

**Title:** Otterbourg, Marcus Collection

**Reference Code:** Mss-1023

**Inclusive Dates:** 1955, 1977

**Quantity:** 0.03 cu. ft.

**Location:** Sm mss.

**Abstract:** Marcus Otterbourg was born Landau, Bavaria (now Germany) in 1827 to a large Jewish family. He spent time teaching French in England and English in France before Emigrating to Wisconsin sometime around 1849. There he opened a vinegar distillery before working as a journalist for the Wisconsin Legislature, where he began developing his interest in American politics. He later began working for the *Atlas*, a German Republican newspaper based in Milwaukee. His work campaigning for the Republican Party during the 1860 election won him the attention of Party leaders, and he was appointed Consul to Mexico City in August of 1861. He remained in this position until April of 1866, when he became charge d'affaires. In 1867 he was nominated as Minister to Mexico, but his appointment was not confirmed by congress. As a result, he only served in this capacity for a few days before receiving notice that his commission had lapsed. After his stint in Mexico Otterbourg moved his family to New York City, where he began studying the law. He served as a Police Justice beginning in 1873 and remained active in German-American politics. He died on December 7, 1893.

**Scope and Content:** Correspondence pertaining to Marcus Otterbourg's family and inclusion in the *Dictionary of Wisconsin Biography*, and memoirs of Otterbourg, United States minister to Mexico in 1867, written by his granddaughter.

**Access and Use:** No restrictions

**Language:** English