

Alton B. Parker Papers

A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress

Prepared by Sevah R. Styper
Revised by Tammi Taylor



Manuscript Division, Library of Congress

Washington, D.C.

2012

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

Finding aid encoded by Library of Congress Manuscript Division, 2012

Finding aid URL: <http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms012174>

Collection Summary

Title: Alton B. Parker Papers

Span Dates: 1878-1937

Bulk Dates: (bulk 1904-1926)

ID No.: MSS35469

Creator: Parker, Alton B. (Alton Brooks), 1852-1926

Extent: 7,000 items ; 35 containers ; 14 linear feet

Language: Collection material in English

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

Abstract: Lawyer, judge, and Democratic Party presidential candidate. Correspondence, autobiographical and biographical studies, speeches, financial records, legal opinions, scrapbooks, invitations, printed material, and photographs primarily concerning the election campaign of 1904 and Parker's work with legal, civic, and philanthropic organizations.

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

Daniels, Josephus, 1862-1948--Correspondence.

Easley, Ralph M. (Ralph Montgomery), b. 1858--Correspondence.

Parker, Alton B. (Alton Brooks), 1852-1926.

Peckham, Rufus Wheeler, 1838-1909--Correspondence.

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

Organizations

Albany Law School.

American Bar Association.

American Committee for Armenian Independence.

Charity Organization Society of the City of New York. Committee on Criminal Courts.

Democratic Party (U.S.)

English-Speaking Union of the United States.

Lawyers' Club (New York, N.Y.)

National Civic Federation.

National Council of Religion in Higher Education.

New York State Bar Association.

Sulgrave Institution of the United States and of the British Commonwealth.

Thomas Jefferson Memorial Foundation, Inc.

Subjects

Charities.

Civic improvement--Societies, etc.

Elections--United States--1904.

Law--Societies, etc.

Presidents--United States--Election--1904.

Places

United States--Politics and government--1901-1909.

Occupations

Jurists.

Lawyers.

Administrative Information

Provenance

The papers of Alton B. Parker, lawyer, judge, and Democratic Party presidential candidate, were given to the Library of Congress by his widow, Amelia C. Parker, and his granddaughter, Mary H. Oxholm, in 1958. Additional items were acquired through gift and purchase, 1960-1971.

Processing History

The Alton B. Parker Papers were processed in 1960. Additions were made in 1979 and the collection was revised in 2009.

Additional Guides

The Parker Papers were described in the Library of Congress *Quarterly Journal of Current Acquisitions* 16 (May 1959): 147.

Copyright Status

Copyright in the unpublished writings of Alton B. Parker 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 Alton B. Parker 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, Alton B. Parker Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Biographical Note

<i>Date</i>	<i>Event</i>
1852, May 14	Born, Cortland, N. Y.
1873	LL.B., Albany Law School, Albany, N.Y.
1873	Married Mary Louise Schoonmaker (died 1917)
1885	Appointed justice, New York supreme court Chairman, New York Democratic State Committee
1897-1904	Appointed chief judge, New York Court of Appeals
1904	Democratic Party candidate for president of the United States
1907	Elected president, American Bar Association
1919	Dedicated home of George Washington's ancestors, Manchester, England
1923	Married Amelia Day Campbell
1926, May 10	Died, New York, N.Y.

Scope and Content Note

The papers of Alton Brooks Parker (1852-1926) span the years 1878-1937, with the bulk of the material from 1904 to 1926. The collection consists of correspondence, speeches, scrapbooks, clippings, printed matter, photographs, invitations, legal opinions, financial records, and autobiographical and biographical material. The papers are organized into seven series: [General Correspondence](#), [Speech File](#), [Autobiographical and Biographical File](#), [Miscellany](#), [Scrapbooks](#), [Clippings](#), and [Printed Matter](#).

The principal subjects are the presidential election of 1904 in which Parker ran as the candidate of the Democratic Party and his work from 1920 to 1926 with legal, civic, and philanthropic organizations. Material relating to the 1904 election is chiefly in the [Scrapbooks](#) and [Speech File](#) series. The [General Correspondence](#) series includes New York state and county Democratic committee correspondence for 1904.

[General Correspondence](#) between 1919 and 1926 features Parker's committee work, organizational connections, and family matters. He was an active member of the Sulgrave Institution of the United States and of the British Commonwealth, National Civic Federation, New York State Bar Association, American Bar Association, Thomas Jefferson Memorial Foundation Inc., Lawyers' Club (New York, N.Y.), English Speaking Union of the United States, Board of Trustees of the Albany Law School, Charity Organization Society of the City of New York Committee on Criminal Courts, Committee for Armenian Independence, and National Council of Religion in Higher Education.

Correspondents include Josephus Daniels, Ralph M. Easley, Rufus Wheeler Peckham, and William H. Taft.

Arrangement of the Papers

This collection is arranged in seven series:

- [General Correspondence, 1884-1926](#)
- [Speech File, 1898-1924](#)
- [Autobiographical and Biographical File, circa 1920-1937](#)
- [Miscellany, 1878-1926](#)
- [Scrapbooks, 1882-1926](#)
- [Clippings, 1892-1934](#)
- [Printed Matter, 1892-1926](#)

Description of Series

<i>Container</i>	<i>Series</i>
BOX 1-11	<p><u>General Correspondence, 1884-1926</u></p> <p>Letters sent and received. Arranged chronologically by year and therein alphabetically. Correspondence with New York county and state Democratic Party committees for 1904 is alphabetically arranged by county in a separate file at the end of the series.</p>
BOX 12-15	<p><u>Speech File, 1898-1924</u></p> <p>Bound and unbound manuscript and printed copies of speeches. Arranged chronologically.</p>
BOX 16	<p><u>Autobiographical and Biographical File, circa 1920-1937</u></p> <p>Typescript of an unpublished memoir by Parker and reminiscences by his daughter, with miscellaneous memoranda and notes. Arranged by type of material.</p>
BOX 17-20	<p><u>Miscellany, 1878-1926</u></p> <p>Invitations, legal documents, photographs, financial records, various committee reports, "Gold Telegram" of 1904, and other miscellany. Arranged by type of material and therein chronologically.</p>
BOX 21-30	<p><u>Scrapbooks, 1882-1926</u></p> <p>Newspaper clippings mounted in bound volumes. Arranged chronologically, with some years not represented.</p>
BOX 31-34	<p><u>Clippings, 1892-1934</u></p> <p>Newspaper clippings. Arranged chronologically</p>
BOX 35	<p><u>Printed Matter, 1892-1926</u></p> <p>Pamphlets, reprints of articles, and miscellaneous printed matter. Arranged chronologically.</p>

Container List

<i>Container</i>	<i>Contents</i>
BOX 1-11	General Correspondence, 1884-1926 Letters sent and received. Arranged chronologically by year and therein alphabetically. Correspondence with New York county and state Democratic Party committees for 1904 is alphabetically arranged by county in a separate file at the end of the series.
BOX 1	1884-1900, A-Z
BOX 1	1897
BOX 1	“A-Z” miscellaneous
BOX 1	Follett, .David L.
BOX 1	Follett, .David L.
BOX 1	Hill, David
BOX 1	Peckham, Rufus Wheeler
BOX 2	1901-1906, A-Z
BOX 2	1907
BOX 2	“A-K” miscellaneous
BOX 3	“L-Z” miscellaneous
BOX 3	Parker, George F.
BOX 3	Peckham, Rufus Wheeler
BOX 3	Sanborn, John B.
BOX 3	1908-1913
BOX 3	“A-Z” miscellaneous
BOX 3	Daniels, Josephus
BOX 3	Dix, John A.
BOX 3	Parker, Mary Louise
BOX 4	1914
BOX 4	“A-Z” miscellaneous
BOX 4	Hall, Parker
BOX 5	1920
BOX 5	“A-Z” miscellaneous
BOX 5	Hall, Betty
BOX 5	Hall, Mary
BOX 5	1921
BOX 5	“A-P” miscellaneous
BOX 5	Easley, Ralph M.
BOX 5	Betty Hall
BOX 5	Hall, Mary
BOX 5	Hall, Parker
BOX 6	“Q-Z” miscellaneous
BOX 6	Stewart, John A.
BOX 6	1922
BOX 6	“A-H” miscellaneous

General Correspondence, 1884-1926

Container

Contents

BOX 6	Battle, George
BOX 6	Bixby, George
BOX 6	Black, Henry C.
BOX 6	Clearwater, A. T.
BOX 6	Easily, Ralph M.
BOX 6	Gerrard, James W.
BOX 6	Hall, Parker
BOX 6	Hughes, Robert M., Jr.
BOX 7	“K-Z” miscellaneous
BOX 7	Kellogg, O. U.
BOX 7	Parker, George F.
BOX 7	Stewart, John A.
BOX 7	Thompson, T. Kennard
BOX 7	Wadhams, Frederick E.
BOX 7	1923
BOX 7	“A-E” miscellaneous
BOX 7	Beitler, Harold B.
BOX 7	Easily, Ralph M.
BOX 8	“F-Z” miscellaneous
BOX 8	Gramling, John C.
BOX 8	Hall, Parker
BOX 8	Johnson, Henry A.
BOX 8	Kemp, W. Thomas
BOX 8	Saner, R. E.
BOX 8	Stewart, John A.
BOX 8	Topkyan, H. H.
BOX 8	Wadhams, E. E.
BOX 9	1924
BOX 9	“A-Z” miscellaneous
BOX 9	Babbage, R. G.
BOX 9	Daniels, John
BOX 9	Davis, John W.
BOX 9	Easily, Ralph M.
BOX 9	Fiero, J. Newton
BOX 9	Hall, Parker
BOX 9	Moore, R. Walton
BOX 9	Parker, F. H.
BOX 9	Seymour, Origen
BOX 9	Stewart, John A.
BOX 9	Taft, William H.
BOX 9	Veiller, Lawrence
BOX 9	Taft, Horace
BOX 10	1925-1926
BOX 10	“A-Z” miscellaneous
BOX 10	Chapple, J. M.
BOX 10	Easily, Ralph M.

General Correspondence, 1884-1926

Container

Contents

BOX 10	Edwards, Richard H.
BOX 10	Hall, Parker
BOX 10	Parker, George F.
BOX 10	Stewart, John A.
BOX 10	Veiller, Lawrence
BOX 10	Undated
BOX 10	Incomplete letters
BOX 11	New York County Democratic Committee correspondence, 1904 (2 folders)
BOX 12-15	Speech File, 1898-1924 Bound and unbound manuscript and printed copies of speeches. Arranged chronologically.
BOX 12	1898-1907
BOX 13	1909-1913
BOX 14	1914-1924, undated
BOX 15	1900-1922 (bound vols.)
BOX 16	Autobiographical and Biographical File, circa 1920-1937 Typescript of an unpublished memoir by Parker and reminiscences by his daughter, with miscellaneous memoranda and notes. Arranged by type of material.
BOX 16	Alton B. Parker's "Memoirs"
BOX 16	Character studies by Parker
BOX 16	Autobiographical notes
BOX 16	Biographers' correspondence
BOX 16	"A-Z" miscellaneous
BOX 16	Hall, Charles Mercer
BOX 16	Loring, Arthur G.
BOX 16	National Americana Society
BOX 16	<i>National Cyclopaedia of American Biography</i>
BOX 16	Published biographical articles
BOX 16	Unpublished biographical articles
BOX 16	Biographical excerpts
BOX 16	Biographical notes
BOX 16	Biographical miscellany
BOX 16	Occasional reminiscences of Bertha Parker Hall
BOX 17-20	Miscellany, 1878-1926 Invitations, legal documents, photographs, financial records, various committee reports, "Gold Telegram" of 1904, and other miscellany. Arranged by type of material and therein chronologically.
BOX 17	Invitations
BOX 17	1895-1926
BOX 18	Undated

Miscellany, 1878-1926

Container

Contents

BOX 18	Digest of legal opinions by Parker
BOX 18	Court opinions, 1886-1887
BOX 18	Photographs
BOX 19	Financial ledgers, 1887 (2 vols.)
BOX 19	Financial bills and receipts, 1907-1924
BOX 20	Religious organization reports
BOX 20	Committee reports
BOX 20	Miscellaneous handwritten notes
BOX 20	"Gold Telegram"
BOX 20	General miscellany
BOX 21-30	Scrapbooks, 1882-1926 Newspaper clippings mounted in bound volumes. Arranged chronologically, with some years not represented.
BOX 21	1882-1902
BOX 22	1902-1904
BOX 23	1902, May -1904, July 1904
BOX 24	1904
BOX 24	July-Aug.
BOX 25	Aug.-Nov.
BOX 26	1906-1907
BOX 27	1908-1911
BOX 28	1913
BOX 29	1916
BOX 30	1919-1926
BOX 31-34	Clippings, 1892-1934 Newspaper clippings. Arranged chronologically
BOX 31	1892
BOX 31	1904
BOX 31	Mar.-Sept. (9 folders)
BOX 32	Oct.-Nov. (4 folders)
BOX 32	1905-1909
BOX 32	1910-1923
BOX 32	1924 (2 folders)
BOX 33	1925 (4 folders)
BOX 34	1926 (3 folders)
BOX 34	1927-1934

Clippings, 1892-1934

Container

Contents

BOX 34

Undated

BOX 35

Printed Matter, 1892-1926

Pamphlets, reprints of articles, and miscellaneous printed matter.
Arranged chronologically.

BOX 35

Pamphlets, reprints, and miscellany