



THE JACOB RADER MARCUS CENTER OF THE
AMERICAN JEWISH ARCHIVES

**A Finding Aid to the
Edward Benjamin Morris Browne Collection**

Manuscript Collection No. 639



Collection Summary

Title	Edward Benjamin Morris Browne Collection, 1865-1935
Collection Number	MS-639
Repository	The Jacob Rader Marcus Center of the American Jewish Archives
Creator	Browne, Edward B. M.
Extent	0.83 linear feet (2 Hollinger boxes and 1 oversize folder)
Language of the Material	English, German, French, and Hebrew

Administrative Information

Biographical Sketch	<p>Edward Benjamin Morris Browne was born in Hungary in 1845 and received his early Hebrew and rabbinical training in Europe. He emigrated to the United States in the 1860s. He obtained a medical degree from the University of Cincinnati and taught at the Medical College of Evansville. He also held several rabbinical posts in the Midwest and South - Milwaukee, Evansville, Peoria, Montgomery (Ala.) and Atlanta. During this time, he was associated with Rabbi Isaac M. Wise until they had a disagreement and subsequent falling out in 1878.</p> <p>During the 1870's, Browne began to build a national reputation as an orator and lectured widely on Jewish topics, mainly to non-Jewish audiences. He began his involvement with Republican Party politics, both nationally and in New York, where he moved in the 1880s. In 1885, he was a pallbearer at the funeral of President Grant.</p> <p>In New York City, Browne was rabbi of Congregation Gates of Hope where in addition to his speaking engagements, he was also active in legal and civic work. Starting in the 1890's, Browne moved several times, living mainly in the Midwest and South. He served congregations in Toledo (Ohio), Chicago and Columbus (Ga.).</p> <p>In addition to his medical and rabbinical degrees, Browne also held a law degree from the University of Wisconsin. He became known as "Alphabet" Browne because of the preponderance of letters after his name. Browne led a controversial and visible public life and was involved in numerous activities including the unsuccessful attempt to establish a Jewish chaplaincy at the turn of the century. Browne died in 1929 in Columbus, Georgia.</p>
Scope and Content	Consists of correspondence, nearprint, legal records, and writings of E.B.M. Browne, rabbi, doctor, and lawyer, collected by his great-granddaughter. The collection contains materials pertaining to Browne's efforts to establish a Jewish chaplaincy, his rabbinic, legal, and oratorical activities, and his interactions with political figures of his day. Also contains material related to his wife Sophie's activities in various organizations.
Arrangement	The collection is arranged into six (6) series: A. Correspondence; B. Legal; C. Nearprint; D. Writings; E. Miscellaneous; F. Oversize Materials.
Terms of Access	The collection is open for use; no restrictions apply.
Preferred Citation	Footnotes and bibliographic references should refer to the Edward Benjamin Morris Browne Collection and the American Jewish Archives. A suggestion for at least the first citation is as follows: [Description], [Date], Box #, Folder #. MS-639. Edward Benjamin Morris Browne Collection. American Jewish Archives, Cincinnati, Ohio.
Provenance	Received from Janice R. Blumberg, Washington, D.C., 1976, 1978, and 1999.
Processing Information	Processed by Dorothy Smith, December 1999.

Index Terms

Subjects	Jews -- Georgia / Jews -- Politics and government / Rabbis
Personal Names	Browne, Edward B. M. / Browne, Sophia / Grant, Ulysses S. (Ulysses Simpson), 1822-1885 / Herzl, Theodor, 1860-1904 / Roosevelt, Theodore, 1858-1919 / Wise, Isaac Mayer, 1819-1900
Corporate Names	Congregation Gates of Hope (New York, N.Y.) / National Council of Jewish Women

Series A. Correspondence, 1867-1929

Extent 0.1 linear feet (0.25 Hollinger box)

Scope and Content Note The correspondence covers a wide range of topics including political and legal affairs, rabbinical activities, speaking engagements, travels, and family matters. Browne corresponded with a number of prominent public figures of his day including Theodore Roosevelt, Benjamin Harrison, Isaac M. Wise, Theodor Herzl, John Sherman, Louis Marshall, and Jacob Schiff.

Arrangement Arranged alphabetically.

Box and Folder Listing

Box 1. Folder 1. Correspondence, 1867-1899

Box 1. Folder 2. Correspondence, 1896-1927

Box 1. Folder 3. Correspondence, 1900-1909

Box 1. Folder 4. Correspondence, 1910-1929

Box 1. Folder 5. Correspondence, undated

Box 1. Folder 6. Herzl, Theodor, 1897

Series B. Legal, 1865-1935

Extent 0.2 linear feet (0.5 Hollinger box)

Scope and Content Note Consists primarily of court records and depositions from civil actions that involved Browne. There are lengthy and detailed depositions from Browne and other witnesses connected to his slander suit against a New Orleans newspaper (Browne vs. Sue Burke, et al.) in the early 1880s, a deposition from Browne connected to his work with the Louis Berkowitz case in 1919, and court records from the Browne vs. Forward Association civil suit in 1917. Also included in this series are Browne's application for the New York Bar, deeds, and a marriage certificate.

Arrangement Arranged in original order.

Box and Folder Listing

Box 1. Folder 7. Marriage certificate of Herman Strasoburger and Fanny Lape, 1865

Box 1. Folder 8. Browne vs. Isaac M. Wise, 1883

Box 1. Folder 9. Browne vs. George Jones, 1882-1883

Box 1. Folder 10. Deeds, 1903

Box 1. Folder 11. Certificate of admission to the Illinois Bar and application for admission to the New York Bar, 1910, 1913

Box 1. Folder 12. Browne vs. Burke, 1884

Box 1. Folder 13. Browne vs. Burke depositions and exhibits, 1880-1883

Box 1. Folder 14. Browne vs. Forward Association, 1917

Box 1. Folder 15. Browne's Louis Berkowitz deposition, 1919

Box 1. Folder 16. Miscellaneous, 1889-1935

Series C. Nearprint, 1869-1929

Extent 0.2 linear feet (0.5 Hollinger box)

Scope and Content Note Contains newspaper clippings about Browne, copies of the Congressional Record when Brown offered the opening prayer in the House (1917) and the Senate (1918), miscellaneous pamphlets, and page proofs of an article, "Jews of the South" which describes Browne's work with the Reich murder case. Also in this series are pages from a book by and about Browne with his handwritten notations and comments in the margin. There is a table of contents, but the title and portions of the book are missing. The publication describes some of Browne's legal and rabbinic activities.

Arrangement Arranged in original order.

Box and Folder Listing

Box 1. Folder 17. Portion of book regarding Browne's activities, Adolph Reich case, etc., circa 1888

Box 1. Folder 18. Proofs of article regarding Jews of the South, undated

Box 1. Folder 19. The Immigrants National Encyclopedia of Biography, 1907

Box 2. Folder 1. "The Talmud" and "The Crucifixion and the Jews", 1869, 1877, 1904

Box 2. Folder 2. Congressional Record, 1917, 1918

Box 2. Folder 3. Newspaper clippings, 1881-1929

Box 2. Folder 4. Newspaper clippings, undated

Box 2. Folder 5. Handbills, announcements, and programs, 1871-1896

Series D. Writings, 1868-1869

Extent 0.2 linear feet (0.5 Hollinger box)

Scope and Content Note Contains poetry by Browne.

Arrangement Arranged in alphabetical order.

Box and Folder Listing

Box 2. Folder 6. "Hymn of Praise", undated

Box 2. Folder 7. Floral House Weeds: A Collection of Poems, Volume I. pp. 1-120, 1868-1869

Box 2. Folder 8. Floral House Weeds: A Collection of Poems, Volume I. pp. 121-278, 1868-1869

Series E. Miscellaneous, 1872-1923

Extent 0.1 linear feet (0.25 Hollinger box)

Scope and Content Note Consists of handwritten notes, information and clippings pertaining to Browne's service as a pallbearer at President Grant's funeral, a catalog from the Evansville College of Medicine where Brown was on the faculty, and a commendation to Browne from his congregation, Gates of Hope, in New York City. Also includes the papers of his wife, Sophia.

Arrangement Arranged in original order.

Box and Folder Listing

Box 2. Folder 9. Notes, undated

Box 2. Folder 10. Ulysses S. Grant monument, 1919-1922

Box 2. Folder 11. Congregation Gates of Hope (New York, N.Y.) commendation, 1885

Box 2. Folder 12. Catalog of the Medical College of Evansville, 1872-1873

Box 2. Folder 13. Miscellaneous calling cards, receipts, etc., undated

Box 2. Folder 14. Theodore Roosevelt photograph [signed], 1904 October 25

Box 2. Folder 15. E.B.M and Sophia Browne Postcards. [Includes correspondence], 1897-1903

Box 2. Folder 16. Sophia Browne papers, 1891-1923, undated

Series F. Oversize Materials, 1869-1886

Extent .03 linear feet (1 oversize folder)

Scope and Content Note The series is a collection of oversize materials consisting of Browne's medical diploma as well as resolutions of commendation from Congregation Gates of Hope and the Medical College of Evansville. There is also a copy of the publication, *The Silesia Excursion Echo*, detailing a trip abroad by Browne in 1880.

Box and Folder Listing

Box FF. Folder C4/D8. Oversize certificates and sketches, 1869-1902