



WILLIAM TURNER COGGESHALL

An Inventory of His Papers In  
The Ohio Historical Society

Manuscripts Department  
Ohio Historical Society  
Columbus, Ohio  
1971

INTRODUCTION

The papers of William Turner Coggeshall were acquired in two separate purchases. The bulk of the material was purchased in 1940 from E. J. Wesson of Mansfield, Ohio. The letters written c. 1855 - 1860 to O. J. Victor were purchased in 1943 from Walter Benjamin.

Property rights to the papers are held by the Ohio Historical Society. Literary rights have not been dedicated to the public.

Linear feet of shelf space occupied:	2
Number of containers:	8 document boxes
Accession numbers:	2133 - 2139
	2500

Arranged by: Joyce Harmon, 1967  
Inventory by: Sara S. Fuller, September, 1971

## SCOPE AND CONTENT

The papers of William T. Coggeshall, author, journalist, secretary to William Dennison and Jacob D. Cox, and United States Minister to Ecuador, span the years 1842 - 1868. Contained in eight document boxes, the papers include correspondence, letterbooks, diaries, articles, speeches, and newspaper clippings. With the exception of Coggeshall's manuscripts and the newspaper clippings, the material is arranged chronologically within each series.

The correspondence, 1847 - 1868 and undated, reflects the various activities of Coggeshall. The letters are both incoming and outgoing, dealing with both business and personal matters. One folder of correspondence is primarily with Paul Hajnik regarding Louis Kossuth, European affairs, and other matters of political significance. Also included are several letters written to Louis Kossuth and his replies. The letters to O. J. Victor deal primarily with The Genius of the West, lectures, conventions and other journalistic endeavors. The correspondence also includes routine letters to and from Governor William Dennison.

The bulk of the correspondence is comprised of letters written by Coggeshall to his family during his ministership in Ecuador. These letters contain detailed accounts of Coggeshall's duties and activities, as well as descriptions of people and places, conditions in Ecuador, and personal family matters.

Included with the correspondence is genealogical data on the Coggeshall family, biographical material on William T. Coggeshall, and several certificates.

Letterbooks, 1866, contain outgoing correspondence dealing with Coggeshall's appointment as minister to Ecuador, family matters, description and travel, and politics.

The diaries, 1861 - 1867, contain detailed information regarding Coggeshall's private and professional life. The diary for 1861 deals with Ohio legislative proceedings, Ohio politics, the Civil War, and the selection of a man to fill S. P. Chase's vacant Senate seat. For 1863, Coggeshall writes about abolition, the Ohio political scene, national politics, Governor William Dennison, and his lectures and speeches. The diaries for 1865 and 1866 relate his career in journalism, as secretary to Governor Cox, Ohio politics, national politics, the Ohio State Journal, and Coggeshall's appointment to Ecuador. The diary for 1867 deals with finances, travel, and personal and business affairs.

The articles, speeches, and memoranda in the collection represent only a small portion of the writings of William T. Coggeshall. The manuscripts in the collection consist of the following titles:

SCOPE AND CONTENT, CONT.

1. A Portrait Sits Lesson.
2. Love Does not See with the Eyes but with the Mind.
3. List of Literary Contributions to Ladies Repository.
4. What Ohio Has Done for the War.
5. Speech.
6. Diary of a Journey to Ohio, 1842.
7. A Leaf From the Portfolios of a District Sch'l (?)
8. Speech.
9. Lincoln Anecdote.
10. Biographical Sketch of Postmaster General William Dennison.
11. The Character and Services of Horace Mann.
12. Address to the Representatives of the Republics of Ecuador, Peru, and Bolivia [1866].
13. Notes for a Speech on the First District of Ohio.
14. Oration Delivered in Akron, July 4, 1865.
15. Unpublished biography of Louis Kossuth.

The remainder of the collection consists of newspaper clippings and notebooks. The bulk of the clippings deal with a history of Ohio newspapers - principally for Cincinnati.

The Coggeshall collection is excellent for the inside view it gives on decision-making in Ohio. The papers for the period of Coggeshall's ministership in Ecuador are also extremely informative. However, there are obvious gaps in the papers, especially the correspondence.

## BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

MISS MARIA Coggeshall of Hartford, Conn., have collected some additional facts for this article. E. S. Maclay, *A Hist. of Am. Privateers* (1899) retells the story of the *David Porter* and the *Leo*.] G. H. G.

**COGGESHALL, WILLIAM TURNER** (Sept. 6, 1824–Aug. 2, 1867), journalist, author, seems to have been a direct descendant of that John Coggeshall who came to America in the *Lyon* in 1632, suffered some persecution in Massachusetts Bay because of his support of Anne Hutchinson, and later became first president of Rhode Island (*Rhode Island Historical Magazine*, October 1884, and W. T. Coggeshall, *Record of Facts*, *post*, p. 14). William Turner was born at Lewistown, Pa., the third of the twelve children of William C. Coggeshall, a coachsmith, and Eliza Grotz, whose father had come from Germany (*Record of Facts*, pp. 25–28). On Oct. 6, 1842, he left Lewistown for Ohio, arriving at Akron in November. Here he became (1844–46) an editor and part owner of a temperance paper, which underwent rapid changes of name (Samuel A. Lane, *Fifty Years and Over of Akron and Summit County*, 1892, p. 225). Meantime on Oct. 28, 1845 he had married Mary Maria Carpenter; and in the spring of 1847 (Coggeshall, *Stories of Frontier Adventure*, "Dedicatory Letter") he removed to Cincinnati, where he was connected with a number of newspapers and magazines, the most important of which was the monthly *Genius of the West* (1853–56). During this Cincinnati period he also published his earliest books; and in 1852 he accompanied Kossuth from Cincinnati on the remainder of his American tour, reporting his speeches for the press (Kossuth to Coggeshall, June 17, 1852). From May 31, 1856 (13th *Annual Report* of the library) to Mar. 24, 1862, he was librarian of the Ohio State Library at Columbus, and in 1858–59, editor of the *Ohio Educational Monthly*. During the first year of the Civil War he also acted as military secretary to Gov. Dennison, and was assigned for a time to secret service. Removing to Springfield, Ohio, he was owner and editor of the *Republic*, 1862–65 but was at Columbus as editor of the *Ohio State Journal* during the greater part of the latter year. Early in 1866 he served as private secretary to Gov. Jacob D. Cox.

On May 4, 1866, he was appointed American minister to Ecuador, and officially announced his arrival at Guayaquil on Aug. 2 and at Quito on Sept. 8. The only notable event of his ministry was his successful appeal to the government of Ecuador, in opposition to the papal nuncio and other authorities of the church, for the right of Protestant burial for foreigners. Coggeshall himself was already so ill of consumption that his

daughter Jessie (1851–68), who had accompanied him from the United States and served as interpreter and secretary, was practically in charge of the legation; and on Aug. 2, 1867, he died at a country place near Quito. His body was at first buried in consecrated ground, but when the clerical revolution occurred soon afterward, was disinterred and placed in a public warehouse. Later the remains of both Coggeshall and his daughter, who had died at Guayaquil on her way home, were returned to the United States at the public expense, and buried at Columbus, Ohio.

As a writer, Coggeshall addressed himself generally to the young, and fell naturally into a strain of conventional moralizing. In his controversial speaking and writing, however, he was often vigorous: he argued effectively in support of Lincoln in his political pamphlets and appealed skilfully to popular interest in his tract, *Need and Availability of the Writing and Spelling Reform* (1857). Other works, like his *Lincoln Memorial* (1865), were mere compilations. His fiction, as in *Oakshaw* (1855), was awkward and too intent on moralizing, but made some attempt to avoid the easy appeal of blood and tears popular in that day, and was concerned to a considerable extent with character. *The Protective Policy in Literature* (1859), a plea for sectionalism as a fruitful motive in literature, was, in effect, an announcement of what was by far his most important work, *The Poets and Poetry of the West* (1860), a comprehensive anthology for the years 1789–1860, with brief biographical sketches. His estimates of Western verse writers are not critical, but the book is nevertheless a valuable record. It was designed as the first of a series of volumes, never continued, which should constitute a survey of Western literature and so offset the neglect which, as he thought, the West had suffered at the hands of Griswold and the Duyckincks. Both this work and *The Protective Policy* mark Coggeshall as a disciple of William D. Gallagher [*q.v.*], who, with James Hall and Timothy Flint [*q.v.*], was a pioneer partisan of a distinctly sectional literature for what in those days was called the West.

[Perhaps the best, as well as the most detailed, notice is that in W. H. Venable's *Beginnings of Literary Culture in the Ohio Valley* (1891), based, to a considerable extent, upon information furnished by Coggeshall's widow. A portrait is to be found in *Ohio Arch. and Hist. Quart.*, Jan. 1919, p. 104. Coggeshall's papers and diaries, including his *Record of Facts Pertaining to Coggeshall Family*, are in the possession of his son-in-law, Mr. T. A. Busbey of South Vienna, Ohio, who has supplied some of the dates given above. For the events of 1866–69, see *N. Y. Times*, Jan. 25 and Sept. 9, 1867; *Cincinnati Daily Gazette*, Sept. 6, 1867; *Ladies' Repository*, Nov. 1867; *House Ex. Doc. No. 1*, 39 Cong., 2 Sess., pt. II, p. 477; and especially *Cong. Globe*, 40

272 Cong., 3 Sess., 232–35 and 321. For the burial of Coggeshall and his daughter at Columbus, see *Ohio State Jour.*, Oct. 19, 1870.]

R. L. R.

BOX AND FOLDER INVENTORY

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Contents</u>
1	1	<u>Genealogical and biographical data</u> on William T. Coggeshall and the Coggeshall family. Also includes several certificates.
	2-9	<u>Correspondence, 1847 - 1868 and undated.</u> Letters regarding Ohio and U. S. politics, Ohio newspapers, journalism, Governor William Dennison, and Coggeshall's ministership in Ecuador. Correspondents include: William Dennison, Joshua R. Giddings, Paul Hajnik, Louis Kossuth, and O. J. Victor. The bulk of the correspondence for the year 1866 was written by Coggeshall to family members from Panama and Ecuador.
2		<u>Letterbook, 1866.</u> Contains correspondence to William Dennison, James Comly, Jacob D. Cox, W. R. Looker, John Sherman and W. A. Sutcliffe. These letters deal primarily with Coggeshall's appointment as Minister to Ecuador.
3	1	<u>Letterbook, 1866.</u> Contains correspondence primarily to family members dealing with Coggeshall's duties and activities in Ecuador. Several letters are to M. Bristamente Minister of Exterior Relations.
	2	<u>Letterbook, 1866.</u> Contains correspondence to H. D. Cooke, W. R. Looker, and "Dear Governor", probably Jacob D. Cox. The letterbook also contains Coggeshall's diary, "Diary of Journey from Quayquil to Quito", 1866.
4		<u>Diaries, 1861, 1863, 1865, 1866, 1867</u> in three volumes. These diaries contain excellent information regarding Coggeshall's activities, state and national politics, journalism, Ohio legislative proceedings, Civil War, Ecuador, and William Dennison.
5		<u>Articles, speeches, memoranda.</u> Included is a Diary of a Journey to Ohio, a biographical sketch of William Dennison, an essay on Horace Mann and other miscellaneous material.
6	1-4	<u>Unpublished Biography of Louis Kossuth.</u> Includes newspaper clippings.

BOX AND FOLDER INVENTORY, CONT.

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Contents</u>
7	1-4	<u>Newspaper clippings</u> dealing primarily with the history of newspapers in Ohio.
Removed		One Carte de visite portrait of W. T. Coggeshall and Miss Jessie Coggeshall was removed from MSS 115, Box 7 and has been cataloged as MSS 115 AV (formerly SC 1870). The photograph envelope containing the carte de visite is stored in the MSS AV Box at 3/17/4.
8		<u>Scrapbooks and notebooks</u> . The scrapbooks are of newspaper clippings which contain general news. The several notebooks contain clippings and handwritten notes.

SUBJECT TRACINGS

Accounts 4

Chronology, 1842 - 1880 1-8  
Coggeshall, William T. 1-8

Dennison, William 1, 2, 4  
Description and Travel 1, 3, 4, 5  
Diaries, 1861, 1863, 1865 4

Ecuador 1, 2, 3, 4

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Journalism 1, 4, 5, 7, 8

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Ohio - Civil War 4  
Ohio - Newspapers 1, 4, 7, 8  
Ohio - Politics 1, 2, 3, 4,

U. S. - Politics 1, 2, 3, 4

Victor, O. J. 1





GUIDE TO RELATED MATERIALS

- A. Other Manuscript Collections at the Ohio Historical Society containing Coggeshall material:

William Henry Smith Collection  
Friedrich Hassaurek Papers

- B. Vertical File Material at the Ohio Historical Society containing Coggeshall material:

VFM 1271 Manuscript of a speech by Louis Kossuth, May 3, 1852,  
with annotations by Coggeshall

VFM 1952 Genealogy

- C. Related materials in Other Departments of the Ohio Historical Society:

Please see Library and Newspaper card catalogues.