

Harry Augustus Garfield Papers

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Prepared by Manuscript Division Staff

Collection Summary

Title: Harry Augustus Garfield Papers

Span Dates: 1855-1961

Bulk Dates: (bulk 1888-1934)

ID No.: MSS21949

Creator: Garfield, Harry Augustus, 1863-1942

Extent: 60,000 items ; 197 containers plus 7 oversize ; 29 linear feet

Language: Collection material in English

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

Summary: Lawyer, educator, public official, and son of President James A. Garfield. Correspondence, diaries, family papers, legal files, subject files, writings, scrapbooks, financial matter, printed matter and other papers relating to Garfield's career as a lawyer, professor, and university administrator, and to his interest in politics and international affairs.

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--Correspondence.
Bryan, William Jennings, 1860-1925--Correspondence.
Comer, Lucretia Garfield, 1894-1968. Lucretia Garfield Comer papers.
Coolidge, Calvin, 1872-1933--Correspondence.
Garfield family.
Garfield, Harry Augustus, 1863-1942.
Garfield, Harry Augustus, 1863-1942. Lost Visions. 1944.
Garfield, James A. (James Abram), 1831-1881--Family.
Garfield, Lucretia Rudolph, 1832-1918--Correspondence.
Hay, John, 1838-1905--Correspondence.
Hoover, Herbert, 1874-1964--Correspondence.
Hughes, Charles Evans, 1862-1948--Correspondence.
McKinley, William, 1843-1901--Correspondence.
Roosevelt, Franklin D. (Franklin Delano), 1882-1945--Correspondence.
Taft, William H. (William Howard), 1857-1930--Correspondence.
Wilson, Woodrow, 1856-1924--Correspondence.

Organizations

Princeton University.
United States. Fuel Administration.
Williams College.
Williams College. Institute of Politics.
Williams College. Institute of Politics. Williams College. Institute of Politics records. 1926-1932.

Subjects

Diplomatic and consular service, American.
International relations.
Municipal government--Ohio--Cleveland.
Peace.
Political science--Study and teaching--United States.
Practice of law--Ohio--Cleveland.
World War, 1914-1918--Fuel supplies.

Places

Cleveland (Ohio)--Politics and government.

Occupations

Educators.
Lawyers.
Public officials.

Administrative Information

Provenance

The papers of Harry Augustus Garfield, lawyer, educator, college president, and son of President James A. Garfield, were given to the Library of Congress in 1954, 1959, and 1962 by his heirs, James Garfield, Lucretia Garfield Comer, Stanton Garfield, Alva S. Garfield, Alicia G. Condon, and Louisa G. Browne.

Processing History

The collection was processed in 1966, and the finding aid was revised in 2009.

Additional Guides

A listing of Garfield's speeches and writings is available in the Manuscript Division Reading Room. Consult reference staff for more information.

Related Material

Related collections in the Manuscript Division include the papers of [James A. Garfield](#), Lucretia Rudolph Garfield, and [James Rudolph Garfield](#).

Copyright Status

Copyright in the unpublished writings of Harry Augustus Garfield 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 Harry Augustus Garfield 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, Harry Augustus Garfield Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Biographical Note

<i>Date</i>	<i>Event</i>
1863, Oct. 11	Born, Hiram, Ohio
1880	Attended St. Paul's School, Concord, N.H.
1881	Entered Williams College, Williamstown, Mass. Father, President James A. Garfield, assassinated
1885	Graduated, Williams College, Williamstown, Mass.
1885-1886	Taught, St. Paul's School, Concord, N.H.

1886-1887	Studied law, Columbia University, New York, N.Y., and with the firm of Bange and Stetson, New York, N.Y.
1887-1888	Studied law, Oxford University, Oxford, England, and traveled in Europe
1888	Married Belle Hartford Mason (died 1944) Began practice of law with younger brother, James Rudolph Garfield, Cleveland, Ohio
1892-1895	Taught law, Western Reserve University, Cleveland, Ohio, in addition to practicing law
1893-1903	Engaged in various business interests
1894	Frederic C. Howe taken into law firm
1898	Formed law practice of Garfield, Garfield and Howe
1903	Moved to Princeton, N.J., at the request of Woodrow Wilson to become professor of politics, Princeton University, Princeton, N.J.
1907	Became president of Williams College, Williamstown, Mass.
1917-1919	United States fuel administrator
1921	Received Distinguished Service Medal from President Woodrow Wilson Established Institute of Politics, Williams College, Williamstown, Mass.
1934	Retired
1934-1935	Traveled around the world
1930s-1942	Lived in Washington, D.C., and in Williamstown and Duxbury, Massachusetts; active in civic, church, and educational affairs
1942, Dec. 12	Died, Williamstown, Mass.

Scope and Content Note

The papers of Harry Augustus Garfield (1863-1942) extend from 1855 to 1961, with bulk of the material from 1888 to 1934. The collection focuses on his career as a lawyer, professor, and university administrator, his interest in politics and international affairs, and his associations as the son of President James A. Garfield. The papers contain fourteen series: [Diaries](#); [Letterbooks](#); [Family Papers](#); [General Correspondence](#); [Special Correspondence](#); [Legal File](#); [Subject File](#); [Speech, Book, and Article File](#); [Financial Records](#); [Biographical File](#); [Scrapbooks](#); [Printed Matter and Newspaper Clippings](#); [Photographs](#); and [Oversize](#).

Garfield's career as an educator began in 1885 after his graduation from Williams College when he taught for a year at St. Paul's School, Concord, New Hampshire, and continued in Cleveland, Ohio, where he taught at Western Reserve University while practicing law. In 1903, at the request of Woodrow Wilson, he left private law practice to become professor of politics at Princeton University. Most of the record of this part of his life, 1903-1908, is in the correspondence, few lecture notes having been preserved. Garfield continued to teach after becoming president of Williams College in 1908. His support of curriculum reform, increases in professors' salaries, the classics, the de-emphasis of athletics, and his role in the establishment of the first Institute of Politics held at Williams College in 1921 are documented in the collection, particularly in the various correspondence series and in speech and subject files.

Garfield's work as a member of the law firm of Garfield and Garfield, established in Cleveland in 1888 with his brother, James Rudolph Garfield, is evident from material preserved in the collection. While living in Cleveland, Harry Garfield became involved in the Cleveland Chamber of Commerce, the Cleveland Municipal Association (he was its first president), municipal reform in general, and in a number of other civic, religious, and charitable organizations. It was during this period that he became intensely interested in consular reform.

Prominent throughout the collection are files relating to the Institute of Politics, which he established and directed at Williams College, and his interest in international cooperation and world peace. The manuscript of *Lost Visions*, published posthumously by his widow, numerous speeches in the [Speech, Book, and Article File](#) series, and intermittent "daily notes" on his reading reflect an especially strong concentration on international affairs and the prevention of war after 1919.

From 1917 to 1919, Garfield served as the United States fuel administrator, attempting to make the best use of the available fuel in this country during World War I. Much of his correspondence with Woodrow Wilson, in the [Special Correspondence](#) series, is concerned with his own work and with other problems of the war. Other correspondence series and the subject and speech files contain pertinent material on the United States Fuel Administration.

Of particular importance to biographers is the family correspondence, especially the letters exchanged with his mother, Lucretia Rudolph Garfield. In her letters are reflected mutual interests in politics and intellectual pursuits as well as personal and family relationships and activities. The [Biographical File](#) series includes autobiographical notes of Lucretia Garfield addressed to Harry Garfield as the eldest son of the president, correspondence and printed matter about President Garfield, and correspondence about his papers. Scrapbooks and printed matter contain other information about the president and his oldest son. Material relating to the biography of Harry Garfield by his daughter, Lucretia Garfield Comer, is also included.

Correspondents include Newton Diehl Baker, William Jennings Bryan, Calvin Coolidge, John Hay, Herbert Hoover, Charles Evans Hughes, William McKinley, Franklin D. Roosevelt, Theodore Roosevelt, William H. Taft, and Woodrow Wilson.

Organization of the Papers

The collection is arranged in fourteen series:

- [Diaries, 1881-1941](#)
- [Letterbooks, 1892-1911](#)
- [Family Papers, 1870-1961](#)
- [General Correspondence, 1871-1946](#)
- [Special Correspondence, 1872-1942](#)
- [Legal File, 1855-1921](#)
- [Subject File, 1892-1943](#)
- [Speech, Book, and Article File, 1882-1947](#)
- [Financial Records, 1881-1943](#)
- [Biographical File, 1865-1960](#)
- [Scrapbooks, 1880-1908](#)
- [Printed Matter and Newspaper Clippings, 1888-1939](#)
- [Photographs, circa 1880-1945](#)
- [Oversize, 1881-circa 1945](#)

Description of Series

<i>Container</i>	<i>Series</i>
BOX 1-5	<u>Diaries, 1881-1941</u> Bound volumes with a few loose diary notes. There are no diaries for the years 1905-1924. Arranged chronologically.
BOX 6-19A	<u>Letterbooks, 1892-1911</u> Bound letterbooks. Personal letterbooks precede volumes relating to businesses, which are organized by name of firm or business. Arranged chronologically within personal and business categories.
BOX 20-50	<u>Family Papers, 1870-1961</u> Letters sent and received by Garfield and his wife and members of their family. Arranged by family group or individual and therein chronologically.
BOX 51-84	<u>General Correspondence, 1871-1946</u> Letters sent and received, including a small amount of his wife's correspondence, 1943-1946. Arranged chronologically.
BOX 85-93	<u>Special Correspondence, 1872-1942</u> Letters sent and received. Arranged alphabetically by name of correspondent and therein chronologically.
BOX 94-106	<u>Legal File, 1855-1921</u> Legal case material, including correspondence. Arranged as received.
BOX 107-138	<u>Subject File, 1892-1943</u> Letters sent and received and related topical and printed matter. Arranged alphabetically by subject or name of organization, with the bulk pertaining to the Institute of Politics at Williams College.
BOX 139-160	<u>Speech, Book, and Article File, 1882-1947</u> Notes, drafts, speech material and related correspondence. Arranged by type of material and therein chronologically.
BOX 161-164	<u>Financial Records, 1881-1943</u> Property records, cash books, and other financial papers. Arranged by type of material.
BOX 165-172	<u>Biographical File, 1865-1960</u> Letters sent and received about President James A. Garfield, Harry Garfield, and other members of their family, including reminiscences, memorabilia, and printed matter. Also included is material used by Lucretia Garfield Comer in connection with her biography of Harry Garfield. Arranged by type of material.

- BOX 173-180** **Scrapbooks, 1880-1908**
Numbered volumes and material assembled by subject. Numbered volumes precede subject volumes.
- BOX 181-191** **Printed Matter and Newspaper Clippings, 1888-1939**
Mounted and annotated newspaper clippings, invitations, calling cards, and miscellaneous printed matter.
Arranged by subject.
- BOX 192-196** **Photographs, circa 1880-1945**
Photographs and photographic albums.
Unarranged.
- BOX OV 1-OV 7** **Oversize, 1881-circa 1945**
Scrapbooks, photograph albums, photographs, prints, newspaper clippings, awards, and certificates.
Arranged and described according to the series, containers, and folders from which they were removed.

Container List

<i>Container</i>	<i>Contents</i>
BOX 1-5	Diaries, 1881-1941 Bound volumes with a few loose diary notes. There are no diaries for the years 1905-1924. Arranged chronologically.
BOX 1	1881-1885
BOX 2	1883-1904, "Life Book" 1886, 1888-1889
BOX 3	1904, 1925-1929
BOX 4	1930-1936
BOX 5	1938-1941
BOX 6-19A	Letterbooks, 1892-1911 Bound letterbooks. Personal letterbooks precede volumes relating to businesses, which are organized by name of firm or business. Arranged chronologically within personal and business categories.
BOX 6	Personal Nos. 1-2, 1892-1899
BOX 7	Nos. 3-5, 1899-1901
BOX 8	Nos. 6-9, 1901-1903
BOX 9	Business Garfield and Garfield Nos. 1-2, 1895
BOX 10	Nos. 3-5, 1895-1897
BOX 11	Nos. 6-7, 1897
BOX 12	Nos. 8-9, 1897-1899
BOX 13	Nos. 10-12, 1899-1901
BOX 14	Nos. 13-14, 1901-1902
BOX 15	Nos. 15-16, 1902-1903
BOX 16	No. 17, 1903-1904 Garfield, Howe, and Westenhaver No. 18, 1904
BOX 17	Nos. 19-20, 1904-1906
BOX 18	Nos. 21-22, 1906-1908
BOX 19	Nos. 23, 1904-1911
BOX 19A	Lake Erie, Alliance, and Wheeling Railroad, nos. 1-2, 1900-1904
BOX 20-50	Family Papers, 1870-1961 Letters sent and received by Garfield and his wife and members of their family. Arranged by family group or individual and therein chronologically.
BOX 20	Correspondence with parents and grandparents 1870-1883

Family Papers, 1870-1961

Container

Contents

BOX 21	1884-1887
BOX 22	1888-Nov. 1898
BOX 23	1899-1902
BOX 24	1903-June 1905
BOX 25	July 1905-Apr. 1908
BOX 26	May 1908-Dec. 1910
BOX 27	1911-1912
BOX 28	1913-1914
BOX 29	1915-1918
BOX 30	Correspondence with wife, Belle Mason Garfield 1885-1889
BOX 31	1890-1897
BOX 32	1898-1937
BOX 33	Correspondence with brothers and sister Garfield, James Rudolph 1881-1902
BOX 34	1903-1906
BOX 35	1907-1912
BOX 36	1913-1922
BOX 37	1923-1943
BOX 38	Garfield, Abram, 1880-1943
BOX 39	Garfield, Irvin McDowell, 1879-1942
BOX 40	Stanley-Brown, Mary Garfield 1874-1917
BOX 41	1918-1944
BOX 42	Correspondence with children Garfield, James, 1896-1943 Garfield, Mason, 1914-1944 Stanton, 1917-1942
BOX 43	Comer, Lucretia Garfield 1901-1913
BOX 44	1914-1922
BOX 45	1923-May 1931
BOX 46	June 1931-1937
BOX 47	1938-1942
BOX 48	1942-1961 <i>See also Container 172. Comer, Lucretia Garfield</i>
BOX 49	Mason family 1875-1913
BOX 50	1914-1939 Rockwell family, 1871-1934 Rudolph family, 1870-1934
BOX 51-84	General Correspondence, 1871-1946 Letters sent and received, including a small amount of his wife's correspondence, 1943-1946. Arranged chronologically.
BOX 51	1871-1886

General Correspondence, 1871-1946

Container

Contents

BOX 52	1887-1896
BOX 53	1897-June 1898
BOX 54	July 1898-Aug. 1899
BOX 55	Sept. 1899-Oct. 1900
BOX 56	Nov. 1900-Sept. 1901
BOX 57	Oct. 1901-July 1902
BOX 58	Aug. 1902-July 1903
BOX 59	Aug. 1903-June 1904
BOX 60	July 1904-Aug. 1906
BOX 61	Nov. 1906-July 1907
BOX 62	Aug. 1907-May 1908
BOX 63	June 1908-1910
BOX 64	Jan. 1911-June 1913
BOX 65	July 1913-Sept. 1914
BOX 66	Oct. 1914-1915
BOX 67	1916-Mar. 1917
BOX 68	Apr. 1917-1920
BOX 69	1921-May 1923
BOX 70	June 1923-1924
BOX 71	1925-1927
BOX 72	1928-1932
BOX 73	1933
BOX 74	1934
BOX 75	Jan.-Sept. 1935
BOX 76	Oct. 1935-Aug. 1936
BOX 77	Sept. 1936-July 1937
BOX 78	Aug. 1937-Apr. 1938
BOX 79	May-June 1938 June, 1938, fiftieth wedding anniversary
BOX 80	July 1938-Feb. 1939
BOX 81	Mar.-Dec. 1939
BOX 82	1940
BOX 83	1941
BOX 84	Jan.-Dec. 1942 Messages of condolence and fragments, 1942-1946, undated
BOX 85-93	Special Correspondence, 1872-1942 Letters sent and received. Arranged alphabetically by name of correspondent and therein chronologically.
BOX 85	Adriance, Harris E., 1883-1953 Baker, Newton Diehl, 1901-1941 Baldwin, Elbert Frank, 1884-1888 Bauer, Ailene (secretary), 1938
BOX 86	Boynton, Silas A., 1888 Bratenahl, Carl, 1886 Bryan, William Jennings, 1914

Special Correspondence, 1872-1942

Container

Contents

	Bryce, James
	Choate, Joseph H., 1901
	Clipp, Lizzie, 1872
	Coolidge, Calvin, 1921-1938
	Daniels, Josephus, 1921-1938
	Halifax, Lord, 1942
	Hanna, Marcus A., 1902
	Hay, John, 1900
	Holmes, Samuel V. V.
	1882-1899
BOX 87	1900-1934
BOX 88	Hoover, Herbert, 1917
	Howe, Frederic C., 1906-1907; 1940
	Hughes, Charles Evans, 1906-1941
	Hull, Cordell, 1934-1941
	Hunt, Gaillard, 1881-1908
	Jusserand, Jean Jules, 1905
	Lodge, Henry Cabot, 1902-1904
	Matz, Rudolph, 1910-1915
	McKinley, William, 1893-1900
	Mumford, James G., 1903-1913
BOX 89	Pinchot, Gifford, 1940
	Rockwell, Almon F. (family), 1880-1903
	Roosevelt, Franklin D., 1928-1943
	Roosevelt, Theodore (1858-1919), 1896-1905
	Root, Elihu, 1906
	Stimson, Henry L., 1940
	Taft, William H., 1900-1911
	Warren, Bentley W.
	1876-1886
	1887-1942
BOX 90	Washington, Booker T., 1902-1906
BOX 91	Wilson, Woodrow
	1903-1917
BOX 92	1917-1918
BOX 93	1918-1924
	Wister, Owen, 1904-1912
	Wood, Leonard, 1915
BOX 94-106	Legal File, 1855-1921
	Legal case material, including correspondence.
	Arranged as received.
BOX 94	American Shipbuilding Co., 1901-1891
	American Surety Co., 1888-1895
	Anisfield Property, 1898-1899
	Arcade Savings Bank, 1893-1894

Legal File, 1855-1921

Container

Contents

	Botsford property in South America, 1892-1894
	Brown and Goakes, 1893
	Cancelled notes, 1887-1905
BOX 95	Chagrin Falls and Southern Railroad Co., 1887-1891
	Cleveland Building Co., 1894
	Cleveland, Canton, and Southern Railroad Co. 1885-1902
BOX 96	1891-1899
BOX 97	1896-1898
	Cleveland Trust Co., 1900-1903
	Correspondence, miscellaneous legal, 1892-1894
	Crehore-Squier Intelligence Transmission Co., 1900-1902
	Dayton, Covington, and Piqua Traction Co., 1901-1903
	Fairbanks estate, 1855-1895
	Fenn, Kate D., probate, 1899-1904
BOX 98	Garfield estate, 1917-1925
	Garfield, Garfield, and Howe, 1888-1908
	Garfield, Harry A., deed, 1894
	Garfield, Howe, and Westenhaver, 1904-1907
BOX 99	Handy Street houses, Cleveland, Ohio, 1893-1894
	Henderson, Ernest G., and Loomis Salt Co., 1897-1899
	Hostetter, Charles G., 1896-1900
	Hubbard, G. S., 1894
	International Trust Co. 1896-1899
BOX 100	International Trust Co. v. Cleveland, Canton, and Southern Railroad Co. 1892-1898
BOX 101	1892-1901
	Lakeside Hospital, Cleveland, Ohio, 1897-1899
	Lakeview Cemetery Association, Cleveland, Ohio, 1888-1892
	"Long Arm" System Co., 1903-1907
BOX 102	Mason, Caroline R., 1888-1897
BOX 103	Massillon Consolidated Coal Co., 1891
	Mentor-Lownfield Estate, 1893-1902
	Moot Court cases, 1887
	National Coal Association, 1921
	Nicholson Electric Hoist Co. 1890-1895
BOX 104	Correspondence, 1890-1897
	Ohio Cooperage Co., 1902-1904
	Perkins, Joseph, estate, 1891-1896
	Richards, H. D. C., 1891-1894
	Robinson, George F., 1900-1903
	Russian famine relief, 1892 (1 folder)
BOX 105	(1 folder)
	Swasey, Perley and Ambrose, 1912-1915

Legal File, 1855-1921

Container

Contents

	Waynesburgh and Canton Railroad Co., 1888-1898
	Wills, 1893-1905
BOX 106	Notes on cases, 1888
	Garfield and Garfield register, 1889-1897
BOX 107-138	Subject File, 1892-1943
	Letters sent and received and related topical and printed matter.
	Arranged alphabetically by subject or name of organization, with the bulk pertaining to the Institute of Politics at Williams College.
BOX 107	Alpha Delta Phi, 1939
	American Committee for Non-Participation in Japanese Aggression, 1940
	Constitutional government and politics, typewritten copies of Woodrow Wilson's notes, 1903
	Consular reform
	1901-1906
BOX 108	Legislation and correspondence, 1898-1913
	Council on Foreign Relations, 1940-1941
	Cuban Relief Fund, 1898
BOX 109	Dupont Circle Citizens Association, Washington, D.C., 1933-1940
	English Speaking Union, 1936-1940
	Far East, memoranda, 1936
BOX 110	Food Administration Price Fixing Committee, 1917
BOX 111	Institute of Politics, Williams College, Williamstown, Mass.
	Who's who at the institute, 1926
	"Present Problems of the British Commonwealth of Nations since the War," Herbert Heaton, leader, 1927
	Eighth session, 1928
	"Protection of American Citizens Abroad," Edwin M. Borchard
	"Inter-American Economic and Commercial Relations," Harry T. Collings
	"Population Problems on the Pacific Rim," R. D. McKenzie
	"Problems of the Pacific," George H. Blakeslee
	"Recent Inter-American Relations and Problems," Charles W. Hackett
	"Methods of Social Direction," Graham Wallas
	"Modern Turkey and its Problems," Halide Edib Hanum
BOX 112	"Agriculture and the Agricultural Surplus: An International Approach," C. R. Fay
	"Special Conference on Prohibition," Garfield
	"Problems of Peace in Europe," Count Carlo Sforza
	"Special Conference on Kellogg Treaties," Philip Marshall Brown
	"Forum on Latin America," C. R. Fay
	"Problems of Africa," Raymond L. Buel
	Ninth session, 1929
	Address of welcome by Garfield
	"Inter-ally Debts and Reparations," Jacob Viner
	"Post-War Constitutional Changes in Europe," George Young
BOX 113	"Mexico: Financial, Social, and Political Changes since 1910," Eyster N. Simpson
	"The Interests of United States Citizens in Latin America," Herbert L. Priestley
	"Trade Relations as Affected by Politics, Science, and Finance," Harrison E. Howe

Subject File, 1892-1943

Container

Contents

	"Planned Prosperity: The Effect of Public Fiscal Policies on Trade and Employment," William T. Foster
	"Banking, Currency, and Exchange," T. E. Gregory
	"Canadian-American Relations," P. E. Corbett
BOX 114	"Limitations of Armaments," C. L. Hussey
	"Financial and Commercial Relations with Latin America," Harry T. Collings
	"American-Canadian Mineral Resources," C. K. Leith
	"Chinese-Russian Relations," George H. Blakeslee
	Tenth session, 1930
	"Who's Who"
	"Convocation Addresses"
	"Political Aspects of Aerial Navigation," Edward P. Warner
	"An Analysis of Western Civilization," C. De Lisle Burns
	"The Domestic and Foreign Aspects of Russia," Ivy Lee
	"The Far Eastern Situation," George H. Blakeslee
BOX 115	"Limitation of Armaments," Arthur J. Hepburn and Sir Herbert Richmond
BOX 116	"India and Nationalism," Lord Meston
	"The Arctic and the Antarctic," Laura H. Martin
	"American Policy in the Caribbean Area, Financial and Economic Aspects," Henry Kittredge Norton
	"Pan-American Problems," Jesse S. Reeves
	"Recent Economic Progress in Europe," Edwin F. Gay
BOX 117	Eleventh session, 1931
	"India and Nationalism," George H. Blakeslee
	"Fundamentals of Disarmament," James G. McDonald
	"The Distribution of Wealth and Income," T. E. Gregory
	"The Future of the British Commonwealth of Nations," P. E. Corbett
	"The Pact of Paris," George H. Blakeslee
	"The Economic Systems of Fascism, Communism and Capitalism," George H. Blakeslee
BOX 118	"The Future of Democracy," Arthur N. Holcombe
	"The Political Situation in Western Europe," William E. Rappard
	"Social Psychology of International Conduct," G. M. Stratton
	"International Problems of Commercial and Financial Policy," Jacob Viner
BOX 119	Twelfth session, 1932
	"The Present Position of the Credit Problem," T. E. Gregory
	"Contrasts in Latin American Civilization," Stephen P. Duggan, Jr.
	"The Limitations of Armaments," Raymond L. Buell
	"Sino-Japanese Relations in Eastern Asia," Henry Kittredge Norton
	"The Peace Treaties and the Map of Europe," Bernadotte E. Schmidt
	"The St. Lawrence Waterway Project," W. W. McLoren
	"A Consideration of the Stimson Doctrine," Stephen P. Duggan
	"The Disintegration of the Modern World Order," Arnold J. Toynbee
BOX 120	"American Economic Foreign Policy," John H. Williams
	"The Imperial Economic Conference," P. E. Corbett
BOX 121	Reports of the conferences
	1926-1928
BOX 122	1929-1930

Subject File, 1892-1943

Container

Contents

	Miscellany
	"A Critique of the Institute of Politics" Aug. 1931
	Garfield's notes on possible speakers for the institute, arranged by country, 1920-1929
BOX 123	Miscellaneous material relating to the institute, 1924-1932
BOX 124	Institute on World Organization, American University, Washington, D. C. 1941
	Inter-American Field Studies, 1941-1942
	James Madison Memorial Pew, St. John's Episcopal Church, Lafayette Square, Washington, D.C., 1938-1940
	<i>Lawnfield</i>
	Memorandum by Garfield, 1926
	League to Enforce Peace, 1918-1919
	Municipal government, 1916
	(1 folder)
BOX 125	(1 folder)
	National Conference of Christians and Jews, 1937
	National Economy League, 1938-1939
	National Recovery Administration, 1933
	Outdoor Cleanliness Association, Washington, D.C.
	Royal Order of Santi Maurizio e Lazzaro, 1921
BOX 126	St. Paul's School, Concord, N.H., 1892-1902
	United China Relief, 1942
	United States Constitution Sesquicentennial Commission, 1936-1939
	United States Fuel Administration
	1917-1918
BOX 127	1918-1919
BOX 128	1918-1919, 1937, 1943
BOX 129	1918-1920, 1932
BOX 130	Printed matter
	1917-1918
BOX 131	1918-1919
	Washington Monument Society, 1940-1942
	Williams College, Williamstown, Mass.
	Class of 1885
	General, 1881-1942
	<i>Williams College Alumni Review</i> , 1909-1942
BOX 132	World Peace Foundation, 1930-1942
	(1 folder)
BOX 133	(14 folder)
BOX 134	(16 folders)
BOX 135	(20 folders)
BOX 136	(15 folders)
BOX 137	(18 folders)
BOX 138	(7 folders)
BOX 139-160	Speech, Book, and Article File, 1882-1947
	Notes, drafts, speech material and related correspondence.
	Arranged by type of material and therein chronologically.

Speech, Book, and Article File, 1882-1947

Container

Contents

BOX 139	Speeches and articles 1882-1905
BOX 140	1905-1909
BOX 141	1910-1914
BOX 142	1915-1916
BOX 143	1917-1919
BOX 144	1920-Mar. 1921
BOX 145	1921-July 1922
BOX 146	1923-1925
BOX 147	1926-1927
BOX 148	1928-1929
BOX 149	1930-June 1931
BOX 150	1931-Nov. 1932
BOX 151	1933-1937
BOX 152	1938-1940, undated
BOX 153	Undated
BOX 154	Newspaper clippings on speeches 1918-1930
BOX 155	1931-1934
BOX 156	<i>Lost Visions</i> (1944) Drafts
BOX 157	Correspondence, 1943-1947
BOX 158	<i>Williams Athenaeum</i> 1882-1884
BOX 159	1885 <i>The Argo</i> , 1882-1885
BOX 160	Williams College, Williamstown, Mass., president's reports, 1902-1934
BOX 161-164	Financial Records, 1881-1943 Property records, cash books, and other financial papers. Arranged by type of material.
BOX 161	Washington, D. C., property, 1917-1934
BOX 162	Cash books 1881-1892
BOX 163	1893-1903
BOX 164	Miscellaneous, 1885-1943
BOX 165-172	Biographical File, 1865-1960 Letters sent and received about President James A. Garfield, Harry Garfield, and other members of their family, including reminiscences, memorabilia, and printed matter. Also included is material used by Lucretia Garfield Comer in connection with her biography of Harry Garfield. Arranged by type of material.
BOX 165	Memorabilia <i>See also Oversize</i> "Harry's Hand," drawn by James A. Garfield, 26 Mar. 1865 "First Writing," identified by James A. Garfield, 19 June 1871

Biographical File, 1865-1960

Container

Contents

- "United States Debating Club," 1876
Williams College, Williamstown, Mass., reports, 1881-1884
Catalog of private library, 1885
Reminiscences of Cleveland Municipal Association, Cleveland, Ohio, undated
Reminiscences of Lucretia Rudolph Garfield, 17 Apr. 1912
Poem by James A. Garfield, 14 June 1938
Autograph books, 1878-1914
- BOX 166** Correspondence and other material about James A. Garfield, his biography, and his papers at the Library of Congress, 1881-1942
- BOX 167** Printed material about James A. Garfield
- BOX 168** Genealogical material, certificates, and miscellany of Harry Augustus Garfield, 1882-1942
- BOX 169** Printed matter, Harry Augustus Garfield
- BOX 170** Miscellany, 1903-1934
(8 folders)
- BOX 171** (4 folders)
- BOX 172** Comer, Lucretia Garfield, correspondence about Garfield family in connection with her biography of her father, *Harry Garfield's First Forty Years: Man of Action in a Troubled World* (1965), 1943-1960 *See also Container 48, 1942-1961*
- BOX 173-180** **Scrapbooks, 1880-1908**
Numbered volumes and material assembled by subject. Numbered volumes precede subject volumes.
- BOX 173** Vols. 1-2, 1881 *See also Oversize*
- BOX 174** Vols. 3-4, 1881
- BOX 175** Vols. 5-6, 1881
- BOX 176** Vols. 7-8, 1880-1882
- BOX 177** Chicago, Ill., convention, election, and miscellany, 1880-1886
- BOX 178** "The Assassin on Trial" 1881-1882
- BOX 179** Personal, 1899-1908 *See also Oversize*
- BOX 180** Personal and political, 1899-1901
- BOX 181-191** **Printed Matter and Newspaper Clippings, 1888-1939**
Mounted and annotated newspaper clippings, invitations, calling cards, and miscellaneous printed matter.
Arranged by subject.
- BOX 181** Invitations, calling cards, and related matter
(5 folders)
- BOX 182** (5 folders)
- BOX 183** Cleveland Chamber of Commerce, Cleveland, Ohio, bound, 1894-1902
Cleveland Municipal Association, Cleveland, Ohio, bound, 1897-1903
- BOX 184** Consular reform
1898-1902
- BOX 185** 1902-1904
- BOX 186** Institute of Politics, Williams College, Williamstown, Mass.
1927-1928
- BOX 187** 1929-1931

Printed Matter and Newspaper Clippings, 1888-1939

<i>Container</i>	<i>Contents</i>
BOX 188	1931-1932
BOX 189	Inauguration as president, Williams College, Williamstown, Mass., 1908
BOX 190	Miscellaneous, 1888-1939 <i>See also Oversize</i> (10 folders)
BOX 191	(9 folders)
BOX 192-196	Photographs, circa 1880-1945 Photographs and photographic albums. Unarranged.
BOX 192	Miscellaneous <i>See also Oversize</i>
BOX 193	Albums and rolled photograph
BOX 194	Miscellaneous
BOX 195	Miscellaneous
BOX 196	Miscellaneous
BOX OV 1-OV 7	Oversize, 1881-circa 1945 Scrapbooks, photograph albums, photographs, prints, newspaper clippings, awards, and certificates. Arranged and described according to the series, containers, and folders from which they were removed.
BOX OV 1	Scrapbooks Vols. 1-2 About James A. Garfield, 1881-1882 (Container 173)
BOX OV 2	Personal Personal and political, 1888-1899 (Container 179)
BOX OV 3	Inauguration as president, Williams College, Williamstown, Mass., 1908 (Container 179)
BOX OV 4	Printed Matter and Newspaper Clippings Miscellaneous Newspaper clippings, 1901-1903 (Container 190)
BOX OV 5	Biographical File Memorabilia Awards, degrees, and certificates, 1888-1938 (Container 165)
BOX OV 6	Photographs Album presented at retirement, 1934 (Container 192) Miscellaneous photographs and prints, 1918-circa 1945 (Container 192)
BOX OV 7	Album of trip to Buffalo, Wyo., 1920 (Container 192)