

# **Journal of Astronomical Observations**

**1845-1858**

**Mss.522.1942.V42**

American Philosophical Society

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## Table of Contents

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Summary Information .....	3
Background note .....	4
Scope & content .....	5
Administrative Information .....	6
Related Materials .....	6
Indexing Terms .....	6
Other Descriptive Information .....	7
Collection Inventory .....	8

## Summary Information

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<b>Repository</b>	American Philosophical Society
<b>Creator</b>	Varley, Cromwell J.
<b>Title</b>	Journal of Astronomical Observations
<b>Date [inclusive]</b>	1845-1858
<b>Call number</b>	Mss.522.1942.V42
<b>Extent</b>	1.0 Volume(s) 25 p.
<b>Extent</b>	1 vol., 25p.
<b>Location</b>	LH-MV-E-15
<b>Language</b>	English
<b>Container</b>	1
<b>Abstract</b>	<p>A member of a family of early 19th century artists and instrument makers that included Cornelius, John, and William Fleetwood Varley, Cromwell J. Varley shared in the family interests in astronomy.</p> <p>The Journal of Astronomical Observations includes brief notes on telescopic observations of comets, stars, and planets conducted by Cromwell J. Varley between 1845 and 1858, accompanied by twenty ink and watercolor sketches.</p>
<b>Preferred Citation</b>	Cite as: Cromwell J. Varley, Journal of Astronomical Observations, American Philosophical Society.

## Background note

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During the first half of the nineteenth century, the children of Richard Varley of Hackney, England, grew into a remarkable assortment of artists, scientists, and instrument makers. Descendants of Oliver Cromwell, the five children lost their father in 1791 and were raised by their uncle Samuel who delighted in "Philosophical and Chemical progress," gaining hands-on experience in using and making electrical machines, telescopes, oxygen blow pipes and other scientific instruments. As adults, each of the children shared an abiding interest in art, astronomy, and scientific instrumentation. The eldest son, John (1778-1842) became an important watercolorist, art teacher and astrologer, and the youngest son, William Fleetwood Varley (1785-1856) was a gifted artist who began exhibiting at the Royal Academy in 1804. Cornelius Varley (1781-1873) was no less accomplished as a noted watercolor painter, but gained even wider renown as an instrument maker and inventor, specializing in telescopes and microscopes.

The most obscure of the Varley children was Cromwell J. Varley, who evidently shared in the family talents and interests in astronomy and art. At one point he listed himself as an "operative chemist."

## Scope & content

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The Journal of Astronomical Observations includes brief notes on telescopic observations of comets, stars, and planets conducted by Cromwell J. Varley between 1845 and 1858, accompanied by twenty ink and watercolor sketches. These include:

- Great June Comet through 3 ft. achromatic telescope, June 8, 1845
- "Mars as he was once seen this month," same telescope, 1845
- Views of Jupiter, same telescope, 1845
- "Field of telescope" (view of stars), 1845-1846
- Helioscope, "a Gregorian made by Short," 1846
- Views of Mars, 1847
- Jupiter and stellar positions, "large telescope contracted to 6 inches and power 200," 1847
- Transit of Mercury, with telescope 2 and 7, 1848
- Jupiter, large telescope, 1848
- Saturn, with new small telescope, 1849
- Saturn and Mars, with large telescope contracted to 6", 1849
- Saturn, with large telescope contracted to 6", 1849
- Saturn, with 8 inch telescope, 1849
- Occultation of Jupiter by the moon, 1856
- Saturn through casegrain telescope, 1856
- Jupiter, its moons, occultation, 1857
- Comet Donati, Sept. 24, 1858
- Comet Donati, Sept. 30, 1858
- Comet, June 8 and 11, 1845
- Comet, June 8-12, 1845

## Administrative Information

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### Publication Information

American Philosophical Society 4/2003

## Provenance

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### Acquisition Information

Acquired, 1969 (accn. no. 1969-1779a ms).

### Processing Information

Recatalogued by rsc, April 2003. Only maps are noted.

## Related Materials

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### Related Material

The Thomas Court Scientific Instruments Collection (509.078 M582) includes several items from members of the Varley family, including a letter from Cromwell J. Varley, and an autobiographical manuscript and numerous other items by Cornelius Varley.

## Indexing Terms

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### Genre(s)

- Scientific Data
- Watercolors

### Subject(s)

- Astronomy--Observations
- Comets -- Observations.

- Planets--Observations
- Science and Technology
- Stars -- Observations.

## **Other Descriptive Information**

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This volume is largely empty. It contains some meteorological observations, other astronomical calculations, and drawings.

## Collection Inventory

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<b>Varley, Cromwell J.</b>	23 September 1845	1 map, 17.8 x
Mars as he was once seen this month [surrounded by Delphinus, Antinous, Andromeda and Hercules]		11.4 cm

### **Other Finding Aids**

Realms of Gold, 50 (1).

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**Varley, Cromwell J.**

31 March 1846

1 map, 17.8 x

Nebulosity

11.4 cm

**Other Finding Aids**

Realms of Gold, 50 (2).

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<b>Varley, Cromwell J.</b>	n.d.	1 map, 17.8 x
Saturn and constellations		11.4 cm

**Other Finding Aids**

Realms of Gold, 50 (3).

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