Descriptive Summary

Creator: Raoul, William Greene, 1843-1913.
Title: William Greene Raoul papers 1878-1897
Call Number: Manuscript Collection No. 162
Extent: .5 linear ft. (1 box) and 10 bound volumes (BV)
Abstract: Scrapbooks, letterbooks, and miscellaneous papers of railroad executive, inventor and businessman William Greene Raoul.
Language: Materials entirely in English.

Administrative Information

Restrictions on Access
Unrestricted access.

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Related Materials in This Repository
Related collections in this repository are the Raoul Family Papers and the Sarah Lois Wadley Papers.

Source
Gift, 1920.

Citation
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Collection Description

Biographical Note
William Greene Raoul (July 4, 1843 - January 17, 1913), railroad tycoon, was born in Livingston Parish, Louisiana; the son of Gaston Turner (born Gaston Cesar Raoul de Champmanoir) and Mary Emily (Davidson) Raoul. His education was acquired in the country schools of the area supplemented by private tutors. When eighteen years old, he entered the Confederate Army, joining the Washington Artillery of New Orleans. In March 1864, possibly on the recommendation of family friend William M. Wadley, former Assistant Adjt. Gen'l, in charge of the railroad bureau of the Confederacy, Raoul was promoted to Captain and placed in charge of the construction of railway cars.

At the end of the war, Gaston Raoul and William M. Wadley established a car works to build rail cars, the operation of which they immediately gave to their sons, William Greene Raoul, Giffen Raoul, and William Wadley. In 1866, William M. Wadley was elected president of the Central Railroad of Georgia and moved, with his family to Savannah, and on October 27, 1867 William Green Raoul married William's daughter, Mary Wadley (March 4, 1848 - August 1, 1936). In 1870 when the Southern Car Works failed, Greene and Mary moved to Savannah where Greene began working as an assistant road master and in 1879 he was general superintendent of the Montgomery & Eufaula Railroad. He held all of these positions until 1880 when he was elected vice-president of the Central Railroad and Banking Company of Georgia.

In 1882, William M. Wadley, the president of the company, died, and the Board of Directors elected General E. P. Alexander to fill the balance of the term. Raoul resigned as vice-president and in the next stockholders meeting defeated Alexander for the presidency. He remained in that position until 1887, when Alexander, having purchased large blocks of stocks, reclaimed the office.

Raoul was elected president of the troubled Mexican National Railroad Company in 1887 and maintained that position until 1904. He was president of the Atlantic and Birmingham Railway from its organization in 1905; and president of the Southwestern Railroad from 1901 until his death.

Inventions, bimetallism, real estate development, street car systems and the Associated Charities of Atlanta all attracted Raoul's interests. He invented the air brake, among other things, and sold the patent to Westinghouse. A mountain side in Ashville, N.C., he transformed into a hotel resort. He wrote articles advocating bimetallism and established the W.G. Raoul Foundation to develop anti-tuberculosis work in Georgia.

The children of William Greene and Mary Raoul are: Mary (b. 1870); William Greene (b. 1872); Gaston Cesar (b. 1878); Edward (1880-1882); Agnes, (b. 1882); Rosine (b. 1878); Loring (b. 1887); Eleonore (b. 1888); and Norman (b. 1890).
Scope and Content Note
The collection falls into three parts of scrapbooks, letterbooks, and loose papers. There are
three scrapbooks kept by W. G. Raoul containing newsclippings on a wide variety of topics, but
mainly concerned with railroad affairs.

The seven letterbooks contain copies of 963 letters written by W. G. Raoul between March
26, 1878 and August 19, 1897. These letters were to such men as J.S. Baxter, president of the
Southwestern Railroad, Charles A. Collier, president of the Cotton States and International
Exposition; Bradford L. Gilbert, architect; M.S. Smith, president of the L & N Railroad; H.
W. Smith, chairman of the Mexican National Railroad security holders; Jacob Henry Schiff
(1847-1920) of Kuhn, Loeb, and Co.; and Patrick Calhoun, railroad lawyer.

The eight folders of loose papers consist of 115 letters; printed documents such as leases,
re-organization plans, and reports to stockholders; and news clippings. These are arranged
chronologically from 1869 through January 1896. One folder containing lists of stockholders and
proxies corresponds with letterbook, December 1883 - February 1884.
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Abbett, H.M., Atlanta, Georgia
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Adair, George Washington, Atlanta, Georgia
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Adams, A.P., Savannah, Georgia
TLS, June 30, 1892

Adams, M.M., New Brighton, N.Y.
TLS, March 23, 1896

Alexander, Edward Porter
TLS, February 10, 1881

Alexander, P.W., Marietta, Georgia
TLS, June 23, 1882

Anderson, Andrew, New York, N.Y.
AL, January 1, 1894

Aston, E.J. Asheville, N.C.
TLS, June 4, 1896

Aston, Rawles, & Co., Asheville, N.C.
4 TLS, July 5, 1893 - June 26, 1896

Backus, T.J., Atlanta, Georgia
TLS, October 17, 1892

Bacon, Augustus Octavius, Macon, Georgia
12 TLS, January 11, 1893 - July 1897

Barrie, George, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania,
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Baxter, J.S., Macon, Georgia
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Beaman, Charles C., New York, N.Y.
12 TLS, August 27, 1888 - July 29, 1895

Beath, J.M., Atlanta, Georgia and New Orleans, Louisiana
2 TLS, October 17 and November 10, 1894
Bell, C.M., Washington, D.C.
ALS, October 16, 1882

Belmont, August, New York, N.Y.
5 TLS, June 5, 1896 - August 16, 1897

Beutell Manufacturing Co., Atlanta, Georgia
2 TLS, July 17, 1895, June 9, 1896

Black, W.A., Americus, Georgia
4 ALS, April 22 - August 6, 1878

Blake, Arthur W., Boston, Massachusetts
3 letters, July 29, 1889 - November 1890

Borge, Simon, New York, N.Y.
3 TLS, May 9, 1894 - April 15, 1896

Bonneville, H., Paris, France
ALS, March 27, 1882

Bostick, A.B., Atlanta, Georgia
6 TLS, July 1, 1881 - March 16, 1882

Boyd, Isaac S., Atlanta, Georgia
8 TLS, April 17 - August 18, 1897

Brackenridge, George W., San Antonio, Texas
TLS, November 10, 1896

Branch, T.P., Augusta, Georgia
3 ALS, January 13 - 17, 1882

Brantley, W.S., Macon, Georgia
ALS, June 29, 1881

Breland, J.P., Independence, Louisiana
TLS, July 17, 1895

Bremer, H.F., Charleston, S.C.
2 TLS, July 22 - August 4, 1890

Brewster, C.W., New York, N.Y.
TLS, June 2, 1890

Brinsmade, Allen A., Houston, Texas
TLS, January 15, 1897

Broadman, W.H., New York, N.Y.
ALS, October 16, 1882

**Broomhead and Street, Atlanta, Georgia**  
TLS, November 28, 1890

**Brown, Alexander, Baltimore, Maryland**  
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**Brown, E.N., Mexico City, Mexico**  
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**Brown, Joseph Emerson, Washington, D.C.**  
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**Brown, W.R., Columbus, Georgia**  
3 TLS, August 28, 1893 - April 20, 1896

**Burr, George W., Macon, Georgia**  
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**Cabaniss, M.C., Newnan, Georgia**  
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**Calhoun, Dr. A.B., Atlanta, Georgia**  
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**Calhoun, Patrick**  
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**Campbell, R.O., Atlanta, Georgia**  
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**Campbell, T.M., Palestine, Texas**  
TLS, November 10, 1896

**Candler, A.D., Gainesville, Georgia**  
ALS, November [?], 1882

**Carpenter, W.D., New York, N.Y.**  
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**Cates, I.E., New York, N.Y.**  
TLS, November 7, 1896

**Chase, E.E.**  
ALS, November 26, 1881

**Chesney, T.O., Macon, Georgia**  
4 TLS, April 4, 1891 - July 16, 1897
TLS, October 24, 1890

Clarke, Gordon, Washington, D.C.
TLS, August 12, 1895

Clarke, W.L., Columbus, Georgia
10 TLS, March 16, 1882 - December 28, 1896

Collier, Charles A., Atlanta, Georgia
3 TLS, October 17, 1894 - March 12, 1895

Comer, H.M., Savannah, Georgia
12 TLS, September 10, 1888 - January 7, 1895

Cooper, John R., Macon, Georgia
AL, December 29, 1893

Crawford, Henry, New York, N.Y.
TL, July 22, 1895

Crowther, John A., Savannah, Georgia
TLS, December 27, 1887

Cunningham, Henry C., Savannah, Georgia
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Cunningham, T.M., Savannah, Georgia
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Cumming, Joseph B., Augusta, Georgia
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Cushing, Robert, New York, N.Y.
ALS, November 1, 1882

Darling, D.W., Worcester, Massachusetts,
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Davidson, Theodore F., Asheville, N.C.
TLS, September 3, 1886

Davis, Julian T., New York, N.Y.
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Davison, John, Augusta, Georgia
ALS, December 12, 1883

Denmark, Brantley A., Savannah, Georgia
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Deshon, Charles A., New York, N.Y.
TLS, March 24, 1893

Desscau, Washington, Macon, Georgia
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Dougherty, D. Webster, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
TLS, November 28, 1890

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Duckworth, Joseph B., Liverpool, England
TLS, October 18, 1892

Duncan and Ellis, Amite City, Louisiana
7 TLS, July 8, 1895 - June 22, 1896

Duncan, William Butler, New York, N.Y.
ALS, December 12, 1883

Dunn, O.M., New Orleans, Louisiana
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Dunning, A.W., Cincinnati, Ohio
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Egan, John M., Savannah, Georgia
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Ellis and Gray, Atlanta, Georgia
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Ellis, Stephen D., New Orleans, Louisiana
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Fay, Joseph S., Boston, Massachusetts
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Ferrar, W. Gray San Miguel, Mexico
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Flewellen, E.A.
ALS, December 1, 1883

Frazer, J.M., Mexico City, Mexico
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French, A. Pitts
TLS, September 17, 1896

Friedrichs, Dr. George J., New Orleans, Louisiana
TLS, October 14, 1895

Galbraith, J.N., Laredo, Texas
TLS, November 10, 1896

George, C.W., Amite City, Louisiana
TL, June 7, 1897

Gilbert, Bradford L., New York, N.Y.
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Glessner, W.L., Americus, Georgia
ALS, February 6, 1884

Gookin, Edmund, Ponchitoulas, Louisiana
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Gordon, W.W., Savannah, Georgia
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Graham, W.A., Fort Gaines, Georgia
TLS, May 27, 1896

Grant, H. Fraser, Asheville, N.C.
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Green, J.W.
8 letters, October 16, 1882 - July 28, 1897

Green, W.W., Savannah, Georgia
TLS, January 17, 1893

Gresham, J.J., White Sulphur Springs, W. Virginia
TLS, August 6, 1886

Gresham, Thomas B., Baltimore, Maryland
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Guerney, W.S., New York, N.Y.
TLS, April 15, 1889

**Gulliver, William C., New York, N.Y.**
TLS, August 14, 1895

**Gwyn and West, Asheville, N.C.**
TLS, October 10, 1890

**Hanson, J.F., Macon, Georgia**
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**Harden, Thomas H., Savannah, Georgia**
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**Harrold, Uriah B., Americus, Georgia**
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**Haskell, J.C., Atlanta, Georgia**
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**Hayes, J.A., Colorado Springs, Co.**
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**Hearst, William Randolph, New York, N.Y.**
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**Hemphill, William A., Atlanta, Georgia**
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**Herbert, Sidney, Atlanta, Georgia**
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**Harts Bros., New York, N.Y.**
2 TLS, November 24, 1891, February 5, 1892

**Hillyer, Eben, Rome, Georgia**
ALS, August 18, 1882

**Houghton, C.W., London, England**
TLS, March 19, 1897

**Hollins, H.B., New York, N.Y.**
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**Horsey, J.A., New York, N.Y.**
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**Howard, George H., Washington, D.C.**
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Howcott, H.W., New Orleans
TLS, July 8, 1896

Howell, Charles H., New York, N.Y.
ALS, January 26, 1882

Howell, Clark, Atlanta, Georgia
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Howell, Evan P., Atlanta, Georgia
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Hubbard, S.B., Jacksonville, Florida
TLS, January 7, 1895

Hunnicutt and Bellingsgrath, Atlanta, Georgia
5 TLS, July 21, 1890 - July 17, 1895

Hurt, Joel, Atlanta, Georgia
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Hutton, Lawrence, Tannersville, N.Y.
2 TLS, July 25 and 23, 1896

Inman, John H., New York, N.Y.
TLS, February 15, 1888

Inman, Samuel M., Atlanta, Georgia
TLS, July 3, 1893

Inman, Walter H., Atlanta, Georgia
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Ilan, A., New York, N.Y.
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Jeffries, Charles T., Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
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Johnson, J. Forsyth, Atlanta, Georgia
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Johnson, W. B., Cresson Springs, Pennsylvania
ALS, August 21, 1882

Johnson, William M., St. Louis, Mo.
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Jones, Henry, Washington, D.C.
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**Jones, J.E., Macon, Georgia**
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**Kellogg & Co., Utica, N.Y.**
2 TLS, October 1 and November 2, 1891

**King, Alexander Campbell, Atlanta, Georgia**
TLS, March 12, 1897

**Knapp, A.C., Macon, Georgia**
ALS, December 27, 1884

**Krebs, William, New York, N.Y.**
2 TLS, April 6, 1889

**Landa, William de, Mexico City, Mexico**
6 TLS, January 4, 1893 - October 21, 1896

**Lane, G.M., Boston, Massachusetts**
3 TLS, June 8 - 18, 1896

**Lane, Mills B., Savannah, Georgia**
TLS, April 16, 1897

**Lawton and Cunningham, Savannah, Georgia**
2 TLS, December 1, 1893, March 28, 1895

**Lee, M.B., Asheville, N.C.**
TLS, August 5, 1890

**Lee, R.M., Asheville, N.C.**
TLS, May 27, 1891

**L'Engle, C.S., Atlanta, Georgia**
6 TLS, November 10, 1894 - January 11, 1897

**Lilienthal, Howard, New York, N.Y.**
TLS, April 21, 1897

**Lowry, Robert J., Atlanta, Georgia**
TLS, November 6, 1896

**Lunt, Mary A., Nashua, N.H.**
2 ALS, August 26, September 12, 1878

**McFarland, Jno., Richmond, Virginia**
ALS, June 26, 1882
McMichael, Thomas J., Mermenton, Louisiana
TLS, June 11, 1895

McRae, James, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
TLS, September 25, 1896

McVeen, Howard S., New York, N.Y.
TLS, October 16, 1894

MacDonald, Gordon, Montgomery, Alabama
TL, April 26, 1897

MacKenzie, Rev. J.C., Lawrenceville, N.J.
2 TLS, September 14, 1888, May 3, 1889

MacLean, Malcolm, Savannah, Georgia
TLS, June 2, 1894

Macmanus, Tomas, Calle Nuevo, Mexico
TL, May 27, 1897

Magniac, Charles, London, England
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Manuel, A., St. Paul, Minnesota
3 ALS, June 4 - August 13, 1881

Martin, Thomas H., Atlanta, Georgia
2 TLS, October 17, 1894, June 15, 1896

Matheson & Co., London, England
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Meeker, George D., New York, N.Y.
TLS, December 1, 1893

Merriam, Charles, Boston, Massachusetts
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Miller, Frank H., Augusta, Georgia
31 TLS, July 14, 1892 - August 16, 1895

TL, May 8, 1896

TLS, January 14, 1897

Minis, A., Savannah, Georgia
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Moises T.S., Montgomery, Alabama
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Moore, T.H., Montgomery, Alabama
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Moorhees, T.S., Montgomery, Alabama
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Morley, Benjamen F., Chester, Pennsylvania
TLS, October 25, 1890

Morril, W.C.,
ALS, February 10, 1881

Morris, A.W., New York, N.Y.
2 TLS, May 6 and December 24, 1896

Morton, Gabriel, Mexico City, Mexico
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Munn & Co., New York, N.Y.
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5 TLS, March 24, 1896 - September 10, 1896

Noble, Stephen, Anniston, Alabama and Irontown, Alabama
5 TLS, April 15, 1889 - May 29, 1891

O'Brien, J.F.
3 TLS, August 27, 1888 - February 2, 1889

Ohl, Maud Andrews, Atlanta, Georgia
TLS, October 17, 1894

Oppenheimer, Henry, London, England
TLS, March 19, 1897

Orr, B.E., New York, N.Y.
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Palmer, S.S., New York, N.Y.
TLS, August 31, 1893
Patillo, W.P., Atlanta, Georgia
TLS, July 17, 1895

Patterson, W.H., Atlanta, Georgia
3 TLS, July 2 - 13, 1896

Payne, George A., New York, N.Y.
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Peabody, George Foster
TLS, October 7, 1889

Perry, W.S., Brooklyn, N.Y.
TLS, June 11, 1896

Phinizy, Leonard, Augusta, Georgia
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Pollitz, Carl, Frankfort, Germany
TLS, August 30, 1884

Porter, James Davis
TLS, March 10, 1884

Prevost, S.M., Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
TLS, September 25, 1896

Pritchard, R.L., Savannah, Georgia
5 TLS, May 6 - August 17, 1897

Pullman, George M., Chicago, Illinois
AL, January 1, 1894

Pyne, Percy R., New York, N.Y.
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Quinlan, W.J., New York, N.Y.
3 TLS, March 30, 1894 - May 2, 1895

Raeston, R.G., New York, N.Y.
AL, December 29, 1893

Randolph, Wilton, New York, N.Y.
TLS, December 14, 1891

Rankin, J.E., Asheville, N.C.
TL., August 13, 1897

Raoul, Gaston Cesar, (Son of William Green Raoul)
2 TLS, May 25 and August 12, 1897

Raoul, Gaston T. "Father"
2 ALS, January 10 and June 30, 1881

Raoul, Gaston Turner (brother of William Greene Raoul), Stephensville, Texas
3 letters, December 27, 1884 - August 17, 1896

Raoul, Louise, Amite City, Louisiana
12 TLS, June 11, 1895 - July 16, 1897

Raoul, (Gookin), "Ma", (second wife of Gaston Turner Raoul,)
2 ALS, January 9, 1882, July 9, 1886

Raoul, Robert Giffen, Amite, Louisiana
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Raoul, Thomas Wadley
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Raymond, J.H., Chicago, Illinois
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Redfern, G.H., London, England
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Reed, H.W., Brunswick Georgia
2 TLS, May 22 and June 22, 1896

Reese, Judge W.M., Washington, Georgia
2 TLS, July 9 and November 11, 1893

Richardson & Boynton Co., New York, N.Y.
3 TLS, October 17 - November 12, 1894

Roquemore, John D., Montgomery, Alabama
TLS, August 4, 1890

Rownd, W.B., Livingston, Louisiana
3 TLS, August 12 - September 14, 1896

Ryan, Charles I., Atlanta, Georgia
TLS, October 8, 1896

Schiff, Jacob Henry, New York, N.Y.
10 TLS, January 20, 1893 - January 17, 1894

**Schroder, Paul, Hoboken, N.J.**
TLS, April 18, 1889

**Scott, Thomas K., Augusta, Georgia**
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**Sherman & Co., Marshall, Min.**
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**Smith, Ambrose, New Orleans, Louisiana**
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**Smith, George C., Atlanta, Georgia**
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**Smith, M.H., Louisville, Kentucky**
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**Smith, Rosine Elizabeth (Raoul), New Orleans, Louisiana**
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**Solomons, M.J., Savannah, Georgia**
3 TLS, March 12 - July 9, 1889

**Southern Bell Telephone & Telegraph Co. Atlanta, Georgia**
TLS, July 22, 1895

**Spencer, W.B., New Orleans, Louisiana**
TLS, June 9, 1894

**Speyer & Co., New York, N.Y.**
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**Speyer, James, New York, N.Y.**
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**Stahlman, E.B., Atlanta, Georgia**
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Stanhope, Charles S., London, England and Mexico City, Mexico
5 TLS, September 7, 1889 - March 16, 1897

Stevens, W.M., Gordon, Georgia
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Talbott, Elisha H., Chicago, Illinois
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Taylor, Martha (Raoul), New Orleans, Louisiana
3 TLS, April 7, 1896 - January 14, 1897

Thacher, B.W., Mexico City, Mexico
TLS, April 8, 1893

Thomas, H.W., Atlanta, Georgia
TLS, August 16, 1895

Thomas, J.W., Nashville, Tenn.
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Thomas, L.P., Atlanta, Georgia
TLS, August 12, 1895

Thompson, J.A., Ponchitoulas, Louisiana
TLS, October 18, 1895

Thompson, John D., Savannah, Georgia
TLS, September 10, 1896

Thurber, W.E., Chicago, Illinois
TLS, September 11, 1896

Tilden, Anne F., Camden, Maine
2 TLS, June 27 and August 2, 1895

Tillman, Joseph, Quitman, Georgia
TLS, August 25, 1894

Tripp, C.M., Atlanta, Georgia
2 TLS, October 5, 1891

Turner, Oscar C., Atlanta, Georgia
TLS, October 17, 1894

Tyler, A.L., Anniston, A. Louisiana
TLS, July 19, 1889

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Velasco, Emilio, Mexico City, Mexico
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Wadley, Elizabeth C., Portsmouth, N.H.
21 TLS, June 15, 1892 - April 21, 1897

Wadley, George Dole
14 TLS, March 2, 1888 - May 25, 1897

Wadley, John E., Waycross, Georgia
TLS, August 10, 1895

Wadley, William O., Rogers, Georgia
4 TLS, January 30, 1882 - March 17, 1897

Wakeford, Edward, London, England
TLS, August 16, 1890

Walker, H.H., New York, N.Y.
TLS, July 7, 1892

Walker, John M., Macon, Georgia
4 TLS, September 4 - 15, 1896

Walsh, P., Augusta, Georgia
2 TLS, January 10 and May 6, 1884

TLS, September 25, 1896

Waterbury, John I., New York, N.Y.
TLS, June 6, 1896

Watson, C.T., Atlanta, Georgia
TLS, January 11, 1893

Watson, D.S., Asheville, N.C.
4 TLS, September 30, 1889 - October 28, 1891

Watson, George B., San Diego, Calif.
TLS, June 21, 1897

Weitzell, J.W., Atlanta, Georgia
TLS, August 27, 1896
Welsh, J.W., Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
ALS, November 28, 1879

White, James G., Waukegan, Illinois
2 TLS, November 4, 1892 and July 5, 1895

Whitesides, George B., Columbus, Georgia
ALS, June 21, 1882.

Whitney, George, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
ALS, February 7, 1882

Wilkins, Grant, Atlanta, Georgia
3 TLS, October 1, 1891 - April 9, 1892

Wilson, R.T., New York, N.Y.
22 TLS, August 28, 1893 - June 27, 1895

Woodward, F.L., & Co., Boston, Massachusetts
ALS, June 5, 1878

Yonge, George, New York, N.Y.
ALS, April 21, 1881

Yonge, Henry
2 TLS, March 8 and June 14, 1888