

**Whiting Griswold Correspondence**  
**A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress**



**Manuscript Division, Library of Congress**  
**Washington, D.C.**  
**2012**

Contact information: <http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/mss.contact>

Catalog Record: <https://lccn.loc.gov/mm79058131>

Additional search options available at: <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms013020>

Prepared by John McDonough

Finding aid encoded by Library of Congress Manuscript Division, 2013

## Collection Summary

**Title:** Whiting Griswold Correspondence

**Span Dates:** 1843-1874

**ID No.:** MSS58131

**Creator:** Griswold, Whiting, 1814-1874

**Extent:** 210 items

**Extent:** 1 container

**Extent:** .2 linear feet

**Language:** Collection material in English

**Location:** Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

**LC Catalog record:** <https://lccn.loc.gov/mm79058131>

**Summary:** Lawyer and politician. Letters to Griswold from various prominent figures relating to such topics as the Whig, Free Soil, and American parties, the Democratic Party, his legal practice, Massachusetts politics, patronage, the Hoosac Tunnel, the Kansas-Nebraska Act, the Civil War, and the 1853 Massachusetts Constitutional Convention.

## Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the LC Catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically.

### People

Banks, Nathaniel Prentiss, 1816-1894--Correspondence.  
Boutwell, George S. (George Sewall), 1818-1905--Correspondence.  
Butler, Benjamin F. (Benjamin Franklin), 1818-1893--Correspondence.  
Cushing, Caleb, 1800-1879--Correspondence.  
Griswold, Whiting, 1814-1874.  
Hallett, Benjamin Franklin, 1797-1862--Correspondence.  
Hoar, George Frisbie, 1826-1904--Correspondence.  
Loring, George B. (George Bailey), 1817-1891--Correspondence.  
Phillips, Wendell, 1811-1884--Correspondence.  
Sumner, Charles, 1811-1874--Correspondence.  
Whitney, James Lyman, 1835-1910--Correspondence.  
Wilson, Henry, 1812-1875--Correspondence.

### Organizations

American Party.  
Democratic Party (U.S.)  
Free Soil Party (U.S.)  
Massachusetts. Constitutional Convention (1853)  
United States. Kansas-Nebraska Act.  
Whig Party (U.S.)

### Subjects

Constitutional conventions--Massachusetts.  
Patronage, Political.  
Political parties--United States.  
Practice of law--Massachusetts.  
Tunnels--Massachusetts.

### Places

Hoosac Tunnel (Mass.)  
Massachusetts--Politics and government.  
United States--History--Civil War, 1861-1865.  
United States--Politics and government--19th century.

## **Titles**

*Whiting Griswold papers*

## **Occupations**

Lawyers.

Politicians.

## **Provenance**

The correspondence of Whiting Griswold, lawyer and politician, was purchased by the Library of Congress in 1978.

## **Processing History**

The correspondence of Whiting Griswold was processed in 1979. The finding aid was revised in 2012.

## **Copyright Status**

The status of copyright in the unpublished writings of Whiting Griswold is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.).

## **Access and Restrictions**

The correspondence of Whiting Griswold is open to research. Researchers are advised to contact the Manuscript Reading Room prior to visiting. Many collections are stored off-site and advance notice is needed to retrieve these items for research use.

## **Preferred Citation**

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: Container number, Whiting Griswold, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

## **Biographical Note**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Event</b>
1814, Nov. 12	Born, Buckland, Mass.
1838	Graduated, Amherst College, Amherst, Mass.
1842	Became member of the bar, Franklin County, Mass.
1848-1850	Member, Massachusetts state legislature
1851-1852	Senator, Massachusetts state legislature
1853	Member, Massachusetts state constitutional convention
1864	Presidential elector for Abraham Lincoln from Massachusetts
1874, Oct. 28	Died, Greenfield, Mass.

## **Scope and Content Note**

The correspondence of Whiting Griswold (1814-1874) consists of letters addressed to him over the period 1843-1874. As a prominent lawyer in western Massachusetts and an active politician, Griswold's advice and counsel were sought by prominent figures from all over the state. This correspondence bulks largest for the 1850s and 1860s and is concerned chiefly with politics on the local, state, and national levels. The disruption of parties in the 1850s is well documented,

particularly with regard to the decline of the Whigs and the rise of the Free Soil and American (or Know Nothing) parties, as viewed from the vantage point of the Democratic Party. Other subjects include legal questions, patronage, the Hoosac Tunnel in Massachusetts, the Kansas-Nebraska Bill, the Civil War, and the Massachusetts Constitutional Convention of 1853. Among the principal correspondents are Nathaniel Prentiss Banks, George S. Boutwell, Benjamin F. Butler, Caleb Cushing, Benjamin Franklin Hallett (1797-1862), George Frisbie Hoar, George B. Loring, Wendell Phillips, Charles Sumner, James Lyman Whitney, and Henry Wilson.

## **Arrangement of the Papers**

This collection is organized alphabetically by name of correspondent.

## Container List

Container	Contents
BOX 1	Adams, Charles Francis, 1869
BOX 1	Adams, Isaac, 1860
BOX 1	Allen, Charles, 1865-1873
BOX 1	Allen, Elisha Hunt, 1865-1873
BOX 1	Andrew, John A., 1862-1863
BOX 1	Andrew, John F., 1886
BOX 1	Banks, Nathaniel Prentiss, 1851-1867
BOX 1	Boutwell, George S., 1848-1874
BOX 1	Butler, Benjamin F., 1852-1874
BOX 1	Chapin, Chester W., 1850
BOX 1	Choate, Rufus, 1857
BOX 1	Coffin, Sirson P., 1849-1855
BOX 1	Crocker, Alvah, 1862-1866
BOX 1	Curtis, Benjamin R., 1873
BOX 1	Cushing, Caleb, 1848-1854
BOX 1	Cushman, Henry W., 1845-1853
BOX 1	Dawes, Henry L., 1861-1863
BOX 1	Gray, Horace, 1855
BOX 1	Hale, Nathan
BOX 1	Hallett, Benjamin F., 1843-1862
BOX 1	Harris, Daniel L., 1862
BOX 1	Hillard, George S., 1852-1873
BOX 1	Hoar, Ebenezer R., 1871-1873
BOX 1	Hoar, George Frisbie., 1863-1869
BOX 1	Huntington, Frederick D., 1857
BOX 1	Jewell, Harvey, 1869
BOX 1	Lewis, Dioclesian, 1862
BOX 1	Lord, Otis P., 1857-1873
BOX 1	Loring, George B., 1850-1864
BOX 1	Maynard, Horace, 1860
BOX 1	Phillips, Wendell, 1869
BOX 1	Summer, Charles, 1865-1869
BOX 1	Tyler, William S., 1850-1851
BOX 1	Walker, Amasa, 1864
BOX 1	Washburn, Emory, 1869-1873
BOX 1	Whitney, James Lyman, 1841-1857
BOX 1	Wilder, Marshall P., 1873
BOX 1	Wilson, Henry, 1853-1867
BOX 1	Woodbury, Levi, 1845