbia University in the City of New York

**Biography**

John Goodman Hall was born in Brooklyn, NY in 1816 and graduated from New York City University in 1836. He entered into the very first class of students at the newly founded and briefly named New York Theological Seminary, which was then renamed Union Theological Seminary upon incorporation. Hall graduated from UTS in 1839 and was ordained by the Congregational Berkshire Association on October 29, 1839.

His career followed the traditional path of that period: as Stated supply (Acting Pastor) in New-Lebanon, NY, 1839-42; Pastor in South Egremont, Mass, 1842-50; Pastor in Cherry Valley, NY, 1850-57 and Pastor (Reformed Church in America )in Fort Plain, NY 1857-63. While pastor in Cherry Valley he undertook a journey to England and France from April to August 1853.

In 1864 he moved to Ohio, but does not appear to have obtained a full church position there. Hall was Stated supply in the Congregational church in Ravenna, Ohio, 1864-73, but was without charge in Cleveland, Ohio from 1873-1900. John Goodman Hall was honored with a D.D. from New York University in 1879. He died in Cleveland, Ohio on January 30, 1900.

**Collection Scope and Content Note**

This small collection consists of two manuscript notebooks, which are 'private journals' containing Hall's diary of handwritten notes on the thoughts, activities and events of his life during the years 1845 – 1863 as a New York pastor. The first notebook includes details of his European visit and contains remnants of some fragile pressed flowers. A third small volume contains clippings mainly of J. G. Hall's own printed letters and sermons.

**Processing**

Metal clips and staples were removed from materials and folded items were flattened. Materials were placed in new acid-free folders and boxes. Acidic items were separated from one another by interleaving with acid-free paper as needed.

**Contents list**

Box	Folder	Contents
1	1	Private Journal No. 2, 1845-56
1	2	Private Journal Cherry Valley, 1856-63
1	3	Scrapbook of Clippings, 1837-57
1	4	General-Clippings, Biographical Notes, Plan of Pews