James Rudolph Garfield Papers

A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress

Prepared by Kate Stewart
Revised by Nan Thompson Ernst

Manuscript Division, Library of Congress

Washington, D.C.

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Collection Summary

Title: James Rudolph Garfield Papers
Span Dates: 1879-1950
Bulk Dates: (bulk 1890-1932)
ID No.: MSS21964
Creator: Garfield, James Rudolph, 1865-1950
Extent: 70,000 items; 244 containers; 98 linear feet
Language: Collection material in English
Repository: Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.
Abstract: Attorney and secretary of the interior. Diaries, correspondence, family papers, legal documents, and business and political records relating primarily to Garfield's business concerns and public service.

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.

Personal Names
Baker, Newton Diehl, 1871-1937--Correspondence.
Bryce, James Bryce, Viscount, 1838-1922--Correspondence.
Coolidge, Calvin, 1872-1933--Correspondence.
Garfield, James A. (James Abram), 1831-1881--Family.
Garfield, James Rudolph, 1865-1950.
Harding, Warren G. (Warren Gamaliel), 1865-1923--Correspondence.
Howe, Frederic Clemson, 1867-1940.--Correspondence.
Hunt, Gaillard, 1862-1924--Correspondence.
Jusserand, J. J. (Jean Jules), 1855-1932--Correspondence.
Pinchot, Gifford, 1865-1946--Correspondence.
Roosevelt, Edith Kermit Carow, 1861-1948--Correspondence.
Roosevelt, Theodore, 1858-1919--Correspondence.
Rowe, L. S. (Leo Stanton), 1871-1946--Correspondence.
Wilson, Woodrow, 1856-1924--Correspondence.
Wood, Leonard, 1860-1927--Correspondence.

Organizations
Academy of Political Science (U.S.)
National Conservation Association (U.S.)
Ohio. General Assembly. Senate.
Progressive Party (1912)
Republican Party (U.S. : 1854-)
Roosevelt Memorial Association.
United States Civil Service Commission.
United States. Bureau of Corporations.
United States. Dept. of Commerce and Labor.
United States. Dept. of the Interior.

Locations
Cleveland (Ohio)--Social life and customs.
Mentor (Ohio)--Social life and customs.
Ohio--Politics and government.
United States--Politics and government.

Related Names
Garfield, Helen Newell, 1866-1930. Helen Newell Garfield papers.
Garfield, James A. (James Abram), 1831-1881. James A. Garfield papers.
Garfield, Lucretia Rudolph, 1832-1918. Lucretia Rudolph Garfield papers.

Occupations
Cabinet officers.
Conservationists.
Lawyers.

Administrative Information

Provenance:

The papers of James Rudolph Garfield, attorney, businessman, politician, conservationist, and secretary of the interior, were received by the Library of Congress in 1953 and were made a gift in 1958 by his heirs, James Abram Garfield, Newell Garfield, Mrs. John N. Garfield, and Mrs. Rudolph Hills Garfield. Subsequent additions have been made by members of the family. A considerable amount of material, including the papers of Mrs. James R. Garfield, was received in 1960. Material received after 1970 was added to the papers in 1997.

Processing History:

The papers of James Rudolph Garfield were arranged and described in 1966. Additional material received after 1970 was incorporated into the papers in 1997.

Copyright Status:

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

Biographical Note

Date	*Event*
1865, Oct. 17	Born, Hiram, Ohio
1879-1880	Student at St. Paul's School, Concord, N.H.
1881, July 2	In presidential party when his father was assassinated
1885	Graduated, Williams College, Williamstown, Mass.
1886-1888	Studied law, Columbia University, New York, N.Y.

1888	Established law firm of Garfield and Garfield with other brother, Harry A. Garfield, in Cleveland, Ohio
1890	Married Helen Newell (died 1930)
1896-1899	Member of Ohio state senate
1902-1903	Commissioner, United States Civil Service Commission
1902-1909	Member, President Theodore Roosevelt's “Tennis Cabinet”
1903-1907	Commissioner of Corporations, United States Department of Commerce and Labor
1904-1907	Investigated meat packing industry, petroleum industry, steel industry and railroads
1907-1909	Secretary of the Interior
1909	Returned to law practice and business ventures
1914	Unsuccessful Progressive Party candidate for lieutenant governor of Ohio
1932	Active in drafting platform for Republican national convention
1950, Mar. 24	Died, Clevelend, Ohio

Scope and Content Note

The papers of James Rudolph Garfield (1865-1950) span the years 1879-1950 with the bulk of the material dating from 1890 to 1932. The collection includes a series of diaries, 1880-1948, family papers, general and special correspondence, subject and office files, legal and political papers, business records, and the papers of Garfield's wife, Helen Newell Garfield. It reflects Garfield's business concerns as well as his public service as a member of the United States Civil Service Commission, 1902-1903, commissioner of corporations in the Department of Commerce and Labor, 1903-1907, and secretary of the interior, 1907-1909. Other aspects of Garfield's life documented in the collection include his involvement in the civic and cultural development of Cleveland and Mentor, Ohio, and his association with such organizations as the Roosevelt Memorial Association, the Academy of Political Science, and the National Conservation Association. Business interests in Mexico are recorded in numerous comments in his diaries and in letters on the politics of that country. The papers include correspondence and other material about his father, James A. Garfield (1831-1881), twentieth president of the United States.

Garfield's interest in politics from the time of his election to the Ohio senate in 1896, his only elective office, to his term as chairman of the platform committee for the Republican national convention in 1932 is documented throughout the collection. Although material on the Progressive movement, in which Garfield played a significant part, includes correspondence and speeches, his role is not well documented in his papers. Other series with significant gaps include the Office Files, a numbered series for which there are more than two hundred index cards but only about fifty numbered files of corresponding material. The index cards form a separate series in the collection.

Some of Garfield's frequent correspondents were Newton Diehl Baker, Walter F. Brown, James Bryce, Calvin Coolidge, Warren G. Harding, Frederic Clemson Howe, Gaillard Hunt, J. J. Jusserand, Gifford Pinchot, Edith Kermit Carow Roosevelt, Theodore Roosevelt, L. S. Rowe, Woodrow Wilson, and Leonard Wood.

Helen Newell Garfield's papers document the life of a socially prominent wife of a government official and active politician and businessman. They reflect her interest in religious and civic organizations, especially the Episcopal church, her work with the deaf, and war relief for French orphans of World War I.

Papers in the Addition include letters from Garfield to his wife, 1904, 1914, and 1921; general correspondence, 1895-1896, 1938; and newspaper clippings, 1932, 1946.

Separated Material

Family letters seen by James A. Garfield (1831-1881), father of James Randolph Garfield and twentieth president of the United States, have been transferred and indexed with his papers.

Related Material

Related papers can also be found in the papers of James Randolph Garfield's mother, Lucretia R. Garfield , and brother, Harry A. Garfield , whose collection includes letterbooks of their joint law firm, Garfield and Garfield and successor firms, 1892-1911

Organization of the Papers

The collection is arranged in thirteen series:

- Diaries, 1880-1948
- Family Papers, 1864-1931, n.d.
- General Correspondence, 1879-1942
- Special Correspondence, 1880-1936, n.d.
- Office Files, 1902-1911, n.d.
- Speeches, 1894-1944
- Subject File, 1893-1949
- Political File, 1892-1936, n.d.
- Legal File, 1898-1928
- Miscellany, 1881-1950
- Helen Newell Garfield Papers, 1878-1930, n.d.
- Index to Office Files, n.d.
- Addition, 1895-1948

Description of Series

Container	*Series*
BOX 1-21	Diaries, 1880-1948 Arranged chronologically. Loose material has been placed in folders in the container with the diary from which it was removed.
BOX 22-71	Family Papers, 1864-1931, n.d.
BOX 22-32	Lucretia R. Garfield Correspondence, 1881-1918, n.d. Correspondence with James R. Garfield, his wife and their children. Arranged chronologically.
BOX 33-46	Helen Newell Garfield Correspondence, 1890-1930, n.d. Correspondence between Garfield and his wife. Arranged chronologically.
BOX 47-71	Other Family Correspondence, 1864-1931, n.d. Correspondence among the Garfield and Newell families. Arranged chronologically.
BOX 72-108	General Correspondence, 1879-1942 Letters sent and received. Arranged chronologically.
BOX 109-122	Special Correspondence, 1880-1936, n.d. Letters sent and received. Arranged alphabetically by name of correspondent and chronologically thereunder.
BOX 123-128	Office Files, 1902-1911, n.d. Portion of a numerical file kept by clerks in Garfield's office. Arranged by assigned folder number. See also index filed separately.
BOX 129-133	Speeches, 1894-1944 Handwritten and typewritten drafts with notes and a few printed copies of speeches and other writings. Arranged alphabetically by title, subject, or place the speech was given.
BOX 134-154	Subject File, 1893-1949 Correspondence and related papers. Arranged alphabetically by subject
BOX 155-169a	Political File, 1892-1936, n.d. Correspondence, drafts, notes, and printed matter. Arranged chronologically by year and thereunder alphabetically by subject.
BOX 170-182	Legal File, 1898-1928 Correspondence and legal documents of the law firm Garfield and Garfield and successor firms.

Arranged alphabetically by subject or case name.

BOX 183-200 Miscellany, 1881-1950

Condolence messages, biographical file, memorabilia, scrapbooks, and financial papers.

Arranged by type of material.

BOX 201-237 Helen Newell Garfield Papers, 1878-1930, n.d.

Diaries, correspondence, speeches, school records, photographs, newspaper clippings, and genealogical recores.

Arranged chronologically or by type of document.

BOX 238-243 Index to Office Files, n.d.

Alphabetical card index to numerical file in the Office Files series.

BOX 244 Addition, 1895-1948

Family and general correspondence and miscellaneous newspaper clippings.

Arranged by type of material.

Container List

Container	*Contents*
BOX 1-21	Diaries, 1880-1948
	Arranged chronologically. Loose material has been placed in folders in the container with the diary from which it was removed.
BOX 1	Volume 1-5, 1880-1886
BOX 2	Volume 6-10, 1887-1891
BOX 3	Volume 11-12, 1892-1894
BOX 4	Volume 13-15, 1895-1897
BOX 5	Volume 16-18, 1898-1900
BOX 6	Volume 19-21, 1901-1903
BOX 7	Volume 22-24, 1904-1906
BOX 8	Volume 25-27, 1907-1909
BOX 9	Volume 28-30, 1910-1912
BOX 10	Volume 31-33, 1913-1915
BOX 11	Volume 34-36, 1916-1918
BOX 12	Volume 37-39, 1919-1921
BOX 13	Volume 40-42, 1922-1924
BOX 14	Volume 43-45, 1925-1927
BOX 15	Volume 46-48, 1928-1930
BOX 16	Volume 29-51, 1931-1933
BOX 17	Volume 52-54, 1934-1936
BOX 18	Volume 55-57, 1937-1939
BOX 19	Volume 58-60, 1940-1942
BOX 20	Volume 61-63, 1943-1945
BOX 21	Volume 64-66, 1946-1948
BOX 22-71	Family Papers, 1864-1931, n.d.
BOX 22-32	Lucretia R. Garfield Correspondence, 1881-1918, n.d.
	Correspondence with James R. Garfield, his wife and their children. Arranged chronologically.
BOX 22	Sept. 1881-Dec. 1885
BOX 23	Jan. 1886-Mar. 1891
BOX 24	Apr. 1891-Dec. 1893
BOX 25	1894-1898
BOX 26	1899-1901
BOX 27	1902-1904
BOX 28	1905-1907
BOX 29	1908-1910
BOX 30	Jan. 1911-Mar. 1913
BOX 31	Apr. 1913-Dec. 1915

Container	*Contents*
BOX 32	1916-1918, n.d.
BOX 33-46	Helen Newell Garfield Correspondence, 1890-1930, n.d. Correspondence between Garfield and his wife. Arranged chronologically.
BOX 33	Jan. 1, 1890-May 15,1894
BOX 34	May 16, 1894-June 30, 1896
BOX 35	Aug. 1896-Feb. 1898
BOX 36	Mar. 1, 1898-Mar. 12, 1901
BOX 37	Mar. 13, 1901-Sept. 7, 1902
BOX 38	Sept. 8, 1902-Nov. 19, 1903
BOX 39	Feb. 19, 1904-July 5, 1905
BOX 40	July 6, 1905-July 30, 1906
BOX 41	Sept. 18, 1906-Mar. 31, 1909
BOX 42	Apr. 1, 1909-Dec. 20, 1911
BOX 43	Jan. 4, 1912-Dec. 6, 1915
BOX 44	Jan. 31, 1916-Nov. 23, 1921
BOX 45	Jan. 8, 1922-Aug. 28, 1930
BOX 46	Undated
BOX 47-71	Other Family Correspondence, 1864-1931, n.d. Correspondence among the Garfield and Newell families. Arranged chronologically.
BOX 47	1864-1884
BOX 48	Jan. 1885-June 1888
BOX 49	July 1888-Aug. 1894
BOX 50	Nov. 1894-Dec. 1900
BOX 51	1910-1906
BOX 52	Jan. 1907-Apr. 1910
BOX 53	May 1910-Dec. 1911
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BOX 55	1914-1915
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BOX 58	1919-1921
BOX 59	1922-1926
BOX 60	1927-1931
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BOX 62	Undated
BOX 63	Undated
BOX 64	Undated
BOX 65	Undated
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BOX 68	Undated

Container	*Contents*
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BOX 70	Undated
BOX 71	Undated
BOX 72-108	General Correspondence, 1879-1942 Letters sent and received. Arranged chronologically.
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BOX 76	Mar. 22-Apr. 30, 1896
BOX 77	May-Dec. 1896
BOX 78	Jan.1-Oct. 14, 1897
BOX 79	Oct. 15, 1897-Feb. 18, 1898
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BOX 81	Apr.-July 1898
BOX 82	Aug. 1898-Feb. 1899
BOX 83	Mar. 2-Oct. 31, 1899
BOX 84	Nov. 1899-May 1900
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BOX 89	Jan.-July 1911
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BOX 91	Feb.-May 1912
BOX 92	June-Oct. 1912
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BOX 100	Nov. 1917-Sept. 1918
BOX 101	Oct. 1918-Aug. 1919
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BOX 105	June 1922-June 1923
BOX 106	July 1923-Apr. 1924
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Container	*Contents*
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BOX 109-122	Special Correspondence, 1880-1936, n.d. Letters sent and received. Arranged alphabetically by name of correspondent and chronologically thereunder.
BOX 109	Adriance, Harris E., 1886-1892
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	Baldwin, Arthur D., 1911-1925
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	Bryan, William Jennings, 1913
	Bryce, James Bryce, Viscount, 1911-1926
	Bulkley, Robert J., 1912-1914
	Burton, Theodore, E., 1912-1913
	Cable and Cable, Lima, Ohio, 1914-1925
	Carter, Franklin, 1887-1906
	Casement, Dan D., 1905-1919
	Chandler, F.M., 1904-1908
	Chentung Tiang-Cheng, 1904-1908
	Churchill, Winston (1871-1947), 1912
BOX 110	Cooley, Alford W., 1911-1912
	Coolidge, Calvin, 1919-1925
	Cortissoz, Royal, 1914-1915
	Croly, Herbert, 1910
	Curry, George, 1907-1909
	Dalby, Z. Lewis, 1903-1910
	Dawes, Charles G., 1902, 1924
	Evans, Mary, 1902-1909
	Folger Shakespeare Library, Washington, D.C., 1934
	Foulke, William Dudley, 1902-1910
	Frear, W. F., 1909-1910
	Gallaudet, Edward M., 1902-1908
	Garfield, A. H., 1905-1910
	Garfield, A. S., 1904-1905
	Garfield, Abram, 1896-1925
	Garfield, Edward W., 1917-1925
	Garfield, George A., 1906
BOX 111	Garfield Harry A., 1895-1926
BOX 112	Garfield, Helen Newell (correspondence with secretaries), 1903-1910
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	Garfield, James, 1906-1910
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	Harber, Giles B., 1880-1918
	Harding, Warren G., 1920-1922
	Hawkes, William H., 1881-1888
	Hay, Clara S., 1907-1908
	Henry, Charles E., 1904-1905
	Henry, Frederick A., 1902-1910
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	Lambert, Richard S., 1911-1914
	Lane, Franklin K., 1913-1918
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	MacGregor, John, Jr., 1918-1921
	Manning Robert A., 1911
	Matz, Rudolph, 1911-1918
	McAdoo, William G., 1913
	McCoy, Frank R., 1913-1914
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	Newell, Ashbel B., 1911-1925
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	Taft, Horace D., 1907-1921
	Taft, William H., 1897, 1908
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	Wallace, Henry and Henry C., 1911-1917
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	White, William Allen, 1912-1917
	Wilson, Francis, 1914-1926
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BOX 123-128 Office Files, 1902-1911, n.d.

Portion of a numerical file kept by clerks in Garfield's office.
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	1-2	Partisan activity and political assessments, 1902-1905
	1-3	Post Office Department, 1903
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	1-6	Civil Service (Kate Masterson), 1904

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	2-1	Correspondence, statement of client, 1905
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	Library of Congress	
	3-1	Municipal Affairs, 1903
	3-2	Union labor, 1903
	3-3	Military pensions, 1904
	3-4	Miscellaneous subjects, Henry A. Garfield, 1903
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	4-2	A. Ward Fenton, 1903-1904
	4-3	Cleveland Electric Railway Co., 1903
	4-4	Cleveland federal building, 1904-1905
	4-5	Federal appointments in Cleveland, 1904
	5-1	"The Democratic Party and Public Opinion," speech, 1879
	5-2	Republican campaign speeches, 1904
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	5-4	History of the Bureau of Corporations, 1904
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	5-5	Trust speeches and administrative policy (Roosevelt Administration)
	5-6	Political clippings, 1904
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	5-10	Political campaign, 1908
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BOX 126	Political, Maryland, Massachusetts, Virginia, 1908	
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	6	Cooley, Lyman E., Lake Level Commission, 1903
	7	National banks, certificates of organization, n.d.
	8	Reardon, Joseph, correspondence and memoranda, 1904-1905
	9	International arbitration treaties, 1905
	10	Steamship line between U. S. and Italy, 1905

Container	*Contents*	
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	12	American national Red Cross, 1905-1908
	13	Wireless telegraphy, 1907
	14	Injunctions and restraining orders, 1903-1906
	15	Investigating commissions, 1904
	16	Power of appointment, 1904
	17	Trust question, P. S. Grosscup, 1902
	18	Harris and Funk, privates in the Marine Corps, 1902
	19	Bristow's report, 1903
	20	Consular reform, reports and correspondence, 1902
	21	Annual reports, memoranda, 1903
	22	Labor unions, 1902-1903
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	23	Custom duties, bonded goods, cigarettes, books, 1903-1904
	24	Wales Island Packing Co., 1904
	25	Rubber industry, 1904
	26	Ship subsidy, American Merchant Marine, 1904
	27	Pension matter, 1902
	28	Western Federation of Miners, 1904
	29	Interstate Commerce Commission investigation, 1907-1909
	30	Claim of James Rudolph Garfield, 1905
	31	“Honestly Conducted Elections Directly by the People,” report by Thomas D. Ingram, n.d.
	32	Government telegraphers, 1906
	33	National Departmento f Health, 1906-1908
	34	Government Printing Office, 1905-1908
	35	Roosevelt, Theodore, letter, 1904
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	37	Colgate, Sarah R., will, 1906
	38	Forest Service, 1907
	39	U. S. vs. Standard Oil Co., n.d.
	40	(not received)
	41	National incorporation, 1907
	42	Inheritance tax, 1907
	43	Proposed Treasury order to all depository banks, 1908
	44	Parcel post, 1908
	45	Amendment to the Sherman Law, 1908
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	47	Employers' liability, 1908
	48	Issue of securities by transportation companies, 1908
	49	(not received)
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	51	Moseley investigation, 1908

Container	*Contents*
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	53 North American Conservation Conference, 1909
	Memorandum given to Walter L. Fisher, 1911
BOX 129-133	Speeches, 1894-1944
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	Arranged alphabetically by title, subject, or place the speech was given.
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BOX 131	Per-Rel, 1896-1937
BOX 132	Rel-You, 1897-1944
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	Alpha Delta Phi, 1920-1925
	American Express Co., 1919-1921
	American Red Cross, 1918-1919
	Associated Charities, 1914-1924
	Board of Education, Cleveland, Ohio, 1913-1917
	Bureau of Reclamation, annual reports, 1901-1914
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	Cleveland Automobile Club, 1919-1922
	Cleveland Bar Association, 1911-1925
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	Court of *Nisi Prius*, 1911-1925

Container	*Contents*
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	1902
BOX 143	1907-1924
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	Equitable Life Assurance Society, 1912-1925
BOX 145	General Committee on Conditions of Streets, 1914
	Goodrich Social Settlement, 1912-1922
	Hospital survey, 1919-1920
	Jefferson Coal Co., 1912-1925
	Legal Aid Society of Cleveland, 1909-1915
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	Mentor Telephone Co., 1911, 1926
	Mentor Village Library, Mentor, Ohio, 1912-1917
	Mexican and Ohio business interests
	1893
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