

∞ The Ward M. Canaday Center ∞
for Special Collections
The University of Toledo

Finding Aid

➤ Maher Family Papers, 1757-1938 ◀

MSS-005

Size: .75 linear foot

Provenance: received from Amy G. Maher through her Last Will and Testament in 1965.

Access: open

Collection Summary: Collection consists primarily of letters to William H. Maher (1846-1913), a businessman, writer, and political reformist, but also includes letters written to his wife Anne (Kelsey) Maher, as well as a few written to their daughter Amy Grace Maher, feminist and social activist. William also purchased a number of signatures and autographed letters from the Revolutionary, Early National, and Civil War eras.

Subjects: [Collectors and Collecting](#), [Politics and Government](#), [War, Soldiers, and Veterans](#), and [Women](#)

Related Collections: Olive A. Colton Papers, MSS-008

Processing Note: Due to the value and fragility of many of the items in this collection, the bulk of the collection is housed in Locked Cabinet D in the Ward M. Canaday Center Vault. To assist the Center's staff in retrieving items for the researcher, items stored in the locked cabinet are listed in separate sections of the finding aid. These sections immediately follow the main section. For example, under the series labeled "Correspondence" there is a sub-section titled "Correspondence/Locked Cabinet". Therefore, if the researcher fails to find the item sought under "Correspondence", he or she is directed to look under the "Correspondence/Locked Cabinet D".

Copyright: The literary rights to this collection are assumed to rest with the person(s) responsible for the production of the particular items within the collection, or with their heirs or assigns. Researchers bear full legal responsibility for the acquisition to publish from any part of said collection per *Title 17, United States Code*. The **Ward M. Canaday Center for Special Collections** may reserve the right to intervene as intermediary at its own discretion.

Completed by: Paul Gifford, December 1985, reprocessed by Marlo A. Kitchen, August, 2002, last updated: April, 2014

Biographical Sketch

William H. Maher

- 1846 - born in Thompsonville, Connecticut 1866 - president of Young Men's Club, Windsor Locks, Conn.
- c.1867 - came to Toledo, worked as clerk
- 1870 - member of firm later known as C. Gerber & Co.
- 1874-75 - in Springfield, Mass., and South Dartmouth, Mass.
- 1877 - with Emil Grosh, established Maher & Grosh, a wholesale hardware and cutlery house in Toledo
- 1886 - an organizer of the Toledo Natural Gas Company
- 1888 - an organizer and vice-president of Union Savings Bank
- 1894 - co-founded the Independent Party
- 1913 - died in Toledo

Anne (Kelsey) Maher c. 1840 - born in East River, Connecticut

- before 1872 - schoolteacher in Madison, Conn.
- 1872 - came to Toledo with husband William H. Maher
- 1919 - died in Toledo

Amy Grace Maher

- 1883 - born in Toledo, Ohio
- 1906 - graduated from Smith College
- 1909 - delegate to White House Conference on Child Welfare
- 1911 - helped establish the first open-air school for tubercular children in Toledo
- 1916 - founded the Toledo Consumers' League; president until 1937
- 1920 - chairman of Ohio Council on Women and Children in Industry; first chairman of Ohio League of Women Voters
- 1921 - first president of League of Women Voters of Toledo
- 1938 - appointed by President Roosevelt as technical adviser in the Social Security Board
- 1965 - died in Toledo

**Maher Family
Papers, 1757-1938**

Scope and Content Note

The Maher Family Collection is divided into four separate series: **S1. Correspondence, S2. Autographs, S3. Photographs and Drawings, and S4. Miscellaneous.** Because of the fragility and value of many of the items, the Correspondence and Autograph series are followed by an alphabetical listing of the materials that are stored in the locked cabinets in the vault. Therefore, the researcher should also consult this part of the finding aid when searching for a particular item. Also, three of the autographs are oversized and are listed in a section titled "Autographs/Oversized Cabinet, Drawer 1 at the end of this series.

The first series, **S1. Correspondence**, consists primarily of letters written to, or collected by, William H. Maher, between 1863 and 1906. These letters were either written to him personally or to his company, Maher & Grosh Cutlery Company. Two letters are addressed to Anne (Kelsey) Maher, William Maher's wife and Amy Grace Maher's mother. There are also letters written to Amy G. Maher, mostly solicited from literary figures in the 1890s. The letters are arranged alphabetically using the names of the recipients as subheadings. The original criterion for the preservation of these letters appears to have been the celebrity of the letter writers. William H. Maher, as president of the Young Men's Club of Windsor Locks, Connecticut, in 1866, attempted to engage several prominent individuals as lecturers. Mostly negative, replies were written by Horace Greeley, P. T. Barnum, Oliver Wendell Holmes, Louis Agassiz, and others. Later correspondence consists of acknowledgments from Ohio Congressmen and governors and from authors with whom Maher had contact as a reviewer for the Blade. Of note are two autographed poems: "Old Ironsides" by Oliver Wendell Holmes (1889) and "Xmas Greeting" by James Whitcomb Riley (1896). In a letter to Maher & Grosh Cutlery Company, for a large order of knives, the writer Jack London announces his intention to use them as trade goods on a seven-year cruise around the world.

The series **S2. Autographs**, contains a collection of signed letters and autographs of Revolutionary and Colonial figures, United States Presidents, Civil War generals, and others. These are arranged alphabetically by the name of the signer. Probably the most significant is a letter from James Madison, then Secretary of State, to the American minister in France, Robert R. Livingston, in which Madison gives instructions for negotiations with the French. An autograph album contains signatures of Colonial New England ministers, including two bookplates of the 17th-century Rhode Island Baptist John Clarke, and of congressmen of the first half of the nineteenth century. Someone living in Maine may have assembled this album. **S3. Photographs and Drawings**, contains photographs of Amy G. Maher and of others. It also contains a pencil drawing of Miss Maher done in 1921. The Olive A. Colton Collection should be consulted for related material. The final series, **S4. Miscellaneous**, contains additional material on the life of Amy G. Maher. Of particular note is an executive order signed by President Franklin D. Roosevelt appointing Miss Maher to the Social Security Board. Here the researcher will also find a copy of a book by Amy G. Maher entitled Littlebrook.

**Maher Family
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Since this collection is a highly selective group of letters, it is not possible to reconstruct the activities of William H. Maher or Amy G Maher in full. Researchers interested in the Independent Party, in Toledo banking, or in Progressivism, will find only a few items of interest.

**Maher Family
Papers, 1757-1938**

Folder Listing

box folder Folder Title

S1. Correspondence

1(R- 4)	1	William H. Maher Correspondence, 1863-1890, n.d Bennett, John, TLS, Chillicothe, Ohio, 1897 December 14 Buckingham, William A., ALS, Hartford, Conn., 1863 October 15 Buckingham, William A., ALS, Norwich, Conn., 1866 September 1 Bullock, Alexander H., ALS, Boston, 1866 September 11 Conkling, Roscoe, ALS, Washington, 1875 February 5 Conkling, Roscoe, ALS, Washington, 1879 June 24 Curtis, George William, ALS, Ashfield, Mass., 1866 September 11 Dawes, Henry Laurens, ALS, Washington, 1875 February 17 Deming, Henry C., ALS, Washington, Feb. 28 Dickinson, Anna E., ALS, Philadelphia, 1866 September 21 Dickinson, Anna E., ALS, Philadelphia, 1866 September 27 Dixon, J., empty envelope, n.d. Eggleston, George Cary, ALS, Berkeley Heights, N. J., 1874 June 12 Fletcher, James Cooley, ALS, Newburyport, Mass., 1866 September 7 Foster, Charles, TLS, Fostoria, Ohio 1890 October 9 Foster, Charles, TLS, Washington, 1891 May 4 Gardner, Eugene Clarence, ALS, Springfield, Mass., 1898 February 9 Garland, Hamlen, ALS, Chicago, April 6 Hamilton, Gail, ALS, 1867 June 19 Hawley, Joseph R., ALS, Hartford, Conn., 1866 August 27 Hoadly, George, LS, Columbus, Ohio, 1885 July 10 Holland, Josiah Gilbert, ALS, Springfield, Mass., 1866 August 4 Hughes, Thomas, ALS, 1878 October 8 Johnson, Rossiter, ALS, New York, 1892 December 10 Johnson, Rossiter, ALS, New York, 1893 December 29 Kennan, George, TLS, Washington, 1902 April 3 Maynard, Horace, ALS, Frederick, Md., 1866 September 8 Mitchell, Donald G., sig., New Haven, Conn., undated Munsey, Frank A., ALS, New York, 1904 August 31 Parkman, Francis, ALS, undated Parsons, Alfred, ALS, London, 1890 April 7 Pingree, Hazen S., TLS, Detroit, 1901 January 26 Shaw, Albert, TLS, New York, 1900 January 3 Sherman, John, ALS, Mansfield, Ohio, 1893 July 27 Shee, John Dawson Gilmary, ALS, New York, 1869 March 27 Taylor, Bayard, ALS, Kennett Square, Pa., 1866 August 25 Taylor, Bayard, ALS, Kennett Square, Pa., 1866 September 24
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**Maher Family
Papers, 1757-1938**

Tilton, Theodore, ALS, Brooklyn, 1866 October 27
Trumbull, James Hammond, ALS, Hartford, Conn., 1865 October 30
undecipherable, ALS, Cincinnati, 1901 June 12
Whitlock, Brand, TLS, Toledo, 1906 November 13
Whitney, Adeline, ALS, Milton, Mass., 1870 July 24

2

Maher & Grosh Cutlery Co.- Correspondence, 1878-1906

Cox, Jacob Dolson, ALS, Washington, 1878 December 13
Cox, Kenyon, ALS, Long Beach, Cal., 1894 April 16
Forsyth, George A., ALS, San Antonio Tex., 1890 December 31
Fullerton, Joseph Scott, ALS, Chattanooga, Tenn., 1895 August 24
Jefferson, Josephine, ALS, Buzzards Bay, Mass., 1896 August 26
Piatt, Donn, ALS, West Liberty, Ohio, 1889 November 2
Schwatka, Frederick, ALS, Rock Island, Ill., 1890 December 24
Sherman, John, ALS, Washington, 1882 March 20
Shillaber, Benjamin P., ALS, Chelsea, Mass., 1890 April 8
Undecipherable, ALS, Bartow-on-the-Sound, N. Y., 1883 September 27

3

Anne (Kelsey) Maher - Correspondence, 1874-1891

Booth, Mary L., Editor Harper's Bazaar, ALS, New York, 1874 August 4
Murray, W. H. H., ALS, Guilford, Conn., 1891 November 23

4

Amy Grace Maher - Correspondence, 1895-1934

Bennett, John, ALS, Chillicothe, Ohio, 1897 November 7
Bennett, John, ALS, Chillicothe, Ohio, 1897 November 20
Brooks, Elbridge S., ALS, Boston, 1897, January 5, with circular
Burnett, Frances Hodgson, ALS, undated
Douglas, Paul H., TLS, Chicago, 1932, September 2
Hagedorn, Hermann, ALS, Fairfield, Conn., 1915, September 7
Jamison, Cecile Viets, ALS, New Orleans, 1895 December 8
Jenks, Tudor, ALS (with sketch), ALS, 1896 December
Perkins, Frances, TLS, Washington, 1934 February 16
Stoddard, W. O., ALS, Madison, N. J., 1897 January 2

Locked
cabinet
D

Correspondence/ Locked File Cabinet D

William M. Maher Correspondence

Agassiz, Louis, ALS, Nahant, Mass., 1866 August 23
Barnum, Phineas Taylor, ALS, Bridgeport, Conn., 1866 September 5
Greeley, Horace, ALS, New York, 1866 August 29
Hayes, Rutherford B., ALS, Fremont, Ohio, 1887 September 5
Holmes, Oliver Wendell, ALS, Boston, 1866 August 30
Holmes, Oliver Wendell, ALS, Boston, 1867 November 12
Holmes, Oliver Wendell, ALS, Boston, 1868 January 7
Holmes, Oliver Wendell, ALS, Boston, 1873 January 1

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Holmes, Oliver Wendell, holograph poem "Old Ironsides," Boston,
1889, Feb. 28
Holmes, Oliver Wendell, ALS, Boston, 1889 February 28
Holmes, Oliver Wendell, draft ALS, Boston, 1889 February 28
Holmes, Oliver Wendell, autographed photograph, Boston, 1889 May
29
Holmes, Oliver Wendell, photograph, undated

Maher & Grosh Cutlery Co.

London, Jack, TLS, Glen Ellen, Cal., 1906 August 1

Amy Grace Maher

Riley, James Whitcomb, holograph poem, "Xmas greeting," 1896
(with
5 newspaper clipping)

S2. AUTOGRAPHS

A-C

Adams, William Taylor, ADS <fragment>, undated
Arnold, Edwin, ALS, May 16, to Walfred
Banks, Nathaniel Prentice, sig., undated
Beauregard, Pierre Gustave Toutant, ALS, North Carolina, 1865
November 4
Bernadotte, Jean Baptiste Jules, LS, VIII floreal 6 <1800 April 26>
Bernard, Sir Francis, DS, Boston, 1766 February 6
Berthier, Louis Alexandre, LS, 1807 May 29, to Gen. Drouet
Besant, Sir Walter, ALS, 1878 February 12, to N. Martin Middleton
Bryant, William Cullen, sig., 1874 June 22
Burnett, Frances Hodgson, ALS <fragment>, London, no date
Burroughs, John, holograph poem, undated
Butler, Benjamin F., sig., undated
Clinton, George, ALS, Greenwich, 1799 October 27, to Samuel Royce
Everett, Edward, ALS, Charlestown, Mass., 1836 December 30, to
Hezekiah Barnard
Hancock, Winfield Scott, ALS, Norristown, Pa., 1863 August 14, to
Col.
<illegible>
Howe, Julia Ward, LS, Boston, undated, to Mrs. Landers
Jackson, Henry, LS, North Kingstown, R. I., 1779 June 11, to Maj.
Gen.
Gates
Jones, Samuel M., ALS, Toledo, 1898 December 25, to Dr. Mary Law
Lee, Henry, DS, 1792 October 26, to Bushrod Washington
Longstreet, James, ALS, Gainesville, Ga., 1896 November 15, to J. D.
Miller, New York
Lindsey, Ben D., sig., undated
Moody, Dwight L., SIG, East Northfield, Mass., 1898 July 30
6 Moore, Thomas, ALS, 1833 November 11 to Thomas Clarke

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Morse, Samuel F. B., ALS, Poughkeepsie, N. Y., 1864 August 19, to Rev.

6 Lewis T. Clover, Springfield, Ill.
Munsey, Frank A., 2 sigs., undated

N-Z

Ney, Michel, ALS, Paris, X floreal 4 <1802 April 24>, to Gen. Berthier

Page, Thomas Nelson, ALS, Philadelphia, 1889 April 3, to J. M. Stoddart,

Philadelphia

Payne, John Howard, ALS, undated, to J. Winston, Theatre Royal, Drury

Lane

Putnam, Rufus, DS, Marietta, Ohio, 1801 June 20, to Dudley Woodbridge

Rogers, Samuel, ALS, London, 1841 July 20, to Mr. Sumner

Rosecrans, William Starke, DS, Tullahoma, Tenn., 1863 July 13

Saint Gaudens, Augustus, SIG., undated

Locked cabinet Scott, Winfield, ALS, Richmond, Va., 1837 February 23, to Lieut. Keyes

D Seward, William H., ALS, Auburn, 1860 June 28, to John C. Rives
Sherman, William Tecumseh, SIG., undated

Sickles, Daniel E., SIG., undated

Webster, George, DS, Wheeling, W. Va., 1849 April 9

Whittier, John Greenleaf, SIG., 1866 February 19

Wilkes, Charles, ALS, Washington, 1835 March 25, to Comm. James Barron, Philadelphia

Autographs/Locked Cabinet D

Album of autograph signatures, bookplates, etc.

Adams, John Quincy, LS, Washington, 1817 November 6, to Jeremy Robinson

Agassiz, Louis, ALS, 1863 January 14, to G. B. Emerson

Boudinot, Elias, DS, Middlesex Co., Mass., July 1761

Bryan, William Jennings, SIG., undated

Buchanan, James, ALS, Washington, 1827 December 13, to Thomas

Burr, Aaron, ALS, 1807 January 30, to Capt. Bissell

Chase, Salmon P., ALS, Cincinnati, 1845 March 4, to Robert F. Paine

Clay, Henry, DS, Lexington, Ky., 1849 May 12

Clinton, Sir Henry, LS, New York, 1781 Aug. 29, to Rear Adm.

Thomas

Graves

Collins, Wilkie, ALS, Broadstairs, Kent, 1862 July 29, to Sampson Low

Darwin, Charles, ALS, Beckenham, Kent, June 29

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Davis, Jefferson, ALS, New Orleans, 1876 May 20, to Gen. D. H. Maury
Franklin, Benjamin, DS, Philadelphia, 1787 October 9, to David Rittenhouse
Jefferson, Thomas, DS, Monticello, Va., 1816 December 31, to John Barnes
Lafayette, Marquis de, ALS, Paris, 1826 April 17, to Duke of Bedford, London
Knox, Henry, ALS, Philadelphia, 1793 January 5
Madison, James, LS, Washington, 1803 February 23, to Robert R. Livingston, Paris
Monroe, James, DS, Washington, 1822 May 23, to Ephraim Cutler
Randolph, John, ALS, Washington, 1825 April 1, to Messrs. Fish and Grinnell
Rochambeau, Jean Baptiste Donatien de Vimeur, comte de, ALS, 1782 February 9, to Gov. <Benjamin> Harrison
Schuyler, Philip John, ALS, New York 1786 October 1, to Stephen Van Rensselaer
Stevenson, Robert Louis, DS, 1887 March 31, to Willis & Trantum Trumbull (Trumble), Jonathan, ALS, Lebanon, Conn., 1757 April 27, to
Committee of the Pay Table, Hartford, with: Fitch, Arzel, DS, Lebanon, Conn., 1757 April 14, to Jonathan Trumble
Trumbull, Jonathan, DS, Hartford, Conn., 1774 May 14
Tyler, John, DS, Washington, 1843 March 21
7 Van Alen, Anne, ALS, Greenbush, N. Y., 1794 January 11, to John E. Van Alen; with: fragment of other letter
Van Buren, Martin, DS, Washington, 1840 June 16
Webster, Daniel, ALS, Boston, 1843 August 29, to Richard Smith, Washington
Wellington, Arthur Wellesley, 1st Duke of, ALS, London, 1846 February 20, to Sir Robert Peel, Bart., London

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Autographs/Oversized Cabinet, Drawer 1

Fillmore, Millard, DS, Washington, 1850, August 29 (Cert. of Appt. John D. Whitford)
Jackson, Andrew, DS, Washington, 1831 April 1, to Allen Tindell

Locked
cabinet
D

S3. Photographs and Drawings

Florence E. Allen, photograph, autographed, January 29, 1934
Centennial Exposition, Philadelphia, 1876, Stereograph
Johanna Gadski, photograph, autographed, n.d.

**Maher Family
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Amy G. Maher , photograph, n.d.

Amy G. Maher, pencil portrait (OVERSIZED CABINET, Drawer 1,
folder 11)

Unknown Woman, photograph, n.d.

S4. Miscellaneous

Bank statement, Merchants National Bank, Cincinnati, to Agnes M.
Durban, Nelson Business College, March 21, 1891

Sheppey, Marshall, TLS, Toledo, 1910 January 29, to Frank Tiernan
Roosevelt, Franklin, executive order authorizing appointment of Amy
G.

Maher to position in Social Security Board (2 photostats)

Littlebrook by Amy Grace Maher

Miscellaneous note regarding autograph collection, author unknown,
n.d.

Autograph book (locked cabinet D)