

Locust Grove Archives

Finding Aid

Series: **Young Family Collection**
Subseries: **George Innis**

Completed by Angela Stultz
03/15/2000
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Volume: 14 cubic feet in 28 manuscript boxes
Acquisition: Bequest of Annette Innis Young.
Access: Monday through Friday, by appointment with the Curator.
Copyright: See Curator for details.

Biographical Sketch

George Innis was born in Poughkeepsie, New York in 1822, the son of Aaron Innis (1787-1838) of Newburgh, New York and Martha Smith Innis (1792-1867) of Marlboro, New York. He had seven brothers and sisters; Caroline, Adelia, Ruth, William, Edward, John Jay, and Aaron Jr.

Aaron Innis Senior was a prominent and established businessman and in the early 1900's owned a fleet of sailing ships running between Poughkeepsie and New York. When George was 16 years old, his father died suddenly and the running of the company was left to George. In 1842, George Innis joined the firm Gifford & Sherman, later known as Gifford, Sherman & Innis, which manufactured dye extracts. At the time, the firm was one of the oldest and largest manufacturing companies in Poughkeepsie. Aaron Innis joined the firm in 1849 and the brothers continued to run the business as Innis & Co after Nathan Gifford severed his connection with the firm in 1852 and H.R. Sherman died in 1858.

In 1855 George Innis married Ann Bevier Hasbrouck, daughter of Levi Hasbrouck, in the drawing room Locust Lawn, Ann's home in Gardiner, New York, according to family tradition. They had two children, Martha Innis (1856-1946) and Hasbrouck Innis (1859-1932). When Mr. Innis' daughter, Martha, became of school age, Mr. Innis started a school for girls run by Catherine Bockee. This school was a success from its inception.

Mr. Innis was a prominent and popular businessman in Poughkeepsie. He served as a trustee of Vassar College, and was a member of the Dutch Reformed Church. In 1866 he was elected as president of the newly formed Poughkeepsie & Eastern Railroad Co which was incorporated to construct a railroad from Poughkeepsie to the Connecticut State line. Mr. Innis served as a director of the Poughkeepsie Bridge Co., which was incorporated in 1872 for the purpose of building a bridge for a railroad across the Hudson River at Poughkeepsie. In 1874 he contributed funds to the Public Library of Poughkeepsie which funds were used to purchase mechanical and scientific works. These books were placed in a part of the library designated "Innis Alcove". Mr. Innis was a staunch Republican and served as president of the village of Poughkeepsie in 1852 and after its incorporation as a city in 1854, he was elected Mayor of the City of Poughkeepsie for three terms of office, from 1863 to 1869.

Mr. Innis invested extensively in the stock market, the source of much of his income. With his younger brother, Edward, Mr. Innis also had interests in several mining ventures in the western United States. George Innis died in 1903 and is buried in the Innis family plot in the Poughkeepsie Rural Cemetery.

Scope and Content Note

The papers of George Innis are section of the larger Young Family Archives, which are in turn a component of the primary museum collection at Locust Grove. George Innis' granddaughter, Annette Innis Young, grew up at the Locust Grove estate, and, upon her death in 1975 transferred all her personal property to found the museum. Her family papers were scattered throughout the mansion and outbuildings, and in the late 1970's an attempt was made by staff and volunteers to organize part of the Young Collection. This attempt was not systematic and, in fact, overlooked several hundred boxes of archival material which remained inaccessible until the late 1990's. Between 1998 and 2010, with partial funding from the New York State Archives through the Documentary Heritage Program, the Young Family Archives were removed from boxes, drawers and closets throughout the historic mansion and organized in a new storage facility in the Visitor Center to ensure their preservation and promote increased public access.

George Innis' papers include correspondence, diaries, bills and receipts, cancelled checks, legal documents, insurance papers, tax records, and ephemera. Miss Young was convinced that her family's history was important and worth preserving, and she saved papers of every variety to document both her own life, and those of her relatives and ancestors.

In general, artificial series and arrangement groupings have been created, since no discernable order from the creator was evident.

Series Description

Series 1: **Correspondence (1843-1903)**

7 Boxes

Spanning the years from 1843 to 1903, George Innis's correspondence consists of letters written to and from his family and friends. These letters concerned his social, political, and business obligations. His correspondence is filed in chronological order, followed by greeting cards and undated material. The bulk of the correspondence consists of letters written to Mr. Innis since he made few copies of his outgoing correspondence. Since these papers were scattered throughout the mansion at Locust Grove with no discernable original arrangement, the correspondence has been arranged chronologically, in keeping with other family collections.

Series 2: **Personal Papers**

21 Boxes

George Innis's personal papers, like his correspondence, were part of Annette Innis Young's 1975 bequest to found the museum at Locust Grove. They consist of a wide variety of materials arranged alphabetically by subject. In general, because these papers were dispersed throughout the Locust Grove mansion and were not arranged by their creator, unless otherwise noted subject categories have been artificially created to improve access. The Personal Papers series includes the following major subseries.

Bills are arranged chronologically, as are **Diaries**.

Under **Gifford, Sherman & Innis** are bills, correspondence, and other papers relating to the operation of that company.

Legal Papers include numerous summons's and complaints relating to Mr. Innis's business and investment activities, arranged chronologically.

Stocks and Bonds includes stock and bond certificates owned by Mr. Innis.

Box and Folder Lists

Box 1

Series 1: Correspondence 1843-1868

- *Correspondence to George Innis-1843
- *Correspondence to George Innis-1846
- *Correspondence to George Innis-1847
- *Correspondence to George Innis-1854
- *Correspondence to George Innis-1855
- *Correspondence to George Innis-1856
- *Correspondence to George Innis-1857
- *Correspondence to George Innis-1858
- *Correspondence from George Innis-1858
- *Correspondence to George Innis-1859
- *Correspondence to George Innis-1860
- *Correspondence to George Innis-1861
- *Correspondence to George Innis-1862
- *Correspondence to George Innis-1863
- *Correspondence to George Innis-1864
- *Correspondence to George Innis-1865
- *Correspondence to George Innis-1866
- *Correspondence to George Innis-1867
- *Correspondence to George Innis-1868

Box 2

Series 1: Correspondence 1869-1874

- *Correspondence to George Innis-1869
- *Correspondence to George Innis-1870
- *Correspondence to George Innis-1871
- *Correspondence to George Innis-1872
- *Correspondence to George Innis-1873
- *Correspondence from George Innis-1873
- *Correspondence to George Innis-1874

Box 3

Series 1: Correspondence 1874-1875

- *Correspondence to George Innis-1874
- *Correspondence from George Innis-1875
- *Correspondence to George Innis-1875
- *Correspondence to George Innis-1875

Box 4

Series 1: Correspondence 1876-1883

- *Correspondence to George Innis-1876
- *Correspondence to George Innis-1877
- *Correspondence to George Innis-1878
- *Correspondence to George Innis-1879
- *Correspondence to George Innis-1880
- *Correspondence to George Innis-1881
- *Correspondence to George Innis-1882
- *Correspondence to George Innis-1883

Box 5

Series 1: Correspondence 1884-1895

- *Correspondence to George Innis-1884
- *Correspondence from George Innis-1884
- *Correspondence to George Innis-1885
- *Correspondence to George Innis-1886
- *Correspondence to George Innis-1887
- *Correspondence to George Innis-1888
- *Correspondence to George Innis-1889
- *Correspondence to George Innis-1890
- *Correspondence to George Innis-1891
- *Correspondence to George Innis-1892
- *Correspondence to George Innis-1894
- *Correspondence to George Innis-1895

Box 6

Series 1: Correspondence 1896-1903, Undated, Cards

- *Correspondence to George Innis-1896
- *Correspondence to George Innis-1897
- *Correspondence to George Innis-1898
- *Correspondence to George Innis-1899
- *Correspondence to George Innis-1900
- *Correspondence to George Innis-1901
- *Correspondence to George Innis-1902
- *Correspondence to George Innis-1903
- *Correspondence to George Innis-Undated
- *Correspondence to George Innis-Undated
- *Correspondence from George Innis-Undated
- *Correspondence to George Innis-Cards

Box 7

Series 1: Correspondence Empty Envelopes

- *Correspondence-Empty Envelopes
- *Correspondence-Empty Envelopes

Box 8

Series 2: Personal Papers "A"- Bills-1852-1871

- *Advertisements
- *Autobiography
- *Bills-1850
- *Bills-1852
- *Bills-1853
- *Bills-1854
- *Bills-1855
- *Bills-1856
- *Bills-1857
- *Bills-1859
- *Bills-1860
- *Bills-1861
- *Bills-1862
- *Bills-1863
- *Bills-1864
- *Bills-1865
- *Bills-1866
- *Bills-1867
- *Bills-1868
- *Bills-1869
- *Bills-1870
- *Bills-1871

Box 9

Series 2: Personal Papers Bills-1872-1880

- *Bills-1872
- *Bills-1873
- *Bills-1874
- *Bills-1875
- *Bills-1876
- *Bills-1877
- *Bills-1878
- *Bills-1879
- *Bills-1880

Box 10

Series 2: Personal Papers Bills-1881-1899

- *Bills-1881
- *Bills-1882
- *Bills-1883
- *Bills-1884
- *Bills-1885
- *Bills-1886
- *Bills-1887
- *Bills-1888
- *Bills-1889
- *Bills-1890
- *Bills-1893
- *Bills-1894
- *Bills-1895
- *Bills-1897
- *Bills-1898
- *Bills-1899

Box 11

Series 2: Personal Papers Bills; "B-C"

- *Bills-1901
- *Bills-1903
- *Bills-Undated
- *Biographical Sketch of George Innis
- *Book
- *Cancelled Checks
- *Catalogs
- *Check Registers-1883-1884
- *Currency

Box 12

Series 2: Personal Papers "C"

- *Calling Cards and Invitations

Box 13

Series 2: Personal Papers Diaries

- *Diary-1843
- *Diary-1851
- *Diary-1854
- *Diary-1854
- *Diary-1856
- *Diary-1858
- *Diary-1865
- *Diary-1867
- *Diary-1875
- *Diary-1875
- *Diary-1876
- *Diary-1876
- *Diary-1885
- *Diary-1888
- *Diary-1897
- *Diary-Undated
- *Diary-Undated

Box 14

Series 2: Personal Papers "E-G"

- *Estate-Deeds
- *Estate of Esther H. Bevier
- *Estate of Louisa Hasbrouck
- *Fabric Samples
- *Flowers-Dried
- *Formulas for Dye Lots
- *Genealogy-Innis Family

Box 15

Series 2: Personal Papers Gifford, Sherman & Innis

- *Bills
- *Cancelled Checks-1877-1879
- *Cancelled Checks-1881-1882
- *Insurance

Box 16

Series 2: Personal Papers Gifford, Sherman & Innis

- *Cancelled Checks-1883-1884
- *Correspondence from GS&I - 1866
- *Correspondence-1871
- *Correspondence-1872
- *Correspondence-1874
- *Correspondence-1878
- *Correspondence-1883
- *Correspondence-1884
- *Correspondence-1885
- *Correspondence-1886
- *Correspondence-1887
- *Petty Cash Ledgers – 1885, 1887

Box 17

Series 2: Personal Papers Gifford, Sherman & Innis

- *Blank Paper
- *Blank Writing Paper
- *Correspondence-1889
- *Correspondence-1891
- *Correspondence-1897
- *Correspondence-1899
- *Correspondence-1904
- *Correspondence-Undated
- *Correspondence from Gifford, Sherman & Innis
- *Empty Envelopes
- *Lists
- *Notes and Loans
- *Notebook
- *Patent Application
- *Shipping Ledger-1877
- *Shipping Receipts

Box 18

Series 2: Personal Papers "I"

- *Innis, Speiden & Company Stockholder Notices
- *Insurance
- *Investment Information
- *Investment Information
- *Invitations

Box 19

Series 2: Personal Papers Ledgers

- *Ledger-Baird's Market
- *Ledger-1871-1872
- *Ledger-1834
- *Ledger-1865, 1888
- *Ledger-Cash Expenses-1879-1884
- *Ledger-Cash Expenses-1889

Box 20

Series 2: Personal Papers Ledgers

- *Ledger-Bills

Box 21

Series 2: Personal Papers Legal Papers-1863-1884

- *Legal Papers-1863
- *Legal Papers-1866
- *Legal Papers-1868
- *Legal Papers-1872
- *Legal Papers-1874
- *Legal Papers-1875
- *Legal Papers-1878
- *Legal Papers-1879
- *Legal Papers-1881
- *Legal Papers-1883
- *Legal Papers-1884

Box 22

Series 2: Personal Papers Legal Papers-1885-1887 – "L"

- *Legal Papers-1885
- *Legal Papers-1886
- *Legal Papers-1887
- *Lists
- *Lock of Hair

Box 23

Series 2: Personal Papers "M-N"

- *Maps
- *Marriage Certificate
- *Medicinal Remedies
- *Monument Fund
- *Mortgages/Bonds
- *Newspaper Clippings
- *Notes

Box 24

Series 2: Personal Papers Newspapers

- *Newspapers

Box 25

Series 2: Personal Papers "P"

- *Papers of Aaron Innis
- *Papers of Edward Innis
- *Papers of John J. Innis
- *Passport
- *Photographs
- *Political Papers
- *Programs/Admission Tickets
- *Promissory Notes
- *Poughkeepsie Bridge Company
- *Poughkeepsie & Eastern Railroad Company
- *Poughkeepsie Rural Cemetery-Innis Plot

Box 26

Series 2: Personal Papers "R-S"

- *Rosewood Estate – Maps and survey
- *School Papers
- *Stationery-Unused
- *Stocks and Bonds
- *Stocks and Bonds
- *Stocks and Bonds

Box 27

Series 2: Personal Papers "S"

- *Stocks and Bonds
- *Stocks and Bonds

Box 28

Series 2: Personal Papers "S-T"

- *Stocks and Bonds
- *Stamps-Cancelled
- *Tax Form-1867
- *Trade Cards
- *Vassar College