

Connecticut Historical Society
museum & library

William Wolcott Ellsworth Papers

A Guide to the William Wolcott Ellsworth Papers at the
Connecticut Historical Society

Collection Overview

Repository :	Connecticut Historical Society
Creator :	Ellsworth, William Wolcott
Title :	William Wolcott Ellsworth Papers.
Dates :	1844 -- 1869
Extent :	0.75 linear feet(2 boxes)
Abstract :	Collection consists primarily of William Ellsworth's professional correspondence, created after Ellsworth's retirement from national and Connecticut political life, and his return to the practise of law.
Location:	Manuscript stacks
Language:	English

Biographical Sketch

William Ellsworth was born in Windsor, Connecticut on November 10, 1791 to Chief Justice Oliver Ellsworth. William and his twin brother, Henry Leavitt Ellsworth, prepared for college with Nathan Johnson. The brothers graduated from Yale College in 1810 and entered law training at Litchfield Law School.

Upon completing his formal law studies, William Ellsworth trained with Judge Thomas Scott Williams in Hartford. In 1813 he was admitted to the bar. On September 14 of that same year, he married Emily Webster, the eldest daughter of Noah Webster.

When Judge Williams went to Congress in 1817, Ellsworth was given charge of his mentor's law office. Ten years later, Ellsworth accepted a professorship of law at Trinity College in Hartford, a position he held until his death. In 1829, Ellsworth himself was elected to Congress. He served until 1834, resigning of his own accord. In 1838 he returned to politics as governor of Connecticut, a post he held for four years.

When Ellsworth had tired of politics, he returned to his law practice. In 1847 was made an associate judge of the state supreme court. He held this position until his 1861 retirement. William Ellsworth died in Hartford on January 15, 1868.

Scope and Content

Collection consists largely of letters written to William Ellsworth during the final twenty years of his law practice. Principal correspondents include: G. & C. Merriam, Chauncey Goodrich, Norman White, Henry Jones, W. G. Webster, and Henry Trowbridge.

Arrangement

The collection is arranged chronologically in a single series, **Correspondence**.

Restrictions

Access Restrictions

There are no restrictions on access to the collection.

Use Restrictions

Use of the material requires compliance with the Connecticut Historical Society's Research Center regulations.

Subject Headings

Personal Names

Goodrich, Chauncey Allen, 1790-1860.
Jones, Henry, 1801-1878.
Merriam, Charles, 1806-1887.
Merriam, George Spring, 1843-1914.
Trowbridge, Henry.
Webster, W. G.

Corporate Names

G. & C. Merriam (Springfield, Mass.).

Genre Forms

Holographs; holographs, signed.

Administrative Information

Preferred Citation

Item, Collection Title, Collection number (Box #, Folder #). Connecticut Historical Society, Hartford, Connecticut.

Processing Details

Original EAD instance compiled by NHPRC project staff in August 1999. Updated to EAD 2002 in December 2010.

Accruals

The collection is open, but additional material is not expected.

Related Material

An index of catalog cards is available to aid access to this collection and material in other collections. Access is through writer, recipient and date. The card catalog is located in the Research Center reading room.

Microfilm copy available.

Contents:

Series: Correspondence

Box Folder

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | 1 | Correspondence concerning such men as Henry White, W.G. Webster, Henry Jones, and Henry Trowbridge. 1844-1849 |
| 1 | 2 | Correspondence concerning such men as W.G. Webster, Henry Trowbridge, and Henry Jones. January - April 1850 |
| 1 | 3 | Correspondence concerning such men as W.G. Webster, Chauncey Goodrich, and Norman White. May 1850 |
| 1 | 4 | Correspondence concerning such men as Chauncey Goodrich, Norman White, and Henry Jones. June 1850 |

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1	5	Correspondence concerning such men as George Coolidge, W.G. Webster, Henry Jones, and Henry Trowbridge. July - August 1850
1	6	Correspondence concerning such men as W.G. Webster, Chauncey Goodrich, and Norman White. September - December 1850
1	7	Correspondence concerning such men as Henry Jones, W.G. Webster, R.S. Baldwin, and Henry Trowbridge. January - May 1851
1	8	Correspondence concerning such men as Henry Jones, Henry Trowbridge, W.G. Webster, Chauncey Goodrich, G. & C. Merriam, and Henry White. June - December 1851
1	9	Correspondence concerning such men as W.G. Webster, George Morrison, and Chauncey Goodrich. January - February 1852
1	10	Correspondence concerning such men as Chauncey Goodrich, W.B. Smith, and W.G. Webster. March - May 1852
1	11	Correspondence concerning such men as W.G. Webster, Henry Trowbridge, and Chauncey Goodrich. June - December 1852
1	12	Correspondence concerning such men as Henry Trowbridge, W.G. Webster, Henry Jones, and John Terhune. January 1853
1	13	Correspondence concerning such men as George Coolidge, Henry Jones, and Chauncey Goodrich. February - September 1853
1	14	Correspondence concerning such men as Chauncey Goodrich, G. & C. Merriam, and W.G. Webster. October 1853
1	15	Correspondence concerning such men as Chauncey Goodrich, W.G. Webster, and George Coolidge. November - December 1853
1	16	Correspondence concerning such men as W.G. Webster, W.C. Fowler, and Henry Trowbridge. January - March 1854
1	17	Correspondence concerning such men as Henry Trowbridge, G. & C. Merriam, and W.C. Fowler. April 1854
1	18	Correspondence concerning such men as Chauncey Goodrich, W.C. Fowler, and W.G. Webster. May 1854
1	19	Correspondence concerning such men as W.G. Webster, G. & C. Merriam, and Chauncey Goodrich. June - October 1854
1	20	Correspondence concerning such men as Chauncey Goodrich, Henry Jones and W.G. Webster. November - December 1854
1	21	Correspondence concerning such men as Alfred Blackman and G. & C. Merriam. 1855 - March 1856
1	22	Correspondence concerning such men as G. & C. Merriam. April - July 1856
Box Folder		
2	1	Correspondence concerning such men as Chauncey Goodrich, G. & C. Merriam, and Norman White. August 1856
2	2	Correspondence concerning such men as W.G. Webster, Norman White, and G. & C. Merriam. September 1-15, 1856
2	3	Correspondence concerning such men as Norman White, G. & C. Merriam, and Chauncey Goodrich. September 16-30, 1856
2	4	Correspondence concerning such men as Chauncey Goodrich and

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- G. & C. Merriam. October 1856
- 2 5 Correspondence concerning such men as G. & C. Merriam and Norman White. November - December 1856
- 2 6 Correspondence concerning such men as Chauncey Goodrich, G. & C. Merriam, and W.G. Webster. January - February 1857
- 2 7 Correspondence concerning such men as Alfred Blackman, G. & C. Merriam, Chauncey Goodrich, and Charles Tracy. March - April 1857
- 2 8 Correspondence concerning such men as G. & C. Merriam. May - July 1857
- 2 9 Correspondence concerning such men as G. & C. Merriam and Charles Tracy; includes two drafts of an Act of Congress. August - December 1857
- 2 10 Correspondence concerning such men as G. & C. Merriam. 1858
- 2 11 Correspondence concerning such men as G. & C. Merriam. 1861
- 2 12 Correspondence concerning such men as G. & C. Merriam, Chauncey Goodrich, Henry White. 1862-1869