

Title: Payne, Henry C.

Reference Code: Mss-1039

Inclusive Dates: 1904-1905

Quantity: 000.23 cu. ft. total

Location: Sm Mss (000.03 cu. ft.)
RC21A, Sh. 3 (000.2 cu. ft.)

Abstract: Henry Payne was a prominent, though controversial, business man and politician in Milwaukee and nationally during the late 19th century. He was born in Massachusetts in 1843 and came to Milwaukee after the end of the Civil War. He energized the Republican Party in Milwaukee County and was appointed postmaster of Milwaukee by President Grant in 1876. He retired from the post office in 1886 and served as president of the Wisconsin Telephone Company and the Milwaukee & Northern Railroad Company. In 1890, he helped form the Milwaukee Street Railway Company, the first integrated utility in the U.S., which became the Milwaukee Electric Railway and Light Company in 1896. Public opinion turned against Payne during a two-month streetcar strike in 1896, but he found another political post when President Theodore Roosevelt appointed him Postmaster General in 1902. He passed away after a long illness in 1904.

Scope and Content: The records consist of a memorial scrapbook compiled by Walter Hyams & Co., New York, containing obituaries of Payne from newspapers across the country. The collection also includes letters from Mrs. Cameron expressing her dissatisfaction with Walter Hyams' handling of publishing the memorial book as well as an image of J.W. Payne of South Carolina.

Access and Use: No restrictions

Language: English