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: http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/mss.contact

Catalog Record: https://lccn.loc.gov/mm82059634

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

Prepared by John McDonough
Finding aid encoded by Library of Congress Manuscript Division, 2009
Revised 2010 April
Collection Summary

Title: Lucian Barbour Papers
Span Dates: 1838-1977
Bulk Dates: (bulk 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.
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.

Provenance
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 in 1981. The finding aid was revised in 2008 and 2009.

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The status of copyright in the unpublished writings of Lucian Barbour is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.).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

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

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, 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 lively letters by the 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, a son-in-law. 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

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

Lucian Barbour Papers