

Haverford College Library
Special Collections

Finding Aid for the EDWARD MORRIS WISTAR PAPERS,
1894-1914

Collection No. 1137
2 document boxes (1 linear ft.)
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Gifts of Gay Ufford and Thomas Wistar, Jr., 1977 and 1983.

INFORMATION FOR USERS

All correspondence dates are standardized rather than transcribed, viz: yr mo/day.

Though not all letters are listed individually, those that are highlighted are done so on the basis of content of the letter or historical importance of the letter writer.

RESTRICTIONS

No restrictions

RELATED MATERIALS

Papers of Thomas Wistar and Family Papers, Coll. no. 1188.

ABSTRACT

Documents relating to Quaker Edward M. Wistar's relief mission under the auspices of the American Red Cross to Armenians living in Turkey in 1896

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Edward Morris Wistar (1852-1941), son of Thomas and Priscilla Foulke Wistar was born a Quaker in Abington, Pa. He was educated at Haverford College (1871) and m. 1876 Margaret Cooper Collins. They had two children. Edward M. Wistar was engaged in banking and life insurance business for 17 years, but also in real estate and cotton yarn. He was interested in issues relating to North American Indians, African American and persecuted Armenians. In 1896, E. Morris Wistar travelled to Asia Minor as a special field agent, under the auspices of the American Red Cross, to administer relief to Armenians in Anatolia who were the victims of Turkish brutality.

(Information from internal evidence and the Dictionary of Quaker Biography)

SUBJECT HEADINGS

[Armenians -- **Turkey** -- History](#)
[American Red Cross](#)
[Nihon Sekijūjisha](#)
[South Carolina -- History -- 1865-](#)
[**Gates, Caleb Frank, 1857-1946**](#)
[Hubbell, Julian B](#)
Shattuck, Corinna
[Wing, Asa S. \(Asa Shove\), 1850-1931](#)
[**Wistar, Edward Morris, 1852-1941**](#)
[**Wistar, Margaret, 1853-1937**](#)

SCOPE AND CONTENTS OF THE COLLECTION

Documenting his mission to administer relief to Armenians in Anatolia in 1896 is Wistar's correspondence with his wife, Margaret, Clara Barton, Asa Wing, J. Bevan Braithwaite, and letters from field workers such as C.F. Gates and J.B. Hubbell and missionary Corinna Shattuck, as well as others. There are also his diary, report to the Red Cross, financial records and photographs.

In addition, there are miscellaneous papers dealing with the hurricane disaster in South Carolina in 1894 and notes on the Japanese Red Cross Society.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE COLLECTION

Box 1: Historical Information and Correspondence of Edward M. Wistar

Historical information. 1 folder (ca. 10 items)

- History of the Am. National Red Cross/ Mabel A. Elliott. Copy of ts. of section concerning the history of the Armenian relief project. 16 pages
- Historical notes on politics in Turkey from 1857-1898.
- E.M. Wistar's personal documents for Armenian trip: passport, testimonial from Germantown Monthly Meeting, etc.
- Excerpts from Who's Who on Wistar and his colleague, Charles K. Wood.

Letters of E.M. Wistar, primarily to wife, Margaret, Feb.-July, 1896. 1 folder (ca. 40 items)

Note: About surroundings and general events in Asia Minor, some relating to his work, often referring to Clara Barton, who was director of the Armenian expedition, as well as travel leading up to his arrival.

Drafts of telegrams from Wistar to Barton. 1 folder (9 items)

Letters of E.M. Wistar, 1896. 1 folder

- Letters of E.M. Wistar in two books of carbon copies of most of the letters to his wife as well as to Asa Wing, J. Bevan Braithwaite and Clara Barton. Also diary entries for the period March-July, 1896, and travel journal for 1896.
- Photocopies of above letters transcribed and typed. In binder.

Letters to E. Morris Wistar: Allen to Gates. 1 folder

Note: Letters described below are highlights of the collection to Wistar. In general they concern conditions in relief areas, distribution to Armenian villagers of materiel and foodstuffs, and petitions from Armenians for aid.

Includes:

- Barton, Clara. 13 items, including telegrams, form letter, copied letters and 4 A.Ls.S. and 1 T.L.S.:
 - 1894 4/20. [thanks for remittance of \$500]
 - 1896 5/5. [requests continuing information on Armenian situation.]
 - 1896 5/25. ["our coming was no mistake;"tells of the good Wistar has done]

Constantinople, 1896 7/23. [thanks for his work
in the relief of Anatolia (donated July, 1992)

June 19, [n.y.] [is having all their reports compiled for the
American reading public.]

- Letters to Wistar from other field workers in Asia Minor, including H.N. Barnum, C.F. Gates and J.B. Hubbell (folder VI)
Braithwaite, J. Bevan. 1896 3/14.

Letters to E. Morris Wistar: Haines to Pullman. 1 folder

Includes:

- Haines, Anna Wistar. 1896 4/ 23. [reporting that Booker T. Washington spoke to Freedmen's Meeting and stated that he would oversee Christiansburg School if Friends would furnish \$4,500, which was agreed to]
- Pullman, George. 1895 12/7. [invites Wistar to join expedition to Asia Minor.]

Letters to E. Morris Wistar: Shattuck-Wood. 1 folder

Includes:

- Shattuck, Corinna. Shattuck, a missionary, writes concerning relief work and support of orphans.
- Wistar, Margaret C. 1896/11. [mentions burning of the shop and boiler house at Haverford College.]

Box 2: Reports, Photographs and Miscellaneous

Reports, 1896. 1 folder

- Report of E.M. Wistar to the American Red Cross for the period of his work in Asia Minor, March-July 1896. Holograph document.
- Printed report by Red Cross in 1896 based on Wistar's report.

Financial reports, 1896. 1 folder

- Financial records of E.M. Wistar indicating expenditures for relief goods, distribution of cash and goods and lists of recipients as well as some notes.

- cash statement of E.M. Wistar sent to American Red Cross

Miscellaneous. 1 folder

- Reports of E.M. Wistar on conditions in South Carolina in the wake of a hurricane, March 1894. In three parts, 2 A.Ds., 1 TS.

Miscellaneous. 1 folder

- Notations [by E.M. Wistar] on the Red Cross Society of Japan. Based on a visit to Japan, noting particularly the helpfulness of Gilbert Bowles and the support and patronage of the Red Cross by the Emperor and Empress of Japan. Ca. 1910.
- Miscellaneous letters to Margaret Wistar.

Photographs. 2 folders

- Ca. 50 of Turkey and one of E. H. Wistar;
- drawing of Clara Barton's house in Pera by C.K. Wood;
- ca. 20 photos of Wistars in Japan

MATERIALS REMOVED

1. to P.G.: "Report - America's Relief Expedition to Asia Minor under the Red Cross". Includes E.M. Wistar's report.
2. To Main Library: Armenian Atrocities/Arnold Toynbee
3. Two maps of the Ottoman Empire printed in 1884.