

William Maxwell Evarts Papers

A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress

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Revised by Patrick Kerwin



Manuscript Division, Library of
Congress

Washington, D.C.

2010

Contact information: <http://hdl.loc.gov/loc/mss/mss.contact>

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Collection Summary

Title: William Maxwell Evarts Papers

Span Dates: 1667-1918

Bulk Dates: (bulk 1877-1891)

ID No.: MSS20032

Creator: Evarts, William Maxwell, 1818-1901

Extent: 12,500 items; 61 containers plus 1 oversize; 12.6 linear feet

Language: Collection material in English

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

Abstract: Lawyer, United States senator from New York, and United States secretary of state and attorney general. Correspondence, diary, journal, account books, minute book, printed material, drafts of memoranda, and a journal of college reading relating mainly to New York state, national, and international politics from the Civil War to the 1890s.

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

Angell, James Burrill, 1829-1916--Correspondence.

Astor, John Jacob, 1822-1890--Correspondence.

Bates, Edward, 1793-1869--Correspondence.

Blaine, James Gillespie, 1830-1893--Correspondence.

Choate, Joseph Hodges, 1832-1917--Correspondence.

Davis, Jefferson, 1808-1889--Trials, litigation, etc.

Evarts, William Maxwell, 1818-1901.

Field, Cyrus W. (Cyrus West), 1819-1892--Correspondence.

Garfield, James A. (James Abram), 1831-1881--Correspondence.

Hay, John, 1838-1905--Correspondence.

Hoar, E. R. (Ebenezer Rockwood), 1816-1895--Correspondence.

Johnson, Andrew, 1808-1875--Impeachment.

Morton, Levi P. (Levi Parsons), 1824-1920--Correspondence.

Phelps, Edward John, 1822-1900--Correspondence.

Seward, William Henry, 1801-1872--Correspondence.

Tilden, Samuel J. (Samuel Jones), 1814-1886.

Trescott, William Henry, b. 1822--Correspondence.

Tyler, Julia Gardiner, 1820-1889--Correspondence.

Winthrop, Robert C. (Robert Charles), 1809-1894--Correspondence.

Organizations

Geneva Arbitration Tribunal.

International Monetary Conference (1878 : Paris, France)

Peabody Education Fund.

United States. Dept. of Justice. Office of the Attorney General.

United States. Dept. of State.

Subjects

Bimetallism.

Diplomatic and consular service, American.

Emigration and immigration law--United States.

Patronage, Political--United States.

Pensions--United States.

Practice of law--New York (State)
Presidents--United States--Election--1876.
Presidents--United States--Election--1880.
Statue of Liberty (New York, N.Y.)
Statues--New York (State)--New York.
Suffrage--United States.
Tariff--United States.

Places
China--Emigration and immigration.
New York (State)--Politics and government--1865-1950.
United States--Foreign relations--1865-1898.
United States--History--Civil War, 1861-1865--Claims.
United States--Politics and government--1865-1900.

Occupations
Cabinet officers.
Lawyers.
Senators, U.S. Congress--New York (State)

Administrative Information

Provenance

The papers of William Maxwell Evarts, lawyer, United States senator from New York, and United States secretary of state and attorney general, were deposited in the Library of Congress, 1939-1942, by Effingham Evarts, and converted to a gift in 1943. Additions were purchased in 1965 and 1986.

Processing History

The papers of William Maxwell Evarts were arranged and described in 1965. The collection was expanded and revised in 1987. The finding aid was revised in 2004 and 2010.

Copyright Status

The status of copyright in the unpublished writings of William Maxwell Evarts is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.).

Access and Restrictions

The papers of William Maxwell Evarts 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, William Maxwell Evarts Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Biographical Note

<i>Date</i>	<i>Event</i>
1818, Feb. 6	Born, Boston, Mass.

1833-1837	Attended Yale University, New Haven, Conn.
1836	Cofounder of <i>Yale Literary Magazine</i>
1837	Read law, office of Horace Everett, Windsor, Vt.
1841	Admitted to the bar in New York Began law practice
1843	Married Helen Minerva Wardner
1849-1853	Assistant district attorney, Southern District of New York
1860	Delegate to Republican national convention, Chicago, Ill.
1863	Sent to England by United States to help prevent equipping of the Confederate navy by the British
1868	Counsel for the defense, impeachment trial of Andrew Johnson
1868-1869	Attorney general
1872	Represented the United States in <i>Alabama</i> claims case, Geneva, Switzerland
1877	Chief counsel for Republican Party, Hayes-Tilden presidential election dispute
1877-1881	Secretary of state
1881	Delegate, International Monetary Conference, Paris, France
1885-1891	United States senator from New York
1901, Feb. 28	Died, New York, N.Y.

Scope and Content Note

The papers of William Maxwell Evarts (1818-1901) span the years 1667-1918 with the bulk of the material dated 1877-1891. They consist of correspondence, a diary, certificates, genealogical material, indexes, a notebook, dockets, memoranda, letterbooks, account books, minute book, printed matter, financial material, and a journal. The bulk of the collection relates to Evarts's tenure as secretary of state, 1877-1881, and United States senator, 1885-1891.

The focus of the collection is on New York state and national politics and international affairs in which Evarts participated. Main topics include Evarts's early law practice, cases in which he represented the United States during the Civil War, the trial of Jefferson Davis, impeachment of Andrew Johnson, the Geneva Arbitration Tribunal of 1871-1872, the election of 1876, appointment of ambassadors, Chinese immigration, presidential campaign of 1880, International Monetary Conference of 1878, the Peabody education fund, dedication of the Statue of Liberty, patronage, suffrage, pensions, tariffs, and the Force Bill that provided for the collection of duties on imported goods.

Correspondents include James Burrill Angell, John Jacob Astor, Edward Bates, James Gillespie Blaine, Joseph Hodges Choate, Cyrus W. Field, James A. Garfield, John Hay, Ebenezer Rockwood Hoar, Levi P. Morton, Edward John Phelps, William Henry Seward, William Henry Trescott, Julia Gardiner Tyler, and Robert C. Winthrop.

Arrangement of the Papers

This collection is arranged in three series:

- [Bound Correspondence and Other Documents, 1842-1908](#)
- [Miscellany, 1667-1918](#)
- [Oversize, 1877-1879](#)

Description of Series

<i>Container</i>	<i>Series</i>
BOX 1-54	<u>Bound Correspondence and Other Documents, 1842-1908</u> Correspondence and other documents. Arranged chronologically in bound volumes.
BOX 55-62	<u>Miscellany, 1667-1918</u> Correspondence, a diary, certificates, genealogical material, indexes, a notebook, docketts, memoranda, letterbooks, account books, minute book, printed matter, financial material, and a journal. Arranged alphabetically by type of material and chronologically therein.
BOX OV 1	<u>Oversize, 1877-1879</u> Certificates. Arranged and described according to the series, folders, and containers from which the items were removed.

Container List

<i>Container</i>	<i>Contents</i>
BOX 1-54	Bound Correspondence and Other Documents, 1842-1908 Correspondence and other documents. Arranged chronologically in bound volumes.
BOX 1	1842, Jan. 26-1872, June 20
BOX 2	1872, June 22-Oct. 12
BOX 3	1872, Oct. 14-1874, June 10
BOX 4	1874, Dec. 16-1877, Mar. 11
BOX 5	1877
BOX 5	Mar. 12-Apr. 5
BOX 6	Apr. 6-June 4
BOX 7	June 5-July 8
BOX 8	July 9-Sept. 6
BOX 9	Sept. 7-Oct. 20
BOX 10	Oct. 22-Dec. 7
BOX 11	1877, Dec. 8-1878, Jan. 18
BOX 12	1878
BOX 12	Jan. 19-Feb. 21
BOX 13	Feb. 22-Apr. 7
BOX 14	Apr. 8-May 24
BOX 15	May 25-June 27
BOX 16	1878
BOX 16	June 28-Aug. 14
BOX 17	Aug. 15-Oct. 15
BOX 18	Oct. 17-Dec. 2
BOX 19	1878, Dec. 3-1879, Jan. 24
BOX 20	1879
BOX 20	Jan. 25-Mar. 11
BOX 21	Mar. 12-Apr. 30
BOX 22	May 1-June 17
BOX 23	June 19-Aug. 25
BOX 24	Aug. 2-Nov. 5
BOX 25	1879, Nov. 6-1880, Jan. 3
BOX 26	1880
BOX 26	Jan. 4-Feb. 19
BOX 27	Feb. 20-May 6
BOX 28	1880, May 7-1881, Jan. 11
BOX 29	1881, Jan. 17-1882, Jan. 28
BOX 30	1882, Jan. 29-Nov. 25
BOX 31	1882, Dec. 9-1884, Mar. 10
BOX 32	1884, Mar. 13-1885, Jan. 17
BOX 33	1885

Bound Correspondence and Other Documents, 1842-1908

<i>Container</i>	<i>Contents</i>
BOX 33	Jan. 21-Apr. 23
BOX 34	Apr. 25-Dec. 18
BOX 35	1885, Dec. 21-1886, Jan. 22
BOX 36	1886
BOX 36	Jan. 23-Mar. 1
BOX 37	Mar. 2-Apr. 20
BOX 38	Apr. 21-May 28
BOX 39	May 29-Aug. 13
BOX 40	Aug. 20-Dec. 30
BOX 41	1886, Dec. 31-1887, Jan. 18
BOX 42	1887
BOX 42	Jan. 19-Feb. 3
BOX 43	Feb. 4-Feb. 17
BOX 44	Feb. 18- Mar. 18
BOX 45	1887, Mar. 23-1890, July 17
BOX 46	1890, July 19-Nov. 23
BOX 47	1890, Nov. 26-1891, Feb. 3
BOX 48	1891
BOX 48	Feb. 4-Mar. 22
BOX 49	Mar. 23-May 14
BOX 50	May 15-July 13
BOX 51	July 15-Sept. 12
BOX 52	Sept. 14-Nov. 28
BOX 53	1891, Nov. 29-1897, Feb. 5
BOX 54	1897, Feb. 6-1908, Nov. 16
BOX 55-62	Miscellany, 1667-1918 Correspondence, a diary, certificates, genealogical material, indexes, a notebook, docketts, memoranda, letterbooks, account books, minute book, printed matter, financial material, and a journal. Arranged alphabetically by type of material and chronologically therein.
BOX 55	Account books and checkbooks, 1872-1880, undated
BOX 55	Certificates, 1877-1879 <u>See Oversize</u>
BOX 55	Clippings, 1877-1891, undated
BOX 55	Docketts, 1877-1891 (3 folders)
BOX 55	Family correspondence, 1829, 1839
BOX 55	Genealogical material, 1893, undated
BOX 56	General correspondence, 1852-1889, 1896 (?), 1918, undated (11 folders)
BOX 56	Grant Monument Fund, account book, 1892-1900
BOX 57	Indexes, undated (4 folders)
BOX 57	Journals
BOX 57	1834
BOX 58	1863

Miscellany, 1667-1918

<i>Container</i>	<i>Contents</i>
BOX 58	Letterbooks
BOX 58	1877, May 22-1878, May 20 (2 folders)
BOX 59	1879, May 10-1881, Mar. 2 (2 folders)
BOX 59	Leupp, Charles M., estate, 1859-1877
BOX 59	Minutes, first meeting of the Board of Trustees, New York and Northern Land and Improvement Co., Sherman Evarts, secretary, 1889
BOX 60	Miscellany, 1667, 1863-1891, undated (3 folders)
BOX 60	Notebook, undated
BOX 60	Printed matter
BOX 60	1835, 1861-1872
BOX 61	1873-1892 (6 folders)
BOX 62	Undated
BOX 62	Register of documents sent, Forty-ninth Congress, 1886-1887
BOX 62	Republican Territorial Central Committee, 1872-1878
BOX OV 1	Oversize, 1877-1879 Certificates. Arranged and described according to the series, folders, and containers from which the items were removed.
BOX OV 1	Miscellany
BOX OV 1	Certificates, 1877-1879 (Container 55)