Collection Summary
Title: James Gillespie Blaine Papers
Span Dates: 1777-1945
Bulk Dates: (bulk 1870-1892)
ID No.: MSS12914
Creator: Blaine, James Gillespie, 1830-1893
Extent: 7,000 items
Extent: 48 containers
Extent: 20 linear feet
Extent: 21 microfilm reels
Language: Collection material in English
Location: Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.
LC Catalog record: https://lccn.loc.gov/mm82012914
Summary: United States secretary of state, United States representative and senator from Maine, and journalist. Family and general correspondence, speeches, writings, diaries, memoirs, notebooks, scrapbooks, and other papers documenting Blaine's public career.

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
Adams, John Quincy, 1767-1848.
Allison, William B. (William Boyd), 1829-1908--Correspondence.
Arthur, Chester Alan, 1829-1886--Correspondence.
Blaine family.
Blaine, Ephraim Lyon, 1796-1850--Correspondence.
Blaine, Ephraim, 1741-1804--Correspondence.
Blaine, James G., Mrs., 1828-1903--Correspondence.
Blaine, James Gillespie, 1830-1893.
Blaine, Maria Louise Gillespie--Correspondence.
Blaine, Walker, -1890--Correspondence.
Boutwell, George S. (George Sewall), 1818-1905--Correspondence.
Bristow, Benjamin Helm, 1832-1896--Correspondence.
Burleigh, Edwin C. (Edwin Chick), 1843-1916--Correspondence.
Butler, Benjamin F. (Benjamin Franklin), 1818-1893--Correspondence.
Cameron, J. D. (James Donald), 1833-1918--Correspondence.
Cameron, Simon, 1799-1889--Correspondence.
Carnegie, Andrew, 1835-1919--Correspondence.
Chandler, William E. (William Eaton), 1835-1917--Correspondence.
Chandler, Zachariah, 1813-1879--Correspondence.
Childs, George William, 1829-1894--Correspondence.
Clay, Henry, 1777-1852.
Colfax, Schuyler, 1823-1885--Correspondence.
Cornell, Alonzo B., 1832-1904--Correspondence.
Cox, Samuel Sullivan, 1824-1889--Correspondence.
Damrosch, Margaret Blaine, 1867-1949--Correspondence.
Elkins, Stephen B. (Stephen Benton), 1841-1911--Correspondence.
Evarts, William Maxwell, 1818-1901--Correspondence.
Ewing, Thomas, 1829-1896--Correspondence.
Field, Cyrus W. (Cyrus West), 1819-1892--Correspondence.
Fish, Hamilton, 1808-1893--Correspondence.
Flint, Charles R. (Charles Ranlett), 1850-1934--Correspondence.
Ford, Patrick, 1835-1913--Correspondence.
Foster, Charles, 1828-1904--Correspondence.
Franklin, Benjamin, 1706-1790--Correspondence.
Garfield, James A. (James Abram), 1831-1881--Correspondence.
Garfield, Lucretia Rudolph, 1832-1918--Correspondence.
Gladstone, W. E. (William Ewart), 1809-1898--Correspondence.
Gorham, George C. (George Congdon), 1832-1909--Correspondence.
Grant, Ulysses S. (Ulysses Simpson), 1822-1885--Correspondence.
Greeley, Horace, 1811-1872--Correspondence.
Grow, Galusha A. (Galusha Aaron), 1823-1907--Correspondence.
Hale, Eugene, 1836-1918--Correspondence.
Halstead, Murat, 1829-1908--Correspondence.
Hamlin, Hannibal, 1809-1891--Correspondence.
Harlan, John Marshall, 1833-1911--Correspondence.
Harrison, Benjamin, 1833-1901--Correspondence.
Harte, Bret, 1836-1902--Correspondence.
Hay, John, 1838-1905--Correspondence.
Hayes, Rutherford B., 1822-1893--Correspondence.
Hitchcock, Phineas Warren, 1831-1881--Correspondence.
Hoar, E. R. (Ebenezer Rockwood), 1816-1895--Correspondence.
Hoar, George Frisbie, 1826-1904--Correspondence.
Howard, O. O. (Oliver Otis), 1830-1909--Correspondence.
Howe, Timothy O. (Timothy Otis), 1816-1883--Correspondence.
Hoyt, Henry M. (Henry Martyn), 1830-1892--Correspondence.
Hunt, William H. (William Henry), 1823-1883--Correspondence.
Ingersoll, Robert Green, 1833-1899--Correspondence.
Lincoln, Abraham, 1809-1865.
Lincoln, Robert Todd, 1843-1926--Correspondence.
Lodge, Henry Cabot, 1850-1924--Correspondence.
Logan, John Alexander, 1826-1886--Correspondence.
Longfellow, Henry Wadsworth, 1807-1882--Correspondence.
Madison, James, 1751-1836.
McClure, Alexander K. (Alexander Kelly), 1828-1909--Correspondence.
McKinley, William, 1843-1901--Correspondence.
McPherson, Edward, 1830-1895--Correspondence.
Medill, Joseph, 1823-1899--Correspondence.
Miller, Warner, 1838-1918--Correspondence.
Morgan, Edwin D. (Edwin Denison), 1811-1883--Correspondence.
Morrill, Justin S. (Justin Smith), 1810-1898--Correspondence.
Morrill, Lot M. (Lot Myrick), 1812-1883--Correspondence.
Pauncforte, Julian, 1828-1902--Correspondence.
Phelps, William Walter, 1839-1894--Correspondence.
Phillips, Wendell, 1811-1884--Correspondence.
Reed, Thomas B. (Thomas Brackett), 1839-1902--Correspondence.
Reid, Whitelaw, 1837-1912--Correspondence.
Rublee, Horace, 1829-1896--Correspondence.
Schenck, Robert Cumming, 1809-1890--Correspondence.
Sherman, Ellen Ewing, 1824-1888--Correspondence.
Sherman, John, 1823-1900--Correspondence.
Sherman, Rachel--Correspondence.
Sherman, Thomas H. (Thomas Henry), 1842--Correspondence.
Sherman, William T. (William Tecumseh), 1820-1891--Correspondence.
Smith, Charles E., 1836-1905--Correspondence.
Trescott, William Henry, 1822- --Correspondence.
Vaughan, Benjamin, 1751-1835--Correspondence.
Washburn, Israel, 1813-1883.
Washburne, E. B. (Elihu Benjamin), 1816-1887--Correspondence.
Washington, George, 1732-1799--Correspondence.
Webster, Daniel, 1782-1852--Correspondence.
Weed, Thurlow, 1797-1882--Correspondence.
Windom, William, 1827-1891--Correspondence.
Wood, Fernando, 1812-1881--Correspondence.

Organizations
Republican Party (U.S. : 1854- )

Subjects
Presidents--United States--Election--1884.
Reconstruction (U.S. history, 1865-1877)

Places
Europe--Foreign relations--United States.
Latin America--Foreign relations--United States.
United States--Foreign relations--Europe.
United States--Foreign relations--Latin America.
United States--Politics and government--1865-1900.

Occupations
Cabinet officers.
Representatives, U.S. Congress--Maine.
Senators, U.S. Congress--Maine.

Provenance
The papers of James Gillespie Blaine, senator and representative from Maine and secretary of state were deposited in the Library of Congress in 1935 by his daughters, Mrs. Walter Damrosch and Mrs. Truxtun Beale. The deposit was converted to a gift later that same year. Another installment was given in 1969 by Blaine's granddaughter, Mrs. Robert Littell. Small additions have been made by gift and purchase from 1967 through 1990.

Processing History
The papers of James Gillespie Blaine were arranged and described in 1970. An addition was processed in 1981. A few items received in 1990 were processed in 1999 and added to the additions series. The finding aid was revised in 2001 to document a transfer of newspaper volumes to another division of the Library of Congress.

Transfers
Items have been transferred from the Manuscript Division to other custodial divisions of the Library. Photographs have been transferred to the Prints and Photographs Division. Newspapers have been transferred to the Serial and Government Publications Division. All transfers are identified in these divisions as part of the James Gillespie Blaine Papers.
Copyright Status

The status of copyright in the unpublished writings of James Gillespie Blaine and members of his family is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.).

Access and Restrictions

The papers of James Gillespie Blaine 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 the first forty-seven containers of these papers is available on twenty reels from the Library's Photoduplication Service for purchase subject to the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.). Reel twenty-one, which includes the newspapers transferred to the Serial and Government Publications Division, is also available for purchase. 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 as available.

Preferred Citation

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

Biographical Note

Date          Event
1830, Jan. 31 Born, West Brownsville, Pa.
1847          Graduated from Washington College, Washington, Pa.
1850          Married Harriet Stanwood
1854          Moved to Maine; became editor of the Kennebec Journal and the Portland Advertiser
1856          Delegate to the first Republican Party national convention
1859-1862     Member, Maine state legislature
1859-1881     Chairman, Maine Republican Party State Committee
1863-1876     United States representative from Maine
1877-1881     United States senator from Maine
1881          Secretary of state
1884          Unsuccessful Republican Party presidential candidate
1884-1886     Published Twenty Years of Congress (Norwich, Conn.: H. Bill Publishing Co. 2 vols.)
1889-1892     Secretary of state
1893, Jan. 27 Died, Washington, D.C.

Scope and Content Note

The family papers of James Gillespie Blaine (1830-1893) span the years 1777-1945, with the bulk of the material concentrated in the years 1870-1892. The collection consists of diaries, memoirs, correspondence, speeches, writings, notebooks, scrapbooks, and miscellaneous material. Except for a small Addition series, the entire collection was microfilmed in the order of its arrangement in 1976.
The Blaine Family Papers focus largely on James G. Blaine. His letters in the Family Correspondence series are addressed mainly to his wife, Harriet Stanwood Blaine; his mother, Maria Louise Gillespie Blaine; his oldest son, Walker Blaine; and his secretary, Thomas H. Sherman. The letters principally concern personal and family matters, but political references are scattered throughout. Blaine served two presidents as secretary of state, and there is a significant amount of correspondence written while he was traveling in Europe in 1867.


Scrapbooks in the collection relate almost entirely to Blaine's public activities during the years 1873 to 1893. Speeches and writings elucidate his views on many public issues and include a draft of his book Twenty Years in Congress. Financial matter in the Miscellany series documents his extensive business activities and includes a record of his assets at his death. Also in the financial records is an account book kept by Walker Blaine while on a diplomatic mission to South America from 1881 to 1882.

Much information on the family is located in the Diaries and Memoirs, Notebooks, and Family Correspondence series. Especially valuable is Harriet Stanwood Blaine's memoir of President James A. Garfield's assassination. The first part of the Family Correspondence includes a small group of letters sent and received by Blaine's father, Ephraim L. Blaine, and his grandfather, Ephraim Blaine, a prominent figure in the American Revolution. The second part of the Family Correspondence consists of letters to Blaine from his immediate family and letters exchanged among family members. The majority of the letters are written by Harriet Stanwood Blaine, Walker Blaine, and Blaine's daughter, Margaret Blaine Damrosch. The letters relate mainly to personal and family matters, although Walker Blaine often wrote of political and diplomatic topics, especially while in South America from 1881 to 1882. Letters received by family members from outside the family circle constitute the remaining part of the Family Correspondence. The letters to Harriet Stanwood Blaine from William E. Chandler and Lucretia Rudolph Garfield and to Walker Blaine from William Henry Tresco are particularly revealing. Other prominent correspondents include Chester Alan Arthur, Andrew Carnegie, James A. Garfield, Bret Harte, John Hay, William McKinley, Rachel Sherman, and William T. Sherman.

The autograph collection in the Miscellany series contains several items of historical interest, including letters of Benjamin Franklin, Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, Benjamin Vaughan, and Daniel Webster, two letters of W. E. Gladstone, Abraham Lincoln's endorsement on the back of a Blaine letter, and a copy of a letter of George Washington. The collection also includes twelve pages of holograph notes of Henry Clay, 11 May-9 June 1815, relating to an Anglo-American commercial convention, a two-page holograph fragment of Clay's address on the occasion of his resignation as speaker of the House of Representatives, four pages of James Madison's holograph notes for a speech at the Richmond Convention of 1829-1830 to revise Virginia's constitution, and an autograph of John Quincy Adams.

A small Additions series contains family correspondence pertaining to James G. Blaine and others, 1776-1932, as well as general correspondence and miscellaneous items.
Organization of the Papers

The collection is arranged in nine series:

- Diaries and Memoirs, 1871-1939
- Notebooks and Telegrams, circa 1864-1885
- Family Correspondence, 1777-1945
- James G. Blaine Letters, 1857-1892
- General Correspondence, 1831-1892
- Speeches and Writings, 1856-1892
- Scrapbooks, 1873-1893
- Miscellany, circa 1781-1943
- Additions, 1776-1932
Description of Series

Container       Series
BOX 1 REEL 1    Diaries and Memoirs, 1871-1939
                 Diaries and diary fragments. Walker Blaine diary fragment, Harriet S. Blaine memoir of
                 President James A. Garfield's assassination, and four diaries and one memoir fragment of
                 Margaret Blaine Damrosch.
                 Arranged by name of individual and therein chronologically.

BOX 2 REEL 1    Notebooks and Telegrams, circa 1864-1885
                 Two volumes of telegrams sent and received by James G. Blaine and one small volume of
                 notes on his life, two notebooks of Margaret Blaine Damrosch, and three miscellaneous
                 notebooks.

BOX 3-9 REEL 2-6 Family Correspondence, 1777-1945
                   Letters sent and received by Blaine family members. Organized in three groups: Ephraim
                   Blaine and Ephraim L. Blaine correspondence; letters received by James G. Blaine from
                   immediate family members and letters exchanged among family members; and letters
                   received by family members from outside the family, with occasional letters sent.
                   Arranged chronologically within the groups.

                     Letters sent by James G. Blaine, including originals, drafts, and copies.
                     Arranged chronologically.

BOX 12-17 REEL 7-12 General Correspondence, 1831-1892
                   Letters received by James G. Blaine, with occasional miscellaneous letters.
                   Arranged chronologically.

BOX 18-28 REEL 12-15 Speeches and Writings, 1856-1892
                     Holograph, typed, and printed speeches and writings of James G. Blaine. Organized in three
                     groupings: draft speeches, printed speeches and writings, and a manuscript draft of Twenty
                     Years of Congress.
                     Speeches and writings are arranged chronologically.

BOX 29-33 REEL 16-17 Scrapbooks, 1873-1893
                   Eleven scrapbooks of clippings and miscellaneous material relating chiefly to James G. Blaine.
                   Arranged chronologically.

BOX 34-47 REEL 17-21 Miscellany, circa 1781-1943
                   Autograph collection, speeches, financial papers, political convention proceedings, campaign
                   material, books, government documents, invitations, acknowledgments, dinner lists, printed
                   matter, photographs and photograph album, newspaper clippings, three volumes of the
                   Kennebec Journal (available only on microfilm), and miscellaneous material.
                   Arranged by type of material.

BOX 48 not filmed Additions, 1776-1932
                   Family correspondence; letters sent by James G. Blaine, mostly to William Pitt Fessenden;
                   letters received by Blaine; and miscellaneous correspondence and legal papers of Ephraim
                   Blaine.
Arranged according to type of material and name of family member therein, with correspondence organized chronologically.
## Container List

Microfilm shelf no. 16,822

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<th>Container</th>
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| BOX 1 REEL 1 | **Diaries and Memoirs, 1871-1939**  
Diaries and diary fragments. Walker Blaine diary fragment, Harriet S. Blaine memoir of President James A. Garfield's assassination, and four diaries and one memoir fragment of Margaret Blaine Damrosch.  
Arranged by name of individual and therein chronologically. |
| BOX 1 REEL 1 | Blaine, Walker, fragments of diary, 1871, undated  
Blaine, Harriet S., memoir of assassination of James A. Garfield, incomplete, 1881  
Damrosch, Margaret Blaine  
Diaries, 1878-1882, 1888  
(4 vols.)  
Memoir, fragment, 1939 |
| BOX 2 REEL 1 | **Notebooks and Telegrams, circa 1864-1885**  
Two volumes of telegrams sent and received by James G. Blaine and one small volume of notes on his life, two notebooks of Margaret Blaine Damrosch, and three miscellaneous notebooks. |
| BOX 2 REEL 1 | Volume of telegrams to James G. Blaine, July-Aug. 1880  
Notebook of telegrams sent and received by James G. Blaine, Aug. 1879, and election returns, Maine, 1878  
Notebooks of Margaret Blaine Damrosch, 1875-1876, 1885  
(2 vols.)  
Notebook of miscellaneous lists and baseball scores, circa 1864-1868  
Notebook listing members of the first to forty-sixth Congresses, undated  
Miscellaneous notebook, undated  
Bound holograph notes on James G. Blaine, undated |
| BOX 3-9 REEL 2-6 | **Family Correspondence, 1777-1945**  
Letters sent and received by Blaine family members. Organized in three groups: Ephraim Blaine and Ephraim L. Blaine correspondence; letters received by James G. Blaine from immediate family members and letters exchanged among family members; and letters received by family members from outside the family, with occasional letters sent.  
Arranged chronologically within the groups. |
| BOX 3 REEL 2 | Correspondence  
Between Ephraim Blaine and Ephraim L. Blaine, 1777-1847, undated  
Between family members  
1800, 1866-1874  
(11 folders) |
| BOX 4 REEL 2-3 | 1875-1881  
(15 folders) |
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| BOX 5 REEL 3-4 | 1882-1888  
(14 folders) |
| BOX 6 REEL 4 | 1889-1932, undated  
(15 folders) |
| BOX 7 REEL 5 | With people outside of family  
Dec. 1869-Jan. 1893  
(17 folders) |
| BOX 8 REEL 5-6 | Feb. 1893-June 1920  
(12 folders) |
| BOX 9 REEL 6 | Sept. 1921-Dec. 1945, undated  
(13 folders) |
| BOX 10-11 REEL 6-7 | **James G. Blaine Letters, 1857-1892**  
Letters sent by James G. Blaine, including originals, drafts, and copies.  
Arranged chronologically. |
| BOX 10 REEL 6-7 | Dec. 1857-June 1881  
(13 folders) |
| BOX 11 REEL 7 | July 1881-Nov. 1892, undated  
(10 folders) |
| BOX 12-17 REEL 7-12 | **General Correspondence, 1831-1892**  
Letters received by James G. Blaine, with occasional miscellaneous letters.  
Arranged chronologically. |
| BOX 12 REEL 7-8 | Feb. 1831-Dec. 1875  
(17 folders) |
| BOX 13 REEL 8-9 | Jan. 1876-Dec. 1880  
(18 folders) |
| BOX 14 REEL 9 | Jan. 1881-June 1884  
(16 folders) |
| BOX 15 REEL 9-10 | July-Dec. 1884  
(14 folders) |
| BOX 16 REEL 10-11 | Jan. 1885-May 1890  
(16 folders) |
| BOX 17 REEL 11-12 | June 1890-Dec. 1892, undated  
(19 folders) |
| BOX 18-28 REEL 12-15 | **Speeches and Writings, 1856-1892**  
Holograph, typed, and printed speeches and writings of James G. Blaine. Organized in three groupings: draft speeches, printed speeches and writings, and a manuscript draft of *Twenty Years of Congress*.  
Speeches and writings are arranged chronologically. |
| BOX 18 REEL 12 | Draft speeches and fragments, 1859-1889, undated  
(7 folders) |
| BOX 19 REEL 12-13 | Undated and fragments  
(10 folders) |
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<td>BOX 20 REEL 13</td>
<td>Printed speeches and writings, 1856-1892 (10 folders)</td>
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<td>BOX 21 REEL 13-14</td>
<td><em>Twenty Years of Congress</em>, draft, notes, and miscellany (8 folders)</td>
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<td>BOX 22 REEL 14</td>
<td>(6 folders)</td>
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<td>BOX 23 REEL 14</td>
<td>(7 folders)</td>
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<td>BOX 24 REEL 14</td>
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<td>BOX 25 REEL 14-15</td>
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<td>BOX 28 REEL 15</td>
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<th>BOX 29-33 REEL 16-17</th>
<th>Scrapbooks, 1873-1893</th>
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<td>Eleven scrapbooks of clippings and miscellaneous material relating chiefly to James G. Blaine. Arranged chronologically.</td>
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</table>

| BOX 29 REEL 16 | Blaine, James G., clippings, 1873-1879 (3 vols.) Chinese immigration, 1879 Sherman, Thomas H., recollections, undated |
| BOX 30 REEL 16-17 | Panama Canal, Chile, Peru, and North and South America peace congress, 1881-1882 Miscellaneous clippings, 1881-1882 Garfield, James A., eulogy, 1882 |
| BOX 31 REEL 17 | Clippings 1883-1888 |
| BOX 32 REEL 17 | 1884 |
| BOX 33 REEL 17 | "In Memoriam, James Gillespie Blaine," 1893, Feb. 13 |

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<tr>
<th>BOX 34-47 REEL 17-21</th>
<th>Miscellany, circa 1781-1943</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Autograph collection, speeches, financial papers, political convention proceedings, campaign material, books, government documents, invitations, acknowledgments, dinner lists, printed matter, photographs and photograph album, newspaper clippings, three volumes of the <em>Kennebec Journal</em> (available only on microfilm), and miscellaneous material. Arranged by type of material.</td>
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<p>| BOX 34 REEL 17 | Autograph collection, 1781-1887 Blaine, Walker, writings (2 folders) Blaine, Ephraim Speeches of members of Congress and others, 1840-1931 (5 folders) Volume of speeches of James G. Blaine and various members of Congress, 1876 |</p>
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| BOX 35 REEL 18 | Financial papers  
Colonial Bank, charters of incorporation, 1836, June 1 and 1838, Oct. 30  
Cash books, 1870, 1871, 1876, and 1880  
(2 vols.)  
Account book of Walker Blaine relating to South America, 1881-1882  
Record of James G. Blaine's [?] assets, circa 1893-1894  
Miscellany, 1854-1899  
(7 folders) |
| BOX 36 REEL 18 | Republican Party convention proceedings, 1872-1884  
(5 vols.) |
| BOX 37 REEL 18 | Political campaign material, 1844-1892  
(4 folders)  
Books  
(4 vols.) |
| BOX 38 REEL 18 | Government documents, 1867-1919 |
| BOX 39 REEL 18 | Acknowledgments, 1881  
(3 folders)  
Invitations, 1884, 1887  
(2 folders)  
Dinner guest lists  
(2 folders)  
Printed matter, 1858-1943, undated  
(3 folders) |
| BOX 40 REEL 18 | (14 vols.) |
| BOX 41-42 REEL 19 | Notes, certificates, resolutions, postcards, and other material  
(10 folders) |
| BOX 43-47 REEL 19-21 | Newspaper clippings  
*Kennebec Journal  
*Available only on microfilm. Original volumes were transferred to the Serial and Government Publications Division.  
Vol. 1, Jan.-Apr. 1856  
Vol. 2, Jan.-Mar. 1858  
Vol. 3, Jan.-Apr. 1859 |
| BOX 48 not filmed | Additions, 1776-1932  
Family correspondence; letters sent by James G. Blaine, mostly to William Pitt Fessenden; letters received by Blaine; and miscellaneous correspondence and legal papers of Ephraim Blaine.  
Arranged according to type of material and name of family member therein, with correspondence organized chronologically. |
| BOX 48 not filmed | Correspondence  
Family  
Blaine, Ephraim, 1784-1849  
Blaine, Emmons and Anita McCormick, 1914-1932  
Blaine, James G., 1857  
General |
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<td>Miscellaneous, 1879, 1886</td>
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<td>Miscellany</td>
<td>Blaine, Ephraim, 1776-1793</td>
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<td>Blaine, James G., 1889, 1896, undated</td>
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