

Evalyn Walsh McLean Papers
A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress



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

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

Catalog Record: <https://lcn.loc.gov/mm79032318>

Additional search options available at: <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms013137>

Prepared by Manuscript Division Staff

Finding aid encoded by Library of Congress Manuscript Division, 2014
Revised 2021 August

Collection Summary

Title: Evalyn Walsh McLean Papers

Inclusive Dates: 1874-1948

ID No.: MSS32318

Creator: McLean, Evalyn Walsh, 1886-1947

Extent: 45,000 items

Extent: 113 containers plus 3 oversize

Extent: 46.4 linear feet

Language: Collection material in English

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

LC Catalog record: <https://lccn.loc.gov/mm79032318>

Summary: Socialite, of Washington, D.C.; daughter of Thomas F. Walsh; married Edward Beale McLean in 1907; later divorced. Correspondence, memoranda, business and legal records, notes, printed matter, scrapbooks, broadsides, photographs, and other papers pertaining primarily to McLean's leading role in the social life of Washington, D.C.

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

Barkley, Alben William, 1877-1956--Correspondence.

Baruch, Bernard M. (Bernard Mannes), 1870-1965--Correspondence.

Bryan, William Jennings, 1860-1925--Correspondence.

Bullitt, William C. (William Christian), 1891-1967--Correspondence.

Chancellor, William Estabrook, 1867-1963. Warren Gamaliel Harding: president of the United States; a review of facts collected from anthropological, historical, and political researches. 1922.

Coolidge, Calvin, 1872-1933--Correspondence.

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

Harding, Florence Kling, 1860-1924--Correspondence.

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

Hearst, William Randolph, 1863-1951--Correspondence.

Hoover, Herbert, 1874-1964--Correspondence.

Hoover, J. Edgar (John Edgar), 1895-1972--Correspondence.

Hull, Cordell, 1871-1955--Correspondence.

Lindbergh, Charles Augustus, 1930-1932--Kidnapping.

Maxwell, Elsa--Correspondence.

McLean family.

McLean, Edward Beale, -1941.

McLean, Evalyn Walsh, 1886-1947.

McLean, Evalyn Walsh, 1886-1947. Father struck it rich. 1936.

Meigs, Merrill C. (Merrill Church), 1883-1968. Merrill C. Meigs diary.

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

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

Walsh family.

Walsh, Thomas F. (Thomas Francis), 1850-1910.

Wilson, Woodrow, 1856-1924--Correspondence.

Zanuck, Darryl Francis, 1902-1979--Correspondence.

Subjects

American newspapers--Ohio--Cincinnati.

American newspapers--Washington (D.C.)

Diamonds.

Hope diamond.

Kidnapping--United States.
Mines and mineral resources--Colorado.
Political corruption--United States.
Teapot Dome Scandal, 1921-1924.

Places

Washington (D.C.)--Social life and customs.

Titles

Cincinnati enquirer.
Washington post.
Washington times herald.

Occupations

Socialites.

Acquisition Information

The papers of Evalyn Walsh McLean, socialite, of Washington, D.C., daughter of Thomas F. Walsh, married Edward Beale McLean in 1907, and later divorced, were given to the Library of Congress by Thurman Arnold, executor of the McLean estate, in 1949.

Processing History

The papers of Evalyn Walsh McLean were processed in 1964. The finding aid was revised in 2012 and 2014.

Copyright Status

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

Access and Restrictions

The papers of Evalyn Walsh McLean 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, Evalyn Walsh McLean Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Scope and Content Note

The papers of Evalyn Walsh McLean (1886-1947) relate to the life of one of Washington's notable social matrons. The material spans a half century beginning with the Walsh family in the 1880s and extending to McLean's death in 1947. The collection is organized into eight series: [Family Correspondence](#), [Special Correspondence](#), [General Correspondence](#), [Business Correspondence](#), [Subject File](#), [Financial-Legal Papers](#), [Miscellany](#), and [Oversize](#).

Evalyn Walsh McLean was the daughter of Thomas F. Walsh of Washington, D.C., whose successful mining ventures in Colorado made him a fortune. In 1907 she married Edward Beale McLean, heir to a family fortune that included ownership of the *Cincinnati Enquirer* and the *Washington Post*, thus combining two great family fortunes. Evalyn McLean soon

established herself as a socialite, particularly during the Harding and Coolidge administrations, and her status remained high during the Hoover, Roosevelt, and Truman administrations.

As the owner of the Hope diamond, which she bought for over \$150,000 in 1912, McLean was able to command the social limelight. She became involved in the kidnapping case of Charles Augustus Lindbergh's baby by paying \$100,000 to Gaston B. Means, falling prey to a hoax. Her close relationship to several key figures in the Teapot Dome Scandal in 1924 further contributed to her publicity.

The [Special Correspondence](#) file includes the elite of the entertainment, political, and social worlds during McLean's lifetime. Correspondents include Alben William Barkley, Bernard M. Baruch, William Jennings Bryan, William C. Bullitt (1891-1967), Calvin Coolidge, H. M. Daugherty, Florence Kling Harding, Warren G. Harding, William Randolph Hearst, Herbert Hoover, J. Edgar Hoover, Cordell Hull, Elsa Maxwell, William H. Taft, Harry S. Truman, Woodrow Wilson, and Darryl Francis Zanuck. Many of the letters, however, are brief social notes. [Business Correspondence](#) mostly relates to the Walsh mining interests and various matters dealing with the *Enquirer* and the *Post*.

The [Subject File](#) covers a variety of topics such as McLean's divorce proceedings, the Hope diamond, the Lindbergh case, and Teapot Dome. Many of McLean's writings are represented, including drafts of her column in the *Washington Times Herald* and the manuscript of her book, *Father Struck It Rich*. The Warren G. Harding file contains a revision, with additions, of the 1922 published book *Warren Gamaliel Harding: President of the United States* attributed to William Estabrook Chancellor. The book was a racist attack on Harding and rumored to have been suppressed by the federal government. The handwritten revisions on the published manuscript are in Chancellor's handwriting and indicate that he was likely in Canada when the book was originally published. Dissatisfied with the book, he had made these revisions from Winnipeg, Manitoba, and had sent the pages in the fall of 1922 to the publisher, Sentinel Press (a small Ohio press that also printed material for the Ku Klux Klan), for a revised edition. The presence of this manuscript in the McLean Papers relates to the story of federal agents confiscating copies of the book and the printing plates from Ohio in November of 1922 and bringing them back to Washington, D.C. for destruction at Friendship, the estate of the McLeans. The 1922 general correspondence file contains a printed Klan letter and the printing plate dated November 8, 1922, in a Justice Department envelope.

The [Financial-Legal Papers](#) series treats business as well as personal matters, and the [Miscellany](#) series contains photographs, printed matter, notes, broadsides, and other miscellaneous items.

Arrangement of the Papers

This collection is arranged in eight series:

- [Family Correspondence, 1887-1947](#)
- [Special Correspondence](#)
- [General Correspondence, 1874-1948](#)
- [Business Correspondence, 1887-1947](#)
- [Subject File](#)
- [Financial-Legal Papers, 1894-1947](#)
- [Miscellany](#)
- [Oversize](#)

Description of Series

Container	Series
BOX 1-4	<p><u>Family Correspondence, 1887-1947</u></p> <p>Letters sent and received between members of the family. Arranged chronologically by year.</p>
BOX 5-8	<p><u>Special Correspondence</u></p> <p>Letters sent and received from prominent persons in the entertainment, political, and social fields. Arranged alphabetically by name of correspondent.</p>
BOX 9-76	<p><u>General Correspondence, 1874-1948</u></p> <p>Letters sent and received. Arranged chronologically arranged by year.</p>
BOX 77-93	<p><u>Business Correspondence, 1887-1947</u></p> <p>Letters sent and received relating to business matters such as mining interests, the Cincinnati Enquirer and the Washington Post, and real estate. Arranged chronologically by year.</p>
BOX 94-102	<p><u>Subject File</u></p> <p>A variety of specific topics are included such as business memoranda-transactions, Cliveden libel case, divorce proceedings, family memoranda, Warren G. Harding, the Hope diamond, Lindbergh kidnapping case, political memoranda, and the Teapot Dome affair.</p>
BOX 103-109	<p><u>Financial-Legal Papers, 1894-1947</u></p> <p>Letters, financial receipts, legal briefs, and related notes concerning topics such as mining claims, newspaper interests, legal suits, and real estate. Arranged chronologically by year and month.</p>
BOX 110-113	<p><u>Miscellany</u></p> <p>Diary of Merrill C. Meigs, photographs, printed matter, notes, lists, scrapbooks, broadsides, and other miscellaneous items. Arranged according to type of material.</p>
BOX OV 1-OV 3	<p><u>Oversize</u></p> <p>Scrapbooks and broadsides. Arranged according to the series and containers from which they were removed.</p>

Container List

Container	Contents
BOX 1-4	Family Correspondence, 1887-1947 Letters sent and received between members of the family. Arranged chronologically by year.
BOX 1	1887-1923
BOX 2	1924-1943
BOX 3	1944-1947, undated
BOX 4	Undated
BOX 5-8	Special Correspondence Letters sent and received from prominent persons in the entertainment, political, and social fields. Arranged alphabetically by name of correspondent.
BOX 5	Armaral, S. Gungel do
BOX 5	Arnall, Ellis
BOX 5	Ashbrook, William A.
BOX 5	Ashurst, Henry F.
BOX 5	Astor
BOX 5	Austin, Mildred I.
BOX 5	Baker, Ronald
BOX 5	Baker, Ray
BOX 5	Bankhead, Tallulah
BOX 5	Barbour, Warren
BOX 5	Barchfeld, A. W.
BOX 5	Barkley, Alben William
BOX 5	Barnes, James M.
BOX 5	Baruch, Bernard M.
BOX 5	Berle, Adolph
BOX 5	Beale, Edward I.
BOX 5	Bean, Louis H.
BOX 5	Biddle, Francis
BOX 5	Black, Hugo Lafayette
BOX 5	Blanco, Juan Carlos
BOX 5	Blanton, Thomas
BOX 5	Bloom, Sol
BOX 5	Boardman, Mabel T.
BOX 5	Boyle, Irme
BOX 5	Boyle, William M.
BOX 5	Bradley, Omar
BOX 5	Brandegge, F.
BOX 5	Brennan, Robert

Special Correspondence

Container	Contents
BOX 5	Brice, Fanny
BOX 5	Broun, Heywood
BOX 5	Bridges, Styles
BOX 5	Briter, Alfred
BOX 5	Bryan, William Jennings
BOX 5	Buell, Robert
BOX 5	Bullitt, William C.
BOX 5	Bununan, Una
BOX 5	Burleson, Albert S.
BOX 5	Burns, William J.
BOX 5	Burton, Harold H.
BOX 5	Butler, Nicholas Murray
BOX 5	Byrd, Harry Flood
BOX 5	Byrnes, Mrs. James F.
BOX 5	Cabrera, Manuel Etrada
BOX 5	Cafritz, Morris and Gwendolyn
BOX 5	Campbell, Ronald
BOX 5	Capper, Arthur
BOX 5	Carroll, K. M.
BOX 5	Casey, Eugene
BOX 5	Cassini, Igor
BOX 5	Chandler, Albert B.
BOX 5	Childs
BOX 5	Clapper, Raymond and Olive
BOX 5	Clark, Champ
BOX 5	Clark, Tom
BOX 5	Clayton, Will
BOX 5	Colclough, O. S.
BOX 5	Connally, Tom
BOX 5	Connor, M.
BOX 5	Coolidge, Calvin
BOX 5	Cooper, Gary
BOX 5	Cortelyou, George
BOX 5	Culp, David H.
BOX 5	Cummings, Home
BOX 5	Curtis, Charles
BOX 5	Daniels, Josephus
BOX 5	Daugherty, H. M.
BOX 5	Davies, James Hamilton
BOX 5	Davies, Joseph Edward
BOX 6	Davis, Joseph W.
BOX 6	Dawes, Charles G.
BOX 6	Dempsey, Gladys
BOX 6	Dewey, George
BOX 6	Dewey, Thomas
BOX 6	Douglas, William O.

Special Correspondence

Container	Contents
BOX 6	Dies, Martin
BOX 6	Draper, Dorothy
BOX 6	DuPont, Marcella Miller
BOX 6	Dun, Angus
BOX 6	Dunn, James Clement
BOX 6	Eamont-Evanti
BOX 6	Flanagan, B. J.
BOX 6	Fairbanks-Burman
BOX 6	Gannett-Buyler
BOX 6	Halifax, Dorothy
BOX 6	Halsey, William F.
BOX 6	Harding, Warren G.
BOX 6	Hearst, William Randolph
BOX 6	Hergesheimer, Joseph
BOX 6	Hoover, Herbert
BOX 6	Hoover, J. Edgar
BOX 7	Hoover, J. Edgar
BOX 7	Hull, Cordell
BOX 7	Husting, Paul
BOX 7	"Hall-Helm" miscellaneous
BOX 7	"Hoffman-Houghton" miscellaneous
BOX 7	"Jenkins-Joseph" miscellaneous
BOX 7	"Kenney-Knox" miscellaneous
BOX 7	Lewis, John I.
BOX 7	"LaGuardia-Lawrence" miscellaneous
BOX 7	"Leavitt-Lewis" miscellaneous
BOX 7	"Lindsay-Luce" miscellaneous
BOX 7	Martin, Warren F.
BOX 7	Maxwell, Elsa
BOX 7	Murphy, Frank
BOX 7	"Maloney-Mayer" miscellaneous
BOX 7	"McAdoo-McMillan" miscellaneous
BOX 7	"Mehl-Morganthau" miscellaneous
BOX 7	"New-Nichols" miscellaneous
BOX 8	"O'Connell-Oversholser" miscellaneous
BOX 8	"Palmer-Pershing" miscellaneous
BOX 8	"Phillips-Procope" miscellaneous
BOX 8	"Procope-Pulitzer" miscellaneous
BOX 8	Quezon, Manuel
BOX 8	"Rayburn-Rithcie" miscellaneous
BOX 8	"Roth-Rutherford" miscellaneous
BOX 8	"Sanders-Sokolsky" miscellaneous
BOX 8	"Stack-Swope" miscellaneous
BOX 8	Taft, William H.
BOX 8	Truman, Harry S. and Bess
BOX 8	Tarkington-Tyler

Special Correspondence

Container	Contents
BOX 8	Upton, Harriet
BOX 8	“Vandenberg-Vaughan” miscellaneous
BOX 8	Wilson, Woodrow
BOX 8	“Walker-Wilson” miscellaneous
BOX 8	Winehell-Work
BOX 8	Zanuck, Darryl Francis
BOX 9-76	General Correspondence, 1874-1948 Letters sent and received. Arranged chronologically arranged by year.
BOX 9	1874-1903
BOX 10	1904
BOX 11	1904-1905
BOX 12	1905-1908
BOX 13	1909
BOX 14	1909-1910
BOX 15	1910-1911
BOX 16	1911
BOX 17	1911-1912
BOX 18	1912
BOX 19	1912-1913
BOX 20	1913-1915
BOX 21	1915-1916
BOX 22	1916-1918
BOX 23	1919-1920
BOX 24	1920-1923
BOX 25	1924-1927
BOX 26	1928-1932
BOX 27	1932
BOX 28	1932-1933
BOX 29	1933-1935
BOX 30	1935-1936
BOX 31	1936
BOX 32	1936
BOX 33	1936
BOX 34	1936
BOX 35	1936
BOX 36	1936
BOX 37	1936-1937
BOX 38	1937
BOX 39	1937
BOX 40	1937-1938
BOX 41	1938
BOX 42	1938
BOX 43	1938
BOX 44	1938

General Correspondence, 1874-1948

Container	Contents
BOX 45	1938
BOX 46	1938
BOX 47	1938
BOX 48	1938
BOX 49	1938-1939
BOX 50	1939
BOX 51	1939-1940
BOX 52	1940-1941
BOX 53	1941-1942
BOX 54	1942
BOX 55	1942-1943
BOX 56	1943
BOX 57	1943-1944
BOX 58	1944-1945
BOX 59	1945
BOX 60	1945-1946
BOX 61	1946
BOX 62	1946
BOX 63	1946-1948
BOX 64-76	Undated
BOX 77-93	Business Correspondence, 1887-1947 Letters sent and received relating to business matters such as mining interests, the Cincinnati Enquirer and the Washington Post, and real estate. Arranged chronologically by year.
BOX 77	1887-1903
BOX 78	1904-1908
BOX 79	1909-1910
BOX 80	1910-1913
BOX 81	1913-1914
BOX 82	1914-1916
BOX 83	1916
BOX 84	1916-1917
BOX 85	1917-1919
BOX 86	1920-1921
BOX 87	1921-1923
BOX 88	1923-1924
BOX 89	1925-1926
BOX 90	1927-1935
BOX 91	1935-1939
BOX 92	1939-1944

Business Correspondence, 1887-1947

Container	Contents
BOX 93	1944-1947, undated
BOX 94-102	Subject File A variety of specific topics are included such as business memoranda-transactions, Clivedon libel case, divorce proceedings, family memoranda, Warren G. Harding, the Hope diamond, Lindbergh kidnapping case, political memoranda, and the Teapot Dome affair.
BOX 94	Business memoranda, transactions <i>See also Container 101, same heading</i>
BOX 95	Business memoranda, transactions
BOX 95	Clivedon libel case
BOX 95	Code lists <i>See Container 101, same heading</i>
BOX 95	Detective agency reports
BOX 96	Divorce <i>See also Containers 101-102, same heading</i>
BOX 96	Family memoranda
BOX 96	Harding, Warren G.
BOX 97	Hope diamond
BOX 97	Investigation of police department
BOX 97	Mining claims <i>See Container 102, same heading</i>
BOX 97	Philanthropies
BOX 97	Political memoranda
BOX 97	Real estate
BOX 97	Resolutions
BOX 97	Speech file
BOX 97	Teapot Dome Affair
BOX 98	Teapot Dome Affair
BOX 98	Veterans' affairs
BOX 98	Wills <i>See Container 102, same heading</i>
BOX 98	Writings
BOX 98	“My Say,” <i>Washington Times Herald</i> column
BOX 99	“My Say,” <i>Washington Times Herald</i> column
BOX 99	<i>Father Struck It Rich</i>
BOX 100	Sidney Dell, <i>The Gold Standard</i>
BOX 100	Diary, E. E. Poe
BOX 100	Miscellaneous
BOX 101	Business memoranda, transactions <i>also Containers 94-95 same heading</i>
BOX 101	Code lists
BOX 101	Divorce <i>See also Container 96, same heading</i>
BOX 102	Divorce
BOX 102	Mining claims
BOX 102	Wills
BOX 102	Letterbooks, <i>Cincinnati Enquirer</i> and <i>Washington Post</i>
BOX 103-109	Financial-Legal Papers, 1894-1947 Letters, financial receipts, legal briefs, and related notes concerning topics such as mining claims, newspaper interests, legal suits, and real estate. Arranged chronologically by year and month.
BOX 103	1894-1909

Financial-Legal Papers, 1894-1947

Container	Contents
BOX 104	1910-1917, Jun
BOX 105	1917, July-1924
BOX 106	1925-1934, Oct.
BOX 107	1934, Nov.-1937
BOX 108	1938-1947
BOX 109	Undated
BOX 110-113	Miscellany Diary of Merrill C. Meigs, photographs, printed matter, notes, lists, scrapbooks, broadsides, and other miscellaneous items. Arranged according to type of material.
BOX 110	Art
BOX 110	Diary, Merrill C. Meigs
BOX 110	Photographs
BOX 111	Photographs
BOX 112	Printed matter
BOX 112	Certificates
BOX 112	Magazine articles
BOX 112	Miscellany
BOX 112	Notes
BOX 112	Social lists
BOX 112	Miscellaneous
BOX 112	Scrapbooks <i>See Oversize</i>
BOX 112	Broadsides <i>See Oversize</i>
BOX 113	Invitations
BOX OV 1-OV 3	Oversize Scrapbooks and broadsides. Arranged according to the series and containers from which they were removed.
BOX OV 1	Miscellany
BOX OV 1	Scrapbooks (Container 112)
BOX OV 2-OV 3	Broadsides (Container 112)