

COMMITTEE ON THE HISTORY OF THE FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM

Register of Papers

I

Processed: MA, IB  
Date: 12/9/55

WILLIAM JENNINGS BRYAN

(1860 - 1925)

The papers of William Jennings Bryan, lawyer, editor, orator, monetary reformer, Congressman, Secretary of State, were given to the Library of Congress in 1926-29 by Mrs. Bryan, her daughter, Mrs. Rohde, and other members of the family.

Measure of size: 63 boxes

Approximate number of items: 9,400

The Library of Congress has an old-style register of these papers which gives some indication of their contents. No restrictions have been put on their use.

"The main group of papers is in the Library of Congress. Other papers, especially official records pertaining to his service as Secretary of State, are in the National Archives. Scattered materials are in the New York Public Library, the Southern Historical Collection of the University of North Carolina, the Hayes Memorial Library, the Michigan Historical Collections (University of Michigan), the State Historical Society of Wisconsin, and the Illinois State Historical Library. File of The Commoner, several scrapbooks, and a few letters are in the Nebraska State Historical Society. A considerable quantity of papers is in the possession of a member of the family.

"With the exception of the Speeches of William Jennings Bryan (2 vols., 1909), no substantial part of the papers has been published."

Quote from "A National Program for the Publication of Historical Documents," 1954, National Historical Publications Commission.

## Biographical Note

1860, Mar. 18 Born, Salem, Illinois

1881 A.B., Valedictorian, Illinois College

1883 LL.B., Union College of Law, Chicago and admitted to Illinois bar

1884 A.M., Illinois College

1884, Oct. 1 Married Mary Elizabeth Baird

1883-91 Law practice at Jacksonville, Illinois, later at Lincoln, Nebraska

1891-95 Member, 52nd and 53rd Congresses, 1st Nebr. District

1894-96 Editor, Omaha World-Herald

1896 Nominated as Democratic candidate for President of U.S., wrote silver plank in his platform, made "cross of gold" speech, but defeated by Wm. McKinley

1897-98 Lectured on bimetallism

1898 Raised 3rd Regiment, Nebraska Volunteer Infantry for Spanish American War, becoming its colonel

1900 Nominated for 2nd time for President of U.S., defeated by William McKinley

1900 Established political magazine, The Commoner, at Lincoln, Nebraska

1908 Nominated for 3rd time for President of U.S., but defeated by William Howard Taft

1913-15 Secretary of State in cabinet of Woodrow Wilson

1918 President, National Dry Federation

1925, July 26 Died

See: Who Was Who in America, 1897-1942, vol. I, Marquis

Author of:

The First Battle. 1897.  
Under Other Flags. 1904.  
The Old World and Its Ways. 1907.  
Heart to Heart Appeals. 1917.  
The Menace of Darwinism. 1921.  
The Bible and Its Enemies. 1921.  
In His Image. 1922.