

Riggs Family Papers
A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress



Manuscript Division, Library of Congress
Washington, D.C.
2010

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

Catalog Record: <https://lcn.loc.gov/mm81037895>

Additional search options available at: <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms011003>

Prepared by Manuscript Division staff

Finding aid encoded by Library of Congress Manuscript Division, 2011
Revised 2024 January

Collection Summary

Title: Riggs Family Papers

Inclusive Dates: 1763-1945

ID No.: MSS37895

Creator: Riggs family

Extent: 100,000 items

Extent: 359 containers

Extent: 145.6 linear feet

Extent: 3 microfilm reels

Language: Collection material in English

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

LC Catalog record: <https://lcn.loc.gov/mm81037895>

Summary: Merchant and banking family of New York, New York, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and Washington, D.C. Family and business correspondence, diaries, account books, writings, financial records, biographical and genealogical papers, printed materials, and other papers of Riggs family members.

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

Bancroft, George, 1800-1891--Correspondence.
Barton, Clara, 1821-1912--Correspondence.
Benton, Thomas Hart, 1782-1858--Correspondence.
Bierstadt, Albert, 1830-1902--Correspondence.
Boucicault, Dion, 1820-1890--Correspondence.
Buchanan, James, 1791-1868--Correspondence.
Bull, Ole, 1810-1880--Correspondence.
Calhoun, John C. (John Caldwell), 1782-1850--Correspondence.
Chamberlain, George E. (George Earle), 1854-1928--Correspondence.
Clark, Walter Eli, 1869-1950--Correspondence.
Cleveland, Grover, 1837-1908--Correspondence.
Corcoran, W. W. (William Wilson), 1798-1888--Correspondence.
Coudert, Frederic R. (Frederic René), 1871-1955--Correspondence.
Cozzens, Frederic S. (Frederic Swartwout), 1818-1869--Correspondence.
Curry, J. L. M. (Jabez Lamar Monroe), 1825-1903--Correspondence.
Davis, Jefferson, 1808-1889--Correspondence.
Davis, John W. (John William), 1873-1955--Correspondence.
Elliott, John, active 1841-1889--Correspondence.
Gruening, Ernest, 1887-1974--Correspondence.
Guffey, Joseph F., 1870-1959--Correspondence.
Hale, Nathan, 1784-1863--Correspondence.
Lane, Franklin K.--Correspondence.
Napier, Francis, Baron Napier and Ettrick, 1819-1898--Correspondence.
Newbold, George--Correspondence.
Ogilvie, Noel J.--Correspondence.
Payne, John Howard, 1791-1852--Correspondence.
Peabody, George, 1795-1869--Correspondence.
Polk, James K. (James Knox), 1795-1849--Correspondence.
Riggs family.
Riggs, Elisha Francis, 1851-1910. Elisha Francis Riggs papers. 1860-1910.
Riggs, Elisha Francis, 1887-1936. Elisha Francis Riggs papers. 1887-1935.

Riggs, Elisha, 1779-1853. Elisha Riggs papers. 1813-1896.
Riggs, Elisha, 1826-1881. Elisha Riggs papers. 1844-1890.
Riggs, George Washington, 1813-1881. George Washington Riggs papers. 1836-1881.
Riggs, Romulus, 1782-1846. Romulus Riggs papers. 1821-1882.
Riggs, T. Lawrason (Thomas Lawrason), 1888-1943. T. Lawrason Riggs papers. 1790-1943.
Riggs, Thomas, 1873-1945. Thomas Riggs papers. 1887-1945.
Riggs, William Henry, 1837-1924. William Henry Riggs papers. 1850-1912.
Seward, William H. (William Henry), 1801-1872--Correspondence.
Slidell, John, 1793-1871--Correspondence.
Smith, Buckingham, 1810-1871--Correspondence.
Street, Julian, 1879-1947--Correspondence.
Tarkington, Booth, 1869-1946--Correspondence.
Webster, Daniel, 1782-1852--Correspondence.
Woodbury, Levi, 1789-1851--Correspondence.
Young, Brigham, 1801-1877--Correspondence.

Organizations

Alaskan Boundary Survey.
Alaskan Engineering Commission.
Averill Coal and Oil Company.
Catholic Church--Clergy.
Corcoran & Riggs.
Metropolitan Museum of Art (New York, N.Y.)
United States. Army.
United States. Army. American Expeditionary Forces.

Subjects

Art.
Banks and banking--Washington (D.C.)
Chickasaw Indians--Claims.
Choctaw Indians--Claims.
Coal mines and mining--West Virginia.
Diplomatic and consular service, American--Soviet Union.
Gold mines and mining--Alaska.
Indians of North America--Land tenure.
Merchants--New York (State)--New York.
Mexican War, 1846-1848--Finance.
Military bases, American--Philippines.
Military bases--Kansas.
Surveying--Alaska.
World War, 1914-1918--France.

Places

Alaska--Politics and government.
Alaska--Surveys.
Egypt--Description and travel.
Europe--Description and travel.
Fort Riley (Kan.)
Great Britain--Description and travel.
Palestine--Description and travel.
Soviet Union--History--Revolution, 1917-1921.
Spain--Description and travel.
Syria--Description and travel.

Acquisition Information

The papers of the Riggs family, merchant and banking family of New York, N.Y., Philadelphia, Pa., and Washington, D.C., were given to the Library of Congress by Margaret C. Bohlen, Elisha Francis Riggs, Jr., John Beverley Riggs, Thomas Riggs, Jr., T. Lawrason Riggs, and the Riggs National Bank over the years 1907-1975.

Processing History

The collection was processed in 1980 by Grover Batts and Marilyn Tedeschi. The memoirs of Thomas Riggs, Jr., and diaries of T. Lawrason Riggs were microfilmed in 1976-1977. The finding aid was revised in 2010.

Transfers

Items have been transferred from the Manuscript Division to other custodial divisions of the Library. Some maps have been transferred to the Geography and Map Division. Prints, photograph albums, photographs, glass slides, and plans of public buildings have been transferred to the Prints and Photographs Division. All transfers are identified in these divisions as part of the Riggs Family Papers.

Related Material

Additional family correspondence of various members of the Riggs family is located in the [Howard-von Recum Family Papers](#), also in the Manuscript Division.

Copyright Status

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

Access and Restrictions

Restrictions apply governing the use, photoduplication, or publication of items in this collection. Consult a reference librarian in the Manuscript Division for information concerning these restrictions.

Microfilm

A microfilm edition of part of these papers is available on three reels. Consult reference staff in the Manuscript Division concerning availability for purchase or interlibrary loan. To promote preservation of the originals, researchers are required to consult the microfilm edition as available.

Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: Container or reel number, Riggs Family Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Biographical Note

Elisha Riggs

Date	Event
1779, June 13	Born, Montgomery County, Md.
1812-1814	Served with American militia during War of 1812
1812	Married Alice Lawrason (died 1817)
1814	Helped organize Union Bank of Georgetown, D.C.
1815-1829	With George Peabody formed business firm of Riggs and Peabody, Dry Goods Merchants
1822	Married Mary Ann Karrick
1827	Moved to New York, N.Y., and entered banking business, becoming a partner in Riggs, Taylor, and Co.
1853, Aug. 3	Died, New York, N.Y.

Elisha Riggs, Jr.

Date	Event
1826, Nov. 28	Born, Philadelphia, Pa.
1844	Graduated, University of Heidelberg, Heidelberg, Germany
1848	Entered firm of Corcoran and Riggs as junior partner
1849	Married Mary Keene Boswell
1853	Explored Rocky Mountains with Benton-Beale Expedition
1854	Sold interest in Corcoran and Riggs
1857-1862	Lived in Europe
1862-1865	Member, banking firm of Jerome, Riggs, and Co.
1881, July 8	Died, New York, N.Y.

Elisha Francis Riggs

Date	Event
1851, Oct. 2	Born, Washington, D.C.
1876-1896	Member, Riggs and Co.
1879	Married Medora Thayer
1881-1910	Treasurer, Mount Vernon Ladies Association
1889	Donated funds for construction of the Riggs Memorial Library, Georgetown University, Washington, D.C.
1896	Became first vice president, National Savings and Trust Co. of Washington, D.C.
1910, July 6	Died, New London, Conn.

Elisha Francis Riggs, Jr.

Date	Event
1887, June 16	Born, Washington, D.C.
1909	Graduated, Yale University, New Haven, Conn.
1910	Traveled abroad
1911-1913	Served with U.S. Army, Fort Riley, Kans.
1913-1915	Stationed in Philippine Islands
1916-1918	Military attaché in Russia
1918	Served with 325th Field Artillery, U.S. Army, in France
1918-1919	American representative on Armistice Commission in Klagenfurt Basin, Austria
1919-1920	Worked in Military Intelligence Department, Washington, D.C.
1920	Resigned from regular U.S. Army

1922	Married Margaret Alwina Bohlen
1933	Appointed chief of police in Puerto Rico
1936, Feb. 23	Assassinated by members of Nationalist Party, San Juan, Puerto Rico

George W. Riggs, Jr.

Date	Event
1813, July 4	Born, Georgetown, D.C.
1829-1831	Student, Yale University, New Haven, Conn.
1840	Married Janet Shedden
1840	Established Corcoran and Riggs in partnership with William W. Corcoran
1848	Retired from Corcoran and Riggs
1854	Upon retirement of William W. Corcoran returned to Corcoran and Riggs, which was renamed Riggs and Co.
1881, Aug. 24	Died, Prince Georges County, Md.

Romulus Riggs

Date	Event
1782, Dec. 22	Born, Montgomery County, Md.
1810	Married Mercy Ann Lawrason
1812-1825	Engaged in banking and invested in real estate holdings in Georgetown, D.C.
1826	Moved to Philadelphia, Pa., and joined his brother Elisha Riggs in mercantile firm of R. and E. Riggs and Co.
1829	Formed partnership with Robert B. Aertsen; joined by William S. Paradise in the firm of Riggs, Son, and Paradise
1844	Upon retirement of Robert Aertsen joined by William S. Paradise in the firm of Riggs, Son, and Paradise
1846	Established banking firm Romulus and Co.
1846, Oct. 2	Died, Philadelphia, Pa.

Thomas Riggs, Jr.

Date	Event
1873, Oct. 17	Born, Howard County, Md.
1890-1893	Studied engineering, Princeton University, Princeton, N.J.
1893-1896	Engaged in lumber business in Washington State
1897-1901	Mined gold on Dominion Creek and Last Chance Creek, Yukon Territory
1902	Developed gold mine in San Juan County, Utah
1903-1905	Worked with U.S. and Canada Boundary Survey
1906-1913	Worked with Alaskan Boundary Survey
1913	Married Renée Marie Coudert
1914-1917	Member, Alaskan Engineering Commission
1918-1921	Governor of Alaska
1922-1935	Consulting engineer, New York, N.Y.
1935-1945	U.S. Commissioner, International Boundary Commission
1945, Jan. 16	Died, Washington, D.C.

T. Lawrason Riggs

Date	Event
1888, June 28	Born, New London, Conn.
1910	Graduated, Yale University, New Haven, Conn.
1912	Graduated , Harvard University, Cambridge, Mass.

1912-1913	Assistant instructor in English, Harvard University, Cambridge, Mass.
1916-1917	Instructor in English, Yale University, New Haven, Conn.
1917-1918	Served with American Expeditionary Force in France
1920-1921	Novice, St. Joseph's Seminary, Yonkers, N.Y.
1921	Transferred to St. Thomas' Seminary, Hartford, Conn.
1922	Ordained a priest at Hartford, Conn., and became chaplain of the Catholic Club of Yale
1922-1938	Served with parish church in East Haven, Conn.
1926	Appointed member of the administrative council and instructor in religion, Albertus Magnus College, Yale University, New Haven, Conn.
1933	Named associate fellow of Calhoun College, Yale University, New Haven, Conn.
1935	Made chairman of New Haven Interfaith Committee, New Haven, Conn.
1938	Became chaplain of More Club, Yale University, New Haven, Conn.
1943, Apr. 27	Died, New Haven, Conn.

William Henry Riggs

Date	Event
1837, Mar. 22	Born, New York, N.Y.
1852	Began a collection on Indian weapons and costumes
circa 1852-1857	Attended Bacon School, New York State); Sillig's Institute, Vevey, Switzerland; and Technische Hochschule, Dresden, Germany
1853	Accompanied his brother, Elisha Riggs, Jr., on the Benton-Beale Expedition
1856	Began acquisition of medieval armor and weapons
1857	Settled in Paris, France
1913	Presented collection of arms and armor to Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, N.Y.
1924, Aug. 31	Died, Bagnères-de Luchon, France

Scope and Content Note

The papers of the Riggs family span the years 1763-1945. Although there are some manuscripts of other family members and business associates, the bulk of the collection is composed of the papers of [Elisha Riggs](#), [Elisha Riggs, Jr.](#), [Elisha Francis Riggs](#), [Elisha Francis Riggs, Jr.](#), [George W. Riggs](#), [Romulus Riggs](#), [Thomas Riggs, Jr.](#), [T. Lawrason Riggs](#), and [William Henry Riggs](#), as well as the business papers of [Corcoran and Riggs and Riggs and Company](#).

The papers of [Elisha Riggs](#) (1779-1853) cover the years 1813-1896 and consist of [family correspondence](#), letterbooks, [general correspondence](#), [business papers](#), and [miscellaneous papers](#).

The [family correspondence](#) contains letters written by his son, Lawrason Riggs, giving a detailed description of a tour through Europe in 1834, and numerous letters from the late 1830s and 1840s relating to the sale of 32,000 acres of land in Illinois which his father had purchased in 1825. There is also a great deal of correspondence with Elisha's brothers, Romulus Riggs and George W. Riggs, and his nephew, Samuel Riggs, all of whom were engaged in the mercantile business.

A large section of [general correspondence](#), 1813-1853, includes letters sent and received by Elisha Riggs that relate to the development of his mercantile business. Riggs corresponded mainly with general commission agents in Central and South America and China for the purchase of fabrics, wines, coffee, copper, and a wide spectrum of other goods. Beginning around 1838, there is a shift in the subject matter of the correspondence from an emphasis on the mercantile business to Riggs's increasing involvement in banking affairs. The most prominent of Riggs's correspondents are two of his business associates, William W. Corcoran and George Peabody.

A large group of [business papers](#) for the years 1813-1853 includes invoices, bills and receipts, insurance records, bills of lading, sales accounts, and other financial records. Among the [miscellaneous papers](#) of Elisha Riggs are manuscripts relating to the settlement of his estate and some printed material.

The papers of [Elisha Riggs, Jr.](#) (1826-1881) include a [diary](#) containing a description of his tour of England, Scotland, and Ireland in 1844, [family correspondence](#), [general correspondence](#), [business papers](#), and [miscellaneous](#) items.

Within the [general correspondence](#) are numerous letters from William W. Corcoran for the period when Elisha Riggs, Jr., was a member of the firm Corcoran and Riggs (1848-1854). A large group of [business papers](#) contains bonds, deeds, and indentures relating to the Averill Coal and Oil Company of West Virginia and other companies in which he had a financial interest.

A relatively small group of the papers of [Elisha Francis Riggs](#) (1851-1910) is made up of [family correspondence](#), [business papers](#), and [general correspondence](#) that includes two letters from the historian George Bancroft.

The papers of [Elisha Francis Riggs, Jr.](#) (1887-1936) contain [family correspondence](#), [general correspondence](#), and [miscellaneous](#) papers. Letters written to his mother, Medora Thayer Riggs, for the years 1911-1915 concern his military career at Fort Riley, Kansas, and in the Philippines. In letters to his aunt, Jane A. Riggs, for the period 1916-1918, when he was assigned to the Office of the Military Attaché at the American embassy in Petrograd, Russia, he makes occasional references to events during the Russian revolution and to meetings with the Czar, Leon Trotsky, and Vladimir Il'ich Lenin.

The papers of [George W. Riggs](#) (1813-1881) include [family correspondence](#), [business papers](#), and [general correspondence](#). Within the latter group are letters received from John Agg, Dion Boucicault, William W. Corcoran (with whom Riggs established the banking firm of Corcoran and Riggs in 1840), Frederick S. Cozzens, J. L. M. Curry, Francis Napier, John Howard Payne, George Peabody, Buckingham Smith, and Daniel Webster.

A group of [miscellaneous](#) papers include a scrapbook belonging to his friend John Agg. The scrapbook contains calling cards, invitations, programs, and correspondence, dated in the 1820s, from Nathan Hale (1784-1863), President James K. Polk, Daniel Webster, and others.

The papers of [Romulus Riggs](#) (1782-1846) include [family correspondence](#), [general correspondence](#), [business papers](#), and [miscellaneous](#) manuscripts. The papers almost exclusively concern the development and management of his extensive business enterprises. Among his correspondence are letters from Robert B. Aertsen and William S. Paradise, who were business partners at various times. There are also many papers relating to the settlement of his estate.

The papers of [Thomas Riggs, Jr.](#), (1873-1945) contain [diaries](#), [family correspondence](#), [general correspondence](#), [subject files](#), a [speech, article, and book file](#), and [miscellaneous](#) papers.

The [diaries](#) begin in 1898, when Riggs was prospecting for and mining gold in the Yukon Territory of Alaska, and continue, except for an interruption for the years 1919-1927, until 1944. They describe his work with the United States and Canada Boundary Survey, the Alaskan Engineering Commission, and the Alaskan Boundary Survey, where he began as an axeman earning fifty dollars a month and progressed to the position of surveyor in charge of plotting the 141st meridian boundary separating Alaska from Canada. The diaries also describe his successful efforts to contain a smallpox epidemic among the Indians at Rampart House, Yukon Territory, five miles north of the Arctic Circle, in 1911.

His [family correspondence](#) contains numerous letters exchanged with various relatives, including his brother-in-law, the lawyer and author Frederic R. Coudert (1871-1955)

A large group of [general correspondence](#) covers the years 1889-1945. For the period when Riggs was governor of Alaska, there are letters concerning the establishment of a territorial fish hatchery and experimental station and other matters relating to the territory. Correspondence during the years following his governorship reveals his continuing efforts to influence legislation affecting Alaska. Among his correspondents are George E. Chamberlain, Walter Eli Clark, Ernest Gruening, Joseph F. Guffey, Franklin K. Lane, Noel J. Ogilvie, Julian Street, and Newton Booth Tarkington, who was a classmate of Riggs at Princeton University in 1893.

A [subject file](#) contains papers concerning the Alaskan Engineering Commission on which Riggs served from 1914 to 1917, Eskimos, and Riggs's mining interests. There is a group of Riggs's [speeches and articles](#), the manuscript of his unpublished autobiography, and the manuscript and galleys of *The Unfortified Boundary*, the diaries of Major Joseph Delafield that Riggs edited with Robert McElroy.

Detailed information concerning the early career of Thomas Riggs, Jr., is contained in the numerous letters written to his mother, Catherine Gilbert Rotch Riggs, over the years 1885-1918 (see the [Other Family Members](#) series).

The papers of [Thomas Lawrason Riggs](#) (1888-1943) include a [diary](#) for the year 1920 in which he recounts conversations with his friends Dean Acheson, William C. Bullitt, and Monty Woolley; gives his impressions of contemporary theater, books, and newspapers; and records his activities as a novice priest at St. Joseph's Seminary at Yonkers, New York. There are additional diaries for the years 1921-1926 that contain more abbreviated entries. A small group of [correspondence](#) contains one letter each from Marie Adelaide Belloc Lowndes, William Lyon Phelps, Cole Porter, and Monty Woolley. Letters to his aunt, Jane A. Riggs, for the years 1917-1918 depict his life as a member of the American Expeditionary Force stationed at a base hospital in France during World War I.

A group of his [writings](#) includes articles, the annotated typescript of his book, *Saving Angel: The Truth about Joan of Arc and the Church*, and some plays written for amateur theatrical groups. [Miscellaneous](#) papers contain lecture notes, school papers, genealogical records, an eighteenth-century wastebook, and a letter from Chevalier de la Anne-César Luzerne to President George Washington dated March 14, 1790.

A small group of the papers of [William Henry Riggs \(1837-1924\)](#) includes diaries describing his travels through Spain in 1859 and Egypt, Syria, and Palestine in 1859-1860. Of particular interest are the occasional diary entries concerning his lifelong passion for acquiring antique armor. In 1913 he donated his magnificent collection of arms and armor to the Metropolitan Museum of Art. There are a few pieces of family correspondence from his parents, Elisha Riggs and Mary Ann Karrick Riggs, and general correspondence that includes letters from the American artist Albert Bierstadt and eight cards illustrated with pen and watercolor drawings by the French painter Henri Pille.

A series designated [Other Family Members](#) is made up of papers of additional members of the Riggs family who are represented by smaller or less significant collections of manuscripts. Among these are Joseph Karrick Riggs (1828-1883), who engaged in the banking business with his father, Elisha Riggs, until the latter's death in 1853; Lawrason Riggs (1814-1884), who was in business at various times with his father, Elisha Riggs, and his cousin, Lawrason Levering; and Medora Thayer Riggs (1852-1915), whose family correspondence contains numerous letters from her sons, Elisha Francis Riggs, Jr., and Thomas Lawrason Riggs, and her husband, Elisha Francis Riggs. Renée Coudert Riggs's family correspondence includes letters from her brother, Frederic R Coudert, and there is a group of children's stories written by her as well as the unpublished manuscript of a book titled "Saints in the Wilderness."

In a [Related Papers](#) series are manuscripts of persons who were associated with the Riggs family in business. Of these, the most outstanding are W. W. Corcoran (1798-1888), John Elliott, and George Peabody (1795-1869). W. W. Corcoran's correspondence, which dates from 1840 through 1854, concerns negotiations for loans, particularly the Mexican War Loan of 1848, and other financial matters. Among his correspondents are President James Buchanan, Ole B. Bull, George Newbold, president of the Bank of America, and members of the Riggs family. John Elliott's papers consist chiefly of general correspondence, 1841-1849, and George Peabody's papers include correspondence, 1839-1863, a letterbook, Nov. 1848-June 1849, and a few miscellaneous business papers.

A series of [Business Papers](#) includes records of Riggs and Company and the multiple branches that evolved over the years, resulting from the formation of partnerships with James M. Aertson, John Elliott, William S. Paradise, W. W. Corcoran, and others.

Papers of the banking firm Corcoran and Riggs form the largest part of the [Business Papers](#) file. They consist of letterbooks, correspondence, canceled checks, and a wide variety of financial documents extending from 1840, the year in which the firm was established, through 1855. The bank was designated a federal depository in August 1844 and in collaboration with the United States Treasury performed many of the functions formerly assumed by the then defunct Bank of the United States. Of special importance are the papers concerned with Corcoran and Riggs's role in the financing of the Mexican War and the settlement of Indian land claims brought by the Choctaw and Chickasaw tribes around 1843.

Other portions of the [business papers](#) include manuscripts of Riggs and Company; Riggs, Son and Aertson; Riggs and Peabody; and Riggs, Son and Paradise. Much of the correspondence consists of letters received from business partners such as Aertson, Corcoran, Elliott, Paradise, and the sons of Elisha Riggs, who traveled throughout the country on horseback collecting debts owed to the firms. Among the prominent correspondents included in these papers are Clara Barton, Thomas Hart Benton, President James Buchanan, John C. Calhoun, President Grover Cleveland, Jefferson Davis, John W. Davis, William H. Seward, John Slidell, Daniel Webster, Levi Woodbury, and Brigham Young.

The final series consists of oversize account books, invoice books, checkbooks, business ledgers, and indexes to letterbooks of Elisha Riggs, Corcoran and Riggs, and others. There is also a scrapbook of Thomas Lawrason Riggs, as well as a volume containing military commissions of Elisha Francis Riggs, Jr.

Arrangement of the Papers

The collection is arranged in fourteen series:

- Elisha Riggs (1779-1853) Papers, 1813-1896
- Elisha Riggs (1826-1881) Papers, 1844-1890
- Elisha Francis Riggs (1851-1910) Papers, 1860-1910
- Elisha Francis Riggs (1887-1936) Papers, 1887-1935
- George W. Riggs (1813-1881) Papers, 1836-1881
- Romulus Riggs (1882-1846) Papers, 1821-1882
- Thomas Riggs (1873-1945) Papers, 1887-1945
- Thomas Lawrason Riggs (1888-1943) Papers, 1790-1943
- William Henry Riggs (1827-1934) Papers, 1850-1912
- Other Family Papers, 1763-1945
- Related Papers, 1834-1839
- Business Papers, 1824-1896
- Oversize, 1825-1890
- Water-Damaged Manuscripts

Description of Series

Container	Series
BOX 1-49	<u>Elisha Riggs (1779-1853) Papers, 1813-1896</u>
BOX 1-4	<u>Family Correspondence, 1814-1853</u> Letters sent and received. Chronologically arranged.
BOX 5-26	<u>General Correspondence, 1813-1853</u> Letterbooks and loose correspondence sent and received. Chronologically arranged.
BOX 27-46	<u>Business Papers, 1813-1853</u> Account books, canceled checks, export records, insurance records, invoice books, and other financial papers. Grouped by type of material and chronologically arranged therein.
BOX 47-49	<u>Miscellany, 1853-1896</u> Papers relating to the settlement of Elisha Riggs' estate. Chronologically arranged. Includes printed matter.
BOX 49-63	<u>Elisha Riggs (1826-1881) Papers, 1844-1890</u>
BOX 49	<u>Diary, 1844</u>
BOX 49	<u>Family Correspondence, 1848-1854</u> Letters sent and received. Chronologically arranged.
BOX 49-55	<u>General Correspondence, 1849-1883</u> Letters sent and received. Chronologically arranged.
BOX 55-61	<u>Business Papers, 1844-1890</u> Account books, bonds, land patents, and other business papers. Grouped by type of material and chronologically arranged therein.
BOX 62-63	<u>Miscellany, 1865-1881</u> Estate papers, printed matter, and miscellaneous manuscripts. Grouped by type of material.
BOX 64-66	<u>Elisha Francis Riggs (1851-1910) Papers, 1860-1910</u>
BOX 64	<u>Family Correspondence, 1883-1910</u> Letters received. Chronologically arranged.

- BOX 64** **General Correspondence, 1860-1910**
Letters received.
Chronologically arranged.
- BOX 64-65** **Business Papers, 1868-1903**
Account books and other business papers.
Chronologically arranged.
- BOX 65-66** **Miscellany**
Calling cards, certificates and awards, passports, and other miscellaneous papers.
Arranged by type of material.
- BOX 66** **Elisha Francis Riggs (1887-1936) Papers, 1887-1935**
- BOX 66** **Family Correspondence, 1887-1935**
Letters received.
Chronologically arranged.
- BOX 66** **General Correspondence, 1895-1935**
Letters received.
Chronologically arranged.
- BOX 66** **Miscellany**
Biographical papers, calling cards, passports, and other miscellaneous papers.
Grouped by type of material.
- BOX 67-73** **George W. Riggs (1813-1881) Papers, 1836-1881**
- BOX 67** **Family Correspondence, 1845-1875**
Letters received.
Chronologically arranged.
- BOX 67** **General Correspondence, 1845-1881**
Letters received.
Chronologically arranged.
- BOX 67-72** **Business Papers, 1836-1881**
Account books, check stubs, pension papers, and other business papers.
Grouped by type of material and chronologically arranged therein.
- BOX 73** **Miscellany**
Biographical papers, calling cards, certificates, and other miscellaneous papers.
Grouped by type of material.
- BOX 73-82** **Romulus Riggs (1882-1846) Papers, 1821-1882**
- BOX 73** **Family Correspondence, 1834-1846**
Letters received.
Chronologically arranged.

- BOX 74-76** **General Correspondence, 1821-1847**
Letters sent and received.
Chronologically arranged.
- BOX 77** **Business Papers, 1810-1847**
Account books, papers relating to the estate of Cyrus T. Smith, and other business papers.
Grouped by type of material and arranged chronologically therein.
- BOX 78-82** **Miscellany, 1846-1882**
Estate papers, list of Illinois land holdings, printed matter, and other miscellaneous items.
Grouped by type of material and arranged chronologically therein where possible.
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Diaries.
Chronologically arranged.
- BOX 84-86** **Family Correspondence, 1887-1944**
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Chronologically arranged.
- BOX 86-101** **General Correspondence, 1889-1945**
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Chronologically arranged.
- BOX 102-103** **Subject File**
Papers relating to the Alaskan Engineering Commission, Eskimos, and mining interests.
Arranged by subject.
- BOX 104-105** **Speech, Article, and Book File**
Speeches, articles, the manuscript of a book edited by Riggs, and similar materials.
Arranged by category.
Unpublished autobiography available on microfilm. Microfilm shelf no. 16,175
- BOX 105-109** **Miscellany**
Bills and receipts, biographical papers, certificates and awards, and other miscellaneous items.
Arranged by type of material.
- BOX 109-117** **Thomas Lawrason Riggs (1888-1943) Papers, 1790-1943**
- BOX 109** **Diaries, 1920-1926**
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- BOX 110** **Family Correspondence, 1935-1941**
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- BOX 110** **General Correspondence, 1900-1943**
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- BOX 110** **Business Papers, 1921-1935**
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- BOX 111** **Speech, Article, and Book File**
Articles, a book manuscript, plays, and similar items.
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- BOX 111-117** **Miscellany**
Biographical papers, an eighteenth-century wastebook, school papers, and other
miscellaneous items.
Arranged by type of material.
- BOX 118** **William Henry Riggs (1827-1934) Papers, 1850-1912**
Diaries, family correspondence, general correspondence, business papers, and miscellany.
Arranged by category.
- BOX 118-134** **Other Family Papers, 1763-1945**
Papers of other members of the Riggs family, most of whom are represented by a minimal
number of manuscripts.
- BOX 134-141** **Related Papers, 1834-1839**
Correspondence, business papers, and miscellaneous items of William W. Corcoran, John
Elliott, George Peabody, and other business associates of the Riggs family.
Arranged by type of material and chronologically therein for each person.
- BOX 141-286** **Business Papers, 1824-1896**
Correspondence, account books, check stubs, and invoice records of the banking firms
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Grouped by type of material and chronologically arranged therein for each firm.
- BOX 287-352** **Oversize, 1825-1890**
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- BOX 353-359** **Water-Damaged Manuscripts**
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BOX 3	1846-1847, July (8 folders)
BOX 4	1847, Aug.-1853 (6 folders)
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BOX 12	1847-1851 (2 folders)
BOX 13	1851-1853 Index 1813-1831 (3 folders)
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Elisha Riggs (1779-1853) Papers, 1813-1896

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Elisha Riggs (1779-1853) Papers, 1813-1896

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Elisha Riggs (1779-1853) Papers, 1813-1896

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BOX 104-105	Speech, Article, and Book File Speeches, articles, the manuscript of a book edited by Riggs, and similar materials. Arranged by category. Unpublished autobiography available on microfilm. Microfilm shelf no. 16,175
BOX 104	Speeches "Alaska and Western Canada" "The Man Who Was Through" 1918, July 4 1921, Mar. 9 1936, Oct. 21 Untitled and undated

Articles

- "Alaska"
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- "Alaska As It Is"
- "The Alaska Boundary"
- "Alaska for the Pioneers"
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- "Earthquake"
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- "Musings of an Amateur Economist"
- "My Narrowest Escape from Death"
- "19-?"
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- "The Reception to the King and Queen at the White House, 1939, June 9"
- "Running the Alaska Boundary"
- "Snowballing Sheep in the Arctic"
- "Stone Lamp a Clue to Early America"
- "The Three 'Rs' and Mt. Tacoma"
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- "Twentieth Anniversary of the Gold Rush of '98"
- "What Is College For?"
- "What Is the Matter With Territory of Alaska?"
- "Who First Discovered America?"
- "Will a Brown Bear Attack a Man without Provocation?"

Untitled

Books

The Unfortified Boundary: A Diary of the First Survey of the Canadian Boundary Line from St. Regis to the Lake of the Woods, by Major Joseph Delafield, American Agent under Articles VI and VII of the Treaty of Ghent; From the Original Manuscript Recently Discovered, edited by Robert McElroy and Thomas Riggs, Jr.

Autobiography (unpublished)

Available on microfilm. Shelf no. 16,715

(1 folder)

Autobiography (unpublished)

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BOX 110	General Correspondence, 1900-1943 (5 folders) Letters received. Chronologically arranged.
BOX 110	Business Papers, 1921-1935 (3 folders) Chronologically arranged.
BOX 111	Speech, Article, and Book File Articles, a book manuscript, plays, and similar items. Arranged by type of material.

Thomas Lawrason Riggs (1888-1943) Papers, 1790-1943

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BOX 119	Katherine Riggs Elmore Family correspondence, 1900-1920, undated (2 folders) Miscellany Biographical papers James P. Erskine Elizabeth Anne Davis Gilbert Samuel C. Gilbert Charles H. Graff Family correspondence, 1846-1848 (3 folders) General correspondence, 1846-1855 (2 folders)

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	Lawrason Levering
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	Arranged by type of material and chronologically therein for each person.
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	Charles H. Stewart
BOX 141-286	Business Papers, 1824-1896
	Correspondence, account books, check stubs, and invoice records of the banking firms
	Corcoran and Riggs, Riggs and Co., and others.
	Grouped by type of material and chronologically arranged therein for each firm.
BOX 141	Corcoran and Riggs
	Letterbooks
	1845, Mar.-Aug.
BOX 142	1845, Nov.-1846, Apr.
	(2 folders)
BOX 143	1846, Apr.-Sept.
	(3 folders)
BOX 144	1846, Sept.-1847, July
	(3 folders)
BOX 145	1847, Feb.-1848, Jan.
	(3 folders)
BOX 146	1847, July-Nov.
	(3 folders)
BOX 147	1848, Jan.-Apr.
	(2 folders)
BOX 148	1848, Apr.-May
BOX 149	1841, Jan.-June
	(4 folders)
BOX 150	1841, July-1842, Apr.
	(9 folders)
BOX 151	1842, May-1843, June
	(8 folders)
BOX 152	1843, July-1844, July
	(10 folders)
BOX 153	1844, Aug.-Dec.
	(7 folders)
BOX 154	1845, Jan.-Feb.
	(7 folders)
BOX 155	1845
	Feb.-Apr.
	(8 folders)

Business Papers, 1824-1896

Container	Contents
BOX 156	Apr.-May (8 folders)
BOX 157	May-July (9 folders)
BOX 158	July-Sept. (8 folders)
BOX 159	Sept.-Nov. (8 folders)
BOX 160	Nov.-Dec. (8 folders)
BOX 161	1846 Jan.-Feb. (8 folders)
BOX 162	Feb.-Mar. (7 folders)
BOX 163	Mar.-Apr. (6 folders)
BOX 164	Apr.-May (7 folders)
BOX 165	May-June (6 folders)
BOX 166	June-July (6 folders)
BOX 167	July-Aug. (7 folders)
BOX 168	Aug.-Sept. (7 folders)
BOX 169	Sept.-Oct. (6 folders)
BOX 170	Oct.-Nov. (7 folders)
BOX 171	Dec. (7 folders)
BOX 172	1847 Jan. (8 folders)
BOX 173	Feb.-Mar. (7 folders)
BOX 174	Mar.-Apr. (7 folders)
BOX 175	Apr. (6 folders)
BOX 176	Apr.-May (7 folders)
BOX 177	May-June (6 folders)
BOX 178	June (7 folders)

Business Papers, 1824-1896

Container	Contents
BOX 179	June-July (7 folders)
BOX 180	July-Aug. (7 folders)
BOX 181	Aug.-Sept. (9 folders)
BOX 182	Sept.-Oct. (8 folders)
BOX 183	Oct.-Nov. (8 folders)
BOX 184	Nov.-Dec. (7 folders)
BOX 185	Dec. (9 folders)
BOX 186	1847, Dec.-1848, Jan. (10 folders)
BOX 187	1848 Jan.-Feb. (8 folders)
BOX 188	Feb.-Mar. (7 folders)
BOX 189	Mar.-Apr. (7 folders)
BOX 190	Apr.-May (7 folders)
BOX 191	May (7 folders)
BOX 192	May-June (8 folders)
BOX 193	June-July (7 folders)
BOX 194	July (8 folders)
BOX 195	July-Aug. (7 folders)
BOX 196	Aug. (7 folders)
BOX 197	Sept. (8 folders)
BOX 198	Sept.-Oct. (8 folders)
BOX 199	Oct. (9 folders)
BOX 200	Oct.-Nov. (8 folders)
BOX 201	Nov.-Dec. (9 folders)

Business Papers, 1824-1896

Container	Contents
BOX 202	Dec. (7 folders)
BOX 203	1849 Jan.-Mar. (8 folders)
BOX 204	Mar.-June (8 folders)
BOX 205	July-Sept (6 folders)
BOX 206	1849, Oct.-Dec. (9 folders)
BOX 207	1850 Jan.-Feb. (8 folders)
BOX 208	Feb.-Mar. (8 folders)
BOX 209	Mar.-May (8 folders)
BOX 210	May-June (7 folders)
BOX 211	June-July (8 folders)
BOX 212	July-Aug. (7 folders)
BOX 213	Sept.-Oct. (7 folders)
BOX 214	Oct.-Nov. (7 folders)
BOX 215	Nov.-Dec. (6 folders)
BOX 216	1850, Dec.-1851, Jan. (8 folders)
BOX 217	1851 Jan. (6 folders)
BOX 218	Jan.-Feb. (7 folders)
BOX 219	Feb.-Mar. (6 folders)
BOX 220	Mar. (6 folders)
BOX 221	Mar.-Apr. (7 folders)
BOX 222	Apr. (6 folders)
BOX 223	Apr.-May (7 folders)

Business Papers, 1824-1896

Container	Contents
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BOX 224	May-June (7 folders)
BOX 225	June (7 folders)
BOX 226	June-July (6 folders)
BOX 227	July (6 folders)
BOX 228	July-Aug. (7 folders)
BOX 229	Aug. (6 folders)
BOX 230	Aug.-Sept. (7 folders)
BOX 231	Sept.-Oct. (7 folders)
BOX 232	Oct. (6 folders)
BOX 233	Oct.-Nov. (7 folders)
BOX 234	Nov.-Dec. (6 folders)
BOX 235	Dec. (8 folders)
BOX 236	1852 Jan. (7 folders)
BOX 237	Feb. (7 folders)
BOX 238	Mar. (7 folders)
BOX 239	Apr.-May (8 folders)
BOX 240	May (8 folders)
BOX 241	May-June (7 folders)
BOX 242	June-July (7 folders)
BOX 243	July-Aug. (7 folders)
BOX 244	Aug.-Sept. (8 folders)
BOX 245	Sept.-Oct. (7 folders)
BOX 246	Oct.-Nov. (7 folders)

Business Papers, 1824-1896

Container	Contents
BOX 247	Nov.-Dec. (7 folders)
BOX 248	1852, Dec.-1853, Jan. (9 folders)
BOX 249	1853 Jan.-Feb. (7 folders)
BOX 250	Feb.-Mar. (8 folders)
BOX 251	Mar.-Apr. (9 folders)
BOX 252	Apr.-May (8 folders)
BOX 253	May-June (7 folders)
BOX 254	June-July (7 folders)
BOX 255	July-Aug. (8 folders)
BOX 256	Aug.-Oct. (9 folders)
BOX 257	Oct.-Nov. (7 folders)
BOX 258	Nov.-Dec. (8 folders)
BOX 259	1854-1855 (10 folders)
BOX 260	Undated Account books 1844, June-1849, Mar. (2 folders)
BOX 261	1852, May-1855, June Check stubs, 1840, Nov.-1841, May Printed matter (2 folders)
BOX 262	Elliott (John) and Co. Jerome, Riggs and Co. Macurdy (David H.) and Co., 1841-1845 (2 folders) McCurdy and Elliott, 1842, Dec.-1846-Feb. (2 folders)
BOX 263	Peabody, Riggs and Co. Pittman (Edward) and Co. Riggs (E.) and Son 1840-1844 Invoice of goods, 1840-1841, June (2 folders) Receipt book, 1840, Sept.-1847, Feb.

Business Papers, 1824-1896

Container

Contents

	Riggs (Romulus and Elisha) and Co. Letterbook, 1846, Jan.-June 1840-1848 1827-1845
BOX 264	Account books 1824-1933, Sept. (3 folders)
BOX 265	Riggs, Aertsen and Co. 1833-1942, July (8 folders)
BOX 266	1842, Aug.-1843, Mar. (8 folders)
BOX 267	1843, Apr.-1844, Apr. (8 folders)
BOX 268	1844, May-1849, May (3 folders) Account book, 1841-1848 (2 folders)
BOX 269	Riggs and Aertsen Riggs and Co. 1829-1839, Sept. (5 folders)
BOX 270	1839, Oct.-1841, Mar. (8 folders)
BOX 271	1841, Apr.-1842, Aug. (8 folders)
BOX 272	1842, Sept.-1844, Oct. (8 folders)
BOX 273	1844-1869, Nov. (9 folders)
BOX 274	1870-1896 (6 folders) Account books 1833, Dec.-1845, June 1836, July-1845, June (3 folders)
BOX 275	1853, Sept.-1883, Aug. (4 folders)
BOX 276	Check stubs, 1880, July-1883, Apr.
BOX 277	Printed matter Fabbri and Chauncey letterbooks 1874, Dec.-1875, Feb.
BOX 278	1875, May-1876, Sept. (2 folders)
BOX 279	1876, Sept.-1877, Feb. (2 folders)
BOX 280	1877, Feb.-Dec. (2 folders)

Business Papers, 1824-1896

Container

Contents

BOX 281	Riggs and Levering Letterbook, 1846-1847, July 1846-1854 Riggs and Sheckles Riggs and Taylor Riggs, Chitchweck and Co. Riggs, Jenkins and Co. Riggs, Peabody and Co. Riggs, Son and Aertsen 1833-1835 (2 folders)
BOX 282	1836-1838, Sept. (7 folders)
BOX 283	1838-1856, Oct. (8 folders)
BOX 284	Court case expenses Riggs, Son and Co. Letterbook, 1840-1844 1840-1846 (2 folders) Riggs, Son and Paradise 1843, May-Nov.
BOX 285	1843, Dec.-1845, Jan. (7 folders)
BOX 286	1845, Feb.-1852 (5 folders) Account book, 1843, Aug.-1852, May Invoice of goods
BOX 287-352	Oversize, 1825-1890 Oversize account books, letterbooks, import records, and other volumes of various members of the Riggs family and several of the Riggs banking firms. Grouped alphabetically by name of individual or firm and arranged chronologically therein.
BOX 287	Elisha Riggs Account books 1825-1829
BOX 288	1825-1830
BOX 289	1825-1836
BOX 290	1829-1831
BOX 291	1829-1836
BOX 292	1831-1834
BOX 293	1832-1839
BOX 294	1832-1841
BOX 295	1832-1853
BOX 296	1834-1840
BOX 297	1834-1842

Oversize, 1825-1890

Container	Contents
BOX 298	1834-1845
BOX 299	1840-1841
BOX 300	1840-1841
BOX 301	1840-1841
BOX 302	1840-1841
BOX 303	1841-1847
BOX 304	1842-1844
BOX 305	1842-1849
BOX 306	1842-1851
BOX 307	1844-1848
BOX 308	1844-1851
BOX 309	1847-1853
BOX 310	1848-1849
BOX 311	Bill books 1827-1833
BOX 312	1833-1835
BOX 313	Checkbook stubs 1826-1829
BOX 314	1827-1830
BOX 315	1829-1836
BOX 316	1830-1832
BOX 317	1831-1832
BOX 318	1832-1833
BOX 319	1833-1834
BOX 320	1836-1838
BOX 321	1840-1848
BOX 322	Elisha Riggs Export records 1827-1830
BOX 323	1830-1838
BOX 324	Import records, 1826-1839
BOX 325	Index, undated
BOX 326	Invoice book, 1832-1851
BOX 327	List of collectors, undated
BOX 328	Account book, 1848-1880
BOX 329	Elisha Francis Riggs, diplomas, military commissions
BOX 330	Romulus Riggs, indenture book, 1839-1845
BOX 331	Thomas Lawrason Riggs, scrapbook
BOX 332	Janet Shedden Riggs, genealogy
BOX 333	Riggs and Co., account book, 1853
BOX 334	E. Riggs and Son, land book, 1838-1843
BOX 335	Corcoran and Riggs Account books 1850
BOX 336	1851-1869
BOX 337	Checkbook stubs, 1852-1857

Oversize, 1825-1890

Container	Contents
BOX 338	Stock and bond records, 1843-1890
BOX 339	Riggs, Aertsen and Co. Account books 1838-1846
BOX 340	1841-1845
BOX 341	1841-1845
BOX 342	1841-1845
BOX 343	Letterbooks 1842-1843
BOX 344	1843-1844
BOX 345	List of collectors, 1824-1853
BOX 346	Riggs, Son and Aertsen Account book, 1833-1839
BOX 347	Index, undated
BOX 348	Riggs, Son and Co. Account book, 1840-1855
BOX 349	Riggs, Son and Paradise Account books 1840-1848
BOX 350	1843-1865
BOX 351	1843-1865
BOX 352	Letterbook, 1844-1856
BOX 353-359	Water-Damaged Manuscripts Correspondence and financial papers. These manuscripts are extremely fragile and until they are restored will be unavailable for research.