

Guide to the De Forest Family Papers

MS 177



compiled by William E. Brown, Jr.

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Collection Overview

REPOSITORY: Manuscripts and Archives
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CALL NUMBER: MS 177

CREATOR: De Forest family

TITLE: De Forest family papers

DATES: 1798-1889

BULK DATES: 1798-1825

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: 4.5 linear feet

LANGUAGE: English

SUMMARY: The papers consist of correspondence, account books, journals, letterbooks, financial records, and related papers of David Curtis De Forest and family members. The papers document the business and political careers of De Forest, including his commercial enterprise in Buenos Aires, Argentina. Correspondence, located within journals and letterbooks, includes letters written to family members, colleagues, and associates while on sea voyages to South America and elsewhere.

ONLINE FINDING AID: To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/mssa.ms.0177>

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.0177>.

To order reproductions from this collection, please go to 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

Administrative Information

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Purchased from Frederick Hill, 1939, and gift of Clementine De Forest Griffin, 1940.

Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

Conditions Governing Use

Copyright status for collection materials is unknown, though much of the material in this collection is likely in the public domain. Transmission or reproduction of materials protected by U.S. Copyright Law (Title 17, U.S.C.) beyond that allowed by fair use requires the written permission of the copyright owners. Works not in the public domain cannot be commercially exploited without permission of the copyright owners. Responsibility for any use rests exclusively with the user.

Preferred Citation

De Forest Family Papers (MS 177). Manuscripts and Archives, Yale University Library.

Biographical / Historical

David Curtis De Forest was born January 10, 1774 in Huntington, Connecticut. He worked on sailing vessels as a young man and served as a lieutenant in the army (1799-1801). De Forest established the first American commercial house in Buenos Aires, Argentina. Political and military unrest in Argentina (1811-1817) did not harm his business, and De Forest was commissioned as consul general to the United States by the new Argentine Republic (1815). De Forest resigned this position before receiving any U.S. diplomatic papers. De Forest died on February 22, 1825 in New Haven, Connecticut.

Scope and Contents

The papers consist of the account books, journals, letterbooks, financial records, and related papers of David Curtis De Forest (1774-1825), William B. De Forest, George Butler Griffin, and other family members. David Curtis De Forest files include documentation on his service as United States consul general to Argentina.

Arrangement

Arranged in four series: I. David Curtis De Forest, 1798-1825. II. William B. De Forest, 1861-1873. III. George Butler Griffin, 1857-1889. IV. Family Papers.

Collection Contents

Series I: DAVID CURTIS DE FOREST (1774-1825), 1798-1825

This series contains material arranged alphabetically by record type, with "Argentine financial records" organized at the end of the series.

b. 1, f. 1	Account book	1819-1825
b. 1, f. 2	Commonplace book	1799-1802
b. 1, f. 3	Gardening book	1819-1824
Journals		
b. 1, f. 4	No. 1	1800-1801
b. 1, f. 5	No. 2	1801-1803
b. 1, f. 6	No. 3	1803-1804
b. 2, f. 7	No. 4	1804-1805
b. 2, f. 8	No. 5	1805-1806
b. 2, f. 9	No. 6	1806-1809
b. 2, f. 10	No. 8	1809-1817
Letterbooks		
b. 2, f. 11	No. 1	1798-1799
b. 3, f. 12	No. 2	1805-1806
b. 3, f. 13	No. 3	1806-1809
b. 3, f. 14	No. 4	1809-1811
b. 3, f. 15	No. 5	1811-1816
b. 4, f. 16	No. 6	1818-1819
b. 4, f. 17	No. 7	1819-1821
b. 4, f. 18	No. 8	1821-1825
b. 4, f. 19	Typescripts	undated
Notes		
b. 4, f. 20	Commerce	1803-1807
b. 4, f. 21	Tour of the West	1822
Argentine financial records		
b. 5, f. 22	Cash book	1816-1818

Argentine financial records (continued)

b. 6, f. 23	Journal	1814-1816
b. 6A, f. 24	Journal	1814-1816
b. 7, f. 25	Ledger	1814-1816
b. 7A, f. 26	Wastebook	1814-1816

Series II: WILLIAM B. DE FOREST, 1861-1873

This series is arranged alphabetically by record type.

b. 8, f. 27	Commonplace book	undated
b. 8, f. 28	Estate journal: Russel C. Abernathy	1861-1873

Series III: GEORGE BUTLER GRIFFIN, 1857-1889

This series is arranged alphabetically by record type.

b. 9, f. 29	Catalogue: personal library	1889
b. 9, f. 30	Logbook: U.S. States Surveying Expedition, 1857-1858	1857-1859
b. 9, f. 31	Notebook: genealogy of Griswold family	1884-1885
b. 9, f. 32	Scrapbook: Spanish articles on Colombia	1869-1875

Series IV: FAMILY PAPERS

This series contains material arranged alphabetically by the name of the individual. Miscellaneous items are filed at the end of the series.

b. 10, f. 33	Canfield, M.	undated
b. 10, f. 34	de Espril, Courtney Letts	undated
b. 10, f. 35	De Forest, John	undated
b. 10, f. 36	De Forest, Lockwood	undated
b. 10, f. 37	Deal, Jana N.	undated
b. 10, f. 38	Everit, Annie E.	undated
b. 10, f. 39	Olmstead, Denison	undated
b. 11, f. 40	Shepard, Charles U.	undated
	Miscellaneous	
b. 11, f. 41	Correspondence	undated
b. 11, f. 42	Notebooks	undated
b. 11, f. 43	Typescripts and photocopies	undated
b. 11, f. 44-45	Unidentified	undated

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

Voyages and travels

Geographic Names

Argentina -- History -- War of Independence,
1810-1817
South America

Names

Butler, George Griffin
De Forest, David Curtis, 1774-1825
De Forest, William B.
Edwards, Pierpont, 1750-1826

Families

De Forest family