

**A0499**

**Edmund Flagg (1815-1890) Papers, 1825-1925**

12 boxes (4.5 linear feet)

**REPOSITORY**

Missouri Historical Society Archives

P.O. Box 11940

St. Louis, MO 63112-0040

314-746-4510

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**DONOR INFORMATION**

The Edmund Flagg Papers were purchased from Melvin Lee Steadman in 1968. Additional items were added in 1970.

**BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH**

Edmund Flagg was born November 24, 1815, in Wicasset, Maine. He graduated from Bowdoin College in 1835 and then moved to Louisville, Kentucky. In Louisville, Flagg taught school and became a contributor to the *Louisville Journal*. He came to St. Louis in 1836 and studied law under Hamilton R. Gamble. After completing *The Far West* (1838), a journal of his wanderings through Illinois and Missouri, he worked briefly for a Louisville newspaper. Flagg practiced law in Vicksburg, Mississippi, with noted orator S.S. Prentiss and then served as editor of the *Marietta (Ohio) Gazette*. In 1845, he returned to St. Louis to edit the *St. Louis Evening Gazette*, leaving that paper after a short while to become a court reporter for St. Louis County. He contributed stories to the *Missouri Republican*, and published several novels and plays during his stay in St. Louis. In 1848, Flagg was appointed as a clerk to serve under U.S. Minister to Berlin Edward A. Hannegan. Two years later, Flagg was appointed U.S. consul to Venice by President John Tyler. He returned to St. Louis to become editor of the *St. Louis Times* in 1853. He was appointed superintendent of statistics for the Department of State in 1856, at which time he wrote his "Report on the Commercial Relations of the United States with All Foreign Nations." He served in this capacity until 1861 when he was appointed to serve as head of the copyright library for the U.S. Patent Office. Flagg retired from public service in 1870 and moved to his farm near Falls Church, Virginia. He continued to practice law. Edmund Flagg died in Virginia in 1890.

In his lifetime, Flagg's literary work became well known. He was published by major printing houses including Charles Scribner (New York). Flagg's works include *Carrero or The Prime Minister of Spain*, *Francois of Vallois*, *Edmond Dantes*, *The Howard Queen*, *Venice: The City of the Sea*, *Monte-Cristo's Daughter*, *The Wife of Monte Cristo*, and *DeMolai: The Last of the Military Grand Masters*. He also wrote a number of plays that were performed on stage in St. Louis, Louisville, Cincinnati, and New Orleans.

**SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE**

The collection consists of correspondence, account books, daybooks, travel journals, receipts, land descriptions, business cards, calling cards, manuscripts, newspaper clippings, photographs,

and lecture notes. The collection is divided into eight series: **Autobiography, Bowdoin College, Literary, Correspondence, Civil Service, Real Estate, Account Books/Journals, and Clippings**. The **Civil Service Series** is divided into two subseries: **Office of Statistics** and **U.S. Patent Office**.

The **Autobiography Series** consists of volumes I and II of Edmund Flagg's handwritten autobiography. The manuscript was written around 1879, but was never published. The manuscript contains a genealogy of the Flagg family. The first page of the autobiography is missing.

The **Bowdoin College Series** consists of Flagg's college lecture notes, commencement announcements, a photograph of Bowdoin classmate Albert G. Tenney, and other college memorabilia. The items are primarily dated from his years at Bowdoin College (Brunswick, Maine), 1831-1835, but also include items that he collected later in life. The series includes two copies of the *Brunswick Telegraph*, June 25 and July 2, 1886, which contain articles relating to commencement at Bowdoin College.

The **Literary Series** consists of Flagg's manuscripts, literary critiques, book reviews, dramas, speeches, New Year's Eve addresses, and newspaper extracts regarding the sales of his novels, *The Howard Queen*, *Far West*, and *De Molai*. The series contains handwritten copies of Flagg's *Mavin*, *Ex-president of Venice*, *Carrero*, *The Prime Minister of Spain*, and *The Consumptive, A Sexagenarians Tale*. Handwritten notes and scripts from a drama "The Secret Marriage" produced in 1846. Also included are critiques of other writer's works by Flagg and reviews of St. Louis theatrical productions that were printed in the *St. Louis Reveille*.

The **Civil Service Series** is separated into two subseries. The **Office of Statistics Subseries** includes notes, a "commercial scrapbook" of newspaper clippings, correspondence, and memos relating to Flagg's service with the Office of Statistics, U.S. Department of State, 1854-1858, and a handwritten draft of Flagg's "Report on the Commercial Relations of the United States with All Foreign Nations" (1856). The **U.S. Patent Office Subseries** consists of correspondence, copyright requests, and memos produced during Flagg's service as head of the U.S. Patent Office Copyright Library, Department of Interior, 1861-1869.

The **Correspondence Series** consists of Flagg family correspondence, Edmund Flagg's letters to his family, friends, clients, and newspaper associates. Box 7 contains letters written by notable individuals that were added to the collection in 1970. Among the letters are several to and from Flagg to the renowned Whig orator S. S. Prentiss, journalist and editor Charles Dana, journalist and author George D. Prentice, and publisher Charles Scribner.

The **Real Estate Series** pertains to Flagg's extensive land holdings in Virginia, Missouri, Kansas, Indiana, Minnesota, Wisconsin, and Iowa. The papers include land descriptions, receipts, tax receipts, checks, and correspondence with land agents.

The **Account Books/Journals Series** consists of personal expense account books, personal property inventories, travel journals detailing his trips through Great Britain and Europe, including an account of his 1849 voyage abroad the ship *Princeton*, an 1866 diary of Flagg's illness, and Flagg's Fairfax County, Virginia, farm daybooks.

The **Clippings Series** consists of newspaper clippings relating to St. Louis events, theater, riverboat accidents, Flagg's travels in Europe, controversy surrounding the appointment of Edward A. Hannegan as U.S. consul to Berlin, and Whig politics. Also included is a collection of calling cards and wedding and death notices relating to Flagg's marriage to Kate Gallagher and the death of Flagg's sister Harriet.

### **Box List**

Box 1	Autobiography
Box 2	Bowdoin College
Box 3	Literary
Box 4	Civil service: Office of Statistics
Box 5	Civil service: Office of Statistics
Box 6	Civil service: U.S. Patent Office
Box 7	Correspondence, 1807-1847
Box 8	Correspondence, 1850-1879
Box 9	Correspondence, 1880-1925
Box 10	Account books/journals
Box 11	Real estate
Box 12	Clippings

### **Folder List**

#### **Box 1**

#### **Autobiography Series**

folder 1	Manuscript Volume I
folder 2	Manuscript Volume I
folder 3	Manuscript Volume I
folder 4	Manuscript Volume I
folder 5	Manuscript Volume II
folder 6	Manuscript Volume II

#### **Box 2**

#### **Bowdoin College Series**

folder 1	Programs/circulars, 1825; 1835
folder 2	Arithmetic workbook, 1828
folder 3	Lecture notes, 1831-1835
folder 4	Lecture notes, 1834
folder 5	Notebook, 1835
folder 6	Lecture notes, n.d.
folder 7	Sermons, n.d.
folder 8	Clippings, 1886

folder 9      Photograph, 1886

### **Box 3**

#### **Literary Series**

folder 1      Critiques, 1831-1856  
 folder 2      Speeches, 1834-1835  
 folder 3      Manuscript *The Consumptive*, 1839  
 folder 4      Manuscript *Carrero, The Prime Minister*, 1843  
 folder 5      Manuscript, stage play, 1846  
 folder 6      New Year's addresses, 1848; 1853  
 folder 7      Manuscript, one chapter, *Venice: City by the Sea*, 1853  
 folder 8      Manuscript *Mavin, Ex-President of Venice*, 1859  
 folder 9      Manuscript *De Molai*, 1888  
 folder 10     Miscellaneous, 1888; n.d.  
 folder 11     Miscellaneous, n.d.

### **Box 4**

#### **Civil Service Series**

##### **Office of Statistics Subseries**

folder 1      Correspondence, 1854-1857  
 folder 2      Manuscript *Commercial Report*, Index  
 folder 3      Manuscript *Commerical Report*, 1856-1857  
 folder 4      Manuscript *Commerical Report*, 1856-1857  
 folder 5      Manuscript *Commerical Report*, 1856-1857  
 folder 6      Manuscript *Commerical Report*, 1856-1857  
 folder 7      Manuscript *Commerical Report*, 1856-1857

### **Box 5**

#### **Civil Service Series**

##### **Office of Statistics Subseries**

folder 1      Report notes, 1854-1857  
 folder 2      Commercial scrapbook, 1856-1858  
 folder 3      Correspondence, 1854-1857

### **Box 6**

#### **Civil Service Series**

##### **U.S. Patent Office Subseries**

folder 1      1861  
 folder 2      1862-1868  
 folder 3      1869

### **Box 7**

#### **Correspondence Series**

folder 1      1807-1823  
 folder 2      1831-1839

folder 3	1842-1843
folder 4	1844-1847
folder 5	Notable correspondents, 1840-1867

**Box 8****Correspondence Series**

folder 1	1850-1853
folder 2	1854-1859
folder 3	1855-1857
folder 4	1860
folder 5	1862
folder 6	1868
folder 7	1870
folder 8	1871-1873
folder 9	1874-1878
folder 10	1879

**Box 9****Correspondence Series**

folder 1	1880-1881
folder 2	1882-1885
folder 3	1886-1887
folder 4	1888
folder 5	1888
folder 6	1889
folder 7	Letterbook log, 1889-1890
folder 8	1890
folder 9	1891-1925

**Box 10****Account Books/Journals Series**

folder 1	Household expense book, 1842-1843
folder 2	Expense books, 1848-1856
folder 3	European travel journal, 1849
folder 4	Expense books, 1859-1862
folder 5	Expense books, 1860; 1869; 1883
folder 6	Diary of illness, 1866
folder 7	Daybooks, 1875; 1881
folder 8	Receipts, 1870-1879
folder 9	Farm journal, 1873-1875
folder 10	Daybook, 1884; 1889
folder 11	Farm inventory, 1889
folder 12	Journal entries, n.d.

**Box 11****Real Estate Series**

folder 1	1855-1859
folder 2	1860-1861
folder 3	1862-1863
folder 4	1864-1865
folder 5	1866
folder 6	1867
folder 7	1869
folder 8	1869
folder 9	1869
folder 10	Miscellaneous, n.d.

**Box 12****Clippings Series**

folder 1	Handwritten editorials, 1844
folder 2	Miscellaneous, 1844-1852
folder 3	Clippings regarding Edward Hannegan, 1848
folder 4	Literary, 1848
folder 5	1849
folder 6	“Letters from the Continent” column, 1849; 1851
folder 7	St. Louis news items, 1855
folder 8	Theatrical column, 1856
folder 9	Miscellaneous, 1857-1867
folder 10	Miscellaneous, 1860-1861
folder 11	Marriage/death notices, 1862
folder 12	Handwritten editorials, n.d.
folder 13	Calling cards, n.d.