

Guide to the Charles Marseilles Papers, 1873-1908

Administrative Information

Title and Dates:

Charles Marseilles Papers, 1873-1908

Repository:

New Hampshire Historical Society
30 Park Street
Concord, NH 03301
603-228-6688
<http://www.nhhistory.org/>

Collection Number:

1927.001

Author of Finding Aid:

Unidentified; reformatted and updated by Sandra L. Wheeler

Creator:

Marseilles, Charles, 1846-1920

Language:

The materials in this collection are in English.

Extent:

9 boxes and 1 oversized folder ; 3.75 linear feet

Abstract:

The Charles Marseilles Papers consist primarily of correspondence of the journalist and newspaper owner with Republican politicians in New Hampshire, New York, and nationally. Marseilles was influential in New Hampshire and closely followed the careers of several politicians from that state: Charles Henry Bell (1823-1893), William E. Chandler (1835-1917), and Jacob H. Gallinger (1837-1918). In his later years, Marseilles suffered from an illness and the tone and content of the letters changed so the politicians no longer replied to them as often. Nevertheless, Marseilles' interest in politics was undiminished and he wrote often with questions, comments, newspaper clippings, etc. His letters provide a window into the careers of those politicians and the issues of the time.

Access and Use

Acquisition Information and Provenance:

The Charles Marseilles Papers were purchased from the estate of B. P. Verne of Reading, Massachusetts, in April 1927.

Processing Information:

This collection was processed by an unknown person at an unknown date. The finding aid was written by an unknown person at an unknown date, and reformatted and updated by Sandra L. Wheeler in October 2015. This finding aid follows the standards set forth by *Describing Archives: A Content Standard*.

Access Restrictions:

Available for research.

Location:

The collection is housed at the New Hampshire Historical Society in Concord, New Hampshire.

Physical Characteristics and Technical Requirements:

The materials in this collection are paper based and have no special technical requirements for use. There are many brittle and discolored newspaper clippings pasted to pages of letters. Handle with care.

Copyright/Conditions Governing Use:

For permission to reproduce or publish materials from this collection, please contact the New Hampshire Historical Society. Users are responsible for following all copyright and intellectual property laws.

Preferred Citation:

Item title, Charles Marseilles Papers, 1927.001. New Hampshire Historical Society, Concord, NH. Date accessed.

Collection Overview

Biographical Information:

Charles Marseilles (1846-1920) was born in Philadelphia, PA, the son of wealthy parents Peter and Eliza (Gilpin) Marseilles. He attended various secondary schools, including Phillips Exeter Academy in Exeter, NH, from 1862-1863, and attended but did not graduate from Norwich University from 1864-1865. He worked for the publishing house Ticknor and Fields in Boston, MA, after the Civil War and in 1866, purchased the *Exeter [NH] Newsletter*. On October 5, 1869, he married Annie M. Leavitt (1843-1904) of Exeter. Born November 22, 1842 at Exeter, she was the daughter of Samuel W. and Margaret (Sargent) Leavitt. Charles and Annie had no children.

After receiving a large inheritance from his father's estate in 1878, he purchased the *Kingston Daily Freeman and Weekly Journal*, both newspapers in Kingston, NY, and moved there with

Annie. In 1882, he became ill with "nervous prostration" and the following year sold the New York papers and retired to Exeter, NH. Annie died at Exeter on March 2, 1904. He was admitted to the New Hampshire State Hospital in 1908 and died there on July 20, 1920. He is buried in Philadelphia, PA.

Between 1873 and 1882, Marseilles, in his role as newspaper editor, played a somewhat influential role in Republican politics in New Hampshire. He corresponded with many important politicians about both local and national matters. After the onset of his illness in 1882, his correspondence became less wide ranging and more about his own importance. In the 1890s, he wrote voluminous letters to William E. Chandler and Jacob H. Gallinger (most of which went unanswered) which contain comments and newspaper clippings about the political issues of the day.

Collection Scope and Content Note:

The Charles Marseilles Papers begin with letters from 1873, and from this date to 1882, it contains significant letters relating to New Hampshire and national politics. Marseilles purchased the *Exeter Newsletter* in 1866 at the age of twenty. As the editor and proprietor, he turned this independent newspaper of indifferent success into a staunch Republican sheet with an extremely wide circulation and influence in the state. It was as editor that he first undertook correspondence with important New Hampshire Republicans. In the period 1873 to 1882, his correspondents included: C.H. Bell, H.W. Blair, W.E. Chandler, J.H. Ela, Daniel Hall, E.H. Rollins, and Bainbridge Wadleigh.

Marseilles' father, a Philadelphia millionaire, died in 1878, leaving Marseilles a substantial inheritance. With some of this money he bought two newspapers in Kingston, New York, and again set about making them effective Republican organs. There is evidence that he was quite successful and that Republican gains of this period in Ulster County, previously a Democrat stronghold, were significantly due to Marseilles' papers.

In 1879, Marseilles involved himself in aiding Charles Bell in the latter's fight to be seated in the U.S. Senate. It was a complex affair because Bell had been appointed by the New Hampshire Governor following changes in the election procedure that made it unclear which legislature should elect the state's Senator. Bell eventually was seated and seems to have entrusted Marseilles with handling his election to the Senate after his term as appointee was over. It appears that Bell and other politicians had confidence in Marseilles' ability and judgment and that he was highly respected by his correspondents.

The situation changed in 1882-1883. On March 28, 1883, Marseilles wrote Chandler, "I have been ill about nine months with what the doctors call nervous prostration." His handwriting shows marked changes from that of earlier letters. Between 1882 and 1890, his letters, previously completely devoted to discussions of political matters, turned to Marseilles' genealogy, questions about the soul, the omnipotence of God, etc. Marseilles wished to receive answers from "learned men" to his questions about these matters.

In around 1890, Marseilles' former interest in politics again appeared, but with a change. Interrupted by occasional effective work in political journalism, which was always marked by

extreme clarity of expression, Marseilles was now preoccupied with his own self-importance: his impact on the men and events of his day, his intimate friendship (usually imagined) with important people. In a quest for the "secret history" of the United States, he wrote many people with questions such as, "Did John Quincy Adams recite, each night before retiring, the children's prayer: Now I lay me down to sleep?" and "Did Horace Greeley remark that Abraham Lincoln's Cooper Union Speech was more eloquent than anything he had ever heard of Daniel Webster's?"

Politically, after 1890, Marseilles was most interested in the senatorial careers of William E. Chandler and Jacob H. Gallinger, and prepared articles on their behalf. The letters Marseilles wrote Chandler have been removed from the Chandler Papers and placed in the Marseilles Papers – there are over 700 of them, written between 1876 and 1908. Chandler seems to have answered some but not many of them (those written by Clarence Johnson, Chandler's secretary, were written on Chandler's behalf), but Marseilles' deluge is nevertheless interesting, for in his letters, sometimes running to over 50 pages, he has crammed questions, comments, and newspaper clippings on scores of the important political issues of the day. His letters are a chronicle of the period and supply a running commentary on the activities of W. E. Chandler.

Jacob H. Gallinger was more conscientious in answering Marseilles' letters; his in reply to Marseilles have been removed and placed in the Gallinger collection. There are around 134 of them, written between 1890 and 1905. None of this correspondence is terribly revealing about Gallinger or his motives, for Gallinger was aware that Marseilles considered his first loyalty to Chandler. In fact, in the Marseilles collection there are letters from a Mattie Stark which hint to Marseilles that Gallinger was contemptuous of him. Gallinger denied the claim. Nevertheless, Gallinger's letters to Marseilles are comprehensive, as in them Gallinger recorded his public position on many of the political issues of the period: the currency question, particular elections, civil service reform, etc.

What the asylum managers took for organic disease of the brain is his manner of telling of men and events with which he has had to do, the never-ending 'story' with which you and I are familiar.

So wrote Henry Robinson of Charles Marseilles in a letter to William E. Chandler on March 19, 1908. At that time Marseilles was a patient in the New Hampshire State Hospital, where he had been committed the previous month. Robinson's description of Marseilles' manner is an extremely apt characterization of Marseilles' correspondence after his illness of 1882.

The correspondence is almost exclusively about political subjects with a few personal asides. Most of it is incoming to Marseilles; his outgoing are primarily to W. E. Chandler and were moved from the Chandler Papers to the Marseilles Papers.

Arrangement:

The materials in this collection are arranged in chronological order.

Contents List

Box 1

Folder 0	Old folder contents lists
Folder 1	Genealogies, undated
Folder 2	Correspondence, 1873 June-1876 June
Folder 3	Correspondence, 1876 August-1877
Folder 4	Correspondence, 1878 January-March
Folder 5	Correspondence, 1878 April-July
Folder 6	Correspondence, 1878 August-1879 April
Folder 7	Correspondence, 1879 May-December
Folder 8	Correspondence, 1880 January-1882 June
Folder 9	Correspondence, 1882 July-1883
Folder 10	Correspondence, 1884 January-June
Folder 11	Correspondence, 1884 July-1885 June
Folder 12	Correspondence, 1885 June-December
Folder 13	Correspondence, 1886 January-October
Folder 14	Correspondence, 1886 November-1887 August
Folder 15	Correspondence, 1887 September-1888 April
Folder 16	Correspondence, 1888 May-1889 December
Folder 17	Correspondence, 1890 January-May

Box 2

Folder 0	Old folder contents lists
Folder 1	Correspondence, 1890 June-September
Folder 2	Correspondence, 1890 October-1891 January
Folder 3	Correspondence, 1891 February-May
Folder 4	Correspondence, 1891 June-September
Folder 5	Correspondence, 1891 October-November
Folder 6	Correspondence, 1891 December-1892 August
Folder 7	Correspondence, 1892 September-1893 April
Folder 8	Correspondence, 1893 May-August
Folder 9	Correspondence, 1893 September-1894 January
Folder 10	Correspondence, 1894 February-March
Folder 11	Correspondence, 1894 April
Folder 12	Correspondence, 1894 May
Folder 13	Correspondence, 1894 June
Folder 14	"Memoranda for a sketch of Charles Marseilles, Exeter, N.H.," 1894 June
Folder 15	Correspondence, 1894 July 2-9

Box 3

Folder 0	Old folder contents lists
Folder 1	Correspondence, 1894 July 10-23
Folder 2	Correspondence, 1894 July 24-August 4
Folder 3	Correspondence, 1894 August 7-14
Folder 4	Correspondence, 1894 August 16-25
Folder 5	Correspondence, 1894 August 27-September 1

Folder 6 Correspondence, 1894 September 4-20
Folder 7 Correspondence, 1894 September 21-28
Folder 8 Correspondence, 1894 September 29-October 4
Folder 9 Correspondence, 1894 October 6-10
Folder 10 Correspondence, 1894 October 11-18
Folder 11 Correspondence, 1894 October 22-31
Folder 12 Correspondence, 1894 November 1-12
Folder 13 Correspondence, 1894 November 13-21
Folder 14 Correspondence, 1894 November 22-29
Folder 15 Correspondence, 1894 December 3-8
Folder 16 Correspondence, 1894 December 10-18
Folder 17 Correspondence, 1894 December 20-31

Box 4

Folder 0 Old folder contents lists
Folder 1 Correspondence, 1895 January 2-9
Folder 2 Correspondence, 1895 January 14-30
Folder 3 Correspondence, 1895 February 1-20
Folder 4 Correspondence, 1895 February 22-March 14
Folder 5 Correspondence, 1895 March 25-April 29
Folder 6 Correspondence, 1895 April 30-May 8
Folder 7 Correspondence, 1895 May 9-June 11
Folder 8 Correspondence, 1895 June 13-July 1
Folder 9 Correspondence, 1895 July 3-6
Folder 10 Correspondence, 1895 July 8-17
Folder 11 Correspondence, 1895 July 26-August 26
Folder 12 Correspondence, 1895 August 27-September 5
Folder 13 Correspondence, 1895 September 16-23
Folder 14 Correspondence, 1895 September 24-October 16
Folder 15 Correspondence, 1895 October 25-November 13
Folder 16 Correspondence, 1895 November 14-23
Folder 17 Correspondence, 1895 November 26-December 12
Folder 18 Correspondence, 1895 December 23-30

Box 5

Folder 0 Old folder contents lists
Folder 1 Correspondence, 1896 January 2-13
Folder 2 Correspondence, 1896 January 14-February 7
Folder 3 Correspondence, 1896 February 8-18
Folder 4 Correspondence, 1896 February 19-March 10
Folder 5 Correspondence, 1896 March 10-14
Folder 6 Correspondence, 1896 Marcy 16-22
Folder 7 Correspondence, 1896 March 23-28
Folder 8 Correspondence, 1896 March 29-April 9
Folder 9 Correspondence, 1896 April 11-25
Folder 10 Correspondence, 1896 April 27-28

Folder 11 Correspondence, 1896 April 28-30
Folder 12 Correspondence, 1896 May 1-19
Folder 13 Correspondence, 1896 May 22-July 6
Folder 14 Correspondence, 1896 July 10-August 3
Folder 15 Correspondence, 1896 August 6-October 18
Folder 16 Correspondence, 1896 October 20-November 23
Folder 17 Correspondence, 1896 November 27-December 31

Box 6

Folder 1 Correspondence, 1897 January 6-20
Folder 2 Correspondence, 1897 January 21 - February 3
Folder 3 Correspondence, 1897 February 4-19
Folder 4 Correspondence, 1897 March 2-10
Folder 5 Correspondence, 1897 March 11-April 9
Folder 6 Correspondence, 1897 April 12-May 6
Folder 7 Correspondence, 1897 May 8-22
Folder 8 Correspondence, 1897 May 24-June 26
Folder 9 Correspondence, 1897 July 2-August 31
Folder 10 Correspondence, 1897 September 1-October 8
Folder 11 Correspondence, 1897 October 11-22
Folder 12 Correspondence, 1897 October 23-November 15
Folder 13 Correspondence, 1897 November 20-30
Folder 14 Correspondence, 1897 December 2-23
Folder 15 Correspondence, 1897 December 24-1898 January 11
Folder 16 Correspondence, 1898 January 25-February 7
Folder 17 Correspondence, 1898 February 25-March 31
Folder 18 Correspondence, 1898 April 2-16
Folder 19 Correspondence, 1898 April 18-25
Folder 20 Correspondence, 1898 April 26-May 25

Box 7

Folder 0 Old folder contents lists
Folder 1 Correspondence, 1898 June 3-August 15
Folder 2 Correspondence, 1898 August 19-September 6
Folder 3 Correspondence, 1898 September 9-30
Folder 4 Correspondence, 1898 October 29-November 30
Folder 5 Correspondence, 1898 December 2-19
Folder 6 Correspondence, 1898 December 28-1899 January 5
Folder 7 Correspondence, 1899 January 5-30
Folder 8 Correspondence, 1899 February 8-25
Folder 9 Correspondence, 1899 March 1-14
Folder 10 Correspondence, 1899 March 25-April 4
Folder 11 Correspondence, 1899 April 11-24
Folder 12 Correspondence, 1899 May 1-13
Folder 13 Correspondence, 1899 May 15-22
Folder 14 Correspondence, 1899 June 16

Folder 15 Correspondence, 1899 June 19

Box 8

Folder 0 Old folder contents lists
Folder 1 Correspondence, 1899 June 19
Folder 2 Correspondence, 1899 June 20-July 31
Folder 3 Correspondence, 1899 August 1-October 20
Folder 4 Correspondence, 1899 November 4-21
Folder 5 Correspondence, 1899 November 24-December 26
Folder 6 Correspondence, 1900 January 1-29
Folder 7 Correspondence, 1900 February 5-April 27
Folder 8 Correspondence, 1900 May 14-August 30
Folder 9 Correspondence, 1900 September 5-October 24
Folder 10 Correspondence, 1900 November 2-December 31

Box 9

Folder 0 Old folder contents lists
Folder 1 Correspondence, 1901 January 1-February 22
Folder 2 Correspondence, 1901 March 6-July 31
Folder 3 Correspondence, 1901 August 5-24
Folder 4 Correspondence, 1901 September 13-December 30
Folder 5 Correspondence, 1902 January 2-March 27
Folder 6 Correspondence, 1902 April 7-August 27
Folder 7 Correspondence, 1902 September 1-December 30
Folder 8 Correspondence, 1903 January 5-March 31
Folder 9 Correspondence, 1903 April 11-August 31
Folder 10 Correspondence, 1903 September 1-December 30
Folder 11 Correspondence, 1904 January 8-21
Folder 12 Correspondence, 1904 February 1-August 26
Folder 13 Correspondence, 1904 September 1-December 28
Folder 14 Correspondence, 1905 January 30-December 28
Folder 15 Correspondence, 1906 May 14-November 5
Folder 16 Correspondence, 1908 January 11-December 29
Folder 17 Correspondence, undated

Separated Materials:

Letters from Jacob Gallinger to Charles Marseilles have been removed from the Marseilles Papers and placed in the Jacob H. Gallinger Papers, 1926.007.

The following items have been moved to Oversized Manuscripts Box 'M':

Letter from Charles Marseilles to William E. Chandler, 1897 September 20

Letter from Charles Marseilles to William E. Chandler, 1899 June 19

Subject Terms

People:

Adams, Brooks, 1848-1927
Adams, Charles Francis, 1807-1886
Adams, Charles Kendall, 1835-1902
Allen, Amos L. (Amos Lawrence), 1837-1911
Allibone, S. Austin (Samuel Austin), 1816-1889
Allison, William B. (William Boyd), 1829-1908
Babcock, J. W. (Joseph Weeks), 1850-1909
Baird, Charles W. (Charles Washington), 1828-1887
Baker, Henry Moore, 1841-1912
Bancroft, Hubert Howe, 1832-1918
Belden, James Jerome, 1825-1904
Bell, Charles Henry, 1823-1893
Blair, Henry W. (Henry William), 1834-1920
Bliss, George
Boutwell, George S. (George Sewall), 1818-1905
Brewster, Benjamin Harris, 1816-1888
Brewster, F. Carroll (Frederick Carroll), 1825-1898
Bristow, Benjamin Helm, 1832-1896
Brooks, Phillips, 1835-1893
Brown, Foster Vincent, 1852-1937
Brumm, Charles Napoleon, 1838-1917
Burnham, Henry E., 1844-1917
Burrows, Julius C. (Julius Caesar), 1837-1915
Busiel, Charles A., 1842-1901
Chace, Jonathan, 1829-1917
Chandler, William E. (William Eaton), 1835-1917
Cheney, Person Colby, 1828-1901
Clark, E. L.
Clarke, Frank Gay, 1850-1901
Clarke, James Freeman, 1810-1888
Clearwater, Alphonso Trumbour, 1848-1933
Cockrell, Francis Marion, 1834-1915
Cogswell, Parson B. (Parsons Brainard), 1828-1895
Coues, Elliot
Cummings, Horace Stuart
Currier, Frank D., 1853-1921
Dana, Richard Henry, Jr., 1815-1882
Dawes, Henry L. (Henry Laurens), 1816-1903
Depew, Chauncey M. (Chauncey Mitchell), 1834-1928
Dobson, Edward
Dingley, Nelson, 1832-1899
Doe, Charles
Donnelly, Ignatius, 1831-1901
Duryea, Joseph T.
Ela, Jacob H. (Jacob Hart), 1820-1884
Ellis, George Edward, 1814-1894

Ernst, Carl W.
Fernow, Berthold, 1837-1908
Field, Cyrus W. (Cyrus West), 1819-1892
Field, Stephen J. (Stephen Johnson), 1816-1899
Fish, Hamilton, 1808-1893
Foster, Charles, 1823-1877
Frye, William P. (William Pierce), 1831-1911
Gallinger, Jacob H. (Jacob Harold), 1837-1918
Gilman, N. G.
Gorham, George C. (George Congdon), 1832-1909
Guild, Curtis, 1860-1915
Hale, Edward Everett, 1822-1909
Hale, Lucy Lambert, 1841-1915
Hall, Daniel
Hanna, Marcus Alonzo, 1837-1904
Herford, Brooke
Hoes, Randall
Hoar, George Frisbie, 1826-1904
Holmes, Oliver Wendell, 1809-1894
Hopkins, Mark, 1813-1878
Ingalls, John James, 1833-1900
James, William, 1842-1910
Johnson, Clarence
Kenyon, William Scheuneman, 1820-1896
Lasier, Thomas J.
Lodge, Henry Cabot, 1850-1924
Long, John Davis, 1838-1915
Manley, Joseph Homan, 1842-1905
Marseilles, Anna, 1843-1904
Marseilles, Charles, 1846-1920
Mead, William Rutherford, 1846-1928
Moody, William H. (William Henry), 1853-1917
Moore, O. C. (Orren C.), 1839-1893
Morrill, William B.
Moses, George H. (George Higgins), 1869-1944
Oberly, John H.
Parker, Alton B. (Alton Brooks), 1852-1926
Peabody, Andrew P. (Andrew Preston), 1811-1893
Pennell, R. F.
Platt, Orville Hitchcock, 1827-1905
Platt, Thomas Collier, 1833-1910
Pomeroy, Theodore Medad, 1824-1905
Potter, Henry Codman, 1834-1908
Price, J. Sargent
Proctor, Redfield, 1831-1908
Putnam, George I.

Raum, Green B. (Green Berry), 1829-1909
Ray, Ossian, 1835-1892
Reed, Katharine
Reed, Thomas B. (Thomas Brackett), 1839-1902
Reid, Whitelaw, 1837-1912
Robinson, Henry
Rolfe, Henry P.
Rolfe, W. J. (William James), 1827-1910
Rollins, Edward Henry, 1824-1889
Sanborn, F. B. (Franklin Benjamin), 1831-1917
Sartain, John, 1808-1897
Schoonmaker, M. (Marius), 1811-1894
Sharpe, George H. (George Henry), 1828-1900
Sherman, John, 1823-1900
Smith, Charles Emory, 1842-1908
Stevens, W. E.
Stockton, Charles H., 1845-1924
Sulloway, Cyrus A. (Cyrus Adams), 1839-1917
Tuttle, Hiram A. (Hiram Americus), 1837-1911
Vest, George Graham, 1830-1904
Wadleigh, Bainbridge, 1831-1891
Wanamaker, John, 1838-1922
Watson, Samuel S.
Wells, D.F.
White, Andrew Dickson, 1832-1918
Wiffin, George W.
Winthrop, Robert C. (Robert Charles), 1809-1894
Woodbury, Gordon, 1863-1924
Young, James Rankin, 1847-1924

Organizations:

New Hampshire State Hospital
Republican Congressional Committee
Republican National Convention (8th : 1884 : Chicago, Ill.)
Republican Party (N.H.)
Republican Party (N.H.). State Convention
Republican Party (U.S. : 1854-)
United States. Congress. Senate

Subjects:

Civil service reform
Courts
Elections
Elections--United States
Emigration and immigration
Mental illness
Money
Newspapers

Politics and government
Postal service
Railroads
Trusts

Locations:

Concord, NH
Exeter, NH
Kingston, NY

Occupations:

Journalists
Politicians

Related Materials

Archives

Jacob H. Gallinger Papers, 1926.007

Letters of Charles Marseilles, 1994.042 (m), 1994.042 (O)

Political life of Judge Parker: letter from Charles Marseilles, Broadside Collection – Politics and Elections, 1901-1920, S 1996.594.53

William E. Chandler Papers, 1926.006

Library

Henkels, Stanislaus V. *The Important Private Library of the Hon. Charles Marseilles of Exeter, New Hampshire...* Philadelphia, PA: Davis & Harvey, 1907. Call number: 017.3 M3644

Schlup, Leonard C. "The Presidential Election of 1896 and the Gallinger-Marseilles Correspondence." *Manuscripts* 46, no. 3 (Summer 1994): 205-217. Call number: 091 M294 V.46