

# Guide to the G. & C. Merriam Company Records

GEN MSS 789



by Beinecke staff

May 2012

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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:** GEN MSS 789

**CREATOR:** G. & C. Merriam Company

**TITLE:** G. & C. Merriam Company records

**DATES:** 1830s-1935

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:** 3.34 linear feet (3 boxes)

**LANGUAGE:** English

**SUMMARY:** The records consist correspondence, advertisements, invoices, bills of lading, circulars and other papers relating to the G. & C. Merriam Company's wholesale and retail book trade. Includes records relating to Claremont Manufacturing Company and H.H. Bancroft and Company.

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

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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.gcmerriam>.

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

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## Administrative Information

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### Immediate Source of Acquisition

Purchased from Eclectibles, 2010, on the Edwin J. Beinecke Book Fund, from M & S Rare Books, Inc., 2010, on the Hall Park McCullough Fund, and from Lawbook Exchange, Ltd., 2011, on the Edwin J. Beinecke Book Fund.

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## Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

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## Conditions Governing Use

The G. & C. Merriam Company Records 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

G. & C. Merriam Company Records. 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 [as they are acquired], and does more extensive processing of higher priority collections as time and resources permit.

This collection received a basic level of processing, including rehousing and minimal organization. Various acquisitions associated with the collection have not been merged and organized as a whole. Each acquisition is described separately in the contents list below and titled according to month and year of acquisition.

Information included in the Description of Papers note and Collection Contents section is drawn from information supplied with the collection and from an initial survey of the contents. Folder titles appearing in the contents list below are often based on those provided by the creator or previous custodian. Titles have not been verified against the contents of the folders in all cases. Otherwise, folder titles are supplied by staff during initial processing.

This finding aid may be updated periodically to account for new acquisitions to the collection and/or revisions in arrangement and description.

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## Associated Materials

[G. & C. Merriam Company Archive](#). General Collection, Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University.

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## G. & C. Merriam Company

The G. & C. Merriam Company, established by George and Charles Merriam in Springfield, Massachusetts, was the publisher and reviser of Noah Webster's American Dictionary beginning in 1847.

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## Scope and Contents

The records consist correspondence, advertisements, invoices, bills of lading, circulars and other papers relating to the G. & C. Merriam Company's wholesale and retail book trade. Includes records relating to Claremont Manufacturing Company and H.H. Bancroft and Company.

## **General note**

This finding aid describes a collection that has been acquired by the library in discrete segments over time. The narrative sections of the finding aid provide information about the content and context of the collection. The Collection Contents section provides a general description and in some instances a box or folder listing of the various acquisitions of the collection. The Processing Notes section provides information about the way and extent to which the library has processed this collection. The Arrangement section provides information about how material within this collection is organized and tips on how to locate material across various acquisitions.

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## **Arrangement**

Organized into two groupings: July and October 2010 Acquisitions, and August 2011 Acquisition.

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## Collection Contents

### July and October 2010 Acquisitions, 1830s-1935

3.34 linear feet (3 boxes)

Material is arranged in rough alphabetical order.

b.1	<i>A Key to Uncle Tom's Cabin</i> - publicity flyer Includes a handwritten letter on the reverse.	1853
b.1	Advertisements	1850s-1930s
b.1	Advertisement	1929
b.1	Advertising - receipts	1830s-1850s
b.1	<i>American Seamen's Friend Society</i> - printed brochure with letter from L. P. Hubbard	1865
b.1	Banks, Gould & Co. - handwritten invoice	1847
b.1	<i>A Book for the Million!</i> - broadside circular	1853
b.1	Book lists	1850s
b.1	<i>Books Published by T. R. Marvin</i> - printed circular Includes a handwritten letter on reverse from T.R. Marvin concerning a book order.	1844
b.1	Boston Trade Sale circulars	1844-1851
b.1	Business cards, advertisements, promotional pamphlets, etc.	
b.1	Business correspondence 3 Folders	1830s-1870s
b.1	Business papers 3 Folders	1830s-1860s
b.1	Business papers - H. H. Bancroft & Co.	1850s-1860s
b.1	Business papers - San Francisco	1860s-1870s
b.1	Business papers - Sunday School Unions	1830s-1860s
b.1	Checks	1840s-1850s
b.1	Circulars	
b.1	Circulars - trade sales	1830s-1850s
b.1	Claremont Manufacturing Company	1840-1860
b.1	Cole, Robert H. - letter requesting books	1844
b.1	Copyright certificates	1836-1840

b.1	<i>The Elements of Intellectual Philosophy</i> - printed circular Includes a handwritten letter on the reverse from Philips and Sampson.	1855
b.1	Graves, J. R.	1871
b.1	J. & A. MacMillan sales	1866
b.1	Jones, Henry and J. Hammond Trumbull - correspondence	1864-1866
b.1	Key wallets Contains three G. & C. Merriam Co. key wallets.	
b.1	Lists of Books Published <i>3 Folders</i>	1830s-1850s
b.1	<i>List of Books Published and Offered to the Trade of John P. Jewett</i> Includes a bill for books ordered by Merriam, found on reverse.	1843
b.1	Papers relating to publishing	1830s-1840s
b.1	<i>The Paramount Question! Is the Existence of a Privileged Class Compatible with the Theoretical Equality of Republican Institutions?</i> - printed circular	1855
b.1	<i>People's History of America</i>	1874
b.1	Printer's correspondence Contains five letters and two receipts.	1852-1870
b.1	Program and menu for dinner to announce second edition	1934 June 25
b.1	Promotional materials - loose-leaf papers	1850s
b.1	Promotional materials - pamphlets	1861-1935
b.1	<i>Prospectus of Lowe's Farm and Fireside Journal</i> - printed circular Includes a letter from J. Payne Lowe on the reverse.	1867
b.1	<i>Prospectus of the New York Recorder</i> - printed circular Includes a handwritten letter from James S. Dickinson & Co. on the reverse.	1852
b.1	Publishing and advertisement	1830s-1860s
b.1	Purchases - Hartford and New Haven - receipts	1840s-1850s
b.1	Purchases - Benjamin Olds - receipts	1840s
b.1	Purchases - Other New England receipts	1830s-1840s
b.1	Purchases - various receipts <i>2 Folders</i>	1840s-1870s
b.2	Receipts and business correspondence	1830s-1860s
b.2	Receipts and correspondence <i>3 Folders</i>	1830s-1860s

b. 2	Sales papers <i>2 Folders</i>	1830s-1870s
b. 2	Sales, advertisements and related correspondence	1840s-1860s
b. 2	Sales, publishing, shipping	1840s-1870s
b. 2	Sessions, William H. - letter concerning a debt	1845
b. 2	Shipping	1860
b. 2	Shipping - <i>Bills of Lading from Clipper Ships to San Francisco</i>	1850s-1860s
b. 2	Shipping - <i>Bills of Lading - Railroads, Ships</i>	1850s-1860s
b. 2	Shipping - Railroads - Boston and Worcester Railroad - receipts	1830s-1840s
b. 2	Shipping - Railroads - Conn. River Railroad Co. - receipts	1840s-1850s
b. 2	Shipping - Railroads - Hartford-New Haven Railroad	1840s-1850s
b. 2	Shipping - Railroads - receipts <i>2 Folders</i>	1830s-1850s
b. 2	Shipping - Railroads - receipts and correspondence <i>2 Folders</i>	1840s-1860s
b. 2	Shipping - Railroads and steamboats - receipts	1830s-1850s
b. 2	Shipping - Railroads - Western Railroad Corporation <i>2 Folders</i>	1840s-1870s
b. 2	Shipping - Steamboat - New Haven Steamboat Co. - receipts	1860s
b. 2	Shipping - Steamboats - receipts	1830s-1850s
b. 2	Shipping - Steamboats and ships - receipts	1830s-1850s
b. 2	Shipping - Transportation Lines - receipts	1830s-1850s
b. 2	Shipping - Transportation Lines - Union Transportation Line	1840s
b. 2	Shipping - Various receipts <i>4 Folders</i>	1830s-1870s
b. 2	Small plastic dictionaries	
b. 2	Subscription to The Emancipator, New York - printed receipt	1838
b. 2	Swett, John - letters	1860s
b. 2	Warren, J.Q.A. - letters to Merriam and Advertising card	1859
b. 2	Webster & Merriam portraits	
b. 2	<i>Works of Daniel Webster</i> promotional proposal - circular Includes a handwritten letter on the reverse, concerning a book order from Little Brown and Company.	1851



b. 2	100th Anniversary booklet	1931
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b. 3 Oversize	Printed ephemera
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## August 2011 Acquisition, 1833-1869

b. 2	Correspondence, financial papers and printed material <i>3 Folders</i>	1833-1869
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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**

Booksellers and bookselling -- United States  
Publishers and publishing -- United States

### **Genres / Formats**

Advertisements  
Business records

### **Corporate Bodies**

Claremont Manufacturing Company  
G. & C. Merriam Company  
H.H. Bancroft and Company