

# Alexander Robey Shepherd

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

Prepared by Frank Tusa  
Revised by Brian McGuire



**Manuscript Division, Library of Congress**

**Washington, D.C.**

**2008**

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

**Finding aid encoded by Library of Congress  
Manuscript Division, 2008**

Finding aid URL: <http://hdl.loc.gov/loc/mss/eadmss.ms008004>

## Collection Summary

**Title:** Alexander Robey Shepherd Papers

**Span Dates:** 1776-1945

**Bulk Dates:** (bulk 1868-1900)

**ID No.:** MSS39719

**Creator:** Shepherd, Alexander Robey, 1835-1902

**Extent:** 1950 items; 16 containers plus 1 in vault plus 1 oversize; 7.2 linear feet

**Language:** Collection material in English

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

**Abstract:** Territorial governor. Correspondence, diaries, notebooks, scrapbooks, newspaper clippings, photographs, clippings, printed matter, and memorabilia relating to Shepherd's career as a political official in Washington, D.C.

## 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.

### Personal Names

Babcock, Orville Elias, 1835-1884--Correspondence.

Cameron, Simon, 1799-1889--Correspondence.

Chase, Salmon P. (Salmon Portland), 1808-1873--Correspondence.

Conkling, Roscoe, 1829-1888--Correspondence.

Garfield, James A. (James Abram), 1831-1881--Correspondence.

Grant, Ulysses S. (Ulysses Simpson), 1822-1885.

Grice, Joseph.

Morrill, Justin S. (Justin Smith), 1810-1898--Correspondence.

Morton, Levi P. (Levi Parsons), 1824-1920--Correspondence.

Porter, Horace, 1837-1921--Correspondence.

Quintard, May Shepherd, b. 1864?

Shepard family.

Shepherd, Alexander Robey, 1835-1902.

Shepherd, Mary Grice Young, d. 1930--Correspondence.

Sherman, John, 1823-1900--Correspondence.

### Organizations

Batopilas Mining Company.

### Subjects

Public works--Washington (D.C.)

Silver mines and mining--Mexico.

### Locations

Mexico--Description and travel.

United States--History--Revolution, 1775-1783--Personal narratives.

United States--Politics and government--1869-1877.

Washington (D.C.)--Politics and government--1878-1967.

Washington (D.C.)--Politics and government--To 1878.

### Occupations

Businessmen.

Governors--Washington (D.C.)

## Administrative Information

### Provenance:

The papers of Alexander Robey Shepherd, territorial governor of the District of Columbia, were given to the Library of Congress in 1947 by Shepherd's daughter, Mrs. Francis D. Merchant. A few items received as a deposit from the Public Library of the District of Columbia in 1940 were converted to a gift in 1950.

### Processing History:

The papers of Alexander Robey Shepherd were arranged and described in 1969. The finding aid was revised in 1996 and 2008.

### Copyright Status:

The status of copyright in the unpublished writings of Alexander Robey Shepherd 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, Alexander Robey Shepherd Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

## Biographical Note

<i>Date</i>	<i>Event</i>
1835, Jan. 31	Born, Washington, D.C.
1861-1864	Member, Washington, D.C., Common Council
1862	Married Mary Grice Young
1867	Became part owner, <i>Washington Evening Star</i>
1867-1869	Appointed to Levy Court, Washington, D.C.
1870	Member, Board of Aldermen, Washington, D.C. President, Citizen's Reform Association, Washington, D.C.
1871	Appointed to Board of Public Works, Washington, D.C.
1873	Appointed governor, Washington, D.C.
1874	Appointed Commissioner, Washington, D.C., but not confirmed by the Senate
1880	Moved to Batopilas, Chihuahua, Mexico
1902, Sept. 12	Died, Batopilas, Chihuahua, Mexico

## Scope and Content Note

The papers of Alexander Robey Shepherd (1835-1902) span the years 1776-1945, with the bulk of the material concentrated in the years 1868-1900. The collection consists primarily of correspondence and scrapbooks supplemented by diaries, notebooks, printed matter, newspaper clippings, and miscellaneous material organized in seven series: [Diaries and Notebooks](#), [Family Correspondence](#), [General Correspondence](#), [Scrapbooks](#), [Miscellany](#), [Artifact](#), and [Oversize](#).

Shepherd's career as a public official in Washington, D.C., is the central theme of the [General Correspondence](#) and the [Scrapbooks](#) series for the years before 1875. Both sources provide useful, if limited, information concerning Shepherd's various programs to improve public facilities in the capital during the administration of Ulysses S. Grant. The correspondence includes one or more letters from several prominent political figures, including Orville E. Babcock, Simon Cameron, Salmon P. Chase, Roscoe Conkling, James A. Garfield, Justin S. Morrill, Levi P. Morton, and John Sherman. Shepherd's activities generated considerable public debate, and the scrapbooks help to elucidate the nature and source of the controversy. Biographical material, newspaper clippings, and memorial addresses in the [Miscellany](#) series also clarify Shepherd's crucial role in the physical renewal of the nation's capital in the late nineteenth century.

Shepherd's energies after 1880 in a silver mining enterprise in Mexico are amply documented in the collection. The [Family Correspondence](#) series, consisting primarily of letters written by Shepherd and his wife Mary to their daughters, is a particularly good source for descriptions of the daily routine at the busy mining site and for family matters, as are the diaries of Mary Shepherd and her daughter May Shepherd.

Other items of interest in the collection include a partial [diary](#) of Joseph Grice, Mary Shepherd's paternal great-grandfather, dealing mainly with his experiences in the Revolutionary War.

## Arrangement of the Papers

This collection is arranged in seven series:

- [Diaries and Notebooks, circa 1776-1892](#)
- [Family Correspondence, 1864-1941](#)
- [General Correspondence, 1847-1943](#)
- [Scrapbooks, 1865-1939](#)
- [Miscellany, circa 1870-1945](#)
- [Artifact, 1900](#)
- [Oversize, 1871-1896](#)

## Description of Series

<i>Container</i>	<i>Series</i>
BOX 1	<b><u>Diaries and Notebooks, circa 1776-1892</u></b> Diaries and other items. Arranged alphabetically by name of family member.
BOX 2-3	<b><u>Family Correspondence, 1864-1941</u></b> Correspondence among members of the Shepherd family, mainly letters sent to Grace Shepherd Merchant. Arranged chronologically.
BOX 4	<b><u>General Correspondence, 1847-1943</u></b> Primarily letters received by Alexander R. Shepherd supplemented by a small group of letters sent and received by Grace Shepherd Merchant. Arranged chronologically.
BOX 5-10	<b><u>Scrapbooks, 1865-1939</u></b> Newspaper clippings and miscellaneous items relating generally to Alexander R. Shepherd. Arranged chronologically.
BOX 11-16	<b><u>Miscellany, circa 1870-1945</u></b> Autograph signatures, biographical notes concerning Alexander R. Shepherd, printed matter, memorial addresses the death of Alexander R. Shepherd, addresses and correspondence relating to the ceremonies at the unveiling of the Shepherd Memorial, photographs, newspaper clippings, and miscellaneous items. Arranged by type of material.
BOX VA 1	<b><u>Artifact, 1900</u></b> Commemorative coin.
BOX OV 1	<b><u>Oversize, 1871-1896</u></b> Scrapbooks. Organized and described according to the series and box from which the items were removed.

# Container List

<i>Container</i>	<i>Contents</i>
<b>BOX 1</b>	<b>Diaries and Notebooks, circa 1776-1892</b> Diaries and other items. Arranged alphabetically by name of family member.
<b>BOX 1</b>	Grice, Joseph, diary, circa 1776
<b>BOX 1</b>	Shepherd, Alexander R., church subscription book, 1868
<b>BOX 1</b>	Shepherd, Grace, notebook, 1892
<b>BOX 1</b>	Shepherd, Mary, diary, 1880-1892
<b>BOX 1,</b>	Shepherd, May, diary, 1880-1884
<b>BOX 2-3</b>	<b>Family Correspondence, 1864-1941</b> Correspondence among members of the Shepherd family, mainly letters sent to Grace Shepherd Merchant. Arranged chronologically.
<b>BOX 2</b>	1864-1894
<b>BOX 3</b>	1895-1941, n.d.
<b>BOX 4</b>	<b>General Correspondence, 1847-1943</b> Primarily letters received by Alexander R. Shepherd supplemented by a small group of letters sent and received by Grace Shepherd Merchant. Arranged chronologically.
<b>BOX 4</b>	1847-1943, n.d.
<b>BOX 5-10</b>	<b>Scrapbooks, 1865-1939</b> Newspaper clippings and miscellaneous items relating generally to Alexander R. Shepherd. Arranged chronologically.
<b>BOX 5</b>	1865-1885
<b>BOX 5</b>	1866-1885
<b>BOX 6</b>	1871-1885
<b>BOX 7</b>	1874-1885, 1939
<b>BOX 7</b>	1871-1891 <i>See Oversize</i>
<b>BOX 7</b>	1874-1896 <i>See Oversize</i>
<b>BOX 8</b>	1887
<b>BOX 9</b>	1887-1895
<b>BOX 10</b>	1895-1899
<b>BOX 11-16</b>	<b>Miscellany, circa 1870-1945</b> Autograph signatures, biographical notes concerning Alexander R. Shepherd, printed matter, memorial addresses the death of Alexander R. Shepherd, addresses and correspondence relating to the ceremonies at the unveiling of the Shepherd Memorial, photographs, newspaper clippings, and miscellaneous items.

## Miscellany, circa 1870-1945

### *Container*

### *Contents*

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Arranged by type of material.

BOX 11 Autograph collection  
BOX 11 Biographical material  
BOX 11 Memorial, 1903-1909, n.d.  
BOX 12 Printed matter  
BOX 13 Printed matter  
BOX 14 Photographs  
BOX 15 Newspaper clippings  
(1 folder)  
BOX 16 (1 folder)  
BOX 16 Cards and invitations  
BOX 16 Miscellany *See also Commemorative coin*

BOX VA 1 **Artifact, 1900**  
Commemorative coin.

BOX VA 1 Miscellany  
BOX VA 1 Miscellany  
BOX VA 1 Commemorative coin, 1900 (Container 16)

BOX OV 1 **Oversize, 1871-1896**  
Scrapbooks.  
Organized and described according to the series and box from which the items were removed.

BOX OV 1 1871-1891 (Container 7)  
BOX OV 1 1874-1896 (Container 7)