



# Guide to the George Meade Bowers scrapbooks and photograph album, 1898-1917

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## Summary

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### Collection Title:

George Meade Bowers scrapbooks and photograph album, 1898-1917

### Abstract:

Collection contains three volumes relating to the life and political career of George Meade Bowers, Congressional member for West Virginia, 1916-1923: a scrapbook (1898-1914) of clippings and a few other items concerning the United States Fish Commission, fish culture, the fishing industry, and politics and elections in West Virginia, with a few items relating to the Bowers family; a scrapbook of congratulatory telegrams sent after Bowers's 1916 election to Congress; and a photograph album from a 1917 visit to Hawaii by a congressional delegation, which included Bowers, containing gelatin silver photographs with views from the islands of Hawaii, Oahu, and Kauai, photographs of officials and Japanese and Hawaiian inhabitants, and an image of Queen Liliuokalani lying in state following her death November 11, 1917.

### Extent:

1.5 Linear Feet (3 volumes)

### Language:

English .

### Collection ID:

RL.11838

### Permalink:

<https://library.duke.edu/rubenstein/findingaids/bowersgeorgemeade/>

### Preferred Citation

[Identification of item], George Meade Bowers scrapbooks and photograph album, David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library, Duke University.

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## **Background**

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### **Scope and Content**

Collection contains three volumes belonging to George Meade Bowers, Republican politician and government official from West Virginia.

The photograph album, entitled "Photographs, Congressional Party in Hawaii, George Meade Bowers," contains 58 silver gelatin photographs. The album is undated, but the image content establishes its creation from 1916-1917. The delegation's visit in 1917 coincided with the death of Queen Liliuokalani on Nov. 11, 1917 and her funeral; the album includes a photograph of the Queen lying in state. Settings include the islands of Oahu, Hawaii, and Kauai, including Honolulu, Kona, Waimea, Kaimu, Makapuu, and Hilo. Scenes include Hawaii Volcanoes National Park (created a national park in 1916), the delegation, schoolchildren, Japanese, Hawaiians, public officials, and travel.

The scrapbook, also assembled by George Bowers, contains mostly clippings but also a small number of photographs, and dates from 1898-1914. They primarily concern his work as U.S. Commissioner of Fish and Fisheries, 1898-1913. There are a variety of clippings about Bowers, the Fish Commission, the International Fisheries Congress in 1908, oyster; lobsters, various kinds of fish, and the U.S. fishing industry. There are also numerous clipping about politics and elections in West Virginia. A few clippings concern the Bowers family.

The third album contains congratulatory telegrams for Bowers' 1916 election to Congress from the Second District of West Virginia. The telegrams include two from Theodore Roosevelt, one of which is substantive. There is one photograph in the back of the leather volume, of a campaign parade for Bowers.

### **Biographical/Historical**

George Meade Bowers (1863-1925) was a banker, Republican politician, and government official from Martinsburg, Berkeley County, West Virginia. Bowers served as a member of the West Virginia House of Delegates from 1883-1887. He was the supervisor of the United States census for West Virginia in 1890 and a delegate to the Republican National Convention in 1892. He was a member and treasurer of the board of World's Fair commissioners for West Virginia in 1893 and United States Commissioner of Fish and Fisheries from 1898 to 1903, and subsequently Director of the United States Bureau of Fisheries from 1903 to 1913, when he resigned. He was elected to Congress in 1916 and served until 1923. After leaving Congress, he became president of the People's Trust Company. He died in Martinsburg, West Virginia in 1925.

[Source: Wikipedia, accessed April 8, 2020]

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## **Administrative Information**

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### **Publication Statement**

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### **Access Restrictions**

Collection is open for research.

### **Use Restrictions**

The copyright interests in this collection have not been transferred to Duke University. For more information, consult the copyright section of the Regulations and Procedures of the David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library.

### **Acquisition Information**

The George Meade Bowers scrapbooks and photograph album were received by the David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library as a gift in 1956.

### **Processing Information**

Albums were processed and cataloged by library staff, 1957, 1982.

Collection guide description by Paula Jeannet, April 2020.

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## Names and Subjects

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- Fisheries -- United States
- Fishery law and legislation -- United States
- Legislators -- United States -- Correspondence
- Hawaii -- Photographs
- Hawaii -- Description and travel
- United States -- Politics and government -- 1901-1953
- West Virginia -- Politics and government
- Black-and-white photographs
- Gelatin silver prints
- Photograph albums
- Scrapbooks

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## Collection Inventory

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### **Photograph album: "Photographs, Congressional Party in Hawaii, Hon. George M. Bowers", 1916-1917**

#### **Scope and Contents**

Album contains 58 black-and-white gelatin silver photographs. The album is undated; however, library staff determined that the photographs probably date from around 1916-1917, mostly likely from fall of 1917. Bowers was elected in May, 1916. The photographs include one of Governor Pinkham of Hawaii who left office in June, 1918. The Hawaiian Annual reported Congressional visits in May 1915 and autumn 1917, but not in 1916.

The delegation's visit in 1917 coincided with the death of Queen Liliuokalani on Nov. 11, 1917 and her funeral. This album includes a photograph of the Queen lying in state.

Copies of the entries from the Hawaiian Annual are filed with the album.

#### Box 1

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Waialele, Francis Gay, Honolulu, T. H.

#### **Scope and Contents**

Title supplied by library staff.

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Man

#### **Scope and Contents**

Title supplied by library staff.

Woman

**Scope and Contents**

Title supplied by library staff.

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Six men (Congressional delegation probably),  
including Congressman Bowers

**Scope and Contents**

Title supplied by library staff.

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Man and woman aboard ship

**Scope and Contents**

Title supplied by library staff.

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On board S.S. Mauna Kea  
Members of the Legislature of Hawaii  
Roof garden, Young Hotel  
At the Makapuu Light House  
At the Makapuu Light House  
Roof garden, Young Hotel  
Luncheon, College of Hawaii  
Same place as No. 13

**Scope and Contents**

Title supplied by library staff.

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School children, Kaulani Home  
On the beach of Waikiki  
On the beach of Waikiki  
H. M. Queen Liliuokalani lying in state  
Col. McCarthy tells members of Captain Cook  
On the small boats at Kailua, Kona  
Kailua Landing, Kona  
Kailua Landing, Kona  
In the coffee district, Kona  
Hess and his new discoveries  
At Walls' place, Kona  
Members of Congress and a few Japanese  
women at Walls' place  
Crossing the lava beds  
In front of Volcano House  
A start for the crater of Kilauea  
Looking towards the 'Pit' from the Volcano  
House  
Viewing the crater of Kilauea  
The crater at night  
On the Volcano Road  
On the beach at Kaimu  
Governor Pinkham and Lasky Players  
Members of Congress and Sesue Hayakawa

Tree moulds, Puna, Hawaii  
Members of Congress and native Hawaiians  
Cocanut [sic] trees at Kaimu, Puna  
Paulo Station, Hawaii  
Luau, Hilo, Hawaii  
Leaving Hilo Wharf  
On the wharf, Hilo  
Koloa School, Kauai  
Kukuioolono Park, Kauai  
Waimea School, Kauai  
Hon. Nichols' address in Waimea  
Reception line, Waimea, Kauai  
Children of Kauai greet members of Congress  
At the Waimea Hotel, Kauai  
Hon. Carter & some of the homesteaders, Kauai  
Senator Thompson and Lihue School  
Kapaa School, Kauai  
At Coney's luncheon  
Farewell at Coney's, Kauai  
Luncheon at Coney's, Kauai  
Congressman Bowers and man aboard ship  
**Scope and Contents**

Title supplied by library staff.

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Six men aboard ship, Including Congressman  
Bowers  
**Scope and Contents**

Title supplied by library staff.

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Congressman Bowers aboard ship  
**Scope and Contents**

Title supplied by library staff.

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Schoolchildren, Kailani Home  
**Scope and Contents**

Title supplied by library staff.

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Schoolchildren, Kailani Home  
**Scope and Contents**

Title supplied by library staff.

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**Scrapbooks, 1898-1916**

Clippings scrapbook, 1898-1914

Volume L-5996

**Scope and Contents**

The album consists of over 100 pages of clippings chiefly documenting Bowers' political career, with a few concerning the Bowers family. It measures 30 1/2 x 25 1/2 cm.

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Telegrams scrapbook, 1916

Volume M-5994

**Scope and Contents**

This album, bound in leather, contains 68 pages of telegrams congratulating George Bowers on his 1916 election to Congress as a representative for West Virginia. Two of the telegrams are from Theodore Roosevelt; one is substantive in nature. The album measures 18 1/2 x 30 cm.

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