



THE JAMES M. COMLY PAPERS

An Inventory to the Microfilm Edition

Andrea D. Lentz

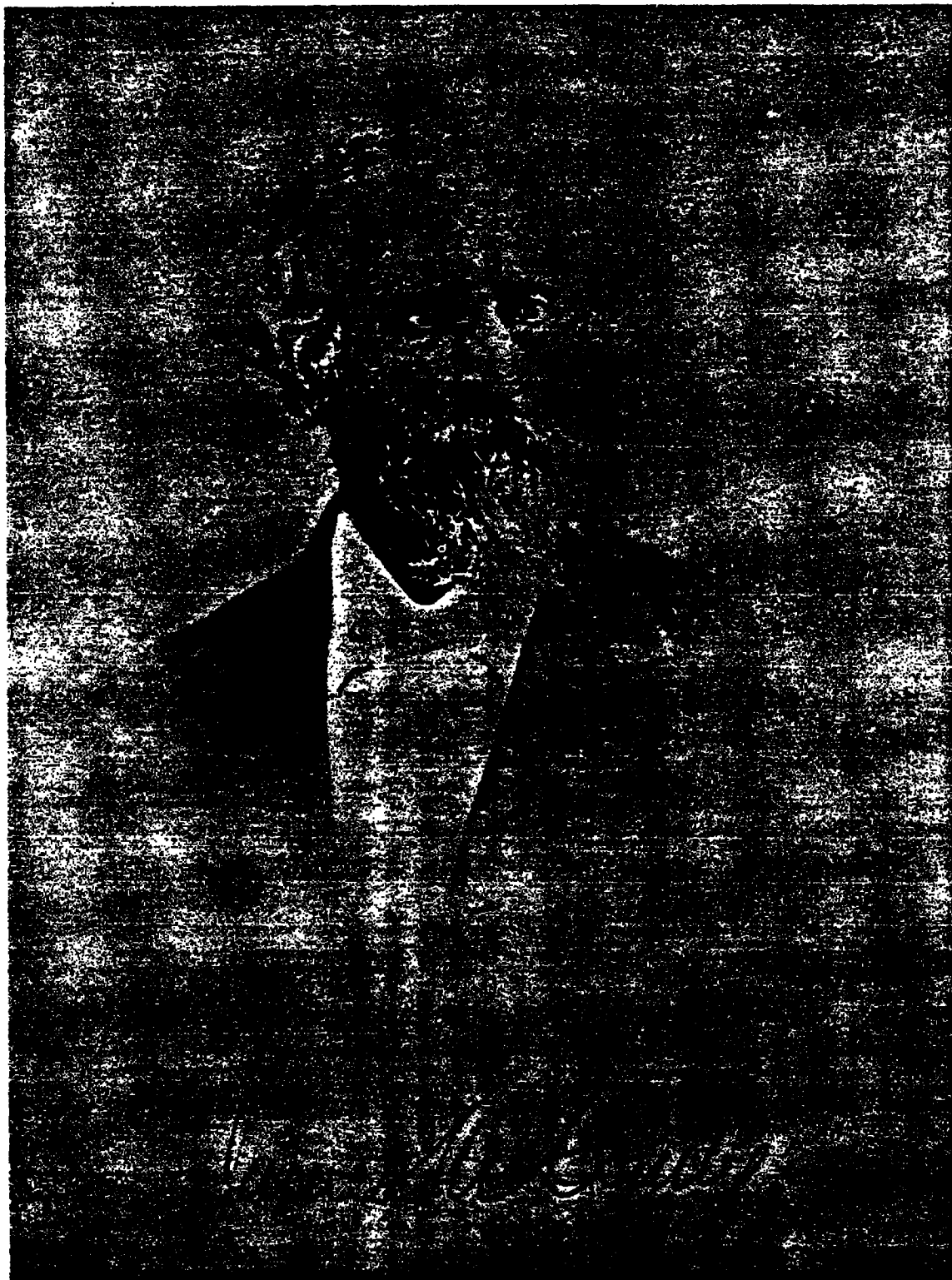
OHIO HISTORICAL SOCIETY

THE JAMES M. COMLY COLLECTION

An Inventory to the Microfilm Edition

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**Archives-Library
Ohio Historical Society
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Note to Researchers

Provenance: The James M. Comly papers were donated to The Ohio Historical Society in 1929 by Mrs. Smith M. Comly of Columbus, Ohio, daughter-in-law of General James M. Comly.

The Comly papers were preliminarily processed in 1939 under the auspices of the W. P. A., and completed in 1969 by Andrea Lentz and Gary Feess of the archives-library staff.

Access: The collection is open to all researchers. Both the original manuscript collection and the microfilm edition are available for use in the reading room of The Ohio Historical Society. A researcher may secure microfilm on interlibrary loan from an institution that has purchased a copy of the microfilm edition, or directly from The Ohio Historical Society. The microfilm edition may be purchased from the Society.

Citation: Footnotes and bibliographical references should refer to the original collection at The Ohio Historical Society and to the researcher's use of the microfilm edition. A suggested form for at least the first citation is:

Murat Halstead to James M. Comly, August 2, 1867,
James M. Comly Papers, Ohio Historical Society
(microfilm edition, roll 1, frames 579-581).

Property and Literary Rights: Property rights to the James M. Comly papers reside with The Ohio Historical Society, which exercises responsibility for the physical custody of both the original collection and the master negative of the microfilm edition. Under no circumstances may a researcher make another photoduplication from a microfilm copy. Literary rights to these papers have not been assigned to The Ohio Historical Society or dedicated to the public. Therefore, consideration of the requirements of literary rights is the responsibility of the author and his publisher.

Statistics:

Comly Papers (Manuscripts Collection #130)

Number of containers - 8 document boxes
Number of linear feet - 2
Approximate number of items - 1,500

Microfilm Edition (Manuscripts Microfilm #27)

Number of rolls - 3

Number of exposures - 3,578

Average number of exposures per roll - 1,193

Location of Related Materials: While many other repositories hold small amounts of James M. Comly material, the most significant groups of letters written by Comly are located at the Rutherford B. Hayes Library in Fremont, Ohio, and at the Library of Congress. The Hayes Library holds 150 letters in its Rutherford B. Hayes papers. The Library of Congress holds approximately 30 letters in its James A. Garfield collection; approximately 20 letters in its John Sherman collection; 230 Comly letters in Volumes 17-20 of Unpublished State and Federal Documents, Dispatches; and a type-written statement of facts relating to Hawaiian politics during King Kalakaua's reign, 1874-1887, written by W. D. Alexander. The National Archives holds a series of miscellaneous letters received by the Hawaiian legation, which includes all letters except official documents. The Ohio Historical Society holds three document boxes of photographs taken and collected during Comly's stay in Hawaii, dealing primarily with scenery and local customs.

Order Information: This inventory is Volume 6 in a series begun in 1970, the archives-library inventory series. The aim of this set of paperback volumes is to provide finding aids to many of the Ohio Historical Society's major collections of manuscripts, institutional records, state archives, local government records, and audiovisual materials.

Current price and order information for the inventory and the microfilm edition may be obtained from the Order Department, Ohio Historical Society, Columbus, Ohio 43211.

Acknowledgements: Several Ohio Historical Society staff members played key roles in preparing the materials for printing and microfilming: Robert Jones supervised the microfilming of the collection; Bruce Baby designed and illustrated the cover; Jolene Huddle typed the camera ready copy; David Larson edited the inventory draft into final form; and Ann Myers supervised production of the inventory.

Andrea D. Lentz
Head, Information Systems
Ohio Historical Society
Columbus, Ohio

Biographical Sketch

James Monroe Stuart Comly (1832-1887) was the son of Bezaleel and Margaret Stuart Comly of Perry County, Ohio. James' grandfather moved to Ohio in 1804 and in 1817 laid out the town of New Lexington. When James was ten he left the family home and set out for Columbus, obtaining a job at the Cross and Journal, the city's Whig newspaper. (It later became the Ohio State Journal, the central organ of the Ohio Republican party.) Here, Comly met William Dean Howells and the Piatt brothers, John and Donn. All three remained his good friends.

While at the paper, Comly attended high school and night school. He later studied law under Ohio's Attorney General, Christopher Wolcott, and was admitted to the bar in 1859. After practicing law for two years, he joined the Union Army in 1861.

Comly, who was associated with the 23rd Regiment, Ohio Volunteer Infantry, for most of the war, served with Rutherford B. Hayes, Stanley Matthews, and W. S. Rosecrans. He commanded his regiment at the battles of South Mountain and Antietam, and in 1865 was breveted brigadier general.

After the war Comly returned to Columbus. He had married the former Elizabeth Marian Smith in 1863. Her father, Dr. Samuel S. Smith of Columbus, was Ohio's Surgeon-General during the war. He, Comly, and R. W. Robey formed a partnership and, with Comly as senior editor, bought the Ohio State Journal from W. T. Coggeshall. Their first edition was published on November 9, 1865.

Although the paper had a degree of prestige as the central organ of the Republican party, it was not economically profitable. In 1870, therefore, Comly secured the Columbus postmaster's appointment from President Grant. The post, a political plum, entailed very little work, and the additional salary enabled him to continue publishing the Journal.

In 1872 A. W. Francisco joined the partnership, and under his financial guidance the paper began making money. With increased resources, it gained an even more prominent position in Ohio journalism. Although Comly maintained a creditable independence from the "party line" in his editorials, the Journal was the most influential Republican paper in the state. This was evidenced when it became the official mouthpiece of Rutherford B. Hayes, Comly's close friend, in the campaign of 1876.

In 1877 Hayes appointed Comly Minister-Resident to the Hawaiian Islands. Only the editor's ill health made the post desirable, and he never ceased to hope that he could return to Ohio. His training as an editor had not prepared him for

a diplomatic position, but Comly earned the respect of both the Hawaiians and the State Department during his five-year stay. In 1882 the post was given to a man of President Arthur's choosing and Comly, despite his health, returned to Ohio.

He and Francisco had sold the Journal in 1881, but neither wanted to give up the newspaper business. They bought the Toledo Commercial-Telegram in 1883. Under Comly's editorship the paper became a success, but Comly never regained the political influence he had built up with the Ohio State Journal.

His health declined rapidly once back in Ohio, and he died in 1887. He was survived by his wife and three children, Guy, Susan, and Smith.

SOURCES

Kleinpell, Eugene. James M. Comly, Journalist-Politician. Ph.D. dissertation, Ohio State University (Columbus, 1936).

In Memory of James M. Comly. (A memorial tribute, probably published in 1887. Detailed biographical notes on Comly's Civil War career, but scanty on almost every other phase of his activities.)

Scope and Content

The James M. Comly papers, 1856-1926, numbering approximately 1,500 items, include not only correspondence and letterbooks but diaries, journals, scrapbooks, and newspaper clippings. The bulk of this material relates to the career of General James Monroe Stuart Comly (1832-1887) and concerns military, journalistic, political, and diplomatic affairs in Ohio, Hawaii, and Washington, D. C. A substantial amount of material pertaining to the Comly family and a subsidiary group of papers of his son, Guy Stuart Comly, are also included.

The collection, though arranged chronologically, is best described in a topical fashion because of the parallel interests which Comly held for many years.

The military material, which concerns the Civil War and postwar veterans organizations, relates primarily to the 23rd Regiment, Ohio Volunteer Infantry. It includes six diaries, 1860-1861, a headquarters letterbook, miscellaneous correspondence, and a record of the 23rd O. V. I., 1861-1865, taken from official correspondence and the diaries of Comly and Rutherford B. Hayes. This material gives good in-depth description of the activities and battles in which Comly's regiment was engaged and contains much of interest to even the casual student of the Civil War.

Newspaper and political correspondence dominates the collection from 1866 to 1877 and again from 1882 to Comly's death in 1887. There is material relating solely to the operation of the Ohio State Journal in Columbus and the Toledo Commercial-Telegram, but the most numerous and informative letters are those which deal directly or indirectly with political affairs. Comly's political contacts ranged from Rutherford B. Hayes, James A. Garfield, and Ulysses S. Grant to Jacob D. Cox, William Dennison, and Samuel Shellabarger. As with the letters of his newspaper rival, Murat Halstead, the Hayes and Shellabarger correspondence is particularly informative. There is also a wealth of material dealing with the campaign of 1876 and the subsequent election.

Comly's correspondence from mid-1877 to 1882, which is devoted primarily to Hawaiian affairs, gives a remarkably clear view of the political and social situation there. His letterbook is especially significant since it contains the only continuous group of outgoing Comly letters in the entire collection. It is unfortunate that Comly did not begin to record his correspondence in this manner until 1878, for his extant letters are descriptive, detailed, and entertaining.

The personal correspondence in the collection is notable primarily for the group of William Dean Howells letters; as a whole, it illustrates the breadth of Comly's acquaintance with Ohio personalities but gives little insight into their activities.

The rest of the collection contains family correspondence and an assortment of clippings covering Comly's career and family deaths; two scrapbooks of clippings collected by Comly relating to political and journalistic events in Ohio and the nation; and a scrapbook, clippings, and drafts of articles and editorials which make up the Guy Stuart Comly papers.

The Comly collection is one of the most frequently consulted nineteenth century manuscript collections in The Ohio Historical Society. The most comprehensive study of the collection was made by Eugene Kleinpell, who used it as a major source for his Ph.D. dissertation, "James M. Comly, Journalist-Politician" (Ohio State University, 1936). Although his work covers Comly's entire life, it concentrates on the 1865-1887 years and only touches upon his military career and his family life. A definitive biography of James M. Comly has yet to be written.

There is no in-depth study of Comly's Hawaiian ministry. While Kleinpell covered this period, his main concern was with its effects upon Comly's role in newspapers and politics at home. Comly's five years in Honolulu should offer interesting possibilities to students of both Hawaiian history and United States foreign relations. The Moreno affair, for instance, is sufficiently unique to warrant scholarly attention.

The collection is notable for its insights into prominent personalities and the backstage activities which helped shape state and national affairs during the last half of the nineteenth century. The material is a fascinating combination of facts and opinions which gives a surprisingly complete picture of the activities and concerns of Comly and his associates. This collection has been and should continue to be a very valuable primary source for researchers in many areas of nineteenth century scholarship.

Roll Notes

ROLL 1 Series 1: Civil War Material, 1861-1865

The Civil War materials in the Comly papers include six diaries and notebooks (five by Comly and one by Will Clegg, a member of Comly's regiment), 1862-1864; a headquarters letterbook, 1862-1863, containing directives to and from the Twenty-third Regiment of the Ohio Volunteer Infantry; a typed record of the 23rd O. V. I. in two parts, 1861-1865 and 1864, taken from official correspondence and excerpts from the diaries of Comly and Rutherford B. Hayes; and miscellaneous items including articles, maps, a copy of the Grand Army Journal (April 30, 1870) containing an account of General Hunter's Virginia campaign of 1864, and the muster roll of "M. C. Silley's Company of Ohio Volunteers," June 20, 1861. Comly enlisted with this company and was elected its second lieutenant. (Box 1)

Series 2: James M. Comly Material, 1856-1874

This series segment contains correspondence covering Comly's military, political, and journalistic careers, as well as personal and family letters. The material tracing his rise to prominence in journalism and his growing influence in the Ohio Republican Party is especially interesting. (Box 2)

ROLL 2 Series 2 (Continued): James M. Comly Material, 1875-1887 [1888-1906]

The series continues on Roll 2 with more correspondence dealing with Comly's journalistic and political activities, his diplomatic career, and his personal and family life. The abundant correspondence for 1876 and 1877 primarily concerns the nomination and election of Rutherford B. Hayes. A letterbook, 1878-1881, kept during Comly's Hawaiian ministry contains the only extensive set of copies of outgoing correspondence in the collection. (Boxes 2-4)

ROLL 3

Series 2 (Continued): James M. Comly Material, 1879 and Assorted Dates

An 1879 journal kept during his Hawaiian ministry contains more outgoing copies of Comly's correspondence and assorted notations of activities. Two Comly scrapbooks, one dealing almost exclusively with political affairs; a group of miscellaneous papers from the 1876 Republican nominating convention, including ballots; loose clippings dealing primarily with Hawaii; and a selection of Comly's articles and editorials complete Series 2 of the collection. (Boxes 4-6)

Series 3: Comly Family Material, 1862-1914

The correspondence of Mrs. Comly, 1874-1887; correspondence and clippings about Comly, 1887-1914; and assorted family papers, 1862-1899, have been filmed from this series. Miscellaneous family items, primarily calling cards and invitations, have not been filmed. (Box 7)

Series 4: Guy Stuart Comly Material

This series contains articles and editorials written by Guy Comly, a group of handwritten manuscripts, selected clippings, a scrapbook, and a series of letters, 1923-1926, discussing James M. Comly and William Dean Howells. (Box 8)

Selected Correspondents Index

Two considerations determined the inclusion of authors and recipients in this list: the number of letters written and/or received, and the quality of the contents. As a result, only those who wrote and/or received three or more letters, and those who wrote and/or received letters of exceptional interest were included in this compilation. The date of the correspondence and box and roll locations are listed. Item numbers and folder identifications, however, have not been designated.

ARTHUR, E. C. to Comly (4 letters): 1886, Oct. 7; Nov. 12; Dec. 3; 1887, Mar. 29 (B4/R2).

BALDWIN, CHARLES F. to Comly (1 letter): 1886, Nov. 8 (B4/R2)
Comly to Baldwin (3 letters): 1878, Nov. 25; 1880, Jan. 19; Mar. 15 (B4/R2).

BEAKE, JAMES S. to Comly (7 letters): 1876, Aug. 29, 31; Sept. 6, 24, 29; 1877, June 16, 30 (B3/R2).

BICKHAM, W. D. to Comly (1 letter): 1875, Apr. 15 (B2/R2).
Comly to Bickham (3 letters): 1878, Nov. 23; 1879, June 9; Dec. 22 (B4/R2).

BLAINE, JAMES G. to Comly (3 letters): 1873, Mar. 11 (B2/R1); 1884, Nov. 2; N.D. (B4/R2).

BROWNE, A. G., JR., to Comly (5 letters): 1876, June 28; July 13 [2]; Nov. 2; 1877, Feb. 24 (B3/R2).

BUSBY, W. H. to Comly (3 letters): 1873, June 6 (B2/R1); 1876, Aug. 26, 28 (B3/R2).
Comly to Busbey (1 letter): 1880, Jan. 19 (B4/R2).

BUSH, JOHN E. - Comly to Bush (5 letters): 1880, Sept. 13 [5] (B4/R2).

CANBY, J. to Comly (1 letter): 1862, Feb. 13 (B2/R1).

CHAPMAN, O. B. to Comly (3 letters): 1872, May 15 (B2/R1); 1876, July 28; Aug. 14 (B3/R2).

CHITTENDEN, STERNE to Comly (3 letters): 1876, June 16, 21; July 13 (B3/R2).

COX, JACOB D. to Comly (6 letters): 1869, Feb. 6; Nov. 11; 1873, Jan. 8; Feb. 4 (B2/R1); 1875, Mar. 23 (B2/R2); 1876, Mar. 12 (B3/R2).
Cox to Dr. S. M. Smith (1 letter): 1863, May 4 (B2/R1).

COX, SAMUEL S. to Comly (2 letters): 1872, Dec. 14 (B2/R1); 1876, Feb. 28 (B3/R2).

DALZELL, J. M. to Comly (1 letter): _____, Dec. 22 (B4/R2).
Comly to Dalzell (2 letters): 1880, Feb. 16; Apr. 12 (B3/R2).

DAMON, REV. S. C. to Comly (1 letter): 1877, Nov. 2 (B3/R2).
Comly to Damon (2 letters): 1878, Nov. 19; 1879, Nov. 19 (B4/R2).

DENNISON, WILLIAM to Comly (10 letters): 1876, Jan. 30, 31; Sept. 27; Dec. 18; 1877, Jan. 4, 5, 11, 26; Mar. 1 (B3/R2); N.D. (B4/R2).

DESHLER, W. G. - Comly to Deshler (8 letters): 1878, Nov. 25; 1879, Nov. 24; 1880, Jan. 19; Feb. 16; Apr. 10; June 8; Oct. 25; Dec. 20 (B4/R2).

EVARTS, WILLIAM M. to Comly (3 letters): 1879, May 2; 1880, Jan. 13, Feb. 4 (B3/R2).
Comly to Evarts (9 letters): 1879, Mar. 17 [2]; Apr. 12, 14 [2]; June 9; Dec. 22; 1880, Jan. 19; May 10 (B4/R2).

FOLLETT, ORAN to Comly (5 letters): 1865, Nov. 15; 1866, Nov. 4; 1867, Apr. 13; 1869, July 8 [2] (B2/R1).

FONG, CHUN SHU to Comly (2 letters): 1880, July 30; 1881, July 22 (B3/R2).
Comly to Fong (1 letter): 1879, Oct. 27 (B4/R2).

FRANCISCO, A. W. to Comly (3 letters): 1881, May 26; July 18; 1882, May 29 (B3/R2).
Comly to Francisco (23 letters): 1878, Sept. 30; Nov. 25; Dec. 24; 1879, Jan. 21; Feb. 17; Mar. 18; Apr. 14; May 12; June 9 [2]; Nov. 24; Dec. 22; 1880, Jan. 19; Feb. 20; Mar. 15, 27 [to Apr. 10]; Apr. 13; June 8; Sept. 27; Oct. 25 [2]; Nov. 22; Dec. 20 (B4/R2).
W. H. Smith to Francisco (1 letter): 1877, Mar. 14 (B3/R2).

FRELINGHUYSEN, FREDERICK T. to Comly (3 letters): 1882, May 11; June 2, 14 (B3/R2).

GARFIELD, JAMES A. to Comly (19 letters): 1865, Nov. 18; Dec. 12; 1866, Feb. 14, 21; 1871, Feb. 10, 24; Dec. 4, 12; 1872, Jan. 25; Dec. 5; 1873, May 21; 1874, Feb. 7 (B2/R1); 1875, Aug. 2 (B2/R2); 1877, Feb. 23; 1878, Dec. 14; 1880, Apr. 2; May 3; July 20; 1881, Jan. 7 (B3/R2).
Comly to Garfield (4 letters): 1878, Nov. 25; 1880, Mar. 15; Apr. 12; July 5 (B4/R2).

GIBSON, W. M. to Comly (3 letters): 1882, June 17; Aug. 17, 26 (B3/R2).

GILMER, G. K. to Comly (2 letters): 1877, Feb. 20; Apr. 29 (B3/R2).

Gilmer to Mrs. J. M. Comly (1 letter): 1877, Mar. 1 (B3/R2).

GRANT, ULYSSES S. - Comly to Grant (4 letters): 1878, Dec. 24; 1879, Sept. 24; 1880, Apr. 12; Dec. 20 (B4/R2).

GREEN, W. L. - Comly to Green (11 letters): 1880, Sept. 23 [3], 30 [2]; Nov. 4, 30; 1881, Jan. 3; June 30; July 3; Sept. 24 (B4/R2).

HALSTEAD, MURAT to Comly (19 letters): 1867, Aug. 2; 1872, Apr. 12; May 11; 1873, May 18; Dec. 13; 1874, Feb. 5; Apr. 9 [2] (B2/R1); 1875, Feb. 14; Dec. 21 (B2/R2); 1876, June 19; Sept. 15, 18; Dec. 1, 25; 1877, Mar. 9; 1879, July 30 (B3/R2); N.D. (B4/R2).

HAMILTON, C. S. to Comly (1 letter): 1867, May __ (B2/R1).

HARPER, L. to Comly (2 letters): 1878, May 14; 1880, Sept. 4 (B3/R2).

Comly to Harper (1 letter): 1880, Aug. 9 (B4/R2).

HASTINGS, FRANK P. to Comly (1 letter): 1881, Oct. 14 (B3/R2)

Comly to Hastings (9 letters): 1879, Feb. 10; Apr. 26; May 28; 1880, June 30; Aug. 9; Sept. 13, 23; Oct. 1; 1881, July 4 (B4/R2).

HAYES, RUTHERFORD B. to Comly (25 letters): 1865, Dec. 1; 1867, May 23; June 9; 1868, Mar. 3; 1873, Mar. 22 (B2/R1); 1875, Apr. 10, 14 (B2/R2); 1877, Mar. 7; Apr. 2; May 8; 1878, Oct. 27; 1879, Jan. 18; July 29; Aug. 14, 25; 1881, ---; Feb. 24; 1882, Nov. 15; 1883; Dec. 28 (B3/R2); 1885, July 28; 1886, Apr. 2 [8]; N.D. (B4/R2).

Hayes to Mrs. J. M. Comly (2 letters): 1887, Aug. 22; 1888, Aug. 21 (B7/R3).

Comly to Hayes (7 letters): 1878, Dec. 23, 24; 1879, Oct. 27; Dec. 22; 1880, Jan. 19; Mar. 15, Nov. 22 (B4/R2).

HAYES, WEBB C. to Comly (1 letter): 1884, Mar. 25 (B4/R2).

Comly to Hayes (2 letters): 1880, Mar. 15; Apr. 12 (B4/R2).

HENRY, E. E. to Comly (2 letters): 1885, Feb. 2, 23 (B4/R2).

HOPLEY, JOHN to Comly (4 letters): 1871, Jan. 4; 1873, Nov. 3 (B2/R1); 1882, Nov. 20; 1883, May 8 (B3/R2).

HOWELLS, MILDRED to Smith M. Comly (5 letters): 1923, Oct. 9, 19, 20; 1924, May 27; 1925, Apr. 18 (B8/R3).

HOWELLS, WILLIAM DEAN to Comly (31 letters): 1866, July 8; Nov. 19; Dec. 23; 1867, Apr. 13; 1868, Apr. 26; June 27; July 7; Aug. 9; Oct. 20; 1869, Aug. 5, 14; Sept. 5; Dec. 13; 1870, Feb. 20; Dec. 31; 1871, Mar. 31; Oct. 22; 1873, July 20; Sept. 28; Oct. 8; Dec. 12; 1874, Jan. 9; Feb. 7;

HOWELLS, WILLIAM DEAN to Comly (Continued): Mar. 12, 21; Dec. 5 (B2/R1);
1875, Mar. 20 (B2/R2); 1876, July 28; 1881, May 16, 27; 1882,
June 16 (B3/R2).

HUNTER, MAJ. GEN. O. to Abraham Lincoln (1 letter): 1864, July 17 (B2/R1).
Hunter to Harrison G. Otis (1 letter): 1865, Oct. 7 (B2/R1).

JONES, GEN. T. C. to Comly (2 letters): 1872, Feb. 17; Apr. 16 (B2/R1).
Comly to Jones (1 letter): 1879, Feb. 17 (B4/R2).

KALAKAUA (KING OF HAWAII) to Comly (3 letters): 1880, Aug. 17 (B3/R2);
N.D. [2] (B4/R2).
Kalakaua to Mrs. J. M. Comly (1 letter): 1882, Aug. 11 (B7/R3).

KAPENA, JOHN M. to Comly (1 letter): 1878, Sept. 24 (B3/R2).
Comly to Kapena (38 letters): 1878, Dec. 26; 1879, Jan. 8 [2], 11, 18;
Feb. 10, 18 [2]; Mar. 15 [2], 31; Apr. 15; May 2, 15, 31; July 7; Oct. 16
[2], 20; Nov. 11, 14, 26; Dec. 2, 12, 16, 30; 1880, Feb. 4, 16 [2]; Mar. 8,
23; July 17 [3]; Aug. 9 [3], 13 (B4/R2).

KIEFER, J. W. to Comly (4 letters): 1878, May 5; Dec. 12 (B3/R2); 1886, Oct. 2,
29 (B4/R2).
Comly to Kiefer (1 letter): 1878, Nov. 25 (B4/R2).

KINNEY, COATES to Comly (4 letters): 1867, Sept. 23, 26; 1868, July 14; 1871,
May 14 (B2/R1).

KNAPP, W. A. to Comly (5 letters): 1876, Oct. 23; Dec. 14; 1877, Jan. 19; Feb. 14;
Mar. 12 (B3/R2).

LEE, A. E. - Comly to Lee (2 letters): 1879, June 9; 1880, Apr. 12 (B4/R2).

LINCOLN, ABRAHAM - O. Hunter to Lincoln (1 letter): 1864, July 17 (B2/R1).

LOGAN, J. A. to Comly (3 letters): 1876, Nov. 15 (B3/R2); 188-, Mar. 15; N.D.
(B4/R2).

McALUR, H. M. to Dr. S. M. Smith (1 letter): 1863, Aug. 10 (B2/R1).
A. G. Curtin to McAlur (1 letter): 1863, Aug. 10 (B2/R1).

McGREW, J. M. to Comly (3 letters): 1876, July 3; 1877, Feb. 19; Mar. 8 (B3/R2).

MATTOX, A. H. to Comly (4 letters): 1884, Feb. 18 [2]; May 30; 1886, Aug. 2
(B4/R2).

MAXWELL, S. D. to Comly (2 letters): 1881, Apr. 19; July 21 (B3/R2).
Comly to Maxwell (2 letters): 1879, June 9; 1881, July 4 (B4/R2).

MEDILL, J. to Comly (3 letters): 1867, Aug. 29; 1869, Sept. 3; 1873, May 31 (B2/R1).

MITCHELL, J. G. to Smith M. Comly (2 letters): 1923, Sept. 15, 20 (B8/R3).
Smith M. Comly to Mitchell (1 letter): 1923, Sept. 18 (B8/R3).

MORTON, H. C. - Comly to Morton (3 letters): 1878, Dec. 24; 1879, Apr. 14; 1880, Apr. 12 (B4/R2).

MORTON, J. M. to Comly (4 letters): 1871, Aug. 16 (B2/R1); 1881, Feb. 14; June 4 (B3/R2); 1884, Mar. 11 (B4/R2).

NEIL, H. M. to Comly (3 letters): 1882, Apr. 23, 28 (B3/R2); 1884, Sept. 14 (B4/R2).

NETTLETON, A. B. to Comly (4 letters): 1866, June 28; 1868, June 10; 1869, Feb. 22; 1870, Jan. 27 (B2/R1).

NICHOLS, CLIFTON to Comly (3 letters): 1868, July 9; 1870, Jan. 25; Apr. 1 (B2/R1).

OTIS, HARRISON G. to Comly (6 letters): 1873, May 17, 26 (B2/R1); 1876, Sept. 10; 1877, Feb. 2; 1879, June 4 (B3/R2); _____, Mar. 25 (B4/R2).
O. Hunter to Otis (1 letter): 1865, Oct. 7 (B2/R1).

PARSONS, R. C. to Comly (5 letters): 1869, Jan. 25; 1872, Apr. 12; May 14 (B2/R1); [1875], ---- (B2/R2); 1884, Mar. 22 (B4/R2).
Parsons to John Sherman (1 letter): 1869, Jan. 23 (B2/R1).

PIATT, DONN to Comly (9 letters): 1866, July 1; 1867, Sept. 16; 1868, Apr. 22; Aug. 21; Dec. 25; 1869, May 19; 1872, Feb. 5 (B2/R1); 1876, Sept. 21 (B3/R2); _____, June 16 (B4/R2).
Cesare C. Moreno to Piatt (1 letter): 1885, July 2 (B4/R2).

PIATT, JOHN J. to Comly (5 letters): 1869, Aug. 7; 1872, Jan. 8 (B2/R1); 1877, Jan. 24; Feb. 8; Apr. 23 (B3/R2).

PORTER, A. G. - Comly to Porter (4 letters): 1879, Apr. 14; May 19; Oct. 27; 1880, Mar. 15 (B4/R2).

RATARD, J. L. to Comly (2 letters): 1880, July 7 (B3/R2); N.D. (B4/R2).
Comly to Ratard (2 letters): 1880, July 5; Nov. 1 (B4/R2).

REED, H. to Comly (3 letters): 1872, Apr. 23; May 12 (B2/R1); N.D. (B4/R2).

REED, S. R. to Comly (2 letters): 1884, Apr. 4; Dec. 8 (B4/R2).
Reed to Mrs. J. M. Comly (1 letter): 1881, Aug. 15 (B7/R3).

REID, WHITE LAW to Comly (6 letters): 1873, Jan. 9 (B2/R1); 1875, Dec. 31 (B2/R2); 1877, Oct. 17; 1878, Apr. 9; Nov. 19 (B3/R2); N.D. (B4/R2).

ROBERTS, W. H. to Comly (3 letters): 1876, June 21; Dec. 14; 1877, July 5 (B3/R2).

ROOT, JAMES P. to Comly (3 letters): 1876, Nov. 10, 15, 16 (B3/R2).

SCAMMON, E. PARKER to Comly (4 letters): 1862, Feb. 12 [2]; 1865, Dec. 8; 1869, Mar. 5 (B2/R1).

SCHENCK, ROBERT C. to Comly (7 letters): 1865, Dec. 26; 1866, Apr. 19; May 22; 1867, May 25; June 13; 1869, May 30; 1870, June 7 (B2/R1).

SHELLABARGER, SAMUEL to Comly (22 letters): 1866, May 18, 28; July 25; Nov. 5; Dec. 29; ----; 1868, June 15; 1869, Feb. 20; 1871, Apr. 10; June 20; Sept. 7; Dec. 19; 1872, Jan. 12, 18, 24; Feb. 6; Mar. 9; Nov. 4; Dec. 28 (B2/R1); 1876, Dec. 12 (B3/R2); N.D. [2] (B4/R2).

SHERMAN, JOHN to Comly (5 letters): 1868, Dec. 20; 1869, Jan. 22 (B2/R1); 1881, Oct. 24, 25 (B3/R2); 1884, May 16 (B4/R2).
Sherman to A. W. Francisco (1 letter): 1881, Dec. 25 (B3/R2).
Sherman to R. C. Parsons (1 letter): 1869, Jan. 23 (B2/R2).

SMITH, J. MOTT to Comly (3 letters): 1877, Sept. 22; Oct. 29; Nov. 7 (B3/R2).

SMITH, SAMUEL M. - Jacob D. Cox to Dr. Smith (1 letter): 1863, May 4 (B2/R1).
William Dean Howells to Dr. Smith (1 letter): 1861, Oct. 3 (B2/R1).
H. M. McAlur to Dr. Smith (1 letter): 1863, Aug. 10 (B2/R1).

SMITH, MRS. SAMUEL M. - William Dean Howells to Mrs. Smith (2 letters): 1861, Sept. 28 (B2/R1); 1878, Mar. 17 (B3/R2).
----- to Mrs. Smith (1 letter): 1885, Feb. 6 (B4/R2).

SMITH, WILLIAM H. to Comly (6 letters): 1871, Dec. 25; 1872, Oct. 4 (B2/R1); 1876, Aug. 26; Sept. 21; Oct. 16; Nov. 10 (B3/R2).
Smith to A. W. Francisco (1 letter): 1877, Mar. 14 (B3/R2).
Comly to Smith (1 letter): 1882, Oct. 10 (B3/R2).

SPENCER, THOMAS - Comly to Spencer (4 letters): 1879, Apr. 28; Dec. 30; 1880, Feb. 9; 1881, July 19 (B4/R2).

STEWART, R. R. - Comly to Stewart (3 letters): 1878, Nov. 25; 1879, Apr. 14; 1880, Mar. 15 (B4/R2).

SWAYNE, WAGER to Comly (6 letters): 1866, Mar. 5; Apr. 20; 1867, June 17; 1869, Mar. 15; 1871, Jan. 15; 1872, Jan. 21 (B2/R1).

TRASK, WILLIAM to Comly (1 letter): 1876, Oct. 20 (B3/R2).

TYNER, JAMES N. to Comly (4 letters): 1876, Aug. 22; Sept. 22; Dec. 8; 1877, Jan. 11 (B3/R2).

WILDER, SAMUEL G. to Comly (1 letter): 1879, Dec. 18 (B3/R2).
Comly to Wilder (3 letters): 1879, June 9, 18; Dec. 19 (B4/R2).

WINANS, J. J. to Comly (5 letters): 1869, Dec. 28; 1870, Apr. 1, 4; 1871, Mar. 11 (B2/R1); 1876, Feb. 23 (B3/R2).

Selected Calendar of Correspondence

A limited selection of both representative and exceptional letters have been calendared to provide an indication of the scope of the collection.

- 1862
Feb. 12 Scammon, E. P., Fayetteville, Va., to Maj. J. M. Comly, 23rd
O. V. I. at Raleigh, Va.
"Yesterday I finished sketch of country between Raleigh and Big
Blue Stone River....It was by order of Genl. that our force is kept
from making premature advances. There is reason in it."
Note about battle of Blue Stone Hill, written by Comly, on back
of Scammon letter. Description of march, pursuit, fight, capture
of prisoners. ALS, 1 p. (B2/R1)
- 1862
Sept. 28 Comly, J. M., Antietam, to "My dear friend,"
Letter concerning McClellan's great popularity, battle of An-
tietam and consequences if Union had attempted to pursue enemy
across the Potomac; Hayes's plans to remain with the regiment,
and personal relations between Hayes and Comly. ALS, 4 pp.
(B2/R1)
- 1863
Aug. 10 McAlur, H. M., Elk Run, Va., to Surg. Gen. S. M. Smith, Co-
lumbus, Ohio
"There was an absolute and fatal scarcity of surgeons [after
the battle of Gettesburg], but four being left with a thousand
patients...." Enclosing copy of Gov. A. G. Curtin's reply to
McAlur's inquiry about Surgeon General Hammond's declination
of volunteer medical aid after the battle. Curtin's letter (Aug. 3,
1863, 1 p.) states that Hammond did decline the volunteer sur-
geons offered. ALS, 1 p. (B2/R1)
- 1865
Oct. 7 Hunter, O., Washington, D. C., to Harrison Otis, Marietta,
Ohio
Describing march and battle of Lynchburg and retreat up
Kanawha Valley which resulted in Hunter being blamed for de-
feat; General Halleck's part in these stories; reasons for re-
treating up Kanawha instead of Shenandoah Valley. ALS, 8 pp.
(B2/R1)
- 1866
Feb. 5 Graham, John, Montgomery, Ala., to Comly, Columbus, Ohio
About his views on Negro suffrage, explaining why he feels it
a mistake to give the southern Negro the vote at this time. "A
thing may be right in the abstract and yet its application under
unfavorable circumstances might utterly fail to accomplish the

ends designed and result in a down right injury to the Cause intended to be benefitted....It is one of the most dangerous questions for any party to pioneer upon....It is far in advance of public opinion.... Myself and Genl. Swayne...concur fully in our views." ALS, 2pp. (B2/R1)

- 1866
July 25 Shellabarger, Samuel, Springfield, Ohio, to Comly, Columbus
 Stating that things are looking brighter for him each day, but that results in his own district depend on getting an honest vote in Franklin County. Outline of plan for organization to secure honest vote, including distribution of pamphlets containing his latest speech. Declaring he will bear all the expense of the campaign that he can. ALS, 4pp. (B2/R1)
- 1866
Nov. 4 Follett, O[ran], Sandusky, Ohio, to Comly, Columbus
 Declaring that best way to arouse public opinion on the tariff question is by popularizing it through editorials on specific points, not long, didactic essays. Stating that tariff has to be revised, and that high-protectionists will be driven to the wall once the reconstruction question is out of the way. ALS, 2 pp. (B2/R1)
- 1867
May 23 Hayes, Rutherford B., Fremont, Ohio, to Comly, Columbus
 "... Friend W. has succeeded in getting the Painesville Telegraph to come out against me on the ground that I am a Free Trader.... It also attributes to my weakness as a candidate our loss of the Legislature and meager majority on the State ticket in 1867. But in fact 1867 was a bad year for Republicans in other States as well.... Besides the figures will show that I ran ahead of the local tickets in almost every County, and was decidedly ahead of any other candidate on the State ticket.... My idea is that if I am to run the less said about the Tariff the better. It has nothing to do with a State Canvass like this." ALS, 2 pp. (B2/R1)
- 1867
Aug. 2 Halstead, M[urat], Cincinnati, Ohio, to Comly, Columbus
 Expressing irritation that Comly's letter did not quite agree with his paragraph in the paper. Was unaware that any Commercial correspondents had published anything slanderous about Comly; Comly should be more of a philosopher; Journal's editorship hard to fill because of its poor reputation. Halstead's consolation is sticking his pen into his detractors. ALS, 2 pp. (B2/R1)
- 1869
Feb. 20 Shellabarger, Samuel, Washington, D. C., to Comly, Columbus
 Descriptions of news media, means of getting information; health of Secretary Stanton; appearance, character and views of Secretary of State Motley; latest long talk with Grant, stating that his course will be straightforward, with no yielding to cliques, and expressing belief that the Grant administration will be one of the purest and best. Guesses about Cabinet--War, Scofield;

Treasurer, Boutwell; Attorney General, Wilson or Pierpont; Navy, Farragut; Interior, Cresswell or Wade--Grant plans to delegate more duties to Cabinet. ALS, 6 pp. (B2/R1)

- 1869
July 8 Follett, O[ran], Sandusky, Ohio, to Comly, Columbus
 "The aim [of the Democrats] is to consolidate the Catholic Church in this State, as in New York and Maryland, in support of the candidates of the party.... The movement must not expand successfully.... I do not regard the Catholic Ch. as a Christian body; its... aims and influence have always been directed to secular and political affairs...." Discussion of activities of Catholic Church in the United States. "Better stand on our own bottom if we have any left. No party ever lost anything by being bold & honest." ALS, 3 pp. (B2/R1)
- 1869
Sept. 3 Medill, J., Chicago, Ill., to Comly, Columbus
 "How can you keep the greenback and bond question out. When you are pressed on it you must say something. Don't my line of discussion parry their blows?.... I enclose you the last articles I have written on the subject." ALS, 1 p. (B2/R1)
- 1870
June 27 Nettleton, A. B., Philadelphia, Pa., to Comly, Columbus
 Declaring that Comly's attacks on the landgrabbers, while right, could be improved by keeping two points in mind; that there is a distinction between the main lines of the Northern Pacific Railroad and the swarms of bogus schemes; and that this distinction should be stressed in the coming political canvass. Also encloses article Nettleton wrote on the subject and suggests that Comly would lose nothing by taking the initiative on the question. ALS, 6 pp. (B2/R1)
- 1872
Apr. 16 Jones, T. C., Delaware, Ohio, to Comly, Columbus
 Re: opposition to State Board of Agriculture and Agricultural College, informing Comly that his opposition to Klippart has aided the opposition, and that in Jones' view the question is not how good Klippart is, but if he is as good a man as they can get for the job; which, in comparison with the work of other states, he is. Jones feels that the organizations in question are in danger, and that both can be of more benefit to the state and to Columbus than is commonly realized. ALS, 4 pp. (B2/R1)
- 1873
Jan. 9 Reid, Whitelaw, New York, N. Y., to Comly, Columbus
 Thanking Comly for his kind words in the Journal. "After a few weeks' experience with it, my conviction is that the purchase of one half of the Tribune, at a trifle over half a million of dollars, was the cheapest bargain of my life." ALS, 2 pp. (B2/R1)
- 1874
Mar. 26 Baldwin, C. F., Washington, D. C., to Comly, Columbus
 "I have a good opportunity today to plug you both at the Interior, and P.O. Dept. with Mr. Delano and Mr. Creswell [sic].... You haven't two better friends in the land than the above mentioned

gentlemen....I made application for advertising for you, and have the square promises for it, hence you may expect patronage in that quarter soon, and plenty of it." ALS, 2 pp. (B2/R1)

1875
Apr. 17

Hayes, Rutherford B., Fremont, Ohio, to Comly, Columbus
Thanking Comly for the friendship which prompted him to urge his candidacy. "Now don't let all this leave any shadow between us....P.S. I have not authorized any one to speak to the public for me. I now authorize you (and request), to withdraw my name if & when in your judgement it is proper or necessary." ALS, 1 p. (B2/R2)

1876
June 28

Browne, A. G., Jr., New York, N. Y., to Comly, Columbus
Hayes-Tilden fight is going to be desperate. "Sammy is worth \$3,000,000....He will not hesitate to spend \$500,000 or if need be \$1,000,000 to promote his election....He is one of the most expert organizers and adroit schemers I ever came into contact with....I believe we shall beat him...but...we shall need all the aid in [New York, Connecticut, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania]...which a clear, high toned ringing letter of acceptance from Gov. Hayes can give us. The burden of the fight falls on us here in the East....The bolder,... more uncompromising we are, the better our chances of success." ALS, 4 pp. (B3/R2)

1876
Aug. 29

Beake, James S., Brooklyn, N. Y., to Comly, Columbus
"I feel particularly anxious about Indiana in October....The Tildenites are working as they never did before....They...will stop at nothing in order to win....With success in Indiana and Ohio the election of Gov. Hayes will be assured....It is the solid Rebel army marching on us with ballots instead of bullets. And...every Northern Copperhead is blatant for Tilden & Hendricks....With Gov. Morgan as our candidate in this state we shall poll a full vote...." ALS, 3 pp. (B3/R2)

1877
Feb. 14

Knapp, W. A., Washington, D. C., to Comly, Columbus
"We have got over the Florida case nicely and are now well under way with Louisiana. Our people so far as I can learn are now entirely confident of the result....There is a large Southern element which is extremely anxious to have the matter settled...." Description of the temper and actions of Congress regarding the counting. "Purman... is a viper whom the Republicans warmed in their bosom and true to his nature he has taken the first available opportunity to sting them.... There is considerable curiosity manifested as to...the next Cabinet.... I hope a certain class of New York politicians will not be allowed to exercise a controlling influence....I see the Ohio papers are bringing you out as a candidate for Governor. It would be a good thing--for the State--but I don't believe it would pay you." ALS, 7 pp. (B3/R2)

- 1877
Oct. 17 Reid, Whitelaw, New York, N. Y., to Comly, Honolulu, Hawaii
 "The Administration is in deep water--mainly because of the
 greenhorns in the Cabinet.... The objects of the Administration are
 all right. I only hope it may have better luck in getting hold of pro-
 minent men who know how to accomplish them. It looks now as if
 the storm would break first on Schurz--who certainly first deserves
 it." ALS, 2 pp. (B3/R2)
- 1878
Oct. 29 Hayes, Rutherford B., Washington, D. C., to Comly, Honolulu
 Advising Comly of purpose to visit Pacific Coast in the spring,
 and asking him to join Hayes in "the run up to Oregon." "Probably
 the Dems will have both Houses of Congress. But we are in good
 condition with the people. The Administration has gained steadily,
 and is now stronger than ever before.... The bother in the South is
 ugly in many ways--but even there we are making progress." News
 of mutual political friends. "Conkling will probably be re-elected
 in N. Y.--He is likely to continue out of humor with us. The Cinti.
 result he still feels was a 'humiliation.'" ALS, 3 pp. (B3/R2)
- 1878
Dec. 14 Garfield, James A., Washington, D. C., to Comly, Honolulu
 "We have had a great campaign against the Democracy and for
 once were able to bring our people up to the direct issue of honest
 money. The Democracy are very much astonished at finding the
 mass of the people more honest than they supposed and they are
 really quite uncertain as to what they will do in the future.... We
 miss you in our Ohio councils and hope you can make us a diplo-
 matic visit before the next campaign ends." ALS, 1 p. (B3/R2)
- 1879
Feb. 18 Comly, Honolulu, to John M. Kapena, Honolulu
 Assuring him that the King's letter to Grant is duly forwarded,
 and that Comly has asked the Secretary of State to telegraph the
 earliest information about the date of Grant's visit to the Islands.
 1 p. (B4/R2)
- 1879
Oct. 27 Comly, Honolulu, to R. B. Hayes, Washington, D. C.
 Describing meeting with U. S. Grant and discussion of third
 term possibility. 4 pp. (B4/R2)
- 1880
Apr. 12 Comly, Honolulu, to Capt. A. E. Lee, Frankfurt, Germany
 Description of Hawaiian life--politics, government, social
 and military rank, and customs. 5 pp. (B4/R2)
- 1880
May 10 Comly, Honolulu, to William M. Evarts, Washington, D. C.
 Unofficial and confidential observations on the state of Russian
 relations with the United States, Britain, and Germany. 3 pp.
 (B4/R2)

- 1881
Feb. 24 Hayes, Rutherford B., Washington, D. C., to Comly, Honolulu
"I am in the hurry and worry of breaking camp....General good feeling, hopefulness, and confidence. The only doubt is as to the General's firmness and independence. With a modicum of these we have a future full of encouragement. Without it--well nothing goes without it under our system....If the place you have has been useful I am ever so glad. One of the best things of these four years is to have been able to do some good things....Our great social event taking place tonight--the Diplomats' Reception....We go to Ohio the day after the inauguration." ALS, 3 pp. (B3/R2)
- 1881
July 21 Comly, Honolulu, to E. S. Trussell, Pomeroy, Ohio
Discussing characteristics of Hawaiian journalism. 4 pp. (B3/R2)
- 1882
May 29 Francisco, A. W., Columbus, to Comly, Honolulu
Expressing opinion that Cowan and Briggs, who are to take over the Journal, are both "mistakes;" that Lee is much troubled, speaking of ideas for another paper; Francisco may "get stuck with a farm" unless Comly returns soon. ALS, 10 pp. (B3/R2)
- 1886
Apr. 2 Hayes, Rutherford B., Fremont, Ohio, to Comly, Toledo
"I am glad you speak out...for education in the South....Romeis...voted with the friends of the bill....I like your notion of writing letters from the places you visit....The letters are like private information from the inside which a good talker gives you." ALS, 1 p.
Note on back, by Comly, explaining that since a recent visit to the Comlys' house, Hayes always notifies Comly that he need not reply to his letters. AL, 1 p. (B4/R2)

About the Author

Andrea D. Lentz joined the staff of the Ohio Historical Society as a manuscripts processor in 1967. In 1969 she became manuscripts specialist, and since 1972 she has been head of information systems in the archives-library area. Ms. Lentz holds her B. A. degree in history from Denison University and her M. A. in history from The Ohio State University. She is author of the Inventory to the Warren G. Harding Papers (1970) and A Guide to Manuscripts at the Ohio Historical Society (1972). She is the current president of the Society of Ohio Archivists and chairperson of the Urban Archives Committee of the Society of American Archivists.



THE JAMES M. COMLY PAPERS

An Inventory to the Microfilm Edition

Andrea D. Lentz

OHIO HISTORICAL SOCIETY

THE JAMES M. COMLY COLLECTION

An Inventory to the Microfilm Edition

Andrea D. Lentz

**Archives-Library
Ohio Historical Society
Columbus, Ohio
1973**



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Note to Researchers

Provenance: The James M. Comly papers were donated to The Ohio Historical Society in 1929 by Mrs. Smith M. Comly of Columbus, Ohio, daughter-in-law of General James M. Comly.

The Comly papers were preliminarily processed in 1939 under the auspices of the W. P.A., and completed in 1969 by Andrea Lentz and Gary Feess of the archives-library staff.

Access: The collection is open to all researchers. Both the original manuscript collection and the microfilm edition are available for use in the reading room of The Ohio Historical Society. A researcher may secure microfilm on interlibrary loan from an institution that has purchased a copy of the microfilm edition, or directly from The Ohio Historical Society. The microfilm edition may be purchased from the Society.

Citation: Footnotes and bibliographical references should refer to the original collection at The Ohio Historical Society and to the researcher's use of the microfilm edition. A suggested form for at least the first citation is:

Murat Halstead to James M. Comly, August 2, 1867,
James M. Comly Papers, Ohio Historical Society
(microfilm edition, roll 1, frames 579-581).

Property and Literary Rights: Property rights to the James M. Comly papers reside with The Ohio Historical Society, which exercises responsibility for the physical custody of both the original collection and the master negative of the microfilm edition. Under no circumstances may a researcher make another photoduplication from a microfilm copy. Literary rights to these papers have not been assigned to The Ohio Historical Society or dedicated to the public. Therefore, consideration of the requirements of literary rights is the responsibility of the author and his publisher.

Statistics:

Comly Papers (Manuscripts Collection #130)

Number of containers - 8 document boxes

Number of linear feet - 2

Approximate number of items - 1,500

Microfilm Edition (Manuscripts Microfilm #27)

Number of rolls - 3

Number of exposures - 3,578

Average number of exposures per roll - 1,193

Location of Related Materials: While many other repositories hold small amounts of James M. Comly material, the most significant groups of letters written by Comly are located at the Rutherford B. Hayes Library in Fremont, Ohio, and at the Library of Congress. The Hayes Library holds 150 letters in its Rutherford B. Hayes papers. The Library of Congress holds approximately 30 letters in its James A. Garfield collection; approximately 20 letters in its John Sherman collection; 230 Comly letters in Volumes 17-20 of Unpublished State and Federal Documents, Dispatches; and a type-written statement of facts relating to Hawaiian politics during King Kalakaua's reign, 1874-1887, written by W. D. Alexander. The National Archives holds a series of miscellaneous letters received by the Hawaiian legation, which includes all letters except official documents. The Ohio Historical Society holds three document boxes of photographs taken and collected during Comly's stay in Hawaii, dealing primarily with scenery and local customs.

Order Information: This inventory is Volume 6 in a series begun in 1970, the archives-library inventory series. The aim of this set of paperback volumes is to provide finding aids to many of the Ohio Historical Society's major collections of manuscripts, institutional records, state archives, local government records, and audiovisual materials.

Current price and order information for the inventory and the microfilm edition may be obtained from the Order Department, Ohio Historical Society, Columbus, Ohio 43211.

Acknowledgements: Several Ohio Historical Society staff members played key roles in preparing the materials for printing and microfilming: Robert Jones supervised the microfilming of the collection; Bruce Baby designed and illustrated the cover; Jolene Huddle typed the camera ready copy; David Larson edited the inventory draft into final form; and Ann Myers supervised production of the inventory.

Andrea D. Lentz
Head, Information Systems
Ohio Historical Society
Columbus, Ohio

Biographical Sketch

James Monroe Stuart Comly (1832-1887) was the son of Bezaleel and Margaret Stuart Comly of Perry County, Ohio. James' grandfather moved to Ohio in 1804 and in 1817 laid out the town of New Lexington. When James was ten he left the family home and set out for Columbus, obtaining a job at the Cross and Journal, the city's Whig newspaper. (It later became the Ohio State Journal, the central organ of the Ohio Republican party.) Here, Comly met William Dean Howells and the Platt brothers, John and Donn. All three remained his good friends.

While at the paper, Comly attended high school and night school. He later studied law under Ohio's Attorney General, Christopher Wolcott, and was admitted to the bar in 1859. After practicing law for two years, he joined the Union Army in 1861.

Comly, who was associated with the 23rd Regiment, Ohio Volunteer Infantry, for most of the war, served with Rutherford B. Hayes, Stanley Matthews, and W. S. Rosecrans. He commanded his regiment at the battles of South Mountain and Antietam, and in 1865 was breveted brigadier general.

After the war Comly returned to Columbus. He had married the former Elizabeth Marian Smith in 1863. Her father, Dr. Samuel S. Smith of Columbus, was Ohio's Surgeon-General during the war. He, Comly, and R. W. Robey formed a partnership and, with Comly as senior editor, bought the Ohio State Journal from W. T. Coggeshall. Their first edition was published on November 9, 1865.

Although the paper had a degree of prestige as the central organ of the Republican party, it was not economically profitable. In 1870, therefore, Comly secured the Columbus postmaster's appointment from President Grant. The post, a political plum, entailed very little work, and the additional salary enabled him to continue publishing the Journal.

In 1872 A. W. Francisco joined the partnership, and under his financial guidance the paper began making money. With increased resources, it gained an even more prominent position in Ohio journalism. Although Comly maintained a creditable independence from the "party line" in his editorials, the Journal was the most influential Republican paper in the state. This was evidenced when it became the official mouthpiece of Rutherford B. Hayes, Comly's close friend, in the campaign of 1876.

In 1877 Hayes appointed Comly Minister-Resident to the Hawaiian Islands. Only the editor's ill health made the post desirable, and he never ceased to hope that he could return to Ohio. His training as an editor had not prepared him for

a diplomatic position, but Comly earned the respect of both the Hawaiians and the State Department during his five-year stay. In 1882 the post was given to a man of President Arthur's choosing and Comly, despite his health, returned to Ohio.

He and Francisco had sold the Journal in 1881, but neither wanted to give up the newspaper business. They bought the Toledo Commercial-Telegram in 1883. Under Comly's editorship the paper became a success, but Comly never regained the political influence he had built up with the Ohio State Journal.

His health declined rapidly once back in Ohio, and he died in 1887. He was survived by his wife and three children, Guy, Susan, and Smith.

SOURCES

Kleinpell, Eugene. James M. Comly, Journalist-Politician. Ph.D. dissertation, Ohio State University (Columbus, 1936).

In Memory of James M. Comly. (A memorial tribute, probably published in 1887. Detailed biographical notes on Comly's Civil War career, but scanty on almost every other phase of his activities.)

Scope and Content

The James M. Comly papers, 1856-1926, numbering approximately 1,500 items, include not only correspondence and letterbooks but diaries, journals, scrapbooks, and newspaper clippings. The bulk of this material relates to the career of General James Monroe Stuart Comly (1832-1887) and concerns military, journalistic, political, and diplomatic affairs in Ohio, Hawaii, and Washington, D. C. A substantial amount of material pertaining to the Comly family and a subsidiary group of papers of his son, Guy Stuart Comly, are also included.

The collection, though arranged chronologically, is best described in a topical fashion because of the parallel interests which Comly held for many years.

The military material, which concerns the Civil War and postwar veterans organizations, relates primarily to the 23rd Regiment, Ohio Volunteer Infantry. It includes six diaries, 1860-1861, a headquarters letterbook, miscellaneous correspondence, and a record of the 23rd O. V. I., 1861-1865, taken from official correspondence and the diaries of Comly and Rutherford B. Hayes. This material gives good in-depth description of the activities and battles in which Comly's regiment was engaged and contains much of interest to even the casual student of the Civil War.

Newspaper and political correspondence dominates the collection from 1866 to 1877 and again from 1882 to Comly's death in 1887. There is material relating solely to the operation of the Ohio State Journal in Columbus and the Toledo Commercial-Telegram, but the most numerous and informative letters are those which deal directly or indirectly with political affairs. Comly's political contacts ranged from Rutherford B. Hayes, James A. Garfield, and Ulysses S. Grant to Jacob D. Cox, William Dennison, and Samuel Shellabarger. As with the letters of his newspaper rival, Murat Halstead, the Hayes and Shellabarger correspondence is particularly informative. There is also a wealth of material dealing with the campaign of 1876 and the subsequent election.

Comly's correspondence from mid-1877 to 1882, which is devoted primarily to Hawaiian affairs, gives a remarkably clear view of the political and social situation there. His letterbook is especially significant since it contains the only continuous group of outgoing Comly letters in the entire collection. It is unfortunate that Comly did not begin to record his correspondence in this manner until 1878, for his extant letters are descriptive, detailed, and entertaining.

The personal correspondence in the collection is notable primarily for the group of William Dean Howells letters; as a whole, it illustrates the breadth of Comly's acquaintance with Ohio personalities but gives little insight into their activities.

The rest of the collection contains family correspondence and an assortment of clippings covering Comly's career and family deaths; two scrapbooks of clippings collected by Comly relating to political and journalistic events in Ohio and the nation; and a scrapbook, clippings, and drafts of articles and editorials which make up the Guy Stuart Comly papers.

The Comly collection is one of the most frequently consulted nineteenth century manuscript collections in The Ohio Historical Society. The most comprehensive study of the collection was made by Eugene Kleinpell, who used it as a major source for his Ph.D. dissertation, "James M. Comly, Journalist-Politician" (Ohio State University, 1936). Although his work covers Comly's entire life, it concentrates on the 1865-1887 years and only touches upon his military career and his family life. A definitive biography of James M. Comly has yet to be written.

There is no in-depth study of Comly's Hawaiian ministry. While Kleinpell covered this period, his main concern was with its effects upon Comly's role in newspapers and politics at home. Comly's five years in Honolulu should offer interesting possibilities to students of both Hawaiian history and United States foreign relations. The Moreno affair, for instance, is sufficiently unique to warrant scholarly attention.

The collection is notable for its insights into prominent personalities and the backstage activities which helped shape state and national affairs during the last half of the nineteenth century. The material is a fascinating combination of facts and opinions which gives a surprisingly complete picture of the activities and concerns of Comly and his associates. This collection has been and should continue to be a very valuable primary source for researchers in many areas of nineteenth century scholarship.

Roll Notes

ROLL 1 Series 1: Civil War Material, 1861-1865

The Civil War materials in the Comly papers include six diaries and notebooks (five by Comly and one by Will Clegg, a member of Comly's regiment), 1862-1864; a headquarters letterbook, 1862-1863, containing directives to and from the Twenty-third Regiment of the Ohio Volunteer Infantry; a typed record of the 23rd O. V. I. in two parts, 1861-1865 and 1864, taken from official correspondence and excerpts from the diaries of Comly and Rutherford B. Hayes; and miscellaneous items including articles, maps, a copy of the Grand Army Journal (April 30, 1870) containing an account of General Hunter's Virginia campaign of 1864, and the muster roll of "M. C. Silley's Company of Ohio Volunteers," June 20, 1861. Comly enlisted with this company and was elected its second lieutenant. (Box 1)

Series 2: James M. Comly Material, 1856-1874

This series segment contains correspondence covering Comly's military, political, and journalistic careers, as well as personal and family letters. The material tracing his rise to prominence in journalism and his growing influence in the Ohio Republican Party is especially interesting. (Box 2)

ROLL 2 Series 2 (Continued): James M. Comly Material, 1875-1887 [1888-1906]

The series continues on Roll 2 with more correspondence dealing with Comly's journalistic and political activities, his diplomatic career, and his personal and family life. The abundant correspondence for 1876 and 1877 primarily concerns the nomination and election of Rutherford B. Hayes. A letterbook, 1878-1881, kept during Comly's Hawaiian ministry contains the only extensive set of copies of outgoing correspondence in the collection. (Boxes 2-4)

ROLL 3

Series 2 (Continued): James M. Comly Material, 1879 and Assorted Dates

An 1879 journal kept during his Hawaiian ministry contains more outgoing copies of Comly's correspondence and assorted notations of activities. Two Comly scrapbooks, one dealing almost exclusively with political affairs; a group of miscellaneous papers from the 1876 Republican nominating convention, including ballots; loose clippings dealing primarily with Hawaii; and a selection of Comly's articles and editorials complete Series 2 of the collection. (Boxes 4-6)

Series 3: Comly Family Material, 1862-1914

The correspondence of Mrs. Comly, 1874-1887; correspondence and clippings about Comly, 1887-1914; and assorted family papers, 1862-1899, have been filmed from this series. Miscellaneous family items, primarily calling cards and invitations, have not been filmed. (Box 7)

Series 4: Guy Stuart Comly Material

This series contains articles and editorials written by Guy Comly, a group of handwritten manuscripts, selected clippings, a scrapbook, and a series of letters, 1923-1926, discussing James M. Comly and William Dean Howells. (Box 8)

Selected Correspondents Index

Two considerations determined the inclusion of authors and recipients in this list: the number of letters written and/or received, and the quality of the contents. As a result, only those who wrote and/or received three or more letters, and those who wrote and/or received letters of exceptional interest were included in this compilation. The date of the correspondence and box and roll locations are listed. Item numbers and folder identifications, however, have not been designated.

ARTHUR, E. C. to Comly (4 letters): 1886, Oct. 7; Nov. 12; Dec. 3; 1887, Mar. 29 (B4/R2).

BALDWIN, CHARLES F. to Comly (1 letter): 1886, Nov. 8 (B4/R2)
Comly to Baldwin (3 letters): 1878, Nov. 25; 1880, Jan. 19; Mar. 15 (B4/R2).

BEAKE, JAMES S. to Comly (7 letters): 1876, Aug. 29, 31; Sept. 6, 24, 29; 1877, June 16, 30 (B3/R2).

BICKHAM, W. D. to Comly (1 letter): 1875, Apr. 15 (B2/R2).
Comly to Bickham (3 letters): 1878, Nov. 23; 1879, June 9; Dec. 22 (B4/R2).

BLAINE, JAMES G. to Comly (3 letters): 1873, Mar. 11 (B2/R1); 1884, Nov. 2; N.D. (B4/R2).

BROWNE, A. G., JR., to Comly (5 letters): 1876, June 28; July 13 [2]; Nov. 2; 1877, Feb. 24 (B3/R2).

BUSBY, W. H. to Comly (3 letters): 1873, June 6 (B2/R1); 1876, Aug. 26, 28 (B3/R2).
Comly to Busbey (1 letter): 1880, Jan. 19 (B4/R2).

BUSH, JOHN E. - Comly to Bush (5 letters): 1880, Sept. 13 [5] (B4/R2).

CANBY, J. to Comly (1 letter): 1862, Feb. 13 (B2/R1).

CHAPMAN, O. B. to Comly (3 letters): 1872, May 15 (B2/R1); 1876, July 28; Aug. 14 (B3/R2).

CHITTENDEN, STERNE to Comly (3 letters): 1876, June 16, 21; July 13 (B3/R2).

COX, JACOB D. to Comly (6 letters): 1869, Feb. 6; Nov. 11; 1873, Jan. 8; Feb. 4 (B2/R1); 1875, Mar. 23 (B2/R2); 1876, Mar. 12 (B3/R2).
Cox to Dr. S. M. Smith (1 letter): 1863, May 4 (B2/R1).

COX, SAMUEL S. to Comly (2 letters): 1872, Dec. 14 (B2/R1); 1876, Feb. 28 (B3/R2).

DALZELL, J. M. to Comly (1 letter): _____, Dec. 22 (B4/R2).
Comly to Dalzell (2 letters): 1880, Feb. 16; Apr. 12 (B3/R2).

DAMON, REV. S. C. to Comly (1 letter): 1877, Nov. 2 (B3/R2).
Comly to Damon (2 letters): 1878, Nov. 19; 1879, Nov. 19 (B4/R2).

DENNISON, WILLIAM to Comly (10 letters): 1876, Jan. 30, 31; Sept. 27; Dec. 18; 1877, Jan. 4, 5, 11, 26; Mar. 1 (B3/R2); N.D. (B4/R2).

DESHLER, W. G. - Comly to Deshler (8 letters): 1878, Nov. 25; 1879, Nov. 24; 1880, Jan. 19; Feb. 16; Apr. 10; June 8; Oct. 25; Dec. 20 (B4/R2).

EVARTS, WILLIAM M. to Comly (3 letters): 1879, May 2; 1880, Jan. 13, Feb. 4 (B3/R2).
Comly to Evarts (9 letters): 1879, Mar. 17 [2]; Apr. 12, 14 [2]; June 9; Dec. 22; 1880, Jan. 19; May 10 (B4/R2).

FOLLETT, ORAN to Comly (5 letters): 1865, Nov. 15; 1866, Nov. 4; 1867, Apr. 13; 1869, July 8 [2] (B2/R1).

FONG, CHUN SHU to Comly (2 letters): 1880, July 30; 1881, July 22 (B3/R2).
Comly to Fong (1 letter): 1879, Oct. 27 (B4/R2).

FRANCISCO, A. W. to Comly (3 letters): 1881, May 26; July 18; 1882, May 29 (B3/R2).
Comly to Francisco (23 letters): 1878, Sept. 30; Nov. 25; Dec. 24; 1879, Jan. 21; Feb. 17; Mar. 18; Apr. 14; May 12; June 9 [2]; Nov. 24; Dec. 22; 1880, Jan. 19; Feb. 20; Mar. 15, 27 [to Apr. 10]; Apr. 13; June 8; Sept. 27; Oct. 25 [2]; Nov. 22; Dec. 20 (B4/R2).
W. H. Smith to Francisco (1 letter): 1877, Mar. 14 (B3/R2).

FRELINGHUYSEN, FREDERICK T. to Comly (3 letters): 1882, May 11; June 2, 14 (B3/R2).

GARFIELD, JAMES A. to Comly (19 letters): 1865, Nov. 18; Dec. 12; 1866, Feb. 14, 21; 1871, Feb. 10, 24; Dec. 4, 12; 1872, Jan. 25; Dec. 5; 1873, May 21; 1874, Feb. 7 (B2/R1); 1875, Aug. 2 (B2/R2); 1877, Feb. 23; 1878, Dec. 14; 1880, Apr. 2; May 3; July 20; 1881, Jan. 7 (B3/R2).
Comly to Garfield (4 letters): 1878, Nov. 25; 1880, Mar. 15; Apr. 12; July 5 (B4/R2).

GIBSON, W. M. to Comly (3 letters): 1882, June 17; Aug. 17, 26 (B3/R2).

GILMER, G. K. to Comly (2 letters): 1877, Feb. 20; Apr. 29 (B3/R2).

Gilmer to Mrs. J. M. Comly (1 letter): 1877, Mar. 1 (B3/R2).

GRANT, ULYSSES S. - Comly to Grant (4 letters): 1878, Dec. 24; 1879, Sept. 24; 1880, Apr. 12; Dec. 20 (B4/R2).

GREEN, W. L. - Comly to Green (11 letters): 1880, Sept. 23 [3], 30 [2]; Nov. 4, 30; 1881, Jan. 3; June 30; July 3; Sept. 24 (B4/R2).

HALSTEAD, MURAT to Comly (19 letters): 1867, Aug. 2; 1872, Apr. 12; May 11; 1873, May 18; Dec. 13; 1874, Feb. 5; Apr. 9 [2] (B2/R1); 1875, Feb. 14; Dec. 21 (B2/R2); 1876, June 19; Sept. 15, 18; Dec. 1, 25; 1877, Mar. 9; 1879, July 30 (B3/R2); N.D. (B4/R2).

HAMILTON, C. S. to Comly (1 letter): 1867, May __ (B2/R1).

HARPER, L. to Comly (2 letters): 1878, May 14; 1880, Sept. 4 (B3/R2).

Comly to Harper (1 letter): 1880, Aug. 9 (B4/R2).

HASTINGS, FRANK P. to Comly (1 letter): 1881, Oct. 14 (B3/R2)

Comly to Hastings (9 letters): 1879, Feb. 10; Apr. 26; May 28; 1880, June 30; Aug. 9; Sept. 13, 23; Oct. 1; 1881, July 4 (B4/R2).

HAYES, RUTHERFORD B. to Comly (25 letters): 1865, Dec. 1; 1867, May 23; June 9; 1868, Mar. 3; 1873, Mar. 22 (B2/R1); 1875, Apr. 10, 14 (B2/R2); 1877, Mar. 7; Apr. 2; May 8; 1878, Oct. 27; 1879, Jan. 18; July 29; Aug. 14, 25; 1881, ---; Feb. 24; 1882, Nov. 15; 1883; Dec. 28 (B3/R2); 1885, July 28; 1886, Apr. 2 [8]; N.D. (B4/R2).

Hayes to Mrs. J. M. Comly (2 letters): 1887, Aug. 22; 1888, Aug. 21 (B7/R3).

Comly to Hayes (7 letters): 1878, Dec. 23, 24; 1879, Oct. 27; Dec. 22; 1880, Jan. 19; Mar. 15, Nov. 22 (B4/R2).

HAYES, WEBB C. to Comly (1 letter): 1884, Mar. 25 (B4/R2).

Comly to Hayes (2 letters): 1880, Mar. 15; Apr. 12 (B4/R2).

HENRY, E. E. to Comly (2 letters): 1885, Feb. 2, 23 (B4/R2).

HOPLEY, JOHN to Comly (4 letters): 1871, Jan. 4; 1873, Nov. 3 (B2/R1); 1882, Nov. 20; 1883, May 8 (B3/R2).

HOWELLS, MILDRED to Smith M. Comly (5 letters): 1923, Oct. 9, 19, 20; 1924, May 27; 1925, Apr. 18 (B8/R3).

HOWELLS, WILLIAM DEAN to Comly (31 letters): 1866, July 8; Nov. 19; Dec. 23; 1867, Apr. 13; 1868, Apr. 26; June 27; July 7; Aug. 9; Oct. 20; 1869, Aug. 5, 14; Sept. 5; Dec. 13; 1870, Feb. 20; Dec. 31; 1871, Mar. 31; Oct. 22; 1873, July 20; Sept. 28; Oct. 8; Dec. 12; 1874, Jan. 9; Feb. 7;

HOWELLS, WILLIAM DEAN to Comly (Continued): Mar. 12, 21; Dec. 5 (B2/R1);
1875, Mar. 20 (B2/R2); 1876, July 28; 1881, May 16, 27; 1882,
June 16 (B3/R2).

HUNTER, MAJ. GEN. O. to Abraham Lincoln (1 letter): 1864, July 17 (B2/R1).
Hunter to Harrison G. Otis (1 letter): 1865, Oct. 7 (B2/R1).

JONES, GEN. T. C. to Comly (2 letters): 1872, Feb. 17; Apr. 16 (B2/R1).
Comly to Jones (1 letter): 1879, Feb. 17 (B4/R2).

KALAKAUA (KING OF HAWAII) to Comly (3 letters): 1880, Aug. 17 (B3/R2);
N.D. [2] (B4/R2).
Kalakaua to Mrs. J. M. Comly (1 letter): 1882, Aug. 11 (B7/R3).

KAPENA, JOHN M. to Comly (1 letter): 1878, Sept. 24 (B3/R2).
Comly to Kapena (38 letters): 1878, Dec. 26; 1879, Jan. 8 [2], 11, 18;
Feb. 10, 18 [2]; Mar. 15 [2], 31; Apr. 15; May 2, 15, 31; July 7; Oct. 16
[2], 20; Nov. 11, 14, 26; Dec. 2, 12, 16, 30; 1880, Feb. 4, 16 [2]; Mar. 8,
23; July 17 [3]; Aug. 9 [3], 13 (B4/R2).

KIEFER, J. W. to Comly (4 letters): 1878, May 5; Dec. 12 (B3/R2); 1886, Oct. 2,
29 (B4/R2).
Comly to Kiefer (1 letter): 1878, Nov. 25 (B4/R2).

KINNEY, COATES to Comly (4 letters): 1867, Sept. 23, 26; 1868, July 14; 1871,
May 14 (B2/R1).

KNAPP, W. A. to Comly (5 letters): 1876, Oct. 23; Dec. 14; 1877, Jan. 19; Feb. 14;
Mar. 12 (B3/R2).

LEE, A. E. - Comly to Lee (2 letters): 1879, June 9; 1880, Apr. 12 (B4/R2).

LINCOLN, ABRAHAM - O. Hunter to Lincoln (1 letter): 1864, July 17 (B2/R1).

LOGAN, J. A. to Comly (3 letters): 1876, Nov. 15 (B3/R2); 188-, Mar. 15; N.D.
(B4/R2).

McALUR, H. M. to Dr. S. M. Smith (1 letter): 1863, Aug. 10 (B2/R1).
A. G. Curtin to McAlur (1 letter): 1863, Aug. 10 (B2/R1).

McGREW, J. M. to Comly (3 letters): 1876, July 3; 1877, Feb. 19; Mar. 8 (B3/R2).

MATTOX, A. H. to Comly (4 letters): 1884, Feb. 18 [2]; May 30; 1886, Aug. 2
(B4/R2).

MAXWELL, S. D. to Comly (2 letters): 1881, Apr. 19; July 21 (B3/R2).
Comly to Maxwell (2 letters): 1879, June 9; 1881, July 4 (B4/R2).

MEDILL, J. to Comly (3 letters): 1867, Aug. 29; 1869, Sept. 3; 1873, May 31 (B2/R1).

MITCHELL, J. G. to Smith M. Comly (2 letters): 1923, Sept. 15, 20 (B8/R3).
Smith M. Comly to Mitchell (1 letter): 1923, Sept. 18 (B8/R3).

MORTON, H. C. - Comly to Morton (3 letters): 1878, Dec. 24; 1879, Apr. 14; 1880, Apr. 12 (B4/R2).

MORTON, J. M. to Comly (4 letters): 1871, Aug. 16 (B2/R1); 1881, Feb. 14; June 4 (B3/R2); 1884, Mar. 11 (B4/R2).

NEIL, H. M. to Comly (3 letters): 1882, Apr. 23, 28 (B3/R2); 1884, Sept. 14 (B4/R2).

NETTLETON, A. B. to Comly (4 letters): 1866, June 28; 1868, June 10; 1869, Feb. 22; 1870, Jan. 27 (B2/R1).

NICHOLS, CLIFTON to Comly (3 letters): 1868, July 9; 1870, Jan. 25; Apr. 1 (B2/R1).

OTIS, HARRISON G. to Comly (6 letters): 1873, May 17, 26 (B2/R1); 1876, Sept. 10; 1877, Feb. 2; 1879, June 4 (B3/R2); _____, Mar. 25 (B4/R2).
O. Hunter to Otis (1 letter): 1865, Oct. 7 (B2/R1).

PARSONS, R. C. to Comly (5 letters): 1869, Jan. 25; 1872, Apr. 12; May 14 (B2/R1); [1875], ---- (B2/R2); 1884, Mar. 22 (B4/R2).
Parsons to John Sherman (1 letter): 1869, Jan. 23 (B2/R1).

PIATT, DONN to Comly (9 letters): 1866, July 1; 1867, Sept. 16; 1868, Apr. 22; Aug. 21; Dec. 25; 1869, May 19; 1872, Feb. 5 (B2/R1); 1876, Sept. 21 (B3/R2); _____, June 16 (B4/R2).
Cesare C. Moreno to Piatt (1 letter): 1885, July 2 (B4/R2).

PIATT, JOHN J. to Comly (5 letters): 1869, Aug. 7; 1872, Jan. 8 (B2/R1); 1877, Jan. 24; Feb. 8; Apr. 23 (B3/R2).

PORTER, A. G. - Comly to Porter (4 letters): 1879, Apr. 14; May 19; Oct. 27; 1880, Mar. 15 (B4/R2).

RATARD, J. L. to Comly (2 letters): 1880, July 7 (B3/R2); N.D. (B4/R2).
Comly to Ratard (2 letters): 1880, July 5; Nov. 1 (B4/R2).

REED, H. to Comly (3 letters): 1872, Apr. 23; May 12 (B2/R1); N.D. (B4/R2).

REED, S. R. to Comly (2 letters): 1884, Apr. 4; Dec. 8 (B4/R2).
Reed to Mrs. J. M. Comly (1 letter): 1881, Aug. 15 (B7/R3).

REID, WHITELOW to Comly (6 letters): 1873, Jan. 9 (B2/R1); 1875, Dec. 31 (B2/R2); 1877, Oct. 17; 1878, Apr. 9; Nov. 19 (B3/R2); N.D. (B4/R2).

ROBERTS, W. H. to Comly (3 letters): 1876, June 21; Dec. 14; 1877, July 5 (B3/R2).

ROOT, JAMES P. to Comly (3 letters): 1876, Nov. 10, 15, 16 (B3/R2).

SCAMMON, E. PARKER to Comly (4 letters): 1862, Feb. 12 [2]; 1865, Dec. 8; 1869, Mar. 5 (B2/R1).

SCHENCK, ROBERT C. to Comly (7 letters): 1865, Dec. 26; 1866, Apr. 19; May 22; 1867, May 25; June 13; 1869, May 30; 1870, June 7 (B2/R1).

SHELLABARGER, SAMUEL to Comly (22 letters): 1866, May 18, 28; July 25; Nov. 5; Dec. 29; ----; 1868, June 15; 1869, Feb. 20; 1871, Apr. 10; June 20; Sept. 7; Dec. 19; 1872, Jan. 12, 18, 24; Feb. 6; Mar. 9; Nov. 4; Dec. 28 (B2/R1); 1876, Dec. 12 (B3/R2); N.D. [2] (B4/R2).

SHERMAN, JOHN to Comly (5 letters): 1868, Dec. 20; 1869, Jan. 22 (B2/R1); 1881, Oct. 24, 25 (B3/R2); 1884, May 16 (B4/R2).

Sherman to A. W. Francisco (1 letter): 1881, Dec. 25 (B3/R2).

Sherman to R. C. Parsons (1 letter): 1869, Jan. 23 (B2/R2).

SMITH, J. MOTT to Comly (3 letters): 1877, Sept. 22; Oct. 29; Nov. 7 (B3/R2).

SMITH, SAMUEL M. - Jacob D. Cox to Dr. Smith (1 letter): 1863, May 4 (B2/R1).

William Dean Howells to Dr. Smith (1 letter): 1861, Oct. 3 (B2/R1).

H. M. McAlur to Dr. Smith (1 letter): 1863, Aug. 10 (B2/R1).

SMITH, MRS. SAMUEL M. - William Dean Howells to Mrs. Smith (2 letters): 1861, Sept. 28 (B2/R1); 1878, Mar. 17 (B3/R2).

----- to Mrs. Smith (1 letter): 1885, Feb. 6 (B4/R2).

SMITH, WILLIAM H. to Comly (6 letters): 1871, Dec. 25; 1872, Oct. 4 (B2/R1);

1876, Aug. 26; Sept. 21; Oct. 16; Nov. 10 (B3/R2).

Smith to A. W. Francisco (1 letter): 1877, Mar. 14 (B3/R2).

Comly to Smith (1 letter): 1882, Oct. 10 (B3/R2).

SPENCER, THOMAS - Comly to Spencer (4 letters): 1879, Apr. 28; Dec. 30; 1880, Feb. 9; 1881, July 19 (B4/R2).

STEWART, R. R. - Comly to Stewart (3 letters): 1878, Nov. 25; 1879, Apr. 14; 1880, Mar. 15 (B4/R2).

SWAYNE, WAGER to Comly (6 letters): 1866, Mar. 5; Apr. 20; 1867, June 17; 1869, Mar. 15; 1871, Jan. 15; 1872, Jan. 21 (B2/R1).

TRASK, WILLIAM to Comly (1 letter): 1876, Oct. 20 (B3/R2).

TYNER, JAMES N. to Comly (4 letters): 1876, Aug. 22; Sept. 22; Dec. 8; 1877, Jan. 11 (B3/R2).

WILDER, SAMUEL G. to Comly (1 letter): 1879, Dec. 18 (B3/R2).

Comly to Wilder (3 letters): 1879, June 9, 18; Dec. 19 (B4/R2).

WINANS, J. J. to Comly (5 letters): 1869, Dec. 28; 1870, Apr. 1, 4; 1871, Mar. 11 (B2/R1); 1876, Feb. 23 (B3/R2).

Selected Calendar of Correspondence

A limited selection of both representative and exceptional letters have been calendared to provide an indication of the scope of the collection.

- 1862
Feb. 12 Scammon, E. P., Fayetteville, Va., to Maj. J. M. Comly, 23rd O. V. I. at Raleigh, Va.
 "Yesterday I finished sketch of country between Raleigh and Big Blue Stone River....It was by order of Genl. that our force is kept from making premature advances. There is reason in it."
 Note about battle of Blue Stone Hill, written by Comly, on back of Scammon letter. Description of march, pursuit, fight, capture of prisoners. ALS, 1 p. (B2/R1)
- 1862
Sept. 28 Comly, J. M., Antietam, to "My dear friend,"
 Letter concerning McClellan's great popularity, battle of Antietam and consequences if Union had attempted to pursue enemy across the Potomac; Hayes's plans to remain with the regiment, and personal relations between Hayes and Comly. ALS, 4 pp. (B2/R1)
- 1863
Aug. 10 McAlur, H. M., Elk Run, Va., to Surg. Gen. S. M. Smith, Columbus, Ohio
 "There was an absolute and fatal scarcity of surgeons [after the battle of Gettesburg], but four being left with a thousand patients...." Enclosing copy of Gov. A. G. Curtin's reply to McAlur's inquiry about Surgeon General Hammond's declination of volunteer medical aid after the battle. Curtin's letter (Aug. 3, 1863, 1 p.) states that Hammond did decline the volunteer surgeons offered. ALS, 1 p. (B2/R1)
- 1865
Oct. 7 Hunter, O., Washington, D. C., to Harrison Otis, Marietta, Ohio
 Describing march and battle of Lynchburg and retreat up Kanawha Valley which resulted in Hunter being blamed for defeat; General Halleck's part in these stories; reasons for retreating up Kanawha instead of Shenandoah Valley. ALS, 8 pp. (B2/R1)
- 1866
Feb. 5 Graham, John, Montgomery, Ala., to Comly, Columbus, Ohio
 About his views on Negro suffrage, explaining why he feels it a mistake to give the southern Negro the vote at this time. "A thing may be right in the abstract and yet its application under unfavorable circumstances might utterly fail to accomplish the

ends designed and result in a down right injury to the Cause intended to be benefitted.... It is one of the most dangerous questions for any party to pioneer upon.... It is far in advance of public opinion.... Myself and Genl. Swayne... concur fully in our views." ALS, 2pp. (B2/R1)

1866
July 25 Shellabarger, Samuel, Springfield, Ohio, to Comly, Columbus
Stating that things are looking brighter for him each day, but that results in his own district depend on getting an honest vote in Franklin County. Outline of plan for organization to secure honest vote, including distribution of pamphlets containing his latest speech. Declaring he will bear all the expense of the campaign that he can. ALS, 4pp. (B2/R1)

1866
Nov. 4 Follett, O[ran], Sandusky, Ohio, to Comly, Columbus
Declaring that best way to arouse public opinion on the tariff question is by popularizing it through editorials on specific points, not long, didactic essays. Stating that tariff has to be revised, and that high-protectionists will be driven to the wall once the reconstruction question is out of the way. ALS, 2 pp. (B2/R1)

1867
May 23 Hayes, Rutherford B., Fremont, Ohio, to Comly, Columbus
"... Friend W. has succeeded in getting the Painesville Telegraph to come out against me on the ground that I am a Free Trader.... It also attributes to my weakness as a candidate our loss of the Legislature and meager majority on the State ticket in 1867. But in fact 1867 was a bad year for Republicans in other States as well.... Besides the figures will show that I ran ahead of the local tickets in almost every County, and was decidedly ahead of any other candidate on the State ticket.... My idea is that if I am to run the less said about the Tariff the better. It has nothing to do with a State Canvass like this." ALS, 2 pp. (B2/R1)

1867
Aug. 2 Halstead, M[urat], Cincinnati, Ohio, to Comly, Columbus
Expressing irritation that Comly's letter did not quite agree with his paragraph in the paper. Was unaware that any Commercial correspondents had published anything slanderous about Comly; Comly should be more of a philosopher; Journal's editorship hard to fill because of its poor reputation. Halstead's consolation is sticking his pen into his detractors. ALS, 2 pp. (B2/R1)

1869
Feb. 20 Shellabarger, Samuel, Washington, D. C., to Comly, Columbus
Descriptions of news media, means of getting information; health of Secretary Stanton; appearance, character and views of Secretary of State Motley; latest long talk with Grant, stating that his course will be straightforward, with no yielding to cliques, and expressing belief that the Grant administration will be one of the purest and best. Guesses about Cabinet--War, Scofield;

Treasurer, Boutwell; Attorney General, Wilson or Pierpont; Navy, Farragut; Interior, Cresswell or Wade--Grant plans to delegate more duties to Cabinet. ALS, 6 pp. (B2/R1)

1869
July 8 Follett, O[ran], Sandusky, Ohio, to Comly, Columbus
"The aim [of the Democrats] is to consolidate the Catholic Church in this State, as in New York and Maryland, in support of the candidates of the party.... The movement must not expand successfully.... I do not regard the Catholic Ch. as a Christian body; its... aims and influence have always been directed to secular and political affairs...." Discussion of activities of Catholic Church in the United States. "Better stand on our own bottom if we have any left. No party ever lost anything by being bold & honest." ALS, 3 pp. (B2/R1)

1869
Sept. 3 Medill, J., Chicago, Ill., to Comly, Columbus
"How can you keep the greenback and bond question out. When you are pressed on it you must say something. Don't my line of discussion parry their blows?.... I enclose you the last articles I have written on the subject." ALS, 1 p. (B2/R1)

1870
June 27 Nettleton, A. B., Philadelphia, Pa., to Comly, Columbus
Declaring that Comly's attacks on the landgrabbers, while right, could be improved by keeping two points in mind; that there is a distinction between the main lines of the Northern Pacific Railroad and the swarms of bogus schemes; and that this distinction should be stressed in the coming political canvass. Also encloses article Nettleton wrote on the subject and suggests that Comly would lose nothing by taking the initiative on the question. ALS, 6 pp. (B2/R1)

1872
Apr. 16 Jones, T. C., Delaware, Ohio, to Comly, Columbus
Re: opposition to State Board of Agriculture and Agricultural College, informing Comly that his opposition to Klippart has aided the opposition, and that in Jones' view the question is not how good Klippart is, but if he is as good a man as they can get for the job; which, in comparison with the work of other states, he is. Jones feels that the organizations in question are in danger, and that both can be of more benefit to the state and to Columbus than is commonly realized. ALS, 4 pp. (B2/R1)

1873
Jan. 9 Reid, Whitelaw, New York, N. Y., to Comly, Columbus
Thanking Comly for his kind words in the Journal. "After a few weeks' experience with it, my conviction is that the purchase of one half of the Tribune, at a trifle over half a million of dollars, was the cheapest bargain of my life." ALS, 2 pp. (B2/R1)

1874
Mar. 26 Baldwin, C. F., Washington, D. C., to Comly, Columbus
"I have a good opportunity today to plug you both at the Interior, and P. O. Dept. with Mr. Delano and Mr. Creswell [sic].... You haven't two better friends in the land than the above mentioned

gentlemen....I made application for advertising for you, and have the square promises for it, hence you may expect patronage in that quarter soon, and plenty of it." ALS, 2 pp. (B2/R1)

1875
Apr. 17 Hayes, Rutherford B., Fremont, Ohio, to Comly, Columbus
Thanking Comly for the friendship which prompted him to urge his candidacy. "Now don't let all this leave any shadow between us.... P.S. I have not authorized any one to speak to the public for me. I now authorize you (and request), to withdraw my name if & when in your judgement it is proper or necessary." ALS, 1 p. (B2/R2)

1876
June 28 Browne, A. G., Jr., New York, N. Y., to Comly, Columbus
Hayes-Tilden fight is going to be desperate. "Sammy is worth \$3,000,000.... He will not hesitate to spend \$500,000 or if need be \$1,000,000 to promote his election.... He is one of the most expert organizers and adroit schemers I ever came into contact with.... I believe we shall beat him...but...we shall need all the aid in [New York, Connecticut, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania]...which a clear, high toned ringing letter of acceptance from Gov. Hayes can give us. The burden of the fight falls on us here in the East.... The bolder,... more uncompromising we are, the better our chances of success." ALS, 4 pp. (B3/R2)

1876
Aug. 29 Beake, James S., Brooklyn, N. Y., to Comly, Columbus
"I feel particularly anxious about Indiana in October.... The Tildenites are working as they never did before.... They...will stop at nothing in order to win.... With success in Indiana and Ohio the election of Gov. Hayes will be assured.... It is the solid Rebel army marching on us with ballots instead of bullets. And...every Northern Copperhead is blatant for Tilden & Hendricks.... With Gov. Morgan as our candidate in this state we shall poll a full vote...." ALS, 3 pp. (B3/R2)

1877
Feb. 14 Knapp, W. A., Washington, D. C., to Comly, Columbus
"We have got over the Florida case nicely and are now well under way with Louisiana. Our people so far as I can learn are now entirely confident of the result.... There is a large Southern element which is extremely anxious to have the matter settled...." Description of the temper and actions of Congress regarding the counting. "Purman... is a viper whom the Republicans warmed in their bosom and true to his nature he has taken the first available opportunity to sting them.... There is considerable curiosity manifested as to...the next Cabinet.... I hope a certain class of New York politicians will not be allowed to exercise a controlling influence.... I see the Ohio papers are bringing you out as a candidate for Governor. It would be a good thing--for the State--but I don't believe it would pay you." ALS, 7 pp. (B3/R2)

- 1877
Oct. 17 Reid, Whitelaw, New York, N. Y., to Comly, Honolulu, Hawaii
 "The Administration is in deep water--mainly because of the
 greenhorns in the Cabinet.... The objects of the Administration are
 all right. I only hope it may have better luck in getting hold of pro-
 minent men who know how to accomplish them. It looks now as if
 the storm would break first on Schurz--who certainly first deserves
 it." ALS, 2 pp. (B3/R2)
- 1878
Oct. 29 Hayes, Rutherford B., Washington, D. C., to Comly, Honolulu
 Advising Comly of purpose to visit Pacific Coast in the spring,
 and asking him to join Hayes in "the run up to Oregon." "Probably
 the Dems will have both Houses of Congress. But we are in good
 condition with the people. The Administration has gained steadily,
 and is now stronger than ever before.... The bother in the South is
 ugly in many ways--but even there we are making progress." News
 of mutual political friends. "Conkling will probably be re-elected
 in N. Y.--He is likely to continue out of humor with us. The Cinti.
 result he still feels was a 'humiliation.'" ALS, 3 pp. (B3/R2)
- 1878
Dec. 14 Garfield, James A., Washington, D. C., to Comly, Honolulu
 "We have had a great campaign against the Democracy and for
 once were able to bring our people up to the direct issue of honest
 money. The Democracy are very much astonished at finding the
 mass of the people more honest than they supposed and they are
 really quite uncertain as to what they will do in the future.... We
 miss you in our Ohio councils and hope you can make us a diplo-
 matic visit before the next campaign ends." ALS, 1 p. (B3/R2)
- 1879
Feb. 18 Comly, Honolulu, to John M. Kapena, Honolulu
 Assuring him that the King's letter to Grant is duly forwarded,
 and that Comly has asked the Secretary of State to telegraph the
 earliest information about the date of Grant's visit to the Islands.
 1 p. (B4/R2)
- 1879
Oct. 27 Comly, Honolulu, to R. B. Hayes, Washington, D. C.
 Describing meeting with U. S. Grant and discussion of third
 term possibility. 4 pp. (B4/R2)
- 1880
Apr. 12 Comly, Honolulu, to Capt. A. E. Lee, Frankfurt, Germany
 Description of Hawaiian life--politics, government, social
 and military rank, and customs. 5 pp. (B4/R2)
- 1880
May 10 Comly, Honolulu, to William M. Evarts, Washington, D. C.
 Unofficial and confidential observations on the state of Russian
 relations with the United States, Britain, and Germany. 3 pp.
 (B4/R2)

- 1881
Feb. 24 Hayes, Rutherford B., Washington, D. C., to Comly, Honolulu
"I am in the hurry and worry of breaking camp....General good feeling, hopefulness, and confidence. The only doubt is as to the General's firmness and independence. With a modicum of these we have a future full of encouragement. Without it--well nothing goes without it under our system....If the place you have has been useful I am ever so glad. One of the best things of these four years is to have been able to do some good things....Our great social event taking place tonight--the Diplomats' Reception....We go to Ohio the day after the Inauguration." ALS, 3 pp. (B3/R2)
- 1881
July 21 Comly, Honolulu, to E. S. Trussell, Pomeroy, Ohio
Discussing characteristics of Hawaiian journalism. 4 pp. (B3/R2)
- 1882
May 29 Francisco, A. W., Columbus, to Comly, Honolulu
Expressing opinion that Cowan and Briggs, who are to take over the Journal, are both "mistakes;" that Lee is much troubled, speaking of ideas for another paper; Francisco may "get stuck with a farm" unless Comly returns soon. ALS, 10 pp. (B3/R2)
- 1886
Apr. 2 Hayes, Rutherford B., Fremont, Ohio, to Comly, Toledo
"I am glad you speak out...for education in the South....Romeis...voted with the friends of the bill....I like your notion of writing letters from the places you visit....The letters are like private information from the inside which a good talker gives you." ALS, 1 p.
Note on back, by Comly, explaining that since a recent visit to the Comlys' house, Hayes always notifies Comly that he need not reply to his letters. AL, 1 p. (B4/R2)

About the Author

Andrea D. Lentz joined the staff of the Ohio Historical Society as a manuscripts processor in 1967. In 1969 she became manuscripts specialist, and since 1972 she has been head of information systems in the archives-library area. Ms. Lentz holds her B. A. degree in history from Denison University and her M. A. in history from The Ohio State University. She is author of the Inventory to the Warren G. Harding Papers (1970) and A Guide to Manuscripts at the Ohio Historical Society (1972). She is the current president of the Society of Ohio Archivists and chairperson of the Urban Archives Committee of the Society of American Archivists.