

Thomas Henry Carter Papers

A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress



LIBRARY OF
CONGRESS

Manuscript Division, Library of Congress
Washington, D.C.
2009

Contact information:

<http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/mss.contact>

Additional search options available at:

<http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms010160>

LC Online Catalog record:

<http://lcn.loc.gov/mm76015305>

Prepared by Carolyn Sung and Wilhelmina Curry

Collection Summary

Title: Thomas Henry Carter Papers

Span Dates: 1833-1917

Bulk Dates: (bulk 1888-1917)

ID No.: MSS15305

Creator: Carter, Thomas Henry, 1854-1911

Extent: 9,000 items ; 25 containers plus 1 oversize ; 9.6 linear feet ; 16 microfilm reels

Language: Collection material in English

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

Summary: Lawyer and United States representative and senator from Montana. Correspondence, writings, memoranda, clippings, notes, invitations, photographs, and financial records relating primarily to Montana, Republican Party politics, and Carter's career in Congress.

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

Ballinger, Richard Achilles, 1858-1922--Correspondence.
Beattie, Edward W., 1847-1914--Correspondence.
Carter family--Correspondence.
Carter, Thomas Henry, 1854-1911.
Dixon, Joseph M. (Joseph Moore), 1867-1934--Correspondence.
Fairbanks, Charles W. (Charles Warren), 1852-1918--Correspondence.
Garfield, James Rudolph, 1865-1950--Correspondence.
Harrison, Benjamin, 1833-1901--Correspondence.
Lanstrum, Oscar Monroe, 1869-1928--Correspondence.
Penrose, Boies, 1860-1921--Correspondence.
Pray, Charles Nelson, 1868-1963--Correspondence.
Roosevelt, Theodore, 1858-1919--Correspondence.
Ryan, Thomas Fortune, 1851-1928--Correspondence.
Taft, William H. (William Howard), 1857-1930--Correspondence.

Organizations

American-Irish Historical Society.
Catholic Church--United States.
Georgetown University.
Republican Party (U.S. : 1854-)

Subjects

Conservation of natural resources.
Indians of North America--Government relations.
Irish Americans
Irish Americans--Societies, etc.
Laity--Catholic Church
National parks and reserves--Idaho.
National parks and reserves--Montana.
National parks and reserves--Wyoming.
Postal service--United States.
Public lands--United States.
Tariff--United States.

Places

Glacier National Park (Mont.)
Montana--Politics and government.
United States--Politics and government--1865-1933.
Yellowstone National Park.

Occupations

Lawyers.
Representatives, U.S. Congress--Montana.
Senators, U.S. Congress--Montana.

Administrative Information

Provenance

The papers of Thomas Henry Carter, lawyer and U.S. representative and senator from Montana, were given to the Library of Congress in 1932-1933 by his son, John Galen Carter.

Processing History

The Thomas Henry Carter Papers were arranged in 1953, reorganized and described in 1968, and prepared for microfilming in 1977. The series description and container list were revised in 2009 to reflect the renumbering of oversize items and other changes.

Copyright Status

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

Access and Restrictions

The papers of Thomas Henry Carter 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 these papers is available on sixteen 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.

Preferred Citation

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

Biographical Note

<i>Date</i>	<i>Event</i>
1854, Oct. 30	Born, Scioto County, Ohio
1878	Began study of law, Burlington, Iowa
1882	Moved to Helena, Mont., and practiced law
1886	Married Ellen L. Galen
1889-1891	Delegate, subsequently representative, from Montana to fifty-first U.S. Congress

1891-1892	Commissioner, General Land Office
1892-1896	Chairman, Republican National Committee
1895-1901	United States senator from Montana
1901-1904	President, Louisiana Purchase Exposition Commission
1895-1901	United States senator from Montana
1911	Chairman, U.S. section of the International Joint Commission created to prevent disputes regarding use of boundary waters between the U.S. and Canada
1911, Sept. 17	Died, Washington, D.C.

Scope and Content Note

The papers of Thomas Henry Carter (1854-1911) span the years 1883-1917, with the bulk from 1888 to 1911, the years in which Carter was active on the national political scene. The papers consist chiefly of correspondence and copies of his writings. Printed matter, clippings, memoranda, lists, notes, invitations, photographs, and financial records complete the collection.

Letters sent, copies of letters sent, and letters received make up the [Family](#) and [General Correspondence](#) that account for over half of the collection. The [Family Correspondence](#) consists chiefly of Carter's letters to his wife and sons, John and Hugh, chronicling his activities in intimate detail. Because there is little correspondence for the years from 1888 to 1907 in the [General Correspondence](#), Carter's public life is principally documented in the [Family Correspondence](#). Most of the [General Correspondence](#) dates from 1908 to 1911 with scattered letters from earlier and later periods.

The collection contains considerable material on such topics as public lands, conservation, tariffs, Indian affairs, and the postal system. The issue of public lands was vital to Carter as a Westerner. He drafted the National Forestry bill of 1897 and was instrumental in furthering legislation to improve Yellowstone National Park and to establish Glacier National Park. While an advocate of some conservation measures, Carter fought for more liberal homestead legislation and generally favored getting the public domain into private hands as rapidly as possible. Although a staunch Republican, Carter opposed the Payne-Aldrich Tariff and succeeded in securing amendments in favor of the wool growers of Montana. Carter considered the Postal Savings Bank Act, adopted during the administration of William H. Taft, the most important legislation of his career.

The course of Montana politics in the first decades of statehood is represented in the collection by letters from constituents and local political leaders, which reveal both the issues and patronage in that state. Because Carter was a leading public figure in Montana, Theodore Roosevelt and William H. Taft consulted him in arranging their tours of that state in 1911. In addition to correspondence, there is a series of notebooks that record, in part, county voting by precinct in the Montana elections of 1898.

Prominent correspondents include Richard Achilles Ballinger, Edward W. Beattie, Joseph M. Dixon, Charles W. Fairbanks, James Rudolph Garfield, Benjamin Harrison, Oscar Monroe Lanstrum, Boies Penrose, Charles Nelson Pray, Theodore Roosevelt (1858-1919), Thomas Fortune Ryan, and William H. Taft.

Besides politics, Carter's primary interests were the Roman Catholic Church and various Irish-American societies. As a prominent layman in the church, Carter was particularly interested in Catholic missionary work among the Indians and in Catholic higher education. His service on the Advisory Board at Georgetown University is documented. Carter, of Irish ancestry, was an active member of the American Irish Historical Society and addressed this and other groups, extolling the virtues of the Irish and emphasizing their contribution to American history. Notes, speeches, and invitations relating to this avocation abound in the papers.

Carter's writings consist mainly of political speeches, many of which were delivered on the Fourth of July and at commencements in his state. There is also an unpublished manuscript describing his career as a public figure from Montana, beginning with the campaign of 1888 and ending with the Theodore Roosevelt administration.

The remainder of the collection consists of several biographical sketches, genealogical material, financial records, and printed matter.

Arrangement of the Papers

This collection is arranged in eight series:

- [Family Correspondence, 1883-1911](#)
- [General Correspondence, 1889-1917](#)
- [Speech, Article, and Book File, 1886-1911](#)
- [Montana County Election File, 1898](#)
- [Invitation File](#)
- [Financial File](#)
- [Miscellany](#)
- [Oversize, 1892-1897](#)

Description of Series

Container

BOX 1-5
REEL 1-4

Series

Family Correspondence, 1883-1911

Letters sent and letters received.
Arranged chronologically.

BOX 6-15
REEL 4-11

General Correspondence, 1889-1917

Letters received and copies of letters sent, memoranda, maps, telegrams, and clippings.
Arranged chronologically.

BOX 16-17
REEL 11-12

Speech, Article, and Book File, 1886-1911

Drafts of speeches, reprint of an article, drafts of congressional bills, and drafts of an unpublished book.
Arranged by type of writing and chronologically within the speeches.

BOX 18
BOX 12

Montana County Election File, 1898

Notebooks recording county votes precinct by precinct for each Montana county.
Arranged in numerical sequence. Notebooks for county numbers 13, 16, 18, and 20 are not in the collection.

BOX 19
REEL 13

Invitation File

Invitations and announcements.
Arranged by name of person.

BOX 20-21
REEL 13-15

Financial File

Accounts, bills, receipts, invoices, deeds, and ledger.
Arranged alphabetically by type of material.

BOX 22-25
REEL 15-16

Miscellany

Biographical and genealogical material, photographs, scrapbooks, and printed matter.
Arranged by type of material

BOX OV 1
REEL 16

Oversize, 1892-1897

Clippings and commissions.
Arranged according to the series container, and folders from which the material was removed.

Container List

Available on microfilm. Shelf no. 17,139

<i>Container</i>	<i>Contents</i>
BOX 1-5 REEL 1-4	Family Correspondence, 1883-1911 Letters sent and letters received. Arranged chronologically.
BOX 1 REEL 1	1883-1893 (12 folders)
BOX 2 REEL 1-2	1894-1897 (9 folders)
BOX 3 REEL 2	1898-1903 (11 folders)
BOX 4 REEL 3	1904-1908 (7 folders)
BOX 5 REEL 3-4	1909-1911 (6 folders)
BOX 5 REEL 3-4	Undated
BOX 5 REEL 3-4	Letters of condolence on Carter's death
BOX 6-15 REEL 4-11	General Correspondence, 1889-1917 Letters received and copies of letters sent, memoranda, maps, telegrams, and clippings. Arranged chronologically.
BOX 6 REEL 4-5	1889-1908 (8 folders)
BOX 7 REEL 5	1909
BOX 7 REEL 5	Jan.-Aug. (8 folders)
BOX 8 REEL 6	Sept.-Dec. (7 folders)
BOX 9 REEL 6-7	1910
BOX 9	Jan.-Mar.

General Correspondence, 1889-1917

Container

Contents

REEL 6-7

(6 folders)

BOX 10

Apr.-June

REEL 7-8

(7 folders)

BOX 11

July-Sept.

REEL 8

(6 folders)

BOX 12

Oct.-Nov.

REEL 9

(6 folders)

BOX 13

Dec.

REEL 9

(4 folders)

BOX 14

1911

REEL 10

BOX 14

Jan.-Mar.

REEL 10

(6 folders)

BOX 15

1911, Apr.-1917, Dec.

REEL 10-11

(9 folders)

BOX 15

Undated

REEL 10-11

BOX 16-17

Speech, Article, and Book File, 1886-1911

REEL 11-12

Drafts of speeches, reprint of an article, drafts of congressional bills, and drafts of an unpublished book.

Arranged by type of writing and chronologically within the speeches.

BOX 16

Article entitled "The Post Office as a Depository for Savings"

REEL 11

BOX 16

Draft of congressional bills

REEL 11

BOX 16

Draft of book on Carter, chapters 1-25

REEL 11

(3 folders)

BOX 16

Letter to the editor, Christian Endeavor World, circa 1911

REEL 11

BOX 16

Miscellaneous draft of book on Carter

REEL 11

BOX 16

Draft of book on Carter, 1888-1889

REEL 11

BOX 16

Speeches

REEL 11

BOX 16

1886-1903

REEL 11

BOX 16

Address, 1886, July 4

REEL 11

Speech, Article, and Book File, 1886-1911

Container

Contents

BOX 16 REEL 11	Dedication of Lewis and Clark County Court House, 1887
BOX 16 REEL 11	Welcome to representative of Pope Leo XIII, 1889
BOX 16 REEL 11	Memorial Day address, Elks Club, Helena, Mont., 1893
BOX 16 REEL 11	"Montana: Its Past, Present, and Future," 1897
BOX 16 REEL 11	Address at banquet for Marquis Hirobumi Ito of Japan, Seattle, Wash., 1901
BOX 16 REEL 11	Address, Montana Republican State Central Committee, 1902
BOX 16 REEL 11	Commencement address for medical class, St. Louis University, St. Louis, Mo., 1903, Apr. 25
BOX 16 REEL 11	Program, Louisiana Purchase Exposition, St. Louis, Mo., 1903, Apr. 30
BOX 16 REEL 11	Commencement address, Montana School of Mines, Butte, Mont., 1903, June
BOX 16 REEL 11	Address at banquet of Knights of St. Patrick, 1903
BOX 17 REEL 12	1904-1911
BOX 17 REEL 12	Address, stock growers convention, Miles City, Mont., 1904, Apr. 19
BOX 17 REEL 12	Commencement address, Montana Wesleyan University, Helena, Mont., 1905, May 24
BOX 17 REEL 12	Address of acceptance of senatorship, joint assembly of Montana, Helena, Mont., 1905
BOX 17 REEL 12	Address, Montana Theater, Brooklyn, N.Y., 1906, Mar. 11
BOX 17 REEL 12	Address, dedication of the cathedral, Helena, Mont., 1906
BOX 17 REEL 12	Address, opening of state campaign, Missoula, Mont., 1908, Sept. 24
BOX 17 REEL 12	Address, Anaconda, Mont., 1908, Oct. 7
BOX 17 REEL 12	Address, American Irish Historical Society, Washington, D.C., 1908
BOX 17 REEL 12	Campaign speech, Montana, circa 1908
BOX 17 BOX 12	Commencement address, National University Law School, Washington, D.C., 1909, June 6
BOX 17 BOX 12	Address, Dry Lands Farming Congress, Billings, Mont., 1909, Oct. 28
BOX 17 BOX 12	Address, Chamber of Commerce, Utica, N.Y., 1909
BOX 17 BOX 12	Address on tariff on wool, U.S. Senate, circa 1909
BOX 17 BOX 12	Address and notes on the tariff, circa 1909

Speech, Article, and Book File, 1886-1911

Container

Contents

BOX 17	Political address in Montana, circa 1909
BOX 12	
BOX 17	Public lands, circa 1909
BOX 12	
BOX 17	Address, University of Notre Dame, South Bend, Ind., circa 1910
BOX 12	
BOX 17	"The Facts concerning the Railroad Rate Bill," circa 1910
BOX 12	
BOX 17	Miscellaneous
BOX 12	
BOX 17	Speeches
BOX 12	
	(2 folders)
BOX 17	Writings
BOX 12	
BOX 17	Notes and lists
BOX 12	
BOX 17	Fragments
BOX 12	
BOX 18	Montana County Election File, 1898
BOX 12	
	Notebooks recording county votes precinct by precinct for each Montana county. Arranged in numerical sequence. Notebooks for county numbers 13, 16, 18, and 20 are not in the collection.
BOX 18	Cascade, no. 1
BOX 12	
BOX 18	Choteau, no. 2
BOX 12	
BOX 18	Valley, no. 3
BOX 12	
BOX 18	Flathead, no. 4
BOX 12	
BOX 18	Feton, no. 5
BOX 12	
BOX 18	Silver Bow, no. 6
BOX 12	
BOX 18	Sweet Grass, no. 7
BOX 12	
BOX 18	Yellowstone, no. 8
BOX 12	
BOX 18	Park, no. 9
BOX 12	
BOX 18	Dawson, no. 10
BOX 12	
BOX 18	Custer, no. 11
BOX 12	
BOX 18	Carbon, no. 12
BOX 12	

Montana County Election File, 1898

Container

Contents

BOX 18	Fergus, no. 14
BOX 12	
BOX 18	Missoula, no. 15
BOX 12	
BOX 18	Beaverhead, no. 17
BOX 12	
BOX 18	Madison, no. 19
BOX 12	
BOX 18	Ravalli, no. 21
BOX 12	
BOX 19	Invitation File
REEL 13	
	Invitations and announcements. Arranged by name of person.
BOX 19	Roosevelt, Theodore
REEL 13	
BOX 19	Taft, William H.
REEL 13	
BOX 19	Sherman, James Schoolcraft
REEL 13	
BOX 19	Miscellaneous
REEL 13	
	(3 folders)
BOX 20-21	Financial File
REEL 13-15	
	Accounts, bills, receipts, invoices, deeds, and ledger. Arranged alphabetically by type of material.
BOX 20	Bills and receipts
REEL 13-14	
	(10 folders)
BOX 21	Bills and receipts
REEL 14-15	
	(7 folders)
BOX 21	Ledger
REEL 14-15	
BOX 21	Deeds
REEL 14-15	
BOX 22-25	Miscellany
REEL 15-16	
	Biographical and genealogical material, photographs, scrapbooks, and printed matter. Arranged by type of material
BOX 22	Biographical material
REEL 15	
BOX 22	Genealogical material, Julia Anne Carter Lang, "Reminiscences"

Miscellany

Container

Contents

REEL 15	
BOX 22	Filing notes
REEL 15	
BOX 22	Photographs
REEL 15	
BOX 22	Blueprints and maps
REEL 15	
BOX 22	Pamphlets
REEL 15	
	(5 folders)
BOX 23	Scrapbooks
REEL 16	
BOX 23	Bound
REEL 16	
BOX 23	1908-1910
REEL 16	
BOX 23	1910
REEL 16	
BOX 23	Jan.-May
REEL 16	
BOX 24	Mar.-July
REEL 16	
BOX 24	June-July
REEL 16	
BOX 25	Unbound
REEL 16	
BOX 25	circa 1910
REEL 16	
BOX 25	Undated
REEL 16	
BOX 25	Clippings, 1897 <i>See Oversize</i>
REEL 16	
BOX 25	Commission, 1892 <i>See Oversize</i>
REEL 16	
BOX OV 1	Oversize, 1892-1897
REEL 16	
	Clippings and commissions. Arranged according to the series container, and folders from which the material was removed.
BOX OV 1	Clippings, 1897 (Container 25)
REEL 16	
BOX OV 1	Commission, 1892 (Container 25)
REEL 16	