

**A0427**

**James Buchanan Eads Collection, 1776-1974 (bulk 1861-1896)**

2 boxes; 1 oversize folder

Processed by Dennis Northcott, March 2011

**REPOSITORY**

Missouri History Museum Archives

P.O. Box 11940

St. Louis, MO 63112-0040

314-746-4510

[archives@mohistory.org](mailto:archives@mohistory.org)

**DONOR INFORMATION**

Donor information for the bulk of the collection is not available. In cases where accession information is available, this information has been noted after the description of the item.

**BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH**

World-renowned engineer James Buchanan Eads was born May 23, 1820, in Lawrenceburg, Indiana, and moved to St. Louis with his family in 1833. He embarked on a successful steamboat salvage business in 1842, and during the Civil War he was awarded a federal government contract to build ironclad gunboats. Soon after the close of the war, he began work on designing a bridge to span the Mississippi River at St. Louis. Completed in 1874, the Illinois and St. Louis Bridge (later known as the Eads Bridge) was deemed a great engineering accomplishment. Eads then designed the South Pass Jetties to connect New Orleans with the ocean. He later devised a plan to construct a ship railway across the Isthmus of Tehuantepec, to connect the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans. This ship railway was never constructed. He died March 8, 1887, in Nassau, Bahama Islands. Eads married Martha Dillon in 1845, and they had three children. His wife died in 1852, and in 1854 he married Eunice Hagerman, a widow.

**SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE**

The collection contains professional and personal correspondence of James B. Eads with Edward Bates, Gideon Welles, Gustavus Fox, Henry Taylor Blow, Frank P. Blair, Jr., Baron Gerolt, and others. Includes papers relating to Eads' construction of gunboats during the Civil War and the construction of the Illinois and St. Louis Bridge (also known as the Eads Bridge). The collection also includes 20th-century newspaper clippings regarding James B. Eads and relations; cancelled stock certificates in the Tunnel Railroad of St. Louis and the St. Louis Bridge Company; invitations to the opening of the Illinois and St. Louis Bridge; promissory notes; Eads' scrapbook of newspaper clippings (1881) relating to his plan to build a ship railway across the Isthmus of Tehuantepec; and papers relating to the genealogy of the McHenry family.

**Box 1**

**Folder 1**

- 1776 Dec 18 Letter signed John Cadwalader, Bristol, to the Council of Safety, Philadelphia. Regarding the capture of deserters.
- 1776 Dec 24 Letter signed John Cadwalader, Bristol, to the Council of Safety, Philadelphia. Requests that a paymaster be assigned and that boats be sent.
- 1848-1851 Typescript copies of three poems of Martha Eads, printed in the *Davenport Gazette*. [Donated by Florence Dorsey in April 1946.]
- 1861 Apr 17 Letter signed Edward Bates, Attorney General's Office, to James B. Eads, St. Louis. Marked "confidential." States that Eads may be called to Washington to impart his "knowledge of our river & the use of steam upon it."
- 1861 Apr 23 Memoranda made by Captain Nathaniel Lyon in the memorandum book of James Eads to be attended by Eads in Washington. Lyon wants officers of the quartermaster and subsistence departments subject to his orders.
- 1861 May 14 Letter signed Gideon Welles, Navy Department, to James B. Eads, Washington, D.C. Has referred Eads' letter containing a description of Cairo and a plan for blockading the commerce of the rebelling states on the Mississippi River to the War Department.
- 1861 May 29 Letter signed H.W. Benham, Cincinnati, Ohio, to James B. Eads, St. Louis. Thanks Eads for information relating to river maps.
- 1861 June 17 Typescript copy of letter of Edward Bates to President Lincoln. Recommends that James Eads be appointed commissary of subsistence at St. Louis. Contains endorsement by Lincoln and note of Eads.
- 1861 July 29 Authorization signed C.W. Marsh, acting adjutant general of Missouri, to James F. Howe to recruit companies of infantry to be attached to the 27<sup>th</sup> Missouri Volunteers of which you are to be commissioned as major.
- 1861 Sept 28 Contemporary copy of letter of Henry W. Smith, inspector of hulls for Board Underwriters, St. Louis, to James B. Eads. Has inspected Submarine No. 7 and has found it sea worthy and in sound condition. Contains concurring statements signed Jno. D. Daggett [John D. Daggett], Thos. J. Morse [Thomas J. Morse], Saml. T. Hambleton [Samuel T. Hambleton], and Jno. Litherbury [John Litherbury].

- 1861 Sept 30 Contemporary copy of letter of Barton Able, St. Louis, to James B. Eads. Regarding the appraisal of Submarine No. 7 and designs to convert it into a gunboat.
- [1861 Oct?] Note written on back of a piece of stationery of the Illinois and St. Louis Bridge Co.: "Correspondence relating to Meigs' charges of fraudulent sale of Submarine No. 7 to the U.S. afterwards altered into the gunboat *Benton*. Meigs was too mean to acknowledge his injustice."
- 1861 Oct 9 Letter signed James B. Eads, St. Louis, to Brigadier General M.C. Meigs. States that O.D. Filley will present documents in the case of Submarine No. 7 that will exonerate Eads from any wrongdoing.
- 1861 Oct 29 Letter signed James B. Eads, St. Louis, to Brigadier General M.C. Meigs. Requests to know if the evidence he submitted via Mr. Filley was satisfactory and if Meigs is convinced of his innocence.
- 1861 Oct 29 Contemporary copy of letter of James B. Eads, St. Louis, to Colonel F.P. Blair. Encloses letter of Eads to Brigadier General Meigs regarding Meigs wrongful charges against him. Also encloses report of Captain Foote to Meigs recommending expenditure for Submarine No. 7.
- Folder 2**
- 1861 Nov 10 Letter signed James B. Eads, St. Louis, to Attorney General Edward Bates. States that he has not been fully paid for his work on the gunboat *Benton*. Contains detailed description of the *Benton*. Recommends that Jos. Sandford [Joseph Sandford] receive a higher commission than lieutenant.
- 1861 Dec 2 Letter signed Edward Bates, Attorney General's Office, to James B. Eads, St. Louis. States that Quartermaster General Meigs says that he cannot now send any money for the *Benton*.
- 1861 Dec 19 Provost marshal's pass, St. Louis, granted to James B. Eads, permitting him to go to Cairo, Illinois.
- [1862?] Letter signed Miss Tilly Bates to [James B. Eads?]. Sends her love to cousins James and Genevieve.
- [1862?] Letter signed Frank P. Blair, Jr., to Assistant Secretary of the Navy Gustavus V. Fox. Recounts steps taken by himself, Eads, and Fox in making contract for \$530,000 for four ships awarded to Eads. Contains note written by Eads: "The Department was released by me from this contract at the request of Capt. Fox."

- [1862] Contemporary copy of letter of Major General John C. Fremont, Western Department, to James B. Eads. In response to Eads' request, he states the steps Eads took in preparing to convert Submarine No. 7 into a gunboat.
- 1861[1862] Jan 6 Letter signed Frank P. Blair, Jr., Washington City, to James B. Eads, St. Louis. He has seen Capt. Fox and Secretary Welles and they have agreed that Eads should build four ironclads for \$530,000.
- 1861[1862] Jan 6 Draft of telegram signed Frank P. Blair, Jr., Washington City, to James B. Eads, St. Louis. "Your proposition to build four iron clad ships . . . is accepted on the terms proposed. . . ." [accession number: 57-0045]
- 1861[1862] Jan 10 Draft of telegram of Frank P. Blair, Jr., Washington City, to James B. Eads, St. Louis. "You must come here. Let arrangements you make be conditional. It is positive that you get four vessels." [accession number: 57-0045]
- 1862 Jan 11 Note signed H.W. Halleck [Henry W. Halleck], St. Louis, to Brigadier General W.T. Sherman [William T. Sherman], Benton Barracks. "If Eades' Reserve Corps has not been mustered out, postpone it a few days till pay Dept get funds." [purchased from Forest H. Sweet, Battle Creek, Michigan, December 6, 1955]
- 1862 Jan 15 Contemporary copy of document signed A.W. Pennick, R.N. Stembel, and Jas. R. McGee [James R. McGee], certifying "that the work on the seven gunboats built by Mr. James B. Eads, the contractor, has been completed according to the terms of the contract with the government, excepting the time at which they ought to have been finished and delivered at Cairo." Includes note of Flag Officer A.H. Foote: "Upon the above certificate I have accepted the gunboats from Mr. Eads the contractor."
- 1862 Jan 20 Letter signed Brigadier General D.S. Stanley, St. Louis, to Lieutenant J.T. How. Offers Lieut. How the post of aide-de-camp on his staff.
- 1862 Jan 27 Printed letter of James B. Eads, Washington, to Brigadier General M.C. Meigs, quartermaster general. Protests the forfeiture in the matter of the contract for building gunboats on the Mississippi River. The government refuses final payment as they were not delivered in the time stipulated, and he gives the reasons for the delay.
- 1862 Mar 5 Contemporary copy of letter of Edward Bates, Washington City, to Secretary of War Edwin M. Stanton. Pleads Eads' case in regard to nonpayment by the U.S. government for gunboats built by Eads.
- 1862 June 12 Letter signed Caroline Foote, Cleveland, to James B. Eads, St. Louis. States that she would highly prize the portrait of her husband, Admiral A.H. Foote, which Eads offered to send.

- 1862 July 22 Letter signed Caroline A. Foote, New Haven, to James B. Eads. Thanks Eads for sending portrait of her husband.
- 1862 July 23 Letter signed A.H. Foote, New Haven, to James B. Eads. Thanks Eads for sending the portrait. Discusses gunboats. Will soon leave for Washington to take charge of the new Bureau of Equipment and Recruiting.
- 1862 Aug 2 Letter signed Edward Bates, Attorney General's Office, Washington, to James B. Eads, St. Louis. Marked "private." Discusses the conduct of the war.
- 1862 Aug 19 Provost marshal's pass, St. Louis, granted to James B. Eads, permitting him to travel "in and out of St. Louis at all times in all directions."
- 1862 Sept 6 Commission of James F. How as major of the 27<sup>th</sup> Missouri Infantry Volunteers, signed by Governor Hamilton R. Gamble.
- Folder 3**
- 1862 Sept 9 Letter signed A.H. Foote, New Haven, to James B. Eads. Thanks him for the grapes he sent.
- 1862 Sept 13 Enrollment certificate of L.D. Stotler, assigned to the Union Works under command of James B. Eads in building gunboats, signed Geo. C. Fabian, enrolling officer, St. Louis. [gift of Miss Edyth Reid, April 28, 1978; accession number: 78-0015]
- 1862 Dec 20 Letter signed Geo. Harrington [George Harrington] to Edward Bates. States that the drafts for payment to Eads were sent in the mail.
- 1862 Dec 21 Letter signed Edward Bates to James B. Eads, St. Louis. Encloses Harrington's note that his drafts have gone forward to New York.
- 1863 Jan 31 Letter signed B. Gratz Brown, St. Louis, to James B. Eads. Requests Eads to contribute money to the German-American newspaper *Neu Zeit*.
- 1863 Feb 26 Letter signed Baron Gerolt, Washington, to James B. Eads. Acknowledges receipt with thanks for box of Missouri catawba wine and asks about the process of making it.
- 1863 Feb 27 Note signed Baron Gerolt to James B. Eads. Invites Eads to dinner.
- 1863 Feb 28 Letter signed Henry T. Blow, St. Louis, to James B. Eads. Marked "private." His son Peter has been sick. Hopes Eads gets well soon.

- 1863 Mar 23 Letter signed Edward Bates, Attorney General's Office, Washington, to James B. Eads, St. Louis. Mentions his poor health and comments briefly on the shortcomings of generals and the state of affairs in Missouri.
- [1863 Apr] Letter signed Edward Bates to James B. Eads. Encloses appointment of A.J. Dillon to a position in the Pay Dept. of the navy. Praises General Hooker's army.
- [1863?] Apr 11 Letter signed Baron Gerolt to James B. Eads. Invites him to dinner with the Belgian minister, M. Blondell.
- 1863 May 28 Edward Bates, Attorney General's Office, Washington, to James B. Eads, St. Louis. Met with Assistant Secretary Fox who stated that the order to transfer Mr. Shock to sea duty could not be changed.
- 1863 June 12 Letter signed Baron Gerolt, Washington, to James B. Eads. Mentions that his future son-in-law is coming to the United States to be married. Thanks Eads for drawings.
- 1863 Aug 24 License to practice law in Superior and Inferior Courts of Kentucky, granted to Wallace Estill McHenry, signed James Stuart and R.T. Petrie.
- 1863 Oct 7 Letter signed G.V. Fox [Gustavus V. Fox], assistant secretary of the navy, to James B. Eads, St. Louis. Marked "Confidential." "As requested by you, I enclose herewith extracts from official reports in reference to the injuries sustained by the ironclads in their several engagements with the forts about Charleston."
- 1863 Oct 17 Letter signed Edward Bates, Washington, to James B. Eads. Sends the three volumes of "Melmoth's Cicero."
- 1863 Oct 20 Letter signed Wm. H. Shock [William H. Shock], Flag Ship *Pensacola*, Western Gulf Blockading Squadron, Engineers' Department, off New Orleans, to James B. Eads. Discusses positive reception of the steam turrets and dinner with Russians in New York.
- 1863 Oct 27 Letter signed G.V. Fox [Gustavus V. Fox], assistant secretary of the navy, to James B. Eads, St. Louis. Marked "Confidential." "I enclose herewith for your information a copy of a report dated the 24<sup>th</sup> ult. from Commander Calhoun relative to the injuries sustained by the Weehauken in the engagements with the forts about Charleston."
- Folder 4**
- 1863 Nov 2 Letter signed G.V. Fox [Gustavus V. Fox], assistant secretary of the navy, to James B. Eads, St. Louis. Marked "Confidential." "I enclose herewith a copy of an interesting report from Lieut. Comdr. E. Simpson of the *Passaic*,

in which there are many suggestions, based upon his actual experience, for the improvement of that class of vessels.”

- 1863 Nov 13 Printed General Orders No. 366, War Department, Adjutant General's Office, Washington. Contains instructions for the guidance of mustering and disbursing officers in relation to their expenditures from the appropriation for collecting, drilling, and organizing volunteers.
- 1863 Nov 16 Printed General Orders No. 31, Headquarters, State of Missouri, Adjutant General's Office, St. Louis. Regarding bounties for new recruits.
- 1863 Nov 19 Letter signed R.N. Stembel, Philadelphia, to James B. Eads, St. Louis. Contains Stembel's account of his service with the U.S. Gunboat Flotilla on the Western Waters while commanding the gunboats *Lexington* and *Cincinnati*.
- 1863 Dec 4 Letter signed Edward Bates, Willard [Hotel], to James B. Eads. Invites Eads and his wife to stay at his house.
- 1864 Jan 5 Letter signed Edward Bates, Washington, to James B. Eads, St. Louis. Is sorry to hear of Eads' illness and hopes for his recovery.
- 1864 Jan 31 Letter signed Edward Bates, Washington, to James B. Eads, St. Louis. Is glad Eads is recovering and mentions his own poor health.
- 1864 Feb 24 Letter signed R.N. Stembel, Philadelphia, to James B. Eads, St. Louis. Regarding his claim.
- 1864 Mar 6 Letter signed Edward Bates, Washington, to James B. Eads, St. Louis. Regarding Eads' health.
- 1864 Mar 19 Letter signed Henry T. [Blow], U.S. House of Representatives, Washington, to James B. Eads. Regarding Eads' turret.
- [1864] Mar 21 Letter signed Mary J. Welles, Washington, to Miss Eads. Regarding her father's health.
- 1864 Mar 21 Letter signed C.H. Davis, Bureau of Navigation, Navy Department, Washington, to James B. Eads, St. Louis. Regarding Eads' designs for steam-powered guns.
- 1864 Mar 23 Letter signed Wm. H. Shock [William H. Shock], Flag Ship *Pensacola*, Western Gulf Blockading Squadron, Engineers' Department, off New Orleans, to James B. Eads, St. Louis. Regarding Eads' steam turrets.

- 1864 Mar 23 Letter signed R.N. Stembel, Philadelphia, to James B. Eads, St. Louis. Thanks Eads for supporting his claim.
- 1864 Mar 31 Letter signed G.V. Fox [Gustavus V. Fox], Washington, to [James B. Eads]. Marked "private." States that the Ways and Means Committee has struck out the appropriation for ocean iron clads, which he believes was a mistake.
- 1864 Apr 9 Letter signed Rear Admiral D.G. Farragut, Flag Ship *Tennessee*, Western Gulf Blockading Squadron, New Orleans, to [James B. Eads]. Regarding Eads' ironclads.
- 1864 Apr 16 Letter signed Gideon Welles, Washington, to James B. Eads. Thanks Eads for his support and wishes him a return to good health.
- 1864 Apr 19 Letter signed G.V. Fox [Gustavus V. Fox], Washington, to [James B. Eads.] Marked "private." Regarding Eads' turrets.
- 1864 Apr 22 Letter signed G.V. Fox [Gustavus V. Fox], Washington, to [James B. Eads]. Marked "private." Regrets that Eads is going abroad, but wishes he will regain his health. Discusses construction of a monitor.

#### **Folder 5**

- 1864 May 3 Letter signed Edward Bates, Washington, to James B. Eads, St. Louis. Hopes Eads' health is improving.
- 1864 June 21 Letter signed Gideon Welles, Navy Department, Washington, to James B. Eads, Washington. Appoints Eads a special agent of the Navy Department to visit the different navy yards and principal iron works of Europe.
- 1864 July 11 Letter signed James How, Headquarters, Seventeenth Army Corps, Department of the Tennessee, in the field, Georgia, to Lieutenant Colonel W.T. Clark, assistant adjutant general, Department of the Tennessee. Submits his resignation as lieutenant colonel of the 27<sup>th</sup> Missouri Volunteer Infantry.
- 1865 Jan 6 Document signed Missouri governor Thomas C. Fletcher, releasing Eads from further liability to prosecution on an indictment now pending against him in the St. Louis Criminal Court on a charge of an assault with intent to kill William Renshaw, Jr.
- 1865 July 20 Admission card, menu, envelope, and committee ribbon regarding a complimentary dinner to Major General William T. Sherman to be held at the Lindell Hotel, St. Louis.
- [1866] Letter signed John C. Fremont to James B. Eads. States that he cannot keep his appointment with Eads.

- 1866 June 13 Telegram of R.A. Barnes [Robert A. Barnes], St. Louis, to Thomas C. Fletcher. Claims bank stock will be awarded to his bank but is willing to bid \$200,000 more than the bid recommended for approval.
- 1866 Sept 6 Menu printed on satin for a complimentary banquet to President Johnson and his cabinet, General Grant, Admiral Farragut, and the diplomatic corps. Includes illustrated envelope.
- 1866 Nov 23 Letter signed Edward Bates, St. Louis, to James B. Eads, St. Louis. Thanks Eads for lending him the works of King Alfred.
- 1866 Dec-1867 Feb Four promissory notes signed James B. Eads to himself, payable at the National Bank of the State of Missouri in St. Louis, in the amounts of \$47,452.50, \$37,000, \$75,000, and \$70,000.
- 1867 Jan 14 Letter signed Gideon Welles, Washington, to James B. Eads. Tells of death of his nephew; asks Eads to invest dividends for him; comments on condition of the country and Congress.
- 1867 Jan 24 Invitation of the "Misses Eads" to a party at their home on Compton Hill. Envelope is addressed to Mr. Delany. Accompanying card states, "Thought you would enjoy seeing the enclosed—Think of it, way back in 1867—Your Mother, Wallace, must have been a debutante then, & how lovely she must have been. —M.T.W." Accompanying letter signed W.E. McHenry [Wallace E. McHenry], St. Louis, to Mr. van Ravenswaay, February 2, 1955: "This is an invitation sent to Dr. John Delany who lived at 2900 Lafayette Ave. then, to party given at the Eads Home at 1613 South Compton Ave. in honor of his daughter Eliza Ann Eads afterwards wife of James F. How. My mother was just 11 months younger and of course was at that same party she was Josephine Eads."
- 1867 Mar 2 Letter signed M. Jeff Thompson, New Orleans, to James B. Eads, St. Louis. Regarding editorial in the *Commercial Bulletin* stating that New Orleans had not been represented at the Grand River Convention in St. Louis. Includes article from the *Commercial Bulletin* with Thompson's response.
- 1867 Apr 2 Letter signed Gideon Welles, Washington, to James B. Eads, St. Louis. Says not to overwork himself building the bridge; asks Eads to invest money for him; discusses politics and Connecticut election.
- Folder 6**
- 1867 June 1 Letter signed Gideon Welles, Washington, to James B. Eads, St. Louis. Has heard positive reports regarding his gun carriage; comments on the Eads Bridge project.

- 1867 Aug 21 Letter signed Montgomery Blair, Washington, to James B. Eads. Discusses Atlantic & Pacific Railroad business.
- 1867 Nov 7 Letter signed Montgomery Blair, Washington, to James B. Eads. Has read Eads' address to the river convention and thinks it is excellent.
- 1867 Nov 28 Letter signed Baron Gerolt, Washington, to [James B. Eads]. Congratulates Eads on wedding of his daughter; states that Germany has declined to buy warships from the United States.
- 1868 Feb 26 Letter signed Gideon Welles, Washington, to [James B. Eads]. Discusses reconstruction in the South and the impeachment of the president.
- 1868 Mar 18 Letter signed Gideon Welles, Washington, to [James B. Eads]. Discusses why *quo warranto* was not instituted against Stanton.
- 1868 June 15 Letter signed James B. Eads, National Bank of the State of Missouri, St. Louis, to Charles H. Russell. Thanks Russell for kindness extended to him in the course of his dealings with the Bank of Commerce. [accession number: 75-0044]
- 1868 July 10 Letter signed G.V. Fox [Gustavus V. Fox], Washington, to James B. Eads. Mentions that "Frank Blair carried the day for the second position."
- 1868 July 13 Letter signed Gideon Welles, Washington, to James B. Eads. Invites Eads to visit him in Washington on his way abroad, and mentions Eads' report.
- 1868 July 16 Letter signed Henry T. Blow, St. Louis, to James B. Eads, New York. Discusses Eads' health.
- 1868 Sept 2 Letter signed Major General J.B. Barnard [John Gross Barnard?], New York, to "My dear sir." Requests copy of Eads' report on the St. Louis bridge, and discusses Mississippi River currents that he studied.
- 1868 Dec 22 Letter signed Henry Taylor Blow, St. Louis, to James B. Eads. Discusses mining business at Granby.
- 1868 Dec 23 Letter signed Barton Bates, St. Louis, to James B. Eads. Discusses his failure as president of the railroad; ways to fund the bridge; and family matters.
- 1869 Jan 7 Letter signed General William T. Sherman, headquarters, Military Division of the Missouri, St. Louis, to James B. Eads. Wishes Eads success in his efforts to improve the method of handling heavy guns.

## Folder 7

- 1869 Jan 12 Letter signed William M. McPherson, St. Louis, to James B. Eads, New York. Discusses results of meetings of the North Missouri Railroad Board and the Bridge Board.
- 1869 Apr 6 Letter signed Charles A. Pope, Paris, to [James B. Eads]. Mentions Eads' inventions and recent visit of Mr. and Mrs. Kennett.
- 1869 Apr 7 Letter signed Henry Dircks, Wood's Hotel, Furnivals Inn, Holborn, [London, England], to James B. Eads. Encloses a copy of a work he has written.
- 1869 Apr 18 Letter signed Charles A. Pope, Paris, [France], to [James B. Eads]. Thanks Eads for his visit, and wishes him good luck with the bridge construction at St. Louis.
- 1869 May 4 Membership certificate of James Buchanan Eads in the Institution of Civil Engineers. (**oversize**)
- 1869 May 5 Letter signed W. Milner Roberts, St. Louis, to the president and directors of the Illinois & St. Louis Bridge Co. Tenders his resignation as associate engineer.
- 1869 May 5 Letter signed W. Milner Roberts, St. Louis, to Captain James B. Eads. Gives his reasons for resigning, and expresses his ideas regarding the division of duties in constructing the bridge.
- 1869 May 5 Letter signed W. Milner Roberts, St. Louis, to Captain James B. Eads. Explains his resignation.
- 1869 July 9 Letter signed General William T. Sherman, headquarters, Army of the United States, Washington, to Captain James B. Eads, St. Louis, Missouri. Thanks Eads for his present of field glasses, and discusses Eads' model of a new gun carriage.
- 1869 July 18 Letter signed James B. Eads, St. Louis, to Rear Admiral J.A. Dahlgren. Describes the work that Dahlgren's son will be assigned on Eads' bridge project, and describes process of sinking the piers for the bridge. [accession number: 57-0153]
- 1869 Nov 18 Letter signed Gideon Welles, Hartford, to [James B. Eads]. Discusses bonds he will buy on Eads' recommendation.
- 1870 Feb 23 Letter signed Henry T. Blow, Petropolis, to James B. Eads. Discusses Blow's hopes for Eads' bridge; plans to show letter to Secretary of Foreign Affairs in Brazil. Suggests Eads go to marble creek in Madison City for materials to build piers and inquires about the purchase of steel.

- 1870 March 10 Letter signed G.V. Fox [Gustavus V. Fox], Lowell, Massachusetts, to James B. Eads. Discusses efforts Eads has put toward bridge, including "Captain Erickson vs. Eads" and staff fight. Also discusses finances: contributing money to bronze part of bridge, mortgages, and the gold market's influence on western railroads. Letter is written on letterhead of the Office of the Middlesex Company.
- 1870 April 22 Letter signed C. Schurz [Carl Schurz], Washington, to Captain James B. Eads. Schurz thanks Eads for suggestions and will heed advice given. Schurz also mentions he has communicated Eads' letter to Mr. Finkelnburg, and the information will be beneficial when the bill comes up in the House [of Representatives].
- Folder 8**
- 1870 May 16 Letter signed Chas. A. Pope [Charles A. Pope], chief engineer's office, Illinois and St. Louis Bridge Company, St. Louis, to Capt. Jas. B. Eads. Thanks Eads for the banquet he gave him.
- 1870 Sept 24 Letter signed Henry T. Blow, Petropolis, [Brazil], to Jas. B. Eads. Mentions Mr. Dickson's illness, sickness among his own family, his affairs in Brazil, and his upcoming move to Paris.
- 1871 Jan 3 Letter signed G.V. Fox [Gustavus V. Fox], Middlesex Company, Lowell, Mass. to Mr. Eads. Fox criticizes the character of Admiral Porter [David D. Porter].
- [1872?] Negative photostat copy of a satirical cartoon showing James Eads and the construction of the bridge, taken from *Puck*, Volume 1, Number 43.
- 1873-1876 Six promissory notes signed Jas. B. Eads (in the amount of \$92,000), Barrett Williams (in the amount of \$30,000), John A. Dillon (in the amount of \$41,000), Jas. B. Eads (in the amount of \$132,000), James F. How (in the amount of \$85,500), and James F. How (in the amount of \$173,424).
- 1873 Sept 5 Diagram of air locks of the East River and St. Louis bridges by James B. Eads. Extracted from *Engineering*, September 5, 1873. (**oversize**)
- 1874 June Invitation to take the first train across the Eads Bridge. [gift of Mrs. Guthrie McConnell, May 1945]
- 1874 June Two invitations to take the first train across the Eads Bridge.
- 1874 June Invitation to take the first train across the Eads Bridge and two tickets, one for the celebration and one for the special train. [accession number: 57-0129]

- 1874 June Invitation to Louisiana state senator Ferdinand Dudenhefer to attend the formal opening of the Illinois and St. Louis Bridge. Invitation includes engraved illustration of James Eads and the bridge. [gift of Mrs. Mary A. Dudenhefer, March 15, 1953]
- 1874 June Invitation to Mrs. Mary L. Taussig of New York to attend the formal opening of the Illinois and St. Louis Bridge. Invitation includes engraved illustration of James Eads and the bridge.
- 1874 June Invitation to C.B. Tilden of Carondelet, Missouri, to attend the formal opening of the Illinois and St. Louis Bridge. Invitation includes engraved illustration of James Eads and the bridge.
- 1874 June Two invitations to attend the formal opening of the Illinois and St. Louis Bridge. Invitations include engraved illustration of James Eads and the bridge. [gift of A.D. Daily, February 21, 1957]
- 1874 July 1 Document signed James B. Eads: "This is to certify that for value received from Genl. Horace Porter of New York, I have this day assigned to him one fourth interest in my proposition to the United States, now pending in the Senate, for the improvement of the navigation of the mouth of the Mississippi River, and hereby agree that he shall be entitled to one quarter of the net profits which I may receive for improving the said mouth of the Mississippi, either by canal, jetties, or in any other manner, either during the present congress or the next one; the intent being to make the said Porter fully interested in my contemplated enterprise above mentioned, and to the extent above stated." Additional note reads, "Cancelled July 6th 1876, Jas. B. Eads."
- 1874 July 20 Letter signed Braxton Bragg, Galveston, Texas, to Capt. Jas. B. Eads, St. Louis. Includes an extract of a letter from General J.G. Barnard, U.S. Engineers, which discusses Barnard's views relating to the mouth of the Mississippi River. (includes typed transcription)
- 1874 July 27 Letter signed C. Schurz [Carl Schurz], Narragansett Pier, R.I., to Capt. Eads. Mentions that he will leave soon for St. Louis and regrets that Eads will not be there. Mentions that Eads' personal advocacy of his [Eads] plans before the commission will be needed. Encourages Eads to visit his brother-in-law Heinrich C. Meyer in Hamburg, Germany.
- Folder 9**
- 1874 July 28 Letter signed Jas. B. Eads, Chief Engineer's Office, Illinois and St. Louis Bridge Company, 213 and 215 Washington Ave., St. Louis, to Col. Henry Flad. Eads mentions that he has just resigned as chief engineer of the Bridge Company, and he extends to Flad his thanks for assisting him in the design

and construction of the bridge. Includes typescript copy of letter certified by Edw. Flad, October 21, 1926. [Donated by Edward Flad in July 1950.]

- 1874 Aug 24      Passport of Captain James B. Eads. (**oversize**)
- [1875] Mar 23      Program and menu for a complimentary banquet to Captain James B. Eads by the citizens of St. Louis at the Southern Hotel. (2 copies)
- 1875 Mar 23      Letter signed Whitelaw Reid, *New York Tribune*, New York, to Capt. James B. Eads, St. Louis, Mo. States that he hopes to buy a larger and more expensive house in New York, and that he does not intend to put any money in the Mississippi venture. [gift of Jesse McDonald, August 1927]
- 1875 Apr 17      Contract between James B. Eads and James Andrews and Company of Allegheny, Pennsylvania, for building jetties to create a channel between the South Pass of the Mississippi River and the Gulf of Mexico. (14 pages) [gift of Jesse McDonald, August 1925]
- 1875 June 18      Letter signed Jas. B. Eads, office of South Pass Jetty Works, New Orleans, to F.E. Sickles, New York. “. . . I am anxious to go on with my suit against the New York Bridge Co. . . . We commenced work at the Mouth of the Mississippi a few days ago. The first dwelling house was coupled yesterday. A force of about 150 men are at work, building wharfs &c. &c. We will begin the construction of the jetties within a week.” [accession number: 75-0035]
- 1875 Aug 10      Reproduction of letter signed Jas. B. Eads, New York, to my dear Flad. Eads states that a new company has been formed to build a bridge across the East River at Blackwells Island, and that he has recommended Flad's appointment as chief engineer of the project. [courtesy of Engineers Club, St. Louis, November 12, 1953]
- 1875 Sept 6      Reproduction of letter signed Jas. B. Eads, [New York], to Col. Henry Flad. Explains the previous letter he sent to Flad. [courtesy of Engineers Club, St. Louis, November 12, 1953]
- 1876 July 6      Letterpress copy of letter signed J.H. Wilson, New York, to Capt. James B. Eads. Regarding agreement between General Horace Porter and Eads relating to Eads' improvement of the South Pass of the Mississippi River.
- 1876 July 22      Document signed Jas. B. Eads referring to the letter of J.H. Wilson to Eads dated July 6, 1876. Eads disputes Wilson's comments in this letter.
- 1877 Apr 9      Reproduction of note signed Jas. B. Eads, New Orleans, to Henry Flad, St. Louis, Mo. “I enclose herewith a chart of the most recent soundings at the head of the pass by Mr. Corthell. It is very full in details, and will be readily

comprehended.” [courtesy of Engineers Club, St. Louis, November 12, 1953]

1878 Aug 1 Letter signed A.P. de Carvalho Borges [Brazilian minister], Brazilian Legation, New York, to Capt. James B. Eads. Asks Eads to recommend a hydraulic engineer for the job of removing the obstructions to navigation of the River San Francisco.

**Folder 10**

1879 Mar 4 Memoranda of agreement between James B. Eads of St. Louis, Mo., and Alex. G. Cochran of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, in which Cochran agrees to attend to all legal business of Eads and the late firm of James Andrews & Co.

1879 Mar 10 Reproduction of U.S. Treasury draft in the amount of \$750,000 payable to James B. Eads.

1879 July 1 Letter signed T.W. Ferry, Washington, to Capt. James B. Eads. Advises Eads of the confirmation of the Mississippi River Improvement Commission as framed by the president. Letter is written on stationery of the United States Senate Chamber.

1879 Aug 16 Letter signed J.G. Blaine, Augusta, Maine, to James B. Eads. Wishes Eads good luck on his trip to Europe and its scientific object.

**Folder 11**

1881 James B. Eads’ Mexican scrapbook. Includes clippings mostly from Mexican newspapers relating to his plan to build a ship railway across the Isthmus of Tehuantepec. (29 pages) [gift of Perry Post Taylor, June 8, 1932]

**Folder 12**

1882 Mar 19 Printed letter of James B. Eads, Washington, to Joseph Medill, editor and publisher of the *Chicago Tribune*, titled “The Ship Railway. Misrepresentations of the Chicago Tribune Corrected.”

[1884] Clipping from *London Engineering* regarding the awarding of the Albert Medal by the Council of the Society of Arts to James B. Eads.

1884 Aug 29 “The Manchester Ship Canal,” extracted from *Engineering*, August 29, 1884. (**oversize**)

1885 *Proceedings of a Public Meeting Held in the Gentlemen’s Parlor of the Southern Hotel on the Evening of November 4, 1885, to Consider the Subject of Building a Ship Railway across the Isthmus of Tehuantepec* (St. Louis, Mo.: Great Western Printing Co., 1885). (28 pages)

- circa 1885-1890 Hendricks Monument Association certificate of honorary membership granted to E. McHenry of St. Louis, Mo.
- 1885 Sept 12 Note signed Jas. B. Eads, New York, to Darwin C. Pavey. "In compliance with your complimentary request I herewith inclose my photograph for the Berkshire Portrait Gallery." Note is written on stationery of the Tehuantepec Ship Railway. [accession number: 61-0013]
- 1886 Oct 21 Note signed Jas. B. Eads to his friend Jessie M. Howard, containing statistics, facts, and costs regarding the construction of the Eads Bridge. [accession number: 61-0106]
- 1887 Mar 19 *Harper's Weekly* clipping of obituary of James B. Eads with accompanying portrait.
- 1887 Mar 22 Printed memorial verse titled "Lines on the Life and Death of Capt. James B. Eads," written by T.W. Hoit, 2802 Locust St., St. Louis.
- 1887 Sept 30 Menu of the banquet to the delegates of the twenty-first national encampment of the Grand Army of the Republic, given by the citizens of St. Louis at the Lindell Hotel.
- 1888 June Envelope and piece of stationery: "Compliments of St. Louis Bridge Co., June 1888."
- 1888 June 25 Stock certificate of Louis How in the Eads Concession Company.
- 1888 June 25 Stock certificate of James Eads How in the Eads Concession Company
- 1889 Sept 25-26 Toast card of 22nd annual reunion of the Society of the Army of the Tennessee, held in Cincinnati. Card depicts map showing Civil War battles in Tennessee and Georgia.
- 1889 Sept 25-26 Toast card (on silk) of 22nd annual reunion of the Society of the Army of the Tennessee, held in Cincinnati. Card depicts map showing Civil War battles in Tennessee and Georgia.
- 1889 Sept 26 Menu of the twenty-second annual dinner of the Society of the Army of the Tennessee, Burnet House.
- 1890 June 4 Typescript remarks of E.L. Corthell, member of the Western Society Engineers, at a meeting of the society, on the resolution to cooperate in erecting a monument to the late James B. Eads. (9 pages)

### Folder 13

- 1896 Mar 7           Blueprint of typical cross-section of St. Louis tunnel. Includes negative of blueprint. [accession number: 58-0006] (Original blueprint filed **oversize**.)
- 1896 Aug            Typescript speech titled "Some Notes. Physical and Commercial Upon the Delta of the Mississippi River." Read before Section D (Mechanical Science and Engineering), American Association for the Advancement of Science. (47 pages)
- 1901 Mar 18         Promissory note of the St. Louis Distillery Co. to pay Estill McHenry.
- Box 2**
- Folder 1**  
1910-1912           Cancelled stock certificates in the Tunnel Railroad of St. Louis. (51 documents)
- Folders 2-3**  
1910-1912           Cancelled stock certificates in the St. Louis Bridge Company. (80 documents)
- Folder 4**  
1911 Mar            Clipping from *The Valve World* titled "Real Builders of America. James B. Eads-Inventor, Bridge Builder, Engineer." (**oversize**)
- 1921 May            Correspondence of New York University and Elbert M. Chandler, acting secretary, American Society of Civil Engineers, to Onward Bates regarding the unveiling of a tablet in honor of James B. Eads in the Colonnade of the Hall of Fame at New York University. (4 documents)
- Folder 5**  
1924 July            Correspondence regarding the formation of an Eads Memorial Committee to erect a memorial to James B. Eads and Henry Flad. (29 pages)
- Folder 6**  
1924 July 2         *St. Louis Post-Dispatch* newspaper clipping titled "Dedication of Eads Bridge Recalled."
- 1924 Aug 20         *St. Louis Globe-Democrat* newspaper clipping titled "James Eads How, Millionaire Hobo Marries Secretary." (Attached *Globe-Democrat* clipping titled "July 4 and 5 Proclaimed Holidays by the Mayor," honoring the 50th anniversary of the completion of the Eads Bridge.)
- 1928 Mar 15         Blueprint of profile and alignment of the St. Louis Bridge and tunnel, compiled by the chief engineer's office, Terminal Railroad Association, October 1891. Traced from original, March 15, 1928. [accession number: 58-0006] (**oversize**)

- 1928 June 28 *St. Louis Globe-Democrat* newspaper clipping titled “James Eads How Sued for Divorce.”
- 1928 Sept 17 *St. Louis Post-Dispatch* newspaper clipping of a photograph of the old home of James B. Eads, Compton and Eads Ave., which is being torn down.
- 1929 Nov 4 *St. Louis Globe-Democrat* newspaper clipping titled “Fifty Years after the ‘Jetties.’”
- 1930 July 23 Two newspaper clippings titled “James Eads How, Millionaire Hobo, Dies of Pneumonia” and “How Was Heir to \$500,000 from Mother.”
- 1931 June 30 *St. Louis Post-Dispatch* newspaper clipping titled “Water Used in Eads Bridge Dedication for Cornerstone.” Water used in the dedication of the Eads Bridge will be placed in the cornerstone of the St. Louis Mart Building at 12th Blvd. and Spruce St.
- 1931 Sept 24 *St. Louis Globe-Democrat* newspaper clipping titled “Ex-Wife Fights Will of James Eads How.”
- 1943 June 27 *St. Louis Post-Dispatch* newspaper article titled “Recluse Found Dead Was Eads’ Grandson.” Regarding the death of John Hardin McHenry.
- 1945 Newspaper clipping titled “Capt. Eads and His Bridge: A Thrilling St. Louis Story.”
- [1946] Newspaper clipping titled “Extensive Repairs: Eads Bridge, at 72, Having Face Lifted.”
- 1950 July 2 *St. Louis Globe-Democrat Tempo Magazine* clipping titled “Eads Bridge, ‘Glamour Boy’ of the Mississippi.”
- 1950 July 9 *St. Louis Globe-Democrat* newspaper clipping titled “He Knew Capt. Eads.” Includes letter to the editor by Frederick E. Finley, 35 Jefferson Road, Webster Groves, Mo.
- 1957 June 7 *St. Louis Post-Dispatch* newspaper clipping titled “Author Takes a Look at Eads Bridge Story.” Regarding author Dr. John Kouwenhoven.
- [1961?] Typescript of Chapter 1 of *The Eads Bridge Story* by Verner C. Hanna, chief engineer, Terminal Railroad Association of St. Louis. (4 pages) [accession number: 61-0067]
- 1974 July 21 *New York Times* newspaper clipping titled “Eads Bridge—Engineering Miracle and Work of Art.”

- no date Engraved portrait of James B. Eads, engraved by A.H. Ritchie. [accession number: 71-0065]
- no date Copy of a blank form for proposing a member for the Institution of Civil Engineers, London, England.
- no date Photostat copies of four pages from a publication of the Keystone Bridge Company regarding long-span bridges of America. (Page relating to the Illinois and St. Louis Bridge is missing.)
- no date Card: "The Misses Murfree regret that a previous engagement prevents them from accepting Mrs. How's kind invitation for Saturday afternoon. Jan 15th."
- no date Three fare tickets to cross the Illinois and St. Louis Bridge: (1) St. Louis Bridge Co. excursion bridge ticket, St. Louis to East St. Louis and return; (2) St. Louis & East St. Louis Electric Railway; and (3) St. Louis Transfer Co. ticket to the Union Depot on the Illinois and St. Louis Railroad.
- no date Fragment of reproduction of letter signed Jas. B. Eads to [Henry Flad] regarding the construction of a bridge. Fragment only includes final two pages of letter and a postscript. [courtesy of Engineers Club, St. Louis, November 12, 1953]
- no date Page of typescript and handwritten notes regarding James B. Eads.

## **Papers Relating to the Collection**

### **Folder 7**

1870-1955

Papers relating to the genealogy of the McHenry family. Includes typescript copy of letter of Martin D. McHenry, Des Moines, to Estill, July 26, 1870, which contains information on the genealogy of the McHenry family; copy of letter of Eunice S. Eads, New York, to Mrs. Eliza How, May 6, 1892; undated typescript chronology of James Eads' life; papers regarding the death of Comtesse Roger de la Vaulx (nee Eliza Jane Dillon), 1907 (in French); typescript note signed Jesse McDonald, St. Louis, to Wallace E. McHenry, 4328 Westminster Place, St. Louis, November 3, 1937; typescript history of the home of Mr. & Mrs. Estill McHenry, 1554 Mississippi Ave., St. Louis, compiled by Dr. William G. Swekosky, April 2, 1946; application of Wallace Estill McHenry, 4721 Westminster Place, St. Louis, to practice professional engineering in Missouri, August 20, 1946; typescript copy of note of Charles van Ravenswaay to Wallace E. McHenry, 5899 Cabanne Ave., St. Louis, June 30, 1955; two undated postcard views of the brick wall along the east side of property built for Mrs. James F. How (nee Eliza Ann Eads) at 5115 Lindell Blvd., St. Louis; and two pages of undated, handwritten notes of facts concerning Estill McHenry, written by his oldest son, Wallace Estill McHenry.

**Folder 8**

1945-1946

Correspondence of Florence Dorsey and Mr. & Mrs. James E. Switzer with the Missouri Historical Society.

**Folder 9**

1934-1938

Correspondence of the Missouri Historical Society with two researchers regarding holdings on James B. Eads. Also includes letter signed Gertrude McDonald, 4542 Pershing Ave., to Mrs. Beauregard, [Missouri Historical Society], April 10, 1935, stating that she cannot attend the society's annual dinner.

**Folder 10**

1937-1946

Correspondence of Wallace E. McHenry with John S. Worley, curator, Transportation Library, University of Michigan. Includes typescript copy of letter of Wallace E. McHenry to John S. Worley, August 5, 1937, which contains memories and information about the life of his grandfather James B. Eads.