

Lucian Barbour Papers
A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress



Manuscript Division, Library of Congress
Washington, D.C.
2009

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

Catalog Record: <https://lcn.loc.gov/mm82059634>

Additional search options available at: <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms009318>

Prepared by Manuscript Division staff

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Collection Summary

Title: Lucian Barbour Papers

Inclusive Dates: 1838-1977

Bulk Dates: 1840-1898

ID No.: MSS59634

Creator: Barbour, Lucian, 1811-1880

Extent: 700 items

Extent: 6 containers

Extent: 2.4 linear feet

Language: Collection material in English

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

LC Catalog record: <https://lccn.loc.gov/mm82059634>

Summary: Lawyer and United States representative from Indiana. Correspondence, diaries, financial records, photographs, printed matter, and miscellany consisting primarily of family correspondence relating to domestic affairs and life in Indianapolis, Indiana, and Barbour's service in the 34th Congress.

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

Barbour, Linus, 1849-1875.

Barbour, Lucian, 1811-1880.

Buchanan, James, 1791-1868--Correspondence.

Colfax, Schuyler, 1823-1885--Correspondence.

Morton, Oliver P. (Oliver Perry), 1823-1877--Correspondence.

Van Buren, Martin, 1782-1862.

Wicks, William Watson (Mrs.)

Organizations

Amherst College.

United States. Congress. House.

White House (Washington, D.C.)

Subjects

Universities and colleges--Massachusetts.

Places

Indiana--Social life and customs.

Indianapolis (Ind.)--Social life and customs.

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

United States--Politics and government--1829-1837.

Washington (D.C.)--Social life and customs.

Occupations

Lawyers.

Representatives, U.S. Congress--Indiana.

Acquisition Information

The papers of Lucian Barbour, lawyer and United States Representative from Indiana, were given to the Library of Congress by Mary Folsom Bacon in 1980.

Processing History

The papers of Lucian Barbour were arranged and described by John McDonough in 1981. The finding aid was revised in 2008 and 2009. The finding aid was updated in 2023 by Maria Farmer as part of a division-wide remediation project by the Inclusive Description Working Group.

Copyright Status

The status of copyright in the unpublished writings of Lucian Barbour is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.).

Access and Restrictions

The papers of Lucian Barbour 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, Lucian Barbour Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Biographical Note

Date	Event
1811, Mar. 4	Born, Canton, Hartford Co., Conn.
1837	Graduated, Amherst College, Amherst, Mass. Moved to Indiana
1839	Admitted to bar and commenced legal practice in Indianapolis, Ind.
1842	Married Alice Thomas Barbee
1844	Appointed United States District Attorney for the District of Indiana by President James K. Polk
1852	Appointed member of a state commission to codify the laws of Indiana
1855-1857	Served as United States Representative from Indiana in the 34th Congress; did not seek re-election
1880, July 19	Died, Indianapolis, Ind.

Scope and Content Note

The papers of Lucian Barbour (1811-1880) span the period 1838-1977, with the bulk from 1840 to 1898. The collection consists of correspondence, a few fragmentary diaries, a file of miscellaneous papers arranged by subject, financial records, printed matter, and family photographs.

The correspondence, which is chronologically arranged by day, consists chiefly of letters exchanged by members of the family and is preponderantly that of Lucian Barbour, addressed to his wife, Alice Thomas Barbour, and two of his three children, Linus and Mary Alice ("Pet" or "Pett"). Subject matter is almost entirely domestic in character and is revelatory of the life of a well-to-do Indianapolis family, particularly in the decades of the 1860s and 1870s. Of a somewhat different nature is a series of letters written by Barbour from Washington while he served as a United States Representative from Indiana in the 34th Congress (1855-1857). Other letters of more than routine interest are included in the period 1861-1863 and consist of some eleven letters written by soldiers to Mary Alice Barbour. A few letters of autograph interest include specimens by James Buchanan (1), Oliver P. Morton (1), and Schuyler Colfax (2). Two letters by Laura Finch Wick, wife of Congressman William Watson Wick, describe an interview with Martin Van Buren, social events at the White House, and other aspects of life in Washington.

A brief diary kept at Amherst College by Linus Barbour in 1872 and two fragmentary diaries kept in later years by unidentified diarists are present in the collection. A miscellaneous file contains genealogical materials, estate papers, diplomas and certificates, speeches, wills, papers and correspondence relating to Cornell University (including an Ezra Cornell letter), and papers relating to John T. Jackson, husband of Mary Alice Barbour. Financial records, printed matter, and family photographs complete the collection.

Arrangement of the Papers

This collection is arranged alphabetically by type of material.

Container List

Container	Contents
BOX 1	Correspondence
BOX 1	1838-1869 (13 folders)
BOX 2	1870-1875 (7 folders)
BOX 3	1876-1938, undated (10 folders)
BOX 4	Diaries
BOX 4	Barbour, Linus, 1872
BOX 4	Unidentified
BOX 4	1917, 1926, undated
BOX 4	Fragments
BOX 4	Miscellany
BOX 4	Calling cards
BOX 4	Cemetery lots
BOX 4	Cornell University, Ithaca, N.Y., and Ezra Cornell
BOX 4	Diplomas and certificates
BOX 4	Estate papers of Sallie Barbour, 1939
BOX 4	Genealogy
BOX 4	Jackson, John T.
BOX 4	Obituaries
BOX 4	Report cards
BOX 4	Speech
BOX 4	Wills, Sallie Barbour
BOX 4	Fragments
BOX 5	Financial records (5 folders)
BOX 5	Printed matter (3 folders)
BOX 5	Photographs
BOX 5	Barbour, Lucian
BOX 5	Barbour, Alice (wife)
BOX 5	Barbour, Linus
BOX 5	Barbour, Linus and Mary Alice ("Pett")
BOX 6	Barbour, Mary Alice [Mrs. John T. Jackson]
BOX 6	Jackson, John T. [?]
BOX 6	Barbour, Sallie W.
BOX 6	Barbour, Alice
BOX 6	Miscellaneous
BOX 6	Snapshots
BOX 6	Album