

David Ames Wells

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

2010

Revised 2015 July

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

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<http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms008122>

LC Online Catalog record:

<http://lcn.loc.gov/mm80045062>

Prepared by Manuscript Division Staff

Revised by John Monagle

Collection Summary

Title: David Ames Wells Papers

Span Dates: 1795-1898

Bulk Dates: (bulk 1860-1886)

ID No.: MSS45062

Creator: Wells, David Ames, 1828-1898

Extent: 9,000 items ; 24 containers ; 6 linear feet ; 9 microfilm reels

Language: Collection material in English

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

Summary: Economist, author, and public official. Correspondence, printed material, writings, and other papers concerning economics, with particular emphasis on taxation, the tariff, and free trade.

Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

People

Adams, Charles Francis, 1835-1915--Correspondence.
Adams, Henry, 1838-1918--Correspondence.
Atkinson, Edward, 1827-1905--Correspondence.
Barnard, Frederick A. P. (Frederick Augustus Porter), 1809-1889--Correspondence.
Bayard, Thomas F. (Thomas Francis), 1828-1898--Correspondence.
Beecher, Henry Ward, 1813-1887--Correspondence.
Bellows, Henry W. (Henry Whitney), 1814-1882--Correspondence.
Bowles, Samuel, 1826-1878--Correspondence.
Bryant, William Cullen, 1794-1878--Correspondence.
Conkling, Roscoe, 1829-1888--Correspondence.
Dana, Richard Henry, 1815-1882--Correspondence.
Evarts, William Maxwell, 1818-1901--Correspondence.
Field, Cyrus W. (Cyrus West), 1819-1892--Correspondence.
Field, Stephen J. (Stephen Johnson), 1816-1899--Correspondence.
Fish, Hamilton, 1808-1893--Correspondence.
Garfield, James A. (James Abram), 1831-1881--Correspondence.
George, Henry, 1839-1897--Correspondence.
Gould, Jay, 1836-1892--Correspondence.
Greeley, Horace, 1811-1872--Correspondence.
Hale, Edward Everett, 1822-1909--Correspondence.
Hawley, Joseph R. (Joseph Roswell), 1826-1905--Correspondence.
Hoffman, John T. (John Thompson), 1828-1888--Correspondence.
Howells, William Dean, 1837-1920--Correspondence.
Lieber, Francis, 1800-1872--Correspondence.
Longfellow, Henry Wadsworth, 1807-1882--Correspondence.
Mallet, Louis, 1823-1890--Correspondence.
Marble, Manton, 1834-1917--Correspondence.
McCulloch, Hugh, 1808-1895--Correspondence.
Nordhoff, Charles, 1830-1901--Correspondence.
Orton, William, 1826-1878--Correspondence.
Owen, Robert Dale, 1801-1877--Correspondence.
Read, John Meredith, 1837-1896--Correspondence.
Reid, Whitelaw, 1837-1912--Correspondence.
Sands, Mahlon--Correspondence.
Schurz, Carl, 1829-1906--Correspondence.

Tilden, Samuel J. (Samuel Jones), 1814-1886--Correspondence.
Villard, Henry, 1835-1900--Correspondence.
Wells, David Ames, 1828-1898.
White, Andrew Dickson, 1832-1918--Correspondence.
White, Horace, 1834-1916--Correspondence.
Young, John Russell, 1840-1899--Correspondence.

Subjects

Economics.
Free trade.
Tariff.
Taxation.

Occupations

Authors.
Economists.
Public officials.

Administrative Information

Provenance

The papers of David Ames Wells, economist, author, and public official, were given to the Library of Congress in 1938 by the Trustees of the City Library Association, Springfield, Massachusetts. An item purchased in 1914 was transferred to the collection in 1998.

Processing History

The papers of David Ames Wells were revised in 1998 and the finding aid updated in 2010.

Copyright Status

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

Access and Restrictions

The papers of David Ames Wells 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.

Microfilm

A microfilm edition of these papers, excluding the addition, is available on nine 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.

Preferred Citation

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

Biographical Note

| <i>Date</i> | <i>Event</i> |
|---------------|--|
| 1828, June 17 | Born, Springfield, Mass. |
| 1847 | Graduated, Williams College, Williamstown, Mass. |

- 1848 Joined staff of Springfield Republican, Springfield, Mass.
- 1851 Graduated, Lawrence Scientific School, Cambridge, Mass.
- 1857 Partner, G. P. Putnam & Co.
Compiled *The Science of Common Things*. New York: Ivison & Phinney; Chicago: S. C. Griggs & Co.
- 1858 Published *Wells's Principles and Applications of Chemistry*. New York and Chicago: Ivison, Blakeman, Taylor Co.
- 1860 Married Mary Sanford Dwight
- 1861 Published *Wells's First Principles of Geology*. New York: Ivison, Phinney & Co.; Chicago: S. C. Griggs & Co.
- 1863 Published *Wells's Natural Philosophy*. New York: Ivison, Phinney & Co.; Chicago: S. C. Griggs & Co.
- 1864 Published *Our Burden and Strength*. New York: Loyal Publication Society
- 1865 Appointed chairman, National Revenue Commission
Appointed special commissioner of the revenue
- 1869 Chairman, New York State Tax Commission
- 1871 Published *Local Taxation*. New York: Harper & Brothers
- 1876 Unsuccessful candidate for Congress
Receiver, Alabama & Chattanooga Railroad
- 1878 Member, Board of Arbitration of Associated Railways
- 1898, Nov. 5 Died, Norwich, Conn.

Scope and Content Note

The papers of David Ames Wells (1828-1898) span the years 1795-1898, with the bulk of the material concentrated in the period 1860-1886.

The correspondents represented in the collection include many of the leading politicians, economists, and journalists of the mid-nineteenth century. Some of the letters are social in nature, but many relate to such topics as economics, taxation, tariffs, and free trade.

Among the correspondents are Charles Francis Adams (1835-1915), Henry Adams, Edward Atkinson, Frederick A. P. Barnard, Thomas F. Bayard, Henry Ward Beecher, Henry W. Bellows, Samuel Bowles, William Cullen Bryant, Roscoe Conkling, Richard Henry Dana (1815-1882), William Maxwell Evarts, Cyrus W. Field, Stephen Johnson Field, Hamilton Fish, James A. Garfield, Henry George, Jay Gould, Horace Greeley, Edward Everett Hale, Joseph R. Hawley, John T. Hoffman, William Dean Howells, Francis Lieber, Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, Hugh McCulloch, Louis Mallet, Manton Marble, Charles Nordhoff, William Orton, Robert Dale Owen, John Meredith Read, Whitelaw Reid, Mahlon Sands, Carl Schurz, Samuel J. Tilden, Henry Villard, Andrew Dickson White, Horace White, and John Russell Young.

Container List

Available on microfilm. Shelf no. 15,662. Reel numbers in parentheses represent original numbering of microfilm reels.

| <i>Container</i> | <i>Contents</i> |
|-------------------|-----------------------------|
| BOX 1 | General correspondence |
| BOX 1 | 4 Nov. 1795-27 Nov. 1867 |
| REEL 1 | |
| BOX 2 | 6 Jan. 1868-30 Nov. 1869 |
| REEL 1 | |
| BOX 3 | 13 Dec. 1869-26 Dec. 1869 |
| REEL 1 | |
| BOX 3 | 27 Dec. 1869-6 Aug. 1870 |
| REEL 2(1A) | |
| BOX 4 | 10 Aug. 1870-28 June 1871 |
| REEL 2(1A) | |
| BOX 5 | 29 June 1871-23 May 1872 |
| REEL 3(2) | |
| BOX 6 | 24 May 1872-17 Apr. 1873 |
| REEL 3(2) | |
| BOX 7 | 18 Apr. 1873-24 Mar. 1874 |
| REEL 3(2) | |
| BOX 8 | 25 Mar. 1874-19 Dec. 1874 |
| REEL 4(3) | |
| BOX 9 | 21 Dec. 1874-26 July 1875 |
| REEL 4(3) | |
| BOX 10 | 27 July 1875-17 Dec. 1875 |
| REEL 4(3) | |
| BOX 11 | 18 Dec. 1875-5 Apr. 1876 |
| REEL 5(4) | |
| BOX 12 | 6 Apr. 1876-16 July 1876 |
| REEL 5(4) | |
| BOX 13 | 17 July 1876-5 Dec. 1876 |
| REEL 5(4) | |
| BOX 14 | 6 Dec. 1876-17 July 1877 |
| REEL 6(5) | |
| BOX 15 | 18 July 1877-25 Feb. 1878 |
| REEL 6(5) | |
| BOX 16 | 28 Feb. 1878-31 Mar. 1879 |
| REEL 6(5) | |
| BOX 17 | 6 Apr. 1879-21 Sept. 1880 |
| REEL 7(6) | |
| BOX 18 | 22 Sept. 1880-24 Sept. 1881 |
| REEL 7(6) | |
| BOX 19 | 27 Sept. 1881-14 July 1883 |
| REEL 7(6) | |
| BOX 20 | 15 July 1883-7 Sept. 1884 |
| REEL 8(7) | |
| BOX 21 | 9 Sept. 1884-26 July 1886 |

Container List

Container

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REEL 8(7)

BOX 22

29 July 1886-8 July 1898

REEL 8(7)

BOX 23

Undated

REEL 9(8)

BOX 24

Miscellany

BOX 24

Essays of Edward Atkinson, short stories of Mary Wells, lists, calling cards, notices, printed matter, and miscellany, circa 1865-circa 1898

REEL 9(8)

(2 folders)

BOX 24

Addition

BOX 24

Letter, Wells to William L. Nelson, 1892

not filmed