

HENRY W. BLAIR (1834-1920)

Papers 1873-1908

(approx. 120 items)

Plymouth, N.H.

The bulk of the Henry W. Blair Collection is campaign correspondence from Blair's district during the 1876-77 campaign in New Hampshire. The papers reflect practical politics and how national issues are viewed from a New England state.

Correspondents include newspaper editors, Charles A. Bridges of Colebrook, Mahurin W. Cone of Lancaster, T.C. Rand of the Keene Sentinel and Charles Marseilles of the Exeter Newsletter, who outlined their editorial strategy. Letters from general observers of the political scene, correspondents from outside the state who often wrote supporting Blair's stand for prohibition and temperance, and Republican party officials.

There are three letters from Edward H. Rollins (N.H. Republican Party chairman, treasurer of the Union Pacific Railroad and newly elected U.S. Senator). These letters graphically illustrate the finances of politics and influential pressures.

Blair was born 6 December 1834 in Campton, N.H., admitted to the N.H. Bar in 1859 and commenced law practice in Plymouth, N.H. at that time. He served in the 15th Regiment of the N.H. Volunteers during the Civil War. Prior to his military service, he began his political career as prosecuting attorney for Grafton County. He resumed his political activity as a member of the N.H. House of Representatives in 1866 and as state senator in 1867 and 1868. His career in the U.S. Congress was checkered, beginning as a Representative in 1875, U.S. Senator from 1879 to 1891 and then elected to the House of Representatives again in 1893.

The larger portion (100 items) of the Blair Collection was purchased in 1978, augmenting the original collection of 12 items (source and acquisition date unknown but prior to 1964). One item was purchased in 1974.

There is additional Blair correspondence in the following collections: Jonathan E. Pecker, Benjamin Gerrish, William E. Chandler, Charles Marseilles, Frank N. Parsons, Jacob H. Gallinger and Nathaniel Bouton.

Cards in Catalog (does not include all correspondents)

Dow, Neal	Rollins, Edward H.	<u>Subject cards</u>
Hall, Daniel	Rix, John	Newspapers
Kent, Henry Oaks		Politics - N.H.
Marseilles, Charles		Politics - Republican - N.H.
Nims, Samuel		Railroads
Ray, Ossian		Temperance

Henry W. Blair

N.H. Senator in U.S. Congress 1879-1891

Son - Henry P. Blair, lawyer, Washington, D.C., died in 1948 (no children)

his estate left to:

Clyde D. Garrett

Arthur Hellen

Frederick M. Bradley

partners of law firm and of  
Blair's, Washington, D.C.

They disposed of 32 containers of papers that belonged to

Sen. Henry W. Blair - by throwing them into the dump.

(Note - Mr. Croft found this while writing a thesis on Blair)

(transcribed from notes of Harriet  
Lacy, Manuscript Librarian - typed  
Feb 1978 by Jean G. Johnson, Mss. Asst.)