

**Matthew Stanley Quay Papers**  
**A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress**



**Manuscript Division, Library of Congress**  
**Washington, D.C.**  
**1993**

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

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Additional search options available at: <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms001034>

Prepared by Laura Kells

Finding aid encoded by Library of Congress Manuscript Division, 2001  
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## Collection Summary

**Title:** Matthew Stanley Quay Papers

**Span Dates:** 1776-1949

**Bulk Dates:** (bulk 1890-1904)

**ID No.:** MSS37127

**Creator:** Quay, Matthew Stanley, 1833-1904

**Extent:** 5000 items

**Extent:** 45 containers plus 11 oversize

**Extent:** 23 linear feet

**Language:** Collection material in English

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

**LC Catalog record:** <https://lccn.loc.gov/mm78037127>

**Summary:** United States senator from Pennsylvania (1887-1904). Correspondence, election materials, financial papers, genealogical information, newspaper clippings, photographs, and other papers pertaining primarily to Quay's career in Pennsylvania and national politics as a member of the Republican party and the United States Senate.

## Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the LC Catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically.

### People

Beaver, James A. (James Addams), 1837-1914.

Cameron, J. D. (James Donald), 1833-1918.

Curtin, Andrew Gregg, 1815-1894.

Hanna, Marcus Alonzo, 1837-1904.

Harrison, Benjamin, 1833-1901.

Hastings, Daniel, 1849-1903.

McKinley, William, 1843-1901.

Pennypacker, Samuel W. (Samuel Whitaker), 1843-1916.

Penrose, Boies, 1860-1921.

Quay family.

Quay, Matthew Stanley, 1833-1904.

Roosevelt, Theodore, 1858-1919.

Wanamaker, John, 1838-1922.

### Organizations

Republican Party (Pa.)

Republican Party (U.S. : 1854- )

United States. Army. Ohio Infantry Regiment, 7th (1861-1864)

United States. Congress. Senate.

### Subjects

Fredericksburg, Battle of, Fredericksburg, Va., 1862.

Presidents--United States--Election--1896.

### Places

Pennsylvania--Politics and government--1865-1950.

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

United States--Politics and government--1865-1900.

United States--Politics and government--1901-1909.

Virginia--History--Civil War, 1861-1865--Campaigns.

### Occupations

Senators, U.S. Congress--Pennsylvania.

## Provenance

The papers of Matthew Stanley Quay, politician and United States senator, were given to the Library of Congress in 1988 by Professor James A. Kehl of the University of Pittsburgh. They have been combined with a small collection of Quay papers given to the Library by Russell S. Bachman in 1936.

## Additional Guides

The Matthew Stanley Quay Papers are described in *Library of Congress Acquisitions: Manuscript Division, 1988*, pp. 9-13.

## Transfers

Bound volumes of the *Beaver Radical* (1869-1871) have been transferred to the Library's Serial & Government Publications Division and are available in the Newspaper and Current Periodical Reading Room.

## Copyright Status

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

## Access and Restrictions

The papers of Matthew Stanley Quay 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, Matthew Stanley Quay Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

## Biographical Note

Date	Event
1833, Sept. 30	Born, Dillsburg, Pa.
1850	Graduated Jefferson College, Canonsburg, Pa.
1854	Admitted to bar and began law practice, Beaver County, Pa.
1855, Oct. 10	Married Agnes Barclay
1856-1859	Prothonotary of Beaver County
1861-1865	Lieutenant, Tenth Pennsylvania Reserves Colonel, 134th Regiment, Pennsylvania Volunteers Lieutenant colonel and assistant commissary general, Militia of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Military state agent, Washington, D. C. Private secretary to Gov. Andrew G. Curtin of Pennsylvania Major and chief, Department of Transportation and Telegraph, staff of Governor Curtin Military secretary to Governor Curtin
1865-1867	Member, Pennsylvania House of Representatives
1867-1872	Owned and edited the <i>Beaver Radical</i>

1872-1882	Secretary of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
1878-1879	Recorder of the city of Philadelphia, Pa. Chairman of the Republican state committee
1885	Selected as member of Republican National Committee
1885-1887	Pennsylvania state treasurer
1887	Elected, United States Senate
1888	Chairman, Republican National Committee, during presidential campaign of Benjamin Harrison Awarded Congressional Medal of Honor for bravery at Fredericksburg, Va., during the Civil War
1893	Reelected, United States Senate
1895	Named chairman, Pennsylvania Republican central committee
1896	Candidate for president Member, executive committee, Republican National Committee
1898, Nov.	Indicted for conspiracy to misuse state funds
1899, Jan.	Failed to be reelected to United States Senate because of deadlock in Pennsylvania legislature
1899, Apr. 21	Acquitted of misuse of state funds; appointed United States Senator, ad interim
1900, Apr. 24	Denied seat in United States Senate by resolution of that body
1901	Reelected, United States Senate
1904, May 28	Died, Beaver, Pa.

## Scope and Content Note

The papers of Matthew Stanley Quay (1833-1904) span the years 1776-1949, with the bulk of the material concentrated between 1890 and 1904. The papers focus primarily on Quay's activities in late nineteenth-century state and national politics as United States senator from Pennsylvania and Republican party leader, with the richest material relating to Pennsylvania state politics. Other material concerns Quay's military career, his financial activities, and his family.

The [Family Correspondence](#) file spans the years 1787-1949. In much of this correspondence, Quay is referred to as Stan, an abbreviated form of his middle name. Included are letters to him from his father, Anderson B. Quay, a Presbyterian minister, and his mother, Catherine. There are also letters to the Reverend and Catherine Quay from their eldest daughter, Sarah, who wrote from Rose Park Seminary and the Lyceum Institute in the 1830s about her life at school. Letters from Quay's sister, Thetta, concern family life until her death from consumption in 1862. Correspondence of Quay's youngest brother, Elliot, includes letters written while he was a second lieutenant in the Seventh Ohio Infantry in 1861 and 1862. He resigned in poor health in October 1862 and died of consumption.

The family's health is a common subject in the correspondence. Quay's parents and every adult member of his immediate family died of consumption. Of Quay's own children, only five of ten survived to adulthood. Quay also seems to have inherited a weak constitution, and his ailments figure prominently in his correspondence to his wife, Agnes, and their son, Richard, whom he wrote from Florida, where he spent extended periods of time to restore his health. There is also a long run of correspondence between Quay and his daughter Coral. The latest correspondence is from the next generation of Quays to their Aunt Coral during World War II and the postwar period.

Attached to some of the correspondence are typescripts prepared by James A. Kehl. A professor of history, Kehl had obtained the papers from Quay's grandson, Stanley Quay, who had inherited them from Coral Quay. To help identify family members, diagrams of family trees are in the [Miscellany](#) file in the "Family information" and "Research notes" folders.

The [General Correspondence](#) file, 1852-1927, relates primarily to political activities. There is some correspondence concerning Quay's election to the United States Senate in 1886-1887 and to his Republican National Committee chairmanship from 1888 to 1891. A major portion of the correspondence relates to his candidacy for the chairmanship of the Republican state committee and the split in Pennsylvania over the party chairmanship in 1895. Material from 1896 covers the battle over the membership of the Pennsylvania Republican delegation and Quay's candidacy for the presidency. The correspondence from 1899 to 1901 focuses on the controversy concerning Quay's Senate seat, his acquittal on charges of conspiring to misuse state funds, his reappointment by the governor in 1899, the vote against seating him in the Senate in 1900, and his reelection in 1901. Correspondence includes reports on efforts to gain political backing, letters of support, and requests for appointment to public office. Added to correspondence from the 1890s are notations in

shorthand. Prominent correspondents include Presidents Benjamin Harrison, William McKinley, and Theodore Roosevelt; Pennsylvania governors James A. Beaver, Andrew G. Curtin, Daniel H. Hastings, and Samuel W. Pennypacker; and national figures such as Mark A. Hanna, Boies Penrose, John Wanamaker, and J. D. Cameron.

The [Financial Records](#) file documents some of Quay's financial dealings during the period leading to his conspiracy indictment. Of particular interest are the records of his dealings with the Peoples' Bank of Philadelphia. These files (1878-1898, undated) include records of transactions and canceled checks, as well as correspondence and telegrams from cashier John S. Hopkins, who handled most of Quay's personal stock transactions. In March 1898, the Peoples' Bank declared bankruptcy, and Hopkins committed suicide. Letters and telegrams from Quay found in Hopkins's desk after his death were used against Quay in his reelection campaign and as evidence in his trial. Also of interest is a financial journal in which Quay lists his stock holdings and other financial assets.

Of particular interest in the [Scrapbooks and Clippings](#) series are fifty-three volumes of clippings from the years 1878 and 1888-1895. They reflect national press coverage of Quay and include both pro- and anti-Quay points of view. Senator Quay was an early subscriber to a clipping service, Henry S. Romeike of New York. Also available are two large volumes of clippings relating to Quay's death and funeral. Bound volumes of the *Beaver Radical* (1869-1871), a weekly Republican newspaper which Quay published from 1868 to 1872, have been transferred to the Serials Division of the Library and are available in the Newspaper and Current Periodical Reading Room.

The [Photographs](#) file contains an album of photographs and autographs of United States senators in 1888. A clipping in one of the scrapbooks notes the value of the album because of the fact that some of the senators were normally reluctant to give out photographs. In addition to portraits of Quay, there is a portrait of Pennsylvania governor John F. Hartranft.

The [Miscellany](#) file contains information about Quay's family and a journal of his brother Elliot's 1860 trip to Louisiana in search of work. Biographical information about Matthew Quay as a young man is available in reminiscences by members of the Griffin family, who were visited by Quay at their Southern plantation in 1850. Matthew Quay's military papers include accounts of his activities at the battle of Fredericksburg during the Civil War. Material from his political career includes election results and voting records, the guest book of the Pennsylvania delegation at the Republican National Convention in St. Louis in 1896, political pamphlets, and petitions, resolutions, and other written expressions of support. An 1890 handwritten statement by William Shaw Bowen, a reporter for the *New York World*, describes his investigation into Quay's background and political and financial dealings. The *World* subsequently printed Bowen's articles giving a sensational negative account of Quay's character and activities as a political boss. Legal materials include court papers (1897-1898) from Quay's trial. Among the memorabilia are inaugural ball programs, invitations to the White House during the Theodore Roosevelt administration, dinner menus, and metal and cloth political badges.

## Organization of the Papers

The collection is arranged in seven series:

- [Family Correspondence, 1787-1949](#)
- [General Correspondence, 1852-1927](#)
- [Financial Records, 1863-1903](#)
- [Scrapbooks and Clippings, 1878-1908](#)
- [Photographs, 1888](#)
- [Miscellany, 1776-1918](#)
- [Oversize, 1856-1912](#)

## Description of Series

Container	Series
BOX 1	<p><b><u>Family Correspondence, 1787-1949</u></b></p> <p>Letters to and from family members. Arranged chronologically.</p>
BOX 2-10	<p><b><u>General Correspondence, 1852-1927</u></b></p> <p>Letters and telegrams from politicians, constituents, and friends, including some negative photostats and typewritten copies of letters from and about Quay obtained from other repositories. Arranged chronologically.</p>
BOX 10	<p><b><u>Financial Records, 1863-1903</u></b></p> <p>Bank statements, canceled checks, ledgers, financial journal, telegrams, and correspondence. Arranged by type of material and chronologically therein.</p>
BOX 11-40	<p><b><u>Scrapbooks and Clippings, 1878-1908</u></b></p> <p>Volumes of newspaper clippings relating to state and national politics, a book of congratulatory telegrams, volumes on Quay's death, and loose clippings. Volumes are arranged chronologically and topically, and unbound clippings are arranged chronologically.</p>
BOX 40-41	<p><b><u>Photographs, 1888</u></b></p> <p>A volume of autographed photographs of United States senators arranged by state; a volume featuring fishing scenes off the coast of Florida; a few portraits; and a lithographic plate.</p>
BOX 42-45	<p><b><u>Miscellany, 1776-1918</u></b></p> <p>Family information, military papers, legal documents, election results and voting records, petitions and resolutions, speeches and writings, political pamphlets, and memorabilia such as invitations, programs, and political ribbons. Arranged alphabetically by type of material and chronologically therein.</p>
BOX OV 1-11	<p><b><u>Oversize, 1856-1912</u></b></p> <p>Oversize scrapbooks, a memorial book, election materials, financial documents, a guest book, certificates, and newspaper clippings. Items are described according to the boxes, series, and folders from which they were removed.</p>

# Container List

Container	Contents
BOX 1	<b>Family Correspondence, 1787-1949</b> Letters to and from family members. Arranged chronologically.
BOX 1	1787-1904 (8 folders) 1912, 1943-1949 Undated circa 1835-1863 circa 1865-1905 circa 1900-1950
BOX 2-10	<b>General Correspondence, 1852-1927</b> Letters and telegrams from politicians, constituents, and friends, including some negative photostats and typewritten copies of letters from and about Quay obtained from other repositories. Arranged chronologically.
BOX 2	Feb. 1852-Dec. 1890 (13 folders)
BOX 3	Jan. 1891-2 July 1895 (10 folders)
BOX 4	3-20 July 1895 (10 folders)
BOX 5	21 July-29 Aug. 1895 (9 folders)
BOX 6	30 Aug. 1895-21 Feb. 1896 (11 folders)
BOX 7	22 Feb. 1896-21 Apr. 1899 (14 folders)
BOX 8	22 Apr. 1899-30 Apr. 1900 (12 folders)
BOX 9	May 1900-Sept. 1903 (12 folders)
BOX 10	Oct. 1903-Nov. 1904 (2 folders) Aug. 1905-Mar. 1927 Undated
BOX 10	<b>Financial Records, 1863-1903</b> Bank statements, canceled checks, ledgers, financial journal, telegrams, and correspondence. Arranged by type of material and chronologically therein.
BOX 10	Bank records

## Financial Records, 1863-1903

### Container

### Contents

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Allegheny National Bank, 1893  
Beaver Deposit Bank, 1880-1898  
Commonwealth Guarantee Trust and Safe Deposit Co., 1893  
Farmers' and Mechanics' National Bank, 1892-1895  
Peoples' Bank of Philadelphia, 1878-1898, undated  
(5 folders)  
Miscellaneous checks and receipts, 1878-1902  
*Beaver Radical*, 1869-1870  
Family finances, 1863-1888, undated *See also Oversize*  
Financial journal, 1896-1903  
Miscellaneous, 1864-1890, undated  
Republican National Committee, 1888-1889, undated  
(2 folders)  
Republican State Committee printing accounts, 1878  
Stock transactions, 1893-1902 *For additional material see same series, Bank records; See also Oversize*

### BOX 11-40

#### Scrapbooks and Clippings, 1878-1908

Volumes of newspaper clippings relating to state and national politics, a book of congratulatory telegrams, volumes on Quay's death, and loose clippings.  
Volumes are arranged chronologically and topically, and unbound clippings are arranged chronologically.

### BOX 11

Chronological volumes

Vol. 1, 1878  
Vol. 2, 1 Apr. 1888-31 Oct. 1889 *See Oversize*

### BOX 12

Vol. 3, 29 Oct.-23 Nov. 1889

Vol. 4, 19 Nov.-19 Dec. 1889

### BOX 13

Vol. 5, 19 Dec. 1889-11 Feb. 1890

Vol. 6, 11 Feb.-25 Mar. 1890

### BOX 14

Vol. 7, 25 Mar.-19 Apr. 1890

Vol. 8, 19 Apr.-24 May 1890

### BOX 15

Vol. 9, 24 May-13 June 1890

Vol. 10, 11 June-9 July 1890

### BOX 16

Vol. 11, 30 June-21 Sept. 1890

Vol. 12, 9 July-13 Sept. 1890

### BOX 17

Vol. 13, 21 Aug.-6 Sept. 1890

Vol. 14, 6-26 Sept. 1890

### BOX 18

Vol. 15, 26 Sept.-15 Oct. 1890

Vol. 16, 15 Oct.-6 Nov. 1890

### BOX 19

Vol. 17, 6 Nov. 1890-19 Jan. 1891

Vol. 18, 2 Dec. 1890-13 Jan. 1891

### BOX 20

Vol. 19, 9 Jan.-7 Feb. 1891

Vol. 20, 8-19 Feb. 1891

### BOX 21

Vol. 21, 19 Feb.-24 Mar. 1891

Vol. 22, 13 Mar.-29 Apr. 1891

### BOX 22

Vol. 23, 29 Apr.-3 June 1891



## Scrapbooks and Clippings, 1878-1908

Container	Contents
	Vol. 24, 29 May-30 June 1891
BOX 23	Vol. 25, 23 June-11 July 1891
	Vol. 26, 1-22 July 1891
BOX 24	Vol. 27, 20-29 July 1891
	Vol. 28, 28-31 July 1891
BOX 25	Vol. 29, 29 July-6 Aug. 1891
	Vol. 30, 2-13 Aug. 1891
BOX 26	Vol. 31, 6-22 Aug. 1891
	Vol. 32, 14 Aug.-7 Sept. 1891
BOX 27	Vol. 33, 29 Aug.-1 Oct. 1891
	Vol. 34, 1-28 Oct. 1891
BOX 28	Vol. 35, 14 Oct.-6 Nov. 1891
	Vol. 36, 24 Oct.-2 Dec. 1891
BOX 29	Vol. 37, 21 Nov. 1891-1 Jan. 1892
	Vol. 38, 29 Dec. 1891-30 Jan. 1892
BOX 30	Vol. 39, 21 Jan.-28 Feb. 1892
	Vol. 40, 27 Feb.-26 Mar. 1892
BOX 31	Vol. 41, 11 Mar.-29 Apr. 1892
	Vol. 42, 26 Mar.-20 Apr. 1892
BOX 32	Vol. 43, 14 Apr.-10 May 1892
	Vol. 44, 27 Apr.-19 May 1892
BOX 33	Vol. 45, 9-27 May 1892
	Vol. 46, 18-27 May 1892
BOX 34	Vol. 47, 26 May-5 June 1892
	Vol. 48, 27 May-1 June 1892
BOX 35	Vol. 49, 2-7 June 1892
	Vol. 50, 4-15 June 1892
BOX 36	Vol. 51, 7-10 June 1892
	Vol. 52, 26 Aug.-2 Sept. 1895
BOX 37	Vol. 53, 2-28 Sept. 1895
	Topical volumes
	Political cartoons, mostly from <i>Philadelphia Times</i> and <i>Pittsburgh Leader</i> , 1889, 1895-1896 <i>See Oversize</i>
	Memorial vols., Matthew Stanley Quay, 1904 <i>See Oversize</i> (2 vols.)
BOX 38	Miscellaneous clippings, 1900
	Pennypacker, Samuel W., on Quay, 1901, undated
BOX 39	Telegrams, 1899
BOX 40	Unbound and unarranged
	Originals, 1895-1908, undated <i>See also Oversize</i> (5 folders)
	Preservation photocopies, 1895-1905, undated (3 folders)
BOX 40-41	<b>Photographs, 1888</b>
	A volume of autographed photographs of United States senators arranged by state; a volume featuring fishing scenes off the coast of Florida; a few portraits; and a lithographic plate.

## Photographs, 1888

### Container

### Contents

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BOX 40	Lithographic plate of Quay portrait Portraits Unidentified
BOX 41	Albums Fishing scenes, 1888 United States senators, 1888
BOX 42-45	<b>Miscellany, 1776-1918</b> Family information, military papers, legal documents, election results and voting records, petitions and resolutions, speeches and writings, political pamphlets, and memorabilia such as invitations, programs, and political ribbons. Arranged alphabetically by type of material and chronologically therein.
BOX 42	Bowen, William Shaw, statement, 1890 Family information General, 1776-1918, undated Quay, Elliot S., journal, 1860 Legal documents Contracts, deeds, and mortgages, 1860-1894 <i>See also Oversize</i> Court materials, 1897-1898, undated Memorabilia Dinner menus, 1878-1901 (3 folders) Inaugural ball programs, 1889, 1897 (2 folders) Invitations, 1903-1908, undated Republican National Convention tickets and ballot, 1888-1900
BOX 43	Political ribbons, 1889-1912, undated <i>See Oversize</i> (18 folders) Military papers 1861-1862 <i>See also Oversize</i>
BOX 44	1863-1901
BOX 45	Political material Appointments and recognitions, 1856-1893 <i>See Oversize</i> Congressional documents, 1897-1905 Election results, ballots, and voting records, 1872-1887, 1900, undated <i>See also Oversize</i> Miscellaneous, 1895-1904, undated Pamphlets, 1872-1905, undated (2 folders) Petitions and resolutions, 1890-1903, undated <i>See also Oversize</i> Speeches and writings, 1857-1904, undated Writings in support of Quay, 1895, undated Reminiscences of Quay, 1893-1905, undated Research notes Unidentified fragmentary material Volumes

## Miscellany, 1776-1918

Container	Contents
	Guest book, visitors to Pennsylvania delegation, Republican National Convention, St. Louis, Mo., 1896 <i>See <u>Overize</u></i>
	Memorial presentation book, 1904, Pennsylvania State League of Republican Clubs <i>See <u>Overize</u></i>
<b>BOX OV 1-11</b>	<b>Overize, 1856-1912</b> Overize scrapbooks, a memorial book, election materials, financial documents, a guest book, certificates, and newspaper clippings. Items are described according to the boxes, series, and folders from which they were removed.
<b>BOX OV 1</b>	Financial records Family finances, 1863-1888, undated (Container 10) Stock transactions, 1893-1902 (Container 10)
<b>BOX OV 2</b>	Scrapbooks and clippings Chronological volumes Vol. 2, 1 Apr. 1888-31 Oct. 1889 (Container 11)
<b>BOX OV 3</b>	Topical volumes Political cartoons, mostly from <i>Philadelphia Times</i> and <i>Pittsburgh Leader</i> , 1889, 1895-1896 (Container 11)
<b>BOX OV 4-OV 5</b>	Memorial vols., Matthew Stanley Quay, 1904 (Container 37)
<b>BOX OV 6</b>	Unbound and unarranged Originals, 1895-1908, undated (Container 40)
<b>BOX OV 7</b>	Miscellany Legal documents Contracts, deeds, and mortgages, 1860-1894 (Container 42)
<b>BOX OV 8</b>	Memorabilia Political ribbons, 1889-1912, undated (Container 43)
<b>BOX OV 9</b>	Military papers, 1861-1862 (Container 43) Political material Appointments and recognitions, 1856-1893 (Container 45) Election results, ballots, and voting records, 1872-1887, 1900, undated (Container 45) Petitions and resolutions, 1890-1903 (Container 45)
<b>BOX OV 10</b>	Volumes Guest book, visitors to Pennsylvania delegation, Republican National Convention, St. Louis, Mo., 1896 (Container 45)
<b>BOX OV 11</b>	Memorial presentation book, 1904, Pennsylvania State League of Republican Clubs (Container 45)