

**Warner W. Gardner Papers**  
**A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress**



**Manuscript Division, Library of Congress**  
**Washington, D.C.**  
**2022**

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

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Prepared by Manuscript Division staff

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## Collection Summary

**Title:** Warner W. Gardner Papers

**Inclusive Dates:** 1930-2006

**Bulk Dates:** 1941-1996

**ID No.:** MSS86450

**Creator:** Gardner, Warner W. (Warner Winslow)

**Extent:** 450 items

**Extent:** 23 containers

**Extent:** 9.2 linear feet

**Language:** Collection material in English

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

**LC Catalog record:** <https://lccn.loc.gov/mm2021086450>

**Summary:** Government official and lawyer. Diaries, correspondence, memoranda, notes, speeches and statements, writings, reports, photographs, newspaper clippings, printed matter, and other material documenting Gardner's career as a public official and lawyer in private practice.

## Acquisition Information

The papers of Warner W. Gardner were given to the Library of Congress in 2021 by Gardner's daughter, Hannah Gardner.

## Processing History

The papers of Warner W. Gardner were processed by Connie L. Cartledge in 2022.

## Other Repositories

Other papers of Warner W. Gardner can be found in the Harry S. Truman Library and Museum, Independence, Missouri.

## Copyright Status

The status of copyright in the unpublished writings of Warner W. Gardner in these papers and in other collections of papers in the custody of the Library of Congress has been dedicated to the public.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 Warner W. Gardner are open to research. Many collections are stored off-site and advance notice is needed to retrieve these items for research use. Researchers are advised to contact the Manuscript Reading Room prior to visiting.

## Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: Container number, Warner W. Gardner Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

## Biographical Note

Date	Event
1909, Sept. 25	Born, Richmond, Ind.
1930	A.B., Swarthmore College, Swarthmore, Pa.

1931	M.A., Rutgers University, New Brunswick, N.J.
1934	LL.B., Columbia University, New York, N.Y.
1934-1935	Law clerk, United States Supreme Court
1935-1941	Attorney and special assistant to the attorney general, Office of the Solicitor General, Department of Justice, Washington, D.C.
1940	Married Henrietta Gertrude Tucker (died 1989)
1941-1942	Solicitor, Department of Labor, Washington, D.C.
1942-1943	Solicitor, Department of the Interior, Washington, D.C.
1943-1945	Intelligence liaison, Allied Forces, 6th Army Group
1945-1946	Solicitor, Department of the Interior
1946-1947	Assistant secretary, Department of the Interior
1947-1999	Founder and partner, Shea & Gardner, law firm, Washington, D.C.
1957	Special counsel, Federal Maritime Board
1968-1976	Chairman, Committee on Informal Action, Administrative Conference of the United States
1971-1976	Director, Natomas Company
1989	Married Josephine P. McGowan Published <i>Pebbles from the Paths Behind: the Public Path, 1909-1947</i> . [United States]: Warner W. Gardner
2003, Jan. 2	Died, Washington, D.C.

## Scope and Content Note

The papers of Warner Winslow Gardner span the years 1930-2006, with the bulk of the material dating from 1941 to 1996. The collection documents Gardner's career as an attorney and special assistant to the Solicitor General of the United States (1935-1941), as solicitor for the Department of Labor (1941-1942), solicitor and assistant secretary for the Department of the Interior (1942-1943 and 1945-1947), and as a founder and partner for the District of Columbia law firm Shea & Gardner (1947-1999). The papers are in English and organized into five groups: correspondence, diaries, speeches and statements, subject file, and writings.

Although not comprehensive, the collection documents primarily Gardner's work as an attorney in Washington, D.C., first as a government official during the New Deal period and early World War II and later in private practice from 1947 to 1999. The Gardner papers consist of correspondence, diaries, memoranda, notes, speeches and statements, writings, reports, photographs, printed matter, and other material.

The correspondence, comprising only a few folders, is mostly personal. There are, however, letters from President Franklin D. Roosevelt accepting Gardner's resignation from the Department of Labor to move to the Department of the Interior in 1942 and from President Harry S. Truman upon Gardner's resignation as assistant secretary of the Department of the Interior in 1947. Truman compliments Gardner for his work at that post as well as for his previous government positions. The correspondence also includes a letter (March 12, 1948) to Gardner from Harold L. Ickes, former secretary of the Department of the Interior, disagreeing with Gardner about a congressional bill to restrict Alaskan fishing rights.

The bulk of the collection is comprised of diaries. The early diaries (1941-1946) pertain chiefly to Gardner's work as a government lawyer with the Department of Interior, although the diaries also relate to his service with the Office of the Solicitor General and his nine months with the Department of Labor before returning to the Department of the Interior. These diaries provide cursory information about events and include mentions of participants in Gardner's legal endeavors as a government solicitor but do not contain much substantive information about cases. Diaries from 1947 to 1996 cover his private legal practice at Shea & Gardner, co-founded with Frank Shea. Gardner used his law firm diaries to track his daily activities on behalf of clients. Near the end of each volume, Gardner listed yearly totals of his time spent for each client.

The Shea & Gardner firm handled primarily regulatory cases for maritime companies, mining companies, and railways. Client names in the diaries consist mainly of acronyms. A client documented throughout the diaries is American President Lines, Ltd. (APL). The diaries contain loose and missing pages and were received in this condition by the Library. Although Gardner served as a Supreme Court law clerk for Justice Harlan Fiske Stone from 1934 to 1935, the Library received no diaries for those years.

The subject file covers Gardner's work with the Department of the Interior, including letters pertaining to Harold L. Ickes's resignation as secretary of the Interior, his activities with Shea & Gardner, and his correspondence and reflections about Supreme Court justice Harlan Fiske Stone. The Stone file includes a couple letters from Stone to Gardner as well as two letters from Supreme Court justice Felix Frankfurter discussing Gardner's written reminiscences about Stone. Also worthy of mention is a document in the "family" folder of the subject file containing Gardner's impressions about the confirmation hearing for Clarence Thomas's nomination to the Supreme Court. Gardner's children had requested he send them his recollections about the hearings as Gardner was one of the lawyers who represented Anita Hill.

The writings file includes articles, book reviews, and an unpublished memoir by Gardner. In 1989 Gardner self-published a memoir, *Pebbles from Paths Behind: The Public Path, 1909-1947*. The writings file contains no drafts for this published volume but does include drafts of an unpublished memoir similarly titled but focused on "the private path." This later memoir relates mainly to Gardner's endeavors at Shea & Gardner.

## Arrangement of the Collection

This collection is arranged alphabetically by type of material.

## 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

Gardner, Warner W. (Warner Winslow), 1909-2003.

Hill, Anita.

Ickes, Harold L. (Harold LeClair), 1874-1952.

Stone, Harlan Fiske, 1872-1946.

Thomas, Clarence, 1948-

### Organizations

American President Lines, Ltd.

Shea & Gardner.

United States. Department of Labor.

United States. Department of the Interior.

United States. Solicitor General.

United States. Supreme Court--Officials and employees--Selection and appointment.

### Subjects

Industrial laws and legislation--United States.

Maritime law--United States.

Mineral industries--Law and legislation--United States.

Practice of law--Washington (D.C.)

Railroad law--United States.

### Occupations

Lawyers.

Public officials.

## Container List

<b>Container</b>	<b>Contents</b>
BOX 1	Correspondence, 1941-2002, undated (7 folders)
BOX 1	Diaries
BOX 1	1941-1942 (2 vols.)
BOX 2	1943-1947 (4 vols.)
BOX 3	1948-1950 (3 vols.)
BOX 4	1951-1953 (3 vols.)
BOX 5	1954-1956 (3 vols.)
BOX 6	1957-1959 (3 vols.)
BOX 7	1960-1962 (3 vols.)
BOX 8	1963-1965 (3 vols.)
BOX 9	1966-1968 (3 vols.)
BOX 10	1969-1971 (3 vols.)
BOX 11	1972-1974 (3 vols.)
BOX 12	1975-1977 (3 vols.)
BOX 13	1978-1980 (3 vols.)
BOX 14	1981-1983 (3 vols.)
BOX 15	1984-1986 (3 vols.)
BOX 16	1987-1989 (3 vols.)
BOX 17	1990-1992 (3 vols.)
BOX 18	1993-1995 (3 vols.)
BOX 19	1996
BOX 19	Speeches and statements, 1972, 1985-2000 (2 folders)
BOX 19	Subject file

## Container List

Container	Contents
BOX 19	Academic file, 1930-1935 (2 folders)
BOX 19	Allied Forces, 6th Army Group, 1945 (2 folders)
BOX 20	Bermuda Biological Station for Records, Inc., 1992, 2003
BOX 20	Davies, Ralph K., 1974-1975
BOX 20	Death, 2003-2004
BOX 20	Department of the Interior, 1943-1947 (2 folders)
BOX 20	Family, 1934-1936, 1967, 1988-1993, 1999-2003, undated (2 folders)
BOX 20	Jackson, Robert H., 1944-1946, 1994
BOX 20	Miscellany, 1956, 1994-1995, 2002
BOX 20	Natomas Co., 1973-1976
BOX 20	Office of the Solicitor General, 1935-1939
BOX 20	President's Committee on Civil Service Improvement, 1939-1941
BOX 20	Shea & Gardner, 1980, 1989-1999 (2 folders)
BOX 21	Stone, Harlan Fiske, 1934, 1940-1944, 1950-1951, 1958, 1965, undated (2 folders)
BOX 21	Vietnam War, 1967-1970
BOX 21	Wechsler, Herbert, 1993
BOX 21	Writings
BOX 21	Bound compilations, 1972-1984 (2 folders)
BOX 21	Chronological file
BOX 21	1931-1934
BOX 22	1938-1963, 1972-1979, 1991-1998 (6 folders)
BOX 22	1999 (3 folders)
BOX 23	2001-2006 (2 folders)
BOX 23	Memoir, "Pebbles from the Paths Behind: The Private Path" (unpublished), drafts, 1996-1999 (7 folders)