

# Guide to the Holmes Family Papers

MS 1000



compiled by Susan Grigg

October 1979

Yale University Library  
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## Collection Overview

**REPOSITORY:** Manuscripts and Archives  
Yale University Library  
P.O. Box 208240  
New Haven, CT 06520-8240  
(203) 432-1735  
(203) 432-7441  
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<http://www.library.yale.edu/mssa/>

**CALL NUMBER:** MS 1000

**CREATOR:** Holmes family

**TITLE:** Holmes family papers

**DATES:** 1823-1896

**BULK DATES:** 1856-1896

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:** 1 linear foot

**LANGUAGE:** English

**SUMMARY:** The principal figure in these papers is Charles Edward Latimer Holmes, of Waterbury and Bridgeport, Connecticut, manufacturer of brass and silver, and the son of Israel Holmes. Included are correspondence, business papers, a diary, and family scrapbooks. Holmes' letters to his second wife, Annie E. Slade Holmes, and his daughter, Lydia Holmes Bliss, were chiefly written while he was traveling on business to France and England in 1879 and to England in 1883. His business papers consist of letter books (1881-1883) and correspondence and patents related to his inventions (1879-1883). Also in the papers is a diary kept by his first wife, Mary E. Steele Holmes, while they were living in Nebraska in 1856. Of the two scrapbooks, one contains letters from his uncle, Reuben Holmes, while the second was kept by a member of the Israel Holmes family and contains clippings, letterheads from the family businesses, programs, speeches, poems by C. E. L. Holmes, and other memorabilia.

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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.1000>.

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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

Gift of Mrs. Arthur B. Dayton, 1955.

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### Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

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### Conditions Governing Use

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### Preferred Citation

Holmes Family Papers (MS 1000). Manuscripts and Archives, Yale University Library.

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## Biographical / Historical

Charles Edward Latimer Holmes was born in Waterbury, Connecticut, on May 15, 1832. He had little education and entered the manufacturing business at seventeen. In 1857, he moved to Nebraska, but returned in 1860. During the Civil War, he helped to organize the 23rd regiment of Connecticut volunteers and, after being appointed colonel, was sent to fight in Louisiana. After the war, he returned to the manufacturing business. He was married twice and had a daughter by the second marriage. Holmes died on April 28, 1884.

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## Scope and Contents

The Holmes Family Papers consist mainly of personal letters and business papers of C. E. L. Holmes (1832-1884) and scrapbooks documenting his literary career. The personal letters, 1864-1884, were addressed to his second wife, Annie E. (Slade) Holmes, and his daughter, Lydia (Holmes) Bliss, while he was doing business in New York and Connecticut and traveling to England (1879, 1883) and France (1879). The business papers are mainly letterbooks, 1881-1883, and correspondence and patents related to his inventions, 1879-1883. The scrapbooks contain clippings and a few manuscripts of his poems and prose plus several business cards from manufacturing enterprises with which he was associated.

There are also a few papers of other family members: a diary, "First Housekeeping," by his first wife, Mary (Steele) Holmes (d. 1862), kept while they were living in Nebraska in 1856; some printed and manuscript poems and prose by his father, Israel Holmes (1800-1874); and copies of several letters, 1823, written by his father's brother, Reuben Holmes (1798-1833), around the time he was graduated from West Point.

The Holmes Family Papers were given to Yale University Library by Mrs. Arthur B. Dayton in 1955.

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## Collection Contents

Charles E. L. Holmes		
b. 1, f. 1 - 8	Correspondence	1859-1884
b. 1, f. 8A-8B	Letterbooks	1881-1883
b. 1, f. 9	Papers relating to patents for sewing machine improvements and other inventions	1873-1882
b. 1, f. 10	Business letters and papers	1879-1883, undated
b. 1, f. 11	Ms. speech and printed poems	undated
b. 1, f. 12	Printed passenger list from the steamship <i>Baltic</i>	1878
	Printed copy of photograph	undated
b. 2, f. 13	Charles E. L. and Mary E. (Steadie) Holmes: diary, "First Housekeeping"	1856
b. 2, f. 14	Israel Holmes: printed address and poem	1870
	Scrapbooks	
b. 2, f. 15	Volume containing letters by Reuben Holmes, ms. poem by Israel Holmes, and clippings of poems and addresses	1823, undated
b. 2, f. 16	Volume of printed writings	1870, 1873, undated
b. 2, f. 17	Volume containing printed and ms. poems, clippings, programs, business cards, etc., many relating to Charles E. L. Holmes	1870-1873, undated
b. 3	Letters patent issued to John Ingraham	1868 December 1
b. 3	Letters patent issued to Edwin Powley Alexander	1880 March 15
b. 3	Autographs	
b. 3	Sarah Potter (1813-1900)	1896 February 3
b. 3	Elizabeth, queen consort of George VI	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**

Business  
Businessmen  
Families  
Inventions  
Literature -- History and criticism

### **Geographic Names**

Connecticut -- Industry  
Europe -- Description and travel  
Great Britain  
Nebraska -- Social life and customs  
West (U.S.)

### **Genres / Formats**

Diaries  
Scrapbooks

### **Occupations**

Manufacturers

### **Names**

Holmes, Charles Edward Latimer, 1832-1884  
Holmes, Israel, 1800-1874  
Holmes, Mary E. Steele, d. 1862  
Holmes, Reuben, 1798-1833

### **Families**

Holmes family