

Kenyon L. Butterfield Papers
A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress



Manuscript Division, Library of Congress
Washington, D.C.
2013

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

Catalog Record: <https://lcn.loc.gov/mm78014571>

Additional search options available at: <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms014033>

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Revised and expanded by David Mathisen, Brian McGuire, and Nate Scheible
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Collection Summary

Title: Kenyon L. Butterfield Papers

Inclusive Dates: 1889-1970

ID No.: MSS14571

Creator: Butterfield, Kenyon L. (Kenyon Leech), 1868-1935

Extent: 13,000 items

Extent: 54 containers

Extent: 21.6 linear feet

Language: Collection material in English

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

LC Catalog record: <https://lcn.loc.gov/mm78014571>

Summary: Agronomist and college administrator. Chiefly correspondence, diaries, memoranda, studies and surveys, speeches and articles, drafts of books, and printed matter relating to Butterfield's work with the American Country Life Association, U.S. Country Life Commission, and foreign Christian missions, and to his innovations in the curricula, services, and administration of agricultural colleges.

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

Baker, Ray Stannard, 1870-1946--Correspondence.

Butterfield family--Correspondence.

Butterfield, Kenyon L. (Kenyon Leech), 1868-1935.

Coolidge, Calvin, 1872-1933--Correspondence.

Douglass, H. Paul (Harlan Paul), 1871-1953--Correspondence.

Garfield, Charles W. (Charles William), 1848-1934--Correspondence.

Hocking, William Ernest, 1873-1966--Correspondence.

McCormick, Cyrus Hall, 1859-1936--Correspondence.

Page, Walter Hines, 1855-1918--Correspondence.

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

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

Wallace, Henry A. (Henry Agard), 1888-1965--Correspondence.

Wallace, Henry Cantwell, 1866-1924--Correspondence.

Organizations

American Country Life Association.

United States. Country Life Commission.

Subjects

Agricultural colleges--United States.

Agricultural education--United States.

Country life--United States.

Missions.

Places

United States--Rural conditions.

Occupations

Agronomists.

College administrators.

Acquisition Information

The papers of Kenyon L. Butterfield, agronomist and college administrator, were given to the Library of Congress by his son, Victor L. Butterfield, 1967-1976. An addition was given by his daughter-in-law, Katharine Butterfield, in 1994.

Processing History

The Butterfield Papers were arranged and described in 1969, and expanded in 1984 and 2007. The finding aid was revised in 2013 and 2018. 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 Kenyon L. Butterfield 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 Kenyon L. Butterfield 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, Kenyon L. Butterfield Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Biographical Note

Date	Event
1868, June 11	Born, Lapeer, Mich.
1891	B.S., State Agricultural College, East Lansing, Mich.
1895	Married Harriet E. Millard
1902	M.A., State Agricultural College, East Lansing, Mich.
1903-1906	President, Rhode Island State College of Agriculture and Mechanic Arts, Kingston, R.I.
1906-1924	President, Massachusetts State College of Agriculture, Amherst, Mass.
1908	Served on U.S. Country Life Commission Published <i>Chapters in Rural Progress</i> . Chicago: University of Chicago Press
1910	LL.D., Amherst College, Amherst, Mass.
1913	Appointed to American Commission to Study Rural Credits and Agricultural Cooperation in Europe
1918-1919	Member, Army Educational Commission to serve American Expeditionary Forces in Europe
1919	Helped organize the American Country Life Association Published <i>Chapters in Rural Progress</i> . New York: Macmillan Co.
1920	Helped organize the World Agriculture Society
1921	LL.D. Rhode Island State College of Agriculture and Mechanic Arts, Kingston, R.I.
1921-19	Member, Burton Commission on Christian Education in China
1923	Elected member, International Institute of Sociology
1924-1928	President, Michigan State College of Agriculture and Mechanic Arts, East Lansing, Mich.

1928	Adviser on rural work to the Jerusalem Conference of the International Missionary Council
1929	Made a trip to Africa under the auspices of the Carnegie Corp. of New York to study rural conditions in South Africa
1929-1931	Rural counselor to the International Missionary Council in India and Burma (1929-1930) and in China, Japan, Korea, and the Philippine Islands (1930-1931)
1931	Published <i>The Rural Mission of the Church in Eastern Asia; Report and Recommendations</i> . New York: International Missionary Council
1935, Nov. 26	Died, Amherst, Mass.

Scope and Content Note

The papers of Kenyon Leech Butterfield (1868-1935) span the years 1889-1970. The collection consists mainly of correspondence, diaries, memoranda, studies and surveys, speeches and articles, manuscripts of books, and printed matter relating to Butterfield's work with the American Country Life Association, U.S. Country Life Commission, foreign Christian missions, and agricultural colleges. The papers are organized into nine series: [Diaries](#); [Family Correspondence](#); [Special Correspondence](#); [General Correspondence](#); [Subject File](#); [Speech, Article, and Book File](#); [Miscellany](#); [Addition I](#); and [Addition II](#).

The [Diaries](#) contain brief and scattered entries for the years 1918-1934. In the [Family Correspondence](#) are letters exchanged with his wife, his father, one of his sons, Victor L. Butterfield, and his daughter-in-law. A relatively small group of [Special Correspondence](#) contains numerous letters of Ray Stannard Baker, Charles W. Garfield, and Henry Cantwell Wallace. Other correspondents include Calvin Coolidge, H. Paul Douglass, William Ernest Hocking, Cyrus Hall McCormick, Walter Hines Page, Franklin D. Roosevelt, William H. Taft, and Henry A. Wallace.

The [Subject File](#) comprises the bulk of the papers and treats Butterfield's career in detail. Included is correspondence, memoranda, research studies, articles, and printed matter. Prominent topics concern Butterfield's work with the American Country Life Association and the U.S. Country Life Commission, his activities in the field of Christian missionary work abroad, and the innovations that he brought to the curricula, services, and administration of agricultural colleges. Notable individuals referenced throughout the series include Ray Stannard Baker, Ernest De Witt Burton, Frank Charles Laubach, Frank O. Lowden, Albert Mann, John R. Mott, Theodore Roosevelt, and Henry A. Wallace.

[Addition I](#) and [Addition II](#) complement previous series with correspondence, subject file material, writings, printed matter, clippings, an account book, and photographs.

Arrangement of the Papers

This collection is arranged in nine series:

- [Diaries, 1918-1934](#)
- [Family Correspondence, 1902-1941](#)
- [Special Correspondence, 1890-1936](#)
- [General Correspondence, 1896-1936](#)
- [Subject File, 1890-1935](#)
- [Speech, Article, and Book File](#)
- [Miscellany](#)
- [Addition I, 1891-1970](#)
- [Addition II, 1889-1936](#)

Description of Series

Container	Series
BOX 1	<p><u>Diaries, 1918-1934</u></p> <p>Sporadically kept diaries. Arranged chronologically.</p>
BOX 1	<p><u>Family Correspondence, 1902-1941</u></p> <p>Letters sent and received from family members. Arranged alphabetically by name of correspondent.</p>
BOX 2-3	<p><u>Special Correspondence, 1890-1936</u></p> <p>Letters sent and received from prominent correspondents. Arranged alphabetically.</p>
BOX 4-6	<p><u>General Correspondence, 1896-1936</u></p> <p>Letters sent and received. Arranged chronologically.</p>
BOX 7-26	<p><u>Subject File, 1890-1935</u></p> <p>Organizational files, special studies, and topic files. Arranged alphabetically by study, topic, or name of organization or institution.</p>
BOX 27-42	<p><u>Speech, Article, and Book File</u></p> <p>Writings by Butterfield. Arranged by type of work.</p>
BOX 43-44	<p><u>Miscellany</u></p> <p>Mainly printed matter. Unarranged.</p>
BOX 45-53	<p><u>Addition I, 1891-1970</u></p> <p>Correspondence, subject files, writings, printed matter, clippings, and miscellany. Arranged by type of material.</p>
BOX 54	<p><u>Addition II, 1889-1936</u></p> <p>An account book, correspondence, clippings, photographs, speeches and writings, and miscellany. Arranged by subject or type of material</p>

Container List

Container	Contents
BOX 1	Diaries, 1918-1934 Sporadically kept diaries. Arranged chronologically.
BOX 1	1918-1934
BOX 1	Family Correspondence, 1902-1941 Letters sent and received from family members. Arranged alphabetically by name of correspondent.
BOX 1	Butterfield, Harriet M. (wife)
BOX 1	Butterfield, Ira H.
BOX 1	Butterfield, Katharine
BOX 1	Butterfield, Victor L. (son)
BOX 2-3	Special Correspondence, 1890-1936 Letters sent and received from prominent correspondents. Arranged alphabetically.
BOX 2	Aberdeen, Ishbel Maria
BOX 2	Bailey, Liberty Hyde
BOX 2	Baker, Charles F.
BOX 2	Baker, Hugh P.
BOX 2	Baker, Ray Stannard
BOX 2	Butler, Nicholas Murray
BOX 2	Garfield, Charles W.
BOX 2	1896-1922
BOX 3	1923-1934
BOX 3	Hutchinson, Paul
BOX 3	Kent, Charles F.
BOX 3	McCormick, Cyrus Hall
BOX 3	Masaryk, T. G.
BOX 3	Peabody, George Foster
BOX 3	Pinchot, Gifford
BOX 3	Plunkett, Horace C.
BOX 3	Rockefeller, John D., Jr.
BOX 3	Roosevelt, Franklin D.
BOX 3	Ruml, Beardsley
BOX 3	Taft, William H.
BOX 3	Tumulty, Joseph P.
BOX 3	Wallace, Henry A.
BOX 3	Wallace, Henry Cantwell
BOX 3	Watts, Ralph J.

Special Correspondence, 1890-1936

Container	Contents
BOX 3	Wilson, Woodrow
BOX 4-6	General Correspondence, 1896-1936 Letters sent and received. Arranged chronologically.
BOX 4	1896-1905
BOX 5	1905-1925
BOX 6	1926-1936
BOX 7-26	Subject File, 1890-1935 Organizational files, special studies, and topic files. Arranged alphabetically by study, topic, or name of organization or institution.
BOX 7	African agriculture, 1929-1932
BOX 7	Agricultural missions, 1906-1935 (6 folders)
BOX 7	American Commission for the Study of Agricultural Credits and Cooperation in Europe, Duncan O. Fletcher, 1913-1914
BOX 8	American Country Life Association, 1911-1935 (9 folders)
BOX 9	(2 folders)
BOX 9	Biographical papers, 1890-1935 (6 folders)
BOX 10	(8 folders)
BOX 11	(4 folders)
BOX 11	Country Life Commission, 1908-1914, 1925-1927 (5 folders)
BOX 12	(7 folders)
BOX 13	<i>Cyclopedia of American Agriculture</i> , 1908
BOX 13	European Country Life, 1919-1921
BOX 13	Far East Agriculture and Religious Education, (Japan, China, and India), 1919-1935 (8 folders)
BOX 14	(8 folders)
BOX 15	(4 folders)
BOX 15	International Commission for the Improvement of Rural Life, 1926 (2 folders)
BOX 15	International Commission of Agriculture, 1926
BOX 15	International Country Life, 1920, 1925-1935 (2 folders)
BOX 16	(11 folders)
BOX 17	International Institute of Agriculture, Asher Hobson, 1924-1926
BOX 17	International Missionary Council, 1917-1934 (8 folders)
BOX 18	Land grant colleges, 1934-1935
BOX 18	Latin American Agriculture, 1932-1935
BOX 18	Massachusetts Agricultural College, 1908-1927 (9 folders)
BOX 19	(8 folders)

Subject File, 1890-1935

Container	Contents
BOX 20	(12 folders)
BOX 21	(12 folders)
BOX 22	(4 folders)
BOX 22	Master Farmers, 1926-1927
BOX 22	Michigan State College, 1927-1928 (4 folders)
BOX 22	Modern Missions Movement, 1932-1934 (4 folders)
BOX 22	National Christian Council, 1930-1933
BOX 22	(1 folder)
BOX 23	(7 folders)
BOX 23	Near East Education, 1932-1934
BOX 23	Rural Affairs, Columbia University, New York, N.Y., 1922-1932
BOX 23	(2 folders)
BOX 24	(5 folders)
BOX 24	Rural Affairs, Columbia University Institute of The Rural Church, New York, N.Y, 1925-1932 (6 folders)
BOX 25	Social and Religious Research, Institute of, 1923-1928 (10 folders)
BOX 26	World Agriculture Society, 1919-1928 (5 folders)
BOX 27-42	Speech, Article, and Book File Writings by Butterfield. Arranged by type of work.
BOX 27-42	Writings
BOX 43-44	Miscellany Mainly printed matter. Unarranged.
BOX 43-44	Mainly printed matter
BOX 45-53	Addition I, 1891-1970 Correspondence, subject files, writings, printed matter, clippings, and miscellany. Arranged by type of material.
BOX 45	Family correspondence
BOX 45	Butterfield, Harriet M.
BOX 45	Butterfield, Ira H.
BOX 45	Miscellaneous
BOX 45	Special correspondence
BOX 45	Butterfield, Victor L.
BOX 45	Kenny, Fred C.
BOX 45	Little, Clarence Cook
BOX 45	Marshall, Charles E.
BOX 45	McColl, Jay R.

Addition I, 1891-1970

Container	Contents
BOX 45	Mott, John R.
BOX 45	Osborn, Chase S.
BOX 45	Reisner, John H.
BOX 45	Taft, Lorado
BOX 45	Waugh, Frank A.
BOX 45	Worms, Rene
BOX 45	Bon Voyage, 1913
BOX 45	Questionnaire regarding student labor on farms, 1894-1900
BOX 45	General correspondence
BOX 45	A-K
BOX 45	L-Z
BOX 46	Subject file
BOX 46	American Association for Adult Education, 1925-1927
BOX 46	American Expeditionary Force University, College of Agriculture, 1919
BOX 46	Asiatic Trip, 1931-1934
BOX 46	Business America "Rural America," 1912-1914
BOX 46	China, Agricultural Reciprocity between China and America
BOX 46	China, Friends in China
BOX 46	China, Funding for Farmers in China
BOX 46	Institute of Social and Religious Research
BOX 46	Agenda
BOX 46	1925
	(2 folders)
BOX 47	1926
BOX 47	1927
BOX 47	1928
BOX 47	Brunner, Edmund de S.
	(2 folders)
BOX 47	Case study
BOX 48	Fisher, Galen M.
BOX 48	Miscellaneous correspondence
BOX 48	International Association of Agricultural Missions
BOX 48	Jerusalem Conference
BOX 48	Massachusetts Agricultural College
BOX 48	Associate Alumni
BOX 48	Clippings, 1915-24
BOX 48	Resolutions on Butterfield's resignation
BOX 48	Miscellaneous
	(3 folders)
BOX 48	Michigan Agricultural College
BOX 48	Speeches and writings file
BOX 48	By Kenyon L. Butterfield
BOX 48	Poems, 1889-1900
BOX 48	General, 1924-1926
BOX 48	Unsorted
	(2 folders)
BOX 49	(1 folder)

Addition I, 1891-1970

Container	Contents
BOX 49	By Harriet M. Butterfield (4 folders)
BOX 50	(1 folder)
BOX 50	By others
BOX 50	Miscellany
BOX 50	Biographical file
BOX 50	Reports
BOX 50	Reviews of publications
BOX 50	Notebooks
BOX 50	Scrapbook
BOX 51	Course outlines
BOX 51	Yearbook, Massachusetts Agricultural College, 1891
BOX 51	Photographs
BOX 51	General miscellany
BOX 51	Printed matter
BOX 52	Printed matter
BOX 53	Printed matter
BOX 53	Clippings
BOX 54	Addition II, 1889-1936 An account book, correspondence, clippings, photographs, speeches and writings, and miscellany. Arranged by subject or type of material
BOX 54	Account book, 1905-1906
BOX 54	Clippings, 1906, 1936, undated
BOX 54	Congratulatory letters
BOX 54	General correspondence, 1895, 1901-1914, 1924, 1936, undated (2 folders)
BOX 54	Miscellany, 1891-1899, undated
BOX 54	Photographs, undated
BOX 54	Rural life, 1909-1913, 1928-1933, undated
BOX 54	Speeches and writings, 1889, 1898, 1917, 1923-1927, undated