

Albert Sidney Burleson Papers
A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress



Manuscript Division, Library of Congress
Washington, D.C.
2023

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

Catalog Record: <https://lcn.loc.gov/mm78014365>

Additional search options available at: <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms010052>

Prepared by Manuscript Division staff

Finding aid encoded by Glenn R. Gardner, 2010
Revised 2023 February

Collection Summary

Title: Albert Sidney Burleson Papers

Inclusive Dates: 1845-1943

Bulk Dates: 1902-1943

ID No.: MSS14365

Creator: Burleson, Albert Sidney, 1863-1937

Extent: 13,000 items

Extent: 37 containers

Extent: 9 linear feet

Language: Collection material in English

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

LC Catalog record: <https://lccn.loc.gov/mm78014365>

Summary: United States representative from Texas, postmaster general in Woodrow Wilson's cabinet, and Democratic Party leader. Correspondence, memoranda, printed matter, scrapbooks, and articles relating chiefly to Burleson's career in politics and government, including letters to and from Woodrow Wilson.

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

Baker, Newton Diehl, 1871-1937--Correspondence.
Baker, Ray Stannard, 1870-1946--Correspondence.
Breckinridge, Henry, 1886-1960--Correspondence.
Bryan, William Jennings, 1860-1925--Correspondence.
Burleson, Albert Sidney, 1863-1937.
Carlton, Newcomb, 1869-1953--Correspondence.
Creel, George, 1876-1953--Correspondence.
Daniels, Josephus, 1862-1948--Correspondence.
Gregory, Thomas Watt, 1861-1933--Correspondence.
Hoover, Herbert, 1874-1964--Correspondence.
House, Edward Mandell, 1858-1938--Correspondence.
Hull, Cordell, 1871-1955--Correspondence.
Judson, William V. (William Voorhees), 1865-1923--Correspondence.
Lansing, Robert, 1864-1928--Correspondence.
McAdoo, W. G. (William Gibbs), 1863-1941--Correspondence.
Roosevelt, Franklin D. (Franklin Delano), 1882-1945--Correspondence.
Roosevelt, Theodore, 1858-1919--Correspondence.
Roper, Daniel C. (Daniel Calhoun), 1867-1943--Correspondence.
Vail, Theodore Newton, 1845-1920--Correspondence.
Wilson, Woodrow, 1856-1924--Correspondence.
Wilson, Woodrow, 1856-1924.

Organizations

Democratic Party (U.S.)
United States. Post Office Department.

Subjects

Agriculture--Texas.
Air mail service--United States.
Parcel post--United States.
Postal rates--United States.
Postal service--United States.

Presidents--United States--Election.
Telegraph--Law and legislation--United States.
Telephone--Law and legislation--United States.
World War, 1914-1918--Censorship--United States.
World War, 1914-1918--Communications.
World War, 1914-1918--Peace.

Places

Texas--Politics and government.
United States--Politics and government--1901-1953.

Titles

Treaty of Versailles (1919 June 28)

Occupations

Cabinet officers.
Representatives, U.S. Congress--Texas.

Acquisition Information

The papers of Albert Sidney Burleson, United States representative from Texas, postmaster general, and Democratic Party leader, were given to the Library of Congress by his widow, Adele Steiner Burleson, in 1944.

Processing History

The papers of Albert Sidney Burleson were processed by K. J. Keaney in 1966. The finding aid was revised in 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

Copyright in the unpublished writings of Albert Sidney Burleson 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 Albert Sidney Burleson 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, Albert Sidney Burleson Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Biographical Note

Date	Event
1863, June 7	Born, San Marcos, Tex.
1881	Graduated, Baylor University, Waco, Tex.

1884	Graduated, law department, University of Texas, Austin, Tex. Admitted to the Texas bar
1885-1890	Assistant city attorney, Austin, Tex.
1891-1898	District attorney, twenty-sixth judicial circuit, Texas
1899-1913	United States Congressman, Ninth and Tenth Districts of Texas
1913-1921	Postmaster general
1918	Instituted air mail service, New York, N.Y., to Washington, D.C., using Army pilots
1918	Chairman, United States Telephone & Telegraph Administration
1920	Chairman, United States Commission to International Wire Communication Conference
1921	Retired from public life to pursue banking interests
1937, Nov. 24	Died, Austin, Tex.

Scope and Content Note

The papers of Albert Sidney Burleson (1863-1937) span the years 1845-1943, with the bulk from 1902 to 1943. The collections reflect his activities as a member of Congress from Texas and as postmaster general in the cabinet of President Woodrow Wilson, with the main part relating to his duty as an aide to the president and as postmaster general. There are over three hundred Wilson letters, many of them referring to postmasterships, and many presidential memoranda. The papers are organized into the following series: [General Correspondence](#) and [Miscellany](#).

Prominent subjects include controversies stemming from Burleson's role in the takeover by the federal government of telegraph, telephone, and cable facilities during World War I and of reaction to the censorship of the mail during the war period. Other topics concern attempts to increase the rates of second-class mail, the expansion of parcel post facilities, and the institution of air mail service. Material from Burleson's congressional period reflects his region's agricultural interests in disputes over oleomargarine, cotton, and mistletoe.

In addition to Woodrow Wilson, notable correspondents include Newton Diehl Baker, Ray Stannard Baker, Henry Breckinridge, William Jennings Bryan, Newcomb Carlton, George Creel, Josephus Daniels, Thomas Watt Gregory, Herbert Hoover, Edward Mandell House, Cordell Hull, William V. Judson, Robert Lansing, William Gibbs McAdoo, Franklin D. Roosevelt, Theodore Roosevelt, Daniel C. Roper, and Theodore Newton Vail.

The [Miscellany series](#) contains newspaper clippings, campaign publications of the Democratic Party from 1912 to 1920, a few notes and drafts of writings, and other material.

Arrangement of the Papers

This collection is arranged in two series:

- [General Correspondence, 1845-1943](#)
- [Miscellany, 1896-1938](#)

Description of Series

Container

BOX 1-31

Series

General Correspondence, 1845-1943

Bound volumes of letters sent and received.
Arranged chronologically.

BOX 32-37

Miscellany, 1896-1938

Printed matter, scrapbooks of clippings, notes, photostatic copies of Woodrow Wilson letters,
and correspondence relating to Burleson's retirement.
Arranged by type of material.

Container List

Container	Contents
BOX 1-31	General Correspondence, 1845-1943 Bound volumes of letters sent and received. Arranged chronologically.
BOX 1	1 Mar. 1845-4 June 1902
BOX 2	9 June 1902-18 Jan. 1908
BOX 3	31 Jan. 1908-17 Mar. 1911
BOX 4	21 Mar. 1911-22 May 1912
BOX 5	21 June 1912-9 Mar. 1913
BOX 6	11 Mar.-23 Apr. 1913
BOX 7	24 Apr.-23 July 1913
BOX 8	24 July-25 Sept. 1913
BOX 9	26 Sept. 1913-13 Jan. 1914
BOX 10	15 Jan.-22 Apr. 1914
BOX 11	25 Apr.-23 July 1914
BOX 12	24 July-11 Nov. 1914
BOX 13	12 Nov. 1914-17 Mar. 1917
BOX 14	18 Mar.-11 July 1915
BOX 15	12 July-30 Sept. 1915
BOX 16	1 Oct. 1915-4 Mar. 1916
BOX 17	7 Mar.-18 Aug. 1916
BOX 18	21 Aug. 1916-17 Apr. 1917
BOX 19	18 Apr.-13 Dec. 1917
BOX 20	14 Dec. 1917-13 May 1918
BOX 21	14 May-29 Oct. 1918
BOX 22	30 Oct. 1918-8 Mar. 1919
BOX 23	10 Mar.-28 May 1919
BOX 24	2 June-15 Oct. 1919
BOX 25	21 Oct. 1919-24 May 1920
BOX 26	27 May 1920-2 Jan. 1921
BOX 27	3 Jan. 1921-13 Apr. 1922
BOX 28	15 Apr. 1922-9 Dec. 1932
BOX 29	17 Dec. 1932-20 Sept. 1935
BOX 30	7 Oct. 1935-12 Apr. 1943, undated
BOX 31	Undated
BOX 32-37	Miscellany, 1896-1938 Printed matter, scrapbooks of clippings, notes, photostatic copies of Woodrow Wilson letters, and correspondence relating to Burleson's retirement. Arranged by type of material.
BOX 32	Letters of appreciation on retirement, 19 Mar. 1921

Miscellany, 1896-1938

Container	Contents
BOX 32	Scrapbooks of newspaper clippings
BOX 32	1898-1908
BOX 33	1899-1917
BOX 33	1905-1914
BOX 33	Printed matter
BOX 33	1899-1914
BOX 34	1908-1916
BOX 35	1917-1937, undated
BOX 36	Democratic Party campaigns, 1912-1920
BOX 36	Notes and drafts, undated
BOX 36	Photostatic copies of Woodrow Wilson letters, 1912-1918
BOX 37	Newspaper clippings
BOX 37	1896-1938
BOX 37	Postmaster general, undated