

James Rudolph Garfield Papers

A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress

Prepared by Kate Stewart
Revised by Nan Thompson Ernst



Manuscript Division, Library of
Congress

Washington, D.C.

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Collection Summary

Title: James Rudolph Garfield Papers

Span Dates: 1879-1950

Bulk Dates: (bulk 1890-1932)

ID No.: MSS21964

Creator: Garfield, James Rudolph, 1865-1950

Extent: 70,000 items; 245 containers; 98 linear feet

Language: Collection material in English

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

Abstract: Attorney and secretary of the interior. Diaries, correspondence, family papers, legal documents, and business and political records relating primarily to Garfield's business concerns and public service.

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

Baker, Newton Diehl, 1871-1937--Correspondence.

Bryce, James Bryce, Viscount, 1838-1922--Correspondence.

Coolidge, Calvin, 1872-1933--Correspondence.

Garfield, Helen Newell, 1866-1930. Helen Newell Garfield papers.

Garfield, James A. (James Abram), 1831-1881--Family.

Garfield, James A. (James Abram), 1831-1881. James A. Garfield papers.

Garfield, James Rudolph, 1865-1950.

Garfield, Lucretia Rudolph, 1832-1918. Lucretia Rudolph Garfield papers.

Harding, Warren G. (Warren Gamaliel), 1865-1923--Correspondence.

Howe, Frederic Clemson, 1867-1940.--Correspondence.

Hunt, Gaillard, 1862-1924--Correspondence.

Jusserand, J. J. (Jean Jules), 1855-1932--Correspondence.

Pinchot, Gifford, 1865-1946--Correspondence.

Roosevelt, Edith Kermit Carow, 1861-1948--Correspondence.

Roosevelt, Theodore, 1858-1919--Correspondence.

Rowe, L. S. (Leo Stanton), 1871-1946--Correspondence.

Wilson, Woodrow, 1856-1924--Correspondence.

Wood, Leonard, 1860-1927--Correspondence.

Organizations

Academy of Political Science (U.S.)

National Conservation Association (U.S.)

Ohio. General Assembly. Senate.

Progressive Party (1912)

Republican Party (U.S. : 1854-)

Roosevelt Memorial Association.

United States Civil Service Commission.

United States. Bureau of Corporations.

United States. Dept. of Commerce and Labor.

United States. Dept. of the Interior.

Places

Cleveland (Ohio)--Social life and customs.

Mentor (Ohio)--Social life and customs.

Ohio--Politics and government.
United States--Politics and government.

Occupations
Cabinet officers.
Conservationists.
Lawyers.

Administrative Information

Provenance

The papers of James Rudolph Garfield, attorney, businessman, politician, conservationist, and secretary of the interior, were received by the Library of Congress in 1953 and were made a gift in 1958 by his heirs, James Abram Garfield, Newell Garfield, Mrs. John N. Garfield, and Mrs. Rudolph Hills Garfield. Subsequent additions have been made by members of the family. A considerable amount of material, including the papers of Mrs. James R. Garfield, was received in 1960. Material received after 1970 was added to the papers in 1997.

Processing History

The papers of James Rudolph Garfield were arranged and described in 1966. Additional material received after 1970 was incorporated into the papers in 1997.

Transfers

Family letters seen by [James A. Garfield \(1831-1881\)](#), father of James Randolph Garfield and twentieth president of the United States, have been transferred and indexed with his papers.

Related Material

Related papers can also be found in the papers of James Randolph Garfield's mother, Lucretia R. Garfield , and brother, Harry A. Garfield , whose collection includes letterbooks of their joint law firm, Garfield and Garfield and successor firms, 1892-1911

Copyright Status

Copyright in the unpublished writings of James Rudolph Garfield 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 James Rudolph Garfield 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, James Rudolph Garfield Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Biographical Note

<i>Date</i>	<i>Event</i>
1865, Oct. 17	Born, Hiram, Ohio
1879-1880	Student at St. Paul's School, Concord, N.H.

1881, July 2	In presidential party when his father was assassinated
1885	Graduated, Williams College, Williamstown, Mass.
1886-1888	Studied law, Columbia University, New York, N.Y.
1888	Established law firm of Garfield and Garfield with other brother, Harry A. Garfield, in Cleveland, Ohio
1890	Married Helen Newell (died 1930)
1896-1899	Member of Ohio state senate
1902-1903	Commissioner, United States Civil Service Commission
1902-1909	Member, President Theodore Roosevelt's "Tennis Cabinet"
1903-1907	Commissioner of Corporations, United States Department of Commerce and Labor
1904-1907	Investigated meat packing industry, petroleum industry, steel industry and railroads
1907-1909	Secretary of the Interior
1909	Returned to law practice and business ventures
1914	Unsuccessful Progressive Party candidate for lieutenant governor of Ohio
1932	Active in drafting platform for Republican national convention
1950, Mar. 24	Died, Cleveland, Ohio

Scope and Content Note

The papers of James Rudolph Garfield (1865-1950) span the years 1879-1950 with the bulk of the material dating from 1890 to 1932. The collection includes a series of [diaries](#), 1880-1948, [family papers](#), [general](#) and [special correspondence](#), [subject](#) and [office files](#), [legal](#) and [political papers](#), business records, and the papers of Garfield's wife, [Helen Newell Garfield](#). It reflects Garfield's business concerns as well as his public service as a member of the United States Civil Service Commission, 1902-1903, commissioner of corporations in the Department of Commerce and Labor, 1903-1907, and secretary of the interior, 1907-1909. Other aspects of Garfield's life documented in the collection include his involvement in the civic and cultural development of Cleveland and Mentor, Ohio, and his association with such organizations as the Roosevelt Memorial Association, the Academy of Political Science, and the National Conservation Association. Business interests in Mexico are recorded in numerous comments in his diaries and in letters on the politics of that country. The papers include correspondence and other material about his father, James A. Garfield (1831-1881), twentieth president of the United States.

Garfield's interest in politics from the time of his election to the Ohio senate in 1896, his only elective office, to his term as chairman of the platform committee for the Republican national convention in 1932 is documented throughout the collection. Although material on the Progressive

movement, in which Garfield played a significant part, includes correspondence and speeches, his role is not well documented in his papers. Other series with significant gaps include the [Office Files](#), a numbered series for which there are more than two hundred index cards but only about fifty numbered files of corresponding material. The [index cards](#) form a separate series in the collection.

Some of Garfield's frequent correspondents were Newton Diehl Baker, Walter F. Brown, James Bryce, Calvin Coolidge, Warren G. Harding, Frederic Clemson Howe, Gaillard Hunt, J. J. Jusserand, Gifford Pinchot, Edith Kermit Carow Roosevelt, Theodore Roosevelt, L. S. Rowe, Woodrow Wilson, and Leonard Wood.

[Helen Newell Garfield's](#) papers document the life of a socially prominent wife of a government official and active politician and businessman. They reflect her interest in religious and civic organizations, especially the Episcopal church, her work with the deaf, and war relief for French orphans of World War I.

Papers in the [Addition](#) include letters from Garfield to his wife, 1904, 1914, and 1921; general correspondence, 1895-1896, 1938; and newspaper clippings, 1932, 1946.

Organization of the Papers

The collection is arranged in thirteen series:

- [Diaries, 1880-1948](#)
- [Family Papers, 1864-1931](#)
- [General Correspondence, 1879-1942](#)
- [Special Correspondence, 1880-1936](#)
- [Office Files, 1902-1911](#)
- [Speeches, 1894-1944](#)
- [Subject File, 1893-1949](#)
- [Political File, 1892-1936](#)
- [Legal File, 1898-1928](#)
- [Miscellany, 1881-1950](#)
- [Helen Newell Garfield Papers, 1878-1930](#)
- [Index to Office Files](#)
- [Addition, 1895-1940](#)

Description of Series

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BOX 22-32	<u>Lucretia R. Garfield Correspondence, 1881-1918</u> Correspondence with James R. Garfield, his wife and their children. Arranged chronologically.
BOX 33-46	<u>Helen Newell Garfield Correspondence, 1890-1930</u> Correspondence between Garfield and his wife. Arranged chronologically.
BOX 47-71	<u>Other Family Correspondence, 1864-1931</u> Correspondence among the Garfield and Newell families. Arranged chronologically.
BOX 72-108	<u>General Correspondence, 1879-1942</u> Letters sent and received. Arranged chronologically.
BOX 109-122	<u>Special Correspondence, 1880-1936</u> Letters sent and received. Arranged alphabetically by name of correspondent and chronologically thereunder.
BOX 123-128	<u>Office Files, 1902-1911</u> Portion of a numerical file kept by clerks in Garfield's office. Arranged by assigned folder number. See also index filed separately.
BOX 129-133	<u>Speeches, 1894-1944</u> Handwritten and typewritten drafts with notes and a few printed copies of speeches and other writings. Arranged alphabetically by title, subject, or place the speech was given.
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Correspondence and legal documents of the law firm Garfield and Garfield
and successor firms.
Arranged alphabetically by subject or case name.
- BOX 183-200 Miscellany, 1881-1950
Condolence messages, biographical file, memorabilia, scrapbooks, and
financial papers.
Arranged by type of material.
- BOX 201-237 Helen Newell Garfield Papers, 1878-1930
Diaries, correspondence, speeches, school records, photographs,
newspaper clippings, and genealogical records.
Arranged chronologically or by type of document.
- BOX 238-243 Index to Office Files, undated
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- BOX 244 Addition, 1895-1940
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clippings.
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