

The Filson Historical Society
George Davidson Todd Papers

**For information regarding literary and copyright interests for these papers,
see the Curator of Manuscripts, James J. Holmberg.**

Size of Collection

1 cubic foot

Locator Number: Mss./ A/ T634a

George Davidson Todd

Folder List

Box 1

folder 1: Correspondence, 1874-1883

folder 2: Correspondence, 1884-1885

folder 3: Correspondence, 1886-1889

folder 4: Correspondence, 1890

folder 5: Correspondence, 1891

Box 2

folder 6: Correspondence, 1892

folder 7: Correspondence, 1893

folder 8: Correspondence, January - April 1894

folder 9: Correspondence, May - June 1894

folder 10: Correspondence, July - August 1894

Box 3

folder 11: Correspondence, September 1894

folder 12: Correspondence, October 1894

folder 13: Correspondence, January - May 1895

folder 14: Correspondence, August 1895 - 1898, no date

folder 15: Envelopes, 1886-1895, no date

folder 16: Miscellaneous, 1868-1895, no date

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Scope and Content Note

Collection is contained in 16 folders, in three boxes. Primarily, it is made up of correspondence, dated 1874-1898, and focuses on Todd's work with the Republican Party, and other political organizations like the American Protective Tariff League, the McKinley Club, and the Garfield Club. Political issues described include the 1894 Congressional election, the 1892 Presidential election, protective tariffs, the Kentucky Constitutional Convention, the Kentucky legislature, Bloody Monday, and the proposed Nicaragua Canal. Other topics of interest are the Todd family, North Carolina, baseball, the Kentucky Penitentiary, the Western Kentucky Lunatic Asylum (Western State Hospital), and the use of convict labor in coal mines in Pulaski County. Persons of note discussed include Joseph C.S. Blackburn, William C.P. Breckinridge, John S. Williams, and Bennett H. Young. Among the correspondents are Thomas A. Speed, Andrew Cowan, E. Polk Johnson, Augustus E. Willson, Josh G. Carlisle, Charles T. Ballard, and Thomas Speed (1841-1905). Other items contained in the collection are anti-Catholic voting information, Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rites materials, bills, promissory notes, and a legal summons.

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Biographical Note

One of several children, George Davidson Todd was born 19 April 1856 in Frankfort, Ky., to Harry Innes Todd and his wife, Jane Ballinger Davidson Todd. He, and his wife, Laura Chapin Durkee Todd, had three children: George Davidson Todd, Jr., Laura Durkee Todd, and Helen Bridge Todd.

Todd was educated in the Frankfort, Ky. public schools. At the age of 16, he went to work as a collector with the Bank of Kentucky, Frankfort Branch, and, later became a bookkeeper and teller. In 1875 Todd moved to Louisville, Ky., and worked as a bookkeeper and, later a salesman for W.B. Belknap and Company. In 1882 he formed Todd-Donigan Iron Company and served as its Vice-President. He later started Todd Manufacturing Company in New Albany, In., and served as its President.

Active in politics, Todd worked to promote the Republican Party and championed the issue of protective tariffs. In 1894 he served as Chairman of the Republican Campaign Committee, 5th Kentucky District. In 1896 Todd was a delegate to the Republican National Convention. He was elected to fill the term of Louisville, Ky., Mayor Henry Tyler, and served from 1896-1897.

Todd died in 1929.

See Also:

Biographical sketches in Who's Who in Louisville, 1912 and the Memorial History of Louisville, volume 1.