

Thomas Henry Carter 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/mm76015305>

Additional search options available at: <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms010160>

Prepared by Manuscript Division staff

Finding aid encoded by Library of Congress Manuscript Division, 2010
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Collection Summary

Title: Thomas Henry Carter Papers

Inclusive Dates: 1833-1917

Bulk Dates: 1888-1917

ID No.: MSS15305

Creator: Carter, Thomas Henry, 1854-1911

Extent: 9,000 items

Extent: 25 containers plus 1 oversize

Extent: 9.6 linear feet

Extent: 16 microfilm reels

Language: Collection material in English

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

LC Catalog record: <https://lccn.loc.gov/mm76015305>

Summary: Lawyer and United States representative and senator from Montana. Correspondence, writings, memoranda, clippings, notes, invitations, photographs, and financial records relating primarily to Montana, Republican Party politics, and Carter's career in 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

Ballinger, Richard A., 1858-1922--Correspondence.

Beattie, Edward W., 1847-1914--Correspondence.

Carter family--Correspondence.

Carter, Thomas Henry, 1854-1911.

Dixon, Joseph M. (Joseph Moore), 1867-1934--Correspondence.

Fairbanks, Charles W. (Charles Warren), 1852-1918--Correspondence.

Garfield, James Rudolph, 1865-1950--Correspondence.

Harrison, Benjamin, 1833-1901--Correspondence.

Lanstrum, Oscar Monroe, 1869-1928--Correspondence.

Penrose, Boies, 1860-1921--Correspondence.

Pray, Charles Nelson, 1868-1963--Correspondence.

Roosevelt, Theodore, 1858-1919--Correspondence.

Ryan, Thomas Fortune, 1851-1928--Correspondence.

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

Organizations

American-Irish Historical Society.

Catholic Church--United States.

Georgetown University.

Republican Party (U.S. : 1854-)

Subjects

Conservation of natural resources.

Indians of North America--Government relations.

Irish Americans

Irish Americans--Societies, etc.

Laity--Catholic Church

National parks and reserves--Idaho.

National parks and reserves--Montana.

National parks and reserves--Wyoming.

Postal service--United States.

Public lands--United States.
Tariff--United States.

Places

Glacier National Park (Mont.)
Montana--Politics and government.
United States--Politics and government--1865-1933.
Yellowstone National Park.

Occupations

Lawyers.
Representatives, U.S. Congress--Montana.
Senators, U.S. Congress--Montana.

Acquisition Information

The papers of Thomas Henry Carter, lawyer and U.S. representative and senator from Montana, were given to the Library of Congress in 1932-1933 by his son, John Galen Carter.

Processing History

The Thomas Henry Carter Papers were arranged in 1953, reorganized and described by Carolyn Sung in 1968, and prepared for microfilming by Wilhelmina Curry in 1977. The series description and container list were revised in 2009 to reflect the renumbering of oversize items and other changes. 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 Thomas Henry Carter is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.).

Access and Restrictions

The papers of Thomas Henry Carter 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.

Microfilm

A microfilm edition of these papers is available on sixteen reels. Consult reference staff in the Manuscript Division concerning availability for purchase or interlibrary loan. To promote preservation of the originals, researchers are required to consult the microfilm.

Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: Container number, Thomas Henry Carter Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Biographical Note

Date	Event
1854, Oct. 30	Born, Scioto County, Ohio
1878	Began study of law, Burlington, Iowa
1882	Moved to Helena, Mont., and practiced law
1886	Married Ellen L. Galen
1889-1891	Delegate, subsequently representative, from Montana to fifty-first U.S. Congress
1891-1892	Commissioner, General Land Office
1892-1896	Chairman, Republican National Committee
1895-1901	United States senator from Montana
1901-1904	President, Louisiana Purchase Exposition Commission
1895-1901	United States senator from Montana
1911	Chairman, U.S. section of the International Joint Commission created to prevent disputes regarding use of boundary waters between the U.S. and Canada
1911, Sept. 17	Died, Washington, D.C.

Scope and Content Note

The papers of Thomas Henry Carter (1854-1911) span the years 1883-1917, with the bulk from 1888 to 1911, the years in which Carter was active on the national political scene. The papers consist chiefly of correspondence and copies of his writings. Printed matter, clippings, memoranda, lists, notes, invitations, photographs, and financial records complete the collection.

Letters sent, copies of letters sent, and letters received make up the [Family](#) and [General Correspondence](#) that account for over half of the collection. The [Family Correspondence](#) consists chiefly of Carter's letters to his wife, Ellen L. Galen Carter, and sons, John and Hugh, chronicling his activities in intimate detail. Because there is little correspondence for the years from 1888 to 1907 in the [General Correspondence](#), Carter's public life is principally documented in the [Family Correspondence](#). Most of the [General Correspondence](#) dates from 1908 to 1911 with scattered letters from earlier and later periods.

The collection contains considerable material on such topics as public lands, conservation, tariffs, Native American affairs, and the postal system. The issue of public lands was vital to Carter as a Westerner. He drafted the National Forestry bill of 1897 and was instrumental in furthering legislation to improve Yellowstone National Park and to establish Glacier National Park. While an advocate of some conservation measures, Carter fought for more liberal homestead legislation and generally favored getting the public domain into private hands as rapidly as possible. Although a staunch Republican, Carter opposed the Payne-Aldrich Tariff and succeeded in securing amendments in favor of the wool growers of Montana. Carter considered the Postal Savings Bank Act, adopted during the administration of William H. Taft, the most important legislation of his career.

The course of Montana politics in the first decades of statehood is represented in the collection by letters from constituents and local political leaders, which reveal both the issues and patronage in that state. Because Carter was a leading public figure in Montana, Theodore Roosevelt and William H. Taft consulted him in arranging their tours of that state in 1911. In addition to correspondence, there is a series of notebooks that record, in part, county voting by precinct in the Montana elections of 1898.

Prominent correspondents include Richard Achilles Ballinger, Edward W. Beattie, Joseph M. Dixon, Charles W. Fairbanks, James Rudolph Garfield, Benjamin Harrison, Oscar Monroe Lanstrum, Boies Penrose, Charles Nelson Pray, Theodore Roosevelt (1858-1919), Thomas Fortune Ryan, and William H. Taft.

Besides politics, Carter's primary interests were the Roman Catholic Church and various Irish American societies. As a prominent layman in the church, Carter was particularly interested in Catholic missionary work among Native Americans and in Catholic higher education. His service on the Advisory Board at Georgetown University is documented. Carter, of Irish ancestry, was an active member of the American Irish Historical Society and addressed this and other groups, extolling

the virtues of the Irish and emphasizing their contribution to American history. Notes, speeches, and invitations relating to this avocation abound in the papers.

Carter's writings consist mainly of political speeches, many of which were delivered on the Fourth of July and at commencements in his state. There is also an unpublished manuscript describing his career as a public figure from Montana, beginning with the campaign of 1888 and ending with the Theodore Roosevelt administration.

The remainder of the collection consists of several biographical sketches, genealogical material, financial records, and printed matter.

Arrangement of the Papers

This collection is arranged in eight series:

- [Family Correspondence, 1883-1911](#)
- [General Correspondence, 1889-1917](#)
- [Speech, Article, and Book File, 1886-1911](#)
- [Montana County Election File, 1898](#)
- [Invitation File](#)
- [Financial File](#)
- [Miscellany](#)
- [Oversize, 1892-1897](#)

Description of Series

Container	Series
BOX 1-5 REEL 1-4	<u>Family Correspondence, 1883-1911</u> Letters sent and letters received. Arranged chronologically.
BOX 6-15 REEL 4-11	<u>General Correspondence, 1889-1917</u> Letters received and copies of letters sent, memoranda, maps, telegrams, and clippings. Arranged chronologically.
BOX 16-17 REEL 11-12	<u>Speech, Article, and Book File, 1886-1911</u> Drafts of speeches, reprint of an article, drafts of congressional bills, and drafts of an unpublished book. Arranged by type of writing and chronologically within the speeches.
BOX 18 BOX 12	<u>Montana County Election File, 1898</u> Notebooks recording county votes precinct by precinct for each Montana county. Arranged in numerical sequence. Notebooks for county numbers 13, 16, 18, and 20 are not in the collection.
BOX 19 REEL 13	<u>Invitation File</u> Invitations and announcements. Arranged by name of person.
BOX 20-21 REEL 13-15	<u>Financial File</u> Accounts, bills, receipts, invoices, deeds, and ledger. Arranged alphabetically by type of material.
BOX 22-25 REEL 15-16	<u>Miscellany</u> Biographical and genealogical material, photographs, scrapbooks, and printed matter. Arranged by type of material
BOX OV 1 REEL 16	<u>Oversize, 1892-1897</u> Clippings and commissions. Arranged according to the series container, and folders from which the material was removed.

Container List

Available on microfilm. Shelf no. 17,139

Container	Contents
BOX 1-5 REEL 1-4	Family Correspondence, 1883-1911 Letters sent and letters received. Arranged chronologically.
BOX 1 REEL 1	1883-1893 (12 folders)
BOX 2 REEL 1-2	1894-1897 (9 folders)
BOX 3 REEL 2	1898-1903 (11 folders)
BOX 4 REEL 3	1904-1908 (7 folders)
BOX 5 REEL 3-4	1909-1911 (6 folders)
BOX 5 REEL 3-4	Undated
BOX 5 REEL 3-4	Letters of condolence on Carter's death
BOX 6-15 REEL 4-11	General Correspondence, 1889-1917 Letters received and copies of letters sent, memoranda, maps, telegrams, and clippings. Arranged chronologically.
BOX 6 REEL 4-5	1889-1908 (8 folders)
BOX 7 REEL 5	1909
BOX 7 REEL 5	Jan.-Aug. (8 folders)
BOX 8 REEL 6	Sept.-Dec. (7 folders)
BOX 9 REEL 6-7	1910
BOX 9 REEL 6-7	Jan.-Mar. (6 folders)
BOX 10 REEL 7-8	Apr.-June (7 folders)
BOX 11 REEL 8	July-Sept. (6 folders)
BOX 12 REEL 9	Oct.-Nov. (6 folders)
BOX 13 REEL 9	Dec. (4 folders)
BOX 14 REEL 10	1911
BOX 14 REEL 10	Jan.-Mar. (6 folders)

General Correspondence, 1889-1917

Container	Contents
BOX 15 REEL 10-11	1911, Apr.-1917, Dec. (9 folders)
BOX 15 REEL 10-11	Undated
BOX 16-17 REEL 11-12	Speech, Article, and Book File, 1886-1911 Drafts of speeches, reprint of an article, drafts of congressional bills, and drafts of an unpublished book. Arranged by type of writing and chronologically within the speeches.
BOX 16 REEL 11	Article entitled "The Post Office as a Depository for Savings"
BOX 16 REEL 11	Draft of congressional bills
BOX 16 REEL 11	Draft of book on Carter, chapters 1-25 (3 folders)
BOX 16 REEL 11	Letter to the editor, Christian Endeavor World, circa 1911
BOX 16 REEL 11	Miscellaneous draft of book on Carter
BOX 16 REEL 11	Draft of book on Carter, 1888-1889
BOX 16 REEL 11	Speeches
BOX 16 REEL 11	1886-1903
BOX 16 REEL 11	Address, 1886, July 4
BOX 16 REEL 11	Dedication of Lewis and Clark County Court House, 1887
BOX 16 REEL 11	Welcome to representative of Pope Leo XIII, 1889
BOX 16 REEL 11	Memorial Day address, Elks Club, Helena, Mont., 1893
BOX 16 REEL 11	"Montana: Its Past, Present, and Future," 1897
BOX 16 REEL 11	Address at banquet for Marquis Hirobumi Ito of Japan, Seattle, Wash., 1901
BOX 16 REEL 11	Address, Montana Republican State Central Committee, 1902
BOX 16 REEL 11	Commencement address for medical class, St. Louis University, St. Louis, Mo., 1903, Apr. 25
BOX 16 REEL 11	Program, Louisiana Purchase Exposition, St. Louis, Mo., 1903, Apr. 30
BOX 16 REEL 11	Commencement address, Montana School of Mines, Butte, Mont., 1903, June
BOX 16 REEL 11	Address at banquet of Knights of St. Patrick, 1903
BOX 17 REEL 12	1904-1911
BOX 17 REEL 12	Address, stock growers convention, Miles City, Mont., 1904, Apr. 19
BOX 17 REEL 12	Commencement address, Montana Wesleyan University, Helena, Mont., 1905, May 24
BOX 17 REEL 12	Address of acceptance of senatorship, joint assembly of Montana, Helena, Mont., 1905
BOX 17 REEL 12	Address, Montana Theater, Brooklyn, N.Y., 1906, Mar. 11
BOX 17 REEL 12	Address, dedication of the cathedral, Helena, Mont., 1906
BOX 17 REEL 12	Address, opening of state campaign, Missoula, Mont., 1908, Sept. 24
BOX 17 REEL 12	Address, Anaconda, Mont., 1908, Oct. 7
BOX 17 REEL 12	Address, American Irish Historical Society, Washington, D.C., 1908
BOX 17 REEL 12	Campaign speech, Montana, circa 1908
BOX 17 BOX 12	Commencement address, National University Law School, Washington, D.C., 1909, June 6
BOX 17 BOX 12	Address, Dry Lands Farming Congress, Billings, Mont., 1909, Oct. 28
BOX 17 BOX 12	Address, Chamber of Commerce, Utica, N.Y., 1909
BOX 17 BOX 12	Address on tariff on wool, U.S. Senate, circa 1909
BOX 17 BOX 12	Address and notes on the tariff, circa 1909
BOX 17 BOX 12	Political address in Montana, circa 1909

Speech, Article, and Book File, 1886-1911

Container	Contents
BOX 17 BOX 12	Public lands, circa 1909
BOX 17 BOX 12	Address, University of Notre Dame, South Bend, Ind., circa 1910
BOX 17 BOX 12	"The Facts concerning the Railroad Rate Bill," circa 1910
BOX 17 BOX 12	Miscellaneous
BOX 17 BOX 12	Speeches (2 folders)
BOX 17 BOX 12	Writings
BOX 17 BOX 12	Notes and lists
BOX 17 BOX 12	Fragments
BOX 18 BOX 12	Montana County Election File, 1898 Notebooks recording county votes precinct by precinct for each Montana county. Arranged in numerical sequence. Notebooks for county numbers 13, 16, 18, and 20 are not in the collection.
BOX 18 BOX 12	Cascade, no. 1
BOX 18 BOX 12	Choteau, no. 2
BOX 18 BOX 12	Valley, no. 3
BOX 18 BOX 12	Flathead, no. 4
BOX 18 BOX 12	Feton, no. 5
BOX 18 BOX 12	Silver Bow, no. 6
BOX 18 BOX 12	Sweet Grass, no. 7
BOX 18 BOX 12	Yellowstone, no. 8
BOX 18 BOX 12	Park, no. 9
BOX 18 BOX 12	Dawson, no. 10
BOX 18 BOX 12	Custer, no. 11
BOX 18 BOX 12	Carbon, no. 12
BOX 18 BOX 12	Fergus, no. 14
BOX 18 BOX 12	Missoula, no. 15
BOX 18 BOX 12	Beaverhead, no. 17
BOX 18 BOX 12	Madison, no. 19
BOX 18 BOX 12	Ravalli, no. 21
BOX 19 REEL 13	Invitation File Invitations and announcements. Arranged by name of person.
BOX 19 REEL 13	Roosevelt, Theodore
BOX 19 REEL 13	Taft, William H.
BOX 19 REEL 13	Sherman, James Schoolcraft
BOX 19 REEL 13	Miscellaneous (3 folders)
BOX 20-21 REEL 13-15	Financial File Accounts, bills, receipts, invoices, deeds, and ledger. Arranged alphabetically by type of material.

Financial File

Container	Contents
BOX 20 REEL 13-14	Bills and receipts (10 folders)
BOX 21 REEL 14-15	Bills and receipts (7 folders)
BOX 21 REEL 14-15	Ledger
BOX 21 REEL 14-15	Deeds
BOX 22-25 REEL 15-16	Miscellany Biographical and genealogical material, photographs, scrapbooks, and printed matter. Arranged by type of material
BOX 22 REEL 15	Biographical material
BOX 22 REEL 15	Genealogical material, Julia Anne Carter Lang, "Reminiscences"
BOX 22 REEL 15	Filing notes
BOX 22 REEL 15	Photographs
BOX 22 REEL 15	Blueprints and maps
BOX 22 REEL 15	Pamphlets (5 folders)
BOX 23 REEL 16	Scrapbooks
BOX 23 REEL 16	Bound
BOX 23 REEL 16	1908-1910
BOX 23 REEL 16	1910
BOX 23 REEL 16	Jan.-May
BOX 24 REEL 16	Mar.-July
BOX 24 REEL 16	June-July
BOX 25 REEL 16	Unbound
BOX 25 REEL 16	circa 1910
BOX 25 REEL 16	Undated
BOX 25 REEL 16	Clippings, 1897 <i>See Oversize</i>
BOX 25 REEL 16	Commission, 1892 <i>See Oversize</i>
BOX OV 1 REEL 16	Oversize, 1892-1897 Clippings and commissions. Arranged according to the series container, and folders from which the material was removed.
BOX OV 1 REEL 16	Clippings, 1897 (Container 25)
BOX OV 1 REEL 16	Commission, 1892 (Container 25)