

**Huston Thompson Papers**  
**A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress**



**Manuscript Division, Library of Congress**  
**Washington, D.C.**  
**2011**

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

Catalog Record: <https://lcn.loc.gov/mm78042812>

Additional search options available at: <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc/mss/eadmss.ms012039>

Prepared by Paul T. Heffron

Finding aid encoded by Library of Congress Manuscript Division, 2012

## Collection Summary

**Title:** Huston Thompson Papers

**Span Dates:** 1908-1965

**Bulk Dates:** (bulk 1936-1965)

**ID No.:** MSS42812

**Creator:** Thompson, Huston

**Extent:** 1,500 items

**Extent:** 9 containers plus 1 oversize

**Extent:** 3 linear feet

**Language:** Collection material in English

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

**LC Catalog record:** <https://lccn.loc.gov/mm78042812>

**Summary:** Lawyer and government official. Correspondence, letterbooks, diaries, speeches, articles, photographs, and near-print and print material relating to the presidential candidacy of Woodrow Wilson, Thompson's service as legal counsel in the investigation of the Tennessee Valley Authority in the 1930s, and his service as mediator in national industrial strike emergencies.

## 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

Bones, Helen Woodrow--Correspondence.

Davis, John W. (John William), 1873-1955--Correspondence.

Lansing, Robert, 1864-1928--Correspondence.

McAdoo, Eleanor Wilson, 1889-1967--Correspondence.

McAdoo, W. G. (William Gibbs), 1863-1941--Correspondence.

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

Thompson, Huston.

Truman, Harry S., 1884-1972--Correspondence.

Van Devanter, Willis, 1859-1941--Correspondence.

Wilson, Edith Bolling Galt, 1872-1961--Correspondence.

Wilson, Woodrow, 1856-1924--Correspondence.

Wilson, Woodrow, 1856-1924.

### Organizations

Tennessee Valley Authority.

United States. Federal Trade Commission.

### Subjects

Industries--United States.

Labor disputes--United States.

New Deal, 1933-1939.

Securities industry--Law and legislation.

Strikes and lockouts--United States.

### Places

United States--History--1933-1945.

United States--History--1945-1953.

United States--Politics and government--1933-1945.

United States--Politics and government--1945-1953.

United States--Social conditions--1933-1945.

United States--Social conditions--1945-

## Occupations

Lawyers.  
Public officials.

## Provenance

The papers of Huston Thompson, lawyer and government official, were given to the Library of Congress by his daughter, Mrs. John Farr Simmons, in 1967.

## Processing History

The papers of Huston Thompson were arranged and described in 1967. The finding aid was revised in 2011.

## Copyright Status

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

## Access and Restrictions

The papers of Huston Thompson 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, Huston Thompson Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

## Biographical Note

<b>Date</b>	<b>Event</b>
1875, Nov. 1	Born, Lewisburg, Pa.
1897	A.B., Princeton University, Princeton, N.Y.
1899	Began law practice, Denver, Colo.
1903-1906	Lecturer, Denver Law School, Denver, Colo.
1907-1909	Assistant attorney general, Colorado
1913-1918	Assistant attorney general, U. S.
1918-1924	Member, Federal Trade Commission; chairman, 1920-1921 and 1923-1924
1922	LL.D., George Washington University, Washington, D.C.
1931-1940	Special government assignments: government counsel in U.S. v. Appalachian Electric Power Co.; investigator of Tennessee Valley Authority
1941-1948	Appointed by Presidents Franklin D. Roosevelt and Harry S. Truman as member of emergency boards investigating railroad labor disputes.
1965, Feb. 17	Died, Washington, D. C.

## **Scope and Content Note**

The papers of Huston Thompson (1875-1965) consist of diaries, family correspondence, general correspondence, speeches, articles, reports, notes, and unpublished manuscripts covering the period 1908-1965, with the bulk of the material concentrated in the year 1936-1965.

Included in the collection are letters from Woodrow Wilson in 1911 concerning Wilson's projected western tour to sound out sentiment for his possible candidacy for the Democratic nomination as president. Other presidential items include letters from Franklin D. Roosevelt and Harry S. Truman relating chiefly to Thompson's work as special legal counsel for the United States government. Also of special interest are letters from Thompson to his mother and brothers, in which he comments on the public mien and events of the New Deal and Fair Deal periods. Other material in the collection relates to the legislative history of securities regulation in the 1930s, the Federal Trade Commission, and the life and achievements of Woodrow Wilson.

Additional correspondents include Helen Woodrow Bones, John W. Davis, Robert Lansing, Eleanor Wilson McAdoo, W. G. McAdoo, Willis Van Devanter, and Edith Bolling Galt Wilson.

## **Arrangement of the Papers**

This collection is arranged by type of material.

## Container List

Container	Contents
BOX 1	Diaries, 1916-1946
BOX 1	Family correspondence
BOX 1	Mother, 1937-1949
BOX 2	General, 1936-1950
BOX 2	Presidential correspondence, 1908-1952
BOX 3	General correspondence, 1911-1965
BOX 4	Letterbooks, 1908-1913
BOX 5	Speech, article, and book file, drafts and related matter
BOX 5	Roosevelt, Franklin D., presidential inauguration, 1933
BOX 5	Wilson, Woodrow <i>See Oversize</i>
BOX 6	<i>Dearborn Independent</i> , 1925-1927
BOX 6	Miscellaneous articles (2 folders) (1 folder)
BOX 7	Miscellaneous speeches
BOX 7	Cooperative Movement
BOX 8	Federal Trade Commission
BOX 9	Miscellany
BOX 9	Reports and memorandum
BOX 9	Legal proceedings
BOX 9	Memorial to Joseph Edward Davies
BOX OV 1	Oversize
BOX OV 1	Lithograph of Woodrow Wilson (Container 5)