

William Thomas Rawleigh Papers
A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress



Manuscript Division, Library of Congress
Washington, D.C.
2012

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

Catalog Record: <https://lcn.loc.gov/mm81059584>

Additional search options available at: <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms012089>

Prepared by David Mathisen

Finding aid encoded by Library of Congress Manuscript Division, 2012

Collection Summary

Title: William Thomas Rawleigh Papers

Span Dates: 1911-1931

ID No.: MSS59584

Creator: Rawleigh, William Thomas, 1870-1951

Extent: 1,500 items

Extent: 9 containers

Extent: 4.3 linear feet

Language: Collection material in English

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

LC Catalog record: <https://lcn.loc.gov/mm81059584>

Summary: Manufacturer and retailer of farm goods, chairman of the La Follette for President Committee, and Robert M. La Follette's campaign treasurer. Correspondence, financial records, lists, charts, promotional material, and others papers relating to the 1924 presidential campaign of Robert M. La Follette (1855-1925).

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

Brunson, Hartwell L.--Correspondence.

Ekern, Herman Lewis, 1872-1954--Correspondence.

Holmes, Fred L., 1883-1946--Correspondence.

Johnston, William Hugh, 1874-1937--Correspondence.

La Follette, Robert M. (Robert Marion), 1855-1925.

MacGowan, Charles J.--Correspondence.

Nelson, John Mandt, 1870-1955--Correspondence.

Rawleigh, William Thomas, 1870-1951.

Villard, Oswald Garrison, 1872-1949--Correspondence.

Organizations

Progressive Republican League of Illinois.

W.T. Rawleigh Company.

Subjects

Presidents--United States--Election--1924.

Progressivism (United States politics)

Places

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

Occupations

Campaign managers.

Manufacturers.

Merchants.

Provenance

The papers of William Thomas Rawleigh, manufacturer and retailer of farm goods, chairman of the La Follette for President Committee and treasurer of the National Joint La Follette-Wheeler Committee, were received by exchange from DePaul University Library, Chicago, Illinois, in 1980.

Processing History

The papers of William Thomas Rawleigh were arranged and described in 1986. The finding aid was revised in 2012.

Copyright Status

The status of copyright in the unpublished writings of William Thomas Rawleigh is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.).

Access and Restrictions

The papers of William Thomas Rawleigh 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, William Thomas Rawleigh Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Biographical Note

| Date | Event |
|--------------|---|
| 1870, Dec. 3 | Born near Mineral Point, Wis. |
| 1889 | Retailer of household goods, veterinarian remedies, and poultry supplies |
| 1890 | Married Minnie B. Trevillian |
| 1895 | Established the W. T. Rawleigh Co. (president, 1906-1907) |
| 1906-1907 | Member, City Council, Freeport, Ill. |
| 1909 | Purchaser and editor, <i>Freeport Daily Standard</i> , Freeport, Ill. |
| 1909-1911 | Mayor, Freeport, Ill. Vice president, Illinois Mayors Association |
| 1910-1912 | Representative, Illinois House of Representatives |
| 1911 | Chairman, Freeport-Hughes Alliance (president, 1916) Presidential elector, Progressive Party |
| 1911-1912 | Expanded the W. T. Rawleigh Co. with branches in Memphis, Tenn., and Winnipeg, Canada, and offices and warehouses in Mexico, France, Zanzibar, and Madagascar, and plantations in the Comeres Islands |
| 1911-1917 | President, Rawleigh-Schryer Co. |
| 1923 | Married M. Marguerite Schneider |
| 1924 | Chairman, La Follette for President Committee Treasurer, National Joint La Follette-Wheeler Committee |
| 1951 | Died |

Scope and Content Note

The papers of William Thomas Rawleigh (1870-1951) span the years 1911-1931 and consist primarily of material relating to the 1924 presidential campaign of Robert M. La Follette (1855-1925). Included is correspondence, financial records, lists, charts, promotional material, printed matter, and miscellaneous material. Also in the collection is correspondence concerning the Progressive Republican League of Illinois and material related to the W.T. Rawleigh Company, which

Rawleigh established. Correspondents include Hartwell L. Brunson, Herman Lewis Ekern, Fred L. Holmes, William Hugh Johnston, Charles J. MacGowan, John Mandt Nelson, and Oswald Garrison Villard.

Arrangement of the Papers

This collection is organized by type of material.

Container List

| Container | Contents |
|-----------|---|
| BOX 1 | Robert M. La Follette (1855-1925), campaign material |
| BOX 1 | Correspondence |
| BOX 1 | 1924 |
| BOX 1 | Mar. 29-Aug. 31 (7 folders) |
| BOX 2 | Sept. 1-26 (5 folders) |
| BOX 3 | 3 Sept. 27-Oct. 12 (4 folders) |
| BOX 4 | Oct. 13-31 (4 folders) |
| BOX 4 | 1924, Nov. 1-1925, Jan. 10, undated (2 folders) |
| BOX 5 | Accounts and funds |
| BOX 5 | Bank statements and cancelled checks |
| BOX 5 | Contribution cards (2 folders) |
| BOX 6 | (3 folders) |
| BOX 7 | (5 folders) |
| BOX 7 | Expenses |
| BOX 8 | Miscellany |
| BOX 8 | Receipt stubs (2 folders) |
| BOX 8 | Treasurer's reports |
| BOX 8 | Biographical file |
| BOX 8 | Miscellany |
| BOX 8 | Notes |
| BOX 8 | Petition lists |
| BOX 8 | "Platforms and Performances/A Comparison," chart |
| BOX 8 | Printed matter |
| BOX 8 | Progressive Democrats and Republicans, lists, 1923-1924 |
| BOX 8 | Shipping orders |
| BOX 9 | <i>La Follette's Magazine</i> |
| BOX 9 | Correspondence, 1921, Aug. 26-1926, June 22 |
| BOX 9 | Miscellany |
| BOX 9 | Printed matter |
| BOX 9 | Promotional material, drafts |
| BOX 9 | Progressive Republican League of Illinois, correspondence |
| BOX 9 | 1911, Aug. 9-1912, Feb. 2 |
| BOX 9 | W. T. Rawleigh Company, printed matter |
| BOX 9 | Printed matter |
| BOX 9 | General |

Container List

Container

Contents

BOX 9

Clippings
(4 folders)