

Guide to
Henry W. Putnam
Papers, 1844-1898

0.9 cubic feet

Accession Number 3301

Prepared by Kim Winters
February 2000

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Introduction

Henry W. Putnam
Papers, 1844-1898
0.9 cubic feet (2 document boxes).
Accession Number 3301

The Henry W. Putnam Papers were received from James F. Carr during 1970 and 1971. The bulk of the collection is handwritten and in good condition, with the exception of a few sheets torn from a letter press book which are hard to read.

The collection should be cited as: Henry W. Putnam Papers, Accession Number 3301, Box Number, Folder Number, American Heritage Center, University of Wyoming.

RECEIVED AND ACKNOWLEDGED

Rick Ewig
Associate Director

Date: _____

Henry W. Putnam Papers, Accession Number 3301

Biography

Henry William Putnam was a businessman who, in the nineteenth century, invested in the Chicago, Peoria and St. Louis Railroad Company. During the same period he was involved in an irrigation project in Escondido, California. He also invented a machine to make barbed wire.

Series Description

The Henry W. Putnam Papers are divided into three series:

- Series I. Barbed Wire, 1844-1893 (3/4 box). Contains correspondence and legal records about Putnam's invention of a machine to make barbed wire. There are also telegrams, balance sheets, agreements, patents, and litigation documents. Arranged alphabetically.
- Series II. Chicago, Peoria and St. Louis Railroad Company, 1889-1898 (3/4 box). Contains correspondence and legal records about Putnam's investments in the Chicago, Peoria and St. Louis Railroad Company. The correspondence is made up of handwritten letters and telegrams. There are statements of assets, stock, debts, equipment, the condition of the railroad, and information about railroad lines, purchases, sales, and litigation. Arranged alphabetically.
- Series III. Water Development and Miscellaneous, 1876-1897 (1/2 box). Contains correspondence and legal records about Putnam's investments in an irrigation project in Escondido, California. Most of the correspondence is between H.A. Putnam (Putnam's brother), H.W. Putnam Jr. (Putnam's son), Henry William Putnam, and his lawyer. There are also telegrams, copies of contracts, litigation documents, and information about purchases, roads, and fruit crops. There is also a file of mainly handwritten miscellaneous business documents consisting of correspondence, legal documents, statements, and bills. Arranged alphabetically.

Scope and Content

The Henry W. Putnam Papers, 1844-1898, mainly contain business material made up of correspondence and legal papers. There are limited references to personal matters in a few letters from H.A. Putnam, Putnam's brother, and Cora, Putnam's cousin.

The barbed wire files are made up of handwritten correspondence relating to Putnam's invention and patent of a machine to make barbed wire fencing between 1844 and 1893. Most of the correspondence is between Putnam and his lawyer, Thomas H. Dodge, about several litigation cases and between Putnam and Washburn and Moen Manufacturing Company, who used the machine that Putnam invented.

The railroad files consist mainly of letters and telegrams about Putnam's investments in the Chicago, Peoria and St. Louis Railroad Company during the 1889-1898 period. The correspondence, both handwritten and typewritten, is between Putnam and his bankers, Hatch and Foote, and Putnam and his business partners, Seward, Guthrie, Morawetz and Steele.

The water development files contain mainly handwritten correspondence. Most of the correspondence relates to the purchase of bonds for the Escondido, California, irrigation project from 1876 and 1897. During this time Putnam was living in the east while his brother and son were acting as his business partners in California. There are some insights into Putnam's personal and family life.

Folder List

<u>Folder</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Date</u>
Series I. Barbed Wire, 1844-1893		
<u>Box 1</u>		
1	Agreements and legal papers	1844-1882
2	Bills, statements and litigation expenses	1875-1880
3	Correspondence between Thomas H. Dodge and H.W. Putnam	1876-1877
4	Correspondence between Thomas H. Dodge and H.W. Putnam	Jan.- Aug. 1878
5	Correspondence between Thomas H. Dodge and H.W. Putnam	Sept.- Dec. 1878
6	Correspondence between Thomas H. Dodge and H.W. Putnam	1879
7	Correspondence between Washburn and Moen Manufacturing Co. and H.W. Putnam	1875-1877
8	Correspondence between Washburn and Moen Manufacturing Co. and H.W. Putnam	1878
9	Correspondence between Washburn and Moen Manufacturing Co. and H.W. Putnam	1879
10	Correspondence between Washburn and Moen Manufacturing Co. and H.W. Putnam	1880-1893
11	Patent Office Documents	1876-1879
12	Miscellaneous barbed wire documents	1876-1878
Series II. Chicago, Peoria and St. Louis Railroad Company, 1889-1898		
13	Correspondence from Cravath and Houston to H.W. Putnam	1894
14	Correspondence from Hatch and Foote to H.W. Putnam	1889-1892
15	Correspondence from Hatch and Foote to H.W. Putnam	1893
16	Correspondence from Hatch and Foote to H.W. Putnam	Jan.- Jun. 1894
<u>Box 2</u>		
1	Correspondence from Hatch and Foote to H.W. Putnam	Jul.- Dec. 1894, 1895, 1897
2	Correspondence from Seward, Guthrie, Morawetz and Steele to H.W. Putnam	1893
<u>Folder</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Date</u>

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Series II. Chicago, Peoria and St. Louis Railroad Company (cont.)

Box 2 (cont.)

3	Correspondence from Seward, Guthrie, Morawetz and Steele to H.W. Putnam	1894
4	Correspondence from Seward, Guthrie, Morawetz and Steele to H.W. Putnam	1895
5	Correspondence from Seward, Guthrie, Morawetz and Steele to H.W. Putnam	1897
6	Miscellaneous legal notices and agreements	1890-1898, undated
7	Miscellaneous - Miscellaneous Chicago, Peoria and St. Louis Railroad Company documents	1891-1897

Series III. Water Development and Miscellaneous, 1876-1897

8	Correspondence from G.B. Grow to H.W. Putnam	1876, Apr.- Jun. 1894
9	Correspondence from G.B. Grow to H.W. Putnam	Jul-Nov. 1894, 1895
10	Correspondence from H.A. Putnam to H.W. Putnam	1893
11	Correspondence from H.A. Putnam to H.W. Putnam	Feb.- Apr. 1894
12	Correspondence from H.A. Putnam to H.W. Putnam	May.- Nov. 1894
13	Correspondence from H.W. Putnam Jr. to H.W. Putnam	1894
14	Miscellaneous water development documents	1894-1896
15	Miscellaneous	1876-1897