

David Ames Wells

A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress

Prepared by Manuscript Division Staff
Revised by John Monagle



Manuscript Division, Library of
Congress

Washington, D.C.

2010

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

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Congress Manuscript Division, 2010

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Collection Summary

Title: David Ames Wells Papers

Span Dates: 1795-1898

Bulk Dates: (bulk 1860-1886)

ID No.: MSS45062

Creator: Wells, David Ames, 1828-1898

Extent: 9,000 items; 24 containers; 6 linear feet; 9 microfilm reels

Language: Collection material in English

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

Abstract: Economist, author, and public official. Correspondence, printed material, writings, and other papers concerning economics, with particular emphasis on taxation, the tariff, and free trade.

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

Adams, Charles Francis, 1835-1915--Correspondence.

Adams, Henry, 1838-1918--Correspondence.

Atkinson, Edward, 1827-1905--Correspondence.

Barnard, F. A. P. (Frederick Augustus Porter), 1809-1889--Correspondence.

Bayard, Thomas F. (Thomas Francis), 1828-1898--Correspondence.

Beecher, Henry Ward, 1813-1887--Correspondence.

Bellows, Henry W. (Henry Whitney), 1814-1882--Correspondence.

Bowles, Samuel, 1826-1878--Correspondence.

Bryant, William Cullen, 1794-1878--Correspondence.

Conkling, Roscoe, 1829-1888--Correspondence.

Dana, Richard Henry, 1815-1882--Correspondence.

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

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

Field, Stephen J. (Stephen Johnson), 1816-1899--Correspondence.

Fish, Hamilton, 1808-1893--Correspondence.

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

George, Henry, 1839-1897--Correspondence.

Gould, Jay, 1836-1892--Correspondence.

Greeley, Horace, 1811-1872--Correspondence.

Hale, Edward Everett, 1822-1909--Correspondence.

Hawley, Joseph R. (Joseph Roswell), 1826-1905--Correspondence.

Hoffman, John T. (John Thompson), 1828-1888--Correspondence.

Howells, William Dean, 1837-1920--Correspondence.

Lieber, Francis, 1800-1872--Correspondence.

Longfellow, Henry Wadsworth, 1807-1882--Correspondence.

Mallet, Louis, 1823-1890--Correspondence.

Marble, Manton, 1834-1917--Correspondence.

McCulloch, Hugh, 1808-1895--Correspondence.

Nordhoff, Charles, 1830-1901--Correspondence.

Orton, William, 1826-1878--Correspondence.

Owen, Robert Dale, 1801-1877--Correspondence.

Read, John Meredith, 1837-1896--Correspondence.

Reid, Whitelaw, 1837-1912--Correspondence.

Sands, Mahlon--Correspondence.

Schurz, Carl, 1829-1906--Correspondence.
Tilden, Samuel J. (Samuel Jones), 1814-1886--Correspondence.
Villard, Henry, 1835-1900--Correspondence.
Wells, David Ames, 1828-1898.
White, Andrew Dickson, 1832-1918--Correspondence.
White, Horace, 1834-1916--Correspondence.
Young, John Russell, 1840-1899--Correspondence.

Subjects

Economics.
Free trade.
Tariff.
Taxation.

Occupations

Authors.
Economists.
Public officials.

Administrative Information

Provenance

The papers of David Ames Wells, economist, author, and public official, were given to the Library of Congress in 1938 by the Trustees of the City Library Association, Springfield, Massachusetts. An item purchased in 1914 was transferred to the collection in 1998.

Processing History

The papers of David Ames Wells were revised in 1998 and the finding aid updated in 2010.

Copyright Status

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

Access and Restrictions

The papers of David Ames Wells 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.

Microfilm

A microfilm edition of these papers, excluding the addition, is available on nine reels. Consult reference staff in the Manuscript Division concerning availability for purchase or interlibrary loan. To promote preservation of the originals, researchers are required to consult the microfilm edition.

Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: Container or reel number, David Ames Wells Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Biographical Note

<i>Date</i>	<i>Event</i>
1828, June 17	Born, Springfield, Mass.
1847	Graduated, Williams College, Williamstown, Mass.
1848	Joined staff of Springfield Republican, Springfield, Mass.
1851	Graduated, Lawrence Scientific School, Cambridge, Mass.
1857	Partner, G. P. Putnam & Co. Compiled <i>The Science of Common Things</i> . New York: Ivison & Phinney; Chicago: S. C. Griggs & Co.
1858	Published <i>Wells's Principles and Applications of Chemistry</i> . New York and Chicago: Ivison, Blakeman, Taylor Co.
1860	Married Mary Sanford Dwight
1861	Published <i>Wells's First Principles of Geology</i> . New York: Ivison, Phinney & Co.; Chicago: S. C. Griggs & Co.
1863	Published <i>Wells's Natural Philosophy</i> . New York: Ivison, Phinney & Co.; Chicago: S. C. Griggs & Co.
1864	Published <i>Our Burden and Strength</i> . New York: Loyal Publication Society
1865	Appointed chairman, National Revenue Commission Appointed special commissioner of the revenue
1869	Chairman, New York State Tax Commission
1871	Published <i>Local Taxation</i> . New York: Harper & Brothers
1876	Unsuccessful candidate for Congress Receiver, Alabama & Chattanooga Railroad
1878	Member, Board of Arbitration of Associated Railways
1898, Nov. 5	Died, Norwich, Conn.

Scope and Content Note

The papers of David Ames Wells (1828-1898) span the years 1795-1898, with the bulk of the material concentrated in the period 1860-1886.

The correspondents represented in the collection include many of the leading politicians, economists, and journalists of the mid-nineteenth century. Some of the letters are social in nature, but many relate to such topics as economics, taxation, tariffs, and free trade.

Among the correspondents are Charles Francis Adams (1835-1915), Henry Adams, Edward Atkinson, Frederick A. P. Barnard, Thomas F. Bayard, Henry Ward Beecher, Henry W. Bellows, Samuel Bowles, William Cullen Bryant, Roscoe Conkling, Richard Henry Dana (1815-1882), William Maxwell Evarts, Cyrus W. Field, Stephen Johnson Field, Hamilton Fish, James A. Garfield, Henry George, Jay Gould, Horace Greeley, Edward Everett Hale, Joseph R. Hawley, John T. Hoffman, William Dean Howells, Francis Lieber, Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, Hugh McCulloch, Louis Mallet, Manton Marble, Charles Nordhoff, William Orton, Robert Dale Owen, John Meredith Read, Whitelaw Reid, Mahlon Sands, Carl Schurz, Samuel J. Tilden, Henry Villard, Andrew Dickson White, Horace White, and John Russell Young.

Container List

Available on microfilm. Shelf no. 15,662. Reel numbers in parentheses represent original numbering of microfilm reels.

<i>Container</i>	<i>Contents</i>
BOX 1	General correspondence
BOX 1	4 Nov. 1795-27 Nov. 1867
REEL 1	
BOX 2	6 Jan. 1868-30 Nov. 1869
REEL 1	
BOX 3	13 Dec. 1869-16 Aug. 1870
REEL 2(1A)	
BOX 4	10 Aug. 1870-28 June 1871
REEL 2(1A)	
BOX 5	29 June 1871-23 May 1872
REEL 3(2)	
BOX 6	24 May 1872-17 Apr. 1873
REEL 3(2)	
BOX 7	18 Apr. 1873-24 Mar. 1874
REEL 3(2)	
BOX 8	25 Mar. 1874-19 Dec. 1874
REEL 4(3)	
BOX 9	21 Dec. 1874-26 July 1875
REEL 4(3)	
BOX 10	27 July-17 Dec. 1875
REEL 4(3)	
BOX 11	18 Dec. 1875-5 Apr. 1876
REEL 5(4)	
BOX 12	6 Apr.-16 July 1876
REEL 5(4)	
BOX 13	17 July-5 Dec. 1876
REEL 5(4)	
BOX 14	6 Dec. 1876-17 July 1877
REEL 6(5)	
BOX 15	18 July 1877-25 Feb. 1878
REEL 6(5)	
BOX 16	28 Feb. 1878-31 Mar. 1879
REEL 6(5)	
BOX 17	6 Apr. 1879-21 Sept. 1880
REEL 7(6)	
BOX 18	22 Sept. 1880-24 Sept. 1881
REEL 7(6)	
BOX 19	27 Sept. 1881-14 July 1883
REEL 7(6)	
BOX 20	15 July 1883-7 Sept. 1884
REEL 8(7)	
BOX 21	21 Sept. 1884-26 July 1886
REEL 8(7)	

Container List

<i>Container</i>	<i>Contents</i>
BOX 22 REEL 8(7)	29 July 1886-8 July 1898
BOX 23 REEL 9(8)	Undated
BOX 24	Miscellany
BOX 24 REEL 9(8)	Essays of Edward Atkinson, short stories of Mary Wells, lists, calling cards, notices, printed matter, and miscellany, circa 1865-circa 1898 (2 folders)
BOX 24	Addition
BOX 24 not filmed	Letter, Wells to William L. Nelson, 1892