



New York State Archives

**New York State Governor Assistant to the Governor
Correspondence and Subject Files of George B. Graves
B1383**

New York State Archives
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Table of Contents

Overview of the Records	3
Arrangement	3
Administrative History	3
Scope and Contents	4
Use of Records	4
Access Terms	5

Overview of the Records

Repository:	New York State Archives
Summary:	George B. Graves served under fourteen New York governors. He was appointed private secretary to Alfred E. Smith in 1924; later, he became assistant to the governor, a position especially created for him by Smith. Graves ended his thirty-six years of government service in 1928. This series consists primarily of files created and maintained by Graves during his service to Governor Smith. The files consist chiefly of correspondence, telegrams, memorandums, cross references, speech material, newspaper clippings, and printed material.
Creator:	New York (State). Governor. Assistant to the Governor
Title:	New York State Governor Assistant to the Governor correspondence and subject files of George B. Graves
Quantity:	33 cubic feet
Inclusive Date:	1922-1928
Series:	B1383

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Arrangement

Alphabetical by topic or name of correspondent.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Administrative History

George B. Graves (1876-1937) served under fourteen New York governors. He was appointed private secretary to Governor Alfred E. Smith on April 5, 1924; later, he became assistant to the governor, a position especially created for him by Governor Smith. Graves ended his thirty-six years of government service on December 31, 1928, coincident with Smith's retirement.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Scope and Content Note

The series consists primarily of files created and maintained by George B. Graves during his service to Governor Alfred Smith, first as private secretary and later as assistant to the governor. There is also a small amount of material (1922-1924) dating from the time of Graves' predecessor, George Van Namee. The files consist chiefly of correspondence, telegrams, memoranda, cross references, speech material, newspaper clippings, and some printed material.

The material in the series is that which was routinely handled for the governor by Graves; thus there are relatively few letters signed by Governor Smith. Documents relate to all areas of the governor's responsibility and interest, and include communications with local, state, and federal government officials and organizations; officials in other states; and private citizens. The files provide insight into the administration and daily workings of the governor's office, as well as the public life of Alfred Smith at that time.

Correspondence includes applications for interviews and employment; requests for endorsements, autographs, and photographs; pleas for charitable contributions; and requests for advice on social and economic problems which confronted the citizens of New York and the country during the gubernatorial term of Smith.

Much of the material is social in nature, including messages of confidence or congratulation; birthday and holiday greetings; and acknowledgments of gifts received. There are letters praising speeches, radio broadcasts, and statements made by Governor Smith, as well as invitations to speak at various functions and attend dinners, ceremonial exercises, receptions, and other public functions and political gatherings.

The records also reflect Smith's interest in state and national affairs of the Democratic Party, and contain correspondence with party leaders, officials, and prominent political figures.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Use of Records

Access Restrictions

There are no restrictions regarding access to or use of the material.

Access Terms

- Clippings (information artifacts)
- Governors--New York (State)--Powers and duties
- New York (State)
- Memorandums
- Speeches (documents)
- New York (State)--Politics and government
- Administering state government
- Telegrams
- Graves, George B., 1876-1937
- Smith, Alfred Emanuel, 1873-1944
- Van Namee, George.