

Thomas Ewing Family

A Register of Its Papers in the Library of Congress

**Prepared by Daniel Gilham and Allan Teichroew
Revised and expanded by Margaret McAleer**



Manuscript Division, Library of Congress

Washington, D.C.

2005

Contact information: <http://lcweb.loc.gov/rr/mss/address.html>

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Manuscript Division, 2005**

Finding aid URL: <http://hdl.loc.gov/loc/mss/eadmss.ms005009>

Collection Summary

Title: Thomas Ewing Family Papers

Span Dates: 1757-1941

Bulk Dates: (bulk 1815-1896)

ID No.: MSS20099

Creator: Ewing family

Extent: 94,000 items; 303 containers plus 11 oversize; 123.2 linear feet

Language: Collection material in English

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

Abstract: Correspondence, diaries, journals, legal files, military records, speeches and writings, reports, notes, autographs, scrapbooks, biographical material, commonplace books, financial records, genealogies, photographs, printed matter, and maps pertaining to members of the Ewing family including Thomas Ewing (1789-1871), senator from Ohio and cabinet member; Thomas Ewing (1829-1896), Union general during the Civil War and congressman from Ohio; Ellen Ewing Sherman and her husband, William T. Sherman, Civil War general; and Thomas Ewing (1862-1942), lawyer, writer, and patent commissioner.

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:

Ewing, Thomas, 1789-1871
Beecher, Philemon, 1775-1839--Correspondence
Biddle, Nicholas, 1786-1844--Correspondence
Blaine, James Gillespie, 1830-1893--Correspondence
Browning, Orville Hickman, 1806-1881--Correspondence
Clay, Henry, 1777-1852--Correspondence
Corwin, Thomas, 1794-1865--Correspondence
Crittenden, John J. (John Jordan), 1787-1863--Correspondence
Goddard, Charles B. (Charles Backus), 1796-1864--Correspondence
Greeley, Horace, 1811-1872--Correspondence
Harrison, William Henry, 1773-1841--Correspondence
Hill, Britton Armstrong, 1818-1888--Correspondence
Hunter, Hocking H.--Correspondence
Jackson, Andrew, 1767-1845.
Johnson, Andrew, 1808-1875--Impeachment
Johnson, Reverdy, 1796-1876--Correspondence
Lawrence, Abbott, 1792-1855--Correspondence
Lincoln, Abraham, 1809-1865--Assassination
Lincoln, Abraham, 1809-1865--Correspondence
McLean, John, 1785-1861--Correspondence
Olney, Richard, 1835-1917--Correspondence
Platt, Thomas Collier, 1833-1910--Correspondence
Pomeroy, S. C. (Samuel Clarke), 1816-1891--Correspondence
Rosecrans, William S. (William Starke), 1819-1898--Correspondence
Seward, William Henry, 1801-1872--Correspondence
Sherman, John, 1823-1900--Correspondence
Sherman, William T. (William Tecumseh), 1820-1891--Correspondence
Stanbery, Henry, 1803-1881--Correspondence
Swaine, Noah Haynes, 1804-1884--Correspondence
Thurman, Allen Granbery, 1813-1895--Correspondence
Tyler, John, 1790-1862--Correspondence
Vinton, Samuel Finley, 1792-1862--Correspondence

Webster, Daniel, 1782-1852--Correspondence
Ewing family
United States. Dept. of the Interior.
Bank of the United States (1816-1836)
Republican Party (U.S. : 1854-)
Whig Party (U.S.)
Conference Convention (1861 : Washington, D.C.)
Ewing, Hugh, 1826-1905. Papers of Hugh Ewing
Ewing, Thomas, 1829-1896. Papers of Thomas Ewing.
Ewing, Thomas, 1862-1942. Papers of Thomas Ewing
Sherman, Ellen Ewing, 1824-1888. Papers of Ellen Ewing Sherman
Sherman, William T. (William Tecumseh), 1820-1891. Papers of William T. Sherman

Subjects:

Banks and banking
Currency question--United States
Frontier and pioneer life
Greenbacks
Land speculation--United States
Law--Ohio
Patent laws and legislation
Practice of law--Ohio
Public lands--United States
Sectionalism (United States)
California--Gold discoveries
Kansas--Politics and government--1854-1861
Ohio--Centennial celebrations, etc
Ohio--Politics and government
United States--Economic policy--To 1933
United States--History--Civil War, 1861-1865
United States--Politics and government--19th century
United States--Social life and customs--19th century
West (U.S.)--History

Occupations:

Cabinet officers
Senators, U.S.Congress--Ohio

Administrative Information

Provenance:

The papers of the Thomas Ewing family were given to the Library by members of the Ewing family between 1908 and 1978. Additional items were purchased between 1906 and 1998.

Processing History:

The papers were arranged and described in 1965. Additional material was incorporated into the collection in 1979, 1996, and 2005.

Transfers:

Items have been transferred from the Manuscript Division to other custodial divisions of the Library. Some photographs and other pictorial material have been transferred to the Prints and Photographs Division. Some pamphlets and newspaper clippings have been transferred to the Rare Book and Special Collections Division. Some maps have been transferred to the Geography and Map Division. All transfers are identified in these divisions as part of the Ewing Family Papers.

Copyright Status:

The status of copyright in the unpublished writings of the Ewing family 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, Thomas Ewing Family Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Biographical Note

Thomas Ewing (1789-1871)

<i>Date</i>	<i>Event</i>
1789, Dec. 28	Born near West Liberty, Ohio County, Va.
1792	Moved with family to Marietta, Ohio
1798	Moved with family to Ames Township, Athens County, Ohio
1809-1812	Worked intermittently at the Kanawha, Va., saltworks
1812-1815	Attended Ohio University, Athens, Ohio
1815-1816	Studied law in the office of Philemon Beecher, Lancaster, Ohio; admitted to the bar in 1816
ca. 1817-1822	Prosecuting attorney, Fairfield County, Ohio
1820	Married Maria Wills Boyle
1823	Defeated as a candidate for the Ohio legislature
1829	Adopted William T. Sherman
1830	Elected to United States Senate on Whig ticket
1836	Appointed William T. Sherman to United States Military Academy, West Point, N.Y. Defeated in bid for reelection to the Senate; resumed his law practice at Lancaster, Ohio
1841	Appointed secretary of the treasury by William Henry Harrison, resigning when Harrison's successor, John Tyler, vetoed a bill for rechartering the Bank of the United States; resumed law practice
1849	Appointed by Zachary Taylor to organize the Home Department (later Department of the Interior)
1850	Appointed to the United States Senate to complete the unexpired term of Thomas Corwin who became secretary of the treasury
1851	Retired from public service, resuming his law practice
1851-1869	Practiced law, largely before the Supreme Court of the United States
1861	Appointed delegate to the Peace Convention, Washington, D.C.

1871, Oct. 26 Died, Lancaster, Ohio

Thomas Ewing (1829-1896)

<i>Date</i>	<i>Event</i>
1829, Aug. 7	Born, Lancaster, Ohio
1848	Private secretary to Zachary Taylor
1852-1854	Attended Brown University, Providence, R.I.
1854-1857	Lived in Cincinnati, Ohio; attended Cincinnati Law School; admitted to bar in 1855
1856	Married Ellen Ewing Cox
1857	Moved to Leavenworth, Kans., where he practiced law as a member of the firm of Ewing, Sherman, and McCook
1858-1861	Instrumental in exposing voting frauds under the Lecompton constitution and in bringing Kansas into the Union as a free state
1861	Elected the first chief justice of the Kansas Supreme Court; represented Kansas at the Peace Convention, Washington, D.C.
1862	Resigned as chief justice; appointed colonel of the Eleventh Kansas Volunteers
1863, Mar.	Promoted to brigadier general after the Battle of Prairie Grove, Ark.
1863-1864	Assigned to command the border district which included Kansas and the western part of Missouri; issued Order No. 11 (25 Aug. 1863) which depopulated counties in Missouri in an effort to rout outlaws hiding there
1864	Assigned to command the St. Louis, Mo., district Participated in the Battle of Pilot Knob, St. Louis, Mo.
1865	Resigned commission; breveted major general Defended Samuel Bland Arnold, Edward Spangler, and Samuel Mudd on charges of conspiracy to assassinate Abraham Lincoln
1865-1870	Practiced law, Washington, D.C.
1870	Moved to Lancaster, Ohio
1873-1874	Member of the Constitutional Convention of Ohio
1877-1881	Represented the Lancaster, Ohio, congressional district in the United States House of Representatives
1879	Ran unsuccessfully as Democratic candidate for governor of Ohio
1882	Moved to Yonkers, N.Y.
1882-1896	Practiced law, New York, N.Y.

1896, Jan. 21 Died, New York, N.Y.

Thomas Ewing (1862-1942)

<i>Date</i>	<i>Event</i>
1862, May 21	Born, Leavenworth, Kans.
1879-1881	Attended the College of Wooster, Wooster, Ohio
1882-1888	Student and tutor at Columbia University's School of Mines and Law School, New York, N.Y.
1888-1890	Assistant examiner, Patent Office, Washington, D.C.
1890	LL.B., Georgetown University, Washington, D.C.
1891	Admitted to the bar, New York, N.Y.
1891-1913	Practiced law in New York, N.Y., specializing in patent law
1894	Married Anna Phillips Cochran
1902	Published <i>Jonathan, A Tragedy</i> (New York: Funk & Wagnalls Co. 148 pp.)
1913-1917	Commissioner of patents
1917	Resigned as commissioner of patents; resumed law practice in New York, N.Y.
1917-1942	Practiced law in New York, residing in Yonkers, N.Y.
1942, Dec. 7	Died, Yonkers, N.Y.

Scope and Content Note

The Thomas Ewing Family Papers span the years 1757-1941, with the bulk of the material dating from 1815 to 1896. The collection contains original and transcribed correspondence, letterbooks, telegrams, autographs, diaries, journals, legal files, military records, drafts and printed copies of speeches, lectures, articles, essays, books, poems, and reports, as well as notes, scrapbooks, biographical material, college lecture notes, commonplace books, financial records, genealogies, photographs, printed matter, and maps. The papers are arranged in thirteen series: [General Correspondence](#); [Special Correspondence](#); [Transcribed Correspondence](#); [Letterbooks](#); [Diaries, Journals, and Related Material](#); [Legal File](#); [Military Records](#); [Speech, Article, and Book File](#); [Subject File](#); [Scrapbooks](#); [Miscellany](#); [Addition](#); and [Oversize](#).

Included in the collection are papers of several generations of the Ewing family, including Thomas Ewing (1789-1871), senator from Ohio and cabinet member under William H. Harrison, John Tyler, and Zachary Taylor; Thomas Ewing (1829-1896), Union general during the Civil War and congressman from Ohio; Ellen Ewing Sherman and her husband, William T. Sherman, Civil War general; and Thomas Ewing (1862-1942), lawyer, writer, and United States commissioner of patents.

The collection documents various aspects of American political, economic, and social life, including westward expansion and frontier life, the disposal of public lands and land speculation, the practice of law in Ohio, local Ohio and national Whig politics, anti-Jacksonianism and the Bank of the United States, the organization of the Department of the Interior, the California gold rush, the rise of the Republican Party and sectionalism, Kansas statehood, the Peace Convention of 1861, the Civil War in Kansas, Missouri, and Arkansas, the assassination of Abraham Lincoln, the impeachment of Andrew Johnson, the currency

question and Greenback movement, the Ohio centennial, and the development and administration of patent law from 1913 to 1917.

Prominent correspondents include Philemon Beecher, Nicholas Biddle (1786-1844), James Gillespie Blaine, Orville Hickman Browning, Henry Clay, Thomas Corwin, John J. Crittenden, Charles B. Goddard, Horace Greeley, William Henry Harrison, Britton Armstrong Hill, Hocking H. Hunter, Reverdy Johnson, Abbott Lawrence, Abraham Lincoln, John McLean (1785-1861), Richard Olney, Thomas Collier Platt, S. C. Pomeroy, William S. Rosecrans, William Henry Seward, John Sherman, William T. Sherman, Henry Stanbery, Noah Haynes Swayne, Allen Granbery Thurman, John Tyler, Samuel Finley Vinton, and Daniel Webster. A card file summarizing the contents of correspondence is available in the Manuscript Division reading room.

Related Material

Other papers of the Thomas Ewing family are in the Manuscript Division's Charles Ewing Family Papers. The Library also has microfilm copies of the Thomas Ewing (1789-1871) Papers at Notre Dame University and the Thomas Ewing (1829-1896) Papers at the Kansas State Historical Society.

Organization of the Papers

The collection is arranged in thirteen series:

- [General Correspondence, 1776-1941, n.d.](#)
- [Special Correspondence, 1757-1899, n.d.](#)
- [Transcribed Correspondence, 1815-1918](#)
- [Letterbooks, 1826-1897](#)
- [Diaries, Journals, and Related Material, 1775-1922](#)
- [Legal File, ca. 1770-1941, n.d.](#)
- [Military Records, ca. 1860-1930](#)
- [Speech, Article, and Book File, 1812-1940, n.d.](#)
- [Subject File, ca. 1819-1934](#)
- [Scrapbooks, 1860-1903](#)
- [Miscellany, ca. 1790-1940](#)
- [Addition, 1828-1865](#)
- [Oversize, ca. 1830-1934](#)

Description of Series

<i>Container</i>	<i>Series</i>
BOX 1-151	<u>General Correspondence, 1776-1941, n.d.</u> Letters sent and received. Arranged as bound and unbound letters and thereunder chronologically.
BOX 152-154	<u>Special Correspondence, 1757-1899, n.d.</u> Correspondence to and from members of the extended Ewing family, including Ellen Ewing Sherman and William T. Sherman. Arranged alphabetically by name of family member. Also includes an autograph collection containing letters, receipts, a deposition, and a commission. Arranged alphabetically by name of individual or type of material.
BOX 155-162	<u>Transcribed Correspondence, 1815-1918</u> Handwritten and typed copies of Ewing family letters from this and other collections. Transcribed by Thomas Ewing (1862-1942) and William Cox Ewing. Letters to and from Thomas Ewing (1789-1871) predominate. Arranged chronologically and thereunder by name of correspondent.
BOX 163-180	<u>Letterbooks, 1826-1897</u> Letterpress copybooks and letterbooks containing copies of letters sent and received. Arranged by name of correspondent and thereunder chronologically.
BOX 181-183	<u>Diaries, Journals, and Related Material, 1775-1922</u> Diaries, journals, and related material. Arranged alphabetically by name of writer and thereunder chronologically.
BOX 184-211	<u>Legal File, ca. 1770-1941, n.d.</u> Legal papers. Arranged chronologically by decade.
BOX 212-216	<u>Military Records, ca. 1860-1930</u> Correspondence, orders, reports, rosters, historical accounts, and reminiscences. Arranged by subject or type of material.
BOX 217-247	<u>Speech, Article, and Book File, 1812-1940, n.d.</u> Handwritten, typewritten, and printed copies of speeches, addresses, lectures, articles, essays, public letters, briefs, books, and poems. Arranged by type of material.
BOX 248-249	<u>Subject File, ca. 1819-1934</u> Correspondence, financial and legal records, reports, notes, drawings, and printed matter. Arranged alphabetically by subject and chronologically therein.
BOX 250-258	<u>Scrapbooks, 1860-1903</u> Scrapbooks of newspaper clippings and other items. Arranged chronologically by earliest date in each volume.

BOX 259-302

Miscellany, ca. 1790-1940

Biographical material, college lecture notes, commonplace books, financial records, genealogies, notes, notebooks, photographs, and printed matter.
Arranged alphabetically by type of material.

BOX 303

Addition, 1828-1865

Correspondence consisting primarily of letters written to Thomas Ewing (1789-1871).
Arranged alphabetically by name of correspondent.

BOX OV 1-OV 11

Oversize, ca. 1830-1934

Oversize material consisting of correspondence, autobiographies, commissions, certificates, diplomas, genealogical charts, a floor plan, maps, and photographs.
Organized and described according to the series, containers, and folders from which the items were removed.

Container List

<i>Container</i>	<i>Contents</i>
BOX 1-151	General Correspondence, 1776-1941, n.d. Letters sent and received. Arranged as bound and unbound letters and thereunder chronologically.
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BOX 3	1828, May 8-1833, Dec. 22
BOX 4	1833, Dec. 24-1834, Dec. 25
BOX 5	1834, Dec. 27-1841, Apr. 19
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General Correspondence, 1776-1941, n.d.

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BOX 152-154	Special Correspondence, 1757-1899, n.d. Correspondence to and from members of the extended Ewing family, including Ellen Ewing Sherman and William T. Sherman. Arranged alphabetically by name of family member. Also includes an autograph collection containing letters, receipts, a deposition, and a commission. Arranged alphabetically by name of individual or type of material.
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Special Correspondence, 1757-1899, n.d.

Container

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	Autograph collection
	Armstrong, E. L., 1848
	Bache, Benjamin Franklin, 1793
	Benét, S. V., 1863
	Brandon, William, 1832
	Breckinridge, James D., 1820
	Cass, Lewis, 1831
	Chase, Philander, 1820
	Chew, Benjamin, 1757
	Clark, J. C., 1828
	Clay, Henry, 1826
	Creighton, William, 1841
	Ewing, J. H., 1841
	Ewing, James, 1792-1794
	Ewing, Thomas (1789-1871), 1813
	Goodrich, Samuel G., 1829
	Greeley, Horace, 1871
	Groesbeck, William S., 1866
	Hancock, John, 1790
	Henry, Joseph, 1847
	Johnson, Richard M. (1780-1850), 1818
	Kent, James, 1847
	Knox, Henry, 1785
	Leavitt, H. H., 1863
	Lucas, Robert, 1833
	Marvin, Dan, 1769
	Orr, J. H., 1874
	Palmer, Elizabeth L., 1879
	Pugh, George E., 1856
	Ruggles, Benjamin, 1830
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Special Correspondence, 1757-1899, n.d.

Container

Contents

Typed transcription of an autograph album kept by Maria Boyle Ewing and Theresa Ewing Steele containing messages from prominent political figures, 1834-1840, 1888-1894, n.d.

BOX 155-162

Transcribed Correspondence, 1815-1918

Handwritten and typed copies of Ewing family letters from this and other collections. Transcribed by Thomas Ewing (1862-1942) and William Cox Ewing. Letters to and from Thomas Ewing (1789-1871) predominate.

Arranged chronologically and thereunder by name of correspondent.

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BOX 167	1872, Apr. 15-1874, Oct. 8 1872, May 16-Nov. 11
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BOX 169	1874, Oct. 20-1875, Mar. 29 1875, Apr. 10-1876, Aug. 26
BOX 170	1875, May 1-1879, Oct. 21 1882, Jan. 31-Aug. 11 1882, Aug. 12-1883, Feb. 28
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Letterbooks, 1826-1897

Container

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