

ALEXANDER THOMPSON BRITTON PAPERS, 1864-1898

Collection #:
M 0026

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Processed by
Alexandra S. Gressitt
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COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF COLLECTION:	2 Manuscript boxes
COLLECTION DATES:	1864-1898
PROVENANCE:	Gift of Paul R. Lustgarten, Indianapolis, IN and Edward Lustgarten, Encino, CA, April 1966
RESTRICTIONS:	None
REPRODUCTION RIGHTS:	Permission to reproduce or publish material in this collection must be obtained in writing from the Indiana Historical Society
ALTERNATE FORMATS:	None
OTHER FINDING AIDS:	None
RELATED HOLDINGS:	M 0132, Benjamin Harrison Collection
ACCESSION NUMBER:	1966.0401
NOTES:	

HISTORICAL SKETCH

Alexander Thompson Britton was born, 29 December 1835, in New York and died, 1899, in Washington, D.C. He enlisted during the Civil War (1861) in the National Rifles of Washington. Following the War he began the practice of law (1865) in Washington, D.C. In 1877 President R.B. Hayes appointed Britton a member of a committee to codify public land laws. During his career he served on the boards of directors for several banks and railroads, and was active in the Republican Party. Britton chaired (1888-1889) the Executive Committee of the Inaugural Ceremonies of March 4, 1889 for Benjamin Harrison. Evidence in the collection suggests that he had at least one daughter, Louise, who wrote a congratulatory letter to her father on his 60th birthday.

The Executive Committee of the Inaugural Ceremonies of March 4, 1889 was created by order of the Republican National Committee, M.S. Quay, Chairman and J.S. Fassett, Secretary, 9 November 1888. The order designated Alexander T. Britton, chairman of the committee. At the first meeting of the Executive Committee, 17 November 1888 the following officers were elected: Myron M. Parker, Vice-chairman; Barnard H. Warner, Treasurer; Fred Brackett, Recording Secretary and W. Scott Towers, Bookkeeper. Henry L. Swords was subsequently appointed, corresponding secretary. The Executive Committee met fifteen times and formed twenty-one committees in preparation for the inaugural ceremonies. At the conclusion of the ceremonies, surplus funds, in the amount of \$26,000, were turned over to the Board of Commissioners of the District of Columbia. These funds were used to create the Centennial Inaugural Relief Fund for "the purchase of fuel and clothes for the District Poor."

Sources: Materials in Collection.
Who Was Who in America, Vol. I.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

Although the bulk of this collection concerns Alexander T. Britton's involvement with the Executive Committee of the Inaugural Ceremonies of March 4, 1889 (1888-1889), it does include a few scattered personal and professional letters from 1864 to 1898. The collection appears to have been removed from a scrapbook; original order unknown.

Material (1864-1898) in Box 1, folders 1-4 includes three obituaries for John Britton (1802-ca. 1888), an uncle of A.T. Britton who was involved for many years in the shipping industry and served as U.S. Consul at Southampton during President Lincoln's administration; personal correspondence such as a birthday letter from his daughter; and various political and business letters. The correspondence deals with the Public Land Commission, legal cases, involvement with the formation and later chairmanship of the 1877 committee of One Hundred which sought increased federal appropriations for the district and with Republican party activities. The correspondence is arranged chronologically, following the obituaries.

The remainder of the collection (27 folders) deals with activities of the Executive Committee for the 1889 presidential inauguration. There are 25 folders of acceptances and regrets to various committee appointments (November 1888-February 1889) arranged alphabetically by appointee's last name and one folder (January-June 1889) with requests for tickets and acknowledgments to invitations to inaugural festivities and correspondence concerning business and financial transactions of the committee. Box 2, folder 13 contains a copy of the Final Report of the Executive Committee of the Inaugural Ceremonies of March 4, 1889.

The following is a partial listing of correspondents in this collection:

Joseph Weeke Babcock; Henry A. Barnum; Erastus Flavel Beale; Charles J. Bell; Walter V.R. Berry; William Birney; Samuel Blatchford; Tasker H. Bliss; Stanhope E. Blunt; Charles A. Boutelle; John B. Bowman; Charles A. Boynton; Aldis Birdsey Browne; Samuel C. Busey; Daniel Butterfield; George W. Childs; Melville Church; W.H. Clagett; Wm. F. Cody; Walter C. Cowles; W.S. Cox; W.V. Cox; Pierce Crosby; Schuyler Crosby; Shelby Moore Cullom; William E. Curtis; Henry E. Davis; John Davis; Samuel T. Davis; P.V. DeGraw; Sidney Dillon; Charles D. Drake; James B. Eustis; Allen W. Evarts; Jacob H. Gallinger; A. H. Garland; George C. Gorham; L.P. Graham; David B. Harmony; Wm. Bainbridge Hoff; Archibald Hopkins; Henry L. Howison; Gardiner G. Hubbard; John Hubbard; Gaillard Hunt;

A.G. Johnson; Joseph E. Johnston; Rudolph Kauffman; John H. Ketcham; Charles E. Kincaid; Charles King; Clarence King; B.F. Leighton; John A. Logan, Jr.; Joseph Lyman; Henry B.F. Macfarland; C.C. Martin; Joseph K. McCammon; L.E. McComas; Anson G. McCook; David R. McKee; Alex. Porter Morse; Henry L. Nelson; Lewis Nixon; Charles C. Nott; Patrick O'Farrell; George R. Peck; Charles M. Pepper; Robert P. Porter; Charles W. Rae; Green B. Raum, Jr.; Beverly H. Robertson; John A. Rodgers; W.S. Rosecrans; Philetus Sawyer; Glenni W. Scofield; F.W. Seeley; Rush R. Shippen; George L. Shoup; George W. Smith; Ellis Spear; John C. Spooner; Allen G. Thurman; J.K. Toole; J.R. Tryon; William K. Van Reypen; James M. Varnum; Herman K. Viele; James A. Williamson; and John M. Wilson.

BOX AND FOLDER LIST

BOX 1:

Folder Contents

- 1: Obituaries of John Britton, ca. 1888
- 2: Correspondence, 1864-1879
- 3: Correspondence, 1883-August 1888
- 4: Correspondence, 1889-1898, n.d.
- 5: Correspondence, Inaugural Committee, November 1888-February 1889: A
- 6: Correspondence, Inaugural Committee, November 1888-February 1889: BA-BE
- 7: Correspondence, Inaugural Committee, November 1888-February 1889: BI-BU
- 8: Correspondence, Inaugural Committee, November 1888-February 1889: CA-CLA
- 9: Correspondence, Inaugural Committee, November 1888-February 1889: CLE-CU
- 10: Correspondence, Inaugural Committee, November 1888-February 1889: D
- 11: Correspondence, Inaugural Committee, November 1888-February 1889: E
- 12: Correspondence, Inaugural Committee, November 1888-February 1889: F
- 13: Correspondence, Inaugural Committee, November 1888-February 1889: G
- 14: Correspondence, Inaugural Committee, November 1888-February 1889: H
- 15: Correspondence, Inaugural Committee, November 1888-February 1889: J
- 16: Correspondence, Inaugural Committee, November 1888-February 1889: K
- 17: Correspondence, Inaugural Committee, November 1888-February 1889: L
- 18: Correspondence, Inaugural Committee, November 1888-February 1889: M-MA

BOX 2:

Folder Contents

- 1: Correspondence, Inaugural Committee, November 1888-February 1889: MC
- 2: Correspondence, Inaugural Committee, November 1888-February 1889: ME-MU
- 3: Correspondence, Inaugural Committee, November 1888-February 1889: N-O
- 4: Correspondence, Inaugural Committee, November 1888-February 1889: P
- 5: Correspondence, Inaugural Committee, November 1888-February 1889: R
- 6: Correspondence, Inaugural Committee, November 1888-February 1889: SA-SM
- 7: Correspondence, Inaugural Committee, November 1888-February 1889: SN-SY
- 8: Correspondence, Inaugural Committee, November 1888-February 1889: T
- 9: Correspondence, Inaugural Committee, November 1888-February 1889: U-V
- 10: Correspondence, Inaugural Committee, November 888-February 1889: W
- 11: Correspondence, Inaugural Committee, November 1888-February 1889: Y-Z
- 12: Correspondence, Inaugural Committee, January-June, 1889
- 13: Final Report of the Executive Committee of the Inaugural Ceremonies of March 4, 1889.

CATALOGING INFORMATION

For additional information on this collection, including a list of subject headings that may lead you to related materials:

1. Go to the Indiana Historical Society's [online catalog](#)
2. Click on the "Local Catalog" icon.
3. Search for the collection by its call number, using the letter or letters designation and **four** digits (e.g., M 0715, SC 2234).
4. When you find the collection, go to the "Holdings" screen for a list of headings that can be searched for related materials.

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