

Dyer, Edward C. Papers

Edward C. Dyer Papers
1808-1897 and undated

Title Statement

Dyer, Edward C. PapersGuide to the Edward C. Dyer Papers Mss. Acc. 2014.024

Author: Steven Bookman, University Archives Specialist.

Publication Statement

Publisher: Special Collections Research Center

William & Mary Special Collections Research Center
Earl Gregg Swem Library
400 Landrum Dr
Williamsburg, Virginia
Business Number: 757-221-3090
spcoll@wm.edu
URL: <https://libraries.wm.edu/libraries-spaces/special-collections>

2014-03-18

Profile Description

Creation: This finding aid was produced using ArchivesSpace on 2025-05-15 13:11:45 -0400.

Language Usage: English

Descriptive Rules: Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Descriptive Summary

Unit ID

Mss. Acc. 2014.024

Unit ID

/repositories/2/resources/8702

Unit Date

1808-1897 and undated

Unit Date

1853-1865

Language

English Spanish;Castilian

Creator

Dyer, Edward C.

Creator

Belt, John Benjamin

Extent

1.00 Linear Feet

Repository

Special Collections Research Center

Administrative Information

Conditions Governing Access:

This collection is open to all researchers.

Conditions Governing Use:

Before reproducing or quoting from any materials, in whole or in part, permission must be obtained from the Special Collections Research Center, and the holder of the copyright, if not Swem Library.

Acquisition Information:

Acc. 2014.024 was received by Special Collections in January 2014.

Processing Information:

Accessioned and minimally processed by Steven Bookman, University Archives Specialist, in March 2014.

Preferred Citation:

Edward C. Dyer Papers, Special Collections Research Center, Swem Library, College of William and Mary.

Biographical Information:

Edward Calistus Dyer was born around 1815, the son of John Randall Dyer and Mary Ann Gardiner. Edward had three brothers (Robert Walter, George, and Richard Hannibal) and married Elizabeth E. Belt, sister of William Benjamin Belt, on July 14, 1851.

Edward Dyer lived in Washington D.C. and was an auctioneer along with his brothers Robert and George. Some of the items Edward auctioned off included food, clothing, furniture and slaves. Later in his career, Edward began importing cigars from Cuba as well as fine liquor, whiskey, wine and food.

Scope and Contents

This collection contains correspondence, ephemera, and financial documents related to Edward C. Dyer's business as an auctioneer and importer of cigars (segars) from Havana, Cuba. The majority of the documents are dated between 1853-1865 with the full scope of the collection ranging from 1808-1897. The bulk of the letters were written by John Benjamin Belt, a cigar exporter in Havana, detailing the Cuban import-export cigar trade including suppliers, brands, quality of various tobacco leaves, start-ups, and costs association with the tobacco business. The collection contains letters from Belt to his mother and sister, Elizabeth, Edward C. Dyer's wife. Dyer also had sustained correspondence with Herman Heins and George Dufour, J. Amesz, James Harper, Robert Marron, and Reid and Eaton. In addition to the correspondence, there are also numerous ephemera items such as receipts, check stubs, Balance sheets, invoices, property deeds, legal documents, and estate papers. Among the receipts is a receipt for the purchase of a slave by Dyer. Finally, the collection contains several bound account books of Dyer's for various companies with which he did business.

Keywords

Ledgers (Accounting)

Letters (correspondence)

Printed ephemera

Cuba--History--19th Century

Washington (D.C.)--History--19th century

Auctioneers--Washington (D.C.)

Cuba--Description and travel

Tobacco--Cuba--History

Physical Characteristics or Technical Requirements:

The fragile nature of this material may limit handling.

Arrangement of Materials:

This collection is arranged chronologically by item type.

Description of Subordinate Components

Series 1: Account Books

Unit ID id236789

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/359704

Unit Date 1849-1864, undated

Account Book

Unit ID id236796

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/359710

Unit Date 1849

Mixed Materials 1 (Box)

Container 1 (Folder)

E.C. and G.F. Dyer "Collections" Account Book

Unit ID id236805

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/359711

Unit Date 1849-1850

Mixed Materials 1 (Box)

Container 2 (Folder)

E.C. Dyer Account Book with The Bank of Washington

Unit ID id236807

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/359712

Unit Date 1852

Mixed Materials 1 (Box)

Container 3 (Folder)

Account Book

Unit ID id236809

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/359713

Unit Date 1852-1853

Mixed Materials 1 (Box)

Container 4 (Folder)

E.C. Dyer Account Book with McGraw and Jacobs Grocers

Unit ID id236818

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/359714

Unit Date 1853 July-1854 February

Mixed Materials 1 (Box)

Container 5 (Folder)

E.C. Dyer Account Book with Riggs and Co.

Unit ID id236819

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/359715

Unit Date 1855

Mixed Materials 1 (Box)

Container 6 (Folder)

Account Book

Unit ID id236820

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/359716

Unit Date 1855-1856

Mixed Materials 1 (Box)

Container 7 (Folder)

E.C. Dyer Account Book with Riggs and Co.

Unit ID id236821

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/359717

Unit Date 1856-1864

Mixed Materials 1 (Box)

Container 8 (Folder)

E.C. Dyer Account Book with Riggs and Co.

Unit ID id236822

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/359718

Unit Date 1859-1862

Mixed Materials 1 (Box)

Container 9 (Folder)

E.C. Dyer Account book with King and Burchell Grocers

Unit ID id236823

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/359719

Unit Date 1860 December-1862 November

Mixed Materials 1 (Box)

Container 10 (Folder)

E.C. Dyer Account Book with Chemical Bank

Unit ID id236824

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/359720

Unit Date 1861

Mixed Materials 1 (Box)

Container 11 (Folder)

E.C. Dyer Account Book with Chemical Bank

Unit ID id236826

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/359721

Unit Date 1861 August- March 1864

Mixed Materials 1 (Box)

Container 12 (Folder)

Account Book with J. Campbell, Agt.

Unit ID id236828

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/359722

Unit Date undated

Mixed Materials 1 (Box)

Container 13 (Folder)

Debts Due to the Estate of the Late Robert W. Dyer

Unit ID id236830

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/359723

Unit Date undated

Mixed Materials 1 (Box)

Container 14 (Folder)

E.C. Dyer Account Book with Richard J. Ryon Grocers**Unit ID** id236831**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival_objects/359724**Unit Date** undated**Mixed Materials** 1 (Box)**Container** 15 (Folder)**Series 2: Correspondence****Unit ID** id236790**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival_objects/359705**Unit Date** 1853-1864, undated**Letters From John Benjamin Belt to E.C. Dyer****Unit ID** id236799**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival_objects/359725**Unit Date** 1853 January-1859 November, undated**Mixed Materials** 1 (Box)**Container** 16 (Folder)**Scope and Contents**

Letters from John B. Belt to E.C. Dyer discussing the state of the tobacco industry in Cuba, field conditions, and product quality. Belt and Dyer were brother-in-laws, and their letters contain family discussion in addition to business.

Letters from John B. Belt to Elizabeth Belt**Unit ID** id236834**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival_objects/359726**Unit Date** 1853 December 7-1854 November 10**Mixed Materials** 1 (Box)**Container** 17 (Folder)**Scope and Contents**

Letters from John B. Belt to his sister discussing his situation in Havana and their family.

Letters from John B. Belt to his Mother**Unit ID** id236839**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival_objects/359727**Unit Date** 1854 September 6-1859 November 10**Mixed Materials** 1 (Box)**Container** 18 (Folder)**Scope and Contents**

Letters from John B. Belt to his mother discussing his situation in Havana and their family.

Letters from Herman Heins and George Dufour to E.C. Dyer**Unit ID** id236840**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival_objects/359728**Unit Date** 1855 December-1856 December**Mixed Materials** 1 (Box)**Container** 19 (Folder)**Scope and Contents**

Philadelphia based importers who received Dyer's cigars (segars) from Havana and sent them to him in Washington D.C. Includes discussion of importation processes and cigar sales in the United States.

Letters to E.C. Dyer from Multiple Authors

Unit ID id236841

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/359729

Unit Date 1856 September-1863 January, undated

Mixed Materials 1 (Box)

Container 20 (Folder)

Scope and Contents

Scope and Contents From Albus J. Urell (?) September 4th, 1856- discusses debt owed by Urell (?) to Dyer and repayment plan. From O.W.N. Myers (?) June 2nd, 1857- discusses Dyer's account t with the Baltimore alcohol distributors. From Sam N. Piked (?) April 25th 1858- letter explaining a miscommunication and requesting more information on unknown business. From Mills, December 2nd 1858- New York based alcohol purchasers discussing their available stock and prices. From C.S. Merritt December 21st 1858- discusses a property in Williamsburgh, New York owned by Dyer and business with the Mills. From Udolpho Wolfe, March 30th 1860- asks for the return of good or payment for goods from the "Sole Importer of the Schiedam Aromatic Schnapps" Letter from Nicholas S. Hill, December 7th 1860- from Little Rock, Arkansas which requests the shipment of one thousand segars (cigars) and a receipt for their shipment dated December 19th 1860. Letter from L. E. Amsinck (?), January 12th 1863- Letter discusses a shipment of Hungarian wine to Dyer and payment. Letter from S. Ferguson Peach (?), October 1st 1863- letter return of a (bank) note to Dyer and an explanation that it could not be kept due to prior business relations with a Mr. Price. Letter from Fredrick Book, Wednesday the 16th 1863- Letter requesting goods or the return of funds. Letter from Geo Bayoud, January 24th 1865- Letter from a New York based alcohol distributor informing E.C.Dyer that his goods have been shipped. Letter from W. R. Purvey (?), undated- Letter asking to deliver a package to a Mr. Roger.

Letters from John B. Belt to Unknown Recipients

Unit ID id236842

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/359730

Unit Date 1857 April 9, undated

Mixed Materials 1 (Box)

Container 21 (Folder)

Scope and Contents

Discusses cigar business, the young Cuban man Dyer oversees in the states, and their families. Undated, most likely to a family member. Belt tells the recipient to have a dress coat made and sent to Charleston, the weather in Havana, and asks to be sent copies of catholic books as a gift for his local bishop.

Letters from J. Amez to E.C. Dyer

Unit ID id236844

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/359731

Unit Date 1858 December

Mixed Materials 1 (Box)

Container 22 (Folder)

Scope and Contents

Contains discussion of Dyer's Williamsburg, NY property.

Letter from Francisco Ramirez to E.C. Dyer

Unit ID id236894

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/359732

Unit Date 1858 October 8

Mixed Materials 1 (Box)

Container 23 (Folder)

Scope and Contents

A letter in Spanish from Francisco Ramirez and an English translation, most likely done by William Belt. The letter thanks Dyer for overseeing his two sons' education and gives instructions for their further education in Alexandria.

Letters from James Harper to E.C. Dyer**Unit ID** id236895**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival_objects/359733**Unit Date** 1860 February-1861 March**Mixed Materials** 1 (Box)**Container** 24 (Folder)**Scope and Contents**

Letters from a tobacco farmer in Marlboro. Harper requests cigars and briefly describes the economic and agricultural state of the area.

Letters from Robert Marron to E.C. Dyer**Unit ID** id236896**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival_objects/359734**Unit Date** 1861 October-1864 December**Mixed Materials** 1 (Box)**Container** 25 (Folder)**Scope and Contents**

Letters from a Carbondale man to Dyer. Dyer handled the estate of Marron's late mother, Ann Marron, and Marron writes requesting the proceeds from the estate's sale. He alludes several times to the War and it's affect on the economy.

Letters from Reid and Eaton to E.C. Dyer**Unit ID** id236897**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival_objects/359735**Unit Date** 1863 April-1864 October**Mixed Materials** 1 (Box)**Container** 26 (Folder)**Scope and Contents**

Delaware, Ohio based liaison to the legal processing and sale of the Marron estate.

Series 3: Ephemera**Unit ID** id236791**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival_objects/359706**Unit Date** 1808-1897, undated**Taxes and Insurance****Unit ID** id236801**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival_objects/359736**Unit Date** 1832-1860**Mixed Materials** 1 (Box)**Container** 27 (Folder)**Formal Complaints, Arrest Warrants, Notarized Documents****Unit ID** id236898**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival_objects/359737**Unit Date** 1808-1862**Mixed Materials** 1 (Box)**Container** 28 (Folder)

Balance Sheets

Unit ID id236899

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/359738

Unit Date undated

Mixed Materials 1 (Box)

Container 29 (Folder)

Invoices

Unit ID id236900

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/359739

Unit Date 1837-1859, undated

Mixed Materials 1 (Box)

Container 30 (Folder)

Receipt for the Purchase of a Slave by E.C. Dyer

Unit ID id236902

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/359740

Unit Date 1853 April 8

Mixed Materials 1 (Box)

Container 31 (Folder)

Receipts

Unit ID id236903

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/359741

Unit Date 1837-1854

Mixed Materials 1 (Box)

Container 32 (Folder)

Receipts

Unit ID id236904

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/359742

Unit Date 1855-1866, undated

Mixed Materials 1 (Box)

Container 33 (Folder)

Post-dated Checks and Payment Agreements

Unit ID id236905

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/359743

Unit Date 1832-1853

Mixed Materials 1 (Box)

Container 34 (Folder)

Checks

Unit ID id236906

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/359744

Unit Date 1820-1853 April

Mixed Materials 1 (Box)

Container 35 (Folder)

Checks**Unit ID** id236907**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival_objects/359745**Unit Date** 1853 May-November**Mixed Materials** 1 (Box)**Container** 36 (Folder)**Checks****Unit ID** id236909**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival_objects/359746**Unit Date** 1853 December-1854 May**Mixed Materials** 1 (Box)**Container** 37 (Folder)**Checks****Unit ID** id236910**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival_objects/359747**Unit Date** 1854 June-December**Mixed Materials** 1 (Box)**Container** 38 (Folder)**Checks****Unit ID** id236911**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival_objects/359748**Unit Date** 1855 January-1861 December**Mixed Materials** 1 (Box)**Container** 39 (Folder)**Checks****Unit ID** id236913**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival_objects/359749**Unit Date** 1862-1897, undated**Mixed Materials** 1 (Box)**Container** 40 (Folder)