

Collection #
SC 3405

**CHARLES W. FAIRBANKS
PAPERS ADDITION, 1896-1918**

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Processed by

Paul Brockman
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Manuscript and Visual Collections Department
William Henry Smith Memorial Library
Indiana Historical Society
450 West Ohio Street
Indianapolis, IN 46202-3269

www.indianahistory.org

COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF
COLLECTION: 3 folders

COLLECTION
DATES: 1896-1918

PROVENANCE: Susan Regan Casper in memory of Robert Regan, November,
2017

RESTRICTIONS: None

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ALTERNATE
FORMATS:

RELATED
HOLDINGS: Charles Warren Fairbanks Papers (M 0100)

ACCESSION
NUMBER: 2017.0341

NOTES:

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Charles Warren Fairbanks (1852–1918), the son of Loriston M. and Mary A. (Smith) Fairbanks, was born in a log cabin near Unionville Center, Ohio. He graduated from Ohio Wesleyan University in 1872, and three years later received a master's degree from the same institution. Through the influence of his uncle William Henry Smith, he obtained a position with the Associated Press, serving in its Pittsburgh and Cleveland offices from 1872 to 1874. At the same time he managed to study law and to be admitted to the bar in 1874. In that year, also, he married Cornelia Cole (1852–1913), a college classmate, and moved to Indianapolis. They had five children: Adelaide (1875 or 1876–1961), Warren Charles (1878–1938), Frederick C. (1881–1940), Richard M. (1883–1944) and Robert C. (ca. 1887–1951, see also: M 0101, Robert C. Fairbanks Papers).

For the next twenty years, Fairbanks specialized in railroad law, practicing in Ohio, Illinois, and Indiana. He was paid well for his work, and amassed a considerable fortune, which permitted him to give up practice when he decided to enter politics.

Fairbanks' first venture into politics was as a leader of Walter Q. Gresham's campaign for the Republican presidential nomination in 1888. When this effort failed, Fairbanks supported the successful nominee, Benjamin Harrison. In 1893, Fairbanks was the Republican candidate for U.S. Senator, but was defeated. He was an early advocate of women's suffrage. He became a good friend of William McKinley, and at his suggestion was keynote speaker at the Republican convention in 1896. From that time on, Fairbanks had considerable influence in the Indiana Republican Party.

In 1897, Fairbanks was elected to the U.S. Senate. He served on several committees, and, as a close friend of President McKinley, he often served as the president's spokesperson in the Senate. Fairbanks was also a member of a joint commission that negotiated outstanding disputes with Great Britain.

He was elected to a second term in 1903, but resigned the next year when he began a four-year term as vice president under Theodore Roosevelt. Fairbanks was mentioned as a possible presidential candidate in 1908, but lost out to William Howard Taft. Upon leaving public office, Fairbanks took a world tour in 1909 and 1910. He was an influential Methodist layman, and served as board chairman of Methodist Hospital in Indianapolis. He took an active interest in conservation and forestry, and was president of the Indiana State Forestry Association.

Sources:

Materials in collection

Who Was Who in America, Vol. I

Dictionary of American Biography

Indiana Biographical Series, Vol. 1 pp. 132-135; Vol. 7 pp.39-42

Dunn, *Indiana and Indianans*, Vol. 3, pp. 1221-1225

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The collection contains correspondence, telegrams, and some business correspondence relating to Charles W. Fairbanks, 1889-1818.

The correspondence is mostly letters to Fairbanks from notable politicians and leaders during his time in the U. S. Senate. Included in the correspondents are: Mark Hanna, John Hay, J.G. Cannon, and Thomas R. Marshall, 1898-1916.

Telegrams range from 1896-1917, but chiefly come from June, 1896, and pertain to Fairbanks' role as keynote speaker for the Republican National Convention in St. Louis.

Business items include paid account sheets and a trustee deed regarding property purchased by Fairbanks in 1917.

CONTENTS

CONTENTS

Correspondence, 1898-1918

Telegrams, 1896-1917

Business Dealings, 1817; n.d.

CONTAINER

Folder 1

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Folder 3

