

Abram P. T. Elder Papers
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Manuscript Division, Library of Congress
Washington, D.C.
2008

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

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Additional search options available at: <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms009035>

Prepared by Manuscript Division staff

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Collection Summary

Title: Abram P. T. Elder Papers

Inclusive Dates: 1890-1916

Bulk Dates: 1903-1916

ID No.: MSS58594

Creator: Elder, Abram P. T. (Abram Peter Turner)

Extent: 3,280 items

Extent: 11 containers plus 1 oversize

Extent: 5 linear feet

Language: Collection material in English

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

LC Catalog record: <https://lcn.loc.gov/mm81058594>

Summary: Biographer and publisher. Correspondence, biographical files, business records of the National Biographical Society, illustrated materials, photographs, and other papers pertaining primarily to Elder's creation and publication of biographical directories for the society.

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

Chickering, Charles F., 1827-1891.

Corcoran, W. W. (William Wilson), 1798-1888.

Currier, Moody, 1806-1898.

Du Pont, H. A. (Henry Algernon), 1838-1926.

Eddy, Mary Baker, 1821-1910.

Elder, Abram P. T. (Abram Peter Turner)

Emerson, Isaac E. (Isaac Edward), 1859-1931.

Fairbanks, Charles W. (Charles Warren), 1852-1918.

Field, Marshall, 1834-1906.

Fleischmann, Julius, 1872-1925.

Grant, Ulysses S., 1852-1929.

Grosvenor, Charles Henry, 1833-1917. Book of the presidents, with biographical sketches. 1902.

Guggenheim, Solomon R. (Solomon Robert), 1861-1949.

Guggenheim, William, 1868-1941.

Hale, Edward Everett, 1822-1909.

Hanna, Marcus Alonzo, 1837-1904.

Hershey, David N., 1818-

Heurich, Christian, 1842-1945.

Huntington, Henry Edwards, 1850-1927.

Kellogg, Charles, 1825-1892.

Knowles, Henry Miles, 1850-1903.

Lamont, Daniel Scott, 1851-1905.

Lippincott, Craige, 1846-1911.

Longworth, Nicholas, 1869-1931.

McCormick, Cyrus Hall, 1809-1884.

Mills, Darius O. (Darius Ogden), 1825-1910.

Morgan, J. Pierpont (John Pierpont), 1837-1913.

Morton, Levi P. (Levi Parsons), 1824-1920.

Muhlhauser, Gottlieb, 1836-

Newlands, Francis G. (Francis Griffith), 1848-1917.

Pullman, George Mortimer, 1831-1897.

Quay, Matthew Stanley, 1833-1904.

Organizations

National Biographical Society (Washington, D.C.) National Biographical Society (Washington, D.C.) records.
Panama-Pacific International Exposition (1915 : San Francisco, Calif.)

Subjects

Capitalists and financiers--Biography.
Directories.
Exhibitions--California--San Francisco.
Philanthropists--United States--Biography.
Politicians--United States--Biography.
Presidents--United States--Biography.
Publishers and publishing--United States.

Places

Middletown (R.I.)--History.

Occupations

Biographers.
Publishers.

Acquisition Information

The papers of Abram P. T. Elder, biographer and publisher, were given to the Library of Congress by Elder's daughter, Althea Elder, in 1979.

Processing History

The collection was processed in 1992 by Brad E. Gernand with the assistance of Andrew M. Passett. The finding aid was revised in 2008.

Copyright Status

The status of copyright in the unpublished writings of Abram P. T. Elder is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.).

Access and Restrictions

The Elder Papers 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, Abram P. T. Elder Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Biographical Note

Date	Event
circa 1890	Married Emma Elizabeth Householder (died 1945)

1896	Coauthored with E. H. Elder <i>The Light of the World: Or Our Savior in Art</i> . Chicago: Elder Co. (Republished London, New York: British-American Co., 1899)
1902-1903	Published Charles H. Grosvenor's <i>The Book of the Presidents, with Biographical Sketches</i> . Washington, D.C.: Continental Press
circa 1903-1912	Published biographical directories entitled <i>The National Memorial of the United States</i>
circa 1930	Died, California

Scope and Content Note

The papers of Abram Peter Turner Elder (circa 1890-circa 1930) span the years 1890-1916, with the bulk of the items concentrated in the period 1903-1916, and include correspondence, illustrated material, photographs, biographical files, and miscellaneous matter. The collection is divided into three series: [Correspondence](#), [Biographical Case Files](#), and [Miscellany](#).

Little is known of Elder's life or career outside the professional associations and productions illuminated by his papers, other than that he was involved in creating and marketing specialty publications. In 1896 Elder and a relative published a compendium of religious art, apparently marketed by private subscriptions and published by a family corporation in Chicago. In 1899 they reissued the book through a worldwide publishing firm. There is no information, however, in the Elder Papers concerning these ventures. In 1902 Charles H. Grosvenor began compiling *The Book of the Presidents, with Biographical Sketches*, a customized biographical directory for sale by private subscription. The National Biographical Society, a commercial firm of which Elder was an official, became involved in Grosvenor's work, eventually assuming control of most or all aspects of its publication, which is noted in correspondence in the Elder Papers and is graphically represented in four-color engravings of title sheets, sample page proofs, and other publishing matter.

Between approximately 1903 and 1912, Elder assisted in the preparation of another customized biographical directory, marketed via subscription and published under the auspices of his firm, entitled *The National Memorial of the United States*. [Correspondence](#) and related records in Elder's papers provide an in-depth view of the efforts to publish the *National Memorial*, with extensive detail concerning contracts, quality of work which printing firms promised or submitted, internal personnel matters, efforts to identify a subscriber audience and increase sales, and outreach, including an award-winning exhibit in the Panama-Pacific International Exposition of 1915-1916 in San Francisco. Most of the correspondence regarding the *National Memorial* was generated by several officials of the National Biographical Society, including Elder, but was not signed and is impossible or difficult to identify by author. Prominent among the correspondents are society officials Charles H. Grosvenor, Robert E. Doan, Lucy S. Bahnsen, R. E. Montague, and Richard R. McMahon.

The [Biographical Case Files](#) contain correspondence, background information, clippings, and other printed matter, as well as photographs and biographical entries regarding the individuals profiled in the *National Memorial*. Many of the people featured were prominent local, state, and national politicians, capitalists, and philanthropists, including Charles F. Chickering, W. W. Corcoran, Moody Currier, H. A. Du Pont, Mary Baker Eddy, Isaac E. Emerson, Charles W. Fairbanks, Marshall Field, Julius Fleischmann, Ulysses S. Grant II, Solomon R. Guggenheim, William Guggenheim, Edward Everett Hale, Marcus Alonzo Hanna, David N. Hershey, Christian Heurich, Henry Edwards Huntington, Charles Kellogg, Henry Miles Knowles, Daniel Scott Lamont, Craige Lippincott, Nicholas Longworth, Cyrus Hall McCormick, Darius O. Mills, J. Pierpont Morgan, Levi P. Morton, Gottlieb Muhlhauser, Francis G. Newlands, George Mortimer Pullman, and Matthew Stanley Quay.

A small number of records document the organization, function, and mission of the National Biographical Society, including statements of intent, bylaws, articles of incorporation, and sample stockholder certificates. A very small amount of correspondence concerns the maintenance of Elmhyrst, the Elder family summer estate in Middletown, Rhode Island, and is virtually the only reference in this collection to Elder's nonprofessional life.

Organization of the Papers

The collection is arranged in four series:

- [Correspondence, 1897-1916](#)
- [Biographical Case Files, circa 1890-1916](#)
- [Miscellany, circa 1902-circa 1916](#)

- Oversize

Description of Series

Container	Series
BOX 1-2	<p><u>Correspondence, 1897-1916</u></p> <p>Letters to and from Elder, Charles H. Grosvenor, Lucy S. Bahnsen, and Richard R. McMahon regarding efforts to publish specialty biographical directories and to promote the National Biographical Society's business.</p> <p>Arranged chronologically by year, month, and day.</p>
BOX 3-10	<p><u>Biographical Case Files, circa 1890-1916</u></p> <p>Correspondence, background information, photographs, press articles, and other materials regarding the individuals profiled in <i>The National Memorial of the United States</i>.</p> <p>Arranged alphabetically by surname of case file subject.</p>
BOX 11	<p><u>Miscellany, circa 1902-circa 1916</u></p> <p>Legal and organizational records of the National Biographical Society, including bylaws and articles of incorporation, marketing advice given to society sales agents, subscriber lists, and sample pages from <i>The Book of the Presidents</i> and <i>The National Memorial of the United States</i>.</p> <p>Arranged alphabetically by type of material.</p>
BOX OV 1	<p><u>Oversize</u></p> <p>Oversize page proofs, title pages, illustrated matter, and other items described according to the series, folder, and boxes from which they were removed.</p>

Container List

Container	Contents
BOX 1-2	<p>Correspondence, 1897-1916</p> <p>Letters to and from Elder, Charles H. Grosvenor, Lucy S. Bahnsen, and Richard R. McMahon regarding efforts to publish specialty biographical directories and to promote the National Biographical Society's business.</p> <p>Arranged chronologically by year, month, and day.</p>
BOX 1	<p>Feb. 1897-Apr. 1904 May 1904-Dec. 1905 Aug. 1906-Feb. 1911 Mar. 1911-Dec. 1912 Jan. 1913-Mar. 1914</p>
BOX 2	<p>Apr.-Oct. 1914 Nov. 1914-Feb. 1915 Mar.-July 1915 Aug. 1915-May 1916, undated Undated</p>
BOX 3-10	<p>Biographical Case Files, circa 1890-1916</p> <p>Correspondence, background information, photographs, press articles, and other materials regarding the individuals profiled in <i>The National Memorial of the United States</i>.</p> <p>Arranged alphabetically by surname of case file subject.</p>
BOX 3	<p>Adams-Carter Adams, Alvin Bradford, William Henry Campbell, Felix Carr, Jessie Williamson Carr, Julian Shakespeare Carter, William Thornton Cary-Castree Cary, Richard Casement, James S. Castree, John Chickering-Cleveland Chickering, Charles F. Childs, G. W. Chisholm, William Clark, Alexander S. Clarke, Dumont Cleveland, Merritt A. Cochran-Corcoran Cochran, James Henry Coldewey, Anton F.</p>

Biographical Case Files, circa 1890-1916

Container

Contents

	Conarro, George Mecum
	Corbin, Henry Clarke
	Corcoran, W. W.
	Corlies-Coxe
	Corlies, Samuel Fisher
	Coster, Charles Henry
	Cotton, John B.
	Covel, Alphonso S.
	Coxe, Alexander Brinton
	Cramp-Croxtan
	Cramp, Charles Henry
	Crawford, Charles Martin
	Croxtan, John G.
	Currier
	Currier, Moody
	Curtis-Cutting
	Curtis, John B.
	Cutting, William Bayard
	Davis-Dederick
	Davis, David
	Davis, Henry Gassaway
	Dean, Charles Leroy
	Dederick, P. K.
BOX 4	Dennis-De Peyster
	Dennis, Graham Barclay
	Denny, Arthur Armstrong
	Denny, Harman
	De Peyster, J. Watts
	Devereux-Dingley
	Devereux, J. H.
	Dewhurst, James B.
	Dexter, Henry
	De Young, Michael H.
	Dick, Charles
	Dickinson, Don M.
	Dines, Josiah
	Dingley, Nelson
	Doane-Douglas
	Doane, William H.
	Dodge, David Child
	Dodge, Henry Lee
	Douglas, William Harris
	Dubois-Duffy
	Dubois, John Ezekiel
	Duffy, Walter B.
	Duncan-Dwyer

Biographical Case Files, circa 1890-1916

Container

Contents

	Duncan, Daniel
	Dunn, William Mckee
	Du Pont, H. A.
	Durant, Henry Fowle
	Duncan-Dwyer
	Dwyer, Jeremiah
	Eastman-Eddy
	Eastman, Joseph
	Eaton, Benjamin Harrison
	Eddy, Mary Baker
	Eells-Emerson
	Eells, Dan Parmelee
	Elder, Abram Peter Turner
	Elkins, Stephen Benton
	Ellis, John Washington
	Emerson, Isaac E.
	Emery-Everard
	Emery, Lewis, Jr.
	Emery, Matthew Gault
	England, Thomas Y.
	Everard, James
	Failing-Fanning
	Failing, Henry
	Fairbanks, Charles W.
	Fall, Charles Gershom
	Fanning, David Hale
BOX 5	Farrel-Fay
	Farrel, Franklin
	Farwel, Charles B.
	Farwel, John V.
	Fay, Frank B.
	Fell-Fisher
	Fell, Jesse
	Ffoulke, Charles Mather
	Field, Marshall
	Firestone, Clinton D.
	Fisher, Newton D.
	Fleischmann-Foss
	Fleischmann, Julius
	Fletcher, Henry E.
	Fobes, Hiram
	Foerderer, Robert H.
	Fort, Greenburg L.
	Foss, Eugene Noble
	Freiburg-Frye
	Freiburg, Julius

Biographical Case Files, circa 1890-1916

Container

Contents

French, Carlos
Fry, Henry D.
Frye, William P.
Gage-Gayley
Gage, Lyman J.
Gary, E. H.
Gaston, William Alexander
Gay, Henry
Gayley, James
Gibbons-Goddard
Gibbons, James
Gilman, Daniel Coit
Ginn, Edwin
Glover, C. C.
Goddard, Hiram
Goddard, William Henry
Goldthwaite-Gould
Goldthwaite, George
Goodnow, Edward A.
Gould, Charles A.
Grant-Griffin
Grant, Ulysses S., II
Greene, Jacob L.
Greenhut, Joseph B.
Greer, C. H.
Greist, John M.
Griffin, Eugene
Griffith-Griscom
Griffith, Frederick W.
Griffiths, John L.
Grinnell, Frederick
Griscom, Clement A.
Grosvenor
Grosvenor, Ebenezer O.
Grosvenor, William
Grout-Guggenheim
Grout, William L.
Guggenheim, Solomon R.
Guggenheim, William
Haberkorn-Hale
Haberkorn, Christian H.
Hackley, Charles H.
Hague, James D.
Hale, Edward Everett
Hall-Hanna
Hall, Edward J.

BOX 6

Biographical Case Files, circa 1890-1916

Container

Contents

Hamlin, Henry
Hammer, D. Harry
Hanna, Henry
Hanna, Marcus Alonzo
Hardin-Harris
Hardin, George A.
Harlow, Willis Poe
Harriman, Oliver, Jr.
Harris, Norman W.
Harrison-Harvey
Harrison, Lynde
Harter, Michael D.
Harrison-Harvey
Harvey, George B. McClellan
Haskell-Hawes
Haskell, Horace S.
Haven, Franklin
Hawes, Kirk
Hawley-Hayes
Hawley, Jessie G.
Hawley, Joseph Roswell
Hay, John
Hayes, Joel Addison
Haynes-Hazen
Haynes, John C.
Hays, Franklin William
Hazeltine, Abram J.
Hazen, David Henry
Head-Henderson
Head, Addison E.
Hearst, Phoebe A.
Heath, Daniel Collamore
Hegeman, John R.
Heinze, Arthur Philip
Henderson, David B.
Henderson, J. B.
Hershey-Hill
Hershey, David N.
Heurich, Christian
Hewitt, Henry, Jr.
Hicks, Radcliffe
Hill, James J.
Hitchcock-Horton
Hitchcock, Peter M.
Hitt, Robert R.
Hobart, Garret Augustus

Biographical Case Files, circa 1890-1916

Container

Contents

BOX 7

Holden, Liberty Emery
Holland, John Philip
Horton, Harry Lawrence
Hotchkiss-Hoyt
Hotchkiss, Henry Oaks
Houston, H. H.
Howard, Edmonds J.
Howes, Seth B.
Hoyt, Colgate
Hubbard-Huff
Hubbard, Thomas Hamlin
Hudnut, Richard A.
Hudson, John E.
Huff, George Franklin
Huidekoper-Hunt
Huidekoper, Frederic Wolters
Hulbert, William P.
Hull, Calvin E.
Hull, Charles J.
Hunt, Wilson G.
Huntington-Hutchins
Huntington, Henry Edwards
Hurlbut, Hinman B.
Hurst, John E.
Hutchins, Stillson
Hutton-Irwin
Hutton, William Edward
Hyde, Louis K.
Irwin, Dudley M.
Janes-Jenkins
Janes, Henry
Jarvis, George A.
Jay, William
Jayne, David
Jenkins, James G.
Jesup-Jones
Jesup, Morris K.
Jones, Charles
Jones, Fernando
Jones, Frank J.
Keene-Kendall
Keene, James R.
Kellogg, Charles
Kellogg, William Pitt
Kelly, William H.
Kempner, H.

Biographical Case Files, circa 1890-1916

Container

Contents

	Kendall, Nathaniel Wyeth
	Kibbey-Kohler
	Kibbey, William B.
	Kilbourne, James
	Kimball, William S.
	Kirk, James A.
	Knabe, William
	Knowles, Francis B.
	Knowles, Henry Miles
	Kohler, Charles
	Lafean-Lamont
	Lafean, Daniel F.
	Laird, William Harris
	Lamont, Daniel Scott
	Lane-Law
	Lane, Henry S.
	Lanius, William H.
	Lauterbach, Edward
	Law, George
	Law, Hartland
	Lawrence
	Lawrence, Mortimer J.
	Lawrence, William Van Duzer
BOX 8	Leaming-Leiter
	Leaming, Thomas
	Ledyard, Lewis Cass
	Lee, Fred E.
	Leeds, William B.
	Leeson, Richard L.
	Leidersdorf, B.
	Leiter, Levi Z.
	Lenman-Littauer
	Lenman, John T.
	Lewis, George H.
	Lippincott, Craige
	Lippitt, Charles Warren
	Littauer, Lucius N.
	Logan-Longley
	Logan, Frank G.
	Logan, John A.
	Logan, Walter S.
	Longley, Charles E.
	Longworth-Loree
	Longworth, Nicholas
	Longyear, John M.
	Loomis, John Mason

Biographical Case Files, circa 1890-1916

Container

Contents

	Lore, Charles B.
	Loree, Leonor Fresnel
	Loudenslayer-Lowe
	Loudenslayer, Henry C.
	Lounsbery, Richard P.
	Lowden, Frank O.
	Lowe, Arthur H.
	Lucas-Lunt
	Lucas, Anthony F.
	Luce, Stephen B.
	Lunt, Orrington
	MacArthur-Manning
	MacArthur, Arthur
	Mackay, Clarence H.
	Magee, Chris L.
	Manning, Daniel
	Marie-Marquis
	Marie, Peter
	Markle, Alvan
	Markle, John
	Marquis, Milton Scott
	Martin-Matthews
	Martin, Milton D.
	Mason, Beverly R.
	Mason
	Matthews, Stanley
	McCall-McCormick
	McCall, John A.
	McCord, Warren E.
	McCormick, Cyrus Hall
BOX 9	McCoy-McKim
	McCoy, Daniel
	McDermott, Allan, L.
	McIntosh, David G.
	McIntyre, Thomas A.
	McKeen, W. R.
	McKim, Charles F.
	McKim, Randolph
	McWilliams-Merrill
	McWilliams, Lafayette
	Mead, Oliver D.
	Menefee, Flournoy
	Merrill, Sherburn S.
	Merritt-Milburn
	Merritt, H. P.
	Merritt, John A.

Biographical Case Files, circa 1890-1916

Container

Contents

Messmer, Sebastian G.
Milburn, John G.
Miller
Miller, Andrew G.
Miller, Charles
Miller, Conrad
Miller, Frederick A.
Miller, Lewis
Miller, Warner
Mills-Mitchell
Mills, Anson
Mills, Cyrus T.
Mills, Darius O.
Mitchell, John H.
Moerlein-Morton
Moerlein, Christian
Moore, Edward W.
Moore, James H.
Morgan, J. Pierpont
Morton, Levi P.
Morton, Paul
Muhlhauser-Murphy
Muhlhauser, Gottlieb
Murphy, Frank M.
Murphy, Franklin
Neff-Newlands
Neff, Jacob H.
Netcher, Charles
Nevins, David
Newcomb, H. Victor
Newhouse, Samuel
Newlands, Francis G.
Newmyer-Nixon
Newmyer, John S.
Nichols, Charles H.
Nicol, Robert
Nixon, Samuel F.
Norton-Nunnemacher
Norton, Henry B.
Noyes, Crosby S.
Nunnemacher, Rudolph
O'Connell-Orme
O'Connell, Monsignor
Ogleboy, Earl W.
Oglesby, Joseph H.
Olmstead, Marlin Edgar

Biographical Case Files, circa 1890-1916

Container

Contents

BOX 10

Orme, Charles H.
Osborne-Otis
Osborne, John H.
Osgood, Hugh H.
Otis, Harrison Gray
Otis, Norton P.
Palmer-Pardee
Palmer, Lowell M.
Palmer, Stephen S.
Parchen, Henry M.
Pardee, George C.
Parlin-Payne
Parlin, William H.
Parsons, John D.
Parsons, William Henry
Patterson, John H.
Patton, Alexander E.
Payne, Henry C.
Peabody-Perkins
Peabody, Arthur J.
Peacock, Alex R.
Pennypacker, Samuel W.
Perkins, George C.
Perkins, Lucius H.
Phillips-Plankinton
Phillips, Duncan C.
Phillips, John C.
Pillsbury, Charles A.
Plankinton, John
Platt-Pond
Platt, Henry Clay
Platt, Orville H.
Platt, Thomas C.
Powers, Samuel L.
Pond, E. B.
Poor-Portner
Poor, Henry W.
Pope, George A.
Porter, Washington
Portner, Robert
Potter-Pullman
Potter, Isaac M.
Price, Vincent C.
Pullman, George Mortimer
Quackenbush-Quincy
Quackenbush, Peter

Biographical Case Files, circa 1890-1916

Container

Contents

Quay, Matthew Stanley
Quincy, Henry P.
Reeves
Reeves, David
Scattergood-Shober
Scattergood, Thomas
Schley, Winfield Scott
Shober, Samuel L.
Shoenberger-Witt
Shoenberger, John H.
Spaulding, Edward R.
Willard, D.
Witt, Stillman
Untitled

BOX 11

Miscellany, circa 1902-circa 1916

Legal and organizational records of the National Biographical Society, including bylaws and articles of incorporation, marketing advice given to society sales agents, subscriber lists, and sample pages from *The Book of the Presidents* and *The National Memorial of the United States*.

Arranged alphabetically by type of material.

BOX 11

Legal and other records
Marketing advice to agents
Page proofs, title pages, and illustrated matter *See Oversize*
Potential subscribers
Subscriber lists

BOX OV 1

Oversize

Oversize page proofs, title pages, illustrated matter, and other items described according to the series, folder, and boxes from which they were removed.

BOX OV 1

Miscellany
Page proofs, title pages, illustrated matter, and other material (Container 11)