

Newton Diehl Baker Papers

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Prepared by Manuscript Division Staff

Collection Summary

Title: Newton Diehl Baker Papers

Span Dates: 1896-1962

Bulk Dates: (bulk 1916-1937)

ID No.: MSS11585

Creator: Baker, Newton Diehl, 1871-1937

Extent: 100,000 items ; 276 containers ; 110.4 linear feet ; 31 microfilm reels

Language: Collection material in English

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

Summary: U.S. secretary of war, author, lawyer, and municipal official of Cleveland, Ohio. Correspondence, memoranda, minutes, reports, speeches and articles, newspaper articles, and printed material relating primarily to Baker's post-World War I activities as the head of several business firms and of organizations devoted to education, law and jurisprudence, and philanthropy, relief, and other types of human services.

Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

People

Baker, Newton Diehl, 1871-1937.

Clarke, John H. (John Hessin), 1857-1945--Correspondence.

Daniels, Josephus, 1862-1948--Correspondence.

Davis, Norman H. (Norman Hezekiah), 1878-1944--Correspondence.

Frothingham, Thomas Goddard, 1865-1937--Correspondence.

Hapgood, Norman, 1868-1937--Correspondence.

Hayes, Ralph A.--Correspondence.

Lamont, Thomas W. (Thomas William), 1870-1948--Correspondence.

Lape, Esther Everett, 1881-1981--Correspondence.

Lippmann, Walter, 1889-1974--Correspondence.

Mooney, Charles A., 1879-1931--Correspondence.

Peabody, George Foster, 1852-1938--Correspondence.

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

Selzer, Louis B.--Correspondence.

Shotwell, James T., 1874-1965--Correspondence.

Ungerleider, Samuel--Correspondence.

Wickersham, George W. (George Woodward), 1858-1936--Correspondence.

Wilson, Edith Bolling Galt, 1872-1961--Correspondence.

Wilson, Woodrow, 1856-1924.

Wright, Howell, 1882-1954--Correspondence.

Organizations

American Institute of Pacific Relations--Correspondence.

American Judicature Society.

Baltimore and Ohio Railroad Company.

Cleveland Chamber of Commerce (Cleveland, Ohio)

Cleveland Trust Company.

National Consumers' League.

Phi Gamma Delta.

United States. War Department.

Woodrow Wilson Foundation.

Subjects

Banks and banking--Ohio--Cleveland.

Consumers' leagues.
Education--Societies, etc.
Human services.
Justice, Administration of.
Railroads--Management.
Trust companies--Ohio--Cleveland.
World War, 1914-1918--United States.

Places

Cleveland (Ohio)--Commerce.
United States--Politics and government--1913-1921.

Occupations

Authors.
Cabinet officers.
Lawyers.
Public officials--Ohio.

Administrative Information

Provenance

The papers of Newton Diehl Baker, U.S. secretary of war, author, lawyer, and municipal official of Cleveland, Ohio, were given to the Library of Congress by Baker's children, Elizabeth Baker McGean, Newton D. Baker III, and Margaret Baker Wright in 1952. Major additions were made by Ralph Hayes in 1956 and the Cleveland Municipal Reference Library, Cleveland, Ohio, in 1966; other material was added through multiple gifts, 1939-1993.

Processing History

The Baker Papers were processed in 1952. Additions and revisions were made between 1957 and 2002, and the finding aid was revised in 2009.

Related Material

Related collections in the Manuscript Division include a microfilm edition of Newton Diehl Baker Letterbooks consisting of letters written or signed by Baker during his terms as city solicitor (1903-1912) and mayor (1932-1915) of Cleveland, Ohio, held in the original by the Cleveland Municipal Reference Library.

Copyright Status

Copyright in the unpublished writings of Newton Diehl Baker 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 Newton Baker Papers of 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.

Microfilm

A microfilm edition of part of these papers is available on thirty-one reels. Consult reference staff in the Manuscript Division concerning availability for purchase or interlibrary loan. To promote preservation of the originals, researchers are required to consult the microfilm edition as available.

Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: Container or reel number, Newton Diehl Baker Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Biographical Note

1871, Dec. 3	Born, Martinsburg, W.Va.
1892	B.A., Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, Md.
1894	L.L.B. Washington and Lee University, Lexington, Va.
1902	Married Elizabeth Leopold
1896-1897	Private secretary to Postmaster General William L. Wilson
1897-1899	Private law practice, Martinsburg, W.Va.
1899	Private law practice, Cleveland, Ohio
1901-1902	First assistant city solicitor, Cleveland, Ohio
1902-1912	City solicitor, Cleveland, Ohio
1912-1916	Mayor, Cleveland, Ohio
1916-1921	Secretary of war
1918	Published <i>Frontiers of Freedom</i> . New York: George H. Doran Co.
1921	Private law practice, firm of Baker, Hostetler, and Sidlo, Cleveland, Ohio
1925	Published <i>Progress and the Constitution</i> . New York: Scribner's Sons
1928	Appointed to permanent Court of Arbitration at the Hague, Netherlands
1929	Appointed to Law Enforcement Commission
1932	Published <i>Bolshevism, Fascism and Capitalism</i> . New Haven, Conn.: Yale University Press
1936	Published <i>Why We Went to War</i> . Freeport, N.Y.: Harper & Brother for the Council on Foreign Relations
1937, 25 Dec.	Died

Scope and Content Note

The papers of Newton Diehl Baker (1871-1937) span the years 1896-1962, with the bulk concentrated in the period 1916-1937. The collection consists of correspondence, memoranda, minutes, reports, speeches and articles, newspaper articles, and printed material relating primarily to Baker's post-World War I activities as the head of several business firms and of organizations devoted to education, law and jurisprudence, and philanthropy, relief, and other types of human services. The firms and organizations include the American Judicature Society, Baltimore and Ohio Railroad, Cleveland Chamber of Commerce, Cleveland Trust Company, National Consumer's League, Phi Gamma Delta, and Woodrow Wilson Foundation. Included is material relating to Baker's post as secretary of war in Woodrow Wilson's cabinet during World War I.

Correspondents include the American Institute of Pacific Relations, John H. Clarke, Josephus Daniels, Norman H. Davis, Thomas Goddard Frothingham, Norman Hapgood, Ralph A. Hayes, Thomas W. Lamont, Esther Everett Lape, Walter Lippmann, Charles A. Mooney, George Foster Peabody, Franklin D. Roosevelt, Louis B. Selzer, James Thomson Shotwell, Samuel Ungerleider, George W. Wickersham, Edith Bolling Galt Wilson, and Howell Wright.

Organization of the Papers

The collection is arranged in seven series:

- [Correspondence and Other Papers, 1916-1922](#)
- [General Correspondence, 1922-1937](#)
- [Speeches and Writings, 1915-1937](#)
- [Miscellany, 1918-1935](#)
- [Ralph Hayes File, 1916-1962](#)
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- [Addition, 1917-1930](#)

Description of Series

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REEL 1-13

Series

Correspondence and Other Papers, 1916-1922

Available on microfilm. Shelf no. 17,577

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Personal Correspondence, 1916-1922

Letters sent and received.
Arranged chronologically by year and therein alphabetically.

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Miscellaneous Correspondence, 1916-1921

Letters sent and received.
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Subject File, 1917-1918

Letters sent and received and minutes and reports relating to the Supreme War Council and to shipping during World War I.
Arranged by topic.

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not filmed

General Correspondence, 1922-1937

Letters and memoranda sent and received with attached and related reports, printed matter, and other material.
Arranged alphabetically by name of person or organization.

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not filmed

Speeches and Writings, 1915-1937

Correspondence, notes, drafts, printed matter, and miscellaneous material relating to speeches and writings by Baker.
Arranged by type of writing and speeches organized chronologically therein.

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Miscellany, 1918-1935

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Ralph Hayes File, 1916-1962

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