

Key Pittman Papers

A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress

Prepared by Katherine Brand



Manuscript Division, Library of
Congress

Washington, D.C.

2011

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Collection Summary

Title: Key Pittman Papers

Span Dates: 1898-1951

Bulk Dates: (bulk 1912-1940)

ID No.: MSS36343

Creator: Pittman, Key, 1898-1851

Extent: 55,000 items; 191 containers; 76.4 linear feet

Language: Collection material in English

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

Abstract: Lawyer and United States senator from Nevada. Correspondence, speeches, articles, legal and financial papers, subject files, scrapbooks, newspapers, clippings, printed matter, memorabilia, photographs, and other papers relating mainly to Pittman's service in the Senate.

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

Broussard, Edwin Sidney, 1874-1934.

Hoover, Herbert, 1874-1964.

Hull, Cordell, 1871-1955.

Ickes, Harold L. (Harold LeClair), 1874-1952.

Long, Breckinridge, 1881-1958.

McAdoo, W. G. (William Gibbs), 1863-1941.

McCarran, Pat, 1876-1954.

Morgenthau, Henry, 1891-1967.

Nixon, George Stuart, 1860-1912.

Oddie, Tasker L. (Tasker Lowndes), 1870-1950.

Pittman, Key, 1872-1940.

Robinson, Joseph Taylor, 1872-1937.

Roosevelt, Franklin D. (Franklin Delano), 1882-1945.

Scrugham, James G. (James Graves), 1880-1945.

Tumulty, Joseph P. (Joseph Patrick), 1879-1954.

Tydings, Millard E. (Millard Evelyn), 1890-1961.

Underwood, Oscar Wilder, 1862-1929.

Wilson, Woodrow, 1856-1924.

Organizations

League of Nations.

Subjects

Coinage--United States.

International trade.

Neutrality.

Reclamation of land--Nevada.

Silver mines and mining.

Women--Suffrage.

Places

Alaska--Politics and government.

China--Commerce.

Far East--Commerce.

Hoover Dam (Ariz. and Nev.)

Occupations

Lawyers.

Senators, U.S. Congress--Nevada.

Administrative Information

Provenance

The papers of Key Pittman, lawyer and United States senator from Nevada, were deposited in the Library of Congress in 1941 by his wife, Mimosa Gates Pittman. The papers were temporarily withdrawn by her in 1942 before being given to the Library by Edgar R. Gates, Humbolt B. Gates, Maude V. Evans, and Angeline G. Huntley in 1954.

Processing History

The papers of Key Pittman were described and arranged in 1958. The finding aid was revised in 2011.

Copyright Status

Copyright in the unpublished writings of Key Pittman in these papers and in other collections of papers in the custody of the Library of Congress has been dedicated to the public.

Access and Restrictions

The papers of Key Pittman 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.

Preferred Citation

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

Biographical Note

<i>Date</i>	<i>Event</i>
1872, Sept. 19	Born, Vicksburg, Miss.
1890	Attended Southwestern Presbyterian University, Clarksville, Tenn.
1892	Admitted to bar and began law practice, Seattle, Wash.
1897-1899	Joined gold rush to Alaskan Klondike and worked as a miner
1897-1901	Practiced law in Alaska; counsel for Australians in Dawson, Alaska Took part in establishing consent government for Nome, Alaska
1899	First prosecuting attorney of Nome, Alaska
1900	Married Mimosa June Gates (died 1952)
1901	Moved to Tonopah, Nev.; continued law practice

1910	Unsuccessful Democratic candidate for the United States Senate
1912	Elected to United States Senate
1924	Secretary, Committee on Platforms and Resolutions, Democratic Party national convention
1933	Delegate, World Economic Conference, London, England
1933-1940	Chairman, Senate Foreign Relations Committee President pro tempore, United States Senate
1940, Nov. 10	Died, Reno, Nev.

Scope and Content Note

The papers of Key Pittman (1872-1940) span the years 1898-1951, with the bulk of the material concentrated in the period 1912-1940 and relating primarily to his position as senator from Nevada. The collection contains files of political, personal, and legal correspondence, speeches and articles, subject files, clippings, and other printed matter pertaining to such subjects as silver, mining and coinage, Boulder Dam, reclamation of lands in Nevada, Alaskan affairs, neutrality, foreign trade, commercial relations with China and Asia, the League of Nations, and women's suffrage. The collection is arranged largely as received and is organized into twenty-two series.

A [Legislative File](#) composed of congressional bills, pending and passed, and correspondence pertaining to them covers the period 1913-1940 for the 63rd -76th Congresses. For the same period there is a file of correspondence with the various [executive departments](#) of the government.

Pittman's early career as a lawyer, prospector, and miner in Alaska, California, and Nevada is treated by files on legal and business matters and personal correspondence in the period 1898-1912. The correspondence exchanged between Pittman and his wife is revealing of the senator's political career and personal life.

[Financial records](#) relating to the Pittman estate, 1940-1950, [scrapbooks](#) and [photographs](#) complete the collection.

Correspondents include Edwin Sidney Broussard, Herbert Hoover, Cordell Hull, Harold L. Ickes, Breckinridge Long, William Gibbs McAdoo, Pat McCarran, Henry Morgenthau (1891-1967), George Stuart Nixon, Tasker Loundes Oddie, Joseph Taylor Robinson, Franklin D. Roosevelt, James Graves Scrugham, Joseph P. Tumulty, Millard E. Tydings, Oscar Wilder Underwood, and Woodrow Wilson.

Arrangement of the Papers

This collection is arranged in twenty-two series:

- [Biographical Data and Diary Material, 1910-1940](#)
- [Political Correspondence, 1902-1940](#)
- [General Correspondence, 1912-1940](#)
- [Key Pittman Personal Correspondence, 1902-1940](#)
- [Mimosa Gates Pittman, 1898-1950](#)
- [Business Correspondence, 1904-1912](#)
- [Executive Departments, 1912-1940](#)
- [Senatorial Committees, 1912-1922](#)
- [Legislative File, 1913-1940](#)

- Tonopah Office Files, 1902-1915
- Legal File, 1902-1915
- Miscellaneous Correspondence, 1916-1918
- Boulder Dam File, 1919-1940
- Silver, 1923-1939
- Subject File, 1910-1940
- Speeches, Articles, and Remarks, 1903-1940
- Financial File, 1907-1951
- Newspaper Clippings and Newspapers, 1922-1940
- Miscellaneous Printed Matter, 1912-1940
- Scrapbooks, 1910-1939
- Memorabilia
- Photographs

Description of Series

<i>Container</i>	<i>Series</i>
BOX 1	<u>Biographical Data and Diary Material, 1910-1940</u> Genealogical correspondence, memoirs, engagement books, and biographical sketches. Arranged by type of material.
BOX 2-24	<u>Political Correspondence, 1902-1940</u> Chiefly letters sent and received. Arranged alphabetically by name of correspondent or subject in four chronological groups, except for the earliest group, 1902-1913, which is arranged chronologically by month.
BOX 25-40	<u>General Correspondence, 1912-1940</u> Chiefly letters sent and received. Arranged alphabetically by name of correspondent or subject in two chronological groups, 1912-1920 and 1934-1940, and chronologically therein.
BOX 41-52	<u>Key Pittman Personal Correspondence, 1902-1940.</u> Chiefly letters sent and received. Arranged in two chronological groups; the 1902-1913 group is arranged alphabetically by name of correspondent; the 1920-1940 group alphabetically by name of correspondent or subject and chronologically therein.
BOX 53-60	<u>Mimosa Gates Pittman, 1898-1950</u> Letters and telegrams to Key Pittman from his wife, Mimosa Gates Pittman, and subject files relating to her. Arranged by type of material, with letters and telegrams arranged chronologically by year and subject files arranged alphabetically.
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- BOX 189 Memorabilia
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Container List

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