

**Evelyn Briggs Baldwin Papers**  
**A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress**



**Manuscript Division, Library of Congress**  
**Washington, D.C.**  
**2009**

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

Catalog Record: <https://lcn.loc.gov/mm77011627>

Additional search options available at: <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms009317>

Prepared by Manuscript Division staff

Finding aid encoded by Manuscript Division staff, 2009  
Revised 2024 August

## Collection Summary

**Title:** Evelyn Briggs Baldwin Papers

**Inclusive Dates:** 1649-1933

**Bulk Dates:** 1898-1902

**ID No.:** MSS11627

**Creator:** Baldwin, Evelyn Briggs, 1862-1933

**Extent:** 4,200 items

**Extent:** 18 containers plus 3 oversize

**Extent:** 7.5 linear feet

**Language:** Collection material in English

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

**LC Catalog record:** <https://lccn.loc.gov/mm77011627>

**Summary:** Meteorologist and explorer. Correspondence, reports, journals, scrapbooks, financial records, printed matter, newspaper clippings, and genealogical material relating primarily to Baldwin's polar explorations, especially the Wellman Polar Expedition (1898-1899) and the Baldwin-Ziegler Polar Expedition (1901-1902).

## 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

Alden family.

Baldwin family.

Baldwin, Evelyn Briggs, 1862-1933.

Dickson, Archibald A. C.--Correspondence.

Ford family.

Jefferson family.

Leffingwell, Ernest de K. (Ernest de Koven), 1875-1971--Correspondence.

Lincoln family.

Thuesson, Christopher--Correspondence.

Wellman, Walter, 1858-1934--Correspondence.

Wellman, Walter, 1858-1934.

Woodruff family.

Ziegler, William, 1843-1905.

### Organizations

Baldwin-Ziegler Polar Expedition (1901-1902)

Peary Arctic Expedition (1896)

Wellman Polar Expedition (1898-1899)

### Subjects

Aeronautics.

Genealogy.

### Places

Polar regions--Discovery and exploration.

### Occupations

Explorers.

Meteorologists.

## Acquisition Information

The papers of Evelyn Briggs Baldwin were deposited in the Library of Congress by Baldwin in 1926. Additional material was deposited by Elmer E. Rogers, administrator of the Scottish Rite Temple, Washington, D.C., in 1935. Both deposits were converted to gifts in 1945.

## Processing History

The papers of Evelyn Briggs Baldwin were arranged and described by Mary Elizabeth Ruwell in 1978. The finding aid was revised in 2009.

## Transfers

Items have been transferred from the Manuscript Division to other custodial divisions of the Library. Photographs and drawings have been transferred to the Prints and Photographs Division. Maps have been transferred to the Geography and Map Division. All transfers are identified in these divisions as part of the Evelyn Briggs Baldwin Papers. Patrons are encouraged to contact these divisions in advance of a research visit.

## Copyright Status

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

## Access and Restrictions

The papers of Evelyn Briggs Baldwin are open to research. Many collections are stored off-site and advance notice is needed to retrieve these items for research use. Researchers are advised to contact the Manuscript Reading Room prior to visiting.

## Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: Container number, Evelyn Briggs Baldwin Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

## Biographical Note

Date	Event
1862, July 22	Born, Springfield, Mo
1885	M.S., Northwestern College, Naperville, Ill.
1885-1886	European travels
1887-1891	High school principal and superintendent of city schools, Kansas
1893-1894	Meteorologist for Robert E. Peary's second expedition to North Greenland
1896	Published <i>The Search for the North Pole</i> . Chicago: E. B. Baldwin
1897	Unsuccessful attempt to join Andrée's Arctic balloon expedition in Spitzbergen (now Svalbard), Norway
1898-1899	Second-in-command and meteorologist, Wellman Polar Expedition to Franz Josef Land
1901-1902	Leader, Baldwin-Ziegler Polar Expedition
1915	Prepared intelligence report for United States government concerning foreign agents Bernhard Dernberg, Franz von Papen, and Karl Boy-Ed

1926-1932                      Historian, Office of Naval Records and Library, Navy Department, Washington, D.C.  
1933, Oct. 25                 Died, Washington, D.C.

## Scope and Content Note

The papers of Evelyn Briggs Baldwin (1862-1933) span the period 1649-1933, with the bulk of the manuscripts dealing with the Wellman and Baldwin-Ziegler polar expeditions. The collection is organized into four series: [General Correspondence](#), [Polar Expedition Records](#), [Miscellany](#), and [Genealogy](#).

The [General Correspondence](#) consists mainly of letters saved by Baldwin reflecting his Arctic contributions, in particular during the Baldwin-Ziegler expedition. There is little personal correspondence. Early correspondence concerns his meteorological work in Mobile, Alabama, and elsewhere, the balloon experiments of his Baldwin cousins, the Robert E. Peary Arctic expedition, and the Wellman Polar Expedition, which includes letters written to Baldwin during his time in Franz Josef Land.

From 1899 to 1901 the correspondence reflects Baldwin's attempts to raise money for a North Pole voyage, his lecture tours, his backing by William Ziegler, and preparations for the trip. There are exchanges between Baldwin and suppliers, applicants, well-wishers, and officials, such as John C. Higgins of the United States Consulate in Dundee, Scotland. Comparatively little deals with Baldwin's recall by Ziegler after he had spent a year in Franz Josef Land and failed to reach the North Pole. Correspondence following up the expedition is also minimal, although there are some letters from various expedition members, such as Christopher Thuesson, Ernest De Koven Leffingwell, and Archibald A.C. Dickson.

Toward the end of his life, Baldwin made efforts to obtain financial remuneration from the United States government for his scientific and patriotic contributions. He obtained affidavits from acquaintances and prepared exhibits on his involvement in aeronautics, motion pictures, meteorology, and the detection of three German agents during World War I; these have been included with the General Correspondence.

Among the [Polar Expedition Records](#) are detailed journals of the Wellman expedition, Leffingwell's correspondence preparing for the Baldwin-Ziegler expedition, and notes and parts of journals of Baldwin and others for that voyage. There are also financial records containing lists of supplies, receipts, and miscellaneous notations. Baldwin at first supported Cook's claim for discovering the North Pole, and the series contains typed chapters for an unfinished book.

The [Miscellany](#) mainly contains newspaper clippings dealing with Baldwin's polar interests. There are also personal addresses, mimeographed circulars urging the formation of the National Archives, and publications on the Arctic and other subjects.

Baldwin did extensive work on [Genealogy](#), some of it published, on various families related to him. His papers contain typescripts for the Alden, Baldwin, Ford, Jefferson, Lincoln, and Woodruff families, as well as for Revolutionary War pensioners. Excerpts of early English Chancery Court proceedings on the Baldwins are included with these records as well.

## Arrangement of the Collection

This collection is arranged in four series:

- [General Correspondence, 1872-1933](#)
- [Polar Expedition Records, 1893-1915](#)
- [Miscellany, 1880-1933](#)
- [Genealogy, 1649-1933](#)

## Description of Series

Container	Series
BOX 1-6	<p><b><u>General Correspondence, 1872-1933</u></b></p> <p>Letters sent and received. Arranged in a chronological grouping, with topical files relating to congressional legislation and exhibits at the end of the series.</p>
BOX 7-14, OV 3	<p><b><u>Polar Expedition Records, 1893-1915</u></b></p> <p>Special correspondence, reports, journals, scrapbooks, typescripts of writings, and financial records. Arranged by topic or type of material.</p>
BOX 15-18, OV 1-OV 2	<p><b><u>Miscellany, 1880-1933</u></b></p> <p>Printed matter, typescripts, addresses, and newspaper clippings. Arranged by type of material and therein chronologically. Includes two oversize folders.</p>
BOX 17-18	<p><b><u>Genealogy, 1649-1933</u></b></p> <p>Notes and genealogical typescripts. Arranged by subject.</p>

# Container List

Container	Contents
BOX 1-6	<b>General Correspondence, 1872-1933</b> Letters sent and received. Arranged in a chronological grouping, with topical files relating to congressional legislation and exhibits at the end of the series.
BOX 1	Chronological
BOX 1	1872-1900 (8 folders)
BOX 2	1901, Jan.-Apr. (7 folders)
BOX 3	1901, May-1902 (8 folders)
BOX 4	1903-1928 (14 folders)
BOX 5	1929-1933
BOX 5	Congressional legislation, 1929-1933
BOX 5	Exhibits
BOX 5	Papers relating to World War I
BOX 5	Patriotic service
BOX 5	Naval intelligence
BOX 5	Precedents for remuneration
BOX 5	Navy board on polar exploration
BOX 6	Aeronautics
BOX 6	Mooring masts for dirigibles
BOX 6	First air mail
BOX 6	Meteorology
BOX 6	Polar motion pictures
BOX 6	Signal Corps service
BOX 6	Wireless telegraphy
BOX 6	Miscellaneous
BOX 6	Baldwin photostatic file (2 folders)
BOX 7-14, OV 3	<b>Polar Expedition Records, 1893-1915</b> Special correspondence, reports, journals, scrapbooks, typescripts of writings, and financial records. Arranged by topic or type of material.
BOX 7	Peary, Robert E., expedition
BOX 7	Drafts for <i>The Search for the North Pole</i> (2 folders)
BOX 7	Journal, Wellman Polar Expedition (2 folders)

## Polar Expedition Records, 1893-1915

### Container

### Contents

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BOX 7	Wellman-Baldwin correspondence (Baldwin typescript), concerning Wellman Polar Expedition, 1898
BOX 8	Baldwin notes
BOX 8	Wellman Polar Expedition (2 folders)
BOX 8	Cape Heller, Wellman Polar Expedition
BOX 8	Graham Bell Island, Wellman Polar Expedition
BOX 8	Meteorological work in Franz Josef Land, Wellman Polar Expedition
BOX 8	"Meteorological Observations of the Second Wellman Expedition"
BOX 8	Biographies, Baldwin-Ziegler Polar Expedition
BOX 8	Leffingwell, E. D. K. correspondence, Baldwin-Ziegler Polar Expedition, 1901
BOX 8	Journals, Baldwin-Ziegler Polar Expedition, 1901, June-1902, Mar.
BOX 8	Statements and transcripts of conversations, Baldwin-Ziegler Polar Expedition
BOX 8	Baldwin letterbook, Baldwin-Ziegler Polar Expedition
BOX 9	Notes and journals, Baldwin-Ziegler Polar Expedition, 1902, Mar.-Aug.
BOX 9	Notes, miscellaneous, Baldwin-Ziegler Polar Expedition
BOX 10	Scrapbooks, Baldwin-Ziegler Polar Expedition (3 vols.)
BOX 11	Scrapbooks, Baldwin-Ziegler Polar Expedition (2 vols.)
BOX 12	Balloon Buoy correspondence, Baldwin-Ziegler Polar Expedition, 1902-1925
BOX 12	Newcombe journal, Ziegler expedition, 1903-1905
BOX 12	Peary/Cook controversy typescripts, 1911-1913 (5 folders)
BOX 13	Baldwin typescripts, polar subjects
BOX 13	Baldwin polar articles
BOX 13	Miscellaneous polar articles and extracts
BOX 13	Financial records
BOX 13	Receipts, 1897-1898
BOX 13	Supplies, 1901 (2 folders)
BOX 14	Specifications, 1901
BOX 14	Contracts, 1901
BOX 14	Accounts, 1901
BOX 14	Shipping receipts, 1901
BOX 14	Miscellaneous supplies, notes, 1901
BOX 14	Supplies and accounts, 1902
BOX OV 3	"My Arctic Research" (2 vols.)
BOX 15-18, OV 1-OV 2	<b>Miscellany, 1880-1933</b>  Printed matter, typescripts, addresses, and newspaper clippings. Arranged by type of material and therein chronologically. Includes two oversize folders.
BOX 15	Newspaper clippings
BOX 15	1894-1929 (15 folders)

## Miscellany, 1880-1933

<b>Container</b>	<b>Contents</b>
BOX OV 1	1880-1933
BOX 16	1930-1933 (2 folders)
BOX 17	Scrapbook, 1933
BOX 17	Address book, National Archives circular, and miscellany
BOX 17	Miscellaneous typescripts
BOX 17	Arctic publications, 1899-1933
BOX 17	Publications, 1896-1932
BOX OV 2	Lecture circulars, articles, photocopies, and miscellany
BOX 17-18	<b>Genealogy, 1649-1933</b> Notes and genealogical typescripts. Arranged by subject.
BOX 17	Genealogical notes and drafts
BOX 17	Personal index
BOX 17	Personal index, Lincoln
BOX 17	Index of final payments
BOX 17	Alden family, typescript
BOX 17	Baldwin family, typescript
BOX 17	Ford family, typescript
BOX 18	Lincoln and Jefferson families, typescripts
BOX 18	Woodruff family, typescript
BOX 18	Revolutionary War pensioners typescript
BOX 18	English Chancery Court proceedings, excerpts for bundles 4-617 (6 folders)