

# Guide to the Wing family correspondence

WA MSS S-4348



Sarah Lerner

December 2020

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## Collection Overview

**REPOSITORY:** Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library  
P. O. Box 208330  
New Haven, CT 06520-8330  
(203) 432-2977  
beinecke.library@yale.edu  
<http://beinecke.library.yale.edu/>

**CALL NUMBER:** WA MSS S-4348

**CREATOR:** Brace, Alice B., 1905-

**TITLE:** Wing Family Correspondence

**DATES:** 1859-1926

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:** 3 linear feet (3 boxes)

**LANGUAGE:** English (Latin script)

**SUMMARY:** 677 letters relating to the Wing family, 1859 March 7-1926 June 21, and undated. Also present are 96 pieces of ephemera, including invitations and calling cards, postcards, miscellaneous manuscript notes, and a photograph. Individuals represented in the collection include George W. Wing; wife Mary Elizabeth Gould Wing; daughters Alice Earle Wing and Elizabeth "Bessie" Russell Wing Brace; sons Daniel Gould Wing and Thomas Ellwood Wing; and grandchildren Alice B. Brace, Lloyd DeWitt Brace, Roger Wing Brace, John R. Wing, and Winthrop B. Wing. Letters primarily concern Wing family affairs taking place in Davenport, Iowa; Lincoln, Nebraska; West Newton, Massachusetts; and Scarsdale, New York. 35 letters concern George Wing's silver mining efforts in Montana. 16 letters by Elizabeth Wing to various family members document her 1891 trip to Pasadena, Riverside, and Long Beach, California. 18 letters by Alice Wing to various recipients document her work with the YMCA in France during World War I.

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

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## Requesting Instructions

To request items from this collection for use in the Beinecke Library reading room, please use the request links in the HTML version of this finding aid, available at <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/beinecke.wingfamily>.

To order reproductions from this collection, please send an email with the call number, box number(s), and folder number(s) to [beinecke.images@yale.edu](mailto:beinecke.images@yale.edu).

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 from Michael Brown Rare Books, LLC on the William Robertson Coe Fund No. 3, 2018.

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### Conditions Governing Access

This collection is open for research.

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### Conditions Governing Use

Wing Family Correspondence is the physical property of the Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University. Literary rights, including copyright, belong to the authors or their legal heirs and assigns. For further information, consult the appropriate curator.

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### Preferred Citation

Wing Family Correspondence. Yale Collection of Western Americana, Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library.

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### Processing Information

Collections are processed to a variety of levels, depending on the work necessary to make them usable, their perceived research value, the availability of staff, competing priorities, and whether or not further accruals are expected. The library attempts to provide a basic level of preservation and access for all collections, and does more extensive processing of higher priority collections as time and resources permit. These materials have been arranged and described according to national and local standards.

For more information, please refer to the Beinecke Manuscript Unit Processing Manual.

Descriptive information for this collection is drawn largely from the dealer list.

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## Biographical / Historical

George W. Wing (1833-1918) of Barnstable, Massachusetts, married Mary Elizabeth Gould (1841-1895) of Providence, Rhode Island, in Scott, Iowa, on 1866 June 14. The couple had four children: Daniel Gould Wing (1868-1936), twins Elizabeth "Bessie" Russell Wing Brace (1870-1926) and Alice E. Wing (1870-1920), and Thomas Ellwood Wing (1872- ). The family were Quakers.

In the 1870s and early 1880s, George Wing worked as a bookkeeper in Davenport, Iowa. In 1884, the family moved to Lincoln, Nebraska, where they operated a small fruit and vegetable farm.

Daniel Gould Wing worked as a banker in West Newton, Massachusetts, and was eventually president of the First National Bank of Boston. He was married to Josephine Cabel (1867-1949), with whom he had one child, Katherine Cable Wing (1903-1989).

Elizabeth Brace attended the University of Nebraska in the late 1880s; in 1891, she began working at the school's library. Brace later graduated from the Library School of the Armour Institute of Chicago (the predecessor to the University of Illinois Library School) in 1897, and by 1901 was First Assistant at the University of Nebraska Library (a position she left in 1901 October). She was married to physicist Professor

DeWitt B. Brace (1859-1906), with whom she had three children: Lloyd DeWitt Brace (1903-1986), Roger Wing Brace (1904-1966), and Alice B. Brace (1905- ). The family lived in Lincoln, Nebraska.

Alice Wing attended Alma College in Michigan from 1899 to 1901, and graduated from Illinois State Library School in 1904. She worked for a time as Acting Librarian at the Public Library at Albion, Michigan. During World War I, she served with the YMCA in France.

Thomas Wing lived in Scarsdale, New York, and was a senior partner of the law firm Wing, Russell, & Watterson. He was married to Katharine Weston (1871-1903) and later Helen Stanton Bouve (1874-1943), with whom he had two children: John R. Wing (approximately 1912- ) and Winthrop B. Wing (approximately 1913- ).

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## Scope and Contents

677 letters relating to the Wing family, 1859 March 7-1926 June 21, and undated. Also present are 96 pieces of ephemera, including invitations and calling cards, postcards, miscellaneous manuscript notes, and a photograph.

Individuals represented in the collection include George W. Wing; wife Mary Elizabeth Gould Wing; daughters Alice Earle Wing and Elizabeth "Bessie" Russell Wing Brace; sons Daniel Gould Wing and Thomas Ellwood Wing; and grandchildren Alice B. Brace, Lloyd DeWitt Brace, Roger Wing Brace, John R. Wing, and Winthrop B. Wing.

Letters primarily concern Wing family affairs taking place in Davenport, Iowa; Lincoln, Nebraska; West Newton, Massachusetts; and Scarsdale, New York.

35 letters concern George Wing's silver mining efforts in Montana. 16 letters by Elizabeth Wing to various family members document her 1891 trip to Pasadena, Riverside, and Long Beach, California. 18 letters by Alice Wing to various recipients document her work with the YMCA in France during World War I.

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## Arrangement

Organized into 2 series: I. Correspondence, 1859-1926. II. Ephemera and other papers, 1862-1924.

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## Collection Contents

### Series I: Correspondence, 1859 March 7-1926 June 21

Series I contains 677 letters (circa 3,634 pages--mostly handwritten--with 362 envelopes) relating to the Wing family.

Individuals represented in the series include George W. Wing; wife Mary Elizabeth Gould Wing; daughters Alice Earle Wing and Elizabeth "Bessie" Russell Wing Brace; sons Daniel Gould Wing and Thomas Ellwood Wing; and grandchildren Alice B. Brace, Lloyd DeWitt Brace, Roger Wing Brace, John R. Wing, and Winthrop B. Wing.

Letters primarily concern Wing family affairs taking place in Davenport, Iowa; Lincoln, Nebraska; West Newton, Massachusetts; and Scarsdale, New York.

35 letters concern George Wing's silver mining efforts in Montana. 16 letters by Elizabeth Wing to various family members document her 1891 trip to Pasadena, Riverside, and Long Beach, California. 18 letters by Alice Wing to various recipients document her work with the YMCA in France during World War I.

Series I is arranged alphabetically by family member. Letters within each file are grouped by correspondent.

b. 1, f. 1-2	Brace, Alice B. (2 folders) 19 letters from Alice B. Brace to mother Elizabeth "Bessie" Russell Wing Brace, brother Roger Wing Brace, and other relatives. Letters written from an unidentified location. Included are pieces of prose.	1916 April 10-1924 April 4, undated
	Brace, Elizabeth "Bessie" Russell Wing 12 letters from Elizabeth "Bessie" Russell Wing Brace to sister Alice Earle Wing, 13 to son Roger Wing Brace, 18 to father George W. Wing, 11 to mother Mary Elizabeth Gould Wing, and 3 to brothers Daniel Gould Wing and Thomas Ellwood Wing. Letters written from Lincoln, Nebraska; Long Beach, Pasadena, and Riverside, California; and Davenport, Iowa.  Includes 12 letters from social work educator Edith Abbott; 7 from Abbott's sister, Gracie Abbott; 8 from Abba Willard Bowen; 8 from sister-in-law Josephine Cabel Wing; 18 from sister-in-law Katherine Weston Wing; and 14 from various relatives.  82 additional letters are from various acquaintances--35 of these relate to the death of Brace's husband, Professor DeWitt B. Brace.	
b. 1, f. 3	Letters to Roger Wing Brace	undated
b. 1, f. 4-5	Letters to Alice Earle Wing (2 folders)	1884 February 19-1901 January 7, undated
b. 1, f. 6-8	Letters to George W. Wing (3 folders)	1881 October 9-1901 March 12, undated
b. 1, f. 9-10	Letters to Mary Elizabeth Gould Wing (2 folders)	1883 September 5-1891 July 20, undated

## Brace, Elizabeth "Bessie" Russell Wing (continued)

b. 1, f. 11	Letters to relatives	1886 July 30-1891 March 18
b. 1, f. 12-14	Letters from Edith Abbott and Gracie Abbott (3 folders)	1901 August 12-1915 February 15, undated
b. 1, f. 15	Letters from Abba Willard Bowen	1901 August 11-1905 October 6, undated
b. 1, f. 16-19	Letters from Josephine Cabel Wing and Katherine Weston Wing (4 folders)	1891 July 19-1919 October 27, undated
b. 1, f. 20-28	Letters from acquaintances (9 folders)	1883 July 31-1926 June 21, undated
b. 1, f. 29-30	Letters from relatives (2 folders)	1889 July 26-1909 December 16, undated
b. 1, f. 30-34	Brace, Lloyd DeWitt (5 folders) 33 letters from Lloyd Brace to mother Elizabeth "Bessie" Russell Wing Brace, sister Alice B. Brace, brother Roger Wing Brace, and aunt Alice Earle Wing. Letters written from West Newton, Massachusetts, and the Culver Military Academy at Culver, Indiana.	1914 April 4-1924 May 6, undated
b. 2, f. 35-36	Brace, Roger Wing (2 folders) 21 letters from Roger Wing Brace to mother Elizabeth "Bessie" Russell Wing Brace, sister Alice B. Brace, grandfather George W. Wing, and aunt Alice Earle Wing. Letters written from Andover and West Newton, Massachusetts, and Lake Winnepesaukee, New Hampshire.	1912 June 17-1924 August 3, undated
	Wing, Alice Earle 84 letters from Alice Earle Wing to sister Elizabeth "Bessie" Russell Wing Brace, 34 to father George W. Wing, 12 to mother Mary Elizabeth Gould Wing, and 15 to neices and nephews. Letters written from Bordeaux, Perigueux, and Paris, France, during World War I; Lincoln, Nebraska; Scarsdale, New York; and West Newton, Massachusetts.	
b. 2, f. 37-44	Letters to Elizabeth "Bessie" Russell Wing Brace (8 folders)	1883 November 16-1920 June 7, undated
b. 2, f. 45-47	Letters to George W. Wing (3 folders)	1881 October 2-1918 November 8, undated
b. 2, f. 48	Letters to Mary Elizabeth Gould Wing	1880 August 16-1889 August 27

## Wing, Alice Earle (continued)

b. 2, f. 49-50	Letters to relatives (2 folders)	1889 August 19-1918 November 30, undated
b. 2, f. 51	Wing, Daniel Gould 14 letters from Daniel Gould Wing to father George W. Wing and sister Elizabeth "Bessie" Russell Wing Brace. Letters written from Davenport, Iowa; Lincoln, Nebraska; and Boston, Massachusetts.	1881 January 27-1905 December 5
	Wing, George W. 52 letters from George W. Wing to wife Mary Elizabeth Gould Wing, 19 to daughter Elizabeth "Bessie" Russell Wing Brace, and 6 to daughter Alice Earle Wing. Letters written from Buffalo, New York, and Scarsdale, New York; Providence, Rhode Island; Davenport, Iowa; Lincoln, Nebraska; and West Newton, Massachusetts.  Letters sent to Mary Wing from Argenta, Brown's Bridge, Dillon, Glendale, and Vipond, Montana, document George Wing's involvement with silver mining claims. Wing's brother, Robert T. Wing, was a pioneer in silver mining at Montana having gone there in 1863.  Includes 6 letters addressed to Wing.	
b. 2, f. 52-55	Letters to Mary Elizabeth Gould Wing (4 folders)	1866 March 4-1889 September 5, undated
b. 2, f. 56-57	Letters to Elizabeth "Bessie" Russell Wing Brace (2 folders)	1882 June 11-1916 July 12, undated
b. 2, f. 58	Letters to Alice Earle Wing	1870 June 24-1915 June 16
b. 2, f. 59	Letters from acquaintances	1865 September 5-1905 September 26
b. 2, f. 60	Wing, John R. 1 letter from John R. Winthrop to aunt Elizabeth "Bessie" Russell Wing Brace. Letter written from an unidentified location.	undated
	Wing, Mary Elizabeth Gould 49 letters from Mary Elizabeth Gould Wing to husband George W. Wing, 28 to daughter Elizabeth "Bessie" Russell Wing Brace, and 3 to other relatives. Letters written from Davenport, Iowa, and Lincoln, Nebraska.	
b. 3, f. 61-65	Letters to George W. Wing (5 folders)	1859 March 7-1891 August 9, undated
b. 3, f. 66-68	Letters to Elizabeth "Bessie" Russell Wing Brace (3 folders)	1875 September 5-1895 November 9, undated



## Wing, Mary Elizabeth Gould (continued)

b. 3, f. 69	Letters to relatives	1895 February 24, undated
	<p>Wing, Thomas Ellwood</p> <p>31 letters from Thomas Ellwood Wing to sister Elizabeth "Bessie" Russell Wing Brace, 6 to father George W. Wing, and 4 to other relatives. Letters written from Davenport, Iowa; Lincoln, Nebraska; and Scarsdale, New York.</p>	
b. 3, f. 70-72	Letters to Elizabeth "Bessie" Russell Wing Brace (3 folders)	1883 January 13-1920 December 23, undated
b. 3, f. 73	Letters to George W. Wing	1881 May 17-1889 December 4
b. 3, f. 74	Letters to relatives	1891 July 12-1926 February 7
b. 3, f. 75	<p>Wing, Winthrop B.</p> <p>1 letter from Winthrop B. Wing to cousin Alice B. Brace, and 1 letter to aunt Elizabeth "Bessie" Russell Wing Brace. Letters written from an unidentified location.</p>	undated
b. 3, f. 76-78	<p>Miscellaneous (3 folders)</p> <p>32 letters from various correspondents to members of the Wing and Brace families.</p>	1876 January 31-1926 May 5, undated

**Series II: Ephemera and other papers, 1862-1924**

Series II contains 96 pieces of ephemera, including 13 invitations and calling cards addressed to either Mr. & Mrs. George Wing or Mr. & Mrs. DeWitt B. Brace, 7 postcards exchanged amongst the Wing family, 37 empty envelopes, 38 miscellaneous manuscript notes, and 1 photograph of an unidentified man.

Series II is arranged alphabetically by item type.

b. 3, f. 79-80	Envelopes (2 folders)	1862-1924, undated
b. 3, f. 81-82	Invitations and calling cards (2 folders)	undated
b. 3, f. 83-85	Miscellaneous manuscript notes (3 folders)	undated
b. 3, f. 86	Photograph	circa 1880s
b. 3, f. 87	Postcards	1882-1924

## 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.

### Subjects

Mines and mineral resources -- Montana  
Silver mines and mining -- Montana  
Women -- West (U.S.)  
World War, 1914-1918 -- Participation, Female  
World War, 1914-1918 -- War work -- Young  
Men's Christian Associations

### Geographic Names

California -- Description and travel  
Davenport (Iowa)  
Iowa -- Social life and customs  
Lincoln (Neb.)  
Massachusetts -- Social life and customs  
Nebraska -- Social life and customs  
New York (State) -- Social life and customs  
Scarsdale (N.Y.)  
West Newton (Mass.)

### Contributors

Brace, Alice B., 1905-  
Brace, Elizabeth Russell Wing, 1870-1911  
Brace, Lloyd DeWitt, 1903-1986  
Brace, Roger Wing, 1904-1966  
Wing, Alice Earle, 1870-1920  
Wing, Daniel Gould, 1868-1936  
Wing, George W., 1833-1918  
Wing, John R., approximately 1912-  
Wing, Mary Elizabeth Gould, 1841-1895  
Wing, Thomas Ellwood, 1872-  
Wing, Winthrop B., approximately 1913-  
Wing family

### Acquired From

Michael Brown Rare Books, LLC , bookseller