

**Frederick Joseph Libby Papers**  
**A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress**



**Manuscript Division, Library of Congress**  
**Washington, D.C.**  
**2000**

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

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Additional search options available at: <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms003063>

Prepared by Michael Spangler

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## Collection Summary

**Title:** Frederick Joseph Libby Papers

**Span Dates:** 1846-1973

**Bulk Dates:** (bulk 1890-1970)

**ID No.:** MSS30114

**Creator:** Libby, Frederick Joseph, 1874-

**Extent:** 10,000 items

**Extent:** 45 containers plus 1 oversize

**Extent:** 18.2 linear feet

**Language:** Collection material in English

**Location:** Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

**LC Catalog record:** <https://lcn.loc.gov/mm82030114>

**Summary:** Clergyman and pacifist. Diaries, correspondence, speeches and writings, and subject files pertaining to the career and activities of Frederick Joseph Libby, executive secretary of the National Council for Prevention of War.

## Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the LC Catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically.

### People

Gray, Harold Studley, 1894- --Correspondence.

Libby family--Correspondence.

Libby, Abial. Abial Libby diary. 1862.

Libby, Frederick J. (Frederick Joseph), 1874-1970.

Richards, Leyton, 1879-1948--Correspondence.

Stackpole, Markham W. (Markham Winslow)--Correspondence.

### Organizations

American Friends Service Committee.

National Council for Prevention of War (U.S.)

Phillips Exeter Academy.

Union Congregational Church (Magnolia, Mass.)

### Subjects

Birth control.

Child labor.

Military readiness.

Pacifism.

Pacifists.

Peace--Societies, etc.

Peninsular Campaign, 1862.

Private schools--New Hampshire--Exeter.

Prostitution.

### Places

East Asia--Description and travel.

Europe--Description and travel.

Middle East--Description and travel.

Southern States--Description and travel.

United States--History--Civil War, 1861-1865--Campaigns.

Virginia--History--Civil War, 1861-1865--Campaigns.

### Titles

*Bible--Study and teaching.*

## Occupations

Clergy.  
Pacifists.

## Provenance

The papers of Frederick Joseph Libby, clergyman and pacifist, were given to the Library of Congress from 1971 to 1977 by his wife, Faith Ward Libby.

## Transfers

Items have been transferred from the Manuscript Division to other custodial divisions of the Library. Most maps have been transferred to the Geography and Map Division. Most photographs have been transferred to the Prints and Photographs Division. All transfers are identified in these divisions as part of the Frederick Joseph Libby Papers.

## Copyright Status

Copyright in the unpublished writings of Frederick Joseph Libby 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 Frederick Joseph Libby 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, Frederick Joseph Libby Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

## Biographical Note

Date	Event
1874, Nov. 24	Born, Richmond, Maine
1894	Bachelor of arts, Bowdoin College, Brunswick, Maine
1896	Principal, Richmond High School, Richmond, Maine
1898-1899	Studied and traveled in Germany
1902	Bachelor of theology, Andover Theological Seminary, Andover, Mass.
1902-1904	Traveling fellowship, universities of Berlin and Marburg, Germany, and Mansfield College, Oxford, England
1903	Traveled in the Middle East
1905-1911	Pastor, Union Congregational Church, Magnolia, Mass.
1911-1912	Traveled in East Asia (Australia, New Zealand, China, and Japan)
1912-1920	Teacher and director of religious and social activities, Phillips Exeter Academy, Exeter, N.H.
1918-1920	Relief work in Europe with the American Friends Service Committee
1921	Joined Society of Friends
1921-1970	Executive Secretary, National Council for Prevention of War

1928-1929	Active in efforts by the National Council for Prevention of War and others to convince Congress to reduce the buildup of U.S. naval forces
1932	Married Faith Ward (died 1984)
1954	National Council for Prevention of War suspended activities, but maintained its corporate existence
1969	Published <i>To End War</i> (Nyack, N.Y.: Fellowship Publications. 188 pp.)
1970, June 26	Died, Washington, D.C.

## Scope and Content Note

The papers of Frederick Joseph Libby (1874-1970) span the years 1846-1973 with the bulk of the material concentrated between 1890 and 1970. The collection is organized into the following series: [Diaries](#), [Correspondence](#), [Speeches and Writings](#), a [Subject File](#), and [Oversize](#).

The [Diaries](#) are the centerpiece of the papers and document over fifty years of Libby's life and career. They relate most notably to his activities as executive secretary of the National Council for Prevention of War (NCPW), a clearinghouse of organizations seeking a worldwide reduction of armaments and promoting education for peace in the wake of World War I. Libby was a founding member of the NCPW and led the organization from its inception in 1921 until his death in 1970. His war relief service in Europe in 1918-1920 fortified his pacifism, and he emerged as one of the leading peace activists in the United States. His diaries include observations on international political events and leaders, descriptions of conferences and leaders in the peace community, thoughts on pacifism, and personal activities. An entry on February 9, 1928, focused on a meeting with President Calvin Coolidge to press for a reduction in the number of United States naval warships proposed for construction, an effort that eventually proved successful. He recorded Coolidge's comments and depicted him smoking a cigar with his foot propped on the edge of a table and dropping the "g" in his "ing's." Many of Libby's recollections for his book *To End War*, the story of the NCPW, are drawn from his diaries. Other items include a diary he kept during a journey through the South in 1908 with descriptions of Charleston, South Carolina, and Savannah, Georgia, and a diary by his father Abial Libby recording his activities as a surgeon with Union forces during the Peninsular Campaign in Virginia in 1862.

The [Correspondence](#) series consists chiefly of letters received, with the exception of Libby's travel letters relating his journeys as a student, for pleasure and in war relief service. Circulated to various family members, the travel letters were intended to be collected and preserved as a journal and include descriptions of activities pertaining to his war relief service in France with the American Friends Service Committee in 1918-1919 and observations on the people and customs of Damascus and Jerusalem in the Middle East in 1903. Family correspondence includes letters exchanged between family members and close family friends. General correspondence with friends and professional colleagues is concentrated in the period 1900-1920 and largely reflects Libby's pastorate of the Union Congregational Church in Magnolia, Massachusetts, and his faculty position at Phillips Exeter Academy and briefly touches on his association with the American Friends Service Committee. Correspondents include Markham W. Stackpole and pacifists Harold Studley Gray and Leyton Richards. Copies of Libby's correspondence appear in files for the 1950s and 1960s.

The [Speeches and Writings](#) series includes articles, essays, prayers, notes, and a large group of sermons and lectures in outline form. Additional articles by Libby are in issues of the *News Bulletin* in the National Council for Prevention of War files in the [Subject File](#). The [Subject File](#) consists primarily of printed background material representing Libby's activities and interests in the 1900s and 1910s. Topics include Bible study, birth control, child labor, military preparedness, and prostitution. Other important files relate to his work with the American Friends Service Committee, the National Council for Prevention of War, and Phillips Exeter Academy.

## Organization of the Papers

The collection is arranged in five series:

- [Diaries, 1862-1969](#)
- [Correspondence, 1886-1973](#)
- [Speeches and Writings, 1846-1968](#)

- Subject File, 1868-1970
- Oversize, 1868-1920

## Description of Series

Container	Series
BOX 1-10	<p><b><u>Diaries, 1862-1969</u></b></p> <p>Bound volumes. Arranged alphabetically by name of diarist and chronologically thereunder.</p>
BOX 11-24	<p><b><u>Correspondence, 1886-1973</u></b></p> <p>Letters received and sent. Arranged as received, with family correspondence filed alphabetically by name of person or topic and chronologically thereunder, and general correspondence filed chronologically.</p>
BOX 25-34	<p><b><u>Speeches and Writings, 1846-1968</u></b></p> <p>Articles, essays, sermons, prayers, school papers, and notes. Arranged alphabetically by type of material and chronologically thereunder.</p>
BOX 34-45	<p><b><u>Subject File, 1868-1970</u></b></p> <p>Printed matter, notes, financial accounts, certificates, and newspaper clippings. Arranged alphabetically by topic, type of material, or name of organization and chronologically thereunder.</p>
BOX OV 1	<p><b><u>Oversize, 1868-1920</u></b></p> <p>Broadsides, certificates, ship's papers, and maps. Arranged and described according to the series, containers, and folders from which the items were removed.</p>

# Container List

<b>Container</b>	<b>Contents</b>
<b>BOX 1-10</b>	<b>Diaries, 1862-1969</b> Bound volumes. Arranged alphabetically by name of diarist and chronologically thereunder.
<b>BOX 1</b>	Libby, Abial (father), 1862 Libby, Faith Ward (wife), 1955 Libby, Frederick Joseph 1897-1910 (6 folders)
<b>BOX 2</b>	1911-1921 (3 folders)
<b>BOX 3</b>	1922-1927 (3 folders)
<b>BOX 4</b>	1928-1933 (3 folders)
<b>BOX 5</b>	1934-1939 (3 folders)
<b>BOX 6</b>	1940-1945 (3 folders)
<b>BOX 7</b>	1946-1951 (3 folders)
<b>BOX 8</b>	1952-1957 (3 folders)
<b>BOX 9</b>	1958-1963 (3 folders)
<b>BOX 10</b>	1964-1969 (3 folders)
<b>BOX 11-24</b>	<b>Correspondence, 1886-1973</b> Letters received and sent. Arranged as received, with family correspondence filed alphabetically by name of person or topic and chronologically thereunder, and general correspondence filed chronologically.
<b>BOX 11</b>	Register of letters sent, 1904-1918 Family Auten, Elizabeth H. (sister) and I. Bodine, 1898-1924, undated (2 folders) Auten, Meredith (nephew) and Virginia, 1899-1970, undated (4 folders) Beverage, Grace, and Morton Snyder, 1956-1970 Chandler, Lucretia ("Keat"), 1956-1957 Libby, Abial and Susan (parents), 1889-1904, undated (2 folders)

## Correspondence, 1886-1973

Container	Contents
BOX 12	Libby, Alice M. ("Alla") (sister), 1886-1945, undated (9 folders) Libby, Faith Ward (wife), 1931-1947 MacKenzie, Clark and Madeline (niece), 1908-1933 Miscellany 1894-1933 (2 folders)
BOX 13	1960-1970 (2 folders) Spooner, Edwin V. and Frances L. ("Nan") (sister), 1895-1956, undated (9 folders) Travel letters 1897-1898 (4 folders)
BOX 14	1899-1904, 1911 (17 folders)
BOX 15	1912-1949 (13 folders)
BOX 16	General 1886-1896 (15 folders)
BOX 17	1897-1904 (16 folders)
BOX 18	1905-1908 (14 folders)
BOX 19	1909-1914 (16 folders)
BOX 20	1915-1918 (16 folders)
BOX 21	1919-1931 (15 folders)
BOX 22	1932-1956 (10 folders)
BOX 23	1957-1968 (13 folders)
BOX 24	1969-1973, undated (13 folders)
BOX 25-34	<b>Speeches and Writings, 1846-1968</b> Articles, essays, sermons, prayers, school papers, and notes. Arranged alphabetically by type of material and chronologically thereunder.
BOX 25	Articles and essays, 1894-1968, undated <i>For additional material see Containers 39-40, News Bulletin</i> (7 folders) Notebooks Miscellaneous 1908-1915



## Speeches and Writings, 1846-1968

Container	Contents
BOX 26	Undated (2 folders) Travel, 1911-1912, undated (2 folders)
BOX 27	Play, 1888 Prayers, 1912-1915, undated (3 folders) Responsive readings (compiler), 1920, 1929 (3 folders) School and college papers 1886-1901 (4 folders)
BOX 28	Undated (3 folders) Sermons and lectures Chronological register, 1900-1920 (2 folders) 1900, June-1902, Nov. (4 folders)
BOX 29	1903, Feb.-1906, Feb. (12 folders)
BOX 30	1906, Mar.-1907, July (11 folders)
BOX 31	1907, Aug.-1909, July (12 folders)
BOX 32	1909, Aug.-1968, July (14 folders)
BOX 33	Undated and fragmentary (12 folders)
BOX 34	(6 folders) Writings by others, 1846-1945, undated Unidentified and fragmentary, 1913-1959, undated (2 folders)
BOX 34-45	<b>Subject File, 1868-1970</b> Printed matter, notes, financial accounts, certificates, and newspaper clippings. Arranged alphabetically by topic, type of material, or name of organization and chronologically thereunder.
BOX 34	Address books, 1899-1917, undated
BOX 35	Bible study Notes, 1903-1916, undated (3 folders) Photographs, undated Printed matter, 1895-1918, undated (5 folders) Biographical material Libby, Abial, 1895-1898, undated

## Subject File, 1868-1970

### Container

### Contents

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	Libby, Frederick Joseph, 1931-1954, undated
	Miscellany, 1882-1956, undated
	Birth control, 1916
	Boys, education and guidance, 1913-1916, undated (2 folders)
	<i>Cascatelle</i> (brig), contracts and receipts, 1880 <i>See also Oversize</i>
	Certificates, 1868-1946, undated <i>See also Oversize</i>
	Child labor, 1914-1917
	College sports, 1914-1917, undated
BOX 36	Financial accounts
	Notes
	1893-1912 (3 folders)
BOX 37	1916-1955 (2 folders)
	Taxes, 1921, 1943-1959
	Memorial service for Libby, 1970
	Mexico, 1913-1917
	Military preparedness and World War I
	Clippings, 1914-1918, undated (3 folders)
	Miscellany, 1915-1918, undated (3 folders)
BOX 38	Miscellany, 1896-1970, undated (14 folders)
BOX 39	Organizations
	American Friends Service Committee
	Miscellany, 1914-1920, undated <i>See also Oversize</i> (3 folders)
	Notes, 1918-1919
	Congregational churches, 1907, undated
	Fellowship of Reconciliation, 1916-1920, 1970, undated (2 folders)
	Friends War Victims Relief Committee <i>See same container; American Friends Service Committee</i>
	Men's Clubhouse Association, Magnolia, Mass., 1908-1918, undated (4 folders)
	National Council for Prevention of War
	Miscellany, 1921-1936
	<i>News Bulletin</i>
	1921
BOX 40	1922-1934 (12 folders)
	Society of Friends
	1914-1921
BOX 41	1922-1965, undated (2 folders)

## Subject File, 1868-1970

### Container

### Contents

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	YMCA, 1908-1918, undated (3 folders)
	Passports, 1918, 1930-1934
	Peace, 1915-1917, undated
	Pershing, John J., 1921-1923, 1930, undated
	Politics, 1914-1918, undated
	Prisons, 1900, 1909, undated
	Prostitution, 1916-1917, undated
	Russia, 1917-1923
BOX 42	Schools and colleges Bowdoin College, Brunswick, Maine, 1893-1967, undated Miscellany, 1914-1917, undated Phillips Exeter Academy, Exeter, N.H. The Christian Fraternity, 1908-1919, undated (8 folders) Miscellany 1912-1914 (2 folders)
BOX 43	1915-1919, undated (5 folders) Reports, 1916-1917 Speakers bureaus and social events, 1900, 1915-1917, undated <i>See also Oversize</i> (2 folders) Student union building, 1915-1917 Preparatory school conferences, 1913-1917, undated (3 folders) Richmond High School, Richmond, Maine, school newspaper, 1886-1888, 1897-1898 (2 folders)
BOX 44	Women's Christian Temperance Union Settlement School, Hindman, Knott County, Ky., 1910-1912, undated Social services, 1910-1918, undated (3 folders) Travel Insurance and addresses, 1910-1911 Menus, 1907-1918, undated Miscellany 1892-1928 <i>See also Oversize</i> (6 folders)
BOX 45	Undated (2 folders) Programs and librettos, 1898-1904, 1918 (5 folders) Vocations, 1913-1915, undated Women's suffrage, 1915-1918, undated
BOX OV 1	<b>Oversize, 1868-1920</b> Broad­sides, certificates, ship's papers, and maps.

## Oversize, 1868-1920

Container	Contents
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Arranged and described according to the series, containers, and folders from which the items were removed.

**BOX OV 1**

Subject file

*Cascatelle* (brig), contracts and receipts, 1880 ([Container 35](#))

Certificates, 1868-1920 ([Container 35](#))

Organizations

American Friends Service Committee

Miscellany, 1914-1915, undated ([Container 39](#))

Schools and colleges

Phillips Exeter Academy, Exeter, N.H.

Speakers bureaus and social events, 1917, undated ([Container 43](#))

Travel

Miscellany, 1910 ([Container 44](#))