Henry L. Dawes Papers

A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress

Prepared by Manuscript Division staff

Manuscript Division, Library of Congress

Washington, D.C.

2012

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Finding aid URL: http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms011203

Collection Summary

Title: Henry L. Dawes Papers
Span Dates: 1833-1933
Bulk Dates: bulk 1833-1903
ID No.: MSS17988
Creator: Dawes, Henry L. (Henry Laurens), 1816-1903
Extent: 22,000 items ; 64 containers plus 2 oversize ; 30 linear feet
Language: Collection material in English
Repository: Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.
Abstract: United States representative and senator from Massachusetts. Correspondence, memoranda, letterbooks, diaries, speeches, reports, notebooks, biographical material, family papers, photographs, citations, congressional commissions, scrapbooks, clippings, printed matter, and an incomplete biography of Dawes by his daughter, Anna Laurens Dawes. The collection documents mainly Dawes's career as a federal legislator and his work on issues relating to the American Indian, including his tenure as chairman of the Commission to the Five Civilized Tribes.

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
Abbott, Lyman, 1835-1922--Correspondence.
Adams, Charles Francis, 1807-1886--Correspondence.
Adams, Henry, 1838-1918--Correspondence.
Allen, Charles, 1827-1913--Correspondence.
Ames, Oakes, 1804-1873--Correspondence.
Ames, Oakes, 1804-1873.
Anthony, Susan B. (Susan Brownell), 1820-1906--Correspondence.
Ashmun, George, 1804-1870--Correspondence.
Bell, Alexander Graham, 1847-1922--Correspondence.
Blaine, James Gillespie, 1830-1893--Correspondence.
Blair, Montgomery, 1813-1883--Correspondence.
Bliss, Cornelius Newton, 1833-1911--Correspondence.
Booth, Maud Ballington, 1865-1948--Correspondence.
Bowles, Samuel, 1826-1878--Correspondence.
Bowman, Selwyn Zadock, 1840-1928--Correspondence.
Butler, Benjamin F. (Benjamin Franklin), 1795-1858--Correspondence.
Chaffee, Calvin Clifford, 1811-1896--Correspondence.
Chorpenning, George, 1820-1894--Claims vs. United States.
Claflin, William, 1818-1905--Correspondence.
Cleveland, Frances Folsom, 1864-1947--Correspondence.
Colfax, Schuyler, 1823-1885--Correspondence.
Dana, Richard Henry, 1815-1882--Correspondence.
Davis, Cushman Kellogg, 1838-1900--Correspondence.
Dawes family.
Dawes, Anna Laurens, 1851-1938. Anna Laurens Dawes papers.
Dawes, Electa Allen Sanderson, 1822-1901. Electa Allen Sanderson Dawes papers.
Dawes, Henry L. (Henry Laurens), 1816-1903.
Dodge, Grace H. (Grace Hoadley), 1856-1914--Correspondence.
Dwight, Theodore F.--Correspondence.
Eliot, Samuel A. (Samuel Atkins), 1862-1950--Correspondence.
Everett, Edward, 1794-1865--Correspondence.
Field, Cyrus W. (Cyrus West), 1819-1892--Correspondence.

Fletcher, Alice C. (Alice Cunningham), 1838-1923--Correspondence.
Foster, John Watson, 1836-1917--Correspondence.
Garfield, James A. (James Abram), 1831-1881--Correspondence.
Gilder, Richard Watson, 1844-1909--Correspondence.
Greet, Ben, Sir, 1857-1936--Autographs.
Hale, Edward Everett, Sr., 1822-1909--Correspondence.
Hawley, Joseph R. (Joseph Roswell), 1826-1905--Correspondence.
Hoar, George Frisbie, 1826-1904--Correspondence.
Hopkins, Mark, 1802-1887--Correspondence.
Houghton, Henry Oscar, 1823-1895--Correspondence.
Howard, O. O. (Oliver Otis), 1830-1909--Correspondence.
Howe, Julia Ward, 1819-1910--Correspondence.
Huntington, F. D. (Frederic Dan), 1819-1904--Correspondence.
Jewett, Sarah Orne, 1849-1909--Correspondence.
Lamar, L. Q. C. (Lucius Quintus Cincinnatus), 1825-1893--Correspondence.
Lincoln, Robert Todd, 1843-1926--Correspondence.
Lodge, Henry Cabot, 1850-1924--Correspondence.
Long, John Davis, 1838-1915--Correspondence.
Lowden, Frank O. (Frank Orren), 1861-1943--Correspondence.
McClellan, George Brinton, 1826-1885--Correspondence.
McClure, S. S. (Samuel Sidney), 1857-1949--Correspondence.
Miles, Nelson Appleton, 1839-1925--Correspondence.
Morgan, John Tyler, 1824-1907--Correspondence.
Morgan, T. J. (Thomas Jefferson), 1839-1902--Correspondence.
Morrill, Justin S. (Justin Smith), 1810-1898--Correspondence.
Newcomb, Simon, 1835-1909--Correspondence.
Noble, John W. (John Willcock), 1831-1912--Correspondence.
Palmer, Alice Freeman, 1855-1902--Correspondence.
Pinchot, Gifford, 1865-1946--Correspondence.
Platt, Orville Hitchcock, 1827-1905--Correspondence.
Porter, William P. (William Pitt), 1819-1873--Correspondence.
Pratt, Ella Farman, 1837-1907--Correspondence.
Ream, Vinnie, 1847-1914--Correspondence.
Robertson, Alice, 1854-1931--Correspondence.
Roosevelt, Theodore, 1858-1919--Correspondence.
Scidmore, Eliza Ruhamah, 1856-1928--Correspondence.
Sheridan, Philip Henry, 1831-1888--Correspondence.
Spooner, John C. (John Coit), 1843-1919--Correspondence.
Sumner, Charles, 1811-1874--Correspondence.
Taft, William H. (William Howard), 1857-1930--Correspondence.
Tarbell, Ida M. (Ida Minerva), 1857-1944--Correspondence.
Thayer, Lyman C. (Lyman Curtiss), 1821-1863--Correspondence.
Tinker, Edward R., 1822-1915--Correspondence.
Washburne, E. B. (Elihu Benjamin), 1816-1887--Correspondence.
Washington, Booker T., 1856-1915--Correspondence.
Welsh, Herbert, 1851-1941--Correspondence.
Winthrop, Robert C. (Robert Charles), 1809-1894--Correspondence.
Woolley, Mary Emma, 1863-1947--Correspondence.

Organizations
Credit Mobilier of America.
Gallaudet College.
United States. Commission to the Five Civilized Tribes.
United States. Congress. House.
United States. Congress. Senate.

United States. Congress. Senate. Committee on Indian Affairs.
United States. Weather Bureau.

Subjects
Civil service--United States.
Deaf--Education--Washington (D.C.)
Five Civilized Tribes--Government relations.
Indians of North America--Government relations.
Political campaigns--United States.
Political conventions--United States.
Railroads--United States.
Reconstruction (U.S. history, 1865-1877)
Tariff--United States.

Places
United States--Politics and government--1901-1909.
United States--Politics and government--19th century.

Occupations
Representatives, U.S. Congress--Massachusetts.
Senators, U.S. Congress--Massachusetts.

Administrative Information

Provenance

The papers of Henry L. Dawes, United States representative and senator from Massachusetts, were given to the Library of Congress in 1931 and 1932 by his daughter, Anna L. Dawes. Additional material was received from the estate of Anna L. Dawes between 1940-1944 and as a gift from the William R. Perkins Library, Duke University, in 1987.

Processing History

The papers of Henry L. Dawes were arranged and described in 1962. An addition of a letter from Dawes to S. D. Brooks, dated 1861, was interfiled in the General Correspondence in 1987. The finding aid was revised in 2012.

Additional Guides

Notes concerning the Henry L. Dawes Papers appeared in the *Report of the Librarian of Congress* (1931): 64; (1932): 43; and (1942): 110.

Copyright Status

Copyright in the unpublished writings of Henry L. Dawes 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 Henry L. Dawes 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, Henry L. Dawes Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Biographical Note

Date	*Event*
1816, Oct. 30	Born, Cummington, Mass.
1839	Graduated, Yale College, New Haven, Conn.
1842	Admitted to the Massachusetts bar and began practicing law in North Adams, Mass.
1848-1852	Member, Massachusetts House of Representatives
1850	Member, Massachusetts Senate
1853	Member, Massachusetts State Constitutional Convention
1853-1857	District attorney, Western District of Massachusetts
1857-1875	Member, United States House of Representatives
1875-1893	Member, United States Senate
1893-1903	Chairman, Commission to the Five Civilized Tribes in the Indian Territory
1903, Feb. 5	Died, Pittsfield, Mass.

Scope and Content Note

The papers of Henry Laurens Dawes (1816-1903) span the years 1833-1933, with the bulk of the material dating from 1833 to 1903. The collection documents primarily Dawes's service as a United States representative and United States senator from Massachusetts and his tenure as chairman of the Commission to the Five Civilized Tribes. The papers are in English and are organized into the following series: Family Papers, General Correspondence, Autograph Correspondence Collection, Letterbooks, Personal File, Biography File, Speeches, Indian Affairs, Miscellany, Scrapbooks, and Oversize.

The Family Papers consist mainly of Dawes's correspondence with other family members and his wife, Electa Allen Sanderson Dawes. Also included in these papers are diaries of Henry L. Dawes and those of his daughter, Anna Laurens Dawes, and Electa S. Dawes. This series also includes correspondence and other papers of Anna. An unfinished and unpublished manuscript of a biography of her father by Anna is in the Biography File.

Throughout Dawes's public career, he worked on issues relating to the American Indian, and this work is documented in his papers. Also reflected in the papers are his connections with Oakes Ames, a congressman; Credit Mobilier of America, a railroad construction company; the George Chorpenning claim case; and his involvement with the United States Weather Bureau, the tariff, and Gallaudet College in the District of Columbia.

Of special interest are the Speeches and Indian Affairs series. The former contain his early speeches and include reminiscences of his service in Congress and the federal government, sketches of prominent men, the civil service and tariffs, Reconstruction, Indian affairs, and political campaigns and conventions. The Indian Affairs series contains correspondence, copies of House and Senate bills and legislative documents, and pamphlets, newspaper clippings, and miscellaneous material relating to Dawes's concern with Indians, specifically in his role as a member of the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs and later as chairman of the Commission to the Five Civilized Tribes (also known as the Dawes Commission) in the Indian Territory.

Prominent among the correspondents in the papers are Lyman Abbott, Charles Allen, Oakes Ames, Montgomery Blair, Cornelius Newton Bliss, Samuel Bowles, Selwyn Zadock Bowman, Calvin Clifford Chaffee, William Claflin, Schuyler

Colfax, Cushman Kellogg Davis, Edward Everett, Joseph R. Hawley, George Frisbie Hoar, Henry Oscar Houghton, John Davis Long, S. S. McClure, Nelson Appleton Miles, John Tyler Morgan, T. J. Morgan, Justin S. Morrill, William P. Porter, Charles Sumner, Lyman C. Thayer, Edward R. Tinker, E. B. Washburne, and Herbert Welsh. Other correspondents include James Gillespie Blaine, Cyrus W. Field, James A. Garfield, Edward Everett Hale, Mark Hopkins, L. Q. C. Lamar, Robert Todd Lincoln, Henry Cabot Lodge, George Brinton McClellan, John W. Noble, Orville Hitchcock Platt, Theodore Roosevelt, Philip Henry Sheridan, John C. Spooner, and Ida M. Tarbell.

The Autograph Correspondence Collection includes letters to Dawes and Anna L. Dawes from Charles Francis Adams, Henry Adams, Susan B. Anthony, George Ashmun, Alexander Graham Bell, Maud Ballington Booth, Benjamin F. Butler, Frances Folsom Cleveland, Richard Henry Dana, Grace H. Dodge, Theodore F. Dwight, Samuel A. Eliot, Alice C. Fletcher, John Watson Foster, Richard Watson Gilder, Sir Ben Greet, Edward Everett Hale, George Frisbie Hoar, O. O. Howard, Julia Ward Howe, F. D. Huntington, Sarah Orne Jewett, Frank O. Lowden, S. S. McClure, Simon Newcomb, Alice Freeman Palmer, Gifford Pinchot, Ella Farman Pratt, Vinnie Ream, Alice Robertson, Eliza Ruhamah Scidmore, William H. Taft, Booker T. Washington, Robert C. Winthrop, and Mary Emma Woolley.

An addition to the collection, a letter of 1861 from Dawes to S. D. Brooks commenting on national politics, was interfiled in the General Correspondence, Container 18.

Arrangement of the Papers

This collection is arranged in eleven series:

- Family Papers, 1833-1931
- General Correspondence, 1833-1933
- Autograph Correspondence Collection, 1857-1929
- Letterbooks, 1848-1887
- Personal File, 1833-1903
- Biography File, 1906-1909
- Speeches, 1840-1901
- Indian Affairs, 1867-1929
- Miscellany, 1841-1929
- Scrapbooks, 1851-1903
- Oversize, 1832-1903

Description of Series

Container	*Series*
BOX 1-15	**Family Papers, 1833-1931** Diaries, correspondence, and photographs. Arranged by type of material or name of family member and chronologically therein.
BOX 16-31	**General Correspondence, 1833-1933** Letters sent and received. Arranged chronologically.
BOX 32	**Autograph Correspondence Collection, 1857-1929** Primarily letters to Anna Laurens Dawes and to Henry L. Dawes. Arranged chronologically with a list of names preceding the letters.
BOX 33-34	**Letterbooks, 1848-1887** Bound volumes of letters. Arranged chronologically with some overlapping of dates among letterbooks.
BOX 35-37	**Personal File, 1833-1903** Notebooks, biographical material, school papers, personal records, essays, material concerning the Credit Mobilier and George Chorpenning claim, and law cases. Arranged by type of material or subject and chronologically therein.
BOX 38-40	**Biography File, 1906-1909** Draft and notes of an unpublished biography of Henry L. Dawes by Anna Laurens Dawes. Arranged by chapter.
BOX 41-50	**Speeches, 1840-1901** Holograph, typescript, and printed copies of speeches. Arranged in three groups: chronological file, subject file, and congressional.
BOX 51-56	**Indian Affairs, 1867-1929** Correspondence, reports, memoranda, and related printed matter. Correspondence, reports, and memoranda are organized chronologically and printed matter by type of material.
BOX 57-60	**Miscellany, 1841-1929** Printed matter and clippings relating primarily to Dawes. Arranged chronologically.
BOX 61-64	**Scrapbooks, 1851-1903** Scrapbooks containing clippings, including obituaries of Dawes, and other material. Arranged chronologically by beginning date.
BOX OV 1-OV 2	**Oversize, 1832-1903** Commissions, citations, certificates, and a scrapbook. Arranged and described according to the series, containers, and folders from which the items were removed.

Container List

Container	*Contents*
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	Diaries, correspondence, and photographs.
	Arranged by type of material or name of family member and chronologically therein.
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BOX 1	Dawes, Electa S. (wife), 1871
BOX 1	Correspondence of Henry L. Dawes with other family members
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BOX 9	1897-1905
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BOX 10	1850-1925
BOX 11	1928-1931, undated
BOX 11	Photographs, 1876-1889
BOX 11	Diary of Henry L. Dawes, 1889
BOX 11	Correspondence of Henry L. Dawes with Electa S. Dawes
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BOX 16-31	**General Correspondence, 1833-1933**
	Letters sent and received.
	Arranged chronologically.
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BOX 18	1861-1863
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BOX 20	1870-1871
BOX 21	1872-1873
BOX 22	1873-1874
BOX 23	1875-1878
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Container	*Contents*
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BOX 30	1893-1897
BOX 31	1898-1933, undated
BOX 32	**Autograph Correspondence Collection, 1857-1929** Primarily letters to Anna Laurens Dawes and to Henry L. Dawes. Arranged chronologically with a list of names preceding the letters.
BOX 32	List of names
BOX 32	1857-1929
BOX 33-34	**Letterbooks, 1848-1887** Bound volumes of letters. Arranged chronologically with some overlapping of dates among letterbooks.
BOX 33	1852-1887
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BOX 35-37	**Personal File, 1833-1903** Notebooks, biographical material, school papers, personal records, essays, material concerning the Credit Mobilier and George Chorpenning claim, and law cases. Arranged by type of material or subject and chronologically therein.
BOX 35	Notebooks, 1839-1903
BOX 36	Biographical material
BOX 36	School papers, 1833-1841
BOX 36	Congressional commissions, citations, and certificates *See Oversize*
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BOX 37	Chorpenning, George, claim, 1867-1893
BOX 37	Law cases, 1862, 1881, undated
BOX 37	Miscellany
BOX 38-40	**Biography File, 1906-1909** Draft and notes of an unpublished biography of Henry L. Dawes by Anna Laurens Dawes. Arranged by chapter.
BOX 38	Chapters I-V
BOX 39	Chapters V-VIII
BOX 40	Notes
BOX 41-50	**Speeches, 1840-1901** Holograph, typescript, and printed copies of speeches. Arranged in three groups: chronological file, subject file, and congressional.
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BOX 44	Subject file
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	Correspondence, reports, memoranda, and related printed matter.
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BOX 55-56	Printed matter and miscellany, 1867-1929
BOX 57-60	**Miscellany, 1841-1929**
	Printed matter and clippings relating primarily to Dawes.
	Arranged chronologically.
BOX 57-60	1841-1929
BOX 61-64	**Scrapbooks, 1851-1903**
	Scrapbooks containing clippings, including obituaries of Dawes, and other material.
	Arranged chronologically by beginning date.
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BOX OV 1-OV 2	**Oversize, 1832-1903**
	Commissions, citations, certificates, and a scrapbook.
	Arranged and described according to the series, containers, and folders from which the items were removed.
BOX OV 1	Congressional commissions, citations, and certificates (Container 36)
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