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
Location: Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.
Summary: 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.
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**
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.

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**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 finding aid 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

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>1797, Feb. 28</td>
<td>Born, Mallow (near Cork), Ireland</td>
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<tr>
<td>1820</td>
<td>Began study of medicine, Paris, France</td>
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<tr>
<td>1823</td>
<td>Emigrated to Canada to complete studies; admitted to medical practice</td>
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<tr>
<td>1830</td>
<td>Moved from Quebec to Montreal, Canada</td>
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<tr>
<td>1834</td>
<td>Became editor of <em>Montreal Vindicator</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>1835</td>
<td>Elected to assembly of Upper Canada from Yamaska</td>
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<tr>
<td>1837</td>
<td>Participated in revolutionary action at St. Denis; fled Canada to avoid prosecution and settled in Albany, N.Y.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1837-1848</td>
<td>Practiced medicine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1848-1870</td>
<td>Devoted full time to editing New York state records</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1852(?)-1870</td>
<td>Edited colonial archives while attached to the office of the New York secretary of state</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1870-1877</td>
<td>Moved to New York, N.Y., to arrange and translate the municipal archives</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1880, May 29</td>
<td>Died, New York, N.Y.</td>
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## 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.


**Arrangement of the Papers**

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