

**The New York Public Library  
Stephen A. Schwarzman Building  
Manuscripts and Archives Division**

Guide to the

## **George Jones papers**

1825-1894 (bulk 1860-1887)

MssCol 1590

Compiled by Megan O'Shea, September 2007

### **Summary**

**Creator:** Jones, George, 1811-1891

**Title:** George Jones papers, 1825-1894 (bulk 1860-1887)

**Size:** .63 linear foot (2 boxes)

**Source:** Gift of Mrs. Gilbert E. Jones, 1939, 1950.

**Abstract:** George Jones was the first publisher of the *New York Times*. He founded the *New-York Daily Times* in 1851 with Henry J. Raymond and Edward B. Wesley. The collection consists of correspondence, financial records, and legal documents regarding mainly the *New-York Daily Times* and the Presidential Retiring Fund established by Jones.

**Access:** Apply in the Special Collections Office for admission to the Manuscripts and Archives Division.

**Preferred citation:** George Jones papers, Manuscripts and Archives Division, The New York Public Library

### **Related collections**

Henry J. Raymond papers. Manuscripts and Archives Division, The New York Public Library

### **Creator history**

George Jones was the first publisher of the *New York Times*. He founded the *New-York Daily Times* in 1851 with Henry J. Raymond and Edward B. Wesley.

In 1841, Jones met Raymond while the two were working for Horace Greeley at the *New York Tribune*. They became friends and often discussed starting their own newspaper. In 1851, with the help of Edward B. Wesley, Jones and Raymond amassed enough capital to found the *New-York Daily Times*. Jones was the publisher, Raymond the editor, and Wesley the business manager.

After Raymond's death in 1869, Jones took over the editorship of the paper. Under his leadership, the *Times* was responsible for the downfall of Tammany Hall and William M. "Boss" Tweed in 1871. Jones died in 1891.

## Scope and content note

The collection consists of correspondence, financial records, and legal documents regarding politics, the *New-York Daily Times* and the Presidential Retiring Fund established by Jones. The correspondence is separated into two series. The first series consists of letters to Jones and Raymond regarding the *Times*, politics, and other topics. The second series consists of correspondence regarding Jones' establishment of the Presidential Retiring Fund, a pension fund for Ulysses S. Grant and other presidents. In the first series, most of the letters dated 1856-1869 are addressed to Raymond. The letters dated after 1869 in the general correspondence and the entire second series are addressed to Jones.

Prominent correspondents in the general correspondence include P. T. Barnum, Henry Ward Beecher, James Gordon Bennett, Joseph Hodges Choate, Schuyler Colfax, Roscoe Conkling, Samuel Sullivan Cox, George William Curtis, Charles A. Dana, John A. Dix, Cyrus W. Field, James Fisk, Horace Greeley, John Hay, Horatio Potter, James Watson Webb, Thurlow Weed, and William C. Whitney. Prominent correspondents in the Presidential Retiring Fund correspondence include John Jacob Astor, John Murray Forbes, Jay Gould, Henry Hilton, John D. Rockefeller, William Rockefeller, and William H. Vanderbilt.

## Arrangement

The George Jones papers are organized into the following series:

- Series I. General correspondence, 1845-1894, n.d.
- Series II. Presidential Retiring Fund, 1880-1888, n.d.
  - II. A. Correspondence, 1880-1888, n.d.
  - II. B. Financial records, 1880-1887, n.d.
  - II. C. Legal documents, 1881, 1885, n.d.
  - II. D. Clippings, 1880-1881
- Series III. Miscellaneous, 1825-1869, n.d.

## Key terms

### Subjects

American newspapers -- New York (State) -- New York  
Charities -- New York (State) -- New York  
Newspaper publishing -- New York (State) -- New York  
Political corruption -- New York (State) -- New York  
Presidents -- United States -- Health  
Publishers and publishing

### Names

New York times  
Beecher, Henry Ward, 1813-1887  
Bennett, James Gordon, 1795-1872  
Colfax, Schuyler, 1823-1885  
Curtis, George William, 1824-1892  
Field, Cyrus W. (Cyrus West), 1819-1892  
Grant, Ulysses S. (Ulysses Simpson), 1822-1885

### Occupations

Editors

### Places

New York (State) -- Politics and government -- 1775-1865  
New York (State) -- Politics and government -- 1865-1950  
New York (State) -- Politics and government -- To 1898  
United States -- Politics and government -- 19th century

Greeley, Horace, 1811-1872  
Jones, George, 1811-1891  
New York Times Company, dates only  
Raymond, Henry J. (Henry Jarvis), 1820-1869  
Weed, Thurlow, 1797-1882

**Special formats**

Photographs

## Container list

### **Series I. General correspondence, 1845-1894, n.d.**

This series includes correspondence with Raymond and Jones regarding the *New-York Daily Times* and politics. The majority of the letters written before 1869 are addressed to Raymond and concern his political career, but there are some between Jones, Raymond, and Wesley regarding the *Times*. The letters after 1869 are written to Jones concerning the *Times*, congratulations on the success of his Tammany Hall series, and politics.

Prominent correspondents in this series include P. T. Barnum, Henry Ward Beecher, James Gordon Bennett, Joseph Hodges Choate, Schuyler Colfax, Roscoe Conkling, Samuel Sullivan Cox, George William Curtis, Charles A. Dana, John A. Dix, Cyrus W. Field, James Fisk, Horace Greeley, John Hay, Fitz-John Porter, Horatio Potter, James Watson Webb, Thurlow Weed, and William C. Whitney.

- b.1 f.1 1845, 1850, 1855-1857
- b.1 f.2 1860-1864
- b.1 f.3 1865-1869 1871-1875
- b.1 f.4 1871-1875
- b.1 f.5 1876-1879
- b.1 f.6 1880-1885
- b.1 f.7 1887-1889
- b.1 f.8 1890
- b.1 f.9 1891-1894
- b.1 f.10 undated

### **Series II. Presidential Retiring Fund, 1880-1888, n.d.**

In 1880, a subscription fund was established to support Ulysses S. Grant and other retired United States presidents. An editorial appeared in the *New-York Daily Times* on November 12 detailing the terms of the fund and inviting members of the public to contribute. Jones served as Treasurer and a Trustee.

This series includes correspondence and financial records regarding the establishment and management of the Presidential Retiring Fund. The correspondence is composed of letters accompanying donations to the Fund and letters from other trustees regarding the management of the Fund.

Prominent correspondents in this series include John Jacob Astor, John Murray Forbes, Jay Gould, Henry Hilton, John D. Rockefeller, William Rockefeller, and William H. Vanderbilt.

The financial records of the Presidential Retiring Fund include an account book, receipts, and subscription books listing prominent men of the time and the amount of their donations.

- b.1 f.11-17 **II. A. Correspondence, 1880-1888, n.d.**

#### **II. B. Financial records, 1880-1887, n.d.**

- b.1 f.18 Account book, 1881
- b.1 f.19 Receipts and subscription lists, 1881-1882, 1885-1887
- b.2 f.1 Subscription books, circa 1880-1885

**Series II. Presidential Retiring Fund, 1880-1...** (cont.)

b.2 f.2 **II. C. Legal documents, 1881, 1885, n.d.**

This subseries includes a rental agreement for a bank safe, statement of facts regarding the will of Edwin D. Morgan, and a draft of the article of incorporation for the Presidential Retiring Fund.

b.2 f.3 **II. D. Clippings, 1880-1881**

This subseries includes editorials and letters to the editor regarding the creation of and donations to the Presidential Retiring Fund.

**Series III. Miscellaneous, 1825-1869, n.d.**

b.2 f.4 Clippings, 1869, 1890-1891, n.d.

b.2 f.5 Legal documents, 1825, 1834-1835, 1842, 1848, 1851-1852, 1855-1857, 1869

b.2 f.6 Photograph of George Jones, undated