Collection Summary
Title: W. A. Croffut Papers
Span Dates: 1774-1933
Bulk Dates: (bulk 1880-1915)
ID No.: MSS17285
Creator: Croffut, W. A. (William Augustus), 1835-1915
Extent: 7,500 items ; 31 containers ; 12.4 linear feet
Language: Collection material in English, with Spanish
Location: Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.
Summary: Author, editor, and poet. Correspondence, writings, minutes, scrapbooks, printed matter, and miscellaneous items pertaining chiefly to Croffut's publications, activities with the Anti-Imperialist League, and the presidential campaign of 1900. Includes material relating to Ethan Allen Hitchcock, copies of correspondence with Sophia Amelia Peabody Hawthorne, wife of Nathaniel Hawthorne, journals of Henry Alfred Robbins, letters of John Quincy Adams and Jefferson Davis, and autograph material.

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, John Quincy, 1767-1848--Correspondence.
Boutwell, George S. (George Sewall), 1818-1905--Correspondence.
Bryan, William Jennings, 1860-1925--Correspondence.
Bryan, William Jennings, 1860-1925.
Corser, Elwood S. (Elwood Spencer), 1835-1903--Correspondence.
Croffut family.
Croffut, Bessie B., 1861-1935--Correspondence.
Davis, Jefferson, 1808-1889.
Gompers, Samuel, 1850-1924.
Hawthorne, Sophia Peabody, 1809-1871--Correspondence.
Hayes, John William, 1854-1942--Correspondence.
Henderson, John B. (John Brooks), 1826-1913--Correspondence.
Hitchcock, Ethan Allen, 1798-1870.
Hitchcock, Ethan Allen, 1798-1870. Fifty years in camp and field; diary of Major-General Ethan Allen Hitchcock. 1909.
Lincoln, Abraham, 1809-1865.
O'Farrell, Patrick, 1832-1902--Correspondence.
Schurz, Carl, 1829-1906--Correspondence.
Shadwell, Bertrand--Correspondence.
Towne, Charles A. (Charles Arnette), 1858-1928--Correspondence.
Van Siclen, George W. (George West), 1840-1903.
Washington, George, 1732-1799.
Winslow, Erving, 1839-1922--Correspondence.

Organizations
Anti-Imperialist League (Washington, D.C.)
United States. Army--Military life.
World's Columbian Exposition (1893 : Chicago, Ill.)
Subjects
Afrikaners.
Anti-imperialist movements--United States.
Elections--United States--1900.
Exhibitions--Illinois--Chicago.
Imperialism.
Medicine--Practice--Europe.
Medicine--Practice--History--19th century.
Presidents--United States--Election--1900.
South African War, 1899-1902.
Spanish-American War, 1898--Philippines.

Places
Boston (Mass.)--History.
Europe--Description and travel.
Great Britain--Colonies--Africa.
Philippines--Foreign relations--United States.
United States--Colonial question.
United States--Foreign relations--Philippines.
United States--Politics and government--1897-1901.
United States--Territorial expansion.

Occupations
Authors.
Editors.
Poets.

Administrative Information

Provenance
The papers of W. A. Croffut, author, editor, and poet, were deposited in the Library of Congress by his wife, Bessie B. Croffut between 1930 and 1934. In 1938 the material was converted to a gift and purchase by the Library.

Processing History
The Croffut Papers were processed in 1963. The finding aid was revised in 2012.

Related Material
Related collections in the Manuscript Division include the papers of Ethan Allen Hitchcock.

Copyright Status
The status of copyright in the unpublished writings of W. A. Croffut is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.).

Access and Restrictions
The papers of W. A. Croffut 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, W. A. Croffut Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.
Biographical Note

**Date**  
**1835**  
**circa 1854**  
**circa 1861-1865**  
**circa 1885-1889**  
**1888-1894**  
**1899**  
**1893**  
**1900**  
**1915, Aug. 31**

**Event**  
Born, Redding, Conn.  
Reporter, *New Haven Palladium*  
Private, First Minnesota Regiment, during the Civil War, and field reporter for the *New York Times*  
Editor, *Washington Post*  
Executive officer, United States Geological Survey  
Organizer and secretary, Anti-Imperialist League  
President, Liberty League  
Wrote opening ode for World's Columbian Exposition, Chicago, Ill.  
Campaigned in behalf of William Jennings Bryan for president  
Died, Washington, D.C.

Scope and Content Note

The papers of William Augustus Croffut (1835-1915) contain correspondence, journals, scrapbooks, autographs, reference material, printed matter, and drafts of articles, books, and poems, including a significant portion relating to Ethan Allan Hitchcock. The collection spans the period 1774-1933, with the bulk of the material concentrated between 1880 and 1915. The papers are organized into five series: General Correspondence, Business Papers, Ethan Allen Hitchcock File, Anti-Imperialist League, and Miscellany.

The General Correspondence ranges from 1862 to 1933, with the largest part from the period 1880-1915. Correspondence after 1915 is largely that of Croffut's second wife, Bessie B. Croffut. Topics include Croffut's various publications, his activities with the Anti-Imperialist League, and the presidential campaign of 1900. Correspondents include George S. Boutwell, Elwood S. Corser, John William Hayes, John B. Henderson, Patrick O'Farrell, Bertrand Shadwell, Charles A. Towne, George W. Van Siclen, and Erving Winslow, as well prominent figures such as William Jennings Bryan, Samuel Gompers, and Carl Schurz.

The Ethan Allen Hitchcock File contains drafts and copies of Croffut's writings as well as a copy of Hitchcock's memoir that Croffut used for *Fifty Years in Field and Camp*. This memoir, based on diaries, is not in the Ethan Allen Hitchcock collection in the Manuscript Division. Bessie B. Croffut, niece of Hitchcock, also made copies of other Hitchcock materials, including correspondence with Sophie Peabody (Mrs. Nathaniel Hawthorne). Also in the collection are an undated letter of John Quincy Adams, a note of Jefferson Davis, numerous autographs, including of James Monroe, copies of George Washington material, and items relating to Joseph Smith Fowler.

Included in the Anti-Imperialist League file are minutes and records of the Washington, D.C., branch, along with other branch and league literature, additional printed matter, and drafts of articles advocating the cause of the Philippines and of the Boers in South Africa. The Miscellany series includes journals of Henry Alfred Robbins containing accounts of his travels in Europe that describe practices on the Continent during the 1870s. Scrapbooks contain newspaper columns and an account of the World's Columbian Exposition of 1893 in Chicago.
Arrangement of the Papers

This collection is arranged in five series:

- General Correspondence, 1862-1933
- Business Papers, 1879-1933
- Ethan Allen Hitchcock File, 1813-1868
- Anti-Imperialist League
- Miscellany, 1774-1910
Description of Series

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Container</th>
<th>Series</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BOX 1-3</td>
<td><strong>General Correspondence, 1862-1933</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Letters sent and received, including</td>
</tr>
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<td>correspondence of Croffut's second wife,</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Bessie B. Croffut.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Arranged chronologically.</td>
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<tr>
<td>BOX 3</td>
<td><strong>Business Papers, 1879-1933</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Bills and receipts.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Arranged by type of material.</td>
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<tr>
<td>BOX 4-16</td>
<td><strong>Ethan Allen Hitchcock File, 1813-1868</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Mainly copies of Hitchcock's memoir and</td>
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<td></td>
<td>related notes and correspondence relating</td>
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<td></td>
<td>to its publication by Croffut. Also other</td>
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<td></td>
<td>writings by Croffut and Croffut family</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>members, including drafts, galleys, printed</td>
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<td></td>
<td>articles and verse, and books of poetry by</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Croffut.</td>
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<tr>
<td>BOX 16-19</td>
<td><strong>Anti-Imperialist League</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Official minutes and other records of the</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>league's Washington, D.C., branch, drafts</td>
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<td></td>
<td>of articles on the Philippines and</td>
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<td>imperialism, and printed matter relating</td>
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<td>to the league and to imperialism, South</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Africa, and the Boers.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Arranged by type of material.</td>
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<tr>
<td>BOX 20-31</td>
<td><strong>Miscellany, 1774-1910</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Autographs and copies of letters of</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>historical figures, address books, notebooks,</td>
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<td></td>
<td>journals of Henry Alfred Robbins,</td>
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<td></td>
<td>scrapbooks, maps, bibliographic data,</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>printed matter, and miscellaneous items.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Arranged by type of material.</td>
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# Container List

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Container</th>
<th>Contents</th>
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</table>
| BOX 1-3   | **General Correspondence, 1862-1933**  
Letters sent and received, including correspondence of Croffut's second wife, Bessie B. Croffut.  
Arranged chronologically. |
| BOX 1     | 1862, 11 Jan.-1900, 20 July |
| BOX 2     | 1900, 22 July-1931, 31 Jan. |
| BOX 3     | 1930, 3 Feb.-1933, 23 Sept. |
| BOX 3     | Undated |
| BOX 3     | Fragments |
| BOX 3     | **Business Papers, 1879-1933**  
Bills and receipts.  
Arranged by type of material. |
| BOX 4-16  | **Ethan Allen Hitchcock File, 1813-1868**  
Mainly copies of Hitchcock's memoir and related notes and correspondence relating to its publication by Croffut. Also other writings by Croffut and Croffut family members, including drafts, galleys, printed articles and verse, and books of poetry by Croffut.  
Arranged by type of material. |
| BOX 4     | Copies of memoir  
1819-1842, 3 Jan. |
| BOX 5     | 1842, 6 Jan.-1845, 3 July |
| BOX 6     | 1845, 16 July-1850, 31 Jan. |
| BOX 7     | 1850, 1 Feb.-1852, 17 Apr. |
| BOX 8     | 1852, 18 Apr.-1856, 12 Mar. |
| BOX 9     | 1856, 16 Mar.-1867, 7 Mar. |
| BOX 10    | 1867, 9 Mar.-1868, 17 Apr. |
| BOX 10    | Notes on memoir and biography |
| BOX 10    | Copies of Hitchcock's correspondence, 1813-1846 |
| BOX 11    | Copies of miscellaneous Hitchcock material |
| BOX 11    | Letters to Sophia Amelia Peabody Hawthorne |
| BOX 11    | Draft of Hitchcock biography |
| BOX 12    | Draft of Hitchcock biography |
| BOX 12    | Miscellaneous reference notes |
| BOX 13    | Draft of "Now I Recollect" |
| BOX 13    | Carbon copies of "Now I Recollect" |
| BOX 13    | Draft of article on European trip |
| BOX 14    | Drafts |
| BOX 14    | "Did Shakespeare Do It?" |
Before the Camera

Geological Survey article

Newspaper columns, 1904

Galley proofs, "American Procession"

Drafts of articles and verse by Croffut family

Printed articles and verse by Croffut family

Books of poetry by Croffut

Anti-Imperialist League

Official minutes and other records of the league's Washington, D.C., branch, drafts of articles on the Philippines and imperialism, and printed matter relating to the league and to imperialism, South Africa, and the Boers.

Arranged by type of material.

Official minutes and other records, Washington, D.C., branch

Drafts of articles on Philippines and imperialism

Printed matter

Philippines and imperialism

Philippines and imperialism

South Africa and Boers

Congressional speeches

Congressional Record

Pamphlets

Pamphlets

Newspaper clippings

Miscellany, 1774-1910

Autographs and copies of letters of historical figures, address books, notebooks, journals of Henry Alfred Robbins, scrapbooks, maps, bibliographic data, printed matter, and miscellaneous items.

Arranged by type of material.

Copies of letters of George Washington and Antonio Lopez de Santa Anna and printed matter, 1774-1850

Autograph book and autographs, including of James Monroe, John Quincy Adams (letter of Apr. 15, no year), and Jefferson Davis (note of 1853), circa 1830-circa 1910

Address books

Passports, certificates, and miscellaneous items, 1877-1910

Bibliography cards

Herndon, William Henry, letter to Joseph Smith Fowler, 1889

White, Hugh Lawson, regarding election to presidency, 1835

Judge advocate's journal and vouchers and letters of Joseph Smith Fowler, 1862-1867

Miscellaneous

Notebooks

Notes

Printed matter

Pamphlets

Books
## Miscellany, 1774-1910

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<tr>
<th>Container</th>
<th>Contents</th>
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<tr>
<td>BOX 22</td>
<td>Newspaper clippings</td>
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<tr>
<td>BOX 23-24</td>
<td>Journals of Henry Alfred Robbins recounting travel in Europe, 1870-1904</td>
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<td>BOX 25</td>
<td>Scrapbooks</td>
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<td>BOX 25</td>
<td>A-E</td>
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<td>BOX 26</td>
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<td>BOX 27</td>
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<td>BOX 28</td>
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<td>BOX 29</td>
<td>R-T</td>
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<td>BOX 30</td>
<td>U-World's Columbian Exposition, Chicago, Ill., 1893</td>
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<tr>
<td>BOX 31</td>
<td>Unmarked notebook of Bessie B. Croffut</td>
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