

E. B. Washburne Papers
A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress



Manuscript Division, Library of Congress
Washington, D.C.
2002

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

Catalog Record: <https://lcn.loc.gov/mm79044651>

Additional search options available at: <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms010256>

Prepared by Manuscript Division Staff
Revised by Michael Spangler with the assistance of Sherralyn McCoy
Finding aid encoded by Library of Congress Manuscript Division, 2010
Revised 2015 October

Collection Summary

Title: E. B. Washburne Papers

Span Dates: 1829-1915

Bulk Dates: (bulk 1852-1882)

ID No.: MSS44651

Creator: Washburne, E. B. (Elihu Benjamin), 1816-1887

Extent: 37,000 items

Extent: 144 containers

Extent: 31.4 linear feet

Language: Collection material in English

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

LC Catalog record: <https://lccn.loc.gov/mm79044651>

Summary: United States representative from Illinois, diplomat, lawyer, and historian. Principally correspondence covering most phases of Washburne's career from his election to Congress in 1852 until 1882. Includes letterbooks, 1869-1877, of official correspondence and communications during Washburne's term as minister to France.

Online Content: The papers of E. B. Washburne are available on the Library of Congress Web site at <http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/collmss.ms000063>.

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

Aldrich, Cyrus, 1808-1871--Correspondence.

Arnold, Isaac N., 1815-1884--Correspondence.

Badeau, Adam, 1831-1895--Correspondence.

Bancroft, George, 1800-1891--Correspondence.

Bismarck, Otto, Fürst von, 1815-1898--Correspondence.

Blaine, James Gillespie, 1830-1893--Correspondence.

Bradley, William Harrison, 1848-1929--Correspondence.

Chase, Salmon P. (Salmon Portland), 1808-1873--Correspondence.

Davis, J. C. Bancroft (John Chandler Bancroft), 1822-1907--Correspondence.

Dix, John A. (John Adams), 1798-1879--Correspondence.

Evarts, William Maxwell, 1818-1901--Correspondence.

Favre, Jules, 1809-1880--Correspondence.

Fish, Hamilton, 1808-1893--Correspondence.

Fish, Hamilton, 1808-1893.

Gramont, Antoine Alfred Agénor, duc de, 1819-1880--Correspondence.

Grant, Ulysses S. (Ulysses Simpson), 1822-1885--Correspondence.

Grant, Ulysses S. (Ulysses Simpson), 1822-1885.

Greeley, Horace, 1811-1872--Correspondence.

Halstead, Murat, 1829-1908--Correspondence.

Jay, John, 1817-1894--Correspondence.

Lincoln, Abraham, 1809-1865.

Medill, Joseph, 1823-1899--Correspondence.

Moran, Benjamin, 1820-1886--Correspondence.

Pierrepont, Edwards, 1817-1892--Correspondence.

Ray, Charles Henry--Correspondence.

Richard, Daniel, active 1852-1882--Correspondence.

Schenck, Robert Cumming, 1809-1890--Correspondence.

Sherman, John, 1823-1900--Correspondence.

Sherman, William T. (William Tecumseh), 1820-1891--Correspondence.

Sickles, Daniel Edgar, 1819-1914--Correspondence.
Stephenson, Charles L., 1815-1880--Correspondence.
Washburn, C. C. (Cadwallader Colden), 1818-1882--Correspondence.
Washburne, E. B. (Elihu Benjamin), 1816-1887.

Organizations

France. Ministère des affaires étrangères--Officials and employees.
United States. Congress.
Whig Party (U.S.)

Subjects

Diplomatic and consular service, American--France.
Diplomats--Europe--Correspondence.
Diplomats--France.
Franco-Prussian War, 1870-1871--Campaigns--France.
Franco-Prussian War, 1870-1871.
Germans--France.
Reconstruction (U.S. history, 1865-1877)
Sieges--France.
Statesmen--Europe--Correspondence.

Places

France--Foreign relations--United States.
France--History--Third Republic, 1870-1940.
Germany--History.
Illinois--Politics and government.
Paris (France)--History--Commune, 1871.
Paris (France)--History--Siege, 1870-1871.
United States--Appropriations and expenditures.
United States--Commerce.
United States--Foreign relations--1869-1877.
United States--Foreign relations--France.
United States--History--Civil War, 1861-1865.
United States--Politics and government--19th century.

Titles

E.B. Washburne Papers at the Library of Congress

Occupations

Diplomats.
Historians.
Lawyers.
Representatives, U.S. Congress--Illinois.

Provenance

The papers of E. B. Washburne, lawyer, United States representative from Illinois, diplomat, lawyer, and historian, were given to the Library of Congress by his son, Hempstead Washburne, in 1904. An addition was received on exchange from the Chicago Public Library in 1946.

Processing History

A finding aid to the Washburne Papers was created in 1963. After the receipt of the papers, the donor withdrew five original items from the collection in 1915, but furnished the Library with copies in a sealed envelope with the stipulation that they not be used until 1950. These items were processed in 1956.

Additional Guides

The Washburne Papers have been described in the *Library of Congress Handbook of Manuscripts* (1918), pp. 510-511. The addition was noted in the Library's *Quarterly Journal of Current Acquisitions*, vol. 4, no. 3 (May 1947), p. 84, and photographs in the collection were mentioned in the *Library of Congress Information Bulletin*, vol. 13, no. 43 (October 1954), p. 11.

An index to correspondents in part of the Washburne Papers is available in the Manuscript Division Reading Room. Consult a reference librarian in the Manuscript Division for further information.

Copyright Status

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

Access and Restrictions

The papers of E. B. Washburne 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.

Online Content

The papers of E. B. Washburne are available on the Library of Congress Web site at <http://hdl.loc.gov/loc/mss/collmss.ms000063>.

Preferred Citation

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

Biographical Note

Date	Event
1816, Sept. 23	Born, Livermore, Me.
1836	Studied law, Maine Wesleyan Seminary, Kent's Hill, Maine
1839	Entered Harvard Law School, Cambridge, Mass.
1840	Admitted to Massachusetts bar Moved to Galena, Ill.
1841	Began practicing law, Galena, Ill.
1845	Married Adèle Gratiot
1848	Ran unsuccessfully as a Whig for election to Congress
1853-1869	United States representative from Illinois
1869	Appointed secretary of state but resigned within a few days to become minister to France
1869-1877	Minister to France
1880	Retired from active political life
1884-1887	President, Chicago Historical Society, Chicago, Ill.
1887, Oct. 23	Died, Chicago, Ill.

Scope and Content Note

The papers of Elihu Benjamin Washburne (1816-1887) span the years 1829-1915, with the bulk of the material concentrated in the period 1852-1882. Bound volumes of letters received constitute the largest part of the collection and feature Washburne's career as a member of Congress in the Civil War era, 1853-1869, and as minister to France, 1869-1877. Letterbooks with copies of outgoing correspondence relate to his official responsibilities in the Paris legation, the American secretary of state, the French minister of foreign affairs, Germany, and personal matters. An index of correspondents among the letters received is available in the Manuscript Division Reading Room.

Subjects in papers dated before Washburne's diplomatic appointment include Whig politics nationally and in Illinois, his duties in the House of Representatives, focusing on commerce and appropriations, his support for Abraham Lincoln and Ulysses S. Grant, and Reconstruction. Washburne's role as minister to France is documented by official letters and communications to secretaries of state Hamilton Fish (1808-1893) and William M. Evarts as well as by correspondence with European statesmen and diplomats. Topics include the Franco-Prussian War, the Paris Commune, and politics at the beginning of France's Third Republic. Since Washburne was the only official representative of a foreign government to stay in Paris during the siege of the city in 1870-1871 and the Commune, his papers constitute a valuable record of that period. Washburne's diplomatic activities in behalf of German residents of France during the war are also represented in the letters.

Among the correspondents in the Washburne Papers are Cyrus Aldrich, Isaac Newton Arnold, Adam Badeau, George Bancroft, Otto Fürst von Bismarck, James Gillespie Blaine, William Harrison Bradley, Salmon P. Chase, J. C. Bancroft Davis, John A. Dix, William Maxwell Evarts, Jules Favre, Hamilton Fish, Antoine Alfred Agénor duc de Gramont, Ulysses S. Grant, Horace Greeley, Murat Halstead, John Jay (1817-1894), Joseph Medill, Benjamin Moran, Edwards Pierrepont, Charles H. Ray, Daniel Richard, Robert C. Schenck, John Sherman, William T. Sherman, Daniel Edgar Sickles, Charles L. Stephenson, and Washburne's brother, C. C. Washburn.

Arrangement of the Papers

This collection is arranged by type of material and thereunder chronologically

Container List

Container	Contents
BOX 1	Bound volumes, letters received An index of correspondents in letters received is available in the Manuscript Division Reading Room. Consult a reference librarian in the Manuscript Division for further information.
BOX 1	1829, July 1-1852, July 22 Digital content available
BOX 2	1852, Aug. 18-1857, Aug. 5 Digital content available
BOX 3	1857, Aug. 10-1858, Aug. 8 Digital content available
BOX 4	1858, Aug. 9-1859, Feb. 28 Digital content available
BOX 5	1859, Mar. 16- Dec. 31, undated Digital content available
BOX 6	1860
BOX 6	Jan. 1- Feb. 4 Digital content available
BOX 7	Feb. 6- Mar. 6 Digital content available
BOX 8	Mar. 7-Apr. 6 Digital content available
BOX 9	Apr. 9-May 20 Digital content available
BOX 10	May 21-Aug. 17 Digital content available
BOX 11	Aug. 18-Dec. 17 Digital content available
BOX 12	1860, Dec. 18-1861, Jan. 14 Digital content available
BOX 13	1861
BOX 13	Jan. 15-Feb. 5 Digital content available
BOX 14	Feb. 6-19 Digital content available
BOX 15	Feb. 20-Mar. 2 Digital content available
BOX 16	Mar. 3-20 Digital content available
BOX 17	Mar. 21-May 31 Digital content available
BOX 18	June 1-July 19 Digital content available
BOX 19	July 20-Dec. 5 Digital content available

Container List

Container	Contents
BOX 20	Dec. 6-31, undated Digital content available
BOX 21	1862
BOX 21	Jan. 1-Feb. 2 Digital content available
BOX 22	Feb. 3- Mar. 8 Digital content available
BOX 23	Mar. 10-Apr. 8 Digital content available
BOX 24	Apr. 9-May 21 Digital content available
BOX 25	May 22-June 19 Digital content available
BOX 26	June 20-July 26 Digital content available
BOX 27	July 28-Dec. 11 Digital content available
BOX 28	1862, Dec. 12-1863, Jan. 14 Digital content available
BOX 29	1863
BOX 29	Jan. 15-Feb. 9 Digital content available
BOX 30	Feb. 10-Apr. 11 Digital content available
BOX 31	Apr. 14-Dec. 2 Digital content available
BOX 32	Dec. 3-29 Digital content available
BOX 33	1863, Dec. 30-1864, Jan. 23 Digital content available
BOX 34	1864
BOX 34	Jan. 24-Feb. 18 Digital content available
BOX 35	Feb. 18-Mar. 14 Digital content available
BOX 36	Mar. 15-Apr. 7 Digital content available
BOX 37	Apr. 8-29 Digital content available
BOX 38	Apr. 30-June 3 Digital content available
BOX 39	June 4-Sept. 13 Digital content available
BOX 40	Sept. 14-Nov. 18 Digital content available
BOX 41	Nov. 19-Dec. 16 Digital content available

Container List

Container	Contents
BOX 42	1864, Dec. 17-1865, Jan. 4 Digital content available
BOX 43	1865
BOX 43	Jan. 5-20 Digital content available
BOX 44	Jan. 21-Feb. 7 Digital content available
BOX 45	Feb. 8-24 Digital content available
BOX 46	Feb. 25-Aug. 19 Digital content available
BOX 47	Aug. 21-Dec. 9 Digital content available
BOX 48	1865, Dec. 10-1866, Apr. 26 Digital content available
BOX 49	1866
BOX 49	Apr. 27-June 30 Digital content available
BOX 50	July 1-Sept. 30 Digital content available
BOX 51	Oct. 1-Dec. 6 Digital content available
BOX 52	1866, Dec. 7-1867, Oct. 5 Digital content available
BOX 53	1867
BOX 53	Oct. 9-Nov. 30 Digital content available
BOX 54	Dec. 1-23 Digital content available
BOX 55	1867, Dec. 24-1868, Jan. 20 Digital content available
BOX 56	1868
BOX 56	Jan. 21-Feb. 7 Digital content available
BOX 57	Feb. 8-Mar. 6 Digital content available
BOX 58	Mar. 7-Apr. 17 Digital content available
BOX 59	Apr. 18-June 6 Digital content available
BOX 60	June 7-July 17 Digital content available
BOX 61	July 18-Nov. 23 Digital content available
BOX 62	Nov. 24-Dec. 18 Digital content available
BOX 63	1868, Dec. 18-1869, Jan. 13 Digital content available

Container List

Container	Contents
BOX 64	1869
BOX 64	Jan. 14-Feb. 2 Digital content available
BOX 65	Feb. 3-26 Digital content available
BOX 66	Feb. 27-Apr. 12 Digital content available
BOX 67	Apr. 13-Oct. 4 Digital content available
BOX 68	1869, Oct. 8-1870, Jan. 7 Digital content available
BOX 69	1870
BOX 69	Jan. 8-May 6 Digital content available
BOX 70	May 7-July 28 Digital content available
BOX 71	July 29-Oct. 20 Digital content available
BOX 72	1871, Oct. 21-1871, Jan. 5 Digital content available
BOX 73	1871
BOX 73	Jan. 6-Feb. 10 Digital content available
BOX 74	Feb. 11-Apr. 26 Digital content available
BOX 75	Apr. 27-July 17 Digital content available
BOX 76	July 19-Nov. 14 Digital content available
BOX 77	1871, Nov. 16-1872, Apr. 22 Digital content available
BOX 78	1872
BOX 78	Apr. 25-Aug. 8 Digital content available
BOX 79	Aug. 9-Nov. 30 Digital content available
BOX 80	1872, Dec. 1-1873, Mar. 11 Digital content available
BOX 81	1873
BOX 81	Mar. 12-June 4 Digital content available
BOX 82	June 5-Oct. 5 Digital content available
BOX 83	1873, Oct. 8-1874, Jan. 19 Digital content available
BOX 84	1874
BOX 84	Jan. 20-Apr. 25 Digital content available

Container List

Container	Contents
BOX 85	Apr. 27-July 31 Digital content available
BOX 86	Aug. 2-Nov. 12 Digital content available
BOX 87	1874, Nov. 13-1875, Jan. 25 Digital content available
BOX 88	1875
BOX 88	Jan. 26-Apr. 23 Digital content available
BOX 89	Apr. 24-July 2 Digital content available
BOX 90	July 3-Nov. 3 Digital content available
BOX 91	1875, Nov. 5-1876, Feb. 19 Digital content available
BOX 92	1876
BOX 92	Feb. 19-June 2 Digital content available
BOX 93	June 3-Oct. 25 Digital content available
BOX 94	1876, Oct. 26-1877, Sept. 30 Digital content available
BOX 95	1877, Oct. 3-Dec. 31, undated Digital content available
BOX 96	1878, Jan. 1-Aug. 13 Digital content available
BOX 97	1878, Aug. 17-1879, Sept. 19 Digital content available
BOX 98	1879, Sept. 20-1880, Feb. 9 Digital content available
BOX 99	1880, Feb. 12-1881, Feb. 3 Digital content available
BOX 100	1881
BOX 100	Feb. 5-Sept. 10 Digital content available
BOX 101	Sept. 13-1882, Mar. 11 Digital content available
BOX 102	1882, Mar. 13-Oct. 23, undated Digital content available
BOX 103	Letterbooks, copies of letters sent
BOX 103	To the secretary of state
BOX 103	Vol. 1, 1869, May 24-Dec. 16 Digital content available
BOX 104	Vol. 2, 1869, Dec. 10-1870, July 23 Digital content available
BOX 105	Vol. 3, 1870, July 25-Nov. 8 Digital content available

Container List

Container	Contents
BOX 106	Vol. 4, 1870, Nov. 11-1871, Mar. 24 Digital content available
BOX 107	Vol. 5, 1871, Mar. 24-June 30 Digital content available
BOX 108	Vol. 6, 1871, June 30-1872, Feb. 9 Digital content available
BOX 109	Vol. 7, 1872, Feb. 13-Dec. 19 Digital content available
BOX 110	Vol. 8, 1872, Dec. 24-1873, Aug. 30 Digital content available
BOX 111	Vol. 9, 1873, Sept. 3-1874, May 19 Digital content available
BOX 112	Vol. 10, 1874, May 19-Dec. 10 Digital content available
BOX 113	Vol. 11, 1874, Dec. 18-1875, July 8 Digital content available
BOX 114	Vol. 12, 1875, July 8-1876, Feb. 29 Digital content available
BOX 115	Vol. 13, 1876, Mar. 9-Oct. 29 Digital content available
BOX 116	Vol. 14, 1876, Oct. 30-1877, May 18 Digital content available
BOX 117	Vol. 15, 1877, May 19-Sept. 5 Digital content available
BOX 118	To the French minister of foreign affairs
BOX 118	Vol. 16, 1869, May 31-1871, Jan. 18 Digital content available
BOX 119	Vol. 17, 1871, Jan. 18-1872, Dec. 2 Digital content available
BOX 120	Vol. 18, 1872, Dec. 4-1875, Sept. 2 Digital content available
BOX 121	Vol. 19, 1875, Oct. 4-1877, Sept. 1 Digital content available
BOX 122	General
BOX 122	Vol. 20, 1869, May 25-Dec. 2 Digital content available
BOX 123	Vol. 21, 1869, Dec. 4-1870, May 30 Digital content available
BOX 124	Vol. 22, 1870, May 30-Sept. 7 Digital content available
BOX 125	Vol. 23, 1870, Sept. 7-1871, Feb. 27 Digital content available
BOX 126	Vol. 24, 1871, Feb. 28-July 25 Digital content available
BOX 127	Vol. 25, 1871, July 25-Dec. 8 Digital content available
BOX 128	Vol. 26, 1871, Dec. 8-1872, June 7 Digital content available

Container List

Container	Contents
BOX 129	Vol. 27, 1872, June 10-1873, Jan. 13 Digital content available
BOX 130	Vol. 28, 1873, Jan. 13-Aug. 12 Digital content available
BOX 131	Vol. 29, 1873, Aug. 13-1874, Mar. 18 Digital content available
BOX 132	Vol. 30, 1874, Mar. 20-1875, Jan. 9 Digital content available
BOX 133	Vol. 31, 1875, Jan. 9-1876, Feb. 21 Digital content available
BOX 134	Vol. 32, 1876, Feb. 21-1877, Jan. 24 Digital content available
BOX 135	Vol. 33, 1877, Jan. 27-Sept. 4 Digital content available
BOX 135	Personal
BOX 135	Vol. 34, 1869, May 27-1870, May 25 Digital content available
BOX 135	Vol. 35, 1870, May 26-1870, Oct. 11 Digital content available
BOX 136	Vol. 36, 1870, Oct. 9-1871, Mar. 22 (includes 1884 pamphlet) Digital content available
BOX 136	Vol. 37, 1870, Mar. 18-Oct. 10 Digital content available
BOX 136	Vol. 38, 1871, Oct. 12-1872, Mar. 1 Digital content available
BOX 137	Vol. 39, 1872, Mar. 1-Sept. 6 Digital content available
BOX 137	Vol. 40, 1872, Sept. 9-1873, June 11 Digital content available
BOX 137	Vol. 41, 1873, June 11-1873, Oct. 20 Digital content available
BOX 138	Vol. 42, 1873, Oct. 21-1874, May 7 Digital content available
BOX 138	Vol. 43, 1874, May 8-Nov. 13 Digital content available
BOX 138	Vol. 44, 1874, Nov. 13-1875, Apr. 20 Digital content available
BOX 139	Vol. 45, 1875, Oct. 15-1876, Mar. 25 Digital content available
BOX 139	Vol. 46, 1876, Mar. 27-Sept. 29 Digital content available
BOX 139	Vol. 47, 1876, Sept. 29-1877, July 5 Digital content available
BOX 140	Vol. 48, 1877, July 5-1879, Apr. 16 Digital content available
BOX 141	Concerning Germany
BOX 141	Vol. 49, 1871, May 12-1872, Feb. 8 Digital content available

Container List

Container	Contents
BOX 141	Vol. 50, 1870, Aug. 19-1871, May 10 Digital content available
BOX 141	Miscellany
BOX 141	Vol. 51, 1874, Dec. 15-1876, Oct. 29 Digital content available
BOX 141	Vol. 52, 1869, Dec. 15-1983, Apr. 15 Digital content available
BOX 142	Vol. 53, 1875, Apr. 20-Oct. 14 Digital content available
BOX 142	By Washburne, Gratiot (son)
BOX 142	Vol. 54, 1872, Mar. 22-1874, Oct. 23 Digital content available
BOX 142	Vol. 55, 1874, Nov. 27-1876, Mar. 1 Digital content available
BOX 143	Miscellany
BOX 143	French Ministry of the Interior, facsimile copies of official dispatches, 1870-1871 Digital content available
BOX 143	Index to correspondence (obsolete), 1882 Digital content available
BOX 143	Medill, Joseph, transcripts of letters to Washburne, 1862-1869 , 1915 Digital content available
BOX 143	Printed matter, 1847-1881, undated Digital content available
BOX 144	Scrapbooks
BOX 144	Washburn, Charles A., 1865-1889, undated Digital content available
BOX 144	Washburne, E. B.
BOX 144	1868-1875, undated Digital content available
BOX 144	1868-1887, undated Digital content available