

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

Finding Aid  
➤ Maher Family Papers ◀  
MSS-005

**Size:** .75 linear foot

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

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

**Access:** open

**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".

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**Completed by:** Paul Gifford, December 1985, reprocessed by Marlo A. Kitchen, August, 2002

**Maher Family  
Papers, 1757-1938**

**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.

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**

**Arrangement**

**box      folder      Folder Title**

**S1. Correspondence**

1(R-4)	1	<b>William H. Maher Correspondence, 1863-1890, n.d</b> 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
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- 1 Taylor, Bayard, ALS, Kennett Square, Pa., 1866 September 24  
 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  
 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  
newspaper clipping)

## 5 **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  
Moore, Thomas, ALS, 1833 November 11 to Thomas Clarke  
Morse, Samuel F. B., ALS, Poughkeepsie, N. Y., 1864 August 19, to Rev.  
Lewis T. Clover, Springfield, Ill.  
Munsey, Frank A., 2 sigs., undated

### 6 **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  
6 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  
Scott, Winfield, ALS, Richmond, Va., 1837 February 23, to Lieut. Keyes  
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

Locked **Autographs/Locked Cabinet D**

- cabinet Album of autograph signatures, bookplates, etc.  
D 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  
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  
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  
 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

**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

**S3. Photographs and Drawings**

- 7 Florence E. Allen, photograph, autographed, January 29, 1934  
 Centennial Exposition, Philadelphia, 1876, Stereograph  
 Johanna Gadski, photograph, autographed, n.d.  
 Amy G. Maher, photograph, n.d.  
 Amy G. Maher, pencil portrait (OVERSIZED CABINET, Drawer 1, folder 11)  
 Unknown Woman, photograph, n.d.

**8 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)

Locked cabinet D