

# Guide to the David Wagstaff Papers

GEN MSS 415



by Kathryn Rawdon

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## Table of Contents

Collection Overview .....	3
Requesting Instructions .....	3
Administrative Information .....	4
Immediate Source of Acquisition .....	4
Conditions Governing Access .....	4
Conditions Governing Use .....	4
Preferred Citation .....	4
DAVID WAGSTAFF, 1882-1951 .....	4
Scope and Contents .....	4
Collection Contents .....	6
Series I: Personal Papers, 1824-1950 .....	6
TRAVEL DIARIES .....	6
RESTIGOUCHE RIPARIAN ASSOCIATION .....	6
RISTIGOUCHE SALMON CLUB .....	6
Correspondence .....	6
Organizational Records .....	7
Financial Records .....	8
Photographs .....	8
OTHER PAPERS .....	8
Series II: Materials Collected by David Wagstaff, 1867-1899 .....	10
HUNTING AND FISHING PAPERS .....	10
PHOTOGRAPHS .....	10
PHOTOGRAPH ALBUMS .....	10
Oversize .....	11
Restricted Fragile .....	12
Selected Search Terms .....	13

## 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:** GEN MSS 415

**CREATOR:** Wagstaff, David, 1882-1951

**TITLE:** David Wagstaff papers

**DATES:** 1824-1950

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:** 3.7 linear feet (10 boxes) + 2 broadside folders, 1 portfolio, cold storage

**LANGUAGE:** English

**SUMMARY:** Collection consists of personal papers and materials collected by David Wagstaff. Included are diaries of Wagstaff's travels from 1907-1921; correspondence, organizational papers, photographs and other materials related to the Ristigouche Salmon Club and the Restigouche Riparian Association; personal papers including catalog cards of Wagstaff's book collection; and materials generally concerning hunting and fishing collected by Wagstaff, including shooting targets, shooting awards, photographs of unidentified individuals, generally from the nineteenth century, one photograph album of the United States Military Academy (West Point) class of 1861, and one album of members of the 1867 New York (State) Legislature Assembly.

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

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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.wag>.

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

Gift of Isabelle (Mrs. David) Wagstaff and the Wagstaff Estate, 1951 and 1958.

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### Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

*Restricted Fragile* materials in the portfolio and in cold storage may only be consulted with permission of the appropriate curator. Preservation photocopies for reference use have been substituted in the main files. One original negative came with the papers. A copy print has been made and the original stored separately.

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### Conditions Governing Use

The David Wagstaff Papers are 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

David Wagstaff Papers. General Collection, Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University.

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## DAVID WAGSTAFF, 1882-1951

David Wagstaff was born in 1882. He received his B.A. from Harvard in 1905, and worked as a partner in the New York City brokerage firm of Dominick & Dominick from 1915-1929. An avid sportsman, he collected sporting books, paintings, and prints, many of which he later donated to the University of Virginia and to Yale University. From 1943-1951 he served as the Curator of Sporting Books in the Yale University Library. He died in 1951.

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## Scope and Contents

The David Wagstaff Papers contain personal papers and materials collected by David Wagstaff, including travel diaries, papers related to fishing on the Restigouche River in the province of Québec, catalog cards of Wagstaff's collection of sporting books, photographs, shooting targets and awards. The Papers have been arranged into two series; *Personal Papers* and *Materials Collected by David Wagstaff*. The Papers span the years 1824-1950, but the bulk of the materials date from the period 1907-1950.

[Series I, \*Personal Papers\*](#), contains travel diaries, materials related to the Restigouche Riparian Associations, materials related to the Ristigouche Salmon Club in Matapédia, Québec, of which Wagstaff was a member, and other papers. The travel diaries document cruises and trips taken by Wagstaff between 1907-1921. Many of the diaries include photographs of the scenery, Wagstaff's companions and the fish they caught. The Restigouche Riparian Association materials consist of annual reports, records of fish caught by local fishing groups and individuals, treasurer's reports, and other papers. The Ristigouche Salmon Club materials contain correspondence, organizational records, financial records, and photographs. Included are letters from the Club and its members to David Wagstaff, generally concerning the Club's plans for the fishing season and the state of the Club and the Restigouche River. Also included are copies of letters from the Club to various members. The organizational records include annual reports,

fishing records, and fishing rules and regulations. Financial records consist of bills and receipts sent to Wagstaff for membership fees and other Club-related expenses. The photographs include pictures of Club members and staff, and scenes of the Club and the Restigouche River area. Other personal papers include blank Christmas cards from Wagstaff and his wife Isabelle, hunting and fishing licenses, a scrapbook of newspaper clippings entitled "In Memoriam. Wesley Hunt Tilford," the Last Will and Testament of an earlier David Wagstaff, and catalog cards of Wagstaff's collection of sporting books.

[\*Series II, Materials Collected by David Wagstaff\*](#), contains materials related to hunting, fishing and shooting, generally from the nineteenth century. Included are clippings from newspapers and magazines about hunting and fishing, programs for shooting competitions, and illustrated shooting targets and awards. Photographs include portraits of men and a woman in various shooting poses, a rifle match, a portrait of the American Rifle Team of 1880, and two photograph albums: one with portraits and signatures of members of the New York (State) Legislature Assembly of 1867, and one containing portraits of the United States Military Academy (West Point) class of 1861.

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## Collection Contents

### Series I: Personal Papers, 1824-1950

2.5 linear feet (6 boxes)

#### TRAVEL DIARIES

b. 1, f. 1	"Cruise of 1907"	1907
b. 1, f. 2	"East Coast, Shark River and Madeira Bay," with photographs	1907
b. 1, f. 3	"The Heron. From Fort Myers to Shark River and Return," with photographs	1908
b. 1, f. 4-5	"Florida West Coast"	1908-09
b. 1, f. 6	"Trip of 1909. The Whim. Texas, Louisiana and Mississippi"	1909
b. 1, f. 7	"Cruise of 1911. Savale[?] and Ellis J."	
b. 2, f. 8	"Cruise of 1912"	1912
b. 2, f. 9	"Cruise of 1913"	1913
b. 2, f. 10	"Cruise of 1914"	1914
b. 2, f. 11	"Cruise of 1915"	1915
b. 2, f. 12	"Cruise of 1916," with photographs	1916
b. 2, f. 13	"Cruise of 1917"	1917
b. 3, f. 14	"Cruise of 1918"	1918
b. 3, f. 15	"Cruise of 1919"	1919
b. 3, f. 16	"1920"	1920
b. 3, f. 17	"Cruise of 1921"	1921

#### RESTIGOUCHE RIPARIAN ASSOCIATION

b. 3, f. 18	Annual reports	1925-40
b. 3, f. 19	Records of fish caught in area rivers	1924-35
b. 3, f. 20	Treasurer's reports	1924-35
b. 3, f. 21	Other Papers	1927-31, n.d.

#### RISTIGOUCHE SALMON CLUB

Correspondence  
Letters to David Wagstaff

b. 3, f. 22	Chestnut Canoe Co., Limited	1945 Jul 27
b. 3, f. 23	Johnson, Percy H.	1949 Mar 30
b. 3, f. 24	Leyman, Harry S.	1946 May 9

## RISTIGOUCHE SALMON CLUB &gt; Correspondence (continued)

b. 3, f. 25	Metallic, Edward	1948 Sep 14
b. 3, f. 26-33	Ristigouche Salmon Club Includes: Letters from Howard Baetjer, Guy Cary and J. F. Rooney Includes: Drafts of the Club's Annual Report, 1933 and 1942, and the Fishing Rules of 1936	1921-50
b. 3, f. 34	Tilford, Henry Morgan	1939
b. 3, f. 35	Van Horne, J.C. Includes: Map of a section of the Matapédia, Québec area	1950 Jan 20
b. 3, f. 36	Webster, George B.	1948 Sep
b. 3, f. 37	Wells, Bulkeley L.	1930 Aug 13
b. 3, f. 38	Ziegler, J. M.	1941 May 7
b. 3, f. 39	Unidentified	1945 Sep 6
Ristigouche Salmon Club Correspondence		
b. 3, f. 40	Baetjer, Edwin G.	1942 Dec 10
b. 3, f. 41	Bell, James F.	1943 Nov 30
b. 3, f. 42	General club membership	1937-50
b. 3, f. 43	Leyman, Harry S. Includes: Letters from the Outboard Marine and Manufacturing Company	1942-46
b. 3, f. 44	Phelps, Earle Bernard	1932
b. 3, f. 45	Rooney, J. F.	1941, 1944
b. 3, f. 46	Unidentified	1936 Sep 2
Other Correspondence		
b. 3, f. 47	De Forest, Henry W. to Oliver S. Campbell	1934 Oct 15
Organizational Records		
b. 4, f. 48-51	Annual reports	1923-49
b. 4, f. 52-53	Individual members' fishing records Includes: Letter from the Club to Wagstaff	1926-50
b. 4, f. 54	Club fishing records	1906-26
b. 4, f. 55	Fishing rules and regulations	1907-43
b. 4, f. 56	Matapédia Bridge Gauge. Records of water height	1920-49
b. 4, f. 57-58	Results of fishing seasons	1925-50

## RISTIGOUCHE SALMON CLUB &gt; Organizational Records (continued)

b. 4, f. 59	"Suggested Fishing Rules for 1943 Season"	1943
b. 4, f. 60-61	Up-river occupation charts Also stored in: Oversize, bsd, folder 113	1930-49
b. 4, f. 62	Other papers	n.d.
Financial Records		
b. 4, f. 63	Bills for club expenses	1925-49
b. 4, f. 64	Receipts for club expenses	1934-47
b. 4, f. 65	Membership fee receipts	1924-49
b. 4, f. 66	Other bills	1939-45
b. 4, f. 67	Other financial papers	1932-44
Photographs		
b. 4, f. 68	"Brown trout. Speared January 30th 1929. Canal. Southside Sportsmen's Club. Oakdale, N.Y."	[1929?]
b. 4, f. 69	Clusser, Renfer, with fish	n.d.
b. 4, f. 70	"Coming into Indian House[?]"	n.d.
b. 4, f. 71	"The 'Elm' at Patapédia [sic]"	n.d.
b. 4, f. 72	"Indian House[?] down river"	n.d.
b. 4, f. 73	"Looking down from Pine[?] Island"	n.d.
b. 4, f. 74	"Matapédia Bridge"	n.d.
b. 4, f. 75	"Matapédia Pool"	n.d.
b. 4, f. 76	"Red Bank - Joe Furlot"	n.d.
b. 4, f. 77	"The 'Rock' with Mr. Pratt"	n.d.
b. 4, f. 78	Unidentified building	n.d.
b. 4, f. 79	Unidentified men	n.d.
b. 4, f. 80	Unidentified water scenes	n.d.
OTHER PAPERS		
b. 5, f. 81-82	Christmas cards from David and Isabelle Wagstaff	n.d.
b. 5, f. 83-85	Hunting and fishing licenses	1919-47
	"In Memoriam. Wesley Hunt Tilford," album of newspaper clippings Stored in: Oversize, Box 10, folder 115	[1909?]
	Last Will and Testament of an earlier David Wagstaff Stored in: Oversize, bsd, folder 114	1824, 1828



## OTHER PAPERS (continued)

b. 5, f. 86	Notes removed from the travel diary "Cruise of 1917"	1917
b. 5, f. 87-88	Photographs removed from the travel diary "Cruise of 1917"	1917
b. 5, f. 89	"Southside Sportsmen's Club. Oakdale, Long Island," rules and reports	1932-41
b. 5, f. 90	"Tuxedo Park, New York. Fishing Rules"	1932 Apr 1
b. 5, f. 91	Unidentified envelope addressed to Wagstaff	1943 Jun 29
b. 5, f. 92	Wagstaff, David. Newspaper clipping of a letters to the editor of an unidentified paper	1933 Feb 25
b. 6, f. 93	Catalog cards of items in Wagstaff's book and manuscript collection donated to Yale	ca. 1950-55

## Series II: Materials Collected by David Wagstaff, 1867-1899

0.4 linear feet (3 boxes)

### HUNTING AND FISHING PAPERS

b. 7, f. 94-95	Clippings from newspapers and magazines about hunting and fishing	n.d.
b. 7, f. 96	Programs for shooting competitions[?]	1879, n.d.
b. 7, f. 97-98	Shooting awards	1872-82, n.d.
b. 7, f. 99-100	Shooting targets	1879-99, n.d.

### PHOTOGRAPHS

b. 7, f. 101	American Rifle Team	1880
b. 7, f. 102	Bryant Testimonial Vase	n.d.
b. 7, f. 103	Portrait of a man signed "Gilbert Bacon"	n.d.
b. 7, f. 104	"Nynark. Peekskill. Central Valley... Rifle Match"	1886, n.d.
b. 7, f. 105	Unidentified military unit in target practice	n.d.
b. 7, f. 106	Unidentified portrait of a family	n.d.
b. 7, f. 107-108	Unidentified portraits of men	n.d.
b. 7, f. 109	Unidentified men with guns	n.d.
b. 7, f. 110	Unidentified woman with gun	n.d.

### PHOTOGRAPH ALBUMS

b. 8, f. 111	"Album of the Assembly, New York 1867," photograph album with portraits and signatures of members of the New York (State) Legislature Assembly	[1867]
b. 9, f. 112	Photograph album of the United States Military Academy (West Point) class of 1861	n.d.

**Oversize***0.8 linear feet (1 box) + 2 broadside folders*

b. bsd, folder 113	Up-river occupation charts (in Series I)	1930-49
b. bsd, folder 114	Last Will and Testament of an earlier David Wagstaff (in Series I)	1824, 1828
b. 10, f. 115	"In Memoriam. Wesley Hunt Tilford," album of newspaper clippings (in Series I)	[1909?]

**Restricted Fragile**

Restricted fragile material. Reference surrogates have been substituted in the main files. For further information consult appropriate curator.

b. port, f. 116	Box 3, folder 26
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b. port, f. 117	Box 3, folder 28
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b. port, f. 118	Box 3, folder 29
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b. port, f. 119	Box 3, folder 47
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b. port, f. 120	Box 5, folder 86
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b. cs, f. 121	Box 4, folder 79
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## **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**

Book collecting  
Fishing  
Hunting  
Salmon fishing  
Shooting

### **Geographic Names**

Matapédia River Valley (Québec)  
Restigouche River (N.B. and Québec)

### **Genres / Formats**

Diaries  
Photograph albums  
Photographic prints

### **Names**

Wagstaff, David, 1882-1951

### **Corporate Bodies**

New York (State). Legislature. Assembly --  
Pictorial works  
Restigouche Riparian Association  
Restigouche Salmon Club (Matapédia, Québec)  
United States Military Academy. Class of 1861