

John Tyler Morgan Papers

A Finding Aid to the Collection in the
Library of Congress

Prepared by Daniel Gilliam and Michael
McElderry



Manuscript Division, Library of
Congress

Washington, D.C.

2009

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

Finding aid encoded by Jennifer Eidson,
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Finding aid URL: <http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms010089>

Collection Summary

Title: John Tyler Morgan Papers

Span Dates: 1840-1907

Bulk Dates: (bulk 1882-1907)

ID No.: MSS334572

Creator: Morgan, John Tyler, 1824-1907

Extent: 9,000 items; 36 containers; 10.2 linear feet; 15 microfilm reels

Language: Collection material in English

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

Abstract: United States senator from Alabama and lawyer. Correspondence, speeches, reports, position papers, printed matter, scrapbooks, and other papers relating to domestic and foreign policy issues and to Morgan's involvement as an expansionist and advocate of states' rights.

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

Adee, Alvey A. (Alvey Augustus), 1842-1924.

Cleveland, Grover, 1837-1908.

Colne, C.

Cooley, Lyman Edgar, 1850-1917.

Corea, Luis Felipe, 1864-1932.

Doyle, John T. (John Thomas), 1819-1906.

Foster, John Watson, 1836-1917.

Gresham, Walter Quintin, 1832-1895.

Harlan, John Marshall, 1833-1911.

Harvey, Charles Thompson, 1829-1912.

Haupt, Lewis M. (Lewis Muhlenberg), b. 1844.

Hay, John, 1838-1905.

Hitchcock, Hiram, 1832-1900.

Jones, James O.

LeBaron, John Francis, 1865-1935.

Menocal, Aniceto G., 1836-1908.

Merry, William Lawrence, 1842-1911.

Miller, J. W.

Morgan, John Tyler, 1824-1907.

North, Edward P., 1820-1903.

Olney, Richard, 1835-1917.

Phelps, Edward John, 1822-1900.

Platt, Thomas Collier, 1833-1910.

Plume, S. W.

Roosevelt, Theodore, 1858-1919.

Taft, William H. (William Howard), 1857-1930.

Walker, John Grimes, 1835-1907.

Whittekin, F. F.

Wyeth, John A. (John Allen), 1845-1922.

Subjects

Bering Sea controversy.

Bimetallism.

Canals--Nicaragua.

Indians of North America--Government relations.
Railroad law--United States.
States' rights (American politics)
Tariff--United States.

Places

Alabama--Politics and government.
Cuba--History--1899-1906.
United States--Territorial expansion.

Occupations

Lawyers.
Senators, U.S. Congress--Alabama.

Administrative Information

Provenance

The papers of John Tyler Morgan, United States senator from Alabama and lawyer, were given to the Library of Congress by his daughter, Cornelia I. Morgan, in 1922.

Processing History

The papers of John Tyler Morgan were processed in 1962 and prepared for microfilming in 1985. The finding aid was revised in 2009.

Copyright Status

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

Access and Restrictions

The papers of John Tyler Morgan 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 is available on fifteen 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 as available.

Preferred Citation

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

Biographical Note

<i>Date</i>	<i>Event</i>
1824, June 20	Born, Athens, Tenn.
1833	Moved to Calhoun County, Ala.
1845	Admitted to the Alabama bar

1846	Married Cornelia Willis
1855	Move to Selma, Ala.
1860	Presidential elector on the John C. Breckinridge ticket
1861	Delegate, Alabama secession convention, Montgomery, Ala.
1861	Enlisted as a private in the Confederate States Army and promoted through all grades to lieutenant-colonel, Fifth Alabama Regiment
1862	Resigned commission in Confederate States Army to recruit and command the Fifty-first Alabama Cavalry
1863	Promoted to brigadier-general
1865	Resumed law practice in Selma, Ala.
1877-1907	United States senator from Alabama
1892	Appointed as an arbitrator in the Bering Sea fisheries dispute
1898	Appointed as one of three commissioners to draft legislation for Hawaii
1907, June 11	Died, Selma, Ala.

Scope and Content Note

The papers of John Tyler Morgan (1824-1907) span the years 1840-1907, although the major portion of the collection is dated after 1882. The papers principally reflect the political controversies of the period and Morgan's involvement in them as an expansionist and defender of states' rights, but contain little of substance concerning his Civil War experience or his personal life. The collection consists of five series: [Correspondence](#); [Subject File](#); [Speech, Article, and Book File](#); [Scrapbooks](#); and [Miscellany](#). The [Correspondence](#) series is the largest and includes such attached and related material as legislative and diplomatic position papers and reports, printed matter, and speeches.

Morgan was elected to the United States Senate from Alabama in 1876, and served there until his death in 1907. As chairman of the interoceanic canals and foreign relations committees, he was a vigorous promoter of the building of an isthmian canal, advocating a route through Nicaragua rather than Panama. Morgan's support of a Nicaraguan canal, as reflected in the collection, is the single most documented activity of his senatorial career. The [Correspondence](#) series contains letters exchanged with C. Colne, Lyman Edgar Cooley, Lewis M. Haupt, Hiram Hitchcock, Aniceto G. Menocal, William Lawrence Merry, and S. W. Plume, among others, as well as material relating to the Senate investigation of William Nelson Cromwell. These records provide extensive documentation of the technical, geological, and political considerations surrounding the canal debate. Other documents pertaining to this issue can be found throughout the collection, particularly in the [Subject File](#) and [Scrapbooks](#) series.

Although he was a dedicated Southerner, Morgan developed a world vision and supported an aggressive national foreign policy, urging intervention in Cuba, to be followed by annexation. He also advocated statehood for Cuba and Hawaii and was appointed to the commission to draft

legislation for Hawaii. Morgan's participation on the Bering Sea Arbitration Commission is documented in the [Correspondence](#) series and [Subject File](#). Other areas of interest that are represented in the collection include the Congo Free State, the Isle of Pines, the West Indies, and the Philippines.

The [Correspondence](#) series also contains material regarding Morgan's national legislative agenda, including his interest in Indian affairs and the question of statehood for the Oklahoma, New Mexico, and Washington territories. Advancing a states'-rights argument, Morgan fought against the Blair education bill, 1886-1888, while his interest in interstate commerce led him to promote the passage of legislation giving the Interstate Commerce Commission the power to fix railroad rates on interstate business. His positions on these issues are reflected in the [Correspondence](#) series, as are his interests in tariff and tax legislation, bimetallism, and the reclamation of land grants from railroad companies.

Morgan received numerous letters from constituents and friends requesting his influence in effecting appointments to public office, as well as from citizens with land or property claims against the United States government. There are also items relating to his plans for improving Alabama's internal navigation system and his reelection campaign in the Democratic Party primary of 1900 against Alabama Governor Joseph Forney Johnston. Other correspondents of note in the collection include Alvey A. Adee, Joaquin Bernardo Calvo Mora, Grover Cleveland, Luis Felipe Corea, John T. Doyle, John Watson Foster, Walter Quintin Gresham, John Marshall Harlan, Charles Thompson Harvey, John Hay, James O. Jones, John Francis LeBaron, J. W. Miller, Edward P. North, Richard Olney, Edward John Phelps, Thomas Collier Platt, Theodore Roosevelt, William H. Taft, John Grimes Walker, F. F. Whittekin, and John A. Wyeth.

Arrangement of the Papers

This collection is arranged in five series:

- [Correspondence, 1857-1907](#)
- [Subject File, 1892-1906](#)
- [Speech, Article, and Book File, 1877-1907](#)
- [Scrapbooks, 1840-1906](#)
- [Miscellany, 1855-1907](#)

Description of Series

Container

BOX 1-23
REEL 1-8

Series

Correspondence, 1857-1907

Letters received and copies of letters sent, telegrams, cards, memoranda, notes, legislative and diplomatic position papers and reports, printed matter, speeches, and miscellaneous enclosures.

Arranged in a set of bound volumes and a separate group of unbound correspondence and arranged therein chronologically.

BOX 24-26
REEL 8-11

Subject File, 1892-1906

Legislative and diplomatic position papers and reports, correspondence, documents, notes, and printed matter concerning the Bering Sea Arbitration Commission, Cuba, and the isthmian canal controversy.

Arranged by subject.

BOX 26-27
REEL 10-11

Speech, Article, and Book File, 1877-1907

Handwritten and typewritten copies and drafts, and printed copies of writings.

Arranged chronologically.

BOX 27-35
REEL 11-15

Scrapbooks, 1840-1906

Newspaper clippings and occasional notes, telegrams, letters, cards, and invitations.

Arranged chronologically.

BOX 35-36
REEL 14-15

Miscellany, 1855-1907

Newspaper clippings, printed matter, notes, biographical material, financial and personal business papers, cards and invitations, and legal papers.

Arranged alphabetically by type of material.

Container List

Available on microfilm. Shelf no. 19,317

<i>Container</i>	<i>Contents</i>
BOX 1-23 REEL 1-8	Correspondence, 1857-1907 Letters received and copies of letters sent, telegrams, cards, memoranda, notes, legislative and diplomatic position papers and reports, printed matter, speeches, and miscellaneous enclosures. Arranged in a set of bound volumes and a separate group of unbound correspondence and arranged therein chronologically.
BOX 1 REEL 1	Bound vols.
BOX 1 REEL 1	1865, Dec. 18-1886, Apr. 3
BOX 2 REEL 1	1886, Apr. 4-Aug. 13
BOX 3 REEL 1	1886, Sept. 16-1887, Feb. 4
BOX 4 REEL 2	1887, Feb. 5-1893, Jan. 25
BOX 5 REEL 2	1893, Jan. 27-1895, Jan. 30
BOX 6 REEL 2	1895, Feb. 6-1897, Aug. 28
BOX 7 REEL 3	1897, Aug. 31-1899, Sept. 2
BOX 8 REEL 3	1899, Sept. 8-1900, Apr. 15
BOX 9 REEL 3	1900
BOX 9 REEL 3	Apr. 16-20
BOX 10 REEL 4	Apr. 21-Dec. 31
BOX 11 REEL 4	1901, Jan. 1-Oct. 26
BOX 12 REEL 4	1901, Oct. 28-1902, Jan. 23
BOX 13 REEL 5	1902
BOX 13 REEL 5	Jan. 24-Feb. 17
BOX 14 REEL 5	Feb. 28-Apr. 21
BOX 15 REEL 5	Apr. 24-July 9

Correspondence, 1857-1907

Container

Contents

BOX 16 REEL 6	July 10-Oct. 29
BOX 17 REEL 6	1902, Oct. 30-1903, May 26
BOX 18 REEL 6	1903, May 27-Oct. 30
BOX 19 REEL 7	1903, Nov. 2-1904, Mar. 3
BOX 20 REEL 7	1904, Mar. 4-1905, Oct. 30
BOX 21 REEL 7	1905, Nov. 3-1906, July 3
BOX 22 REEL 8	1906, July 10-1907, May 24, undated
BOX 23 REEL 8	Unbound letters
BOX 23 REEL 8	1857-1907
	(24 folders)
BOX 23 REEL 8	Fragments
BOX 23 REEL 8	Undated
BOX 24-26 REEL 8-11	Subject File, 1892-1906
	Legislative and diplomatic position papers and reports, correspondence, documents, notes, and printed matter concerning the Bering Sea Arbitration Commission, Cuba, and the isthmian canal controversy. Arranged by subject.
BOX 24 REEL 8-9	Bering Sea arbitration
	(5 folders)
BOX 25 REEL 9-10	Bering Sea arbitration
	(5 folders)
BOX 25 REEL 9-10	Cuba
BOX 26 REEL 10-11	Isthmian canal
BOX 26-27 REEL 10-11	Speech, Article, and Book File, 1877-1907
	Handwritten and typewritten copies and drafts, and printed copies of writings. Arranged chronologically.

Speech, Article, and Book File, 1877-1907

<i>Container</i>	<i>Contents</i>
BOX 26 REEL 10-11	1877-1895 (8 folders)
BOX 27 REEL 11	1897-1907, undated (16 folders)
BOX 27-35 REEL 11-15	Scrapbooks, 1840-1906 Newspaper clippings and occasional notes, telegrams, letters, cards, and invitations. Arranged chronologically.
BOX 27 REEL 11	1876-1877
BOX 28 REEL 12	1895-1901 (2 vols.)
BOX 29 REEL 12	1899-1903 (2 vols.)
BOX 30 REEL 12-13	1903 (3 vols.)
BOX 31 REEL 13	1892-1905 (2 vols.)
BOX 32 REEL 13	1904-1905 (2 vols.)
BOX 33 REEL 14	1897-1906 (3 vols.)
BOX 34 REEL 14	1840-1905 (2 vols.)
BOX 35 REEL 14-15	1878-1855, undated
BOX 35-36 REEL 14-15	Miscellany, 1855-1907 Newspaper clippings, printed matter, notes, biographical material, financial and personal business papers, cards and invitations, and legal papers. Arranged alphabetically by type of material.
BOX 35 REEL 14-15	Biographical material, undated
BOX 35 REEL 14-15	Business papers, 1867-1904
BOX 35	Court cases and briefs, 1895-1899

Miscellany, 1855-1907

Container

Contents

REEL 14-15	
BOX 35	Invitations and cards, 1897-1906
REEL 14-15	
BOX 35	Map, memorials, notes, petitions, census, and other material
REEL 14-15	
BOX 35	1882-1886, 1902-1905
REEL 14-15	
BOX 36	1855-1906, undated
REEL 15	
BOX 36	Newspaper clippings, 1893-1907, undated
REEL 15	
	(6 folders)
BOX 36	Printed matter, 1879-1903, undated
REEL 15	
BOX 36	Photographs, undated
REEL 15	