

Henry Clark Corbin 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/mm79016865>

Additional search options available at: <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms010180>

Prepared by Manuscript Division Staff

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

Collection Summary

Title: Henry Clark Corbin Papers

Inclusive Dates: 1864-1980

Bulk Dates: 1898-1909

ID No.: MSS16865

Creator: Corbin, Henry Clark, 1842-1909

Extent: 2,000 items

Extent: 12 containers plus 12 oversize

Extent: 5 linear feet

Language: Collection material in English

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

LC Catalog record: <https://lccn.loc.gov/mm79016865>

Summary: Army officer. Correspondence, memoranda, reports, typescripts of speeches, autograph albums, scrapbooks, photographs, and other papers concerning Corbin's military career and his life in Washington, D.C., as an officer and prominent resident. Includes personal matter such as photograph albums, scrapbooks, and memorabilia relating to his wife, Edythe Agnes Patten Corbin, and the Patten family.

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

Chaffee, Adna Romanza, 1842-1914--Correspondence.

Corbin family.

Corbin, Edythe Agnes Patten.

Corbin, Henry Clark, 1842-1909.

Cortelyou, George B. (George Bruce), 1862-1940--Correspondence.

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

Grosvenor, Charles Henry, 1833-1917--Correspondence.

Hayes, Rutherford B., 1822-1893--Correspondence.

Loeb, William, Jr., 1866-1937--Correspondence.

Ludlow, William, 1843-1901--Correspondence.

McCook, John James, 1843-1927--Correspondence.

McKinley, William, 1843-1901.

Patten family.

Roosevelt, Theodore, 1858-1919--Correspondence.

Schwan, Theodore, 1841-1926--Correspondence.

Shafter, William Rufus, 1835-1906--Correspondence.

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

Wood, Leonard, 1860-1927--Correspondence.

Organizations

China Relief Expedition (1900-1901)

United States. Army--Foreign service--Philippines.

Subjects

International relief--China.

Presidents--United States--Inauguration.

Spanish-American War, 1898.

Places

Philippines--History--1898-1946.

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

Washington (D.C.)--Politics and government--1878-1967.
Washington (D.C.)--Social life and customs.

Occupations
Army officers.

Acquisition Information

The papers of Henry Clark Corbin, army officer, were given to the Library of Congress in 1920 by his wife, Edythe Agnes Patten Corbin. Additions were received as a gift from Edythe Patten Corbin, 1948, and from others, 1980-1981.

Processing History

The Henry Clark Corbin Papers were processed in 1963. The collection was expanded and revised in 1984 and reprocessed in 2002 by Sherralyn McCoy. 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 Henry Clark Corbin is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.).

Access and Restrictions

The papers of Henry Clark Corbin 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, Henry Clark Corbin papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Biographical Note

Date	Event
1842, Sept. 15	Born, Clermont County, Ohio
1860-1861	Studied law
1862-1865	Entered U.S. Volunteers, 83rd Ohio Infantry, as second lieutenant and advanced through the ranks to colonel, U.S. Colored Troops
1865	Married Frances W. Strickle
1866	Entered regular army
1866-1876	Served in the U.S. Army in the Southwest, including in the field against Apache, Sioux, and Moquis
1877	Appointed secretary to Sitting Bull Commission Detailed for duty at Executive Mansion
1880	Appointed assistant adjutant general
1880-1881	Secretary, presidential inauguration committee
1898	Appointed adjutant general
1900-1901	Secretary, presidential inauguration committee

1901	Married Edythe Agnes Patten (died 1959)
1904-1906	Commanded Philippine Division
1906	Promoted to lieutenant general
	Retired from U.S. Army
1909	Died, Washington, D.C.

Scope and Content Note

The papers of Henry Clark Corbin (1841-1909) span the years 1864-1980, with the bulk of the material concentrated in the period 1898-1909. The collection consists of correspondence, topical material, memoranda, reports, speeches and writings, transcripts of an autobiography, photographs, printed matter, and scrapbooks and photograph albums of Corbin, his wife, Edythe Agnes Patten Corbin, and other members of the Patten family, including Edythe's sister, Augusta Patten Glover, and her husband, John M. Glover.

Important subjects in the Corbin Papers include the Spanish American War, Corbin's military career from the Civil War to his retirement in 1906, administration of the Philippines, 1900-1906, the Peking Relief Expedition, 1901, and the political and social affairs of a prominent family in Washington, D.C., at the turn of the century. Featured are memoranda and affidavits gathered by Corbin in an effort to obtain the rank of major general and the army's investigation of private uses of public funds in the Philippines. There is a large file of special correspondence concerning the engagement and wedding of Corbin and Edythe Agnes Patten in 1901. Letterbooks kept by Corbin as corresponding secretary for the presidential inaugural committee for James A. Garfield, 1880-1881, and for William McKinley, 1901, are also included.

Principal correspondents include Adna Romanza Chaffee, George B. Cortelyou, Charles Henry Grosvenor, Rutherford Birchard Hayes, William Loeb, William Ludlow, John James McCook, Theodore Roosevelt (1858-1919), Theodore Schwan, William Rufus Shafter, William H. Taft, and Leonard Wood.

Arrangement of the Papers

This collection is arranged by type of material.

Container List

Container	Contents
BOX 1	General correspondence
BOX 1	Chafee, Adna Romanza, 1900-1904 (5 folders)
BOX 1	Cortelyou, George B., 1899-1901
BOX 1	Grosvenor, Charles Henry, 1906-1907
BOX 1	Hayes, Rutherford Birchard, 1878-1893
BOX 1	Loeb, William, 1903-1905
BOX 1	Ludlow, William, 1898
BOX 1	McCook, John James, 1898, 1905-1906
BOX 1	Miscellaneous
BOX 1	"A-H," 1864-1867, 1877-1882, 1901-1909 (2 folders)
BOX 2	"J-W," 1864-1867, 1877-1880, 1898-1909 (2 folders)
BOX 2	Roosevelt, Theodore (1859-1919), 1899-1902
BOX 2	Schwan, Theodore, 1899-1902
BOX 2	Shafter, William Rufus, 1892, 1898-1901
BOX 2	Taft, William H., 1904-1909
BOX 2	Wood, Leonard, 1905-1906
BOX 2	Wright, Len E., 1878, 1905
BOX 2	Subject file
BOX 2	Adjutant general reports, 1898-1906
BOX 2	Biographical material, 1890-1909
BOX 2	Congressional hearings, efficiency of the army, undated
BOX 2	Corbin, Edythe Agnes Patten, correspondence and miscellany, 1901-1909, undated (2 folders)
BOX 3	Cullen, Orlan C., charges against Corbin, 1900-1908
BOX 3	Guest book, 1903-1906
BOX 3	Heinrich, Prince of Russia, visit to United States, 1902
BOX 3	Loving cup, letters from donors, 1901
BOX 3	Marriage, bound volumes of invitations and congratulations, 1901 <i>See Oversize</i>
BOX 3	Index to volumes
BOX 3	Engagement
BOX 3	Wedding
BOX 3	Congratulations
BOX 3	Invitations (2 vols.)
BOX 3	Opera, programs, 1902
BOX 3	Patten family
BOX 3	Albums
BOX 3	Autographs, invitations, and correspondence, 1908-1939

Container List

Container	Contents
BOX 4	Photographs, 1880-1938, undated See also Oversize, Patten family (2 vols.)
BOX 4	Photographs and clippings, ca. 1920s, undated
BOX 4	Newspaper clippings, John M. Glover, 1887, undated
BOX 4	Scrapbooks
BOX 4	Set I
BOX 4	1886-1931 (2 vols.)
BOX 5	1931
BOX 5	Set II
BOX 5	1904-1928
BOX 6	1913-1928
BOX 7	Set III, 1914-1923
BOX 8	Philippines
BOX 8	Investigation of use of public funds, 1906
BOX 8	Miscellany, 1900-1902, undated
BOX 8	Photographs, undated
BOX 8	Albums (2 vols.)
BOX 9	Miscellaneous
BOX 9	Reenactment of Third Battle of Bull Run (3 folders)
BOX 10	Presidential inauguration committees, James A. Garfield, 1880-1881 (2 vols.)
BOX 10	Programs and invitations, 1901-1902 (2 folders)
BOX 10	Promotion to major general, opposition and support
BOX 10	1864-1878
BOX 11	1877-1903 (5 folders)
BOX 11	Speeches, 1902-1909, undated
BOX 11	Writings
BOX 11	"As a Missionary Sees It"
BOX 11	Autobiography, transcripts and near print publication, 1906, 1980
BOX 11	"The Old Man"
BOX 12	Scrapbooks
BOX 12	Family and friends, 1902-1932
BOX 12	Personal, 1864-1909 See also Oversize, Scrapbooks (6 vols.)
BOX 12	Taft, William H., trip as secretary of war to Philippines, 1905 See Oversize
BOX OV 1	Oversize
BOX OV 1	Subject file
BOX OV 1	Marriage, bound volumes of invitations and congratulations, 1901 (Container 3)
BOX OV 1	Index to volumes
BOX OV 2	Engagement
BOX OV 3	Wedding
BOX OV 3	Congratulations

Container List

Container	Contents
BOX OV 4	Invitations
BOX OV 4	Acceptances
BOX OV 5	Regrets
BOX OV 6	Patten family
BOX OV 6	Albums
BOX OV 6	Photographs
BOX OV 6	Vol. II, 1880-1938 <u>See also Container 4, Patten family, photographs</u>
BOX OV 7	Scrapbooks <u>See also Container 12, Scrapbooks, personal</u>
BOX OV 7	Personal
BOX OV 7	1864-1903
BOX OV 8	1903-1904
BOX OV 9	1904-1905
BOX OV 10	1905-1906
BOX OV 11	1907-1909
BOX OV 12	Taft, William H., trip as secretary of war to Philippines, 1905