

Benjamin F. Tracy Papers
A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress



Manuscript Division, Library of Congress
Washington, D.C.
2011

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

Catalog Record: <https://lcn.loc.gov/mm79043133>

Additional search options available at: <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms014062>

Prepared by Manuscript Division Staff

Finding aid encoded by Library of Congress Manuscript Division, 2014

Collection Summary

Title: Benjamin F. Tracy Papers

Span Dates: 1870-1917

Bulk Dates: (bulk 1889-1893)

ID No.: MSS43133

Creator: Benjamin F. Tracy Papers

Extent: 13,000 items

Extent: 40 containers

Extent: 16 linear feet

Language: Collection material in English

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

LC Catalog record: <https://lccn.loc.gov/mm79043133>

Summary: U.S. secretary of the navy, lawyer, and soldier. Correspondence, telegrams, speeches, subject files, and newspaper clippings relating primarily to Tracy's service as secretary of the navy in the administration of Benjamin Harrison.

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

Clyde, Wm. P. (William P.)--Correspondence.

Hale, Eugene, 1836-1918--Correspondence.

Harrison, Benjamin, 1833-1901--Correspondence.

Harrison, Benjamin, 1833-1901.

Johnson, Jesse, 1842-1918--Correspondence.

Peabody, George Foster, 1852-1938--Correspondence.

Platt, Thomas Collier, 1833-1910--Correspondence.

Roosevelt, Theodore, 1858-1919--Correspondence.

Tracy, Benjamin F. (Benjamin Franklin), 1830-1915.

Organizations

United States. Navy Department.

United States. Navy--History--Spanish-American War, 1898.

Subjects

Spanish-American War, 1898--Naval operations.

Places

Venezuela--Boundaries.

Occupations

Cabinet officers.

Lawyers.

Soldiers.

Provenance

The papers of Benjamin F. Tracy, U.S. secretary of the navy, lawyer, and soldier, were deposited in the Library of Congress by Mr. and Mrs. Frank B. Tracy in 1929-1939 and converted to a gift in 1951.

Processing History

The papers of Benjamin F. Tracy were arranged and described in 1963. The finding aid was revised in 2011.

Additional Guides

A note about the Tracy Papers appeared in the *Report of the Librarian of Congress* (1928-1929): 57.

Transfers

Items have been transferred from the Manuscript Division to other custodial divisions of the Library. Photographs, photographic negatives, and some printed matter have been transferred to the Prints and Photographs Division. Periodicals and newspapers have been transferred to the Serials and Government Publications Division. Books and pamphlets were transferred to the general collections. All transfers are identified in these divisions as part of the Benjamin F. Tracy Papers.

Copyright Status

Copyright in the unpublished writings of Benjamin F. Tracy in these papers and in other collections in the custody of the Library of Congress is reserved. Consult a reference librarian in the Manuscript Division for further information.

Access and Restrictions

The papers of Benjamin F. Tracy 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, Benjamin F. Tracy Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Biographical Note

Date	Event
1830, Apr. 26	Born, Oswego, N.Y.
1851	Admitted to bar
1853-1859	District attorney, Tioga County, N.Y.
1862-1865	Served in Union Army after raising 109th and 137th New York volunteers
1866-1873	U.S. district attorney, Eastern District of New York
1889-1893	Secretary of the navy
1893	Resumed law practice in New York
1897	Defeated as Republican Party candidate for mayor of New York, N.Y.
1915, Aug. 6	Died, Tioga County, N.Y.

Scope and Content Note

The papers of Benjamin Franklin Tracy (1830-1915) span the years 1870-1917, with the bulk of the material from 1889-1893 during Tracy's tenure as secretary of the navy in the administration of Benjamin Harrison. Included is correspondence, telegrams, letterbooks, speeches, reports, legal material, and newspaper clippings. The collection is

organized into nine series: [General Correspondence](#), [Special Correspondence](#), [Letterbooks](#), [Speeches](#), [Miscellany](#), [Naval Papers](#), [Subject File](#), [Legal Papers](#), and [Printed Matter](#).

[Special Correspondence](#) consists of correspondence with Theodore Roosevelt relating to naval matters in the Spanish-American War and with President Harrison mainly concerning the Venezuelan boundary dispute.

Other correspondents include Wm. P. Clyde, Eugene Hale, Jesse Johnson, George Foster Peabody, and Thomas Collier Platt.

Arrangement of the Papers

This collection is arranged in nine series:

- [General Correspondence, 1870-1915](#)
- [Special Correspondence, 1889-1917](#)
- [Letterbooks, 1889-1893](#)
- [Speeches, 1889-1983](#)
- [Miscellany, 1889-1914](#)
- [Naval Papers, 1889-1893](#)
- [Subject File, 1889-1914](#)
- [Legal Papers, 1895-1911](#)
- [Printed Matter](#)

Description of Series

Container	Series
BOX 1-23	<p><u>General Correspondence, 1870-1915</u> Letters received and some copies of letters sent. Arranged chronologically.</p>
BOX 23	<p><u>Special Correspondence, 1889-1917</u> Letters sent and received from Benjamin Harrison and Theodore Roosevelt. Arranged chronologically.</p>
BOX 24-26	<p><u>Letterbooks, 1889-1893</u> Bound volumes of letters sent. Arranged chronologically.</p>
BOX 27	<p><u>Speeches, 1889-1983</u> Speeches by Tracy. Arranged chronologically.</p>
BOX 28-30	<p><u>Miscellany, 1889-1914</u> Invitations, bills and receipts, biographical material, and family legal papers. Arranged by type of material.</p>
BOX 30-31	<p><u>Naval Papers, 1889-1893</u> Memoranda, contracts, financial accounts, reports, and miscellaneous naval material. Arranged by type of material.</p>
BOX 32	<p><u>Subject File, 1889-1914</u> Petitions, charters, and miscellaneous personal, financial, and political material. Arranged by subject.</p>
BOX 33	<p><u>Legal Papers, 1895-1911</u> Indentures, estate papers, notes, and other legal material. Arranged by name of case or type of material.</p>
BOX 34-40	<p><u>Printed Matter</u> Newspaper clippings and printed matter. Arranged by type of material.</p>

Container List

Container	Contents
BOX 1-23	General Correspondence, 1870-1915 Letters received and some copies of letters sent. Arranged chronologically.
BOX 1	1870-1889, Apr.
BOX 2	1889
BOX 2	May-July
BOX 3	Aug.-Oct.
BOX 4	1889, Nov.-1890, Feb.
BOX 5	1890
BOX 5	Mar.-May
BOX 6	June-Sept.
BOX 7	1890, Oct. -1891, Jan.
BOX 8	1891
BOX 8	Feb.-Apr.
BOX 9	May-July
BOX 10	Aug.-Nov.
BOX 11	1891, Dec.-1892, Feb.
BOX 12	1892
BOX 12	Mar.-May
BOX 13	June-Oct.
BOX 14	1892, Nov.-1893, Feb.
BOX 15	1893, Mar.-Nov.
BOX 15	1889-1893
BOX 15	Undated
BOX 16	1895-1908
BOX 17	1909, Jan.-1910, Mar.
BOX 18	1910, Apr.-1911, Mar.
BOX 19	1911, Apr.-Dec.
BOX 20	1912
BOX 21	1913, Jan.-June
BOX 22	1913, July-1914, Aug.
BOX 23	1914, Sept.-1915, June
BOX 23	Special Correspondence, 1889-1917 Letters sent and received from Benjamin Harrison and Theodore Roosevelt. Arranged chronologically.
BOX 23	Harrison, Benjamin, 1889-1899

Special Correspondence, 1889-1917

Container	Contents
BOX 23	Roosevelt, Theodore, 1892-1907
BOX 24-26	Letterbooks, 1889-1893 Bound volumes of letters sent. Arranged chronologically.
BOX 24	1889, Mar.12-July 17
BOX 24	1889, July 17- 890, May 5
BOX 24	1890, May 3-1891, Jan. 26
BOX 25	1891, Feb. 16-1893, Feb. 27
BOX 25	1891, Jan. 27-1892, Jan. 2
BOX 26	1891, Dec. 28-1892, Sept. 22
BOX 26	1892, Sept. 26-1893, Mar. 2
BOX 27	Speeches, 1889-1983 Speeches by Tracy. Arranged chronologically.
BOX 27	1889-1893, undated
BOX 28-30	Miscellany, 1889-1914 Invitations, bills and receipts, biographical material, and family legal papers. Arranged by type of material.
BOX 28	Invitations and calling cards, 1889-1914
BOX 29	Bills and receipts, 1900-1914
BOX 30	Biographical material
BOX 30	Family legal papers
BOX 30-31	Naval Papers, 1889-1893 Memoranda, contracts, financial accounts, reports, and miscellaneous naval material. Arranged by type of material.
BOX 30	Shipyard employment, 1889-1893
BOX 30	Miscellaneous naval papers, 1889-1893
BOX 31	Memoranda
BOX 31	Hawaiian Islands, 1893
BOX 31	West Indies, 1891-1892
BOX 31	Chile, 1891
BOX 31	Seals
BOX 31	Steel contracts for the <i>Maine</i> , 1889
BOX 31	Naval accounts, miscellaneous
BOX 31	Notes for reports and speeches, 1889-1893
BOX 31	Lewis Boss report on the U.S. Naval Observatory
BOX 32	Subject File, 1889-1914 Petitions, charters, and miscellaneous personal, financial, and political material. Arranged by subject.

Subject File, 1889-1914

Container	Contents
BOX 32	Saratoga Springs, N.Y., 1909-1914
BOX 32	New York Charter, 1908
BOX 32	Petitions for political appointment, 1889-1891
BOX 32	United States Casualty Co., 1904-1906
BOX 32	Miscellaneous
BOX 33	Legal Papers, 1895-1911 Indentures, estate papers, notes, and other legal material. Arranged by name of case or type of material.
BOX 33	Faber-Castell v. Faber, in equity, 1907
BOX 33	Tracy-Camp indentures, 1909
BOX 33	Crandall cases, 1902-1909
BOX 33	Bliss estate papers, 1910-1911
BOX 33	Levi v. McClelland, 1908
BOX 33	John Farr legal papers, 1895-1905
BOX 33	Notes on Beecher-Tilton case
BOX 33	Legal miscellany
BOX 34-40	Printed Matter Newspaper clippings and printed matter. Arranged by type of material.
BOX 34-39	Newspaper clippings
BOX 40	Newspaper clippings
BOX 40	Printed matter