

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: <http://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 Mary Elizabeth Ruwell

Finding aid encoded by Library of Congress Manuscript Division, 2009
Revised 2010 April

Collection Summary

Title: Evelyn Briggs Baldwin Papers

Span Dates: 1649-1933

Bulk Dates: (bulk 1898-1902)

ID No.: MSS11627

Creator: Baldwin, Evelyn Briggs, 1862-1933

Extent: 4,200 items

Extent: 18 containers plus 2 oversize

Extent: 7.2 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 material, 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.

Provenance

The papers of Evelyn Briggs Baldwin, meteorologist and Arctic explorer, 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 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.

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. 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, 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 Andree Arctic balloon flight in Spitzbergen |
| 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 in [General Correspondence](#), [Polar Expedition Records](#), [Miscellany](#), and [Genealogy](#) series.

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 Papers

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><u>General Correspondence, 1872-1933</u></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 | <p><u>Polar Expedition Records, 1893-1915</u></p> <p>Special correspondence, reports, journals, scrapbooks, and typescripts of writings, and financial records. Arranged by topic or type of material.</p> |
| BOX 15-18 | <p><u>Miscellany, 1880-1933</u></p> <p>Printed matter, typescripts, addresses, and newspaper clippings. Arranged by type of material and therein chronologically. Includes two oversize folders.</p> |
| BOX 19-20 | <p><u>Genealogy, 1649-1933</u></p> <p>Notes and genealogical typescripts. Arranged by subject.</p> |

Container List

| Container | Contents |
|-----------|---|
| BOX 1-6 | General Correspondence, 1872-1933 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 | Polar Expedition Records, 1893-1915 Special correspondence, reports, journals, scrapbooks, and 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 |
|-------------------|--|
| 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 | E. D. K. Leffingwell 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 | (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 15-18 | Miscellany, 1880-1933 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) |
| BOX 16 (Oversize) | 1880-1933 |
| BOX 17 | 1930-1933 (2 folders) |

Miscellany, 1880-1933

| Container | Contents |
|-------------------|--|
| 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 18 (Oversize) | Lecture circulars, articles, photocopies, and miscellany |
| BOX 19-20 | Genealogy, 1649-1933 Notes and genealogical typescripts. Arranged by subject. |
| BOX 19 | Genealogical notes and drafts |
| BOX 19 | Personal index |
| BOX 19 | Personal index, Lincoln |
| BOX 19 | Index of final payments |
| BOX 19 | Alden family, typescript |
| BOX 19 | Baldwin family, typescript |
| BOX 19 | Ford family, typescript |
| BOX 20 | Lincoln and Jefferson families, typescripts |
| BOX 20 | Woodruff family, typescript |
| BOX 20 | Revolutionary War pensioners typescript |
| BOX 20 | English Chancery Court proceedings, excerpts for bundles 4-617 (6 folders) |