

Philander C. Knox Papers
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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/mm78028852>

Additional search options available at: <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms013124>

Prepared by Manuscript Division Staff

Finding aid encoded by Library of Congress Manuscript Division, 2013
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Collection Summary

Title: Philander C. Knox Papers

Inclusive Dates: 1796-1922

Bulk Dates: 1901-1921

ID No.: MSS28852

Creator: Knox, Philander C. (Philander Chase), 1853-1921

Extent: 8,450 items

Extent: 75 containers

Extent: 30 linear feet

Language: Collection material in English

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

LC Catalog record: <https://lccn.loc.gov/mm78028852>

Summary: U.S. secretary of state, U.S. senator from Pennsylvania, and lawyer. Correspondence, memoranda, speeches, writings, reports, articles, notebooks, bills and resolutions, legal records, biographical sketches, library catalog, clippings, printed matter, scrapbooks, cartoons, and other papers relating chiefly to Knox's service as U.S. attorney general, secretary of state, and senator from Pennsylvania.

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

Anderson, Chandler P. (Chandler Parsons), 1866-1936--Correspondence.

Baker, Newton Diehl, 1871-1937--Correspondence.

Beveridge, Albert Jeremiah, 1862-1927--Correspondence.

Bonaparte, Charles J. (Charles Joseph), 1851-1921--Correspondence.

Borah, William Edgar, 1865-1940--Correspondence.

Carnegie, Andrew, 1835-1919--Correspondence.

Clark, J. Reuben Jr., 1871-1961--Correspondence.

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

Daugherty, H. M. (Harry Micajah), 1860-1941--Correspondence.

Day, W. A. (William A.)--Correspondence.

Frick, Henry Clay, 1849-1919--Correspondence.

Hanna, Marcus Alonzo, 1837-1904--Correspondence.

Harding, Warren G. (Warren Gamaliel), 1865-1923--Correspondence.

Hay, John, 1838-1905--Correspondence.

Hill, James J. (James Jerome), 1838-1916--Correspondence.

Hoar, George Frisbie, 1826-1904--Correspondence.

Hoyt, Henry M. (Henry Martyn), 1830-1892--Correspondence.

Johnson, Hiram, 1866-1945--Correspondence.

Knox, Philander C. (Philander Chase), 1853-1921.

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

McKinley, William, 1843-1901--Correspondence.

McKinley, William, 1843-1901.

Mellon, Andrew W. (Andrew William), 1855-1937--Correspondence.

Pennypacker, Samuel W. (Samuel Whitaker), 1843-1916--Correspondence.

Penrose, Boies, 1860-1921--Correspondence.

Quay, Matthew Stanley, 1833-1904--Correspondence.

Reid, Whitelaw, 1837-1912--Correspondence.

Roosevelt, Theodore, 1858-1919--Correspondence.

Roosevelt, Theodore, 1858-1919.

Root, Elihu, 1845-1937--Correspondence.

Spooner, John C. (John Coit), 1843-1919--Correspondence.
Taft, William H. (William Howard), 1857-1930--Correspondence.
Taft, William H. (William Howard), 1857-1930.
Wickersham, George W. (George Woodward), 1858-1936--Correspondence.
Wilson, Huntington, 1875- --Correspondence.

Organizations

League of Nations.
Northern Securities Company.
United States. Department of Commerce and Labor.
United States. Department of Justice.
United States. Department of State.
United States. Interstate Commerce Commission.

Subjects

Antitrust law--United States.
Canals--Panama.
Railroads--Law and legislation--United States.
World War, 1914-1918--Peace.

Places

China--Foreign relations--United States.
China--History--Revolution, 1911-1912.
East Asia--Foreign relations--United States.
Latin America--Foreign relations--United States.
Middle East--Foreign relations--United States.
Panama Canal (Panama)
Panama Canal (Panama)--Rates and tolls.
Pennsylvania--Politics and government--1865-1950.
Russia--Foreign relations--United States.
United States--Foreign relations--20th century.
United States--Foreign relations--China.
United States--Foreign relations--East Asia.
United States--Foreign relations--Latin America.
United States--Foreign relations--Middle East.
United States--Foreign relations--Russia.
United States--Politics and government--1901-1953.

Titles

Treaty of Versailles (1919 June 28)

Occupations

Cabinet officers.
Lawyers.
Senators, U.S. Congress--Pennsylvania.

Acquisition Information

The papers of Philander C. Knox, U.S. secretary of state, U.S. senator from Pennsylvania, and lawyer, were given to the Library of Congress by Knox's daughter, Rebekah Page Knox Tindle, from 1929 to 1954.

Processing History

The Philander C. Knox Papers were processed between 1948 and 1952 and revised in 1968. The finding aid was revised again in 2012. 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

Copyright in the unpublished writings of Philander C. Knox 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 Philander C. Knox 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, Philander C. Knox Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Biographical Note

Date	Event
1853, May 6	Born, Brownsville, Pa.
1872	Graduated, Mount Union College, Mount Union, Ohio
1875	Admitted to bar
1877-1901	Private law practice
1880	Married Lillie Smith
1897	Became president of Pennsylvania Bar Association
1901-1904	Attorney general of the United States
1904-1909	United States senator from Pennsylvania
1909-1913	Secretary of state
1913-1916	Private law practice
1917-1921	United States senator from Pennsylvania
1921, Oct. 12	Died, Washington, D.C.

Scope and Content Note

The papers of Philander Chase Knox (1853-1921) span the years 1796-1922, with the bulk of the material concentrated in the period 1901-1921. The collection contains a limited amount of material on Knox's personal life and business activities, but his career as United States attorney general, secretary of state, and United States senator is well documented. The collection is organized into eight series: [Bound General Correspondence](#), [Unbound General Correspondence](#), [Letterbooks](#), [State Department File](#), [Speech File](#), [Scrapbooks](#), [Newspaper Clippings](#), and [Miscellany](#).

The [Bound General Correspondence](#) and [Unbound General Correspondence](#) series constitute the largest part of the collection. Copies of letters sent by Knox are scattered throughout the series, and numerous memoranda, reports, and briefs provide insights into his official activities while holding public office. Knox's long political career brought him into contact with many distinguished American political figures, and the correspondence is enriched by numerous letters of historical significance. Prominent correspondents include Presidents William McKinley, Theodore Roosevelt, William H. Taft, and

Warren G. Harding. Other correspondents include Chandler P. Anderson, Newton Diehl Baker, Albert Jeremiah Beveridge, Charles J. Bonaparte, William Edgar Borah, Andrew Carnegie, J. Reuben Clark (1871-1961), George B. Cortelyou, H. M. Daugherty, W. A. Day, Henry Clay Frick, Marcus Alonzo Hanna, John Hay, James Jerome Hill, George Frisbie Hoar, Henry M. Hoyt, Hiram Johnson, William Loeb (1866-1937), Andrew W. Mellon, Andrew W. Mellon, Samuel W. Pennypacker, Boies Penrose, Matthew Stanley Quay, Whitelaw Reid, Elihu Root, John C. Spooner, George W. Wickersham, and Huntington Wilson.

Two [letterbooks](#) constitute the largest group of letters written by Knox within the collection. The letters deal with personal, official, and political matters and supplement the correspondence series for the years that Knox served as attorney general.

The [State Department File](#) contains correspondence, scrapbooks, and State Department documents dealing with American foreign relations during Knox's tenure as secretary of state. The correspondence relating to the Chinese Revolution of 1911-1912 provides a vivid account of conditions in China during the revolution as well as an indication of the official American attitude during this period. Knox's good-will tour through Central America in 1912 is described in the newspaper clippings, copies of speeches, and occasional correspondence that are brought together in scrapbooks and other material relating to the journey. American relations with other parts of the world, particularly Latin America, the Middle East, and East Asia, receive a thorough if incomplete treatment in the numerous printed correspondence that constitute an information series within the State Department File. Subjects include the Panama Canal and Panama toll revision, the Versailles treaty, and League of Nations. This material supplements the [Bound General Correspondence](#) and [Unbound General Correspondence](#) for the years 1909-1913.

The [Speech File](#), [Scrapbooks](#), and [Newspaper Clippings](#) series within the collection help to fill the gaps in Knox's personal life and business career as well as further documenting his public activities. The speeches, many of which are annotated, are especially complete for the years 1904-1921. The Scrapbooks are organized by subject and elucidate many of the important activities in which Knox was deeply involved. Most of the Newspaper Clippings deal with Knox's role in the significant events of 1901-1921. Topics include antitrust prosecution of the Northern Securities Company, reorganization of the U.S. Interstate Commerce Commission, founding of the U.S. Department of Commerce and Labor, railroad rate legislation, and efforts to promote Knox as a presidential candidate.

The collection concludes with a [Miscellany](#) series that includes notebooks and reports pertaining to Knox's activities as attorney general and secretary of state.

Arrangement of the Papers

This collection is arranged in eight series:

- [Bound General Correspondence, 1796-1922](#)
- [Unbound General Correspondence, 1872-1921](#)
- [Letterbooks, 1901-1904](#)
- [State Department File, 1909-1913](#)
- [Speech File, 1870-1921](#)
- [Scrapbooks, 1896-1921](#)
- [Newspaper Clippings, 1901-1921](#)
- [Miscellany, 1897-1921](#)

Description of Series

Container	Series
BOX 1-24	<p><u>Bound General Correspondence, 1796-1922</u></p> <p>Letters received and some copies of letters sent by Knox, supplemented by numerous memoranda, reports, and resolutions.</p> <p>Arranged chronologically.</p>
BOX 25-30	<p><u>Unbound General Correspondence, 1872-1921</u></p> <p>Letters received and some copies of letters sent by Knox, supplemented by occasional memoranda, briefs, and reports.</p> <p>Arranged chronologically.</p>
BOX 31	<p><u>Letterbooks, 1901-1904</u></p> <p>Bound volumes of letters sent by Knox.</p> <p>Organized chronologically within the volumes.</p>
BOX 32-43	<p><u>State Department File, 1909-1913</u></p> <p>Correspondence, memoranda, reports, printed documents, and scrapbooks.</p> <p>Organized by subject and type of material and arranged chronologically whenever possible or by series and number.</p>
BOX 44-49	<p><u>Speech File, 1870-1921</u></p> <p>Speeches, addresses, and remarks by Knox in pamphlet, binder, and unbound form.</p> <p>Arranged chronologically by year.</p>
BOX 50-68	<p><u>Scrapbooks, 1896-1921</u></p> <p>Scrapbooks of newspaper clippings and occasional magazine clippings.</p> <p>Arranged by number and year and described according to the predominant subject within each scrapbook.</p>
BOX 69-70	<p><u>Newspaper Clippings, 1901-1921</u></p> <p>Loose newspaper clippings, with occasional clippings from magazines and the <i>Congressional Record</i>.</p> <p>Arranged by year.</p>
BOX 71-75	<p><u>Miscellany, 1897-1921</u></p> <p>Speeches by others, bills and resolutions, congressional documents, notebooks, reports, serials, pamphlets, articles, and books.</p> <p>Organized by type of material and arranged chronologically by year whenever possible.</p>

Container List

Container	Contents
BOX 1-24	Bound General Correspondence, 1796-1922 Letters received and some copies of letters sent by Knox, supplemented by numerous memoranda, reports, and resolutions. Arranged chronologically.
BOX 1	14 July 1796-21 Apr. 1904
BOX 2	22 Apr. 1904-7 June 1907
BOX 3	8 June-19 Nov. 1907
BOX 4	20 Nov. 1907-11 Mar. 1908
BOX 5	14 Mar.-1 June 1908
BOX 6	2 June 1908-22 Apr. 1909
BOX 7	22 Apr.-10 Sept. 1909
BOX 8	13 Sept.-3 Oct. 1909
BOX 9	4 Oct.-7 Dec. 1909
BOX 10	21 Dec. 1909-10 July 1910
BOX 11	9 Sept.-30 Nov. 1910
BOX 12	2 Dec. 1910-14 Jan. 1911
BOX 13	15 Jan.-21 Mar. 1911
BOX 14	25 Mar.-26 June 1911
BOX 15	1 July-3 Nov. 1911
BOX 16	16 Nov. 1911-1 Mar. 1912
BOX 17	3 Mar.-7 May 1912
BOX 18	12 May-30 Sept. 1912
BOX 19	1 Oct.-29 Nov. 1912
BOX 20	6 Dec. 1912-25 May 1914
BOX 21	20 Aug. 1914-11 Jan. 1916
BOX 22	12 Jan. 1916-14 June 1920
BOX 23	24 June 1920-4 Nov. 1921
BOX 24	1922, undated
BOX 25-30	Unbound General Correspondence, 1872-1921 Letters received and some copies of letters sent by Knox, supplemented by occasional memoranda, briefs, and reports. Arranged chronologically.
BOX 25	1872-Dec. 1903
BOX 26	1903-Nov. 1905
BOX 27	Dec. 1905-Oct. 1909
BOX 28	Nov. 1909-Mar. 1911
BOX 29	Apr. 1911-Sept. 1917

Unbound General Correspondence, 1872-1921

Container	Contents
BOX 30	Oct. 1917-1921, undated
BOX 31	Letterbooks, 1901-1904 Bound volumes of letters sent by Knox. Organized chronologically within the volumes.
BOX 31	Apr. 1901-Mar. 1904
BOX 31	30 Dec. 1901-20 June 1902
BOX 32-43	State Department File, 1909-1913 Correspondence, memoranda, reports, printed documents, and scrapbooks. Organized by subject and type of material and arranged chronologically whenever possible or by series and number.
BOX 32	Correspondence, Chinese Revolution
BOX 32	7 Sept. 1911-9 Feb. 1912
BOX 33	Central American trip, 1912
BOX 33	Preparations for Central American trip
BOX 33	Scrapbooks
BOX 33	No. 1
BOX 34	No. 2
BOX 35	No. 3
BOX 36	No. 4
BOX 37	No. 5
BOX 38	No. 6
BOX 39	Information series, 1909-1913
BOX 39	Index to information series
BOX 39	Guide to information series
BOX 39	Series A
BOX 39	Nos. 1-62, 1909-1910
BOX 40	Nos. 63-87, 1910-1912
BOX 41	Nos. 88-90, 1912-1913
BOX 41	Series B, nos. 6, 1910
BOX 41	Series C, nos. 1-44, 1909-1913
BOX 42	Series D
BOX 42	Nos. 1-58, 1909-1911
BOX 43	Nos. 59-68, 1911-1913
BOX 43	Series M, nos. 1-14, 1909-1912
BOX 44-49	Speech File, 1870-1921 Speeches, addresses, and remarks by Knox in pamphlet, binder, and unbound form. Arranged chronologically by year.
BOX 44	1870-1908
BOX 45	1908-1911
BOX 46	1912-1916
BOX 47	1916-1918
BOX 48	1919

Speech File, 1870-1921

Container	Contents
BOX 49	1919-1921, undated
BOX 50-68	Scrapbooks, 1896-1921 Scrapbooks of newspaper clippings and occasional magazine clippings. Arranged by number and year and described according to the predominant subject within each scrapbook.
BOX 50	No. 1, 1896-1897; law practice, Pennsylvania politics
BOX 50	No. 2, 1901, 1912; appointment, United States attorney general; Andrew Carnegie, steel trust
BOX 50	No. 3, 1902-1903; trust busting
BOX 51	No. 4, 1903; interstate commerce
BOX 52	No. 5, 1903-1904; Northern Securities case
BOX 53	No. 6, 1904; antitrust activities
BOX 53	No. 7, 1904; United States senator from Pennsylvania
BOX 54	No. 8, 1904; editorials on campaign issues
BOX 54	No. 9, 1904-1908; United States Senate
BOX 55	No. 10, 1904-1908; banquets, dinners, etc.
BOX 55	No. 11, 1904-1912; political speeches
BOX 56	No. 12, 1905-1906; railroad rate legislation
BOX 56	No. 13, 1905-1906; Pennsylvania legislature
BOX 57	No. 14, 1905-1907, 1912; United States senator from Pennsylvania
BOX 57	No. 15, 1906-1907; cartoons
BOX 58	No. 16, 1907; unfavorable publicity
BOX 58	No. 17, 1907-1908; general political
BOX 59	No. 18, 1907-1908; Knox for president
BOX 59	No. 19, 1907-1909; Knox for president
BOX 60	No. 20, 1907-1909; senator, lawyer, statesman, citizen
BOX 60	No. 21, 1907, 1910; Knox for president; Knox for governor
BOX 61	No. 22, 1907-1912; addresses and editorials
BOX 61	No. 23, 1908-1913; Department of State
BOX 62	No. 24, 1908-1913; secretary of state
BOX 62	No. 25, 1909-1910; Nicaragua
BOX 63	No. 26, 1910; University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, Pa., speech, editorials
BOX 63	No. 27, 1910, 1912; Japan trip; Central American trip
BOX 64	No. 28, 1916; 1916 political campaign
BOX 65	No. 29, 1917-1921; newspaper clippings
BOX 66	No. 30, 1919-1920; presidential nomination
BOX 67	No. 31, 1921; senatorial nomination
BOX 68	No. 32, 1921; miscellaneous
BOX 69-70	Newspaper Clippings, 1901-1921 Loose newspaper clippings, with occasional clippings from magazines and the <i>Congressional Record</i> . Arranged by year.
BOX 69	1901-1913

Newspaper Clippings, 1901-1921

Container	Contents
BOX 70	1914-1921
BOX 71-75	Miscellany, 1897-1921 Speeches by others, bills and resolutions, congressional documents, notebooks, reports, serials, pamphlets, articles, and books. Organized by type of material and arranged chronologically by year whenever possible.
BOX 71	Speeches, 1904-1921
BOX 71	Bills and resolutions, 1903-1921
BOX 71	Congressional documents
BOX 71	1897-1911
BOX 72	1911-1921
BOX 72	Notebooks, miscellaneous, notes, 1901-1904
BOX 72	Library catalog
BOX 73	Report, Panama Canal, 1906
BOX 73	Notebook, Panama Canal tolls documents, circa 1912
BOX 73	Notebook, miscellaneous, notes, circa 1912
BOX 74	Serials, pamphlets, reports, articles, and books
BOX 75	Serials, pamphlets, reports, articles, and books