



Walter Havighurst Special Collections Miami University Libraries

Benjamin and Caroline Harrison Collection 1851-1959

OVERVIEW OF THE COLLECTION

Title:	Benjamin and Caroline Harrison Collection
Dates:	1851-1959
Media:	Manuscripts, printed ephemera, photographs and prints, and objects
Quantity:	1 cubic foot
Location:	Closed stacks

COLLECTION SUMMARY

This collection includes manuscripts, printed ephemera, photographs and prints, and objects pertaining to Benjamin and Caroline Scott Harrison.

PROVENANCE OF THE COLLECTION

Items in this collection were either purchased by Miami University Libraries or donated to the university by individuals.

BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION

Born on a farm by the Ohio River near Cincinnati on August 20, 1833, Benjamin Harrison was the grandson of William Henry Harrison, who served as ninth president of the United States in 1841. His great-grandfather was John Cleves Symmes, whose land purchase in 1788 led to the establishment of Miami University.

An 1852 graduate of Miami University, Benjamin Harrison was a member of Phi Delta Theta. He served as secretary of the first national Phi Delta Theta convention in Cincinnati in 1851.

During the Civil War, Harrison fought with the 70th Indiana Volunteer Infantry. He rose through the ranks to become colonel of that regiment.

Harrison's legal career included service as a reporter of the Supreme Court of Indiana from 1860 to 1862 and from 1864 to 1868. From 1854 to 1889, Harrison practiced law in Indianapolis, Indiana.

Harrison's political career began as the Republican candidate for Governor of Indiana in 1876. From 1881 to 1887, he served as a United States Senator from Indiana.

Nominated for the presidency of the United States at the 1888 Republican Convention, Harrison campaigned by delivering short speeches to delegations from the front porch of his Indianapolis home. Although Harrison received 100,000 fewer popular votes than his opponent, Grover Cleveland, he carried the Electoral College, earning 233 votes to Cleveland's 168 votes. From 1889 to 1893, Harrison served as the 23rd president of the United States. Levi Morton was his vice president.

Harrison's presidential administration saw the first meeting of the Pan American Congress in 1889, naval expansion, substantial appropriations for internal improvements, and subsidies for steamship lines. President Harrison also signed the Sherman Anti-Trust Act, designed to protect trade and commerce against unlawful restraints and monopolies.

On October 20, 1853, Harrison married Caroline Lavinia Scott. Born in Oxford in 1832, "Carrie" was the second daughter of John Witherspoon Scott, a teacher and Presbyterian minister who founded the Oxford Female Institute. In 1853, she graduated from that institution with a degree in music. She bore Harrison three children: Russell Benjamin Harrison; Mary Scott Harrison McKee; and an unnamed stillborn daughter.

An accomplished pianist and a talented artist, Mrs. Harrison established the collection of china associated with White House history. She served as the first President General of the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution. An advocate of local charities, she helped to raise funds for the Johns Hopkins University medical school, provided that it admit women.

Known for her elegant hospitality, Mrs. Harrison presided over many White House receptions and dinners. However, her illness during late 1891 and early 1892 led to her October 25, 1892 death of tuberculosis. After a service in the East Room of the White House, Mrs. Harrison was buried from her church in Indianapolis. After Mrs. Harrison's death, daughter Mary Harrison McKee acted as hostess for her father in the last months of his term.

In 1892, Harrison unsuccessfully ran for a second term in the White House, this time with fellow Miamian, journalist and statesman Whitelaw Reid as his running mate. After Harrison left office in 1893, he returned to Indianapolis to practice law. He married his first wife's widowed niece and former secretary, Mary Scott Lord Dimmick, in 1896. Harrison died on March 13, 1901.

SCOPE AND CONTENTS OF THE COLLECTION

The collection begins with a Valentine that Harrison sent to Helen Kemper of Glendale, Ohio, a student at the Oxford Female Institute, in 1851. A photocopy of Harrison's commencement oration, "England's Poor," written June 24, 1852, also dates from Harrison's days as a student at Miami University.

Presidential campaign ephemera include sheet music titled "Gen'l Harrison's Grand March," composed by Clifford Hale in 1888; a brochure from the 1892 Harrison-Reid campaign titled "American Farmers Are Protected by the McKinley Tariff Law;" and official ballots from the November 8, 1892 Presidential election.

Other printed ephemera in the collection include business advertisements featuring images of President Harrison, such as a card for the B. Hafertepen shoe store in Hamilton, Ohio. Another card for Cincinnati tailor Henry W. Mack includes images of Harrison, Levi Morton, and representative businessmen of the United States government.

An 1890 *Puck* editorial cartoon titled "The Raven" can be found in the collection. The cartoon depicts President Harrison sitting at his desk, wearing his grandfather's hat which is too big for his head, suggesting that he is not fit for the presidency. Sitting on top of a bust of William Henry Harrison is Secretary of State James G. Blaine, a reference to Edgar Allan Poe's "The Raven." Blaine and Harrison were at odds over the McKinley Tariff, which set the average ad valorem tariff rate for imports to the United States at 48.4 percent and protected agriculture.

A publication titled "Galveston and Deep Water" provides insight into President Harrison's views of Galveston, Texas, which he included in his annual message to Congress on December 1, 1890. The publication also provides the full text of Harrison's Galveston speech, delivered at the Beach Hotel, Galveston, on April 18, 1891. A map showing traffic of trans-Mississippi Country and Central and South America can be found at the back of the publication. Ephemera pertaining to Caroline Harrison includes an announcement of a log cabin raising by the Carrie Harrison Club in September 1888.

The collection includes first day of issue cards for the Benjamin Harrison stamp, released in conjunction with the celebration of Miami University's sesquicentennial in 1959. Newspaper reports of Harrison's death, together with a Miami Student article about the dedication of the Caroline Scott Harrison Memorial in Oxford, can also be found in the collection.

Photographic images in the collection include a Civil War-era tintype of Carter Bassett Harrison, son of John Scott Harrison (Miami University 1857-1861) and brother of Benjamin Harrison. Carter Harrison left Miami to volunteer in the 51st Ohio Volunteer Infantry; he obtained the rank of Colonel during the Civil War. A photographic print also shows Harrison with fellow Civil War generals William Cogswell, Dan Dunstan, and William T. Ward.

The collection also includes a group of views of a visit of President Harrison and Vice President Morton to New York, April 29-30, 1889. Removed from an unidentified book, the plates include views of the landing at the foot of Wall Street, naval and military parades, and Harrison delivering a speech at the Sub-Treasury. A photograph of a street in Broadalbin, New York during the 1892 Presidential campaign shows a banner for Harrison and Reid.

A photographic print of Harrison planting a tree in Glen Miller, April 25, 1895 is taken from *Dalbey's Souvenir Pictorial History of the City of Richmond, Indiana*, published in 1896. Photographic prints related to Caroline Harrison include a photograph taken by Matthew Brady of Caroline Harrison and other ladies on the occasion of the First Continental Congress of the Daughters of the American Revolution in February 1892. The collection also includes an image of Dr. Scott's Boarding-House for Young Ladies at the corner of College and High Streets in Oxford, where the Harrisons are said to have been married. Finally, a print of a photograph showing four generations of the Scott family – John W. Scott, Caroline Scott Harrison, Mary Harrison McKee, and her children – can also be found in the collection.

Campaign-related objects in the collection include a metal lapel pin, silk ribbons, handkerchiefs, and a metal pillbox configured as a stack of coins that reads "My Pile on Harrison," with portraits of Harrison and Whitelaw Reid. A copperplate engraving block of Harrison's portrait, together with a print created by the block as published in a supplement to the Butler County Republican on October 6, 1892, can also be found in the collection.

Reproductions of a Harrison White House dessert plate, teacup and saucer feature an American Eagle motif in the center and a border design of open corn ears in cobalt blue and gold. An inner border of 44 gold stars represents each of the existing American states. The collection also includes a Wedgwood plate depicting the home of Caroline Scott Harrison in Oxford, Ohio that was made for the Ohio Daughters of the American Revolution. The 2008 White House Historical Association Christmas ornament, honoring the administration of Benjamin Harrison, can also be found in the collection.

The collection concludes with a copy of "The Inauguration of President Harrison – The Procession Returning from the Capitol," a supplement to the March 16, 1889 issue of *Harper's Weekly*. An August 23, 1889 *Cincinnati Commercial Gazette* article reports President Harrison's speech to commemorate a monument to commemorate the valor and heroism of Indiana soldiers. *Cincinnati Enquirer* articles from August 22, 1884 and August 22, 1889 report on Harrison's handshake and his visit to Cincinnati.

ORGANIZATION OF THE COLLECTION

Series I: Manuscripts

Series II: Ephemera

 Subseries I: Printed Material from Presidential Campaigns

 Subseries II: Miscellaneous Printed Material

Series III: Photographs and Prints

Series IV: Objects

Series V: Oversized Items

RELATED MATERIALS IN THE WALTER HAVIGHURST SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

Letters by and about the Harrisons, housed in the Miscellanea Collection:

Author	Recipient	Date
Benjamin Harrison	Robert H. Bishop, Jr.	August 28, 1850
Benjamin Harrison	W.R. Benjamin	January 2, 1899
Benjamin Harrison	R.H. Bishop, Jr.	March 11, 1855
Benjamin Harrison	[John] W. Stoddard	December 1, 1855
Benjamin Harrison	B.F. Claypool	October 22, 1875
Benjamin Harrison	R.W. McBride	October 13, 1881
Benjamin Harrison	R.W. McBride	September 8, 1884
Benjamin Harrison	R.W. McBride	August 18, 1888
Benjamin Harrison	R.W. McBride	February 7, 1888
Benjamin Harrison	S.F. Covington	July 25, 1882
Benjamin Harrison	R.H. Bishop, Jr.	November 24, 1888
Benjamin Harrison	R.H. Bishop, Jr.	November 27, 1888
Benjamin Harrison	David Swing	January 21, 1889
Benjamin Harrison	R.H. Bishop, Jr.	January 29, 1889
Benjamin Harrison	R.H. Bishop, Jr.	March 21, 1889
Benjamin Harrison	R.H. Bishop, Jr.	August 26, 1889
Benjamin Harrison	R.W. McBride	December 4, 1890
Benjamin Harrison	Russell B. Harrison	August 5, 1892
Benjamin Harrison	Russell Harrison	January 1, 1893
Benjamin Harrison	Unknown	Undated
Caroline Scott Harrison	Mary E. Brandon	December 31, 1888
Caroline Scott Harrison	David Swing	December 17, 1888
Caroline Scott Harrison	David Swing	January 8, 1889
Caroline Scott Harrison	Mrs. R.C. Doremus	Undated
Mary Lord Harrison	Col. John R. Simpson	May 6, 1938
Thomas Nelson Haskell	Guy Potter Benton	June 6, 1905

New Testament (1772) owned by Caroline Scott Harrison and family.

Britton, John A., "New International Communications Network and the Chilean Crisis of 1891-92 in the United States," *Technology and Culture* 48 (4) Oct. 2007, p.729-57. Discusses the arrival of telegraphic communications during Benjamin Harrison's term as president and how President Harrison implemented it in the negotiations of the Chilean Crisis of 1891-92.

The Tippecanoe Campaign Songster: Harrison and Morton; Sketch of Their Lives and Full Text of the Republican Platform. [Philadelphia]: The W. F. Shaw Co., 1888.

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

- Access:** This collection is open under the rules and regulations of the Walter Havighurst Special Collections, Miami University Libraries.
- Preferred Citation:** Researchers are requested to cite the *Benjamin and Caroline Harrison Collection* and *The Walter Havighurst Special Collections, Miami University Libraries* in all footnote and bibliographic references.
- Provenance:** Items in this collection were either purchased by Miami University Libraries or donated to the university by individuals.
- Processed By:** Betsy Butler, December 2007
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DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE COLLECTION

Note to Researchers: To request materials, please note both the box and folder numbers shown below.

Series I: Manuscripts

Box	Folder	Title	Date
1	1	Valentine from Benjamin Harrison to Helen L. Kemper	1851
	2	Photostat of Benjamin Harrison's essay, "England's Poor," written June 24, 1852	1852

Series II: Ephemera**Subseries I: Printed Material from Presidential Campaigns**

Box	Folder	Title	Date
1	3	Sheet music titled "Gen'l Harrison's Grand March," by Clifford Hale	1888
	4	"American Farmers Are Protected by the McKinley Tariff Law" (Harrison-Reid 1892 Presidential campaign brochure)	1892
	5	Official presidential ballots for November 8, 1892	1892

Series II: Ephemera**Subseries II: Miscellaneous Printed Material**

Box	Folder	Title	Date
1	6	"Log Cabin Raising," Carrie Harrison Club, September 12-13, 1888	1888
	7	Business advertisements featuring Harrison images	ca. 1889-1892
	8	Editorial cartoon depicting Benjamin Harrison	ca. 1889-1892
	9	"Galveston and Deep Water"	ca. 1891
	10	Newspaper clippings regarding Harrison's death	1901
	11	First day of issue cards, Benjamin Harrison stamp	1959
	12	Miami Student newspaper clippings	undated

Series III: Photographs and Prints

Box	Folder	Title	Date
1	13	Tintype of Carter Bassett Harrison	ca. 1861-1865
	14	Photographic print of Harrison with fellow Civil War generals William Cogswell, Dan Dunstan, and William T. Ward.	ca. 1861-1865
	15	Group of views of a visit of President Harrison and Vice President Morton to New York, April 29-30, 1889	1889
	16	Cabinet cards of Benjamin Harrison and John W. Scott	1889, undated
	17	Print of Benjamin Harrison from copperplate engraving block, as published in a supplement to the Butler County Republican, October 6, 1892	1892
	18	Photograph of a street in Broadalbin, New York during the 1892 Presidential campaign, showing a banner for Harrison and Reid.	1892

Box	Folder	Title	Date
	19	Photographic print of Benjamin Harrison planting a tree in Glen Miller, April 25, 1895 (from Dalbey's Souvenir Pictorial History of the City of Richmond, Indiana, 1896)	1895
	20	Photograph of Dr. Scott's Boarding House for Young Ladies, Oxford	Undated
	21	Print of "Four Generations" photograph	Undated
	22	Photographic prints of Harrison and campaign ephemera from the collection	Undated
	23	Slides and transparencies of Harrison planting a tree in Glen Miller (from Dalbey's Souvenir Pictorial History of the City of Richmond, Indiana), campaign ribbons and handkerchiefs, Harrison letters, New York street scene	Undated
	24	Photographic prints of Caroline Harrison and other ladies on the occasion of the First Continental Congress of the Daughters of the American Revolution	Undated

Series IV: Objects

Box	Folder	Title	Date
1	25	Metal lapel pin with Benjamin Harrison's photograph	ca. 1889-1892
	26	Silk campaign ribbons	ca. 1889-1892
	27	Campaign handkerchiefs	ca. 1889-1892
	28	Metal pillbox reading "My Pile on Harrison," with portraits of Harrison and Whitelaw Reid	1892
	29	Copperplate engraving block of Benjamin Harrison	ca. 1892
2		Wedgwood plate depicting the home of Caroline Scott Harrison in Oxford, Ohio, made for the Ohio Daughters of the American Revolution	Undated
		Reproduction of Harrison White House dessert plate	Undated
		Reproduction of Harrison White House teacup and saucer	Undated
		The White House Historical Association Christmas Ornament, honoring the administration of Benjamin Harrison	2008

Series V: Oversized Items

Location	Title	Date
Vault Map Case 1, Drawer 13	"Interesting Points. Incidents Picked Up During the Reception. General Harrison as a Hand-Shaker Has No Equal. His Peculiarity is a Short Shove-Along Jerk of the Arm. Points of Interest Picked Up During the Visit of the First Officer of the Land," The Cincinnati Enquirer	August 22, 1884
Vault Map Case 1, Drawer 13	"The Inauguration of President Harrison – The Procession Returning from the Capitol," supplement to Harper's Weekly	March 16, 1889
Vault Map Case 1, Drawer 13	"Shake Hands with Harrison. Fitting Welcome to the Nation's Chief Magistrate. He Is Greeted on Every Side by Curious Crowds. Formally Received by the Mayor at the Burnet House. Governor Foraker's Presence Adds to the General Interest. Prominent Business Men Meet Him at the Chamber of Commerce. Later His Excellency Gives the Public a Chance to See Him. The Intense Heat Has Its Effect and Forces Him to Retire. Entertainment of the Presidential Party at Luncheon. Their Departure for Indianapolis in a Special Train – Scenes and Incidents of the Visit," The Cincinnati Enquirer	August 22, 1889
Vault Map Case 1, Drawer 13	President Harrison's Speech. An Eloquent Extemporae Tribute, Full of the Spirit of the Occasion," Cincinnati Commercial Gazette	August 23, 1889
Vault Map Case 1, Drawer 13	William M. Gwinn's certificate for sale of public lands at the register of the land office at Garden City Kansas, signed on behalf of President Benjamin Harrison by E. Macfarland	November 16, 1891