

William R. Day Papers

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Prepared by Edward William Johnson

Collection Summary

Title: William R. Day Papers

Span Dates: 1820-1923

Bulk Dates: (bulk 1897-1917)

ID No.: MSS18028

Creator: Day, William R. (William Rufus), 1849-1923

Extent: 15,000 items ; 40 containers ; 16 linear feet

Language: Collection material in English

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

Summary: Lawyer, U. S. secretary of state, U. S. supreme court justice, and U.S. Court of Appeals judge. Correspondence, memoranda, financial papers, scrapbooks, reports, minutes, newspaper clippings, and printed matter relating chiefly to personal matters but also touching on foreign affairs, political patronage requests, legal matters, Day's relationship with William McKinley, and his activities as secretary of state, Supreme Court justice, and president of the McKinley National Memorial Association.

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

Barton, Clara, 1821-1912--Correspondence.
Cortelyou, George B. (George Bruce), 1862-1940--Correspondence.
Day, William R. (William Rufus), 1849-1923.
Fairbanks, Charles W. (Charles Warren), 1852-1918--Correspondence.
Hanna, Marcus Alonzo, 1837-1904--Correspondence.
Harding, Warren G. (Warren Gamaliel), 1865-1923--Correspondence.
Hay, John, 1838-1905--Correspondence.
Hearst, William Randolph, 1863-1951--Correspondence.
Hughes, Charles Evans, 1862-1948--Correspondence.
Lodge, Henry Cabot, 1850-1924--Correspondence.
McKinley, William, 1843-1901--Correspondence.
McKinley, William, 1843-1901.
Porter, John Addison, 1856-1900--Correspondence.
Roosevelt, Theodore, 1858-1919--Correspondence.
Root, Elihu, 1845-1937--Correspondence.
Salisbury, Robert Cecil, Marquess of, 1830-1903--Correspondence.
Taft, William H. (William Howard), 1857-1930--Correspondence.
Tumulty, Joseph P. (Joseph Patrick), 1879-1954--Correspondence.
Van Devanter, Willis, 1859-1941--Correspondence.

Organizations

McKinley National Memorial Association.
Republican Party (U.S. : 1854-)
United States. Court of Appeals (6th Circuit)
United States. Department of State.
United States. Supreme Court.

Subjects

Constitutional law--United States.
Law--United States.
Patronage, Political--United States.

Places

Spain--Foreign relations--United States.
United States--Foreign relations--1897-1901.
United States--Foreign relations--Spain.
United States--Politics and government--1865-1933.

Occupations

Cabinet officers.
Jurists.
Lawyers.

Administrative Information

Provenance

The papers of William R. Day, lawyer, U.S. secretary of state, U.S. Supreme Court justice, and U.S. Court of Appeals judge, were deposited in the Library of Congress in 1960 by Luther Day and Rufus S. Day, sons of William R. Day.

Processing History

The papers of William R. Day were arranged and described in 1969, and the finding aid was revised in 2011.

Copyright Status

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

Access and Restrictions

The papers of William R. Day 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, William R. Day Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Biographical Note

<i>Date</i>	<i>Event</i>
1849, Apr. 17	Born, Ravenna, Ohio
1870	B.A., University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Mich.
1870-1871	Read law, Ravenna, Ohio
1871-1872	Studied law, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Mich.
1872	Admitted to bar of Ohio Began law practice, Canton, Ohio
1875	Married Mary Elizabeth Schaefer (died 1912)
1886	Elected judge of the court of common pleas, Ohio
1889	Appointed United States district judge for northern Ohio; resigned before taking office because of ill health

1893	One of a group that extracted William McKinley from financial embarrassment
1897	Appointed first assistant to Secretary of State John Sherman
1898	Appointed and resigned as secretary of state
1898-1899	Served with commission appointed to make peace with Spain
1899-1903	Judge, United States Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit
1903-1922	Associate justice, United States Supreme Court
1922-1923	Umpire in Mixed Claims Commission chosen to pass upon claims of American citizens against Germany
1923, July 9	Died, Mackinac Island, Mich.

Scope and Content Note

The papers of William Rufus Day span the years 1820-1923, with the bulk of the material between the years 1897-1917. The papers are in English and are organized into the following series: [Letterpress Books](#), [General Correspondence](#), [Subject File](#), [Scrapbooks](#), and [Bills and Receipts](#). An 1820 letter written by Day's maternal grandfather Rufus D. Spalding is the only item dated earlier than 1897. Correspondence is especially heavy for the years 1897-1901, the period covering the presidency of William McKinley and including Day's service in the State Department.

Many of the papers are of a personal or routine nature, but also include legal briefs, political patronage requests, foreign affairs material, and papers dealing with the McKinley National Memorial Association, of which Day was president. The [General Correspondence](#) is comprised chiefly of incoming correspondence, a few interfiled copies of outgoing letters, and a small group of press copies of outgoing correspondence for the years 1903-1904. Also included in the [General Correspondence](#) are items relating to Day's activities as a federal judge, as a Supreme Court justice, his service with the State Department, and his affiliation with the Republican Party. Correspondents include Clara Barton; Robert Cecil, Marquess of Salisbury; George B. Cortelyou; Charles W. Fairbanks; Marcus Alonzo Hanna; Warren G. Harding; John Hay; William Randolph Hearst; Charles Evans Hughes; Henry Cabot Lodge; William McKinley; John Addison Porter; Theodore Roosevelt; Elihu Root; William H. Taft; Joseph P. Tumulty; and Willis Van Devanter.

Day's close ties with McKinley are reflected in the correspondence through 1901, in the [Subject File](#) and in the [Scrapbooks](#). The [Subject File](#) also relates to Day's service as a consular, his tenure with the State Department, the funeral of William McKinley, and diplomatic issues with Spain from 1897-1898. The [Subject File](#), however, contains little material relating to his time as an associate justice of the Supreme Court. A scrapbook, 1900-1919, in the [Scrapbook](#) series contains clippings about Day and addresses by him. A second scrapbook consists of photographs relating chiefly to William McKinley and Washington, D.C.

Items in the [Bills and Receipts](#) series are routine, although they offer rather extensive documentation of Day's personal financial affairs. There is also little material in the collection relating to Day's service as an umpire for the Mixed Claims Commission established to pass upon claims of American citizens against Germany, 1922-1923.

Arrangement of the Papers

This collection is arranged in five series:

- [Letterpress Books, 1899-1917](#)
- [General Correspondence, 1820-1923](#)
- [Subject File, 1897-1901](#)

- Scrapbooks, 1900-1919
- Bills and Receipts, 1903-1923

Description of Series

Container

Series

BOX 1-4

Letterpress Books, 1899-1917

Letterpress volumes containing copies of outgoing official, personal, and miscellaneous correspondence.

Arranged chronologically according to beginning date of volume and indexed.

BOX 5-34

General Correspondence, 1820-1923

Letters received and a few copies of letters sent relating mainly to personal and family matters.

The correspondence provides insight about Day's activities as a federal judge, a Supreme Court justice, secretary of state, and his affiliation with the Republican Party.

Arranged chronologically and therein alphabetically by name of person, organization, or topic.

BOX 35

Subject File, 1897-1901

Correspondence, reports, memoranda, minutes, newspaper clippings, printed material, and other material pertaining chiefly to consular and State Department matters and foreign affairs.

Arranged alphabetically by topic or type of material and therein chronologically.

BOX 36

Scrapbooks, 1900-1919

Scrapbooks consisting chiefly of newspaper clippings about Day and addresses by him and photographs relating primarily to William McKinley and Washington, D.C.

Arranged alphabetically by type of material.

BOX 37-40

Bills and Receipts, 1903-1923

Bills, receipts, certificates, pay vouchers, and other personal financial material relating to Day.

Arranged chronologically, although some items at the end of the series are unsorted.

Container List

<i>Container</i>	<i>Contents</i>
BOX 1-4	Letterpress Books, 1899-1917 Letterpress volumes containing copies of outgoing official, personal, and miscellaneous correspondence. Arranged chronologically according to beginning date of volume and indexed.
BOX 1	Official letterbook, 1899, Oct.-1901, Mar.
BOX 1	Personal letterbook
BOX 1	Vol. 1, 1899, Oct.-1900, Dec.
BOX 1	Vol. 2, 1900, Dec.-1901, Oct.
BOX 2	Letters
BOX 2	1901, Dec.-1903, June
BOX 2	1902, Dec. 2-1913, Sept. 27
BOX 2	1903, Dec.-1907, Oct.
BOX 2	1906, July
BOX 3	Personal letterbook, 1904, Oct.-1910, Apr.
BOX 3	Letters
BOX 3	1910, Apr.-1914, June 8
BOX 4	1914, Oct.-1917, Jan.
BOX 4	1917, Jan.-June
BOX 5-34	General Correspondence, 1820-1923 Letters received and a few copies of letters sent relating mainly to personal and family matters. The correspondence provides insight about Day's activities as a federal judge, a Supreme Court justice, secretary of state, and his affiliation with the Republican Party. Arranged chronologically and therein alphabetically by name of person, organization, or topic.
BOX 5	1820
BOX 5	1897
BOX 5	A-B
BOX 6	H-Q
BOX 7	R-Z
BOX 7	1898
BOX 7	A-B
BOX 8	C-K
BOX 9	L-R
BOX 10	S-Z
BOX 10	1899
BOX 10	A-D
BOX 11	E-Z
BOX 11	1897-1899, undated
BOX 12	1900
BOX 12	A-I
BOX 13	J-Z

General Correspondence, 1820-1923

<i>Container</i>	<i>Contents</i>
BOX 14	1901
BOX 14	A-G
BOX 15	H-U
BOX 16	V-Z
BOX 16	1902
BOX 16	A-G
BOX 17	H-R
BOX 18	S-Z
BOX 18	1903
BOX 18	A-H
BOX 19	I-Z
BOX 19	1903-1904, outgoing press copies
BOX 20	1904
BOX 20	1905
BOX 20	A-L
BOX 21	M-Z
BOX 21	1906
BOX 21	A-R
BOX 22	S-Z
BOX 22	1907
BOX 22	A-H
BOX 23	I-Z
BOX 23	1908
BOX 23	A-D
BOX 24	E-Z
BOX 24	1909
BOX 24	A-F
BOX 25	G-Z
BOX 25	1910
BOX 25	A-G
BOX 26	H-Z
BOX 26	1911
BOX 26	A-H
BOX 27	J-Z
BOX 27	1912
BOX 27	A-K
BOX 28	L-Z
BOX 28	1913
BOX 28	A-N
BOX 29	O-Z
BOX 29	1914
BOX 29	1915
BOX 29	A-B
BOX 30	C-Z
BOX 31	1916
BOX 32	1917

General Correspondence, 1820-1923

<i>Container</i>	<i>Contents</i>
BOX 33	1918-1919
BOX 34	1920-1923
BOX 34	Undated
BOX 34	Unidentified
BOX 34	Fragments
BOX 35	Subject File, 1897-1901 Correspondence, reports, memoranda, minutes, newspaper clippings, printed material, and other material pertaining chiefly to consular and State Department matters and foreign affairs. Arranged alphabetically by topic or type of material and therein chronologically.
BOX 35	Consular material, 1898, undated
BOX 35	Interviews with Spanish minister, 1898
BOX 35	McKinley, William, funeral, 1901
BOX 35	Executive Committee
BOX 35	Correspondence
BOX 35	Messages from United States minister to Spain, 1898
BOX 35	Spain
BOX 35	War, 1897-1898, undated
BOX 35	Peace, 1898, undated
BOX 35	State Department, 1898
BOX 36	Scrapbooks, 1900-1919 Scrapbooks consisting chiefly of newspaper clippings about Day and addresses by him and photographs relating primarily to William McKinley and Washington, D.C. Arranged alphabetically by type of material.
BOX 36	Newspaper clippings, 1900-1919
BOX 36	Photographs, undated
BOX 37-40	Bills and Receipts, 1903-1923 Bills, receipts, certificates, pay vouchers, and other personal financial material relating to Day. Arranged chronologically, although some items at the end of the series are unsorted.
BOX 37	1903-1908
BOX 38	1908-1911
BOX 39	1918-1923
BOX 39	Unsorted
BOX 40	Unsorted