

COMMITTEE ON THE HISTORY OF THE FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM

Register of Papers

I

Processed: MA
Date: 1/23/56

WILLIAM HOWARD TAFT

(1857 - 1930)

The papers of William Howard Taft, lawyer, U. S. Circuit Judge, Governor of the Philippines, Secretary of War, President of the United States, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, were given to the Library of Congress.

Measure of size: 539 containers

Approximate number of items:

The papers are open to scholarly research under Library of Congress restrictions.

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"The main group of papers, comprising an estimated 500,000 letters and other items, is in the Library of Congress, and many official papers are in the National Archives. There are some papers also in the Southern Historical Collection of the University of North Carolina, the Hayes Memorial Library, the Ohio State Archaeological and Historical Society, the New York Public Library, the Cornell University Library, the University of Rochester Library, the Yale University Library, and the Michigan Historical Collections (University of Michigan).

Four volumes of Taft's speeches, Presidential addresses, and state papers have been published, but there has been no systematic publication of the correspondence and other manuscripts."

From A National Program for the
Publication of Historical Documents,
1954, p. 74.

Biographical Note

- 1857, Sept. 15 Born, Cincinnati, Ohio
- 1878 B.A., Yale
- 1880 LL.B., Cincinnati Law School and admitted to Ohio bar
- 1880 Law reporter, Cincinnati Times and Commercial
- 1881-83 Prosecuting attorney, Hamilton County, Ohio
- 1883-87 Practiced law in Cincinnati
- 1886, June 19 Married Helen Herron
- 1887-90 Judge, Superior Court, Cincinnati
- 1890-92 Solicitor general of U. S.
- 1892-1900 U. S. Circuit Judge, 6th Circuit
- 1896-1900 Professor and dean of law department, Univ. of Cincinnati
- 1900-01 President, U. S. Philippine Commission
- 1901-04 First civil governor of Philippine Islands
- 1904-08 Secretary of War in cabinet of Theodore Roosevelt
- 1909-13 President of the United States (Republican), defeated William Jennings Bryan
- 1912 Renominated for Presidency, defeated by Woodrow Wilson
- 1913-21 Kent professor of law, Yale
- 1921-30 Chief Justice of the U. S.
- 1930, Mar. 8 Died
- Author of: Four Aspects of Civic Duty. 1906.
 Volume on Popular Government, containing 8 Yale lectures and 2 addresses before American Bar Association. 1913.
The Anti-Trust Act and the Supreme Court. 1914.
The U. S. and Peace. 1914.
Our Chief Magistrate and His Powers. 1916.
Taft Papers on League of Nations. 1920.

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

Description of Series

The 539 containers of Taft papers include 144 volumes of letter-press copies of correspondence dating from 1890 to 1921. Addresses and articles are bound in 42 volumes.

The main body of the Presidential papers was arranged in 3 separate files by Executive Office assistants and has been kept that way.

The Library has a temporary description of the various series into which the collection is divided, and a listing of letter press volumes by date. A more complete register is in preparation.