

**Lyman Potter Spencer Papers**  
**A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress**



**Manuscript Division, Library of Congress**  
**Washington, D.C.**  
**1998**

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

Catalog Record: <https://lcn.loc.gov/mm81040915>

Additional search options available at: <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms007059>

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Revised by and expanded by Patrick Kerwin

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Revised 2010 April

## Collection Summary

**Title:** Lyman Potter Spencer Papers

**Span Dates:** 1856-1914

**Bulk Dates:** (bulk 1863-1896)

**ID No.:** MSS40915

**Creator:** Spencer, Lyman Potter, 1840-1915

**Extent:** 250 items

**Extent:** 11 containers

**Extent:** 4.4 linear feet

**Language:** Collection material in English

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

**LC Catalog record:** <https://lccn.loc.gov/mm81040915>

**Summary:** Artist, soldier, and calligrapher. Correspondence, diaries, notebooks, account books, genealogical file, penmanship file, and other papers documenting Spencer's Civil War service and his efforts to continue the publication of the copybooks by his father, Platt R. Spencer, who developed the Spencerian style of handwriting.

## 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

Fish, Hamilton, 1808-1893--Correspondence.

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

Spencer family.

Spencer, Lyman Potter, 1840-1915.

Spencer, Platt R. (Platt Rogers), 1800-1864.

### Organizations

United States. Army. Ohio Heavy Artillery Regiment, 2nd (1863-1865)

### Subjects

Art, American.

Calligraphy.

Copybooks.

Genealogy.

Penmanship.

### Places

Ohio--History--Civil War, 1861-1865.

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

### Occupations

Artists.

Calligraphers.

Soldiers.

## Provenance

The papers of Lyman Potter Spencer, artist, soldier and calligrapher, were given to the Library of Congress by Frank McLees in 1947 and by Virginia Spencer Warren Shriver and Frederick Hayes Warren, granddaughter and grandson of Lyman Potter Spencer, in 1978.

## Processing History

The papers of Lyman Potter Spencer were arranged and described in 1983. The collection was expanded and revised in 1998.

## Transfers

Photographs have been transferred to the Prints and Photographs Division where they are identified as part of the Lyman Potter Spencer Papers.

## Copyright Status

The status of copyright in the unpublished writings of Lyman Potter Spencer is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.).

## Access and Restrictions

The papers of Lyman Potter Spencer 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, Lyman Potter Spencer Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

## Biographical Note

Date	Event
1840, May 11	Born, Geneva, Ohio
1861	Attended Hiram College, Hiram, Ohio
1861-1863	Attended Oberlin College, Oberlin, Ohio
1863	Married Fidelia Bartholomew
1863-1865	Soldier, Second Regiment, Ohio volunteer, heavy artillery
1870	Continued the work on the Spencerian style of handwriting begun by his father, Platt R. Spencer
1906	Published <i>How to Teach Writing</i> . New York: American Book Co.
1915, June 10	Died, Sunbury, Pa.

## Scope and Content Note

The papers of Lyman Potter Spencer (1840-1915) span the years 1848 to 1914 with the bulk of the material concentrated in the period 1863-1896. The collection deals mainly with Spencer's military career as a member of the Second Regiment, Ohio Volunteer heavy artillery, and with his efforts to continue the work begun by his father, Platt R. Spencer, on the Spencerian style of handwriting.

The [Diaries, Notebooks, and Account Books](#) series spans the years 1854 to 1914 and provides information on Spencer's personal and business life. The [Correspondence](#) series includes letters from Hamilton Fish and James A. Garfield, who was an instructor at Hiram College when Spencer was a student. The [Genealogical File](#) includes notebooks and other

material relating to the Spencer family. The [Spencerian Penmanship File](#) chronicles Spencer's development as an artist and calligrapher. Material in this file prior to 1864 relates to Platt R. Spencer.

## Arrangement of the Papers

This collection is arranged in five series:

- [Diaries, Notebooks, and Account Books, 1854-1914](#)
- [Correspondence, 1863-1911](#)
- [Genealogical File, 1881-1896](#)
- [Spencerian Penmanship File, 1848-1905](#)
- [Miscellany, 1860-1913](#)

## Description of Series

Container	Series
BOX 1-6	<p><b><u>Diaries, Notebooks, and Account Books, 1854-1914</u></b></p> <p>Bound volumes detailing Spencer's business and personal interests. Arranged chronologically.</p>
BOX 6	<p><b><u>Correspondence, 1863-1911</u></b></p> <p>Letters received. Arranged alphabetically by correspondent and chronologically therein.</p>
BOX 6-7	<p><b><u>Genealogical File, 1881-1896</u></b></p> <p>Research material on the Spencer family. Arranged chronologically.</p>
BOX 7-10	<p><b><u>Spencerian Penmanship File, 1848-1905</u></b></p> <p>Copy books, plates, manuals, and other material relating to the Spencerian method of penmanship. Arranged chronologically.</p>
BOX 11	<p><b><u>Miscellany, 1860-1913</u></b></p> <p>Business cards, fragments, military papers, sketchbooks, and receipts. Arranged alphabetically by type of material and chronologically therein.</p>

# Container List

<b>Container</b>	<b>Contents</b>
<b>BOX 1-6</b>	<b>Diaries, Notebooks, and Account Books, 1854-1914</b> Bound volumes detailing Spencer's business and personal interests. Arranged chronologically.
<b>BOX 1</b>	1854-1861 (4 folders)
<b>BOX 2</b>	1862-1866 (6 folders)
<b>BOX 3</b>	1867-1883 (6 folders)
<b>BOX 4</b>	1885-1898 (6 folders)
<b>BOX 5</b>	1899-1913 (6 folders)
<b>BOX 6</b>	1913-1914, undated (3 folders)
<b>BOX 6</b>	<b>Correspondence, 1863-1911</b> Letters received. Arranged alphabetically by correspondent and chronologically therein.
<b>BOX 6</b>	Davis, J. C. Bancroft, 1870
<b>BOX 6</b>	Fish, Hamilton, 1871-1872
<b>BOX 6</b>	French, Daniel Chester, 1879
<b>BOX 6</b>	Garfield, James A., 1863, 1876
<b>BOX 6</b>	McLees, Frank, 1877, 1889
<b>BOX 6</b>	Moore, Lester, 1896
<b>BOX 6</b>	Spencer, H. C., 1871
<b>BOX 6</b>	Spencer, Mandang, 1892
<b>BOX 6</b>	Spencer, Virginia, 1897
<b>BOX 6</b>	Unidentified, 1907-1911, undated
<b>BOX 6-7</b>	<b>Genealogical File, 1881-1896</b> Research material on the Spencer family. Arranged chronologically.
<b>BOX 6</b>	1881-1890 (7 folders)
<b>BOX 7</b>	1896, undated (3 folders)
<b>BOX 7-10</b>	<b>Spencerian Penmanship File, 1848-1905</b>

## Spencerian Penmanship File, 1848-1905

Container	Contents
	Copy books, plates, manuals, and other material relating to the Spencerian method of penmanship. Arranged chronologically.
BOX 7	1848-1868 (5 folders)
BOX 8	1873-1883 (7 folders)
BOX 9	1884-1890 (7 folders)
BOX 10	1893-1905, undated (9 folders)
BOX 10	Undated (3 folders)
BOX 11	<b>Miscellany, 1860-1913</b> Business cards, fragments, military papers, sketchbooks, and receipts. Arranged alphabetically by type of material and chronologically therein.
BOX 11	General, 1891-1913
BOX 11	Military papers, 1862-1907, undated
BOX 11	Sketchbooks, 1860-1912, undated (4 folders)