

E. B. O'Callaghan Papers

A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress

Prepared by Charles Cooney



Manuscript Division, Library of Congress

Washington, D.C.

2012

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Collection Summary

Title: E. B. O'Callaghan Papers

Span Dates: 1830-1876

Bulk Dates: (bulk 1845-1860)

ID No.: MSS35014

Creator: O'Callaghan, E. B. (Edmund Bailey), 1797-1880

Extent: 2,000 items ; 20 containers ; 4.4 linear feet

Language: Collection material in English and French

Repository: Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Abstract: Physician, historian, and bibliographer. Correspondence pertaining primarily to O'Callaghan's career as a physician, legislator in Lower Canada, and editor of the *Montreal Vindicator*. Also concerns bibliographic matters including records of New York state, rare bibliographic Americana, editions of the Bible, and material relating to America found in European archives. Includes a draft of his *History of New Netherland* (1846-1848).

Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

People

Allen, Edward G.--Correspondence.
Alofsen, Solomon, 1808-1876--Correspondence.
Armstrong, Edward, 1846-1928--Correspondence.
Bancroft, George, 1800-1891--Correspondence.
Beach, Elizabeth T. Porter--Correspondence.
Beck, Theodric Romeyn, 1791-1855--Correspondence.
Brodhead, John Romeyn, 1814-1873--Correspondence.
Brown, John Carter, 1797-1874--Correspondence.
Deane, Charles, 1813-1889--Correspondence.
Drake, Samuel Gardner, 1798-1875--Correspondence.
Draper, Lyman Copeland, 1815-1891--Correspondence.
Ewbank, Thomas, 1792-1870--Correspondence.
Fabre, Hector, 1834-1901--Correspondence.
Fabre, Édouard Raymond, 1799-1854--Correspondence.
Garneau, F.-X. (François-Xavier), 1809-1866--Correspondence.
Gowans, William, 1803-1870--Correspondence.
Harris, Thaddeus William, 1795-1856--Correspondence.
Haven, Samuel F. (Samuel Foster), 1806-1881--Correspondence.
Hoadly, Charles J. (Charles Jeremy), 1828-1900--Correspondence.
Lenox, James, 1800-1880--Correspondence.
Livermore, George, 1809-1865--Correspondence.
Mackenzie, William Lyon, 1795-1861--Correspondence.
Martin, Benj. N. (Benjamin Nicholas), 1816-1883--Correspondence.
Moore, George Henry, 1823-1892--Correspondence.
Murphy, Henry Cruse, 1810-1882--Correspondence.
O'Callaghan, E. B. (Edmund Bailey), 1797-1880.
O'Callaghan, E. B. (Edmund Bailey), 1797-1880. *History of New Netherland*. 1846-1848.
Papineau, Louis Joseph, 1786-1871--Correspondence.
Parkman, Francis, 1823-1893--Correspondence.
Perrault, Louis, 1807-1866--Correspondence.
Richardson, Charles Benjamin, 1832-1891--Correspondence.
Shea, John Gilmary, 1824-1892--Correspondence.
Todd, Alpheus, 1821-1884--Correspondence.

Valentine, D. T. (David Thomas), 1801-1869--Correspondence.
Ward, Townsend, 1817?-1885--Correspondence.
Whitehead, William A. (William Adee), 1810-1884--Correspondence.

Organizations

Lower Canada. Legislature. House of Assembly.
New York (State). Secretary's Office.

Subjects

Americana--Bibliography.
Archives--Europe.
Canadian newspapers.
Editions.

Places

Lower Canada--Politics and government.
New York (State)--History--Colonial period, ca. 1600-1775.
United States--History--Colonial period, ca. 1600-1775.

Titles

Bible.
Montreal vindicator (Newspaper)

Occupations

Archivists.
Bibliographers.
Historians.
Journalists.
Legislators--Lower Canada.
Physicians.

Administrative Information

Provenance

The papers of E. B. O'Callaghan, physician and historian, were purchased by the Library of Congress in 1904.

Processing History

The papers of E. B. O'Callaghan were arranged and described in 1977. The collection was expanded and revised in 2012.

Copyright Status

The status of copyright in the unpublished writings of E. B. O'Callaghan is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.).

Access and Restrictions

The papers of E. B. O'Callaghan are open to research. Researchers are advised to contact the Manuscript Reading Room prior to visiting. Many collections are stored off-site and advance notice is needed to retrieve these items for research use.

Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: Container number, E. B. O'Callaghan Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Biographical Note

<i>Date</i>	<i>Event</i>
1797, Feb. 28	Born, Mallow (near Cork), Ireland
1820	Began study of medicine, Paris, France
1823	Emigrated to Canada to complete studies; admitted to medical practice
1830	Moved from Quebec to Montreal, Canada
1834	Became editor of <i>Montreal Vindicator</i>
1835	Elected to assembly of Upper Canada from Yamaska
1837	Participated in revolutionary action at St. Denis; fled Canada to avoid prosecution and settled in Albany, N. Y.
1837-1848	Practiced medicine
1846-1848	Published <i>History of New Netherland</i> . New York: D. Appleton. 2 vols.
1848-1870	Devoted full time to editing New York state records
1850-1851	Published <i>The Documentary History of the State of New York</i> . Albany, N.Y.: Weed, Parsons. 4 vols.
1852(?)-1870	Edited colonial archives while attached to the office of the New York secretary of state
1870-1877	Moved to New York, N.Y., to arrange and translate the municipal archives
1880, May 29	Died, New York, N.Y

Scope and Content Note

The papers of Edmund Bailey O'Callaghan (1797-1830), span the years 1830-1876, with the bulk of the material falling between 1845 and 1860. The papers consist of correspondence, a partial draft of O'Callaghan's *History of New Netherland*, lists, records, and bibliographical material.

O'Callaghan's diversified career as historian, bibliographer, legislator, physician, and journalist is only partially documented by this collection. After emigrating from Ireland in 1823, O'Callaghan became prominent in Canadian politics and was associated with the revolutionary party. At the same time he was active in the founding of the Society of the Friends of Ireland and was editor of the *Montreal Vindicator*. His political career in Canada reached its zenith when, in 1835, he was elected to the assembly of Upper Canada. His political career, however, was cut short by his participation in the Insurrection of 1837. With a reward offered for his capture, O'Callaghan found it expedient to flee to the United States. The Canadian phase of O'Callaghan's career is survived by only one document, but there are references to his activities in Canada in later correspondence, particularly with William Lyon MacKenzie.

O'Callaghan's first years in the United States were taken up with the practice of medicine and with editing the *Northern Light*, an industrial journal. Apparently in connection with the latter occupation, O'Callaghan had reason to examine the state records of New York. Finding a wealth of material among them, O'Callaghan embarked upon a new career as historian and bibliographer. In 1846 he published the first volume of his *History of New Netherland*. Despite financial losses on that

volume, he came out with a second in 1849. The draft of volume two (books 4-6 and appendices) is present in his papers, as well as related correspondence.

As a result of this work O'Callaghan was commissioned to edit the *Documentary History of the State of New York*. A voluminous amount of correspondence concerning the collection of historical material on New York is contained in the collection. Additional correspondence deals with other bibliographic matters, with Americana rarities, editions of the Bible, and O'Callaghan's duties in the office of the secretary of state of New York.

Prominent correspondents include Solomon Alofsen, Edward G. Allen, Edward Armstrong, George Bancroft, Elizabeth T. Porter Beach, Theodric Romeyn Beck, John Romeyn Brodhead, John Carter Brown (1797-1874), Charles Deane, Samuel Gardner Drake, Lyman Copeland Draper, Thomas Ewbanks, Édouard Raymond Fabre, Hector Fabre, F.-X. Garneau, William Gowans, Thaddeus William Harris, Samuel F. Haven, Charles J. Hoadly, James Lenox, George Livermore, William Lyons MacKenzie, Benj. N. Martin, Gregory Henry Moore, Henry Cruse Murphy, Francis Parkman, Louis Joseph Papineau, Louis Perrault, Charles Benjamin Richardson, John Gilmary Shea, Alpheus Todd, D. T. Valentine, Townsend Ward, and William A. Whitehead.

Arrangement of the Papers

This collection is organized chronologically with drafts of the *History of New Netherland* files at the end.

Container List

<i>Container</i>	<i>Contents</i>
BOX 1	1830, Jan. 18-1845, May 13
BOX 2	1845, May 15-1846, Dec. 18
BOX 3	1847, Jan. 2-1848, July 26
BOX 4	1848, July 31-1850, Sept. 9
BOX 5	1850, Sept. 12-1851, Aug. 19
BOX 6	1851, Aug. 20-1852, June 9
BOX 7	1852, June 11-1853, Apr. 2
BOX 8	1853, Apr. 3-1854, Apr. 10
BOX 9	1854, Apr. 11-Nov. 3
BOX 10	1854, Nov. 4-1855, Oct. 1
BOX 11	1855, Oct. 4-1856, Oct. 15
BOX 12	1856, Oct. 21-1857, Sept. 5
BOX 13	1857, Sept. 6-1858, Apr. 26
BOX 14	1858, Apr. 27-Dec.. 21
BOX 15	1858, Dec. 22-1859, June 6
BOX 16	1859, June 8-1860, Feb. 6
BOX 17	1860, Feb. 7-Sept.. 6
BOX 18	1860, Sept. 7-1876, Feb. 7
BOX 19	<i>History of New Netherland</i> (drafts)
BOX 19	Vol. 2, books 4 and 5
BOX 20	Vol. 2, book 6
BOX 20	Appendices