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://lccn.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Copyright in the unpublished writings of Frederick Joseph Libby in these papers and in other collections of papers in the custody of the Library of Congress has been dedicated to the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

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1874, Nov. 24</td>
<td>Born, Richmond, Maine</td>
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<tr>
<td>1894</td>
<td>Bachelor of arts, Bowdoin College, Brunswick, Maine</td>
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<tr>
<td>1896</td>
<td>Principal, Richmond High School, Richmond, Maine</td>
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<tr>
<td>1898-1899</td>
<td>Studied and traveled in Germany</td>
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<tr>
<td>1902</td>
<td>Bachelor of theology, Andover Theological Seminary, Andover, Mass.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1902-1904</td>
<td>Traveling fellowship, universities of Berlin and Marburg, Germany, and Mansfield College, Oxford, England</td>
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<tr>
<td>1903</td>
<td>Traveled in the Middle East</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1905-1911</td>
<td>Pastor, Union Congregational Church, Magnolia, Mass.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1911-1912</td>
<td>Traveled in East Asia (Australia, New Zealand, China, and Japan)</td>
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<tr>
<td>1912-1920</td>
<td>Teacher and director of religious and social activities, Phillips Exeter Academy, Exeter, N.H.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1918-1920</td>
<td>Relief work in Europe with the American Friends Service Committee</td>
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<tr>
<td>1921</td>
<td>Joined Society of Friends</td>
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<tr>
<td>1921-1970</td>
<td>Executive Secretary, National Council for Prevention of War</td>
</tr>
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</table>
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 *To End War* (Nyack, N.Y.: Fellowship Publications. 188 pp.)

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Container</th>
<th>Series</th>
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</table>
| BOX 1-10  | **Diaries, 1862-1969**  
Bound volumes.  
Arranged alphabetically by name of diarist and chronologically thereunder. |
| BOX 11-24 | **Correspondence, 1886-1973**  
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. |
| BOX 25-34 | **Speeches and Writings, 1846-1968**  
Articles, essays, sermons, prayers, school papers, and notes.  
Arranged alphabetically by type of material and chronologically thereunder. |
| BOX 34-45 | **Subject File, 1868-1970**  
Printed matter, notes, financial accounts, certificates, and newspaper clippings.  
Arranged alphabetically by topic, type of material, or name of organization and chronologically thereunder. |
| BOX OV 1  | **Oversize, 1868-1920**  
Broadsides, certificates, ship's papers, and maps.  
Arranged and described according to the series, containers, and folders from which the items were removed. |
## Container List

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Container</th>
<th>Contents</th>
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| BOX 1-10  | **Diaries, 1862-1969**  
Bound volumes.  
Arranged alphabetically by name of diarist and chronologically thereunder.  
Libby, Abial (father), 1862  
Libby, Faith Ward (wife), 1955  
Libby, Frederick Joseph  
1897-1910  
(6 folders)  
1911-1921  
(3 folders)  
1922-1927  
(3 folders)  
1928-1933  
(3 folders)  
1934-1939  
(3 folders)  
1940-1945  
(3 folders)  
1946-1951  
(3 folders)  
1952-1957  
(3 folders)  
1958-1963  
(3 folders)  
1964-1969  
(3 folders) |
| BOX 11-24 | **Correspondence, 1886-1973**  
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.  
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) |

**Frederick Joseph Libby Papers**
Correspondence, 1886-1973

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<tr>
<th>Container</th>
<th>Contents</th>
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<td>BOX 14</td>
<td>1899-1904, 1911 (17 folders)</td>
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<td>BOX 15</td>
<td>1912-1949 (13 folders)</td>
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<td>BOX 16</td>
<td>General 1886-1896 (15 folders)</td>
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<td>BOX 17</td>
<td>1897-1904 (16 folders)</td>
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<td>1909-1914 (16 folders)</td>
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<td>1932-1956 (10 folders)</td>
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<td>1969-1973, undated (13 folders)</td>
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<td>Speeches and Writings, 1846-1968 Articles, essays, sermons, prayers, school papers, and notes. Arranged alphabetically by type of material and chronologically thereunder.</td>
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<td>Articles and essays, 1894-1968, undated For additional material see Containers 39-40, News Bulletin (7 folders) Notebooks Miscellaneous 1908-1915</td>
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<td>BOX 31</td>
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<td>BOX 32</td>
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<td><strong>Subject File, 1868-1970</strong></td>
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<td>Printed matter, notes, financial accounts, certificates, and newspaper clippings.</td>
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<td>Peace, 1915-1917, undated</td>
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<td>Prisons, 1900, 1909, undated</td>
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<td>Prostitution, 1916-1917, undated</td>
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<td>Russia, 1917-1923</td>
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<td>Bowdoin College, Brunswick, Maine, 1893-1967, undated</td>
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<td>Reports, 1916-1917</td>
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<td>Speakers bureaus and social events, 1900, 1915-1917, undated</td>
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<td>Preparatory school conferences, 1913-1917, undated</td>
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<td>Vocations, 1913-1915, undated</td>
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<td>Women's suffrage, 1915-1918, undated</td>
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<td><strong>BOX OV 1</strong></td>
<td>Oversize, 1868-1920</td>
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<td>Broadside, certificates, ship's papers, and maps.</td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Container</th>
<th>Contents</th>
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| 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) |