

W. A. Croffut Papers
A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress



Manuscript Division, Library of Congress
Washington, D.C.
2012

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

Catalog Record: <https://lcn.loc.gov/mm79017285>

Additional search options available at: <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms011102>

Prepared by Manuscript Division Staff

Finding aid encoded by Library of Congress Manuscript Division, 2013

Collection Summary

Title: W. A. Croffut Papers

Span Dates: 1774-1933

Bulk Dates: (bulk 1880-1915)

ID No.: MSS17285

Creator: Croffut, W. A. (William Augustus), 1835-1915

Extent: 7,500 items

Extent: 31 containers

Extent: 12.4 linear feet

Language: Collection material in English, with Spanish

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

LC Catalog record: <https://lccn.loc.gov/mm79017285>

Summary: Author, editor, and poet. Correspondence, writings, minutes, scrapbooks, printed matter, and miscellaneous items pertaining chiefly to Croffut's publications, activities with the Anti-Imperialist League, and the presidential campaign of 1900. Includes material relating to Ethan Allen Hitchcock, copies of correspondence with Sophia Amelia Peabody Hawthorne, wife of Nathaniel Hawthorne, journals of Henry Alfred Robbins, letters of John Quincy Adams and Jefferson Davis, and autograph material.

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

Adams, John Quincy, 1767-1848--Correspondence.

Boutwell, George S. (George Sewall), 1818-1905--Correspondence.

Bryan, William Jennings, 1860-1925--Correspondence.

Bryan, William Jennings, 1860-1925.

Corser, Elwood S. (Elwood Spencer), 1835-1903--Correspondence.

Croffut family.

Croffut, Bessie B., 1861-1935--Correspondence.

Croffut, W. A. (William Augustus), 1835-1915.

Croffut, W. A. (William Augustus), 1835-1915. "Now I recollect--souvenirs of the sanctum" ; "Lincoln as I saw him." 1943.

Davis, Jefferson, 1808-1889.

Gompers, Samuel, 1850-1924.

Hawthorne, Sophia Peabody, 1809-1871--Correspondence.

Hayes, John William, 1854-1942--Correspondence.

Henderson, John B. (John Brooks), 1826-1913--Correspondence.

Hitchcock, Ethan Allen, 1798-1870.

Hitchcock, Ethan Allen, 1798-1870. Fifty years in camp and field; diary of Major-General Ethan Allen Hitchcock. 1909.

Lincoln, Abraham, 1809-1865.

O'Farrell, Patrick, 1832-1902--Correspondence.

Robbins, Henry Alfred, 1839-1911. Henry Alfred Robbins journals. 1870-1904.

Schurz, Carl, 1829-1906--Correspondence.

Shadwell, Bertrand--Correspondence.

Towne, Charles A. (Charles Arnette), 1858-1928--Correspondence.

Van Siclen, George W. (George West), 1840-1903.

Washington, George, 1732-1799.

Winslow, Erving, 1839-1922--Correspondence.

Organizations

Anti-Imperialist League (Washington, D.C.)

Anti-Imperialist League (Washington, D.C.). Anti-Imperialist League (Washington, D.C.) records. 1899-1908.

United States. Army--Military life.

World's Columbian Exposition (1893 : Chicago, Ill.)

Subjects

Afrikaners.
Anti-imperialist movements--United States.
Elections--United States--1900.
Exhibitions--Illinois--Chicago.
Imperialism.
Medicine--Practice--Europe.
Medicine--Practice--History--19th century.
Presidents--United States--Election--1900.
South African War, 1899-1902.
Spanish-American War, 1898--Philippines.

Places

Boston (Mass.)--History.
Europe--Description and travel.
Great Britain--Colonies--Africa.
Philippines--Foreign relations--United States.
United States--Colonial question.
United States--Foreign relations--Philippines.
United States--Politics and government--1897-1901.
United States--Territorial expansion.

Occupations

Authors.
Editors.
Poets.

Provenance

The papers of W. A. Croffut, author, editor, and poet, were deposited in the Library of Congress by his wife, Bessie B. Croffut between 1930 and 1934. In 1938 the material was converted to a gift and purchase by the Library.

Processing History

The Croffut Papers were processed in 1963. The finding aid was revised in 2012.

Related Material

Related collections in the Manuscript Division include the papers of [Ethan Allen Hitchcock](#).

Copyright Status

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

Access and Restrictions

The papers of W. A. Croffut 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, W. A. Croffut Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Biographical Note

Date	Event
1835	Born, Redding, Conn.
circa 1854	Reporter, <i>New Haven Palladium</i>
circa 1861-1865	Private, First Minnesota Regiment, during the Civil War, and field reporter for the <i>New York Times</i>
circa 1885-1889	Editor, <i>Washington Post</i>
1888-1894	Executive officer, United States Geological Survey
1899	Organizer and secretary, Anti-Imperialist League President, Liberty League
1893	Wrote opening ode for World's Columbian Exposition, Chicago, Ill.
1900	Campaigned in behalf of William Jennings Bryan for president
1915, Aug. 31	Died, Washington, D.C.

Scope and Content Note

The papers of William Augustus Croffut (1835-1915) contain correspondence, journals, scrapbooks, autographs, reference material, printed matter, and drafts of articles, books, and poems, including a significant portion relating to Ethan Allan Hitchcock. The collection spans the period 1774-1933, with the bulk of the material concentrated between 1880 and 1915. The papers are organized into five series: [General Correspondence](#), [Business Papers](#), [Ethan Allen Hitchcock File](#), [Anti-Imperialist League](#), and [Miscellany](#).

The [General Correspondence](#) ranges from 1862 to 1933, with the largest part from the period 1880-1915. Correspondence after 1915 is largely that of Croffut's second wife, Bessie B. Croffut. Topics include Croffut's various publications, his activities with the Anti-Imperialist League, and the presidential campaign of 1900. Correspondents include George S. Boutwell, Elwood S. Corser, John William Hayes, John B. Henderson, Patrick O'Farrell, Bertrand Shadwell, Charles A. Towne, George W. Van Siclén, and Erving Winslow, as well prominent figures such as William Jennings Bryan, Samuel Gompers, and Carl Schurz.

The [Ethan Allen Hitchcock File](#) contains drafts and copies of Croffut's writings as well as a copy of Hitchcock's memoir that Croffut used for *Fifty Years in Field and Camp*. This memoir, based on diaries, is not in the Ethan Allen Hitchcock collection in the Manuscript Division. Bessie B. Croffutt, niece of Hitchcock, also made copies of other Hitchcock materials, including correspondence with Sophie Peabody (Mrs. Nathaniel Hawthorne). Also in the collection are an undated letter of John Quincy Adams, a note of Jefferson Davis, numerous autographs, including of James Monroe, copies of George Washington material, and items relating to Joseph Smith Fowler.

Included in the [Anti-Imperialist League](#) file are minutes and records of the Washington, D.C., branch, along with other branch and league literature, additional printed matter, and drafts of articles advocating the cause of the Philippines and of the Boers in South Africa. The [Miscellany](#) series includes journals of Henry Alfred Robbins containing accounts of his travels in Europe that describe practices on the Continent during the 1870s. Scrapbooks contain newspaper columns and an account of the World's Columbian Exposition of 1893 in Chicago.

Arrangement of the Papers

This collection is arranged in five series:

- [General Correspondence, 1862-1933](#)
- [Business Papers, 1879-1933](#)

- [Ethan Allen Hitchcock File, 1813-1868](#)
- [Anti-Imperialist League](#)
- [Miscellany, 1774-1910](#)

Description of Series

Container	Series
BOX 1-3	<p><u>General Correspondence, 1862-1933</u></p> <p>Letters sent and received, including correspondence of Croffut's second wife, Bessie B. Croffut.</p> <p>Arranged chronologically.</p>
BOX 3	<p><u>Business Papers, 1879-1933</u></p> <p>Bills and receipts.</p> <p>Arranged by type of material.</p>
BOX 4-16	<p><u>Ethan Allen Hitchcock File, 1813-1868</u></p> <p>Mainly copies of Hitchcock's memoir and related notes and correspondence relating to its publication by Croffut. Also other writings by Croffut and Croffut family members, including drafts, galleys, printed articles and verse, and books of poetry by Croffut.</p> <p>Arranged by type of material.</p>
BOX 16-19	<p><u>Anti-Imperialist League</u></p> <p>Official minutes and other records of the league's Washington, D.C., branch, drafts of articles on the Philippines and imperialism, and printed matter relating to the league and to imperialism, South Africa, and the Boers.</p> <p>Arranged by type of material.</p>
BOX 20-31	<p><u>Miscellany, 1774-1910</u></p> <p>Autographs and copies of letters of historical figures, address books, notebooks, journals of Henry Alfred Robbins, scrapbooks, maps, bibliographic data, printed matter, and miscellaneous items.</p> <p>Arranged by type of material.</p>

Container List

Container	Contents
BOX 1-3	General Correspondence, 1862-1933 Letters sent and received, including correspondence of Croffut's second wife, Bessie B. Croffut. Arranged chronologically.
BOX 1	1862, 11 Jan.-1900, 20 July
BOX 2	1900, 22 July-1931, 31 Jan.
BOX 3	1930, 3 Feb.-1933, 23 Sept.
BOX 3	Undated
BOX 3	Fragments
BOX 3	Business Papers, 1879-1933 Bills and receipts. Arranged by type of material.
BOX 3	Bills and receipts, 1879-1933
BOX 4-16	Ethan Allen Hitchcock File, 1813-1868 Mainly copies of Hitchcock's memoir and related notes and correspondence relating to its publication by Croffut. Also other writings by Croffut and Croffut family members, including drafts, galleys, printed articles and verse, and books of poetry by Croffut. Arranged by type of material.
BOX 4	Copies of memoir
BOX 4	1819-1842, 3 Jan.
BOX 5	1842, 6 Jan.-1845, 3 July
BOX 6	1845, 16 July-1850, 31 Jan.
BOX 7	1850, 1 Feb.-1852, 17 Apr.
BOX 8	1852, 18 Apr.-1856, 12 Mar.
BOX 9	1856, 16 Mar.-1867, 7 Mar.
BOX 10	1867, 9 Mar.-1868, 17 Apr.
BOX 10	Notes on memoir and biography
BOX 10	Copies of Hitchcock's correspondence, 1813-1846
BOX 11	Copies of miscellaneous Hitchcock material
BOX 11	Letters to Sophia Amelia Peabody Hawthorne
BOX 11	Draft of Hitchcock biography
BOX 12	Draft of Hitchcock biography
BOX 12	Miscellaneous reference notes
BOX 13	Draft of "Now I Recollect"
BOX 13	Carbon copies of "Now I Recollect"
BOX 13	Draft of article on European trip
BOX 14	Drafts
BOX 14	"Did Shakespeare Do It?"

Ethan Allen Hitchcock File, 1813-1868

Container

Contents

BOX 14	"Before the Camera"
BOX 14	Geological Survey article
BOX 14	Newspaper columns, 1904
BOX 14	Galley proofs, "American Procession"
BOX 15	Drafts of articles and verse by Croffut family
BOX 15	Printed articles and verse by Croffut family
BOX 16	Books of poetry by Croffut
BOX 16-19	Anti-Imperialist League Official minutes and other records of the league's Washington, D.C., branch, drafts of articles on the Philippines and imperialism, and printed matter relating to the league and to imperialism, South Africa, and the Boers. Arranged by type of material.
BOX 16	Official minutes and other records, Washington, D.C., branch
BOX 16	Drafts of articles on Philippines and imperialism
BOX 16	Printed matter
BOX 16	Philippines and imperialism
BOX 17	Philippines and imperialism
BOX 17	South Africa and Boers
BOX 17	Congressional speeches
BOX 17	<i>Congressional Record</i>
BOX 18	Pamphlets
BOX 19	Pamphlets
BOX 19	Newspaper clippings
BOX 20-31	Miscellany, 1774-1910 Autographs and copies of letters of historical figures, address books, notebooks, journals of Henry Alfred Robbins, scrapbooks, maps, bibliographic data, printed matter, and miscellaneous items. Arranged by type of material.
BOX 20	Copies of letters of George Washington and Antonio Lopez de Santa Anna and printed matter, 1774-1850
BOX 20	Autograph book and autographs, including of James Monroe, John Quincy Adams (letter of Apr. 15, no year), and Jefferson Davis (note of 1853), circa 1830-circa 1910
BOX 20	Address books
BOX 20	Passports, certificates, and miscellaneous items, 1877-1910
BOX 20	Bibliography cards
BOX 20	Herndon, William Henry, letter to Joseph Smith Fowler, 1889
BOX 20	White, Hugh Lawson, regarding election to presidency, 1835
BOX 20	Judge advocate's journal and vouchers and letters of Joseph Smith Fowler, 1862-1867
BOX 20	Miscellaneous
BOX 20	Notebooks
BOX 21	Notes
BOX 21	Printed matter
BOX 21	Pamphlets
BOX 21	Books

Miscellany, 1774-1910

Container

Contents

BOX 22	Newspaper clippings
BOX 23-24	Journals of Henry Alfred Robbins recounting travel in Europe, 1870-1904
BOX 25	Scrapbooks
BOX 25	A-E
BOX 26	F-H
BOX 27	I-M
BOX 28	N-Q
BOX 29	R-T
BOX 30	U-World's Columbian Exposition, Chicago, Ill., 1893
BOX 31	Unmarked notebook of Bessie B. Croffut