

Edward H. Neary Papers (1874-1888)

MSS. 210

4 linear feet

Biographical

Edward H. Neary was a lawyer in the Village of Gouverneur from the mid to late 1800s. Mr. Neary was born in Elphin, Ireland and moved to the United States with his mother and a sister in 1848, following the death of his father and four siblings. He attended school in Ogdensburg, worked as a teacher as a teen and studied law. Neary was admitted to the bar in 1856. He also held the post of County Judge for 16 years. He married his wife Margaret in 1861 and had two sons, both of whom became lawyers. His large client base included railroads, hotels, hundreds of small businesses, Civil War pensioners, civic groups and the talc mining industry. Among his civic involvements, Mr. Neary served as a trustee of the Gouverneur Wesleyan Seminary.

Scope and Content

The collection contains (approximately 7000) documents written between 1874 and 1887. These include personal letters to and from Neary's wife, sons and other relatives. The collection also includes his professional correspondence in his role with the Gouverneur Wesleyan Seminary, his work on behalf of Civil War Pension claimants, correspondence with clients in the local mining industry, and correspondence with many other local lawyers. Photographs of Judge Neary and members of his family are included at the end of the collection.

Provenance

Purchased in 2017 From Edward (Ted) Comstock. Photos donated by Jennifer Hoff Robinson, great great grandfather of E. H. Neary.

Organization and Arrangement

The collection is chronologically organized with folders for each month spanning the years 1876 through 1887. There are a few documents from 1874 and 1875 organized in a single folder before the 1876 documents. Several hundred postal cards are separated from the balance of the collection and have also been chronologically organized, but have not been placed in folders.

Box 1

1874 and 1875 documents in a single folder
January-December 1876 documents, foldered by month

Box 2

1877 documents foldered by month
1878 documents in a single folder (most of the year is missing)

Box 3

1879 documents foldered by month

Box 4

1880 and 1881 documents foldered by month

Box 5

1882 and 1883 documents foldered by month

Box 6

1884 and 1885 documents foldered by month

Box 7

1886 and 1887 documents foldered by month
1887 documents include June – December only

Box 8

Postal cards arranged chronologically; Photographs