

Harry Augustus Garfield Papers
A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress



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

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Prepared by Manuscript Division Staff

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Collection Summary

Title: Harry Augustus Garfield Papers

Inclusive Dates: 1855-1961

Bulk Dates: 1888-1934

ID No.: MSS21949

Creator: Garfield, Harry Augustus, 1863-1942

Extent: 60,000 items

Extent: 197 containers plus 7 oversize

Extent: 29 linear feet

Language: Collection material in English

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

LC Catalog record: <https://lccn.loc.gov/mm78021949>

Summary: Lawyer, educator, public official, and son of President James A. Garfield. Correspondence, diaries, family papers, legal files, subject files, writings, scrapbooks, financial matter, printed matter and other papers relating to Garfield's career as a lawyer, professor, and university administrator, and to his interest in politics and international affairs.

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.

Bryan, William Jennings, 1860-1925--Correspondence.

Comer, Lucretia Garfield, 1894-1968. Lucretia Garfield Comer papers.

Coolidge, Calvin, 1872-1933--Correspondence.

Garfield family.

Garfield, Harry Augustus, 1863-1942.

Garfield, Harry Augustus, 1863-1942. Lost Visions. 1944.

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

Garfield, Lucretia Rudolph, 1832-1918--Correspondence.

Hay, John, 1838-1905--Correspondence.

Hoover, Herbert, 1874-1964--Correspondence.

Hughes, Charles Evans, 1862-1948--Correspondence.

McKinley, William, 1843-1901--Correspondence.

Roosevelt, Franklin D. (Franklin Delano), 1882-1945--Correspondence.

Taft, William H. (William Howard), 1857-1930--Correspondence.

Wilson, Woodrow, 1856-1924--Correspondence.

Organizations

Princeton University.

United States. Fuel Administration.

Williams College.

Williams College. Institute of Politics.

Williams College. Institute of Politics. Williams College. Institute of Politics records. 1926-1932.

Subjects

Diplomatic and consular service, American.

International relations.

Municipal government--Ohio--Cleveland.

Peace.

Political science--Study and teaching--United States.

Practice of law--Ohio--Cleveland.

World War, 1914-1918--Fuel supplies.

Places

Cleveland (Ohio)--Politics and government.

Occupations

Educators.

Lawyers.

Public officials.

Acquisition Information

The papers of Harry Augustus Garfield, lawyer, educator, college president, and son of President James A. Garfield, were given to the Library of Congress in 1954, 1959, and 1962 by his heirs, James Garfield, Lucretia Garfield Comer, Stanton Garfield, Alva S. Garfield, Alicia G. Condon, and Louisa G. Browne.

Processing History

The collection was processed in 1966, and the finding aid was revised in 2009.

Additional Guides

A listing of Garfield's speeches and writings is available in the Manuscript Division Reading Room. Consult reference staff for more information.

Related Material

Related collections in the Manuscript Division include the papers of [James A. Garfield](#), [Lucretia Rudolph Garfield](#), and [James Rudolph Garfield](#).

Copyright Status

Copyright in the unpublished writings of Harry Augustus Garfield 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 Harry Augustus Garfield 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, Harry Augustus Garfield Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Biographical Note

Date	Event
1863, Oct. 11	Born, Hiram, Ohio
1880	Attended St. Paul's School, Concord, N.H.

1881	Entered Williams College, Williamstown, Mass. Father, President James A. Garfield, assassinated
1885	Graduated, Williams College, Williamstown, Mass.
1885-1886	Taught, St. Paul's School, Concord, N.H.
1886-1887	Studied law, Columbia University, New York, N.Y., and with the firm of Bange and Stetson, New York, N.Y.
1887-1888	Studied law, Oxford University, Oxford, England, and traveled in Europe
1888	Married Belle Hartford Mason (died 1944) Began practice of law with younger brother, James Rudolph Garfield, Cleveland, Ohio
1892-1895	Taught law, Western Reserve University, Cleveland, Ohio, in addition to practicing law
1893-1903	Engaged in various business interests
1894	Frederic C. Howe taken into law firm
1898	Formed law practice of Garfield, Garfield and Howe
1903	Moved to Princeton, N.J., at the request of Woodrow Wilson to become professor of politics, Princeton University, Princeton, N.J.
1907	Became president of Williams College, Williamstown, Mass.
1917-1919	United States fuel administrator
1921	Received Distinguished Service Medal from President Woodrow Wilson Established Institute of Politics, Williams College, Williamstown, Mass.
1934	Retired
1934-1935	Traveled around the world
1930s-1942	Lived in Washington, D.C., and in Williamstown and Duxbury, Massachusetts; active in civic, church, and educational affairs
1942, Dec. 12	Died, Williamstown, Mass.

Scope and Content Note

The papers of Harry Augustus Garfield (1863-1942) extend from 1855 to 1961, with bulk of the material from 1888 to 1934. The collection focuses on his career as a lawyer, professor, and university administrator, his interest in politics and international affairs, and his associations as the son of President James A. Garfield. The papers contain fourteen series: [Diaries](#) ; [Letterbooks](#) ; [Family Papers](#) ; [General Correspondence](#) ; [Special Correspondence](#) ; [Legal File](#) ; [Subject File](#) ; [Speech, Book, and Article File](#) ; [Financial Records](#) ; [Biographical File](#) ; [Scrapbooks](#) ; [Printed Matter and Newspaper Clippings](#) ; [Photographs](#) ; and [Oversize](#) .

Garfield's career as an educator began in 1885 after his graduation from Williams College when he taught for a year at St. Paul's School, Concord, New Hampshire, and continued in Cleveland, Ohio, where he taught at Western Reserve University while practicing law. In 1903, at the request of Woodrow Wilson, he left private law practice to become professor of politics at Princeton University. Most of the record of this part of his life, 1903-1908, is in the correspondence, few lecture notes having been preserved. Garfield continued to teach after becoming president of Williams College in 1908. His support of curriculum reform, increases in professors' salaries, the classics, the de-emphasis of athletics, and his role in the establishment of the first Institute of Politics held at Williams College in 1921 are documented in the collection, particularly in the various correspondence series and in speech and subject files.

Garfield's work as a member of the law firm of Garfield and Garfield, established in Cleveland in 1888 with his brother, James Rudolph Garfield, is evident from material preserved in the collection. While living in Cleveland, Harry Garfield became involved in the Cleveland Chamber of Commerce, the Cleveland Municipal Association (he was its first president), municipal reform in general, and in a number of other civic, religious, and charitable organizations. It was during this period that he became intensely interested in consular reform.

Prominent throughout the collection are files relating to the Institute of Politics, which he established and directed at Williams College, and his interest in international cooperation and world peace. The manuscript of *Lost Visions*, published posthumously by his widow, numerous speeches in the [Speech, Book, and Article File](#) series, and intermittent "daily notes" on his reading reflect an especially strong concentration on international affairs and the prevention of war after 1919.

From 1917 to 1919, Garfield served as the United States fuel administrator, attempting to make the best use of the available fuel in this country during World War I. Much of his correspondence with Woodrow Wilson, in the [Special Correspondence](#) series, is concerned with his own work and with other problems of the war. Other correspondence series and the subject and speech files contain pertinent material on the United States Fuel Administration.

Of particular importance to biographers is the family correspondence, especially the letters exchanged with his mother, Lucretia Rudolph Garfield. In her letters are reflected mutual interests in politics and intellectual pursuits as well as personal and family relationships and activities. The [Biographical File](#) series includes autobiographical notes of Lucretia Garfield addressed to Harry Garfield as the eldest son of the president, correspondence and printed matter about President Garfield, and correspondence about his papers. Scrapbooks and printed matter contain other information about the president and his oldest son. Material relating to the biography of Harry Garfield by his daughter, Lucretia Garfield Comer, is also included.

Correspondents include Newton Diehl Baker, William Jennings Bryan, Calvin Coolidge, John Hay, Herbert Hoover, Charles Evans Hughes, William McKinley, Franklin D. Roosevelt, Theodore Roosevelt, William H. Taft, and Woodrow Wilson.

Organization of the Papers

The collection is arranged in fourteen series:

- [Diaries, 1881-1941](#)
- [Letterbooks, 1892-1911](#)
- [Family Papers, 1870-1961](#)
- [General Correspondence, 1871-1946](#)
- [Special Correspondence, 1872-1942](#)
- [Legal File, 1855-1921](#)
- [Subject File, 1892-1943](#)
- [Speech, Book, and Article File, 1882-1947](#)
- [Financial Records, 1881-1943](#)
- [Biographical File, 1865-1960](#)
- [Scrapbooks, 1880-1908](#)
- [Printed Matter and Newspaper Clippings, 1888-1939](#)
- [Photographs, circa 1880-1945](#)
- [Oversize, 1881-circa 1945](#)

Description of Series

Container	Series
BOX 1-5	<p><u>Diaries, 1881-1941</u></p> <p>Bound volumes with a few loose diary notes. There are no diaries for the years 1905-1924. Arranged chronologically.</p>
BOX 6-19A	<p><u>Letterbooks, 1892-1911</u></p> <p>Bound letterbooks. Personal letterbooks precede volumes relating to businesses, which are organized by name of firm or business. Arranged chronologically within personal and business categories.</p>
BOX 20-50	<p><u>Family Papers, 1870-1961</u></p> <p>Letters sent and received by Garfield and his wife and members of their family. Arranged by family group or individual and therein chronologically.</p>
BOX 51-84	<p><u>General Correspondence, 1871-1946</u></p> <p>Letters sent and received, including a small amount of his wife's correspondence, 1943-1946. Arranged chronologically.</p>
BOX 85-93	<p><u>Special Correspondence, 1872-1942</u></p> <p>Letters sent and received. Arranged alphabetically by name of correspondent and therein chronologically.</p>
BOX 94-106	<p><u>Legal File, 1855-1921</u></p> <p>Legal case material, including correspondence. Arranged as received.</p>
BOX 107-138	<p><u>Subject File, 1892-1943</u></p> <p>Letters sent and received and related topical and printed matter. Arranged alphabetically by subject or name of organization, with the bulk pertaining to the Institute of Politics at Williams College.</p>
BOX 139-160	<p><u>Speech, Book, and Article File, 1882-1947</u></p> <p>Notes, drafts, speech material and related correspondence. Arranged by type of material and therein chronologically.</p>
BOX 161-164	<p><u>Financial Records, 1881-1943</u></p> <p>Property records, cash books, and other financial papers. Arranged by type of material.</p>
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- BOX 173-180** **Scrapbooks, 1880-1908**
Numbered volumes and material assembled by subject. Numbered volumes precede subject volumes.
- BOX 181-191** **Printed Matter and Newspaper Clippings, 1888-1939**
Mounted and annotated newspaper clippings, invitations, calling cards, and miscellaneous printed matter.
Arranged by subject.
- BOX 192-196** **Photographs, circa 1880-1945**
Photographs and photographic albums.
Unarranged.
- BOX OV 1-OV 7** **Oversize, 1881-circa 1945**
Scrapbooks, photograph albums, photographs, prints, newspaper clippings, awards, and certificates.
Arranged and described according to the series, containers, and folders from which they were removed.

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Family Papers, 1870-1961

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General Correspondence, 1871-1946

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BOX 162	Cash books 1881-1892
BOX 163	1893-1903
BOX 164	Miscellaneous, 1885-1943
BOX 165-172	Biographical File, 1865-1960 Letters sent and received about President James A. Garfield, Harry Garfield, and other members of their family, including reminiscences, memorabilia, and printed matter. Also included is material used by Lucretia Garfield Comer in connection with her biography of Harry Garfield. Arranged by type of material.
BOX 165	Memorabilia <i>See also Oversize</i> "Harry's Hand," drawn by James A. Garfield, 26 Mar. 1865 "First Writing," identified by James A. Garfield, 19 June 1871

Biographical File, 1865-1960

Container

Contents

- "United States Debating Club," 1876
Williams College, Williamstown, Mass., reports, 1881-1884
Catalog of private library, 1885
Reminiscences of Cleveland Municipal Association, Cleveland, Ohio, undated
Reminiscences of Lucretia Rudolph Garfield, 17 Apr. 1912
Poem by James A. Garfield, 14 June 1938
Autograph books, 1878-1914
- BOX 166** Correspondence and other material about James A. Garfield, his biography, and his papers at the Library of Congress, 1881-1942
- BOX 167** Printed material about James A. Garfield
- BOX 168** Genealogical material, certificates, and miscellany of Harry Augustus Garfield, 1882-1942
- BOX 169** Printed matter, Harry Augustus Garfield
- BOX 170** Miscellany, 1903-1934
(8 folders)
- BOX 171** (4 folders)
- BOX 172** Comer, Lucretia Garfield, correspondence about Garfield family in connection with her biography of her father, *Harry Garfield's First Forty Years: Man of Action in a Troubled World* (1965), 1943-1960 *See also Container 48, 1942-1961*
- BOX 173-180** **Scrapbooks, 1880-1908**
Numbered volumes and material assembled by subject. Numbered volumes precede subject volumes.
- BOX 173** Vols. 1-2, 1881 *See also Oversize*
- BOX 174** Vols. 3-4, 1881
- BOX 175** Vols. 5-6, 1881
- BOX 176** Vols. 7-8, 1880-1882
- BOX 177** Chicago, Ill., convention, election, and miscellany, 1880-1886
- BOX 178** "The Assassin on Trial" 1881-1882
- BOX 179** Personal, 1899-1908 *See also Oversize*
- BOX 180** Personal and political, 1899-1901
- BOX 181-191** **Printed Matter and Newspaper Clippings, 1888-1939**
Mounted and annotated newspaper clippings, invitations, calling cards, and miscellaneous printed matter.
Arranged by subject.
- BOX 181** Invitations, calling cards, and related matter
(5 folders)
- BOX 182** (5 folders)
- BOX 183** Cleveland Chamber of Commerce, Cleveland, Ohio, bound, 1894-1902
Cleveland Municipal Association, Cleveland, Ohio, bound, 1897-1903
- BOX 184** Consular reform
1898-1902
- BOX 185** 1902-1904
- BOX 186** Institute of Politics, Williams College, Williamstown, Mass.
1927-1928
- BOX 187** 1929-1931

Printed Matter and Newspaper Clippings, 1888-1939

Container	Contents
BOX 188	1931-1932
BOX 189	Inauguration as president, Williams College, Williamstown, Mass., 1908
BOX 190	Miscellaneous, 1888-1939 <i>See also Oversize</i> (10 folders)
BOX 191	(9 folders)
BOX 192-196	Photographs, circa 1880-1945 Photographs and photographic albums. Unarranged.
BOX 192	Miscellaneous <i>See also Oversize</i>
BOX 193	Albums and rolled photograph
BOX 194	Miscellaneous
BOX 195	Miscellaneous
BOX 196	Miscellaneous
BOX OV 1-OV 7	Oversize, 1881-circa 1945 Scrapbooks, photograph albums, photographs, prints, newspaper clippings, awards, and certificates. Arranged and described according to the series, containers, and folders from which they were removed.
BOX OV 1	Scrapbooks Vols. 1-2 About James A. Garfield, 1881-1882 (Container 173)
BOX OV 2	Personal Personal and political, 1888-1899 (Container 179)
BOX OV 3	Inauguration as president, Williams College, Williamstown, Mass., 1908 (Container 179)
BOX OV 4	Printed Matter and Newspaper Clippings Miscellaneous Newspaper clippings, 1901-1903 (Container 190)
BOX OV 5	Biographical File Memorabilia Awards, degrees, and certificates, 1888-1938 (Container 165)
BOX OV 6	Photographs Album presented at retirement, 1934 (Container 192) Miscellaneous photographs and prints, 1918-circa 1945 (Container 192)
BOX OV 7	Album of trip to Buffalo, Wyo., 1920 (Container 192)