

Guide to the William W. Bartlett Papers, 1821-1934, 1944-1962

Last Modified on 09/14/2021 10:42 am CDT

Summary Information

Title: William W. Bartlett Papers

Inclusive Dates: 1821-1934, 1944-1962

Creator: Bartlett, William W., 1861-1933

Call Number: Eau Claire Mss BY; Eau Claire Micro 34; Micro 582

Quantity: 10.0 c.f. (21 archives boxes, 10 flat boxes) and 1 reel of microfilm (35mm)

Repository: Housed at the Area Research Center, William D. McIntyre Library, University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire; owned by the Wisconsin Historical Society, Library-Archives Division

Archival Locations: UW-Eau Claire McIntyre Library / Eau Claire Area Research Ctr.

Abstract: Papers of Bartlett, a prominent local historian in Eau Claire, Wisconsin, consisting of personal papers and his historical writings. The personal papers contain biographical and family information; correspondence, 1896-1934, with considerable information on local history topics; and files on Eau Claire activities in which Bartlett was involved, including the Eau Claire County Old Settlers' Association (1890-1929), the Prohibition Club (1885-1894), the Chippewa-Eau Claire Memorial Highway, and the local school system. The historical writings series contains published and unpublished writings, original source materials, and research notes. The bulk of this series consists of lumbering materials (1821-1932), mostly from the Daniel Shaw Lumber Company, but also from other area companies. Other topics include the Ezra Cornell/Cornell University lands in Wisconsin (1880-1892) and John Deitz and the Cameron Dam incident (1905, 1919, 1945).

Language: English

Search Terms/Subject Terms

- Cornell, Ezra, 1807-1874
- Deitz, John F., 1861-1924
- Eau Claire County Old Settlers' Association (Wis.) Daniel Shaw Lumber Company
- Prohibition Club (Eau Claire, Wis.)

- Land companies—Wisconsin
- Local history
- Log brands—Wisconsin
- Logging—Wisconsin
- Lumbering—Wisconsin
- Schools—Wisconsin—Eau Claire
- Chippewa-Eau Claire Memorial Highway (Wis.)
- Eau Claire (Wis.)—History
- Wisconsin—History

Biography/History

William Warren Bartlett was born in Presque Isle, Maine, on January 23, 1861. He lived there until 1867, when his family moved to Eau Claire, Wisconsin, where he resided for the rest of his life. He graduated from an Eau Claire high school in 1882, and in 1885 he attended the University of Wisconsin for a brief course in architecture. On August 1, 1890, Bartlett married Clara Towner and eventually they had five children: Ruth Margaret, Harry Owen, Gertrude Clara, Cora Louise, and Arthur William. Bartlett worked as a building contractor and in similar business ventures, and was also an avid collector of historical materials pertaining to Eau Claire and the Chippewa Valley area. His competence as a local historian was recognized throughout Wisconsin, and he was often asked to deliver speeches or write articles for local newspapers.

The 1929 publication of his book, *History, Tradition and Adventure in the Chippewa Valley*, represented the culmination of his many years of work collecting documents and interviews. In the book he pulled together many ideas and interviews that he had previously published as single articles in a variety of publications. The bulk of the book consists of edited reminiscences by early Chippewa Valley residents concerning significant cultural and economic developments in the area, including the Sioux Chippewa Indian feud and subsequent treaty in 1825, fur trading in the Valley in the eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries, and Old Abe, the Civil War eagle, which had become the unofficial Wisconsin mascot. Bartlett collected so much material on lumbering in the Chippewa Valley region that he apparently intended to publish a book on this topic; there is a lengthy, incomplete, unpublished manuscript in the collection.

Bartlett also served on the Eau Claire Public Library board for seventeen years in the early part of this century, and later became the president until 1932, when he resigned.

Bartlett died in Madison on March 31, 1933 as a result of injuries sustained in a car accident; he was buried in Eau Claire.

Scope and Content Note

The William Bartlett Papers, 1821-1934, 1944-1962 consist of two series -- his Personal Papers and Historical Writings -- both of which reflect Bartlett's long-time interest in documenting the history of the Chippewa Valley region and of his own family. Researchers should be cautioned that the subject

matter of the series and subseries overlap considerably; the correspondence files are particularly informative on many topics.

Bartlett's Personal Papers contain biographical information, family papers, an unidentified journal, correspondence, and files on Eau Claire organizations in which Bartlett was involved. The family papers consist primarily of genealogies and death announcements for members of Mrs. Bartlett's family, the Towners. The correspondence file, which comprises the bulk of this series, consists largely of detailed letters from local residents about numerous aspects of Chippewa Valley history since the eighteenth century. There are also letters about Bartlett's book, his involvement in state, county, and local historical societies in Wisconsin and Minnesota, his preparation during the 1920s of a slide show on lumbering, and letters to and from friends and relatives regarding family and social affairs. Also included are several letters from Bartlett to Lieutenant Governor George Comings, 1923, February-October, concerning Comings' criticism of the Wisconsin National Guard; a letter of introduction from Philip La Follette dated April 4, 1930 written for Bartlett while he was studying Wisconsin art; and a few letters written to Mrs. Bartlett after her husband's death, one from a daughter describing her experiences in an earthquake in California. The files on organizations Bartlett was involved in include materials on the Eau Claire County Old Settlers Association (1890-1927), the Prohibition Club (1885-1894), and the Eau Claire school system (1892-1926).

The Historical Writings series contains published and unpublished writings, original unpublished source materials collected by Bartlett, and research notes used in the preparation of his book and of various articles about the history of Eau Claire and Chippewa Valley regions. Some topics included are: the Cornell University lands in Wisconsin (1880-1922), John Deitz of the Cameron Dam (1905-1910 and 1945), the Red River Dam incident during the Civil War (1864-1904), and lumbering in the Chippewa Valley area (1821-1932). The lumbering materials constitute the bulk of this series and are arranged in an alphabetical subject file. Most of the papers are from the Daniel Shaw Lumber Co. but there are also some from the North Western Lumber Co., Porter and Moon, and the Montreal River Logging Co.; D.R. Moon was an officer in the latter three companies. While the majority of these papers concern routine business, there are also several subject files on such topics as the purchase and sale of land, relevant legislation, court cases, lumber dealers, contracts and articles of agreement, and logging camp humor. The documents include ledgers, letterpress copybooks, journals, account books, log mark books, tally books, scale books, and section map books. There is only a small amount of material illustrating the operations of the interlocking directorates that characterized Wisconsin's lumbering industry at this time.

Additional material on Eau Claire activities during World War I and on Old Abe, the Civil War eagle, have been separated from these papers and cataloged as individual collections. Both Bartlett and Marshall Cousins kept files on these topics and exchanged their resources and ideas freely. The World War I material has been organized as Eau Claire Mss BN and the Old Abe collection has been cataloged as Eau Claire Mss BL.

Administrative/Restriction Information

Acquisition Information

Presented by the Eau Claire Public Library, 1991. A few items were presented directly to the Society by Mr. Bartlett, and one item was presented by Professor Henry A. Schuette, September 25, 1933.

Processing Information

Initial papers processed for the Eau Claire Public Library by the State Historical Society, 1975-1976; additional items interfiled, 1991.

Contents List

Eau Claire
Mss BY **Series: Bartlett Personal Papers**

Box 1 Biographical information, 1929; before 1933; 1953
Folder 1

Box 1 Miscellany - personal, 1888-1932; undated
Folder 2 (scattered)

Box 1 Journal, 1926-1927
Folder 3

Correspondence

Box 1 1896, March - 1912, November
Folder 4

Box 1 1913, February - 1915, December
Folder 5

Box 1 1916, January - 1918, April
Folder 6

Box 1 1918, May - 1920, December
Folder 7

Box 1 1921, January - 1923, April
Folder 8

Box 1 1923, May - 1924
Folder 9

Box 2
Folder 1 1925, January - 1926, July

Box 2 1926, August - 1927, December
Folder 2

Box 2
Folder 3 1928, January - 1929, April

Box 2
Folder 4 1929, May - 1930, February

Box 2
Folder 5 1930, March - 1931, June

Box 2
Folder 6 1931, July - 1934, May; undated

Organizations in which Bartlett was involved

Chippewa-Eau Claire Memorial Highway

Box 2 Committee records, 1921, March - 1929, January;
Folder 7 undated

Box 3 Committee correspondence, 1920, June - 1924, April;
Folder 1 1926-1927

Box 3 Clippings and newsletters, 1921, March - 1924; 1928;
Folder 2 undated

Eau Claire County Old Settlers Association

Box 3 Records, 1896; 1920-1923
Folder 3

- Box 3 Membership Applications, undated
Folder 4
- Box 3 Correspondence, 1890-1927; undated (scattered)
Folder 5
- Box 3 Annual banquet programs, 1887, March - 1920,
Folder 6 October (scattered)
- Box 3 Clippings, pictures, 1895-1926 (scattered)
Folder 7
- Box 3 Eau Claire Historical Society, 1915, April - 1927, June;
Folder 8 undated (scattered)
- Box 3 Performing Arts - programs and other materials,
Folder 9 1886-1928, May; undated (scattered)
- Box 3 Prohibition Club, 1885, March; before 1892; after
Folder 10 1894
- Box 3 Schools - material about elementary and high schools,
Folder 11 also University of Wisconsin, 1889, June - 1915;
undated (scattered)

Series: Historical Writings

Local History

Writings and miscellany

- Box 4 *History, Tradition and Adventure in the Chippewa*
Folder 1 *Valley*, 1929; 1930
- Box 4 Manuscripts and Articles, 1921-1926; undated
Folder 2-3 (scattered)
- Box 4 Notebook by Bartlett, undated
Folder 4

Box 4 Local and State history - general, 1836-1931; undated
Folder 5-6 (scattered)

Alphabetical subject files

Box 4 Chippewa-Sioux feud, the 1825 treaty and boundary,
Folder 7 1832-1836, July; before 1921; 1921; 1931

Box 4 Civil War, 1860-1864; 1898-1926; 1948; 1962;
Folder 8 undated (scattered)

Box 4 Cornell University's land in Wisconsin, 1880-1922
Folder 9 (scattered)

Box 4 Deitz, John, 1905, April - 1910; 1945
Folder 10

Box 4 Ermatinger, Warren, England, and Johnson Families,
Folder 11 1841; 1852; 1898; 1924-1929; undated (scattered)

Box 20 Patents, 1855-1909 (scattered)
Folder 1

Lumbering

Writings and Miscellany

Box 5 Bartlett's writings, undated
Folder 1-2

Box 5 Incomplete manuscript about lumbering, 1930
Folder 3

Box 5 General, 1821-1932; 1944: undated (scattered)
Folder 4

Alphabetical subject files

Box 6 Account book, 1850-1875
Folder 1

Box 6 Chippewa rafts book, 1865-1867
Folder 2

Contracts and articles of agreement

Box 6
Folder 3 1854-1873 (scattered)

Box 6 1874, January - 1882, November
Folder 4

Box 6
Folder 5 1883-1891 (scattered)

Box 6 1892-1898 (1899, January - 1900, December)
Folder 6

Box 6 1901, January - 1911 (scattered)
Folder 7

Correspondence - general

Box 7
Folder 1 1868-1899 (scattered)

Box 7
Folder 2 1902

Box 7
Folder 3 1903-1923 (scattered)

Correspondence - lumber companies in which D.R.
Moon was involved

Box 7
Folder 4 1869, July - 1871, October

Box 7 1883, June - 1887, September
Folder 5

Box 7 1888, February - 1890, November
Folder 6

Box 7 1891, January - September
Folder 7

Box 8 1891, October - December
Folder 1

Box 8 1892, January - 1896, October
Folder 2

Box 8 1898, January - 1899, December; 1901; undated
Folder 3

Box 8 Cost of Logging and Lumbering Operations, 1866-
Folder 4 1910; undated (scattered)

Box 8 Del Norte Company, 1902, March - 1903; 1905; 1909;
Folder 5 1929; undated

Box 8 Dole, Ingram, and Kennedy, 1860, June - 1862,
Folder 6 December; 1866, June

Box 8 Eau Claire Board of Trade, 1881: undated
Folder 7

Box 8 Eau Claire City Railway Co., 1879, October; 1881;
Folder 8 189?; undated

Box 8 Edson Assessment book, 1882
Folder 9

Box 8 Directories - Lumber Industry, 1905; 1908
Folder 10

Box 17 Flambeau Farm - Journal Daybook, 1878-1879
Folder 1

Box 8 Half Moon Lake Canal Co., 1855-1912 (scattered)
Folder 11

Legislative Materials

Box 9
Folder 1 1871-1878 (scattered)

Box 9
Folder 2 Undated

Ledgers

Box 17
Folder 2 1857-1861

Box 21
Folder 1 1860-1862

Box 9 Log Driving, 1860-1911; undated (scattered)
Folder 3

Log Mark Books

Box 9 Undated
Folder 4

**Eau
Claire Micro 34/
Micro 582** Microfilm copy
Reel 1
Frame 1-60

**Eau Claire
Mss BY** Box 9 Charles Bailey, undated
Folder 5

Eau Claire
Micro 34/Micro 582 Microfilm copy
Reel 1
Frame 61-88

Eau Claire
Mss BY Box 9 Stanley Campbell, 1889-1890
Folder 6

Eau Claire
Micro 34/Micro 582 Microfilm copy
Reel 1
Frame 169-197

Eau Claire Mss
BY Box 9 Fred Smith (Fred A. Schmidt), 1935; undated
Folder 7

Eau Claire
Micro 34/Micro 582 Microfilm copy
Reel 1
Frame 89-168

Eau Claire
Mss BY Box 9 Surveyors book for District 3, 1861-1897
Folder 8

Eau Claire
Micro 34/Micro 582 Microfilm copy
Reel 1
Frame 198-267

Eau Claire Mss BY Log Tally Books

Box 9 1910-1911; 1912
Folder 9

Box 10	Folder 1	Undated
Box 10	Folder 2	Basswood, 1910-1911
Box 10	Folder 3	Elm and ash, undated
Box 10	Folder 4	Elm-McDougall, undated
Box 10	Folder 5	Pine, undated
Box 10	Folder 6	Pine and Bass, undated
Box 10	Folder 7	Pine, ash, basswood, and elm - John Curran Camp, 1904-1905
Box 10	Folder 8	Spruce and Pine-Proue Camp, 1912
Box 10	Folder 9	Logging Camp Songs, Myths - Paul Bunyan, humor, 1915-1931; undated (scattered)
Box 10	Folder 10	Logging Camp Supply Book, undated
Box 10	Folder 11	Logs, 1862-1903; undated (scattered)

Eau Claire Micro

34/Micro 582

Reel 1 Frame 268-end

Microfilm copy

Eau Claire

Mss BY Logs Banked Book, 1886-1889
 Box 11
 Folder 1

Lumber Dealers

Box 11 1863-1875 (scattered)
 Folder 2

Box 11 1876-1899 (scattered)
 Folder 3

Box 11 1900, January - 1910, November
 Folder 4

Box 11 1902, February - 1912, April
 Folder 5

Box 17 Petit Ledger, 1863-1865
 Folder 3

Box 11 Pond and Allen - Accounts, 1859, November - 1860,
 Folder 6 April

Box 18 Randall Cash Book, 1857-1866
 Folder 1

Box 22 Randall - Howard Daybook, 1861-1862
 Folder 1

Box 22 S & C Collection Register, 1866-1868
 Folder 2

Sale of Farm and Timberland

Box 11 1860-1899; 1900, January - 1902, December
 Folder 7

Box 11 1903, January - 1904, December; 1905-1923;
 Folder 8 undated

Box 12 Sawyer County Taxpayers Fund, 1908, February -
Folder 1 1909, February

Scale Books

Box 12
Folder 2 Henry Bartlett, 1904

Box 12 Bryce Fuller & Co., 1871
Folder 3

Box 12 Hunter & Smith, 1866; 1867

Folder 4

Box 12
Folder 5 McShaffery, 1904; 1905

Box 12 Morseman & Smith, undated
Folder 6

Box 12 Murray's Camp, 1910; 1911
Folder 7

Box 12 Second Flambeau Drive Payroll Ledger, 1905
Folder 8

Section Map Books

Box 12
Folder 9 1909-1910

Box 12
Folder 10 Moon, 1914; 1915

Showing timber land cut over

Box 12
Folder 11- Undated
12

Box 13
Folder 1-2 Undated

Box 13
Folder 3 Cosgrove, P.J., 1882, June

Box 13
Folder 4 Ellis, A.C., undated

Moon, S.G.

Box 13
Folder 5 1911-1913

Box 13
Folder 6 1914-1916

Sectional Field Books

Box 13
Folder 7 Undated

Box 13
Folder 8 Mann, Geo., undated

Box 13
Folder 9 Sargent, Mr., 1910

Box 13
Folder 10 Scammon, Dan, 1887

Daniel Shaw Lumbering Co.

Box 14 General, 1857-1911; undated (scattered)
Folder 1

Box 14 Account Book - miscellany, 1869-1870
Folder 2

Correspondence

Box 14 1862-1865; 1867, September - 1873, November
Folder 3

Box 14 1874, January - 1877, November
Folder 4

Box 14 1878, January - 1891, November (scattered)
Folder 5

Box 14 1892, January - 1899, December (scattered)
Folder 6

Box 14 1900, January - 1901, December
Folder 7

Box 15 1902
Folder 1

Box 15 1903
Folder 2

Box 15 1904, January - 1905, December
Folder 3

Box 15 1906
Folder 4

Box 15 1907, January - 1912, April; 1916; undated
Folder 5

E.M. Ferguson vs. Daniel Shaw Lumber Co.

Box 15 1899, February - 1900, February
Folder 6

Box 15 Testimonials for Eugene Shaw, 1899, December -
Folder 7 1900, January

Box 23
Folder 1 Journal, 1860-1864

Ledgers

Box 19
Folder 1 1870

Box 18
Folder 2 1875-1879

Legation - miscellaneous

Box 15A
Folder 1 1900; undated

Box 15A
Folder 2 Undated

Box 15A
Folder 3 Log Book, 1865

Log Tally Books

Box 15A
Folder 4 Anderson, 1878-1879

Box 16
Folder 1 Hemlock, undated

Box 18 Merchandise Ledger, 1870
Folder 3

Merchandise sales books

Box 24 1872
Folder 1

Box 24 1873
Folder 2

Box 25 1874
Folder 1

Box 26 1876
Folder 1

Box 26 1880
Folder 2

Box 27 1881
Folder 1

Payroll

Box 27 1890-1892
Folder 2

Box 27 1899-1901
Folder 3

Scale books

Box 16 Bullen, C.A., undated
Folder 2

Box 16 Camp 2, 1886
Folder 3

Box 16 Shaw, Daniel, 1868-1869
Folder 4

Box 16 "Shaw hemlock" - Edminster, A.J., 1903-1904
Folder 5

Box 16 Shaw, Daniel - personal correspondence, 1857; 1866;
Folder 6 1868-1869

Shaw, Eugene

Letterpress books

Box 19 1883-1884
Folder 2

Box 28 1890-1892
Folder 1

Box 28 1892-1894
Folder 2

Box 29 1894-1896
Folder 1

Box 29 1897
Folder 2

Box 18 Unbound, 1897, September - November
Folder 4

Box 30 1897-1989
Folder 1

Box 30 1907-1910
Folder 2

Box 16 Notebooks, 1892; 1894
Folder 7

Shaw, George

Box 16 Correspondence, 1890; undated
Folder 8

Box 19 Letterpress book, 1877
Folder 3

Box 16 Shaw, M.G. lands - estimate and evaluations of lumber
Folder 9 and land, 1882; 1887

Box 16 Stockholders and directors meetings; articles of
Folder 10 association, 1874-1898 (scattered)

Box 16 Survey Book - North Western Lumber Co., 1858, July
Folder 11

Box 16 Trespassing, 1866-1911 (scattered)
Folder 12