

Thomas Henry Carter Papers

A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress

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Curry



Manuscript Division, Library of
Congress

Washington, D.C.

2009

Contact information: <http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/mss.contact>

Finding aid encoded by Library of
Congress Manuscript Division, 2010

Finding aid URL: <http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms010160>

Collection Summary

Title: Thomas Henry Carter Papers

Span Dates: 1833-1917

Bulk Dates: (bulk 1888-1917)

ID No.: MSS15305

Creator: Carter, Thomas Henry, 1854-1922

Extent: 9,000 items; 25 containers plus 1 oversize; 9.6 linear feet; 16 microfilm reels

Language: Collection material in English

Repository: Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Abstract: Lawyer and United States representative and senator from Montana. Correspondence, writings, memoranda, clippings, notes, invitations, photographs, and financial records relating primarily to Montana, Republican Party politics, and Carter's career in Congress.

Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

People

Ballinger, Richard Achilles, 1858-1922.

Beattie, Edwin

Carter, Thomas Henry, 1854-1911.

Dixon, Joseph M. (Joseph Moore), 1867-1934.

Fairbanks, Charles W. (Charles Warren), 1852-1918.

Garfield, James Rudolph, 1865-1950.

Harrison, Benjamin, 1833-1901.

Lanstrum, Oscar Monroe, 1869-1928

Penrose, Boies, 1860-1921.

Pray, Charlie

Roosevelt, Theodore, 1858-1919.

Ryan, Thomas Fortune, 1851-1928.

Taft, William H. (William Howard), 1857-1930.

Organizations

American-Irish Historical Society.

Republican Party (U.S. : 1854-)

Subjects

Conservation of natural resources.

Indians of North America--Government relations.

Irish Americans

Laity--Catholic Church

Postal service--United States.

Public lands.

Tariff--United States.

Places

Glacier National Park (Mont.)

Montana--Politics and government.

Yellowstone National Park.

Occupations

Lawyers.

Representatives, U.S. Congress--Montana.

Senators, U.S. Congress--Montana.

Administrative Information

Provenance

The papers of Thomas Henry Carter, lawyer and U.S. representative and senator from Montana, were given to the Library of Congress in 1932-1933 by his son, John Galen Carter.

Processing History

The Thomas Henry Carter Papers were arranged in 1953, reorganized and described in 1968, and prepared for microfilming in 1977. The series description and container list were revised in 2009 to reflect the renumbering of oversize items and other changes.

Copyright Status

The status of copyright in the unpublished writings of Thomas Henry Carter is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.).

Access and Restrictions

The papers of Thomas Henry Carter are open to research. Researchers are advised to contact the Manuscript Reading Room prior to visiting. Many collections are stored off-site and advance notice is needed to retrieve these items for research use.

Microfilm

A microfilm edition of these papers is available on sixteen reels. Consult reference staff in the Manuscript Division concerning availability for purchase or interlibrary loan. To promote preservation of the originals, researchers are required to consult the microfilm.

Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: Container number, Thomas Henry Carter Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Biographical Note

<i>Date</i>	<i>Event</i>
1854, Oct. 30	Born, Scioto County, Ohio
1878	Began study of law, Burlington, Iowa
1882	Moved to Helena, Mont., and practiced law
1886	Married Ellen L. Galen
1889-1891	Delegate, subsequently representative, from Montana to fifty-first U.S. Congress
1891-1892	Commissioner, General Land Office
1892-1896	Chairman, Republican National Committee
1895-1901	United States senator from Montana

1901-1904	President, Louisiana Purchase Exposition Commission
1895-1901	United States senator from Montana
1911	Chairman, U.S. section of the International Joint Commission created to prevent disputes regarding use of boundary waters between the U.S. and Canada
1911, Sept. 17	Died, Washington, D.C.

Scope and Content Note

The papers of Thomas Henry Carter (1854-1911) span the years 1883-1917, with the bulk from 1888 to 1911, the years in which Carter was active on the national political scene. The papers consist chiefly of correspondence and copies of his writings. Printed matter, clippings, memoranda, lists, notes, invitations, photographs, and financial records complete the collection.

Letters sent, copies of letters sent, and letters received make up the [Family](#) and [General Correspondence](#) that account for over half of the collection. The [Family Correspondence](#) consists chiefly of Carter's letters to his wife and sons, John and Hugh, chronicling his activities in intimate detail. Because there is little correspondence for the years from 1888 to 1907 in the [General Correspondence](#), Carter's public life is principally documented in the [Family Correspondence](#). Most of the [General Correspondence](#) dates from 1908 to 1911 with scattered letters from earlier and later periods.

The collection contains considerable material on such topics as public lands, conservation, tariffs, Indian affairs, and the postal system. The issue of public lands was vital to Carter as a Westerner. He drafted the National Forestry bill of 1897 and was instrumental in furthering legislation to improve Yellowstone National Park and to establish Glacier National Park. While an advocate of some conservation measures, Carter fought for more liberal homestead legislation and generally favored getting the public domain into private hands as rapidly as possible. Although a staunch Republican, Carter opposed the Payne-Aldrich Tariff and succeeded in securing amendments in favor of the wool growers of Montana. Carter considered the Postal Savings Bank Act, adopted during the administration of William H. Taft, the most important legislation of his career.

The course of Montana politics in the first decades of statehood is represented in the collection by letters from constituents and local political leaders, which reveal both the issues and patronage in that state. Because Carter was a leading public figure in Montana, Theodore Roosevelt and William H. Taft consulted him in arranging their tours of that state in 1911. In addition to correspondence, there is a series of notebooks that record, in part, county voting by precinct in the Montana elections of 1898.

Prominent correspondents include Richard Achilles Ballinger, Edwin Beattie, Joseph M. Dixon, Charles W. Fairbanks, James Rudolph Garfield, Benjamin Harrison, Oscar Monroe Lanstrum, Boies Penrose, Charlie Pray, Theodore Roosevelt (1858-1919), Thomas F. Ryan, and William H. Taft.

Besides politics, Carter's primary interests were the Roman Catholic Church and various Irish-American societies. As a prominent layman in the church, Carter was particularly interested in Catholic missionary work among the Indians and in Catholic higher education. His service on the Advisory Board at Georgetown University is documented. Carter, of Irish ancestry, was an active member of the American Irish Historical Society and addressed this and other groups, extolling the virtues of the Irish and emphasizing their contribution to American history. Notes, speeches, and invitations relating to this avocation abound in the papers.

Carter's writings consist mainly of political speeches, many of which were delivered on the Fourth of July and at commencements in his state. There is also an unpublished manuscript describing his career as a public figure from Montana, beginning with the campaign of 1888 and ending with the Theodore Roosevelt administration.

The remainder of the collection consists of several biographical sketches, genealogical material, financial records, and printed matter.

Arrangement of the Papers

This collection is arranged in eight series:

- [Family Correspondence, 1883-1911](#)
- [General Correspondence, 1889-1917](#)
- [Speech, Article, and Book File, 1886-1911](#)
- [Montana County Election File, 1898](#)
- [Invitation File](#)
- [Financial File](#)
- [Miscellany](#)
- [Oversize, 1892-1897](#)

Description of Series

<i>Container</i>	<i>Series</i>
BOX 1-5 REEL 1-4	<u>Family Correspondence, 1883-1911</u> Letters sent and letters received. Arranged chronologically.
BOX 6-15 REEL 4-11	<u>General Correspondence, 1889-1917</u> Letters received and copies of letters sent, memoranda, maps, telegrams, and clippings. Arranged chronologically.
BOX 16-17 REEL 11-12	<u>Speech, Article, and Book File, 1886-1911</u> Drafts of speeches, reprint of an article, drafts of congressional bills, and drafts of an unpublished book. Arranged by type of writing and chronologically within the speeches.
BOX 18 BOX 12	<u>Montana County Election File, 1898</u> Notebooks recording county votes precinct by precinct for each Montana county. Arranged in numerical sequence. Notebooks for county numbers 13, 16, 18, and 20 are not in the collection.
BOX 19 REEL 13	<u>Invitation File</u> Invitations and announcements. Arranged by name of person.
BOX 20-21 REEL 13-15	<u>Financial File</u> Accounts, bills, receipts, invoices, deeds, and ledger. Arranged alphabetically by type of material.
BOX 22-25 REEL 15-16	<u>Miscellany</u> Biographical and genealogical material, photographs, scrapbooks, and printed matter. Arranged by type of material
BOX OV 1 REEL 16	<u>Oversize, 1892-1897</u> Clippings and commissions. Arranged according to the series container, and folders from which the material was removed.

Container List

Available on microfilm. Shelf no. 17,139

<i>Container</i>	<i>Contents</i>
BOX 1-5 REEL 1-4	Family Correspondence, 1883-1911 Letters sent and letters received. Arranged chronologically.
BOX 1 REEL 1	1883-1893 (12 folders)
BOX 2 REEL 1-2	1894-1897 (9 folders)
BOX 3 REEL 2	1898-1903 (11 folders)
BOX 4 REEL 3	1904-1908 (7 folders)
BOX 5 REEL 3-4	1909-1911 (6 folders)
BOX 5 REEL 3-4	Undated
BOX 5 REEL 3-4	Letters of condolence on Carter's death
BOX 6-15 REEL 4-11	General Correspondence, 1889-1917 Letters received and copies of letters sent, memoranda, maps, telegrams, and clippings. Arranged chronologically.
BOX 6 REEL 4-5	1889-1908 (8 folders)
BOX 7 REEL 5	1909 Jan.-Aug.
BOX 7 REEL 5	 (8 folders)
BOX 8 REEL 6	Sept.-Dec.
BOX 9 REEL 6-7	 (7 folders) 1910

General Correspondence, 1889-1917

<i>Container</i>	<i>Contents</i>
BOX 9 REEL 6-7	Jan.-Mar. (6 folders)
BOX 10 REEL 7-8	Apr.-June (7 folders)
BOX 11 REEL 8	July-Sept. (6 folders)
BOX 12 REEL 9	Oct.-Nov. (6 folders)
BOX 13 REEL 9	Dec. (4 folders)
BOX 14 REEL 10	1911
BOX 14 REEL 10	Jan.-Mar. (6 folders)
BOX 15 REEL 10-11	1911, Apr.-1917, Dec. (9 folders)
BOX 15 REEL 10-11	Undated
BOX 16-17 REEL 11-12	Speech, Article, and Book File, 1886-1911 Drafts of speeches, reprint of an article, drafts of congressional bills, and drafts of an unpublished book. Arranged by type of writing and chronologically within the speeches.
BOX 16 REEL 11	Article entitled "The Post Office as a Depository for Savings"
BOX 16 REEL 11	Draft of congressional bills
BOX 16 REEL 11	Draft of book on Carter, chapters 1-25 (3 folders)
BOX 16 REEL 11	Letter to the editor, Christian Endeavor World, circa 1911
BOX 16 REEL 11	Miscellaneous draft of book on Carter
BOX 16 REEL 11	Draft of book on Carter, 1888-1889
BOX 16 REEL 11	Speeches
BOX 16 REEL 11	1886-1903
BOX 16	Address, 1886, July 4

Speech, Article, and Book File, 1886-1911

Container

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REEL 11	
BOX 16	Dedication of Lewis and Clark County Court House, 1887
REEL 11	
BOX 16	Welcome to representative of Pope Leo XIII, 1889
REEL 11	
BOX 16	Memorial Day address, Elks Club, Helena, Mont., 1893
REEL 11	
BOX 16	"Montana: Its Past, Present, and Future," 1897
REEL 11	
BOX 16	Address at banquet for Marquis Hirobumi Ito of Japan, Seattle, Wash., 1901
REEL 11	
BOX 16	Address, Montana Republican State Central Committee, 1902
REEL 11	
BOX 16	Commencement address for medical class, St. Louis University, St. Louis, Mo., 1903, Apr. 25
REEL 11	
BOX 16	Program, Louisiana Purchase Exposition, St. Louis, Mo., 1903, Apr. 30
REEL 11	
BOX 16	Commencement address, Montana School of Mines, Butte, Mont., 1903, June
REEL 11	
BOX 16	Address at banquet of Knights of St. Patrick, 1903
REEL 11	
BOX 17	1904-1911
REEL 12	
BOX 17	Address, stock growers convention, Miles City, Mont., 1904, Apr. 19
REEL 12	
BOX 17	Commencement address, Montana Wesleyan University, Helena, Mont., 1905, May 24
REEL 12	
BOX 17	Address of acceptance of senatorship, joint assembly of Montana, Helena, Mont., 1905
REEL 12	
BOX 17	Address, Montana Theater, Brooklyn, N.Y., 1906, Mar. 11
REEL 12	
BOX 17	Address, dedication of the cathedral, Helena, Mont., 1906
REEL 12	
BOX 17	Address, opening of state campaign, Missoula, Mont., 1908, Sept. 24
REEL 12	
BOX 17	Address, Anaconda, Mont., 1908, Oct. 7
REEL 12	
BOX 17	Address, American Irish Historical Society, Washington, D.C., 1908
REEL 12	
BOX 17	Campaign speech, Montana, circa 1908
REEL 12	
BOX 17	Commencement address, National University Law School, Washington, D.C., 1909, June 6
BOX 12	
BOX 17	Address, Dry Lands Farming Congress, Billings, Mont., 1909, Oct. 28
BOX 12	
BOX 17	Address, Chamber of Commerce, Utica, N.Y., 1909
BOX 12	
BOX 17	Address on tariff on wool, U.S. Senate, circa 1909
BOX 12	
BOX 17	Address and notes on the tariff, circa 1909

Speech, Article, and Book File, 1886-1911

<i>Container</i>	<i>Contents</i>
BOX 12	
BOX 17	Political address in Montana, circa 1909
BOX 12	
BOX 17	Public lands, circa 1909
BOX 12	
BOX 17	Address, University of Notre Dame, South Bend, Ind., circa 1910
BOX 12	
BOX 17	"The Facts concerning the Railroad Rate Bill," circa 1910
BOX 12	
BOX 17	Miscellaneous
BOX 12	
BOX 17	Speeches
BOX 12	
	(2 folders)
BOX 17	Writings
BOX 12	
BOX 17	Notes and lists
BOX 12	
BOX 17	Fragments
BOX 12	
BOX 18	Montana County Election File, 1898
BOX 12	
	Notebooks recording county votes precinct by precinct for each Montana county.
	Arranged in numerical sequence. Notebooks for county numbers 13, 16, 18, and 20 are not in the collection.
BOX 18	Cascade, no. 1
BOX 12	
BOX 18	Choteau, no. 2
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BOX 18	Valley, no. 3
BOX 12	
BOX 18	Flathead, no. 4
BOX 12	
BOX 18	Feton, no. 5
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BOX 18	Silver Bow, no. 6
BOX 12	
BOX 18	Sweet Gross, no. 7
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BOX 18	Yellowstone, no. 8
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BOX 18	Park, no. 9
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BOX 18	Dawson, no. 10
BOX 12	
BOX 18	Custer, no. 11
BOX 12	

Montana County Election File, 1898

<i>Container</i>	<i>Contents</i>
BOX 18 BOX 12	Carbon, no. 12
BOX 18 BOX 12	Fergus, no. 14
BOX 18 BOX 12	Missoula, no. 15
BOX 18 BOX 12	Beaverhead, no. 17
BOX 18 BOX 12	Madison, no. 19
BOX 18 BOX 12	Ravalli, no. 21
BOX 19 REEL 13	Invitation File Invitations and announcements. Arranged by name of person.
BOX 19 REEL 13	Roosevelt, Theodore
BOX 19 REEL 13	Taft, William H.
BOX 19 REEL 13	Sherman, James Schoolcraft
BOX 19 REEL 13	Miscellaneous (3 folders)
BOX 20-21 REEL 13-15	Financial File Accounts, bills, receipts, invoices, deeds, and ledger. Arranged alphabetically by type of material.
BOX 20 REEL 13-14	Bills and receipts (10 folders)
BOX 21 REEL 14-15	(7 folders)
BOX 21 REEL 14-15	Ledger
BOX 21 REEL 14-15	Deeds
BOX 22-25 REEL 15-16	Miscellany Biographical and genealogical material, photographs, scrapbooks, and printed matter. Arranged by type of material
BOX 22 REEL 15	Biographical material

Miscellany

<i>Container</i>	<i>Contents</i>
BOX 22 REEL 15	Genealogical material, Julia Anne Carter Lang, "Reminiscences"
BOX 22 REEL 15	Filing notes
BOX 22 REEL 15	Photographs
BOX 22 REEL 15	Blueprints and maps
BOX 22 REEL 15	Pamphlets
	(5 folders)
BOX 23 REEL 16	Scrapbooks
BOX 23 REEL 16	Bound
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BOX 23 REEL 16	Jan.-May
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BOX 24 REEL 16	June-July
BOX 25 REEL 16	Unbound
BOX 25 REEL 16	circa 1910
BOX 25 REEL 16	Undated
BOX 25 REEL 16	Clippings, 1897 <i>See Oversize</i>
BOX 25 REEL 16	Commission, 1892 <i>See Oversize</i>
BOX OV 1 REEL 16	Oversize, 1892-1897
	Clippings and commissions. Arranged according to the series container, and folders from which the material was removed.
BOX OV 1 REEL 16	Clippings, 1897 (Container 25)
BOX OV 1 REEL 16	Commission, 1892 (Container 25)