

# Guide to the Franklin MacVeagh Papers

MS 996



compiled by William E. Brown, Jr.

October 1982

Yale University Library  
P.O. Box 208240  
New Haven, CT 06520-8240  
mssa.assist@yale.edu  
<http://www.library.yale.edu/mssa/>

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## Collection Overview

**REPOSITORY:** Manuscripts and Archives  
Yale University Library  
P.O. Box 208240  
New Haven, CT 06520-8240  
mssa.assist@yale.edu  
<http://www.library.yale.edu/mssa/>

**CALL NUMBER:** MS 996

**CREATOR:** MacVeagh, Franklin, 1837-1934

**TITLE:** Franklin MacVeagh papers

**DATES:** 1861-1925

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:** 0.25 linear feet

**LANGUAGE:** English

**SUMMARY:** The Franklin MacVeagh Papers consist of correspondence largely relating to alumni activities of the Yale College Class of 1862. Prominent correspondents are James H. Crosby, who was secretary of the class, William W. Farnam, William H. Hale, William Kent and Cornelius Ladd Kitchel.

**ONLINE FINDING AID:** To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/mssa.ms.0996>

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## Requesting Instructions

To request items from this collection for use in the Manuscripts and Archives reading room, please use the request links in the HTML version of this finding aid, available at <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/mssa.ms.0996>.

To order reproductions from this collection, please go to [http://www.library.yale.edu/mssa/ifr\\_copy\\_order.html](http://www.library.yale.edu/mssa/ifr_copy_order.html). The information you will need to submit an order includes: the collection call number, collection title, series or accession number, box number, and folder number or name.

Key to the container abbreviations used in the PDF finding aid:

b.      box  
f.      folder

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## Administrative Information

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### Immediate Source of Acquisition

Purchased in 1959.

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### Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

## Conditions Governing Use

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## Preferred Citation

Franklin MacVeagh Papers (MS 996). Manuscripts and Archives, Yale University Library.

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## Biographical / Historical

Franklin MacVeagh was born on November 22, 1837, in West Chester, Pennsylvania. He received his B.A. from Yale in 1862. MacVeagh studied at Columbia University Law School (1862-64) and received his LL.B. in 1864. Although selected valedictorian of his law school class, a breakdown in health prevented his appearance in that role.

MacVeagh joined with Charlton T. Lewis (Yale, 1853) to form Lewis & MacVeagh, a New York City law firm. Again poor health required his withdrawal from service. He served with the Pennsylvania Militia for a time during the Civil War.

After a respite in Minnesota to alleviate health problems MacVeagh settled in Chicago, Illinois. He established the firm of Franklin MacVeagh & Company, wholesale grocers, in 1866. MacVeagh served as president of the firm from 1866-1909 and 1915-1932. An active public life in Chicago included service as first president of the Citizens Association of Chicago (1874), president of the Chicago Bureau of Charities (1896-1904), vice-president of the Civil Service Reform League of Chicago (1884-85) and the American Civic Association (1905), trustee of the University of Chicago (1901-13), member of the executive committee of the National Civic Federation, and chairman of the First International Congress of Social Insurance (1914). In addition, MacVeagh was also involved with the Municipal Art League and the Chicago Yale Association (1881-82).

In 1894 MacVeagh was nominated by the Democratic State Convention of Illinois for the office of U. S. Senator, but he was defeated in the general election. By 1896 MacVeagh had joined the Republican Party and later served the nation as secretary of the treasury (1909-13) in the administration of President William Howard Taft.

MacVeagh married Emily Sherrill Eames on October 2, 1866. They had five children. Franklin MacVeagh died July 16, 1934, in Chicago, Illinois.

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## Scope and Contents

The papers of Franklin MacVeagh consist of correspondence from the years 1861-1925. Bulk dates for the approximately one hundred items contained here are 1910-1925. The papers are arranged in one box and measure two and one-half inches of material.

The correspondence is entirely routine in nature and focuses almost entirely upon matters pertaining to Yale University. MacVeagh's political activity in Chicago and later in Washington, D.C. as secretary of the treasury (1909-13), is virtually entirely ignored in this material. Rather, the subjects of these letters include a variety of alumni and ceremonial matters relating to MacVeagh and the class of 1862. The great quantity of correspondence consists of incoming letters, with only randomly scattered carbon copies of outgoing letters present.

Among the individual correspondents included in the papers are: James H. Crosby, William W. Farnam, William H. Hale, William Kent, and Cornelius Ladd Kitchel. Crosby, as secretary for the Yale class of 1862, contacted MacVeagh for financial and informational contributions to Yale funds and publications. Letters from Farnam, Hale, and Kent are examples of the courtesies extended to a successful alumni by fellow Yale men. Correspondence with C. L. Kitchell involves the usual discussion of alumni activities. A 1904 letter, however, urges MacVeagh to contribute financially to the Yale-in-China movement.

Several other manuscript collections contain the correspondence of Franklin MacVeagh. The Charles Dewey Hilles Papers (Mss. Gr. 281) contains over two hundred letters relating to MacVeagh's service as secretary of the treasury. For additional materials the following collections should be consulted: William Kent Family Papers (Mss. Gr. 309), Samuel R. Betts Autograph Collection (Mss. Gr. 548), and the Chauncey Mitchell DePew Papers (Mss. Gr. 180).

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## Collection Contents

b. 1, f. 1	Alling, John W.	1912
b. 1, f. 1	Bannard, Otto T.	1911, 1924
b. 1, f. 2	Chamberlain, D. H.	1899, 1902
b. 1, f. 3	Chamberlain, Leander	1903
b. 1, f. 4	Colby, James S.	1912
b. 1, f. 5	Crosby, James H.	1904, 1910-1923
b. 1, f. 6	Curtiss, Julian W.	1910
b. 1, f. 7	Davenport, William B.	1912
b. 1, f. 8	Dickson, Frederick	1908
b. 1, f. 8	Eaton, Sherburne Blake	1877?
b. 1, f. 9	Farnam, William W.	1912
b. 1, f. 10	French, Robert D.	1919
b. 1, f. 10	Griswold, Henry Josiah	1924?
b. 1, f. 11	Hale, William	1912
b. 1, f. 12	Ives, A. M.	1861
b. 1, f. 13	Kent, Norton	1911
b. 1, f. 14	Kent, William	1909?
b. 1, f. 15	Kitchell, Cornelius Ladd	1904, 1912
b. 1, f. 16	Morse, Richard	1902, 1909
b. 1, f. 17	Psi Upsilon Beta Chapter	1897, 1912
b. 1, f. 18	Schofield, Henry	1908
b. 1, f. 19	Taylor, Mrs. John Phelps	1915
b. 1, f. 20	Winthrop, Buchanan	1891, 1899, undated
b. 1, f. 21	Woodruff, Morris	1891
	Yale University	
b. 1, f. 22	School of Forestry	1919
b. 1, f. 23	Miscellaneous	1897-1925, undated
b. 1, f. 24	Receipts	1922, 1924

## **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**

Crosby, James Henry, 1840-1925  
Farnam, William Wolcott, 1853-1933  
Hale, William Harlan, 1910-1974  
Kent, William, 1864-1928  
Kitchel, C. L. (Cornelius Ladd), 1841-1929  
MacVeagh, Franklin, 1837-1934

### **Corporate Bodies**

Yale College (1718-1887). Class of 1862  
Yale University -- Students