# **Matthew Stanley Quay**

## A Register of His Papers in the Library of Congress

**Prepared by Laura Kells** 



## **Manuscript Division, Library of Congress**

Washington, D.C.

### 1993

Contact information: <a href="http://lcweb.loc.gov/rr/mss/address.html">http://lcweb.loc.gov/rr/mss/address.html</a>

## Finding aid encoded by Library of Congress Manuscript Division, 2001

Finding aid URL: <a href="http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms001034">http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms001034</a>

Latest revision: 2007 October

## **Collection Summary**

Title: Papers of Matthew Stanley Quay

**Span Dates:** 1776-1949 **Bulk Dates:** (bulk 1890-1904)

**ID No.:** MSS37127

Creator: Quay, Matthew Stanley, 1833-1904

Extent: 5000 items; 45 containers plus 9 oversize; 23 linear feet

Language: Collection material in English

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

**Abstract:** U.S. senator from Pennsylvania (1887-1904). Correspondence, election materials, financial papers, genealogical information, newspaper clippings, photographs, and other papers pertaining primarily to Quay's career in Pennsylvania and national politics as a member of the Republican party and the U.S. Senate.

### **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.

#### Names:

Quay, Matthew Stanley, 1833-1904

Beaver, James A. (James Addams), 1837-1914

Cameron, J. D. (James Donald), 1833-1918

Curtin, Andrew Gregg, 1815-1894

Hanna, Marcus Alonzo, 1837-1904

Harrison, Benjamin, 1833-1901

Hastings, Daniel, 1849-1903

McKinley, William, 1843-1901

Pennypacker, Samuel W. (Samuel Whitaker), 1843-1916

Penrose, Boies, 1860-1921

Roosevelt, Theodore, 1858-1919

Wanamaker, John, 1838-1922

Quay family

United States. Army. Ohio Infantry Regiment, 7th (1861-1864)

United States. Congress. Senate

Republican Party (Pa.)

Republican Party (U.S.: 1854-)

#### **Subjects:**

Fredericksburg (Va.), Battle of, 1862

Presidents--United States--Election--1896

Pennsylvania--Politics and government--1865-1950

United States--History--Civil War, 1861-1865

United States--Politics and government--1865-1900

United States--Politics and government--1901-1909

Virginia--History--Civil War, 1861-1865--Campaigns

#### **Occupation:**

Senators, U.S. Congress--Pennsylvania

### **Administrative Information**

#### **Provenance:**

The papers of Matthew Stanley Quay, politician and United States senator, were given to the Library of Congress in 1988 by Professor James A. Kehl of the University of Pittsburgh. They have been combined with a small collection of Quay papers given to the Library by Russell S. Bachman in 1936.

#### **Processing History:**

The Matthew Stanley Quay Papers are described in Library of Congress Acquisitions: Manuscript Division, 1988, pp. 9-13.

#### Transfers:

Bound volumes of the *Beaver Radical* (1869-1871) have been transferred to the Library's Serial & Government Publications Division and are available in the Newspaper and Current Periodical Reading Room.

#### **Copyright Status:**

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

#### **Preferred Citation:**

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: Container number, Matthew Stanley Quay Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

## **Biographical Note**

Date	Event
1833, Sept. 30	Born, Dillsburg, Pa.
1850	Graduated Jefferson College, Canonsburg, Pa.
1854	Admitted to bar and began law practice, Beaver County, Pa.
1855, Oct. 10	Married Agnes Barclay
1856-1859	Prothonotary of Beaver County
1861-1865	Lieutenant, Tenth Pennsylvania Reserves Colonel, 134th Regiment, Pennsylvania Volunteers Lieutenant colonel and assistant commissary general, Militia of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Military state agent, Washington, D. C. Private secretary to Gov. Andrew G. Curtin of Pennsylvania Major and chief, Department of Transportation and Telegraph, staff of Governor Curtin Military secretary to Governor Curtin
1865-1867	Member, Pennsylvania House of Representatives
1867-1872	Owned and edited the Beaver Radical
1872-1882	Secretary of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

1878-1879 Recorder of the city of Philadelphia, Pa.

Chairman of the Republican state committee

1885 Selected as member of Republican National Committee

1885-1887 Pennsylvania state treasurer

1887 Elected, United States Senate

1888 Chairman, Republican National Committee, during presidential campaign of Benjamin Harrison

Awarded Congressional Medal of Honor for bravery at Fredericksburg, Va., during the Civil War

1893 Reelected, United States Senate

Named chairman, Pennsylvania Republican central committee

1896 Candidate for president

Member, executive committee, Republican National Committee

1898, Nov. Indicted for conspiracy to misuse state funds

1899, Jan. Failed to be reelected to United States Senate because of deadlock in Pennsylvania legislature

1899, Apr. 21 Acquitted of misuse of state funds; appointed United States Senator, ad interim

1900, Apr. 24 Denied seat in United States Senate by resolution of that body

1901 Reelected, United States Senate

1904, May 28 Died, Beaver, Pa.

## **Scope and Content Note**

The papers of Matthew Stanley Quay (1833-1904) span the years 1776-1949, with the bulk of the material concentrated between 1890 and 1904. The papers focus primarily on Quay's activities in late nineteenth-century state and national politics as United States senator from Pennsylvania and Republican party leader, with the richest material relating to Pennsylvania state politics. Other material concerns Quay's military career, his financial activities, and his family.

The Family Correspondence file spans the years 1787-1949. In much of this correspondence, Quay is referred to as Stan, an abbreviated form of his middle name. Included are letters to him from his father, Anderson B. Quay, a Presbyterian minister, and his mother, Catherine. There are also letters to the Reverend and Catherine Quay from their eldest daughter, Sarah, who wrote from Rose Park Seminary and the Lyceum Institute in the 1830s about her life at school. Letters from Quay's sister, Thetta, concern family life until her death from consumption in 1862. Correspondence of Quay's youngest brother, Elliot, includes letters written while he was a second lieutenant in the Seventh Ohio Infantry in 1861 and 1862. He resigned in poor health in October 1862 and died of consumption.

The family's health is a common subject in the correspondence. Quay's parents and every adult member of his immediate family died of consumption. Of Quay's own children, only five of ten survived to adulthood. Quay also seems to have inherited a weak constitution, and his ailments figure prominently in his correspondence to his wife, Agnes, and their son, Richard, whom he wrote from Florida, where he spent extended periods of time to restore his health. There is also a long run of correspondence between Quay and his daughter Coral. The latest correspondence is from the next generation of Quays to their Aunt Coral during World War II and the postwar period.

Attached to some of the correspondence are typescripts prepared by James A. Kehl. A professor of history, Kehl had obtained the papers from Quay's grandson, Stanley Quay, who had inherited them from Coral Quay. To help identify family members, diagrams of family trees are in the <u>Miscellany</u> file in the "Family information" and "Research notes" folders.

The General Correspondence file, 1852-1927, relates primarily to political activities. There is some correspondence concerning Quay's election to the United States Senate in 1886-1887 and to his Republican National Committee chairmanship from 1888 to 1891. A major portion of the correspondence relates to his candidacy for the chairmanship of the Republican state committee and the split in Pennsylvania over the party chairmanship in 1895. Material from 1896 covers the battle over the membership of the Pennsylvania Republican delegation and Quay's candidacy for the presidency. The correspondence from 1899 to 1901 focuses on the controversy concerning Quay's Senate seat, his acquittal on charges of conspiring to misuse state funds, his reappointment by the governor in 1899, the vote against seating him in the Senate in 1900, and his reelection in 1901. Correspondence includes reports on efforts to gain political backing, letters of support, and requests for appointment to public office. Added to correspondence from the 1890s are notations in shorthand. Prominent correspondents include Presidents Benjamin Harrison, William McKinley, and Theodore Roosevelt; Pennsylvania governors James A. Beaver, Andrew G. Curtin, Daniel H. Hastings, and Samuel W. Pennypacker; and national figures such as Mark A. Hanna, Boies Penrose, John Wanamaker, and J. D. Cameron.

The Financial Records file documents some of Quay's financial dealings during the period leading to his conspiracy indictment. Of particular interest are the records of his dealings with the Peoples' Bank of Philadelphia. These files (1878-1898, n.d.) include records of transactions and canceled checks, as well as correspondence and telegrams from cashier John S. Hopkins, who handled most of Quay's personal stock transactions. In March 1898, the Peoples' Bank declared bankruptcy, and Hopkins committed suicide. Letters and telegrams from Quay found in Hopkins's desk after his death were used against Quay in his reelection campaign and as evidence in his trial. Also of interest is a financial journal in which Quay lists his stock holdings and other financial assets.

Of particular interest in the <u>Scrapbooks and Clippings</u> series are fifty-three volumes of clippings from the years 1878 and 1888-1895. They reflect national press coverage of Quay and include both pro- and anti-Quay points of view. Senator Quay was an early subscriber to a clipping service, Henry S. Romeike of New York. Also available are two large volumes of clippings relating to Quay's death and funeral. Bound volumes of the *Beaver Radical* (1869-1871), a weekly Republican newspaper which Quay published from 1868 to 1872, have been transferred to the Serials Division of the Library and are available in the Newspaper and Current Periodical Reading Room.

The <u>Photographs</u> file contains an album of photographs and autographs of United States senators in 1888. A clipping in one of the scrapbooks notes the value of the album because of the fact that some of the senators were normally reluctant to give out photographs. In addition to portraits of Quay, there is a portrait of Pennsylvania governor John F. Hartranft.

The Miscellany file contains information about Quay's family and a journal of his brother Elliot's 1860 trip to Louisiana in search of work. Biographical information about Matthew Quay as a young man is available in reminiscences by members of the Griffin family, who were visited by Quay at their Southern plantation in 1850. Matthew Quay's military papers include accounts of his activities at the battle of Fredericksburg during the Civil War. Material from his political career includes election results and voting records, the guest book of the Pennsylvania delegation at the Republican National Convention in St. Louis in 1896, political pamphlets, and petitions, resolutions, and other written expressions of support. An 1890 handwritten statement by William Shaw Bowen, a reporter for the *New York World*, describes his investigation into Quay's background and political and financial dealings. The *World* subsequently printed Bowen's articles giving a sensational negative account of Quay's character and activities as a political boss. Legal materials include court papers (1897-1898) from Quay's trial. Among the memorabilia are inaugural ball programs, invitations to the White House during the Theodore Roosevelt administration, dinner menus, and metal and cloth political badges.

## **Organization of the Papers**

The collection is arranged in seven series:

- Family Correspondence, 1787-1949, n.d.
- General Correspondence, 1852-1927, n.d.
- Financial Records, 1863-1903, n.d.
- Scrapbooks and Clippings, 1878-1908, n.d.

- Photographs, 1888, n.d. Miscellany, 1776-1918, n.d. Oversize, 1856-1908, n.d.

## **Description of Series**

Container Series

BOX 1 Family Correspondence, 1787-1949, n.d.

Letters to and from family members.

Arranged chronologically.

BOX 2-10 General Correspondence, 1852-1927, n.d.

Letters and telegrams from politicians, constituents, and friends, including some negative photostats and typewritten copies of letters from and about Quay obtained from other repositories.

Arranged chronologically.

BOX 10 Financial Records, 1863-1903, n.d.

Bank statements, canceled checks, ledgers, financial journal, telegrams, and correspondence.

Arranged by type of material and chronologically therein.

BOX 11-40 Scrapbooks and Clippings, 1878-1908, n.d.

Volumes of newspaper clippings relating to state and national politics, a book of congratulatory telegrams, volumes on Quay's death, and loose clippings.

Volumes are arranged chronologically and topically, and unbound clippings are arranged chronologically.

BOX 40-41 **Photographs, 1888, n.d.** 

A volume of autographed photographs of United States senators arranged by state; a volume featuring fishing scenes off the coast of Florida; a few portraits; and a lithographic plate.

BOX 42-45 <u>Miscellany, 1776-1918, n.d.</u>

Family information, military papers, legal documents, election results and voting records, petitions and resolutions, speeches and writings, political pamphlets, and memorabilia such as invitations, programs, and political ribbons.

Arranged alphabetically by type of material and chronologically therein.

BOX OV 1-9 Oversize, 1856-1908, n.d.

Oversize scrapbooks, a memorial book, election materials, financial documents, a guest book, certificates, and newspaper clippings.

Items are described according to the boxes, series, and folders from which they were removed.

## **Container List**

Container	Contents
вох 1	Family Correspondence, 1787-1949, n.d.
	Letters to and from family members.
	Arranged chronologically.
BOX 1	1787-1904
	(8 folders)
	1912, 1943-1949
	Undated
	ca. 1835-1863
	ca. 1865-1905
	ca. 1900-1950
вох 2-10	General Correspondence, 1852-1927, n.d.
	Letters and telegrams from politicians, constituents, and friends, including some negative photostats and typewritten copies of letters from and about Quay obtained from other repositories.  Arranged chronologically.
вох 2	Feb. 1852-Dec. 1890
BOX 2	(13 folders)
вох 3	Jan. 1891-2 July 1895
	(10 folders)
вох 4	3-20 July 1895
	(10 folders)
<b>BOX</b> 5	21 July-29 Aug. 1895
	(9 folders)
<b>BOX</b> 6	30 Aug. 1895-21 Feb. 1896
	(11 folders)
вох 7	22 Feb. 1896-21 Apr. 1899
	(14 folders)
<b>BOX</b> 8	22 Apr. 1899-30 Apr. 1900
	(12 folders)
<b>BOX</b> 9	May 1900-Sept. 1903
	(12 folders)
<b>BOX</b> 10	Oct. 1903-Nov. 1904
	(2 folders)
	Aug. 1905-Mar. 1927
	Undated
вох 10	Financial Records, 1863-1903, n.d.
	Bank statements, canceled checks, ledgers, financial journal, telegrams, and correspondence.
nov 10	Arranged by type of material and chronologically therein.
<b>BOX</b> 10	Bank records
	Allegheny National Bank, 1893
	Beaver Deposit Bank, 1880-1898

Commonwealth Guarantee Trust and Safe Deposit Co., 1893

Farmers' and Mechanics' National Bank, 1892-1895

Peoples' Bank of Philadelphia, 1878-1898, n.d.

(5 folders)

Miscellaneous checks and receipts, 1878-1902

Beaver Radical, 1869-1870

Family finances, 1863-1888, n.d. See also Oversize

Financial journal, 1896-1903

Miscellaneous, 1864-1890, n.d.

Republican National Committee, 1888-1889, n.d.

(2 folders)

Republican State Committee printing accounts, 1878

Stock transactions, 1893-1902 *For additional material see same series*, Bank records; *See also Oversize* 

#### BOX 11-40 Scrapbooks and Clippings, 1878-1908, n.d.

Volumes of newspaper clippings relating to state and national politics, a book of congratulatory telegrams, volumes on Quay's death, and loose clippings.

Volumes are arranged chronologically and topically, and unbound clippings are arranged chronologically.

BOX 11 Chronological volumes

Vol. 1, 1878

Vol. 2, 1 Apr. 1888-31 Oct. 1889 See Oversize

BOX 12 Vol. 3, 29 Oct.-23 Nov. 1889

Vol. 4, 19 Nov.-19 Dec. 1889

**BOX** 13 Vol. 5, 19 Dec. 1889-11 Feb. 1890

Vol. 6, 11 Feb.-25 Mar. 1890

**BOX** 14 Vol. 7, 25 Mar.-19 Apr. 1890

Vol. 8, 19 Apr.-24 May 1890

**BOX** 15 Vol. 9, 24 May-13 June 1890

Vol. 10, 11 June-9 July 1890

**BOX** 16 Vol. 11, 30 June-21 Sept. 1890

Vol. 12, 9 July-13 Sept. 1890

BOX 17 Vol. 13, 21 Aug.-6 Sept. 1890

Vol. 14, 6-26 Sept. 1890

**BOX** 18 Vol. 15, 26 Sept.-15 Oct. 1890

Vol. 16, 15 Oct.-6 Nov.1890

**BOX** 19 Vol. 17, 6 Nov. 1890-19 Jan. 1891

Vol. 18, 2 Dec. 1890-13 Jan. 1891

**BOX** 20 Vol. 19, 9 Jan.-7 Feb. 1891

Vol. 20, 8-19 Feb. 1891

**BOX** 21 Vol. 21, 19 Feb.-24 Mar. 1891

Vol. 22, 13 Mar.-29 Apr. 1891

**BOX** 22 Vol. 23, 29 Apr.-3 June 1891

Vol. 24, 29 May-30 June 1891

BOX 23 Vol. 25, 23 June-11 July 1891

Vol. 26, 1-22 July 1891

Container	Contents
BOX 24	Vol. 27, 20-29 July 1891
	Vol. 28, 28-31 July 1891
BOX 25	Vol. 29, 29 July-6 Aug. 1891
	Vol. 30, 2-13 Aug. 1891
BOX 26	Vol. 31, 6-22 Aug. 1891
	Vol. 32, 14 Aug7 Sept. 1891
<b>BOX</b> 27	Vol. 33, 29 Aug1 Oct. 1891
	Vol. 34, 1-28 Oct. 1891
вох 28	Vol. 35, 14 Oct6 Nov. 1891
	Vol. 36, 24 Oct2 Dec. 1891
вох 29	Vol. 37, 21 Nov. 1891-1 Jan. 1892
	Vol. 38, 29 Dec. 1891-30 Jan. 1892
вох 30	Vol. 39, 21 Jan28 Feb. 1892
	Vol. 40, 27 Feb 26 Mar. 1892
вох 31	Vol. 41, 11 Mar29 Apr. 1892
	Vol. 42, 26 Mar20 Apr. 1892
вох 32	Vol. 43, 14 Apr10 May 1892
201102	Vol. 44, 27 Apr19 May 1892
вох 33	Vol. 45, 9-27 May 1892
<b>B</b> 01133	Vol. 46, 18-27 May 1892
вох 34	Vol. 47, 26 May-5 June 1892
DOA 54	Vol. 48, 27 May-1 June 1892
вох 35	Vol. 49, 2-7 June 1892
BOX 33	Vol. 50, 4-15 June 1892
вох 36	Vol. 51, 7-10 June 1892
BOX 50	Vol. 52, 26 Aug2 Sept. 1895
вох 37	Vol. 53, 2-28 Sept. 1895
BUA 37	Topical volumes
	Political cartoons, mostly from <i>Philadelphia Times</i> and <i>Pittsburgh Leader</i> , 1889,
	1895-1896 <u>See Oversize</u>
	Memorial vols., Matthew Stanley Quay, 1904
	(2 vols.) <u>See Oversize</u>
вох 38	Miscellaneous clippings, 1900
	Pennypacker, Samuel W., on Quay, 1901, n.d.
вох 39	Telegrams, 1899
BOX 40	Unbound and unarranged
BUA 40	Originals, 1895-1908, n.d.
	(5 folders) <u>See also Oversize</u>
	Preservation photocopies, 1895-1905, n.d.
	(3 folders)
	(5 Totalis)
вох 40-41	Photographs, 1888, n.d.
	A volume of autographed photographs of United States senators arranged by state; a volume
	featuring fishing scenes off the coast of Florida; a few portraits; and a lithographic plate.
<b>BOX</b> 40	Lithographic plate of Quay portrait
	Portraits
	Unidentified

Container	Contents
nov 41	Albums
BOX 41	
	Fishing scenes, 1888
	United States senators, 1888
вох 42-45	Miscellany, 1776-1918, n.d.
	Family information, military papers, legal documents, election results and voting records,
	petitions and resolutions, speeches and writings, political pamphlets, and memorabilia such
	as invitations, programs, and political ribbons.
	Arranged alphabetically by type of material and chronologically therein.
BOX 42	Bowen, William Shaw, statement, 1890
	Family information
	General, 1776-1918, n.d.
	Quay, Elliot S., journal, 1860
	Legal documents
	Contracts, deeds, and mortgages, 1860-1894 <u>See also Oversize</u>
	Court materials, 1897-1898, n.d.
	Memorabilia
	Dinner menus, 1878-1901
	(3 folders)
	Inaugural ball programs, 1889, 1897
	(2 folders)
	Invitations, 1903-1908, n.d.
	Republican National Convention tickets and ballot, 1888-1900
<b>BOX</b> 43	Political ribbons
	1889-1896, n.d.
	(9 folders)
BOX 44	1896-1912, n.d.
	(9 folders)
	Military papers, 1861-1901
	(2 folders) <u>See also Oversize</u>
BOX 45	Political material
	Appointments and recognitions, 1856-1893 <u>See Oversize</u>
	Congressional documents, 1897-1905
	Election results, ballots, and voting records, 1872-1887, 1900, n.d. <u>See also Oversize</u>
	Miscellaneous, 1895-1904, n.d.
	Pamphlets, 1872-1905, n.d.
	(2 folders)
	Petitions and resolutions, 1890-1903, n.d. <u>See also Oversize</u>
	Speeches and writings, 1857-1904, n.d.
	Writings in support of Quay, 1895, n.d.
	Reminiscences of Quay, 1893-1905, n.d.
	Research notes
	Unidentified fragmentary material
	Volumes
	· ordines
	Guest book, visitors to Pennsylvania delegation, Republican National Convention, St. Louis, Mo., 1896 <u>See Oversize</u>

	Memorial presentation book, 1904, Pennsylvania State League of Republican Clubs <u>See</u> <u>Oversize</u>
<b>BOX</b> OV 1-9	Oversize, 1856-1908, n.d.
	Oversize scrapbooks, a memorial book, election materials, financial documents, a guest book, certificates, and newspaper clippings.
	Items are described according to the boxes, series, and folders from which they were removed.
BOX OV 1	Financial records
	Family finances, 1863-1888, n.d. (Container 10)
	Stock transactions, 1893-1902 (Container 10)
BOX OV 2	Scrapbooks and clippings
	Chronological volumes
	Vol. 2, 1 Apr. 1888-31 Oct. 1889 (Container 11)
BOX OV 3	Topical volumes
	Political cartoons, mostly from <i>Philadelphia Times</i> and <i>Pittsburgh Leader</i> , 1889, 1895-1896 (Container 11)
BOX OV 4-OV 5	Memorial vols., Matthew Stanley Quay, 1904 (Container 37)
BOX OV 6	Unbound and unarranged
	Originals, 1895-1908, n.d. (Container 40)
BOX OV 7	Miscellany
	Legal documents
	Contracts, deeds, and mortgages, 1860-1894 (Container 42)
	Military papers, 1861-1901 (Container 44)
	Political material
	Appointments and recognitions, 1856-1893 (Container 45)
	Election results, ballots, and voting records, 1872-1887, 1900, n.d. (Container 45)
	Petitions and resolutions, 1890-1903 (Container 45)
BOX OV 8	Volumes
	Guest book, visitors to Pennsylvania delegation, Republican National Convention, St. Louis, Mo., 1896 (Container 45)
BOX OV 9	Memorial presentation book, 1904, Pennsylvania State League of Republican Clubs (Container 45)