

A calendar of  
the papers of

NATHANIEL P. HILL

a holding of

the Library of the State Historical Society of Colorado

Collection 310

processed by

M. Gary Bettis

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MGB  
8-1-68

### BIOGRAPHY

- b. 2-18-1832 Orange County, New York
- d. 5-22-1900 Denver, Colorado
- m. 7-17-1860 Alice Hale
  - Crawford 3-29-62
  - Isabel 4-10-64
  - Gertrude 1-26-69

Nathaniel Peter Hill was born in Orange County New York, February 18, 1832, and was the third of seven children. He graduated from Brown University in 1857 and from 1859 to 1864 was Professor of Chemistry of the institution. In 1864 capitalists from Boston and Providence sponsored Hill for a trip to Colorado Territory to evaluate mineral resources. In Denver he met Ex-Governor William Gilpin and became a member of an expedition to check mineral deposits on Gilpin's newly-purchased land.

N.P. Hill returned to Colorado twice in 1865, once in 1866, travelled to Europe in 1865 and 1866 to evaluate new methods of milling metals, and finally moved permanently to Colorado in 1867 when the Boston and Colorado Smelting Company - backed by capitalists of Providence and Boston - began work in Black Hawk, Colorado.

In 1871 Hill was elected Mayor of Black Hawk, and in 1872-73 he was a member of the Territorial Council. Hill, a republican, was elected to the United States Senate in 1879 to succeed Jerome B. Chaffee and he remained in the Senate until 1885. In 1891 he was appointed by President Harrison as a member of the United States delegation to the International Monetary Commission.

N.P. Hill was president of the Colorado Smelting and Refining Company and the Denargo Land Company, and was also owner of the Denver Republican. In July of 1860 N.P. Hill was married to Alice Hale. Mrs. Hale is known as the creator of the kindergarten system in Denver and was active in the YWCA and the Mt. Vernon Ladies Association. Three children; Crawford, Isabel, and Gertrude, were born to Mr. and Mrs. Hill.

8-1-68

## FOREWARD

Significance - The Hill papers consist almost entirely of notebooks and scrapbooks kept by Mrs. N.P. Hill. The materials of greatest value are the notebooks of letters from N.P. Hill to his wife which were copied by her and illustrate three of Hill's trips to Colorado. The papers also contain personal letters from N.P. Hill to his wife during his 1866 trip to Europe.

The content of the Hill correspondence is especially valuable for its descriptions of the travel accommodations and conditions between New York and Denver, the early mining facilities in Colorado (especially in Central City area) and the sights and personalities of Territorial Colorado, Denver, and Central City.

The N.P. Hill collection supplements other Hill family collections: Alice Hale Hill, 308; Crawford and Louise Hill, 309; N.P. Hill II, 923; and Alice Hale Myatt, 938.

Provenance - The materials which compose the N.P. Hill collection were given to the Library of the State Historical Society of Colorado in 1956 by Hill's granddaughter, Mrs. Alexander Barbour.

The Collection consists of original pieces of correspondence, two notebooks, three photographs, and other miscellaneous material. The notebooks contain copied letters from N.P. Hill to his wife, diary entries, and other materials which reflect the personal life and interests of the Hill family.

The collection is numbered 310.

CHRONCLGY

- 1832 Born in Orange County, New York.
- 1857 Graduated from Brown University.
- 1859-64 Professor of Chemistry at Brown University.
- 1860 Married to Alice Hale.
- 1864 First trip to Colorado.
- 1865 Second and third trips to Colorado and first trip to Europe.
- 1866 Fourth trip to Colorado and second trip to Europe.
- 1867 Permanent settlement in Colorado and beginning of the operation of the Boston and Colorado Smelting Company.
- 1871 Mayor of Black Hawk.
- 1872-73 Member of the Colorado Territorial Council.
- 1879-85 Served as United States Senator.
- 1891 Member of the International Monetary Commission.
- 1900 Death in Denver, Colorado.

## DESCRIPTION OF THE N.P. HILL PAPERS

FF 1

Notebook No. 1, 8 x 13, 100 pages. Kept by Mrs. N.P. Hill. Entries are in her handwriting and are very legible. The notebook is bound in a cardboard cover and is in fair condition. The entries consist of the following items:

pp 1-2 Blank  
 pp 3-15 & 18 Miscellaneous newspaper clippings. Many pertain to N.P. Hill and his work as chemist while at Brown University. Several were taken from the New York Times and while most are undated, 1858 and 1859 does appear.  
 pp 16-17 Blank  
 pp 19-99 Copied letters from N.F. Hill to his wife and others from 5-31-64 to 11-3-64 and 2-16-65 to 4-3-65 during the times that Hill was on trips to Colorado. [For descriptions of these letters see the Correspondence section of this calendar]  
 pp 100 Blank

FF 2

Notebook No. 2, 8 x 13, 100 pages. Kept by Mrs. N.P. Hill. Entries are in her handwriting and are very legible. The notebook is bound in a cardboard cover and is fair condition. The entries consist of the following items:

pp 1-2 Blank  
 pp 3-14 Continuation of the copied letters of N.P. Hill during his second trip to Colorado in 1865 which was begun in Notebook No. 1. Entries are from 3-5-65 to 3-27-65. Hill's third visit to Colorado is recorded from 5-25-65 to 6-4-65.  
 pp 15-89 Blank  
 pp 90-96 Copied letters from N.P. Hill to his wife during his trip to England from 3-2-66 to 3-16-66. [For descriptions of these letters see the Correspondence section of this calendar]  
 pp 97-100 Blank

1110

Continuation of the copied letters of N.P. Hill during his second trip to Colorado. The entries in the Correspondence section of Notebook No. 1, pp 19-99, are from 3-5-65 to 3-27-65. Hill's third visit to Colorado is recorded from 5-25-65 to 6-4-65. [For descriptions of these letters see the Correspondence section of this calendar]

FF 3

Correspondence of N.P. Hill, May 25, 1865-August 5, 1865, letters to his wife:

1. undated
2. Denver, June 30, 1864
3. New York, May 25, 1865
4. Chicago, May 27, 1865
5. Atchison, May 30, 1865
6. Washington Ranch, Colorado, July 4th, 1865
7. Central City, Jun 3 7, 1865
8. Central City, July 21, 1865
9. Central City, July 16, 1865
10. Central City, August 5, 1865

FF 4

Correspondence August 9, 1865 - March 19, 1866

1. Central City, August 9, 1865 to Crawford
2. Centray City, August 15, 1865, to his wife
3. Halifax, March 2, 1866
4. Steam Ship Europa, March 11, 1866
5. London, March 29, 1866
6. London, March 16, 1866
7. London, March 19, 1866
8. London, March 23, 1866
9. London, March 29, 1866
10. Swansea, April 3, 1866

FF 5

paper on gambling by N.P. Hill

FF 6

Stock certificate from Park Pool Company, December 17, 1877

FF 7

Miscellaneous materials (Xerox) This material consists of eight miscellaneous newspaper clippings found in the back pages of Scrapbook no. 1; a four page list of names and addresses in Mrs. N.P. Hill's handwriting; a published bulletin from the National Mary Washington Memorial Association entitled "To The Women of the United States"; a letter (TLS, 1-28-1957) from A.A. Paddock to Maurice Frink; and a letter from Agnes Wright Springto A.A. Paddock.

FF 8

Original material (of FF 7)

FF 9

Three speeches by H.P. Hill

1. August 2, 1893
2. September 12, 1893
3. December 15, 1884

FF 10

Photographs, 2½ x 3 ¾, b & w. Three photographs include: 1) H.P. Hill. 2) (Alice Hill). 3) Miss Aldrich (Nurse of the Hill family children) and Crawford and Isabel Hill. Dates and the photographer unknown.

FF 11

Article on N.P. Hill, "Favorites of Fortune from Illustrated Weekly, Vol. 10, No. 48, August 22, 1900.

FF 12

Clipping of N.P. Hill's death 1900.



The correspondence of the N.P. Hill Papers has been arranged in chronological order in this calendar. In order to locate materials in the storage containers, and in the individual notebooks, the following abbreviations have been used: FF - Folio number, NB - Notebook number, PG - Page number.

4

CORRESPONDENCE

FF	NB	PG.	TO	PLACE	DATE	FORM	SUBJECT
1	1	19	Alice	New York	5-31-64	ALS copy	We start west this morning. (1p.)
		19	"	[Cleveland]	6-1-64	"	"Safe at Cleveland & all well." (1p.)
		19	"	Hannibal, Mo.	6-5-64	"	Description of the trip thus far. Was thoroughly disgusted with St. Louis - it was dirty and corrupt. (4pp.)
		22	"	Atchison, Kansas	6-7-64	"	Description of train travel across Missouri - concern with track conditions and "bushwhackers." (3pp.)
		24	"	W. of Atchison, Kansas	6-9-64 6-10-64	"	Been traveling 48 hours by stage. 7 passengers. Arrived at Ft. Kearney last night. Description of trip, wagon trains, and wildlife. (2pp.)
		26	"	Denver	6-14-64	"	Arrived this A.M. Detailed description of trip and events along the way. (2pp.)
		63	Bell Hill	Denver	6-15-64	"	General description of trip from Providence to Denver. Description of "Big Indian Scare!" Shall soon begin to examine mines. (6pp.)
		59	Hattie Hale	Denver	6-17-64	"	Detailed description of Denver and the surrounding area. Descriptions of Indians and the "Big Scare" - people of Denver thought they were going to be attacked by 1000 Indians. (5pp.)
		28	Alice	Denver	6-19-64	ALS copy enc.	Ex-Governor Gilpin, Reynolds, and Fisher own a piece of land larger than Rhode Island. An expedition is planned to determine if there is valuable mineral on it, and I am to be the chemist and geologist. Enc.: News clipping announcing the arrival of Hill to Denver.

FF	NB	PG.	TO	PLACE	DATE	FORM	SUBJECT
1	1	30	Alice	Central City	6-23-64	ALS copy	Detailed description of trip to Central City with Gilpin. Meeting with Redwood Fisher, James Aborn, and Joe Watson. Description of Central City and several mines. (5pp.)
		34	"	Denver	6-30-64	"	Fisher, Aborn, and Watson do not lack any conveniences in their home. Description of country between Central City and Denver. We are getting ready to start the expedition as soon as possible. It will last about 100 days. (4pp.)
		37	"	Denver	7-2-64	"	Our party will go to Colorado City, Pueblo, west to Ft. Garland, and then to San Luis Valley and the land owned by Gilpin. I wrote president Sears [Brown University] suggesting plans for my prolonged absence. (3pp.)
		39	"	Colorado City	7-5-64 7-6-64	"	Detailed description of the expedition and its travel thus far. Description of overnight accomodations and Colorado City. (3pp.)
		41	"	Pueblo	7-7-64	"	Will not get your letters for 2 or 3 weeks. "You can imagine the depression." (1p.)
		42	"	Ft. Garland	7-10-64 7-11-64	"	Detailed description of the trip from Pueblo to Ft. Garland. Descriptions of Aborn and Fisher. (5pp.)
		47	Prof. [John] Peirce	La Costilla	7-12-64 7-13-64	"	Detailed description of trip from Ft. Garland to Culebra and La Costilla. We will stay at the home of Amidor Sanchez. (3pp.)
		46	Alice	La Costilla	7-13-64	"	"I shall see considerable of the American Continent before I return." (2pp.)
		69	Mrs. M.C. Hill	La Costilla	7-13-64	"	Description of expedition, the people of Culebra, and a "fandango." (4pp.)

FF	NB	PG.	TO	PLACE	DATE	FORM	SUBJECT
1	1	47	Alice	La Costilla	7-19-64 7-21-64	ALS copy	Have been ill, but am now recovered. Staying at the home of a Mr. Posthaff. Detailed description of people and living facilities in La Costilla. The rest of the party are in the hills looking for minerals. I shall return to Denver. (4pp.)
		53	"	Denver	7-31-64	"	Finally received your mail. Description of trip from La Costilla to Denver. Rumors of Indian troubles. Missouri is filled with guerrillas. (5pp.)
		72	Bell Hill	Denver	8-1-64	"	Shall inspect some mines in Central City. There is little danger of Indians in this area. (4pp.)
		76	Alice	Denver	8-1-64	"	Just returned from Boulder. Met and stayed with a Mr. Blake who has been mining in the area for quite some time. (4pp.)
		57	"	Denver	8-3-64	"	Going to Boulder tomorrow to look at mines. Because of the new congressional law concerning postage, newspapers do not come. (2pp.)
		79	"	Denver	8-11-64	"	There is Indian trouble along the Platte and the mail is not getting through. Gov. Gilpin is an old bachelor. "I think any lady who takes stock in him will get small dividends." (2pp.)
		80	"	Denver	8-11-64	"	The Indian trouble is nearly 200 miles from Denver. "There is no sentimentality here on the frontier respecting Indians. Cooper & Longfellow are regarded with disgust. Indians are all the same, a treacherous, villainous set. I would rejoice as would every man in Colorado to see them exterminated." (2pp.)

FF	NB	PG.	TO	PLACE	DATE	FORM	SUBJECT
1	1	82	Alice	Central City	8-14-64	ALS copy	Mail will be sent through with a military escort at least once a week. Preparations are being made to fight the Indians. (1p.)
		59	"	Central City	8-20-64	Tel. copy	"All well, cannot communicate by letter, mails suspended on plains." (1p.)
		81	"	Central City	8-20-64	ALS copy	Sending this by private mail. We are safe here, but I shall not venture out until the roads are safe. (2pp.)
		86	"	Denver	9-4-64	"	Shall start for San Luis Valley in a few days. I bought a house and lot from L.C. Rockwell in Central City for \$1800. It is renting now for \$52.00/month and shall soon rent for \$65.00/month. I have also taken bonds on much valuable property. (2pp.)
		81	[Alice]	Denver	9-5-64	Tel. copy	"Business prosperous. No prospect of early resumption of mails." (1p.)
		82	"	Pueblo	9-9-64	ALS copy	On my way to Ft. Garland to look at minerals on the Gilpin grant again. I am very strong and healthy. (2pp.)
		85	"	Pueblo	9-16-64	"	"I feel well pleased with the results and prospective results of my journey. The experience derived is much more extensive than I anticipated and I have made a large number of agreeable and profitable acquaintances." (2pp.)
		84	"	Central City	9-22-64	"	Tomorrow I am going to the Buckskin Joe mining district 50 miles south of Central City. Please send good clothes to St. Louis as I have business in Chicago and Cincinnati on my way home. (2pp.)

FF	NB	PG.	TO	PLACE	DATE	FORM	SUBJECT
1	1	90	Alice	Central City	10-3-64	ALS copy	Mails are now open. Detailed description of trip to San Luis Valley. Visited several mining communities. (4pp.)
		92	"	Central City	10-16-64	"	Shall leave for home on the 25th. Tomorrow I shall examine mining property 10 or 12 miles from here. Enc.: News clipping telling of Hill's departure from Denver. (2p)
		93	[Alice]	Lewis, Iowa	11-1-64	Tel, copy	"I start for home the eve. One hundred and fifty miles yet to travel by stage." (1p.)
		93	[Alice]	Chicago	11-3-64	Tel. copy	"You may expect me Saturday night by way of Groton." (1p.)
		94	Alice	New York	2-16-65	ALS copy	I start tonight for Colorado. (1p.)
		94	"	Rochester	2-17-65	"	Will start in the morning for Chicago. (1p.)
		94	"	Cleveland	2-19-65	"	"Nothing could be more unsatisfactory than railroad traveling." Mr. Gould, Superintendent of the Sterling Gold Mining Company is to meet us in Atchison. (2pp.)
		95	"	St. Joseph	2-22-65	"	Arrived here from Quincy after all night travel. (1p.)
		95	"	Atchison	2-24-65	"	Tomorrow we leave by stage for the next 350 miles. (2pp.)
		96	"	Marysville	2-27-65	"	Our experience has been exceedingly unpleasant. There are 7 passengers on the stage.
		97	"	Big Sandy	2-28-65	"	The road ahead is safe. We have only come about 140 miles (1p.)
		97	"	Ft. Kearney	3-3-65	"	Journey has been severe. Extremely cold. (1p.)

FF	NB	PG.	TO	PLACE	DATE	FORM	SUBJECT
1	1	97	Alice	Ft. Kearney	3-3-65	ALS copy	Detailed description of fellow travelers: Mr. Barlow, 2 Germans, Wackford Squeers and his son, and a German boy named Jake. (3pp.)
2	2	3	"	Julesburgh	3-5-65 3-6-65	"	Detailed description of trip from Ft. Kearney to Julesburgh. I am healthy but uncomfortable. (1p.)
		4	"	Denver	3-9-65	"	Arrived after the hardest trip one could have over the plains. (1p.)
		4	"	Central City	3-10-65 3-12-65	"	Detailed description of trip from Atchison to Denver. Description of an Indian attack between Kiowa and Little Blue [to another stage]. Barlow and Gould are the mining agents I am meeting with. (4pp.)
		7	"	Central City	3-19-65	"	Mr. Barlow is the agent of the Hill Mining Company. We shall realize splendid results. Gould's mills will soon be operating. Both companies are on a solid basis. "Everything indicates that this summer will be one of much activity in this territory and that much successful mining will be done. My fortune depends upon the fulfillment of these promises. (2pp.)
		9	"	Central City	3-22-65	"	I have formed only 2 companies. I am busy furnishing people with mining properties. The Sterling and Hill companies stock should advance 100% within a year. (2pp.)
		10	"	Central City	3-27-65	"	I am leaving for home shortly. (1p.)
		11	"	New York	5-25-65	"	We start this evening for Rochester. (1p.)
		11	"	Rochester	5-26-65	"	Send the steel balances and the French weights to D.A. Butterfield, Atchison, Kansas. (1p.)

FF	NB	PG.	TO	PLACE	DATE	FORM	SUBJECT
2	2	12	Alice	Chicago	5-27-65	ALS copy	Charley Lippitt and I arrived here last night. Description of the trip to come. I met John Hay. In talking he said, "My little spurt of public life is all I want, and after my return from Europe, I am going to settle down in the quiet pursuit of grape culture." (2pp.)
		13	"	Atchison	5-30-65	"	Tomorrow we shall go on west. Mr. Paine and Mr. Chase joined us. Description of Atchison and the journey ahead. (2pp.)
		14	"	Washington Ranch (100 miles E. of Denver)	6-4-65	"	There is much travel upon the plains. The trip from Atchison to Denver should only take us 5 days. (1p.)
		96	"	Halifax	3-2-66	"	Shall remain at Halifax for 2 hours and then continue the journey. Very seasick. Charley [Lippitt] is well. (1p.)
		95	"	Liverpool	3-11-66 3-13-66	"	Description of the ship Europa, people on board, and the journey from Halifax to Liverpool. (4pp.)
3			"	London	3-16-66	ALS env.	I have been making several business calls; George Dent, Mr. Sabine, Prof. Percy. Description of sights and events in London. (8pp.)
			"	London	3-19-66	"	Description of St. Paul's and other London sights. (4pp.)
			"	London	3-23-66	"	Heard Gladstone and Disraeli debate on the Reform Bill. Description of a boat race between Oxford and Cambridge Universities. (4pp.)
			"	London	3-29-66 3-31-66	"	I am learning much about furnaces. Description of London and the surrounding area including a tour of "slums." (8p.)

FF	NB	PG.	TO	FLACE	DATE	FORM	SUBJECT
3			Alice	London	4-3-66 4-7-66	ALS env.	Detailed description of London sights and fashion. Description of the coal mines at Swansea. (10pp.)
			Alice	London	4-14-66	"	Description of Paris sights and fashion. Shall probably sail for home on the 21st. (4pp.)