

**David Ames Wells**

**A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress**



**Manuscript Division, Library of Congress  
Washington, D.C.  
2010**

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

Catalog Record: <https://lcn.loc.gov/mm80045062>

Additional search options available at: <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms008122>

Prepared by Manuscript Division Staff  
Revised by John Monagle

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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

**Extent:** 24 containers

**Extent:** 6 linear feet

**Extent:** 9 microfilm reels

**Language:** Collection material in English

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

**LC Catalog record:** <https://lccn.loc.gov/mm80045062>

**Summary:** 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 LC Catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically.

### People

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

Adams, Henry, 1838-1918--Correspondence.

Atkinson, Edward, 1827-1905--Correspondence.

Barnard, Frederick 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, Jr., 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 A. (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.

## **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

Date	Event
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.

<b>Container</b>	<b>Contents</b>
<b>BOX 1</b>	General correspondence
<b>BOX 1 REEL 1</b>	4 Nov. 1795-27 Nov. 1867
<b>BOX 2 REEL 1</b>	6 Jan. 1868-30 Nov. 1869
<b>BOX 3 REEL 1</b>	13 Dec. 1869-26 Dec. 1869
<b>BOX 3 REEL 2(1A)</b>	27 Dec. 1869-6 Aug. 1870
<b>BOX 4 REEL 2(1A)</b>	10 Aug. 1870-28 June 1871
<b>BOX 5 REEL 3(2)</b>	29 June 1871-23 May 1872
<b>BOX 6 REEL 3(2)</b>	24 May 1872-17 Apr. 1873
<b>BOX 7 REEL 3(2)</b>	18 Apr. 1873-24 Mar. 1874
<b>BOX 8 REEL 4(3)</b>	25 Mar. 1874-19 Dec. 1874
<b>BOX 9 REEL 4(3)</b>	21 Dec. 1874-26 July 1875
<b>BOX 10 REEL 4(3)</b>	27 July 1875-17 Dec. 1875
<b>BOX 11 REEL 5(4)</b>	18 Dec. 1875-5 Apr. 1876
<b>BOX 12 REEL 5(4)</b>	6 Apr. 1876-16 July 1876
<b>BOX 13 REEL 5(4)</b>	17 July 1876-5 Dec. 1876
<b>BOX 14 REEL 6(5)</b>	6 Dec. 1876-17 July 1877
<b>BOX 15 REEL 6(5)</b>	18 July 1877-25 Feb. 1878
<b>BOX 16 REEL 6(5)</b>	28 Feb. 1878-31 Mar. 1879
<b>BOX 17 REEL 7(6)</b>	6 Apr. 1879-21 Sept. 1880
<b>BOX 18 REEL 7(6)</b>	22 Sept. 1880-24 Sept. 1881
<b>BOX 19 REEL 7(6)</b>	27 Sept. 1881-14 July 1883
<b>BOX 20 REEL 8(7)</b>	15 July 1883-7 Sept. 1884
<b>BOX 21 REEL 8(7)</b>	9 Sept. 1884-26 July 1886
<b>BOX 22 REEL 8(7)</b>	29 July 1886-8 July 1898
<b>BOX 23 REEL 9(8)</b>	Undated
<b>BOX 24</b>	Miscellany
<b>BOX 24 REEL 9(8)</b>	Essays of Edward Atkinson, short stories of Mary Wells, lists, calling cards, notices, printed matter, and miscellany, circa 1865-circa 1898 (2 folders)
<b>BOX 24</b>	Addition
<b>BOX 24 not filmed</b>	Letter, Wells to William L. Nelson, 1892