

Lyman Potter Spencer

A Register of His Papers in the Library of Congress

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Revised by and expanded by Patrick Kerwin



Manuscript Division, Library of Congress

Washington, D.C.

1998

Contact information: <http://lcweb.loc.gov/rr/mss/address.html>

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Collection Summary

Title: Papers of Lyman Potter Spencer

Span Dates: 1856-1914

Bulk Dates: (bulk 1863-1896)

ID No.: MSS40915

Creator: Spencer, Lyman Potter, 1840-1915

Extent: 250 items; 11 containers; 4.4 linear feet

Language: Collection material in English

Repository: Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Abstract: Artist, soldier, and calligrapher. Correspondence, diaries, notebooks, account books, genealogical file, penmanship file, and other papers documenting Spencer's Civil War service and his efforts to continue the publication of the copybooks by his father, Platt R. Spencer, who developed the Spencerian style of handwriting.

Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

Names:

Spencer, Lyman Potter, 1840-1915

Fish, Hamilton, 1808-1893--Correspondence

Garfield, James A. (James Abram), 1831-1881--Correspondence

Spencer, Platt R. (Platt Rogers), 1800-1864

Spencer family

United States. Army. Ohio Heavy Artillery Regiment, 2nd (1863-1865)

Subjects:

Art, American

Calligraphy

Copybooks

Penmanship

Ohio--History--Civil War, 1861-1865

United States--History--Civil War, 1861-1865

Occupations:

Artists

Calligraphers

Soldiers

Administrative Information

Provenance:

The papers of Lyman Potter Spencer, artist, soldier and calligrapher, were given to the Library of Congress by Frank McLees in 1947 and by Virginia Spencer Warren Shriver and Frederick Hayes Warren, granddaughter and grandson of Lyman Potter Spencer, in 1978.

Processing History:

The papers of Lyman Potter Spencer were arranged and described in 1983. The collection was expanded and revised in 1998.

Transfers:

Photographs have been transferred to the Prints and Photographs Division where they are identified as part of the Lyman Potter Spencer Papers.

Copyright Status:

The status of copyright in the unpublished writings of Lyman Potter Spencer is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.).

Preferred Citation:

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: Container number, Lyman Potter Spencer Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Biographical Note

| <i>Date</i> | <i>Event</i> |
|---------------|---|
| 1840, May 11 | Born, Geneva, Ohio |
| 1861 | Attended Hiram College, Hiram, Ohio |
| 1861-1863 | Attended Oberlin College, Oberlin, Ohio |
| 1863 | Married Fidelia Bartholomew |
| 1863-1865 | Soldier, Second Regiment, Ohio volunteer, heavy artillery |
| 1870 | Continued the work on the Spencerian style of handwriting begun by his father, Platt R. Spencer |
| 1906 | Published <i>How to Teach Writing</i> . New York: American Book Co. |
| 1915, June 10 | Died, Sunbury, Pa. |

Scope and Content Note

The papers of Lyman Potter Spencer (1840-1915) span the years 1848 to 1914 with the bulk of the material concentrated in the period 1863-1896. The collection deals mainly with Spencer's military career as a member of the Second Regiment, Ohio Volunteer heavy artillery, and with his efforts to continue the work begun by his father, Platt R. Spencer, on the Spencerian style of handwriting.

The [Diaries, Notebooks, and Account Books](#) series spans the years 1854 to 1914 and provides information on Spencer's personal and business life. The [Correspondence](#) series includes letters from Hamilton Fish and James A. Garfield, who was an instructor at Hiram College when Spencer was a student. The [Genealogical File](#) includes notebooks and other material relating to the Spencer family. The [Spencerian Penmanship File](#) chronicles Spencer's development as an artist and calligrapher. Material in this file prior to 1864 relates to Platt R. Spencer.

Arrangement of the Papers

This collection is arranged in five series:

- [Diaries, Notebooks, and Account Books, 1854-1914, n.d.](#)
- [Correspondence, 1863-1911, n.d.](#)
- [Genealogical File, 1881-1896, n.d.](#)
- [Spencerian Penmanship File, 1848-1905, n.d.](#)
- [Miscellany, 1860-1913, n.d.](#)

Description of Series

| <i>Container</i> | <i>Series</i> |
|------------------|---|
| BOX 1-6 | <u>Diaries, Notebooks, and Account Books, 1854-1914, n.d.</u> Bound volumes detailing Spencer's business and personal interests. Arranged chronologically. |
| BOX 6 | <u>Correspondence, 1863-1911, n.d.</u> Letters received. Arranged alphabetically by correspondent and chronologically therein. |
| BOX 6-7 | <u>Genealogical File, 1881-1896, n.d.</u> Research material on the Spencer family. Arranged chronologically. |
| BOX 7-10 | <u>Spencerian Penmanship File, 1848-1905, n.d.</u> Copy books, plates, manuals, and other material relating to the Spencerian method of penmanship. Arranged chronologically. |
| BOX 11 | <u>Miscellany, 1860-1913, n.d.</u> Business cards, fragments, military papers, sketchbooks, and receipts. Arranged alphabetically by type of material and chronologically therein. |

Container List

| <i>Container</i> | <i>Contents</i> |
|------------------|--|
| BOX 1-6 | Diaries, Notebooks, and Account Books, 1854-1914, n.d. Bound volumes detailing Spencer's business and personal interests. Arranged chronologically. |
| BOX 1 | 1854-1861 (4 folders) |
| BOX 2 | 1862-1866 (6 folders) |
| BOX 3 | 1867-1883 (6 folders) |
| BOX 4 | 1885-1898 (6 folders) |
| BOX 5 | 1899-1913 (6 folders) |
| BOX 6 | 1913-1914, n.d. (3 folders) |
| BOX 6 | Correspondence, 1863-1911, n.d. Letters received. Arranged alphabetically by correspondent and chronologically therein. |
| BOX 6 | Davis, J. C. Bancroft, 1870 |
| BOX 6 | Fish, Hamilton, 1871-1872 |
| BOX 6 | French, Daniel Chester, 1879 |
| BOX 6 | Garfield, James A., 1863, 1876 |
| BOX 6 | McLees, Frank, 1877, 1889 |
| BOX 6 | Moore, Lester, 1896 |
| BOX 6 | Spencer, H. C., 1871 |
| BOX 6 | Spencer, Mandang, 1892 |
| BOX 6 | Spencer, Virginia, 1897 |
| BOX 6 | Unidentified, 1907-1911, n.d. |
| BOX 6-7 | Genealogical File, 1881-1896, n.d. Research material on the Spencer family. Arranged chronologically. |
| BOX 6 | 1881-1890 (7 folders) |
| BOX 7 | 1896, n.d. (3 folders) |
| BOX 7-10 | Spencerian Penmanship File, 1848-1905, n.d. Copy books, plates, manuals, and other material relating to the Spencerian method of penmanship. |

Spencerian Penmanship File, 1848-1905, n.d.

Container

Contents

Arranged chronologically.

BOX 7

1848-1868

(5 folders)

BOX 8

1873-1883

(7 folders)

BOX 9

1884-1890

(7 folders)

BOX 10

1893-1905, n.d.

(9 folders)

BOX 10

Undated

(3 folders)

BOX 11

Miscellany, 1860-1913, n.d.

Business cards, fragments, military papers, sketchbooks, and receipts.

Arranged alphabetically by type of material and chronologically therein.

BOX 11

General, 1891-1913

BOX 11

Military papers, 1862-1907, n.d.

BOX 11

Sketchbooks, 1860-1912, n.d.

(4 folders)