

George Dewey Papers
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/mm78018366>

Additional search options available at: <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms010319>

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Revised and expanded by Michael Spangler with the assistance of Deloris Butler and Sherralyn McCoy

Finding aid encoded by Library of Congress Manuscript Division, 2010
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Collection Summary

Title: George Dewey Papers

Inclusive Dates: 1805-1949

Bulk Dates: 1885-1931

ID No.: MSS18366

Creator: Dewey, George, 1837-1917

Extent: 25,000 items

Extent: 86 containers plus 6 oversize

Extent: 42.8 linear feet

Language: Collection material in English

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

LC Catalog record: <https://lccn.loc.gov/mm78018366>

Summary: Naval officer. Correspondence, letterbooks, diaries, journal, military papers, financial papers, scrapbooks, and photographs chiefly relating to Dewey's activities as naval commander in the Far East during the Spanish-American War, especially at the battle of Manila Bay; as admiral and president of the General Board of the Navy; president of the court of inquiry concerning Winfield Scott Schley; and commander-in-chief of naval winter maneuvers.

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

Bonaparte, Charles J. (Charles Joseph), 1851-1921--Correspondence.
Bugher, Frederick M. (Frederick McLean)--Correspondence.
Chandler, William E. (William Eaton), 1835-1917--Correspondence.
Cortelyou, George B. (George Bruce), 1862-1940--Correspondence.
Creel, George, 1876-1953--Correspondence.
Daniels, Josephus, 1862-1948--Correspondence.
Dewey family--Correspondence.
Dewey, George G. (George Goodwin), -1963--Correspondence.
Dewey, George, 1837-1917.
Dewey, Julius Y. (Julius Yemans)--Correspondence.
Dewey, Mary Perrin, -1843?--Correspondence.
Dewey, Mildred McLean Hazen, 1850-1931. Mildred McLean Hazen Dewey papers.
Dodge, Grenville M., 1831-1916--Correspondence.
Garfield, James A. (James Abram), 1831-1881--Correspondence.
Hay, John, 1838-1905--Correspondence.
Hazen, William Babcock, 1830-1887--Correspondence.
Lansing, Robert, 1864-1928--Correspondence.
Lodge, Henry Cabot, 1850-1924--Correspondence.
Long, John Davis, 1838-1915--Correspondence.
Mahan, A. T. (Alfred Thayer), 1840-1914--Correspondence.
McLean, John R. (John Roll), 1848-1916--Correspondence.
Moody, William H. (William Henry), 1853-1917--Correspondence.
Morton, Paul, 1857-1911--Correspondence.
Newberry, Truman Handy, 1864-1945--Correspondence.
Poe, Elisabeth Ellicott, 1886-1947--Correspondence.
Proctor, Redfield, 1831-1908--Correspondence.
Roosevelt, Theodore, 1858-1919--Correspondence.
Root, Elihu, 1845-1937--Correspondence.
Sargent, Nathan, 1849-1907.
Schley, Winfield Scott, 1839-1911.

Sherman, William T. (William Tecumseh), 1820-1891--Correspondence.
Untermeyer, Alvin, 1882-1963--Correspondence.
Williams, Oscar Fitzalan, 1843-1909--Correspondence.

Organizations

Mayflower (Yacht)
Olympia (Cruiser)
Pensacola (Screw steamer)
Rosiclare Lead and Fluorspar Mining Company.
United States. Navy--History--Spanish-American War, 1898.
United States. Navy--Maneuvers.
United States. Navy. Asiatic Squadron.
United States. Navy. European Station.
United States. Navy. General Board.

Subjects

Courts-martial and courts of inquiry--United States.
Manila Bay, Battle of, Philippines, 1898.
Spanish-American War, 1898--Campaigns.

Occupations

Naval officers.

Acquisition Information

The papers of George Dewey, naval officer, were deposited in the Library of Congress by his son, George G. Dewey, from 1933 to 1937 and were converted to a gift in 1952. Additional material was given to the Library in 1940 by J. O. Thorn and in 1963 by the estate of George G. Dewey. Further additions were transferred to the Library by the National Museum of American History, Smithsonian Institution, in 1990 and 1992.

Processing History

The Dewey Papers were processed in 1963 and revised and expanded in 1997. The finding aid was revised again in 2010.

Related Material

The Manuscript Division also holds a separate collection of George Dewey papers as part of its Naval Historical Foundation Collection.

Transfers

Items have been transferred from the Manuscript Division to other custodial divisions of the Library. Maps and atlases have been transferred to the Geography and Map Division, where a finding aid to this material is available at <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.gmd/eadgmd.gm017003>. Photographs have been transferred to the Prints and Photographs Division. All transfers are identified in these divisions as part of the George Dewey Papers.

Copyright Status

Copyright in the unpublished writings of George Dewey in these papers and in other collections of papers in the custody of the Library of Congress has been dedicated to the public.

Access and Restrictions

The papers of George Dewey 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, George Dewey Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Biographical Note

Date	Event
1837, Dec. 26	Born, Montpelier, Vt.
1854	M.M.S., Norwich University, Northfield, Vt.
1858	Graduated, U.S. Naval Academy, Annapolis, Md.
1858-1861	Attached to steam frigate <i>Wabash</i>
1861	Promoted to lieutenant, U.S. Navy Assigned as executive officer on the steam sloop-of-war <i>Mississippi</i>
1861-1865	Took part in Civil War naval engagements at Fort St. Phillip and Fort Jackson, 1862; Port Hudson, 1862; New Orleans, 1862; Donaldsonville, 1863; and Fort Fisher, 1864-1865; also served with the North Atlantic Blockading Squadron and on the <i>Mississippi</i> , <i>Monogahela</i> , <i>Brooklyn</i> , <i>Minnesota</i> , <i>Colorado</i> , and <i>Agawam</i>
1865	Promoted to lieutenant commander
1865-1867	Served on the <i>Kearsarge</i> and the <i>Canandaigua</i> and commanded the steam frigate <i>Colorado</i>
1867	Married Susie Goodwin (died 1872)
1867-1869	Assigned to the U.S. Naval Academy, Annapolis, Md.
1870-1875	Commanded the sloop <i>Narragansett</i>
1872	Promoted to commander
1875-1882	Assigned to the Lighthouse Board
1882-1884	Commanded the steam sloop <i>Juaniata</i> of the Asiatic Squadron
1884	Promoted to captain
1885-1888	Commanded the screw steamer <i>Pensacola</i> , flagship of the European Squadron
1889-1896	Chief, Navy Department's Bureau of Equipment, and served on the Lighthouse Board
1895-1897	President, Board of Inspection and Survey, U.S. Navy
1896	Promoted to commodore
1898-1899	Commanded Asiatic Squadron from flagship <i>Olympia</i>
1898, May 1	Battle of Manila Bay
1898, May 7	Promoted to rear admiral
1898, Aug. 18	Assisted Major-General Wesley Merritt, U.S. Army, in the capture of Manila, Philippines
1899	Promoted to admiral Married Mildred McLean Hazen
1900-1917	President, General Board of the Navy
1901	President, Schley Court of Inquiry
1902-1903	Commander-in-chief, combined U.S. naval force assembled at Culebra, Puerto Rico, for winter maneuvers
1917, Jan. 16	Died, Washington, D.C.

Scope and Content Note

The papers of George Dewey (1837-1917) span the years 1805-1949, with the bulk of the material concentrated in the period 1885-1931. The collection primarily concerns Dewey's naval career after 1885 and consists of diaries, correspondence, letterbooks, military papers, clippings, printed matter, financial records, scrapbooks, and memorial volumes comprising the following series: [Diaries](#), [General Correspondence](#), [Military File](#), [Financial File](#), [Miscellany](#), [Addition](#), and [Oversize](#).

The [General Correspondence](#) and [Military File](#) include correspondence and letterbooks focusing on Dewey's service as a naval commander in the Far East during the Spanish-American War commanding the Asiatic Squadron of the United States Navy, specifically his command of the cruiser *Olympia* at the Battle of Manila Bay, 1 May 1898, and the subsequent capture of Manila in August 1898. Of special interest are the correspondence and letterbooks for the period 1898-1899, particularly correspondence from Oscar Fitzalan Williams, American consul in Manila. The [Military File](#) contains copies of telegrams between Dewey and John Davis Long, secretary of the navy; Theodore Roosevelt, assistant secretary of the navy; Oscar Fitzalan Williams; and the American consuls in Shanghai, Tokyo, and Hong Kong. The material also relates to Dewey's service as commander of the screw steamer *Pensacola*, flagship of the European Squadron, 1885-1888; admiral of the navy and president of the General Board of the Navy, 1899-1917; president of the Winfield Scott Schley court of inquiry, 1901; and commander-in-chief of naval maneuvers while aboard the presidential yacht *Mayflower*, 1902-1903.

The [General Correspondence](#) series also includes letters exchanged between Dewey's parents, Mary Perrin and Julius Y. Dewey, and other family members. Letters from William T. Sherman and James A. Garfield in 1874 to Mildred Dewey's first husband, William B. Hazen, are also in the General Correspondence. Other prominent correspondents include Charles J. Bonaparte, William E. Chandler, George B. Cortelyou, George Creel, Josephus Daniels, Grenville Mellen Dodge, John Hay, Robert Lansing, John Davis Long, A. T. Mahan, William H. Moody, Paul Morton, Truman Handy Newberry, Redfield Proctor, Theodore Roosevelt (1858-1919), Elihu Root, and Oscar Fitzalan Williams. An index to most of the letters is filed at the beginning of the series.

The [Financial File](#) includes correspondence and records that reveal Dewey's large real estate holdings and other investments. Among the [Miscellany](#) series are clippings, genealogical and biographical material, memorabilia, memorial volumes, notes, printed matter, records of the Naval Order of the United States, and scrapbooks. Also, there is a typescript of an article written in 1904 by Commander Nathan Sargent entitled "Admiral Dewey and the Manila Campaign," an account of the Battle of Manila Bay and subsequent actions and operations of Dewey and the Asiatic Squadron.

The [Addition](#) includes [general correspondence](#) and material pertaining chiefly to the estate of Dewey's second wife, Mildred McLean Hazen Dewey. Correspondence includes Dewey's letters to Mildred Dewey and letters he received from others, many of which relate to his service as president of the Schley court of inquiry and Mildred Dewey's exchanges with Frederick M. Bugher, Josephus Daniels, her stepson George G. Dewey, Henry Cabot Lodge (1850-1924), her brother John R. McLean, Elisabeth Ellicott Poe, and Alvin Untermeyer. A daughter of the founder of the *Washington Post*, Mildred Dewey held a sizable estate at her death. The [estate file](#) documents the disposition of the estate and includes correspondence of family members and lawyers, including Democratic Party presidential contender John W. Davis (1873-1955). Family interests in the Rosiclare Lead and Fluorspar Mining Co., which was owned by Mildred Dewey's father, Washington McLean, is documented in the [estate file](#) as well as the [financial file](#).

[Miscellaneous files](#) among the additional material include clippings, a copy of a letter by Thomas Jefferson to Katharine Duane Morgan, memorabilia, notes, poetry, printed matter, and a report on the reception of Dewey at Washington, D.C., October 2-3 1899. Commissions, citations, degrees, awards, posters, and memorial volumes comprise the [Oversize](#) series.

Arrangement of the Papers

The collection is arranged in seven series:

- [Diaries, 1882-1909](#)
- [General Correspondence, 1820-1919](#)
- [Military File, 1876-1916](#)
- [Financial File, 1883-1916](#)
- [Miscellany, 1805-1923](#)

- [Addition, 1811-1949](#)
- [Oversize, 1872-1917](#)

Description of Series

Container	Series
BOX 1-2	<p><u>Diaries, 1882-1909</u> Diaries of George and Mildred McLean Hazen Dewey. Arranged chronologically.</p>
BOX 3-43	<p><u>General Correspondence, 1820-1919</u> Primarily letters received with copies of some letters sent. Arranged chronologically. Includes an index to most of the correspondence.</p>
BOX 43-53	<p><u>Military File, 1876-1916</u> Letterbooks, ships' records, reports, telegrams, printed matter, and miscellany. Arranged alphabetically by topic or type of material and chronologically thereunder.</p>
BOX 54-62	<p><u>Financial File, 1883-1916</u> Account books, correspondence, receipts, and material related to real estate, loans, and investments. Arranged alphabetically by topic or type of material and chronologically thereunder.</p>
BOX 63-72	<p><u>Miscellany, 1805-1923</u> Appointment books, articles re Dewey, certificates, clippings, genealogical and biographical material, memorial volumes, letterbooks, memorabilia, record books, notes, poetry, printed matter, and scrapbooks. Arranged alphabetically by topic or type of material and chronologically thereunder.</p>
BOX 73-86	<p><u>Addition, 1811-1949</u></p>
BOX 73-76	<p><u>General Correspondence 1896-1931</u> Letters sent and received. Arranged alphabetically by name of correspondent and chronologically thereunder.</p>
BOX 76-80	<p><u>Estate File, 1811-1949</u> Correspondence, account statements, clippings, deeds, and legal documents. Arranged alphabetically by topic or type of material and chronologically thereunder.</p>
BOX 81-85	<p><u>Financial File, 1912-1932</u> Correspondence, account statements, and account books. Arranged alphabetically by topic or type of material and chronologically thereunder.</p>
BOX 85-86	<p><u>Miscellany, 1817-1929</u> Certificates, clippings, commissions, copy of a Thomas Jefferson letter, memorabilia, notes, poetry, and printed matter. Arranged alphabetically by type of material or topic and chronologically thereunder.</p>
BOX OV 1-OV 6	<p><u>Oversize, 1872-1917</u> Oversize material consisting primarily of commissions, citations, degrees, awards, memorial volumes, and posters. Organized and described according to the series, folders, and boxes from which the items were removed.</p>

Container List

Container	Contents
BOX 1-2	Diaries, 1882-1909 Diaries of George and Mildred McLean Hazen Dewey. Arranged chronologically.
BOX 1	Dewey, George 1882-1895 (6 folders)
BOX 2	1896-1909 (2 folders) Dewey, Mildred McLean Hazen, 1900-1907 Set I (4 folders) Set II (3 folders)
BOX 3-43	General Correspondence, 1820-1919 Primarily letters received with copies of some letters sent. Arranged chronologically. Includes an index to most of the correspondence.
BOX 3	Index, 1898-1917 (3 vols.)
BOX 4	7 Apr. 1820-4 May 1898 (10 folders)
BOX 5	5-31 May 1898 (8 folders)
BOX 6	1 June-6 Sept. 1898 (7 folders)
BOX 7	9 Sept. 1898-28 Feb. 1899 (10 folders)
BOX 8	2 Mar.-30 June 1899 (7 folders)
BOX 9	1 July-30 Sept. 1899 (6 folders)
BOX 10	2 Oct. 1899-28 Feb. 1900 (7 folders)
BOX 11	1 Mar.-30 Oct. 1900 (9 folders)
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BOX 13	10 Mar. 1902-28 Feb. 1903 (7 folders)
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General Correspondence, 1820-1919

Container	Contents
BOX 15	1 July-31 Dec. 1903 (7 folders)
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BOX 17	1 July 1904-17 Jan. 1905 (7 folders)
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BOX 23	1 July 1907-17 Feb. 1908 (8 folders)
BOX 24	18 Feb.-29 June 1908 (8 folders)
BOX 25	6 July 1908-26 Feb. 1909 (8 folders)
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BOX 31	19 Dec. 1911-20 Apr. 1912 (9 folders)
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BOX 33	23 Oct. 1912-7 Jan. 1913 (8 folders)
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BOX 38	6 May-24 Dec. 1914 (9 folders)

General Correspondence, 1820-1919

Container	Contents
BOX 39	25 Dec. 1914-13 May 1915 (9 folders)
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BOX 41	2 Jan.-9 May 1916 (8 folders)
BOX 42	10 May-30 Dec. 1916 (9 folders)
BOX 43	2 Jan. 1917-29 May 1919, undated (6 folders)
BOX 43-53	Military File, 1876-1916 Letterbooks, ships' records, reports, telegrams, printed matter, and miscellany. Arranged alphabetically by topic or type of material and chronologically thereunder.
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BOX 44	Miscellany, 1897-1907, undated (2 folders) <i>Mayflower</i> (yacht) Journal, 1902-03 Letterbooks 8 Dec. 1902-6 Jan. 1903
BOX 45	5-15 Jan. 1903, undated <i>Olympia</i> (cruiser) Forwarding books, 1897-1899 (3 vols.)
BOX 46	Letterbooks Flag secretary, 1898-1899 (2 vols.) Navy Department letters, 1898-99 (2 vols.)
BOX 47	Station letters 14 Sept. 1897-23 Dec. 1898 (3 vols.)
BOX 48	15 Oct. 1898-29 Sept. 1899 (3 vols.)
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BOX 50	Sent, 1885-1888 (2 vols.) Printed matter, 1897-1904, undated Registers of salutes and official visits, 1891-1899 (2 vols.)
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Military File, 1876-1916

Container

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	Spanish documents found at Cavite, Philippines, 1898 (2 folders)
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BOX 53	1 May-31 Aug. 1899 (2 folders) Transcripts, 1895-1899 (5 folders)
BOX 54-62	Financial File, 1883-1916 Account books, correspondence, receipts, and material related to real estate, loans, and investments. Arranged alphabetically by topic or type of material and chronologically thereunder.
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BOX 55	May 1901-Aug. 1902 (6 folders)
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BOX 60	May 1914-Apr. 1916, undated (4 folders) Investments and loans, circa 1900-circa 1913
BOX 61	Real estate and loans, 1885-1916 (8 folders)
BOX 62	Real estate and loans, 1885-1916 (5 folders) Receipts, 1883-1916, undated (2 folders) Taxes, 1913-1914, undated
BOX 63-72	Miscellany, 1805-1923 Appointment books, articles re Dewey, certificates, clippings, genealogical and biographical material, memorial volumes, letterbooks, memorabilia, record books, notes, poetry, printed matter, and scrapbooks. Arranged alphabetically by topic or type of material and chronologically thereunder.

Miscellany, 1805-1923

Container	Contents
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BOX 64	Clippings, 1805-1910, undated (11 folders) Genealogical and biographical material, undated Greeting cards, 1911-1916, undated
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BOX 67	(2 folders) Memorial volumes Dewey Home Fund, 1899 (1 vol.) (2 vols.)
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BOX 69	Dewey Watch Fund, 1899 <i>See Oversize</i> New York, N.Y., 1899 <i>See Oversize</i> Philadelphia, Pa., 1899 <i>See Oversize</i> Shipping interests of New York, 1898-1899 <i>See Oversize</i>
	Naval Order of the United States General Commandery General recorder, letterbooks, 1899-1904 (3 vols.) Triennial Congress, Boston, Mass., 1895
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Addition, 1811-1949

Container

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Others
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Bugher, Frederick McLean (grandnephew), 1919-1930, undated
Daniels, Josephus, 1923-1924, undated
Dewey, George Goodwin (stepson), 1906-1930, undated
 (3 folders)
Dewey Congressional Medal Men's Association, 1927-1931
Longworth, Alice Roosevelt *See Container 76, Roosevelt, Alice Lee*
Lodge, Henry Cabot (1850-1924), 1923 *See also Container 73, same heading*
McCully, N. A., 1926-1927
McLean, John R. (brother), 1904, 1914-1915
Navy League of the United States, Women's Section, 1915-1923, undated
- BOX 75** Others, 1899-1931, undated
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- BOX 76** Roosevelt, Alice Lee, undated
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Untermeyer, Alvin, 1923-1930, undated
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Wilson, Woodrow, 1917
- BOX 76-80** **Estate File, 1811-1949**
Correspondence, account statements, clippings, deeds, and legal documents.
Arranged alphabetically by topic or type of material and chronologically thereunder.
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Benedict, Farrand N., 1934-1935
Chittenden, Henry T., 1927-1928
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Addition, 1811-1949

Container

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	Untermeyer, Alvin, 1927-1928
	Audubon, John James, drawings by, 1931-1933
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	Bid for estate, 1947
	Distribution received, 1926-1934, undated
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BOX 77	Burial, 1925-1933
	<i>Business Economic Digest</i> , 1931-1934
	Clippings, 1928-1933, undated
	Dewey, George Goodwin
	Correspondence, 1924, undated
	Settlement with, 1932-1934
	Trophies and relics, 1932
	Estate sale, 1933-1934
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	Hartson, Nelson T., 1933-1943
	Mausoleum, 1933
	Miscellany, 1928-1934, undated
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BOX 78	National Savings and Trust Co.
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	Set II, 1932-1943, undated
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	Agreement with Mildred McLean Hazen Dewey, 1926
	Bornet, David, 1931-1935, undated
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	Review of Dewey trust, 1935-1940
	Ogilby, C. F. R., 1930-1936, undated
BOX 80	Personal property, 1925-1926, undated
	Photography, 1927-1933
	Real estate outside Washington, D.C., 1933-1934
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	(2 folders)
	Security Storage Co., 1927-1939
	Servants, 1931-1933

Addition, 1811-1949

Container	Contents
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BOX 81-85	Financial File, 1912-1932 Correspondence, account statements, and account books. Arranged alphabetically by topic or type of material and chronologically thereunder.
BOX 81	Account books, 1916-1924 American Security and Trust Co., 1916-1930 (2 folders) General correspondence, 1916-1932, undated (3 folders) Income taxes, 1913-1929
BOX 82	Miscellany, 1912-1926, undated National City Bank of New York, 1923-1929 (2 folders) National Savings and Trust Co. Account statements 1922-1929 (4 folders)
BOX 83	1930 Authorization for payments, 1926-1931 (5 folders) Correspondence, 1917-1930 Riggs National Bank Account statements, 1922-1925 Correspondence Nov. 1920-May 1923
BOX 84	June 1923-Jan. 1926 (3 folders) Rosiclare Lead and Fluorspar Mining Co. June 1921-July 1928 (3 folders)
BOX 85	Aug. 1928-Aug. 1930 (2 folders)
BOX 85-86	Miscellany, 1817-1929 Certificates, clippings, commissions, copy of a Thomas Jefferson letter, memorabilia, notes, poetry, and printed matter. Arranged alphabetically by type of material or topic and chronologically thereunder.
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Addition, 1811-1949

Container

Contents

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	Poetry and music, 1897-1923, undated
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	Printed matter, 1909, 1923
	<i>Reception of Admiral George Dewey, U.S.N., at Washington, Oct. 2 and 3, 1899</i> , report of the Admiral Dewey Reception Committee, 1901
	Schley, Winfield Scott, clippings, 1901
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BOX OV 1	Miscellany Citations, degrees, and awards, 1892-1917 (Container 63)
BOX OV 2	Memorial volumes Dewey Watch Fund, 1899 (Container 69)
BOX OV 3	New York, N.Y., 1899 (Container 70)
BOX OV 4	Philadelphia, Pa., 1899 (Container 70)
BOX OV 5	Shipping interests of New York, 1898-1899 (Container 70)
BOX OV 6	Addition Miscellany Commissions, 1872-1899 (Container 86) Posters, undated (Container 87)