

E. B. Washburne Papers

A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress

Prepared by Manuscript Division Staff
Revised by Michael Spangler with the
assistance of Sherralyn McCoy



Manuscript Division, Library of
Congress

Washington, D.C.

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

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Collection Summary

Title: E. B. Washburne Papers

Span Dates: 1829-1889

Bulk Dates: (bulk 1852-1882)

ID No.: MSS44651

Creator: Washburne, E. B. (Elihu Benjamin), 1816-1887

Extent: 37,000 items; 143 containers; 31.4 linear feet

Language: Collection material in English

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

Abstract: United States representative from Illinois, diplomat, lawyer, and historian. Principally correspondence covering most phases of Washburne's career from his election to Congress in 1852 until 1882. Includes letterbooks, 1869-1877, of official correspondence and communications during Washburne's term as minister to France.

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

Aldrich, Cyrus, 1808-1871--Correspondence.

Arnold, Isaac Newton, 1815-1884--Correspondence.

Badeau, Adam, 1831-1895--Correspondence.

Bancroft, George, 1800-1891--Correspondence.

Bismarck, Otto, Fürst von, 1815-1898--Correspondence.

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

Bradley, William Harrison, 1848-1929--Correspondence.

Chase, Salmon P. (Salmon Portland), 1808-1873--Correspondence.

Davis, J. C. Bancroft (John Chandler Bancroft), 1822-1907--Correspondence.

Dix, John A. (John Adams), 1798-1879--Correspondence.

Evarts, William Maxwell, 1818-1901--Correspondence.

Favre, Jules, 1809-1880--Correspondence.

Fish, Hamilton, 1808-1893--Correspondence.

Gramont, Antoine Alfred Agénor, duc de, 1819-1880--Correspondence.

Grant, Ulysses S. (Ulysses Simpson), 1822-1885--Correspondence.

Grant, Ulysses S. (Ulysses Simpson), 1822-1885.

Greeley, Horace, 1811-1872--Correspondence.

Halstead, Murat, 1829-1908--Correspondence.

Jay, John, 1817-1894--Correspondence.

Lincoln, Abraham, 1809-1865.

Medill, Joseph, 1823-1899--Correspondence.

Moran, Benjamin, 1820-1886--Correspondence.

Pierrepont, Edwards, 1817-1892--Correspondence.

Ray, Charles Henry--Correspondence.

Richard, Daniel, fl. 1852-1882--Correspondence.

Schenck, Robert Cumming, 1809-1890--Correspondence.

Sherman, John, 1823-1900--Correspondence.

Sherman, William T. (William Tecumseh), 1820-1891--Correspondence.

Sickles, Daniel Edgar, 1819-1914--Correspondence.

Stephenson, Charles L.--Correspondence.

Washburn, C. C. (Cadwallader Colden), 1818-1882--Correspondence.

Washburne, E. B. (Elihu Benjamin), 1816-1887.

Organizations

Commune de Paris (France : 1789-1794)

Whig Party (U.S.)

Subjects

Diplomatic and consular service, American--France.

Franco-Prussian War, 1870-1871.

Germans--France.

Reconstruction (U.S. history, 1865-1877)

Places

France--Foreign relations--United States.

France--History--Third Republic, 1870-1940.

Germany.

Illinois--Politics and government.

Paris (France)--History.

United States--Appropriations and expenditures.

United States--Commerce.

United States--Foreign relations--France.

United States--History--Civil War, 1861-1865.

United States--Politics and government--19th century.

Occupations

Diplomats.

Historians.

Lawyers.

Representatives, U.S. Congress--Illinois.

Administrative Information

Provenance

The papers of E. B. Washburne, lawyer, United States representative from Illinois, diplomat, lawyer, and historian, were given to the Library of Congress by his son, Hempstead Washburne, in 1904. An addition was received on exchange from the Chicago Public Library in 1946.

Processing History

A finding aid to the Washburne Papers was created in 1963. After the receipt of the papers, the donor withdrew five original items from the collection in 1915, but furnished the Library with copies in a sealed envelope with the stipulation that they not be used until 1950. These items were processed in 1956.

Additional Guides

The Washburne Papers have been described in the *Library of Congress Handbook of Manuscripts* (1918), pp. 510-511. The addition was noted in the Library's *Quarterly Journal of Current Acquisitions*, vol. 4, no. 3 (May 1947), p. 84, and photographs in the collection were mentioned in the *Library of Congress Information Bulletin*, vol. 13, no. 43 (October 1954), p. 11.

An index to correspondents in part of the Washburne Papers is available in the Manuscript Division Reading Room. Consult a reference librarian in the Manuscript Division for further information.

Copyright Status

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

Access and Restrictions

The papers of E. B. Washburne 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. Washburne Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Biographical Note

<i>Date</i>	<i>Event</i>
1816, Sept. 23	Born, Livermore, Me.
1836	Studied law, Maine Wesleyan Seminary, Kent's Hill, Maine
1839	Entered Harvard Law School, Cambridge, Mass.
1840	Admitted to Massachusetts bar Moved to Galena, Ill.
1841-1845	Practiced law, Galena, Ill.
1845	Married Adèle Gratiot
1848	Ran unsuccessfully as a Whig for election to Congress
1853-1869	United States representative from Illinois
1869	Appointed secretary of state but resigned within a few days to become minister to France
1869-1877	Minister to France
1880	Retired from active political life
1884-1887	President, Chicago Historical Society, Chicago, Ill.
1887, Oct. 23	Died, Chicago, Ill.

Scope and Content Note

The papers of Elihu Benjamin Washburne (1816-1887) span the years 1829-1889, with the bulk of the material concentrated in the period 1852-1882. Bound volumes of letters received constitute the largest part of the collection and feature Washburne's career as a member of Congress in the Civil War era, 1853-1869, and as minister to France, 1869-1877. Letterbooks with copies of outgoing correspondence relate to his official responsibilities in the Paris legation, the American secretary of state, the French minister of foreign affairs, Germany, and personal matters. An index of correspondents among the letters received is available in the Manuscript Division Reading Room.

Subjects in papers dated before Washburne's diplomatic appointment include Whig politics nationally and in Illinois, his duties in the House of Representatives, focusing on commerce and appropriations, his support for Abraham Lincoln and Ulysses S. Grant, and Reconstruction. Washburne's role as minister to France is documented by official letters and communications to secretaries of state Hamilton Fish (1808-1893) and William M. Evarts as well as by correspondence with European statesmen and diplomats. Topics include the Franco-Prussian War, the Paris Commune, and politics at the beginning of France's Third Republic. Since Washburne was the only official representative of a foreign government to stay in Paris during the siege of the city in 1870-1871 and the Commune, his papers constitute a valuable record of that period. Washburne's diplomatic activities in behalf of German residents of France during the war are also represented in the letters.

Among the correspondents in the Washburne Papers are Cyrus Aldrich, Isaac Newton Arnold, Adam Badeau, George Bancroft, Otto Fürst von Bismarck, James Gillespie Blaine, William Harrison Bradley, Salmon P. Chase, J. C. Bancroft Davis, John A. Dix, William Maxwell Evarts, Jules Favre, Hamilton Fish, Antoine Alfred Agénor duc de Gramont, Ulysses S. Grant, Horace Greeley, Murat Halstead, John Jay (1817-1894), Joseph Medill, Benjamin Moran, Edwards Pierrepont, Charles H. Ray, Daniel Richard, Robert C. Schenck, John Sherman, William T. Sherman, Daniel Edgar Sickles, Charles L. Stephenson, and Washburne's brother, C. C. Washburn.

Arrangement of the Papers

This collection is arranged by type of material and thereunder chronologically

Container List

<i>Container</i>	<i>Contents</i>
BOX 1	Bound volumes, letters received An index of correspondents in letters received is available in the Manuscript Division Reading Room. Consult a reference librarian in the Manuscript Division for further information.
BOX 1	1829, July 1-1852, July 22
BOX 2	1852, Aug. 18-1857, Aug. 5
BOX 3	1857, Aug. 10-1858, Aug. 8
BOX 4	1858, Aug. 9-1859, Feb. 28
BOX 5	1859, Mar. 16- Dec. 31, undated
BOX 6	1860
BOX 6	Jan. 1- Feb. 4
BOX 7	Feb. 6- Mar. 6
BOX 8	Mar. 7-Apr. 6
BOX 9	Apr. 9-May 20
BOX 10	May 21-Aug. 17
BOX 11	Aug. 18-Dec. 17
BOX 12	1860, Dec. 18-1861, Jan. 14
BOX 13	1861
BOX 13	Jan. 15-Feb. 5
BOX 14	Feb. 6-19
BOX 15	Feb. 20-Mar. 2
BOX 16	Mar. 3-20
BOX 17	Mar. 21-May 31
BOX 18	June 1-July 19
BOX 19	July 20-Dec. 5
BOX 20	Dec. 6-31, undated
BOX 21	1862
BOX 21	Jan. 1-Feb. 2
BOX 22	Feb. 3- Mar. 8
BOX 23	Mar. 10-Apr. 8
BOX 24	Apr. 9-May 21
BOX 25	May 22-June 19
BOX 26	June 20-July 26
BOX 27	July 28-Dec. 11
BOX 28	1862, Dec. 12-1863, Jan. 14
BOX 29	1863
BOX 29	Jan. 15-Feb. 9
BOX 30	Feb. 10-Apr. 11
BOX 31	Apr. 14-Dec. 2
BOX 32	Dec. 3-29
BOX 33	1863, Dec. 30-1864, Jan. 23
BOX 34	1864

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<i>Container</i>	<i>Contents</i>
BOX 34	Jan. 24-Feb. 18
BOX 35	Feb. 18-Mar. 14
BOX 36	Mar. 15-Apr. 7
BOX 37	Apr. 8-29
BOX 38	Apr. 30-June 3
BOX 39	June 4-Sept. 13
BOX 40	Sept. 14-Nov. 18
BOX 41	Nov. 19-Dec. 16
BOX 42	1864, Dec. 17-1865, Jan. 4
BOX 43	1865
BOX 43	Jan. 5-20
BOX 44	Jan. 21-Feb. 7
BOX 45	Feb. 8-24
BOX 46	Feb. 25-Aug. 19
BOX 47	Aug. 21-Dec. 9
BOX 48	1865, Dec. 10-1866, Apr. 26
BOX 49	1866
BOX 49	Apr. 27-June 30
BOX 50	July 1-Sept. 30
BOX 51	Oct. 1-Dec. 6
BOX 52	1866, Dec. 7-1867, Oct. 5
BOX 53	1867
BOX 53	Oct. 9-Nov. 30
BOX 54	Dec. 1-23
BOX 55	1867, Dec. 24-1868, Jan. 20
BOX 56	1868
BOX 56	Jan. 21-Feb. 7
BOX 57	Feb. 8-Mar. 6
BOX 58	Mar. 7-Apr. 17
BOX 59	Apr. 18-June 6
BOX 60	June 7-July 17
BOX 61	July 18-Nov. 23
BOX 62	Nov. 24-Dec. 18
BOX 63	1868, Dec. 18-1869, Jan. 13
BOX 64	1869
BOX 64	Jan. 14-Feb. 2
BOX 65	Feb. 3-26
BOX 66	Feb. 27-Apr. 12
BOX 67	Apr. 13-Oct. 4
BOX 68	1869, Oct. 8-1870, Jan. 7
BOX 69	1870
BOX 69	Jan. 8-May 6
BOX 70	May 7-July 28
BOX 71	July 29-Oct. 20
BOX 72	1871, Oct. 21-1871, Jan. 5
BOX 73	1871

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<i>Container</i>	<i>Contents</i>
BOX 73	Jan. 6-Feb. 10
BOX 74	Feb. 11-Apr. 26
BOX 75	Apr. 27-July 17
BOX 76	July 19-Nov. 14
BOX 77	1871, Nov. 16-1872, Apr. 22
BOX 78	1872
BOX 78	Apr. 25-Aug. 8
BOX 79	Aug. 9-Nov. 30
BOX 80	1872, Dec. 1-1873, Mar. 11
BOX 81	1873
BOX 81	Mar. 12-June 4
BOX 82	June 5-Oct. 5
BOX 83	1873, Oct. 8-1874, Jan. 19
BOX 84	1874
BOX 84	Jan. 20-Apr. 25
BOX 85	Apr. 27-July 31
BOX 86	Aug. 2-Nov. 12
BOX 87	1874, Nov. 13-1875, Jan. 25
BOX 88	1875
BOX 88	Jan. 26-Apr. 23
BOX 89	Apr. 24-July 2
BOX 90	July 3-Nov. 3
BOX 91	1875, Nov. 5-1876, Feb. 19
BOX 92	1876
BOX 92	Feb. 19-June 2
BOX 93	June 3-Oct. 25
BOX 94	1876, Oct. 26-1877, Sept. 30
BOX 95	1877, Oct. 3-Dec. 31, undated
BOX 96	1878, Jan. 1-Aug. 13
BOX 97	1878, Aug. 17-1879, Sept. 19
BOX 98	1879, Sept. 20-1880, Feb. 9
BOX 99	1880, Feb. 12-1881, Feb. 3
BOX 100	1881
BOX 100	Feb. 5-Sept. 10
BOX 101	Sept. 13-1882, Mar. 11
BOX 102	1882, Mar. 13-Oct. 23, undated
BOX 103	Letterbooks, copies of letters sent
BOX 103	To the secretary of state
BOX 103	1869, May 24-Dec. 16
BOX 104	1869, Dec. 10-1870, July 23
BOX 105	1870, July 25-Nov. 8
BOX 106	1870, Nov. 11-1871, Mar. 24
BOX 107	1871, Mar. 24-June 30
BOX 108	1871, June 30-1872, Feb. 9
BOX 109	1872, Feb. 13-Dec. 19
BOX 110	1872, Dec. 24-1873, Aug. 30

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<i>Container</i>	<i>Contents</i>
BOX 111	1873, Sept. 3-1874, May 19
BOX 112	1874, May 19-Dec. 10
BOX 113	1874, Dec. 18-1875, July 8
BOX 114	1875, July 8-1876, Feb. 29
BOX 115	1876, Mar. 9-Oct. 29
BOX 116	1876, Oct. 30-1877, May 18
BOX 117	1877, May 19-Sept. 5
BOX 118	To the French minister of foreign affairs
BOX 118	1869, May 31-1871, Jan. 18
BOX 119	1871, Jan. 18-1872, Dec. 2
BOX 120	1872, Dec. 4-1875, Sept. 2
BOX 121	1875, Oct. 4-1877, Sept. 1
BOX 122	General
BOX 122	1869, May 25-Dec. 2
BOX 123	1869, Dec. 4-1870, May 30
BOX 124	1870, May 30-Sept. 7
BOX 125	1870, Sept. 7-1871, Feb. 27
BOX 126	1871
BOX 126	Feb. 28-July 25
BOX 127	July 25-Dec. 8
BOX 128	1871, Dec. 8-1872, June 7
BOX 129	1872, June 10-1873, Jan. 13
BOX 130	1873, Jan. 13-Aug. 12
BOX 131	1873, Aug. 13-1874, Mar. 18
BOX 132	1874, Mar. 20-1875, Jan. 9
BOX 133	1875, Jan. 9-1876, Feb. 21
BOX 134	1876, Feb. 21-1877, Jan. 24
BOX 135	1877, Jan. 27-Sept. 4
BOX 135	Personal
BOX 135	1869, May 27-1870, Oct. 11 (2 vols.)
BOX 136	1870, Oct. 9-1872, Mar. 1 (3 vols.)
BOX 137	1872, Mar. 1-1873, Oct. 20 (3 vols.)
BOX 138	1873, Oct. 21-1875, Apr. 20 (3 vols.)
BOX 139	1875, Oct. 15-1879, Apr. 16 (4 vols.)
BOX 140	Concerning Germany, 1870, Aug. 19-1872, Feb. 8 (2 vols.)
BOX 140	Miscellany, 1869-1876 (2 vols.)
BOX 141	(1 vol.)
BOX 141	By Washburne, Gratiot (son), 1872, Mar. 22-1876, Mar. 1 (2 vols.)
BOX 142	Miscellany

Container List

<i>Container</i>	<i>Contents</i>
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BOX 142	French Ministry of the Interior, facsimile copies of official dispatches, 1870-1871
BOX 142	Index to correspondence (obsolete), 1882
BOX 142	Medill, Joseph, transcripts of letters to Washburne, 1862-1869
BOX 142	Printed matter, 1847-1881, undated
BOX 143	Scrapbooks
BOX 143	Washburn, Charles A., 1865-1889, undated
BOX 143	Washburne, E. B., 1868-1885, undated (2 vols.)