



Walter Havighurst Special Collections Miami University Libraries

Benjamin and Caroline Harrison Collection 1851-2008

OVERVIEW OF THE COLLECTION

Title:	Benjamin and Caroline Harrison Collection
Dates:	1851-2008
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 letter to Robert Bishop, Jr., in 1850, and continues with Valentine that Harrison sent to Helen Kemper of Glendale, Ohio, a student at the Oxford Female Institute, in 1851. A series of correspondence written by Benjamin Harrison

between 1851 and 1893 follows, along with smaller groups of letters written by Caroline Scott Harrison and members of Harrison's extended family.

The collection also contains a selection of ephemera, both printed and artefactual, most of which comes from Harrison's two presidential campaigns. A group of campaign ribbons from Harrison's 1888 bid for President were worn by Oxford College students who traveled to Indianapolis to hear Caroline Scott Harrison speak; they were donated to the collection by Miriam Kirker Hays '24. The collection also includes several colorful campaign handkerchiefs, including one that Oxford College student Rose Wallace waved from a train traveling to Indianapolis to greet the newly-elected Benjamin and Caroline.

An 1890 *Puck* editorial cartoon titled "The Raven" can also 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.

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 images 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 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.

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. Prints related to Caroline Harrison include a reproduction of 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.

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.

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 also features a copy of Thomas William Lawson’s “Our Bandanna,” an oversized newsprint publication featuring a history of the Republican Party and an argument for Harrison’s election over Grover Cleveland. The book was published in a small run of 300 copies in 1888.

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: Correspondence

Subseries I: Letters written by Benjamin Harrison

Subseries II: Letters written by Caroline Scott Harrison

Subseries III: Other Correspondence

Series II: Ephemera

Subseries I: Presidential Campaign Material

Subseries II: Miscellaneous Printed Material

Series III: Photographs and Prints

Series IV: Commemorative China

Series V: Oversized Materials

NOTE: The Walter Havighurst Special Collection also owns Caroline Scott Harrison's family's New Testament, call number **BS1965 1772**. It was presented to Miami by her grandchildren in 1931.

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 <i>Benjamin and Caroline Harrison Collection</i> and <i>The Walter Havighurst Special Collections, Miami University Libraries</i> 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; Updated by Carly Sentieri, 2016
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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: Correspondence

Subseries I: Letters written by Benjamin Harrison

Box	Folder	Author	Recipient	Date	Subject
1	1	Benjamin Harrison	Robert H. Bishop, Jr.	August 28, 1850	Receipt of letter of sympathy; illness and death in family; thanks for Harrison's welfare and advancement
1	2	Benjamin Harrison	Helen L. Kemper	1851	Valentine's Day card
1	3	Benjamin Harrison	Messrs. Blair and Reid	May 9, 1851	Written as corresponding secretary of the Miami Union Literary Society
1	3	Benjamin Harrison	W. R. Benjamin	January 2, 1899	Confirming authenticity of May 9, 1851 letter
1	4	Benjamin Harrison	Robert H. Bishop, Jr.	March 11, 1855	Thanks for his contributions as Harrison's teacher; update on his profession
1	5	Benjamin Harrison	[John] W. Stoddard	December 1, 1855	Accepting invitation to speak at Miami University commencement
1	6	Benjamin Harrison	B. F. Claypool	October 22, 1875	Setting trial date

1	7	Benjamin Harrison	R. W. McBride	October 13, 1881	Auburn post office and Mr. Ranier
1	8	Benjamin Harrison	S. F. Covington	July 25, 1882	Bill for the erection of a marine hospital in Cincinnati
1	9	Benjamin Harrison	R. W. McBride	September 8, 1884	Request for a complete set of census records
1	10	Benjamin Harrison	R. W. McBride	August 18, 1888	Declining suggestion to travel to Steuben County to rest
1	11	Benjamin Harrison	R. W. McBride	February 7, 1888	Candidacy for the Presidential nomination; candidates for governor and lieutenant governor
1	12	Benjamin Harrison	Robert H. Bishop, Jr.	November 24, 1888	Response to letter of congratulations from Bishop
1	13	Benjamin Harrison	Robert H. Bishop, Jr.	November 27, 1888	Response to letter for Caroline Harrison about family health
1	14	Benjamin Harrison	David Swing	January 21, 1889	Letter received, answered, and of interest to Swing
1	15	Benjamin Harrison	Robert H. Bishop, Jr.	January 29, 1889	Thanks for degree conferred by Miami University
1	16	Benjamin Harrison	Robert H. Bishop, Jr.	March 21, 1889	Telegram congratulating the Bishops on their golden anniversary
1	17	Benjamin Harrison	Robert H. Bishop, Jr.	August 26, 1889	Receipt of recent letter; missed seeing Bishop at Oxford; health of Dr. Scott and Mrs. Lord
1	18	Benjamin Harrison	R. W. McBride	December 4, 1890	Letter returning papers filed by McBride; other business matters
1	19	Benjamin Harrison	Russell B. Harrison	August 5, 1892	Asks Russell to go directly to his mother
1	20	Benjamin Harrison	Russell B. Harrison	January 1, 1893	Last New Year's Eve in the White House spend in mourning
1	21	Benjamin Harrison	Unknown	N. D.	Response to letters soliciting aid for obtaining public office and private interests

Series I: Correspondence

Subseries I: Letters written by Caroline Scott Harrison

Box	Folder	Author	Recipient	Date	Subject
1	22	Caroline Scott Harrison	Mary E. Brandon	December 31, 1888	Correcting a mistake about father John W. Scott's background
1	23	Caroline Scott Harrison	David Swing	December 17, 1888	Trip to Oxford; news of friends

1	24	Caroline Scott Harrison	David Swing	January 8, 1889	Visit; news of family and friends
1	25	Caroline Scott Harrison	Mrs. R. C. Doremus	N. D.	Name of the lady she met the day before

Series I: Correspondence

Subseries I: Other Correspondence

Box	Folder	Author	Recipient	Date	Subject
1	26	Mary Lord Harrison	Col. John R. Simpson	May 6, 1938	Photograph and autograph of her husband (Benjamin Harrison) for the guest house at Miami University
1	27	Thomas Nelson Haskell	Guy Potter Benton	June 6, 1905	Recommendation of Benjamin Harrison for Presidency

Series II: Ephemera and Objects

Subseries I: Presidential Campaign Material

Box	Folder	Description	Date
1	28	"American Farmers are Protected by the McKinley Tariff Law" (Harrison-Reid 1892 campaign brochure)	1892
1	29	Full Illinois Republican Party ticket for 1888 election	1888
1	30	Metal lapel pin with Benjamin Harrison's photograph	c. 1888
1	31	Two silk campaign ribbons from a campaign speech by Caroline Scott Harrison given in Indianapolis, c. 1888	c. 1888
1	32	Four miscellaneous silk campaign ribbons	c. 1888
1	33	Metal pill box from 1892 campaign	1892
1	34	1888 campaign handkerchief	1888
1	35	1892 campaign handkerchief	1892
1	36	Campaign handkerchief, n. d., owned by Oxford College student Rose Wallace	1888-1892

Series II: Ephemera and Objects

Subseries II: Miscellaneous Material

Box	Folder	Description	Date
1	37	Warranty Deed signed by Benjamin Harrison	1858
1	38	Inaugural Ball booklet and pass	1889
1	39	Official Presidential ballots for November 8, 1892	1892
1	40	"Log cabin raising!" flyer for Carrie Harrison Club event	1888
1	41	Two local advertisements featuring Benjamin Harrison's image	c. 1889-1892
1	42	"The Raven" (editorial cartoon depicting Benjamin Harrison)	c.1889-1892
1	43	Two newspaper clippings regarding Benjamin Harrison's death	1901
1	44	Newspaper clipping featuring death notice of Mary Scott Harrison McKee	1930
1	45	First day of issue cards with Benjamin Harrison stamp	1959

1	46	Two Miami Student newspaper clippings featuring stories about Benjamin Harrison	n. d.
1	47	Newspaper clipping with illustration of Harrison speaking	n. d.

Series III: Photographs and Prints

Box	Folder	Description	Date
1	48	Tintype of Carter Bassett Harrison, brother of Benjamin Harrison	c. 1861-1865
1	49	Photographic print of Harrison with fellow Civil War generals William Cogswell, Dan Dunstan, and William T. Ward	c. 1861-1865
1	50	Cabinet cards of Benjamin Harrison and John W. Scott	c. 1889
1	51	Copperplate engraving block of Benjamin Harrison	c. 1892
1	52	Print of Copperplate Engraving of Benjamin Harrison, as published in a supplement to the Butler County Republican, October 6, 1892	1892
1	53	Photograph of a street in Broadalbin, New York during the 1892 Presidential campaign, showing a banner for Harrison and Reid	1892
1	54	Print of Benjamin Harrison planting a tree in Glen Miller park in Richmond, Indiana, on April 25, 1895; cut from <i>Dalbey's Souvenir Pictorial History of the City of Richmond, Indiana, 1896</i>	1896
1	55	Photograph of Dr. Scott's Boarding House for Young Ladies in Oxford, Ohio	n. d.
1	56	Print featuring four generations of the Harrison family from unknown source	n. d.

Series IV: Commemorative China

Box	Folder	Description	Date
2	1	Wedgewood plate depicting the Oxford, Ohio home of Caroline Scott Harrison, made for the Ohio Daughters of the American Revolution	n. d.
2	2	Reproduction of Harrison White House dessert plate	n. d.
2	3	Reproduction of Harrison White House teacup and saucer	n. d.
2	4	The White House Association Christmas ornament, honoring the administration of Benjamin Harrison	2008

Series V: Oversized Materials

Case	Drawer	Description	Date
Vault 1	13	University Club certificate signed by Benjamin Harrison	1898
Vault 1	13	Cincinnati Enquirer clipping: "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."	August 22, 1884
Vault 1	13	Sheet music titled "Gen'l Harrison's Grand March." Written by Clifford Gale.	1888

Vault 1	13	Oversized newsprint book titled "Our Bandanna" by Thomas William Lawson. Includes images of Harrison and a history of the Republican party.	1888
Vault 1	13	Supplement to Harper's Weekly: "The Inauguration of President Harrison—The Procession Returning from the Capitol"	March 16, 1889
Vault 1	13	Cincinnati Enquirer clipping: "Shake Hands with Harrison. Fitting Welcome to the Nation's Chief Magistrate."	August 22, 1889
Vault 1	13	Cincinnati Commercial Gazette clipping: "President Harrison's Speech: An Eloquent Extemporae Tribute, Full of the Spirit of the Occasion"	August 23, 1889
Vault 1	13	Certificate for the sale of public lands at the register of the land office at Garden City, KS, to William M. Gwinn. Signed on behalf of President Harrison by E. Macfarland.	November 16, 1891
Vault 1	13	Booklet: "What President Harrison and his Cabinet Officers say of Galveston."	c. 1891
Vault 1	13	Prints featuring the visit of President Harrison and Vice President Morton visiting New York City on April 29-30, 1889; removed from unknown book	n. d.
Vault 1	13	Prints of Caroline Scott Harrison and unidentified women at the First Continental Congress of the Daughters of the American Revolution; reproduced from unknown source	n. d.