

**The New York Public Library  
Manuscripts and Archives Division**

**Walter H. Bradish Papers**  
**1862-1907**  
MssCol NYGB 18106

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## Summary

<b>Main entry:</b>	Bradish, Walter H.
<b>Title:</b>	Walter H. Bradish papers, 1862-1906
<b>Size:</b>	4.5 linear feet (10 boxes)
<b>Source:</b>	Gift of the New York Genealogical and Biographical Society, 2008.
<b>Provenance:</b>	Donated to the New York Genealogical and Biographical Society by Ethelwyn Bradish Call, 1958 and 1964.
<b>Abstract:</b>	Walter H. Bradish (1848-1920? ) was an executive of the Springfield (Illinois) Woolen Mills. His papers chiefly of family correspondence, 1865-1907, and his genealogical research files on the Bradish, Coventry, and related families. Included is a typescript copy of the diary, ca. 1785-1830, of his ancestor, Alexander Coventry, a Scot who emigrated to America in 1785, which includes a description of his trip.
<b>Access:</b>	Advance notice required. Apply at <a href="http://www.nypl.org/mssref">http://www.nypl.org/mssref</a>
<b>Preferred citation:</b>	Walter H. Bradish Papers, Manuscripts and Archives Division, The New York Public Library.
<b>Special formats</b>	Diaries, photographs

## Biographical note

Walter Horace Bradish was born on April 24, 1848, in New York, the son of Horace Clark Bradish and Elizabeth Coventry (Wade) Bradish. His two siblings were a younger brother Charles and a sister Mary Libbie. His mother died when he was quite young, and his father remarried and had two daughters from his second marriage, Nellie and Ella.

By 1875, Bradish had moved to Springfield, Illinois, the place that would become his permanent home. On May 3, 1876, he married Mary Alice Hill (1854-- ) of Orleans, Ill. and had several children. He enjoyed a measure of financial success and stability for much of his adult career in manufacturing as Vice President of Springfield Woolen Mills until the mill closed in 1912. However, he found it necessary to be a financial support to his father and half-sisters. In his immediate family, he had serious problems with his one of his sons. Around 1900, Walter T. Bradish (1886-1961) was sent to the John Worthy School, a juvenile reform school in Chicago.

Bradish became deeply interested in the genealogy of the Bradish and Coventry families. He corresponded with relatives and strangers with the surnames of Coventry and Bradish sharing information about family history. He also served as an officer of the Illinois Society of the Sons of the American Revolution.

## **Scope and content note**

The papers consist chiefly of family correspondence, 1865-1906, and his genealogical research files on the Bradish, Coventry, and related families. The files contain a typescript copy of the diary, ca. 1785-1830, of his ancestor, Alexander Coventry, a Scot who emigrated to America in 1785, which includes a description of his trip. Also included are original and copies of letters and other 18th and 19th century family documents, portrait photographs, ephemera, receipts, and clippings.

## **Arrangement note**

The Walter H. Bradish Papers are organized in the following series:

- Series I. Correspondence, 1862-1907; n.d.
- Series II. Genealogical research files, circa 1900
- Series III. Photographs, circa 1875-1900

**Container list**

**Series I. Correspondence, 1862-1907; n.d.**

**I.A. Family correspondence, 1865-1906, n.d.**

<u>Box</u>	<u>Fol</u>	
1	1-13	1865, 1873-1897
2	1-10	1897-1899
3	1-6	1900-1906, n.d.
	7	Bradish, Charles (brother), 1900
	8	Bradish, Horace C. (father), 1900-1905
	9	Bradish, John Q. (uncle), 1900
	10-11	Bradish, Walter T. (son), 1900-1901
	12	Wade, Mary Coventry (grandmother), 1862

**I.B. General correspondence and ephemera, 1871-circa 1899**

<u>Box</u>	<u>Fol</u>	
4	1-5	1871-1896
	6-7	Ephemera, circa 1899

**I.C. Documents, circa 1876-1900**

<u>Box</u>	<u>Fol</u>	
4	7	Ethelwyn Coventry Bradish (daughter) Unused bank book, 1904 and photocopy of 1922 passport
	8	Marriage certificate and wedding invitation, 1876
	9	Medical report, 1894 Daily report on "Mr. Bradish" suffering from cholera
	10-11	Accounts and receipts, circa 1876-1900

**Series II. Genealogical research files, circa 1900**

<u>Box</u>	<u>Fol</u>	
5	1-7	Bradish family genealogy
6	1-9	Bradish family genealogy
9		Bound index to boxes 5 and 6
10		Card file index cards to boxes 5 and 6
7	1	Copies of documents re Alexander and George Coventry
	2-4	Bradish and Coventry
	5	Bradish, John and James
	6	Book of the family and lineal descendants of Medad Butler Coventry, Alexander
	7	Copies of letters
	8-9	Memoirs of an Emigrant
	10	Extracts from Memoirs
	11	Coventry, James family
	12	Coventry history by Mrs. Belle McKee
8	1-2	Miscellaneous notes
	3	<i>Extracts from the Journal of the Rev. John Graham... 1762, at the siege of Havana, 1896</i>
	4	Rice family

### Series III. Photographs, circa 1875-1900

<u>Box</u>	<u>Fol</u>	
8	5	Barber, Elizabeth Coventry, 1880 Barber, Josiah, 1880 Bradish, Charles E., 1900 Bradish, John Alfred and Theodore Wells, c1900 Bradish, Mrs. John (Annie Campo), n.d. Bradish, Sarah of Whitestone, NY, n.d.
	6	Bradish, Ella and mother
	7	Bradish, William H., 1897
	8	Bradish (?). Photograph of young boy
	9	Coventry, Alexander n.d. Coventry, Caroline Ann (Mrs. E.T. De Forest) n.d.
	10	Dunning, Alice, c1899 Dunning, William, circa 1899 Dunning residence in Auburn, NY, n.d.
	11	Hutchinson, George Eddy, n.d. Nason, Mrs. Henry B., 1896 Nason, Henry B., 1895 Townsend, Louisa Kellogg, 1875 Townsend, Martin Inghram, 1875 Warden, Addie, n.d.
	12	Wade, Elizabeth Coventry, 1895
	13	Unidentified family, circa 1899
	14	Unidentified man, circa 1900
	15	Unidentified woman with washer; seated (2 photographs), circa 1900
	16	Unidentified woman in wedding dress, circa 1900
	17-18	Unidentified women
	19	Outdoor scenes