

James J. Davis Papers

A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress

Prepared by Manuscript Division staff

Revised by Joseph K. Brooks



Manuscript Division, Library of Congress

Washington, D.C.

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Collection Summary

Title: James J. Davis

Span Dates: 1895-1946

Bulk Dates: (bulk 1921-1945)

ID No.: MSS17913

Creator: Davis, James J. (James John), 1873-1947

Extent: 13,000 items ; 56 containers plus 3 oversize ; 22.4 linear feet

Language: Collection material in English

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

Abstract: U. S. secretary of labor and senator from Pennsylvania. Correspondence, diaries, speeches and writings, investigation files, financial papers, scrapbooks, photographs, and printed matter relating to Davis's service as secretary of labor in three Republican presidential administrations, his tenure as senator from Pennsylvania, and as organizer and leader of the Loyal Order of Moose.

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

Coolidge, Calvin, 1872-1933.

Davies, Rhys J. (Rhys John), 1877-1954--Correspondence.

Davis, James J. (James John), 1873-1947.

Ferguson, Homer L. (Homer Lenoir), 1873-1953--Correspondence.

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

Hoover, Herbert, 1874-1964--Correspondence.

Hoover, Herbert, 1874-1964.

Mellon, Andrew W. (Andrew William), 1855-1937--Correspondence.

Nye, Gerald P. (Gerald Prentice), 1892-1971.

Organizations

Loyal Order of Moose.

United States. Congress--Ethics.

United States. Congress. Senate--Elections.

United States. Congress. Senate. Select Committee on Senatorial Campaign Expenditures.

United States. Dept. of Labor.

Subjects

Campaign funds--Pennsylvania.

Fraternal organizations--United States.

Governmental investigations--United States.

Industrial relations--United States.

Labor--United States.

Lotteries--United States.

Political campaigns--United States.

Social security--United States.

Strikes and lockouts--United States.

Trials--United States.

Unemployment--United States.

Voluntarism--United States.

Places

Pennsylvania--Politics and government--1865-1950.

United States--Economic policy--20th century.

United States--Politics and government--1919-1933.
United States--Politics and government--1933-1945.

Occupations

Cabinet officers.
Senators, U.S. Congress--Pennsylvania.

Administrative Information

Provenance

The papers of James J. Davis, U. S. secretary of labor and senator from Pennsylvania, were given to the Library of Congress by James J. Davis, Jr., Jane Schoeller, Jean A. Davis, Joan E. Hurt, and Jewel D. McGuire in 1955.

Processing History

The papers of James J. Davis were arranged and described in 1959. The finding aid was revised in 2012.

Copyright Status

The status of copyright in the unpublished writings of James J. Davis 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 J. Davis 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 J. Davis Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Biographical Note

<i>Date</i>	<i>Event</i>
1873, Oct. 27	Born James J. Davies, Tredagar, Wales
1881	Immigrated to the United States with his parents
1884	Apprenticed as a puddler's assistant in iron works, Sharon, Pa.
1893-1902	Moved to Elwood, Ind., and worked as city clerk
1903-1907	Recorder, Madison County, Ind.
1907-1947	Active with the Loyal Order of Moose, serving as supreme organizer and director general
1914	Married Jean Rodenbaugh
1921-1930	Secretary of labor in the Warren G. Harding, Calvin Coolidge, and Herbert Hoover administrations
1931-1945	Senator from Pennsylvania

1942	Ran unsuccessfully for governor of Pennsylvania
1947	Administrative assistant to Senator William Langer of North Dakota
1947, Nov. 22	Died, Takoma Park, Md.

Scope and Content Note

The papers of James J. Davis (1873-1947) span the years 1895-1946, with the bulk of the material concentrated in the period 1931-1946. The collection consists of thirteen series: [Diaries](#), [Loyal Order of Moose Correspondence](#), [Patronage Correspondence](#), [Political Correspondence](#), [Family Correspondence](#), [Special File](#), [Financial File](#), [Book File](#), [Speeches and Articles](#), [Scrapbooks and Personal Miscellany](#), [Printed Matter](#), [Photographs and Cartoons](#), and [Oversize](#).

The [Diaries](#) include desk diaries and a register of constituents. The three correspondence series and [Special File](#) relate to political matters, constituent services, job seekers, and to his activities as a founder, organizer, and director general of the Loyal Order of Moose. Correspondents include Rhys J. Davies, Homer L. Ferguson, Herbert Hoover, and Andrew W. Mellon.

The [Special File](#) includes files on Davis's senatorial campaign in 1931; the United States Congress Senate Select Committee on Senatorial Campaign Expenditures investigation, headed by Gerald P. Nye, of his campaign expenses; and a legal case where he was the defendant, *United States v. Davis*, the Loyal Order of Moose lottery trial. The [Speeches and Articles](#) includes Davis's writings and speeches about labor relations, unemployment, social security, various political campaigns, and a draft of his unpublished book, "The History of Strikes."

Arrangement of the Papers

This collection is arranged in thirteen series:

- [Diaries, 1922-1945](#)
- [Loyal Order of Moose Correspondence, 1930-1940](#)
- [Patronage Correspondence, 1931-1939](#)
- [Political Correspondence, 1929-1944](#)
- [Family Correspondence, 1943-1946](#)
- [Special File, 1930-1945](#)
- [Financial File, 1920-1945](#)
- [Book File, 1941](#)
- [Speeches and Articles, 1921-1946](#)
- [Scrapbooks and Personal Miscellany, 1921-1942](#)
- [Printed Matter, 1920-1945](#)
- [Photographs and Cartoons, 1895-1946](#)
- [Oversize, 1895-1946](#)

Description of Series

<i>Container</i>	<i>Series</i>
BOX 1-3	<u>Diaries, 1922-1945</u> Scheduling desk diaries and a constituents register. Arranged chronologically.
BOX 4-16	<u>Loyal Order of Moose Correspondence, 1930-1940</u> Letters sent and received. Arranged alphabetically by name of correspondent.
BOX 17-23	<u>Patronage Correspondence, 1931-1939</u> Correspondence sent and received while Davis was senator from Pennsylvania with persons seeking employment in government and private industry. Arranged alphabetically by job seeker or position sought, as organized by Davis.
BOX 24-28	<u>Political Correspondence, 1929-1944</u> Letters sent and received relating to politics and political campaigns. Arranged by name of correspondent or subject within chronological periods.
BOX 29	<u>Family Correspondence, 1943-1946</u> Letters between Davis and his son, James J. Davis, Jr. Arranged chronologically.
BOX 30-34	<u>Special File, 1930-1945</u> Legal papers, voting records, clippings, and correspondence. Arranged by topic.
BOX 35-36	<u>Financial File, 1920-1945</u> Personal and professional financial records. Unarranged.
BOX 37	<u>Book File, 1941</u> Draft of Davis's unpublished book, "History of Strikes," with related correspondence. Unarranged.
BOX 38-51	<u>Speeches and Articles, 1921-1946</u> Speeches and articles in typescript, printed, or draft format. Arranged chronologically.
BOX 51-53	<u>Scrapbooks and Personal Miscellany, 1921-1942</u> Scrapbooks, a copy of Davis's death certificate, certificates of appreciation, a gavel, and miscellaneous material. Material chronologically arranged within scrapbooks. Personal miscellany unarranged.
BOX 54-55	<u>Printed Matter, 1920-1949</u> Clippings, pamphlets, and magazines. Unarranged.

BOX 56

Photographs and Cartoons, 1895-1946

Photographs and political cartoons, 1895-1946
Unarranged.

BOX OV 1-OV 3

Oversize, 1895-1946

Scrapbooks, photographs, and cartoons.
Arranged according to the series and files from which the material was removed.

Container List

<i>Container</i>	<i>Contents</i>
BOX 1-3	Diaries, 1922-1945 Scheduling desk diaries and a constituents register. Arranged chronologically.
BOX 1	1922-1929 (8 vols.)
BOX 2	1930-1940 (5 vols.)
BOX 2	1939-1940, constituents register
BOX 3	1941-1945 (6 vols.)
BOX 4-16	Loyal Order of Moose Correspondence, 1930-1940 Letters sent and received. Arranged alphabetically by name of correspondent.
BOX 4	"A-B" miscellaneous (3 folders)
BOX 5	"C" miscellaneous
BOX 5	Dreyer, Fred C.
BOX 5	"D" miscellaneous
BOX 6	"E-F" miscellaneous (3 folders)
BOX 7	"G" miscellaneous (3 folders)
BOX 8	Hamilton, W. J.
BOX 8	Hart, Albert B.
BOX 8	Hayden, Julia
BOX 8	Henning, E. J.
BOX 8	Herrick, Lyman S.
BOX 8	Howell, Thomas M.
BOX 8	"H" miscellaneous
BOX 9	"I-K" miscellaneous (4 folders)
BOX 10	"L" miscellaneous (3 folders)
BOX 11	"M" miscellaneous (3 folders)
BOX 11	Unarranged
BOX 12	"M" miscellaneous topical files (20 folders)
BOX 12	"N" miscellaneous

Loyal Order of Moose Correspondence, 1930-1940

<i>Container</i>	<i>Contents</i>
BOX 13	"O-Q" miscellaneous (4 folders)
BOX 14	"R" miscellaneous (3 folders)
BOX 15	"Sa-Sm" miscellaneous (3 folders)
BOX 16	"Sn-Sw" miscellaneous
BOX 16	"T-Z" miscellaneous (7 folders)
BOX 17-23	Patronage Correspondence, 1931-1939 Correspondence sent and received while Davis was senator from Pennsylvania with persons seeking employment in government and private industry. Arranged alphabetically by job seeker or position sought, as organized by Davis.
BOX 17	"Ta-To" miscellaneous (8 folders)
BOX 18	"Tr-To" miscellaneous (3 folders)
BOX 18	"U" miscellaneous
BOX 18	United States attorney for Eastern Pennsylvania
BOX 18	United States Civil Service Commission
BOX 19	United States Circuit Court of Appeals, James J. Wilkerson
BOX 19	United States Circuit Court of Appeals, Ninth District
BOX 19	United States Coal Commission
BOX 19	United States Commissioner
BOX 19	United States Customs Court
BOX 19	United States District Court, Eastern Pennsylvania
BOX 19	United States District Court, Arizona
BOX 19	United States District Court, Florida
BOX 19	United States District Court, Eastern Pennsylvania, Warren C. Graham
BOX 19	United States District Court, Georgia
BOX 19	United States District Court, Minnesota
BOX 19	United States marshal
BOX 19	United States marshal, deputy
BOX 19	United States secretary of treasury
BOX 19	United States Shipping Board
BOX 19	United States Supreme Court
BOX 19	United States surgeon general
BOX 19	United States Tariff Commission
BOX 20	United States Veterans' Bureau, Pittsburgh, Pa.
BOX 20	United States Veterans' Review Board
BOX 20	Vare Construction Co.
BOX 20	"V" miscellaneous
BOX 20	Virgin Islands governorship, Paul M. Pearson
BOX 20	Wagner, John E.

Patronage Correspondence, 1931-1939

<i>Container</i>	<i>Contents</i>
BOX 20	"Waa-Wal" miscellaneous (2 folders)
BOX 21	Washington, D. C., office
BOX 21	"Wan-Waz" miscellaneous
BOX 21	Weirbach, Annette M.
BOX 21	"We-Wh" miscellaneous (3 folders)
BOX 22	"Wia-Williams" miscellaneous (2 folders)
BOX 22	"Williamsen-Wim" miscellaneous
BOX 22	"Win-Wog" miscellaneous (2 folders)
BOX 22	World's Fair, Chicago, Ill.
BOX 22	"Wr-Wy" miscellaneous (3 folders)
BOX 23	"Y-Z" miscellaneous (2 folders)
BOX 23	Unarranged (2 folders)
BOX 24-28	Political Correspondence, 1929-1944 Letters sent and received relating to politics and political campaigns. Arranged by name of correspondent or subject within chronological periods.
BOX 24	1929-1944 (3 folders)
BOX 25	1944
BOX 25	"A-C" miscellaneous (2 folders)
BOX 25	Davies (family name in Wales)
BOX 25	"D" miscellaneous
BOX 26	"E-N" miscellaneous (5 folders)
BOX 27	"O-W" miscellaneous (5 folders)
BOX 28	1939-1940, "A-Z" miscellaneous
BOX 28	1942, campaign for governor of Pennsylvania
BOX 29	Family Correspondence, 1943-1946 Letters between Davis and his son, James J. Davis, Jr. Arranged chronologically.
BOX 29	Family correspondence, 1943-1946
BOX 30-34	Special File, 1930-1945 Legal papers, voting records, clippings, and correspondence. Arranged by topic.

Special File, 1930-1945

<i>Container</i>	<i>Contents</i>
BOX 30	Senatorial campaign expenditure committee
BOX 30	Correspondence, 1931
BOX 30	"A-Z"
BOX 30	Unarranged
BOX 30	United States Congress Senate Select Committee on Senatorial Campaign Expenditures investigation headed by Gerald P. Nye, 1931
BOX 31	United States v. Davis, Loyal Order of Moose lottery trial, 1932
BOX 31	Jury
BOX 31	Indictment clippings
BOX 31	Trial clippings
BOX 31	Indictment correspondence (4 folders)
BOX 32	Trial transcripts
BOX 33	Bethlehem Steel and Youngstown Sheet and Tube Co., merger, 1930
BOX 34	Voting record, 71st to 77th Congresses
BOX 34	Guam naval base, debate and vote, 1940
BOX 34	Bills sponsored by Davis, 1943
BOX 35-36	Financial File, 1920-1945 Personal and professional financial records. Unarranged.
BOX 35	Income tax, insurance policies, stocks, and bonds (4 folders)
BOX 36	Notes, leases, campaign expense statements, expense accounts, and Loyal Order of Moose financial records
BOX 37	Book File, 1941 Draft of Davis's unpublished book, "History of Strikes," with related correspondence. Unarranged.
BOX 37	Book file, 1941
BOX 38-51	Speeches and Articles, 1921-1946 Speeches and articles in typescript, printed, or draft format. Arranged chronologically.
BOX 38	1921 (2 vols.)
BOX 39	1922-1923 (2 vols.)
BOX 40	1924 (2 vols.)
BOX 41	1925 (2 vols.)
BOX 42	1926 Jan.-1927 May (2 vols.)

Speeches and Articles, 1921-1946

<i>Container</i>	<i>Contents</i>
BOX 43	1927 June-1928 June (2 vols.)
BOX 44	1928 July-1929 Apr. (2 vols.)
BOX 45	1929 May-1929 Dec. (2 vols.)
BOX 46	1930 Jan.-May
BOX 47	1930, May-Nov. (2 vols.)
BOX 48	1922-1930 (3 folders)
BOX 49	1924-1937 (3 folders)
BOX 50	1938-1944 3 folders)
BOX 50	Loyal Order of Moose speeches, 1929-1937
BOX 51-53	Scrapbooks and Personal Miscellany, 1921-1942 Scrapbooks, a copy of Davis's death certificate, certificates of appreciation, a gavel, and miscellaneous material. Material chronologically arranged within scrapbooks. Personal miscellany unarranged.
BOX 51	Scrapbooks
BOX 51	1921-1924
BOX 52	1922-1923, 1928 (2 vols.)
BOX 52	1942 See Oversize
BOX 53	Personal miscellany.
BOX 54-55	Printed Matter, 1920-1949 Clippings, pamphlets, and magazines. Unarranged.
BOX 54-55	Printed matter, 1920-1949
BOX 56	Photographs and Cartoons, 1895-1946 Photographs and political cartoons, 1895-1946 Unarranged.
BOX 56	Photographs and political cartoons, 1895-1946 See also Oversize
BOX OV 1-OV 3	Oversize, 1895-1946 Scrapbooks, photographs, and cartoons. Arranged according to the series and files from which the material was removed.
BOX OV 1	Scrapbooks, 1942 (Container 52)
BOX OV 1	Feb.-May
BOX OV 2	May-June
BOX OV 3	Photographs and cartoons, 1895-1946 (Container 56)