
Inventory of the Walter Francis Dillingham Papers, 1871-1938

The Huntington Library

San Marino, California

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May 7, 1999

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Descriptive Summary

Title: Walter Francis Dillingham Papers,

Date (inclusive): 1871-1938

Collection number: HM 58322-59296.

Acquisition number: 1162

Creator: Dillingham, Walter Francis

Extent: 1,001 items

Repository: The Huntington Library

San Marino, California 91108

Language: English

Provenance

The collection was purchased from Robert Van Dyke in February 1985.

Access

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Preferred Citation

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Biographical Note

Walter Francis Dillingham was the oldest son of Benjamin "B. F." Dillingham and Emma Smith Dillingham of Honolulu. B. F. Dillingham was an influential and successful businessman in Hawaii and owner of several companies including the Olaa Sugar Company, the Ewa Plantation, and the B. F. Dillingham Company. In 1888, B. F. created the Oahu Railway and Land Company, ultimately building the first railroad on the island of Oahu. Walter, born in Honolulu, April 5, 1875, moved to the United States, in 1889, to attend Newton High School in Auburndale, Massachusetts, and later Harvard University. After returning home from Harvard, Walter began clerking for his father, and in 1900, at the age of 25, became manager of the Dowsett Company, Limited. He also created and was the first manager and treasurer of the Hawaiian Dredging Company. In 1904, with his father hospitalized in San Francisco, Walter became responsible for the finances and direction of the Oahu Railway and Land Company. In 1910 Walter married Louise Olga Gaylord; they had four children, Lowell Smith, Benjamin Franklin II, Henry Gaylord and Elizabeth Louise Dillingham Wick. In 1918, after B. F.'s death, Walter, along with his brother Harold Garfield Dillingham, took over the management of the Dillinghams' businesses. Walter was stationed in Washington, D. C., and served in the U. S. Army, Motor Transport Corps during World War I. Walter F. Dillingham died in Hawaii in October 1963.

Scope and Content

The collection contains 1,001 catalogued items, including approximately 966 pieces of correspondence. The collection spans the period 1871-1938, with the bulk of the material from 1880-1918.

The collection, arranged alphabetically by author, consists primarily of correspondence; however, there are three business records, nine pieces of ephemera, and nineteen newspaper clippings. The collection contains material written by the principal Dillingham family members, as well as Walter Francis Frear, John P. Erdman, Isaac L. Requa, Walter Hyde Dillingham, Harold Randolph Erdman, several friends of the Dillingham family and business associates.

The letters largely deal with family events and business affairs. The correspondence provides an account of each family member's travels and experiences abroad, whether it is going east for school, traveling to visit relatives, or raising money for the family's companies. Several letters deal with B. F.'s illness and hospitalization in the summer of 1904. The Dillinghams often discuss in detail the Oahu Railway and Land Company, the Ewa Plantation Company, and the B. F. Dillingham Company. The letters often refer to the social, economic, and political conditions in Hawaii.

The business records deal with the B. F. Dillingham Company, the Hawaiian Dredging Company, and the Oahu Railway and Land Company. The ephemera consists of an envelope, an invitation, letter fragments and receipts. The majority of the newspaper clippings deal with the Dillingham family and their affairs in Hawaii.

Bibliography

Yardley, Paul T. *Millstones and Milestones: The Career of B. F. Dillingham*. (Honolulu: University Press of Hawaii, 1981).

Box 1

Adams, ----.

1 letter (1918, Aug. 16) to Walter Francis Dillingham, 1875-1963. HM 58322.

B. F. Dillingham Company.

Revenue Account for the 6 months ending July 1, 1912 (1912): business record. HM 58323.

"Boy Blue".

1 letter [c.1880] to Walter Francis Dillingham, 1875-1963. HM 58324.

Dillingham, Benjamin Franklin, 1844-1918.

Appointment of Benjamin Franklin Dillingham to Knight Commander of the Royal Order of Kalakaua (1892, Mar. 29), copy written in the handwriting of Benjamin Franklin Dillingham, 1844-1918. HM 58325.

Dillingham, Benjamin Franklin, 1844-1918.

1 letter (1871, Nov. 19) to Charles Dillingham. HM 58326.

Dillingham, Benjamin Franklin, 1844-1918.

3 letters (1897) to Emma Smith Dillingham. HM 58327-58329.

Dillingham, Benjamin Franklin, 1844-1918.

1 letter (1883, Apr. 19) to Emma Smith Dillingham and Mary Dillingham Frear. HM 58330.

Dillingham, Benjamin Franklin, 1844-1918.

1 letter (1910, Aug. 20) to Harold Garfield Dillingham. HM 58331.

Dillingham, Benjamin Franklin, 1844-1918.

86 letters (1880-1914) to Walter Francis Dillingham, 1875-1963. HM 58332-58417.

Scope and Content Note

HM 58401 includes letter by Emma Smith Dillingham to Walter Francis Dillingham, 1875-1963, and a poem.

HM 58412 includes letter by Emma Smith Dillingham to Walter Francis Dillingham, 1875-1963.

Dillingham, Benjamin Franklin, 1844-1918.

5 letters (1897-1908) to Walter Francis Dillingham, 1875-1963, and Harold Garfield Dillingham. HM 58418-58422.

Dillingham, Benjamin Franklin, 1844-1918.

1 letter (1913, Feb. 24) to Walter Francis Dillingham, 1875-1963, and Louise Olga Gaylord Dillingham. HM 58423.

Dillingham, Benjamin Franklin, 1844-1918.

1 letter [between 1899 and 1904] to Marion Dillingham Erdman. HM 58424.

Dillingham, Benjamin Franklin, 1844-1918.

2 letters (1889-1892) to Mary Dillingham Frear. HM 58425-58426.

Dillingham, Benjamin Franklin, 1844-1918.

1 letter (1910, Nov. 4) to George McClellan. HM 58427.

Dillingham, Benjamin Franklin, 1844-1918.

1 letter (1900, July 19) to Elmer E. Paxton. HM 58428.

Dillingham, Benjamin Franklin, 1844-1918 and Emma Smith Dillingham.

1 letter (1893, Apr. 5) to Walter Francis Dillingham, 1875-1963. HM 58429.

Box 2

Dillingham, Emma Smith.

Account of Lowell Smith Dillingham's Baptism [1911]. HM 58430.

Dillingham, Emma Smith.

Beneditto: poem (1917, Aug. 15). HM 58431.

Dillingham, Emma Smith.

Kahuku Chronicles: journal, 3 journal entries (1892-1893). HM 58432-58434.

Dillingham, Emma Smith.

List of Family Birthdays [between 1918 and 1920]. HM 58435.

Dillingham, Emma Smith.

1 letter (1902, July 3) to Benjamin Franklin Dillingham, 1844-1918. HM 58436.

Dillingham, Emma Smith.

1 letter [after 1918, Oct. 14] to Benjamin Franklin Dillingham, 1916- . On verso: list of family birthdays. HM 58437.

Dillingham, Emma Smith.

1 letter (1906, Feb. 22) to Harold Garfield Dillingham. HM 58438.

Dillingham, Emma Smith.

1 letter (1889, Mar. 24) to Harold Garfield Dillingham and Marion Dillingham Erdman. HM 58439.

Dillingham, Emma Smith.

2 letters (1910-1914) to Louise Olga Gaylord Dillingham. HM 58440-58441.

Dillingham, Emma Smith.

1 letter (1908, Feb. 18) to Margaret Smith Dillingham and Harold Garfield Dillingham. HM 58442.

Dillingham, Emma Smith.

58 letters (1883-1891) to Walter Francis Dillingham, 1875-1963. HM 58443-58500.

Scope and Content Note

HM 58444 includes letter by Mary Dillingham Frear to Walter Francis Dillingham, 1875-1963. HM 58473 includes letters by Harold Garfield Dillingham and Marion Dillingham Erdman to Walter Francis Dillingham, 1875-1963. HM 58475 includes letter by Harold Garfield Dillingham to Walter Francis Dillingham, 1875-1963. HM 58488 includes letter by Marion Dillingham Erdman to Walter Francis Dillingham, 1875-1963.

Box 3

Dillingham, Emma Smith.

73 letters (1892-1904) to Walter Francis Dillingham, 1875-1963. HM 58501-58573.

Scope and Content Note

HM 58507 includes letter by Harold Garfield Dillingham to Walter Francis Dillingham, 1875-1963.

Box 4

Dillingham, Emma Smith.

56 letters (1905-1912) to Walter Francis Dillingham, 1875-1963. HM 58574-58629.

Box 5

Dillingham, Emma Smith.

52 letters (1913-1919) to Walter Francis Dillingham, 1875-1963. HM 58630-58681.

Scope and Content Note

HM 58675 includes three photographs of destruction in Hawaii after a storm.

Dillingham, Emma Smith.

7 letters (1905-1914) to Walter Francis Dillingham, 1875-1963 and Harold Garfield Dillingham. HM 58682-58688.

Dillingham, Emma Smith.

9 letters (1910-1919) to Walter Francis Dillingham, 1875-1963 and Louise Olga Gaylord Dillingham.
HM 58689-58697.

Dillingham, Emma Smith.

7 letters (1888-1892) to Mary Dillingham Frear. HM 58698-58704.

Scope and Content Note

HM 58699 includes letter by Mary Dillingham Frear to Walter Francis Dillingham, 1875-1963. HM 58703 includes letter by Harold Garfield Dillingham to Walter Francis Dillingham, 1875-1963.

Dillingham, Emma Smith.

13 letters (1888-1891) to Mary Dillingham Frear and Walter Francis Dillingham, 1875-1963. HM 58705-58717.

Dillingham, Emma Smith.

1 letter (1910, July 13) to Mary Dillingham Frear, Walter Francis Dillingham, 1875-1963, Louise Olga Gaylord Dillingham and Harold Garfield Dillingham. HM 58718.

Dillingham, Emma Smith.

1 letter (1890, Jan. 4) to -----. Also program from children's concert. HM 58719.

Dillingham, Emma Smith.

1 letter [1892, June] to -----, incomplete. HM 58720.

Dillingham, Emma Smith and Benjamin Franklin Dillingham, 1844-1918.

1 letter [before 1918] to Walter Francis Dillingham, 1875-1963. In the handwriting of Emma Smith Dillingham. HM 58721.

Box 6

Dillingham, Harold Garfield.

1 letter (1898, July 6) to Benjamin Franklin Dillingham, 1844-1918. HM 58722.

Dillingham, Harold Garfield.

1 letter (1889, Apr. 28) to Benjamin Franklin Dillingham, 1844-1918 and Walter Francis Dillingham, 1875-1963. HM 58723.

Dillingham, Harold Garfield.

16 letters (1889-1918) to Emma Smith Dillingham. HM 58724-58739.

Dillingham, Harold Garfield.

69 letters (1889-1918) to Walter Francis Dillingham, 1875-1963. HM 58740-58808.

Scope and Content Note

HM 58742 includes post script written by Emma Smith Dillingham.

HM 58743 includes letter by Emma Smith Dillingham to Walter Francis Dillingham, 1875-1963.

HM 58749 includes letter by Emma Smith Dillingham to Walter Francis Dillingham, 1875-1963.

HM 58753 is partly in handwriting of Emma Smith Dillingham.

HM 58755 is partly in handwriting of Emma Smith Dillingham.

Dillingham, Harold Garfield.

2 letters (1888-1891) to Mary Dillingham Frear. HM 58809-58810.

Scope and Content Note

HM 58809 is in handwriting of Emma Smith Dillingham.

Dillingham, Harold Garfield and Margaret Bayard Smith Dillingham.

1 letter (1910, Mar. 16) to Louise Olga Gaylord Dillingham and Walter Francis Dillingham, 1875-1963. HM 58811.

Dillingham, Louise Olga Gaylord.

4 letters (1913-1914) to Walter Francis Dillingham, 1875-1963. HM 58812-58815.

Dillingham, Margaret Bayard Smith.

6 letters (1906-1907) to Walter Francis Dillingham, 1875-1963. HM 58816-58821.

Box 7

Dillingham, Walter Francis, 1875-1963.

98 letters (1887-1899) to Benjamin Franklin Dillingham, 1844-1918. HM 58822-58919.

Scope and Content Note

HM 58906 includes list of expenses and moneys paid by Walter Francis Dillingham, 1875-1963.

Box 8

Dillingham, Walter Francis, 1875-1963.

30 letters (1900-1910) to Benjamin Franklin Dillingham, 1844-1918. HM 58920-58949.

Scope and Content Note

HM 58945 includes letter by Louise Olga Gaylord Dillingham to Benjamin Franklin Dillingham, 1844-1918.

Dillingham, Walter Francis, 1875-1963.

12 letters (1889-1916) to Benjamin Franklin Dillingham, 1844-1918 and Emma Smith Dillingham.

HM 58950-58961.

Dillingham, Walter Francis, 1875-1963.

5 letters (1889-1900) to Benjamin Franklin Dillingham, Emma Smith Dillingham, et al. HM 58962-58966.

Dillingham, Walter Francis, 1875-1963.

53 letters (1883-1892) to Emma Smith Dillingham. HM 58967-59019.

Box 9

Dillingham, Walter Francis, 1875-1963.

106 letters (1893-1905) to Emma Smith Dillingham. HM 59020-59125.

Scope and Content Note

HM 59046 includes letter by Emma Smith Dillingham to Harold Garfield Dillingham.

Box 10

Dillingham, Walter Francis, 1875-1963.

52 letters (1906-1920) to Emma Smith Dillingham. HM 59126-59177.

Dillingham, Walter Francis, 1875-1963.

2 letters (1900-1916) to Emma Smith Dillingham and Benjamin Franklin Dillingham, 1844-1918. HM 59178-59179.

Dillingham, Walter Francis, 1875-1963.

12 letters (1888-1897) to Harold Garfield Dillingham. HM 59180-59191.

Dillingham, Walter Francis, 1875-1963.

1 letter (1890, Jan. 28) to Harold Garfield Dillingham and Marion Dillingham Erdman. HM 59192.

Dillingham, Walter Francis, 1875-1963.

2 letters (1898-1899) to Marion Dillingham Erdman. HM 59193-59194.

Dillingham, Walter Francis, 1875-1963.

1 letter (1889, Apr. 26) to Lowell Smith, 1802-1891. HM 59195.

Box 11

Dillingham, Walter Hyde.

2 letters [between 1918 and 1920] to Emma Smith Dillingham. HM 59196-59197.

Driscoll, Tom A.

1 letter ([1898], Aug. 15) to Walter Francis Dillingham, 1875-1963. HM 59198.

Erdman, Harold Randolph.

1 letter (1914, July 16) to Walter Francis Dillingham, 1875-1963. HM 59199.

Erdman, John P.

2 letters (1905-1906) to Walter Francis Dillingham, 1875-1963. HM 59200-59201.

Erdman, Marion Dillingham.

3 letters (1904) to Emma Smith Dillingham. HM 59202-59204.

Erdman, Marion Dillingham.

29 letters (1889-1918) to Walter Francis Dillingham, 1875-1963. HM 59205-59233.

Scope and Content Note

HM 59205 is in handwriting of Emma Smith Dillingham.

HM 59206 is partly in handwriting of Emma Smith Dillingham.

Erdman, Marion Dillingham.

2 letters (1888-1891) to Mary Dillingham Frear. HM 59234-59235.

Scope and Content Note

HM 59234 is in handwriting of Emma Smith Dillingham.

Euchson, Charlotte.

1 letter (1897, Aug. 13) to Emma Smith Dillingham. HM 59236.

Frear, Mary Dillingham.

To Her: poem (n.d.). HM 59237.

Frear, Mary Dillingham.

1 letter (1912, Jan. 5) to Benjamin Franklin Dillingham, 1844-1918. HM 59238.

Box 12

Frear, Mary Dillingham.

40 letters (1883-1918) to Walter Francis Dillingham, 1875-1963. HM 59239-59278.

Frear, Mary Dillingham.

2 letters [1910-1913] to Walter Francis Dillingham, 1875-1963 and Louise Olga Gaylord Dillingham.
HM 59279-59280.

Frear, Mary Dillingham.

1 fragment of letter to ----- . HM 59281.

Frear, Prosser, Anderson & Marx.

1 letter (1919, Dec. 11) to "Gentlemen". Note: Copy sent to S. G. Hindes, 1919, Dec. 12. HM 59282.

Frear, Walter Francis, b. 1863.

1 letter (1894, Mar. 16) to Walter Francis Dillingham, 1875-1963. HM 59283.

Frear, Walter Francis, b. 1863, and Mary Dillingham Frear.

1 letter to Benjamin Franklin Dillingham, 1844-1918 and Emma Smith Dillingham. HM 59284.

Oahu Railway and Land Company.

Extraordinary Expenditures of the Oahu Railway and Land Company for the period July 1, 1908 to Feb. 15, 1909
: business record, with handwritten corrections (1909). HM 59285.

Oleson, A---- J----

1 letter (1889, Nov. 13) to Mary Dillingham Frear. HM 59286.

Parker, Mary.

1 letter to Benjamin Franklin Dillingham, 1844-1918 and Emma Smith Dillingham, includes note by Emma Smith Dillingham forwarding letter along. HM 59287.

Requa, Isaac L.

1 letter (1902, July 12) to Benjamin Franklin Dillingham, 1844-1918, copy in handwriting of Benjamin Franklin Dillingham, 1844-1918. HM 59288.

Seales, Edward P.

1 letter (1891, Mar. 4) to Walter Francis Dillingham, 1875-1963. HM 59289.

-----, Alice.

1 letter [before 1920] to Emma Smith Dillingham, includes note by Mary Dillingham Frear to Walter Francis Dillingham, 1875-1963. HM 59290.

-----, Blanche.

2 letters (1913) to Walter Francis Dillingham, 1875-1963. HM 59291-59292.

-----, Sarah.

1 letter ([1914], Nov. 13) to Louise Olga Gaylord Dillingham. HM 59293.

-----.

Troubles Come For Dillingham, Hawaiian Millionaire is Here to Rest and His Business is Under Investigation: article [1904]. HM 59294.

Ephemera.

9 pieces (1890-1919): an envelope, an invitation, two letter fragments, and five receipts. HM 59295.

Newspaper Clippings.

19 pieces (1889-1938). HM 59296.