



Rockefeller (John D., Sr.) papers, Letterbooks, Series L

This finding aid was produced using ArchivesSpace on January 14, 2021.
Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Rockefeller Archive Center

15 Dayton Avenue
Sleepy Hollow 10591

archive@rockarch.org

URL: <http://www.rockarch.org>

Table of Contents

Summary Information 3

Biographical/Historical note 3

Scope and Contents 7

Arrangement 8

File Plan note 8

Administrative Information 8

Related Materials 9

Collection Inventory 9

 Letterbooks 9

Summary Information

Repository:	Rockefeller Archive Center
Creator - aut:	Rockefeller, John D. (John Davison), 1839-1937
Creator - ctb:	Rockefeller, John D., Jr. (John Davison), 1874-1960
Title:	John D. Rockefeller, Sr. papers, Letterbooks, Series L
ID:	FA431
Date [inclusive]:	1877-1918
Physical Description:	55.46 Cubic Feet 389 bound volumes.
Language of the Material:	English .

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Biographical/Historical note

John Davison Rockefeller (July 8, 1839 - May 23, 1937) was the guiding force behind the creation and development of the Standard Oil Company, which grew to dominate the oil industry and became one of the first big trusts in the United States, thus engendering much controversy and opposition regarding its business practices and form of organization. Rockefeller was also one of the first major philanthropists in the U.S., establishing several important foundations and donating a total of \$540 million to charitable purposes.

Rockefeller was born on a farm at Richford, in Tioga County, New York, on July 8, 1839, the second of the six children of William A. and Eliza (Davison) Rockefeller. The family lived in modest circumstances. When he was a boy, the family moved to Moravia and later to Owego, New York, before going west to Ohio in 1853. The Rockefellers bought a house in Strongsville, near Cleveland, and John entered Central High School in Cleveland. While he was a student he rented a room in the city and joined the Erie Street Baptist Church, which later became the Euclid Avenue Baptist Church. Active in its affairs, he became a trustee of the church at the age of 21.

He left high school in 1855 to take a business course at Folsom Mercantile College. He completed the six-month course in three months and, after looking for a job for six weeks, was employed as assistant bookkeeper by Hewitt & Tuttle, a small firm of commission merchants and produce shippers. Rockefeller was not paid until after he had worked there three months, when Hewitt gave him \$50 (\$3.57 a week) and told him that his salary was being increased to \$25 a month. A few months later he became the cashier and bookkeeper.

In 1859, with \$1,000 he had save and another \$1,000 borrowed from his father, Rockefeller formed a partnership in the commission business with another young man, Maurice B. Clark. In that same year the first oil well was drilled at Titusville in western Pennsylvania, giving rise to the petroleum industry. Cleveland soon became a major refining center of the booming new industry, and in 1863 Rockefeller and Clark entered the oil business as refiners. Together with a new partner, Samuel Andrews, who had some refining experience, they built and operated an oil refinery under the name of Andrews, Clark & Co. The firm also continued in the commission business but in 1865 the partners, now five in number, disagreed about the management of their business affairs and decided to sell the refinery to whoever amongst them bid the highest. Rockefeller bought it for \$72,500, sold out his other interests, and with Andrews, formed Rockefeller & Andrews.

THE STANDARD OIL COMPANY

Rockefeller's stake in the oil industry increased as the industry itself expanded, spurred by the rapidly spreading use of kerosene for lighting. In 1870 he organized The Standard Oil Company along with his brother William, Andrews, Henry M. Flagler, S.V. Harkness, and others. It had a capital of \$1 million.

By 1872 Standard Oil had purchased and thus controlled nearly all the refining firms in Cleveland, plus two refineries in the New York City area. Before long the company was refining 29,000 barrels of crude oil a day and had its own cooper shop manufacturing wooden barrels. The company also had storage tanks with a capacity of several hundred thousand barrels of oil, warehouses for refined oil, and plants for the manufacture of paints and glue.

Standard prospered and, in 1882, all its properties were merged in the Standard Oil Trust, which was in effect one great company. It had an initial capital of \$70 million. There were originally forty-two certificate holders, or owners, in the trust.

After ten years the trust was dissolved by a court decision in Ohio. The companies that had made up the trust later joined in the formation of the Standard Oil Company (New Jersey), since New Jersey adopted a law that permitted a parent company to own the stock of other companies. It is estimated that Standard Oil owned three-fourths of the petroleum business in the U.S. in the 1890s.

In addition to being the head of Standard, Rockefeller owned iron mines and timberland and invested in numerous companies in manufacturing, transportation, and other industries. Although he held the title of president of Standard Oil until 1911, Rockefeller retired from active leadership of the company in 1896. In 1911 the U.S. Supreme Court found the Standard Oil trust to be in violation of the anti-trust laws and ordered the dissolution of the parent New Jersey corporation. The thirty-eight companies which it then controlled were separated into individual firms. In his biography, *Study in Power*, John D. Rockefeller, Industrialist and Philanthropist, the historian Allan Nevins reports that Rockefeller at that time owned 244,500 of the company's total of 983,383 outstanding shares.

PHILANTHROPY

Rockefeller was 57 years old in 1896 when he decided that others should take over the day-to-day leadership of Standard Oil. He now focused his efforts on philanthropy, giving away the bulk of his fortune in ways designed to do the most good as determined by careful study, experience and the help of expert advisers.

From the time he had begun earning money as a boy, he had been giving a share of his income to his church and charities. His philanthropy grew out of his early family training, religious convictions, and financial habits. "I believe it is every man's religious duty to get all he can honestly and to give all he can," he once wrote. During the 1850s, he made regular contributions to the Baptist church, and by the time he was 21, he was giving not only to his own but to other denominations, as well as to a foreign Sunday school and an African-American church. Support of religious institutions and African-American education remained among his foremost philanthropic interests throughout his life.

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

As his wealth grew in the 1870s and 1880s, Rockefeller came to favor a cooperative and conditional system of giving in which he would agree to supply part of the sum needed for a particular project if the others interested in it also would provide substantial financial support. It was on such a conditional basis that Rockefeller participated in the founding of the University of Chicago. The American Baptist Education Society had resolved in 1889 to establish a "well-equipped college" in Chicago. At the urging of the society's director, the Rev. Frederick T. Gates, Rockefeller offered to give \$600,000 of the first \$1 million for endowment, provided the remaining \$400,000 was pledged by others within 90 days. Thus begun, the University of Chicago was incorporated in 1890, and over the next twenty years Rockefeller contributed to help build up the institution, always on condition that others should join in its support. In 1910 he made a farewell gift of \$10 million, which brought his total contributions to the university to about \$35 million. In withdrawing from further activity, he wrote: "I am acting on an early and permanent conviction that this great institution, being the property of the people, should be controlled, conducted and supported by the people."

CORPORATE PHILANTHROPY

Rockefeller recognized the difficulties of wisely applying great funds to human welfare, and he helped to define the method of scientific, efficient, corporate philanthropy. The method was this: to create charitable corporations and give them title to great funds, whose management and use would be governed by trustees and overseen by officers with specialized training and experience, with both the trustees and officers being dedicated to continuous study of the opportunities for the best uses of the funds under their care. To help manage his philanthropy, Rockefeller hired the Rev. Frederick T. Gates, whose work with the American Baptist Education Society and the University of Chicago inspired Rockefeller's confidence. With the advice of Gates and, after 1897, his son, John D. Rockefeller, Jr., Rockefeller established a series of institutions that are important in the history of American philanthropy, science, and medicine and public health.

THE ROCKEFELLER INSTITUTE FOR MEDICAL RESEARCH

In 1901 he founded the Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research (now The Rockefeller University) for the purpose of discovering the causes, manner of prevention, and the cure of disease. From its laboratories have come cures for diseases, and new knowledge and scientific techniques which have helped to revolutionize medicine, biology, biochemistry, biophysics and other scientific disciplines. A few of the noted achievements of its scientists are the serum treatment of spinal meningitis and of pneumonia; knowledge of the cause and manner of infection in infantile paralysis; the nature of the virus causing epidemic influenza; blood vessel surgery; a treatment for African sleeping sickness; the first demonstration of the preservation of whole blood for subsequent transfusion; the first demonstration of

how nerve cells flow from the brain to other areas of the body; the discovery that a virus can cause cancer in fowl; peptide synthesis; and identification of DNA as the crucial genetic material.

THE GENERAL EDUCATION BOARD (1902-1965)

In 1902 Rockefeller established the General Education Board (GEB) for the "promotion of education within the United States of America without the distinction of race, sex or creed." In its active years between 1902 and 1965, the GEB distributed \$325 million for the improvement of education at all levels, with emphasis upon higher education, including medical schools. In the South, where there was special need, the GEB helped schools for both white and African-American students. Also, out of the Board's work with children's clubs in the farm arena grew the 4-H Club movement and the federal programs of farm and home extension.

ROCKEFELLER SANITARY COMMISSION (1909-1915)

In 1909 Rockefeller combined his special interest in the South and his interest in public health with the creation of the Rockefeller Sanitary Commission for the Eradication of Hookworm Disease. Its purpose was "to bring about a cooperative movement of the medical profession, public health officials, boards of trade, churches, schools, the press, and other agencies for the cure and prevention of hookworm disease," which was especially devastating in the South. From its headquarters in Washington, D.C., the Sanitary Commission launched a massive campaign of public education and medication in eleven Southern states. It paid the salaries of field personnel, who were appointed jointly by the states and the Commission, and sponsored public education campaigns and the treatment of infected persons. As part of this program, more than 25,000 public meetings were attended by more than 2 million people who were given the facts about hookworm and its prevention. So successful was its work that a new agency was created as part of a new Rockefeller philanthropy to expand the work to other countries and to attack other diseases both in the South and abroad.

THE ROCKEFELLER FOUNDATION

In 1913 Rockefeller established the Rockefeller Foundation (RF) to "promote the well-being of mankind throughout the world." In keeping with this broad commitment, the Foundation through the years has given important assistance to public health, medical education, increasing food production, scientific advancement, social research, the arts, and other fields all over the world.

The Foundation's International Health Division expanded the work of the Sanitary Commission worldwide, working against various diseases in fifty-two countries on six continents and twenty-nine islands, bringing international recognition of the need for public health and environmental sanitation. Its early field research on hookworm, malaria and yellow fever provided the basic techniques to control these diseases and established the pattern of modern public health services. The RF built and endowed the world's first School of Hygiene and Public Health, at The Johns Hopkins University, and then spent over \$25 million in developing public health schools in the U.S. and in twenty-one foreign countries. Its agricultural development program in Mexico led to what has been called the Green Revolution in the advancement of food production around the world; and the RF provided significant funding for the International Rice Research Institute in the Philippines. Thousands of scientists and scholars from all over the world have received RF fellowships and scholarships for advanced study. The foundation helped to found the Social Science Research Council and has provided significant support for such organizations as the National Bureau for Economic Research, the Brookings Institution, the Council on

Foreign Relations, and Russian Institute at Columbia University. In the arts the RF has helped establish or support the Stratford Shakespearean Festival in Ontario, Canada, and the American Shakespeare Festival in Stratford, Connecticut; Arena Stage in Washington, D.C.; Karamu House in Cleveland; and Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts in New York.

OTHER ROCKEFELLER PHILANTHROPIC SUPPORT

In addition to creating these corporate philanthropies, Rockefeller continued to make personal donations. Among others whose activities received his financial support were various colleges and universities, including Yale, Harvard, Columbia, Brown, Spelman, Bryn Mawr, Wellesley, and Vassar; theological schools; the Palisades Interstate Park Commission; San Francisco Earthquake victims; the Anti-Saloon League; Rockefeller Park and other parks in Cleveland; Baptist missionary organizations; and various YMCAs and YWCAs.

FAMILY LIFE

John D. Rockefeller and Laura C. Spelman (1839-1915), a teacher, were married on September 8, 1864, in Cleveland. The Rockefellers had five children - four daughters and a son, John D. Rockefeller, Jr. (1874-1960), who inherited much of the family fortune and continued his father's philanthropic work. Their eldest daughter, Bessie (1866-1906), married Charles Strong. Their second daughter, Alice (1869-1870), died in infancy. Alta (1871-1962) married E. Parmalee Prentice, and the youngest daughter, Edith (1872-1932), married Harold Fowler McCormick.

In the 1870s Rockefeller began to make business trips from Cleveland to New York. After a time he started bringing along his family for lengthy stays and, in 1884, he bought a large brownstone house at 4 West 54th Street, the land of which is now part of the garden of the Museum of Modern Art. Beginning in the 1890s, the family spent part of their time at Pocantico Hills, about 25 miles north of New York. For a number of years the Rockefellers returned during the summer to their Forest Hill home in East Cleveland. As he grew older, Rockefeller spent several months each year at his country homes in Lakewood, New Jersey, and Ormond Beach, Florida.

Rockefeller died on the morning of May 23, 1937, at The Casements, his home in Ormond Beach. He was 97 years old. He is buried in Lakeview Cemetery in Cleveland.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Scope and Contents

Types of files include: letterbooks and an index.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Arrangement

As received.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

File Plan note

Former Classification: III 1 L

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Administrative Information

Publication Statement

Rockefeller Archive Center

15 Dayton Avenue

Sleepy Hollow 10591

archive@rockarch.org

URL: <http://www.rockarch.org>

Immediate Source of Acquisition note

The John D. Rockefeller papers were given to the Rockefeller Archive Center by the Rockefeller Brothers in 1976.

Conditions Governing Access

Open for research with select materials restricted as noted. Brittle or damaged items are available at the discretion of RAC. Researchers interested in accessing digital media (floppy disks, CDs, DVDs, etc.) or audiovisual material (audio cassettes, VHS, etc.) in this collection must use an access surrogate. The original items may not be accessed because of preservation concerns. To request an access surrogate be made, or if you are unsure if there is an access surrogate, please contact an archivist.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Related Materials

Related Archival Materials note

Rockefeller family photographs, John Davison Rockefeller family, P/1003

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Collection Inventory

Letterbooks, 1877-1918

Physical Description: 389 Bound Volumes Volumes 1-381, 387-394.

Scope and Contents note

Letterbooks contain copies of handwritten or typed correspondence sent by John D. Rockefeller, John D. Rockefeller, Jr. or office staff on their behalf. Correspondents include Rockefeller family members and the major educational, religious, social, philanthropic and business leaders of the period 1877-1918.

The letterbooks reveal the daily activities of the office and individuals as well as personality and convictions. The letterbooks contain not only appeals for aid, but communication between John D. Rockefeller Sr. and John D. Rockefeller Jr., their individual and cooperative business endeavors, and the planning of the family's home in Pocantico Hills, NY. The letters of reply regarding financial aid are answered with explanations of the action taken, making them an important insight into the process of Rockefeller philanthropy.

Subjects documented in the letterbooks include the individual and cooperative business endeavors of JDR and JDR Jr., their charitable and philanthropic activities, and the planning and management of Kykuit, the family's home in Pocantico Hills, New York. The letterbooks cover such varied topics as iron mining in Cuba and the number of daffodil bulbs planted at the Rockefeller family home.

Volumes 382-386 are not contained in the archival collection.

Related Archival Materials note:

Related Archival Materials note

Corresponding incoming letters may be found in Series C, Correspondence of the John D. Rockefeller papers, or in the Office of the Messrs. Rockefeller records.

Conditions Governing Access note:

Conditions Governing Access note

The archival material has been reformatted and the original letterbooks are restricted. User copies of the microfiche are available for scholarly access. Individual volumes are listed in the index by volume number.

General

The letterbooks index is available via digital objects. In order to reduce loading times as much as possible, the complete index has been split into 39 PDF files. Please refer to file entries for details.

Title/Description	Instances
-------------------	-----------

Letterbooks Index

Title/Description	Instances
-------------------	-----------

Code Index	
------------	--

Scope and Contents

A key to the code used in certain correspondence and telegrams, primarily Standard Oil related	
------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	--

A	
---	--

Abbey Dudley - Arnold Felix	
-----------------------------	--

Arnold Francis E - Batterson & Eisele	
---------------------------------------	--

B	
---	--

Batterson & Eisele - Bobbink & Atkins	
---------------------------------------	--

Bobbs-Merrill Company - Brown CS	
----------------------------------	--

Brown CW - Cady Calvin B	
--------------------------	--

C	
---	--

Cady John H - Christopher John P	
----------------------------------	--

Christy AB - Cook Frederick F	
-------------------------------	--

Cook GL - Dalton JJ	
---------------------	--

D	
---	--

Dalton John J - Dominick Brothers	
-----------------------------------	--

Dominick Brothers & Company - Earline JC	
------------------------------------------	--

E - F - G	
-----------	--

Early NB Jr - Fahnstock HC	
----------------------------	--

Fainhaur EP - Francis Brothers	
--------------------------------	--

Francis Brothers & Company - Gold Howard R	
--------------------------------------------	--

Goldberg Fred - Haddon Jason	
------------------------------	--

H	
---	--

Haden AM - Heink HS

Heinrich C - House HL

House Herbert E - Ingersoll EP

I - J - K

Ingersoll Edward P - Justin Brothers

Juvenal Anthony B - Ladd HM

L

Ladd HM Mrs - MaCarthur Robert S

M

MaCarthur Robert Stuart - McCormick Stanley

McCormick Stanley R - Moffatt JM

Moffatt R Burnham Mrs - Naish R

N - O - P - Q

Nally EJ - Obelisk Waterproofing Comapny

Obelisk Waterproofing Company - Packard Alpheus A

Packard E - Pleasance GH

Pleasants PD - Railey CL

R

Railey Charles L - Rockefeller Eliza

Rockefeller Emma - Sage CN

S

Sage EC - Seago AK

Seal Harbor Fish Company - Smith Edith W

Smith Edna I - Stone HA

Stone HC - Tafel George F

T

Tafel George F - Tretbar Charles F

Trevar J - Ulich MH Mrs

U - V

Ullman AE - Wagner Charles A

W

Wagner FH - White Edith

White Edwin A - Wzorek Joseph

X - Y - Z

XYZ Pool - Zwierlein Shoe Company

Microfiche

Physical Description: 389 Bound Volumes Volumes 1-381, 387-394.

JDR Business and Office Files, 1879-1916

Physical Description: 179 Bound Volumes Volumes 1-179

Scope and Contents

These letterbooks document JDR's major philanthropies. They also include the management of his personal fortune and real estate holdings. JDR Jr. is a significant figure, as he acts as his father's representative.

Title/Description	Instances	
1879 July 19-1882 October 30	box 1	volume 1
1879 November 8-1881 May 31	box 1	volume 2
1881 May 28-1882 May 3	box 1	volume 3
1882 May 4-1883 October 4	box 1	volume 4
1884 June 24-1887 June 28	box 1	volume 5
1883 July 27-1884 October 10	box 1	volume 6
1884 October 5-1885 March 16	box 1	volume 7
1885 March 18-1885 December 3	box 1	volume 8
1885 December 3-1886 April 3	box 1	volume 9
1886 April 3-1886 August 2	box 1	volume 10
1886 August 2-December 15	box 1	volume 11
1886 December 16-1887 March 28	box 1	volume 12
1887 March 29	box 1	volume 13
1887 July 29-December 8	box 1	volume 14
1887 December 8-1888 February 24	box 1	volume 15
1888 February 24-June 8	box 1	volume 16
1888 June 8-November 27	box 1	volume 17
1888 November 27-1889 February 26	box 1	volume 18
1889 February 26-May 20	box 1	volume 19
1889 May 20-October 14	box 1	volume 20
1889 October 14-December 31	box 1	volume 21

1889 December 31-1890 March 10	box 1	volume 22
1890 March 10-May 28	box 1	volume 23
1890 May 28-October 7	box 1	volume 24
1890 October 7-December 24	box 1	volume 25
1890 December 24-1891 March 10	box 1	volume 26
1891 March 10-June 13	box 1	volume 27
1891 June 15-October 28	box 1	volume 28
1891 October 28-1892 January 15	box 1	volume 29
1892 January 15-April 20	box 1	volume 30
1892 April 20-August 2	box 2	volume 31
1892 August 3-December 23	box 2	volume 32
1892 December 23-1893 April 25	box 2	volume 33
1893 April 23-November 14	box 2	volume 34
1893 November 14-1894 March 15	box 2	volume 35
1894 March 15-September 18	box 2	volume 36
1894 September 18-1895 March 2	box 2	volume 37
1895 March 2-August 22	box 2	volume 38
1895 August 22-December 19	box 2	volume 39
1895 December 20-1896 January 6	box 2	volume 40
1896 January 7-April 4	box 2	volume 41
1896 April 16-September 21	box 2	volume 42
1896 September 21-1897 January 7	box 2	volume 43
1897 May 24-July 30	box 2	volume 44
1897 July 28-October 23	box 2	volume 45
1897 October 23-December 17	box 2	volume 46
1897 December 17-1898 February 17	box 2	volume 47
1898 February 18-1898 April 22	box 2	volume 48
1898 April 22-July 11	box 2	volume 49
1898 July 12-September 29	box 2	volume 50
1898 September 15-December 29	box 2	volume 51
1898 December 15-1899 February 6	box 2	volume 52
1899 February 6-April 6	box 2	volume 53

1899 April 6-May 24	box 2	volume 54
1899 May 24-August 2	box 2	volume 55
1899 August 3-October 19	box 2	volume 56
1899 October 19-December 21	box 2	volume 57
1899 December 21-1900 February 20	box 2	volume 58
1900 February 15-April 25	box 2	volume 59
1900 April 25-June 27	box 2	volume 60
1900 June 27-October 3	box 2	volume 61
1900 October 3-December 4	box 2	volume 62
1900 December 1-1901 January 14	box 3	volume 63
1901 January 14-March 14	box 3	volume 64
1901 March 14-May 11	box 3	volume 65
1901 May 11-June 30	box 3	volume 66
1901 July 1-October 24	box 3	volume 67
1901 October 24-December 27	box 3	volume 68
1901 December 27-1902 February 17	box 3	volume 69
1902 February 19-April 12	box 3	volume 70
1902 April 12-May 28	box 3	volume 71
1902 May 29-July 17	box 3	volume 72
1902 July 17-October 22	box 3	volume 73
1902 October 22-December 13	box 3	volume 74
1902 December 15-1903 January 20	box 3	volume 75
1903 January 17-August 17	box 3	volume 76
1903 March 18-May 27	box 3	volume 77
1903 May 27-July 24	box 3	volume 78
1903 July 25-October 6	box 3	volume 79
1903 October 5-1903 December 7, 1903 October 5-December 7	box 3	volume 80
1903 December 5-1904 January 19	box 3	volume 81
1904 January 19-March 19	box 3	volume 82
1904 March 17-May 26	box 3	volume 83
1904 May 27-August 22	box 3	volume 84
1904 August 22-November 2		

	box 3	volume 85
1904 November 2-January 7	box 3	volume 86
1905 January 7-April 4	box 3	volume 87
1905 April 4-May 27	box 3	volume 88
1905 May 29-July 19	box 3	volume 89
1905 July 19-September 15	box 3	volume 90
1905 September 15-November 14	box 3	volume 91
1905 November 14-December 26	box 3	volume 92
1905 December 27-30	box 3	volume 93
1906 January 2-February 3	box 3	volume 94
1906 February 2-March 8	box 3	volume 95
1906 March 9-April 12	box 4	volume 96
1906 April 13-May 28	box 4	volume 97
1906 May 29-July 31	box 4	volume 98
1906 July 31-October 2	box 4	volume 99
1906 October 2-November 19	box 4	volume 100
1906 November 20-December 26	box 4	volume 101
1906 December 27-1907 January 23	box 4	volume 102
1907 January 23-February 19	box 4	volume 103
1907 February 20-March 22	box 4	volume 104
1907 March 23-April 20	box 4	volume 105
1907 October 19-November 27	box 4	volume 106
1907 November 29-1908 January 6	box 4	volume 107
1908 January 6-February 10	box 4	volume 108
1908 February 10-March 11	box 4	volume 109
1908 March 12-April 9	box 4	volume 110
1908 April 10-May 11	box 4	volume 111
1908 May 11-June 10	box 4	volume 112
1908 June 11-July 8	box 4	volume 113
1908 July 10-August 21	box 4	volume 114
1908 August 24-September 28	box 4	volume 115
1908 September 8-October 30	box 4	volume 116

1908 November 2-30	box 4	volume 117
1908 December 1-30	box 4	volume 118
1908 December 30-1909 January 22	box 4	volume 119
1909 January 23-February 18	box 4	volume 120
1909 February 18-March 15	box 4	volume 121
1909 March 16-April 12	box 4	volume 122
1909 April 12-May 13	box 4	volume 123
1909 May 14-June 14	box 4	volume 124
1909 June 15-July 12	box 4	volume 125
1909 July 12-August 16	box 4	volume 126
1909 August 17-October 13	box 4	volume 127
1909 October 13-November 17	box 4	volume 128
1909 November 17-December 18	box 4	volume 129
1909 December 17-1910 January 20	box 4	volume 130
1910 January 20-February 19	box 5	volume 131
1910 February 21-March 16	box 5	volume 132
1910 March 16-April 9	box 5	volume 133
1910 April 9-May 9	box 5	volume 134
1910 May 10-June 10	box 5	volume 135
1910 June 10-July 16	box 5	volume 136
1910 July 18-September 17	box 5	volume 137
1910 September 19-November 11	box 5	volume 138
1910 November 12-December 19	box 5	volume 139
1910 December 16-1911 January 20	box 5	volume 140
1911 January 24-March 2	box 5	volume 141
1911 March 1-April 11	box 5	volume 142
1911 April 12-June 15	box 5	volume 143
1911 June 10-September 20	box 5	volume 144
1911 September 20-November 22	box 5	volume 145
1911 November 22-1912 January 11	box 5	volume 146
1912 January 12-February 17	box 5	volume 147
1912 February 19-March 22	box 5	volume 148

1912 March 22-April 26	box 5	volume 149
1912 April 26-May 29	box 5	volume 150
1912 May 31-July 5	box 5	volume 151
1912 July 5-September 24	box 5	volume 152
1912 September 25-November 7	box 5	volume 153
1912 November 8-December 13	box 5	volume 154
1912 December 16-1913 January 15	box 5	volume 155
1913 January 15-February 6	box 5	volume 156
1913 February 6-March 6	box 5	volume 157
1913 March 11-May 8	box 5	volume 158
1913 May 9-June 19	box 5	volume 159
1913 June 20-August 15	box 5	volume 160
1913 August 6-October 1	box 5	volume 161
1913 October 1-November 18	box 5	volume 162
1913 November 19-December 29	box 5	volume 163
1913 December 29-1914 February 2	box 5	volume 164
1914 February 3-March 5	box 6	volume 165
1914 March 6-April 8	box 6	volume 166
1914 April 9-May 6	box 6	volume 167
1914 May 6-21	box 6	volume 168
1914 May 22-June 20	box 6	volume 169
1914 June 23-August 3	box 6	volume 170
1914 August 3-October 2	box 6	volume 171
1914 October 2-November 10	box 6	volume 172
1914 November 10-December 16	box 6	volume 173
1914 December 16-1915 February 6	box 6	volume 174
1915 February 8-April 1	box 6	volume 175
1915 April 3-June 18	box 6	volume 176
1915 June 18-November 9	box 6	volume 177
1915 November 10-1916 March 20	box 6	volume 178
1916 March 20-June 5	box 6	volume 179

Physical Description: 32 Bound Volumes Volumes 180-211

Scope and Contents

These letterbooks document JDR's activities in the Standard Oil Company and other investments.

Title/Description	Instances	
1877 August 11-1878 January 12	box 6	volume 180
1877 November 3-1878 January 10	box 6	volume 181
1878 January 10-February 25	box 6	volume 182
1878 February 25-April 25	box 6	volume 183
1878 February 25-June 5	box 6	volume 184
1879 February 25-May 29	box 6	volume 185
1879 November 8-1881 May 18	box 6	volume 186
1881 June 24-1882 May 3	box 6	volume 187
1882 May 11-1884 December 31	box 6	volume 188
1885 January 1-1886 March 13	box 6	volume 189
1886 March 13-1888 March 28	box 6	volume 190
1888 March 31-1890 October 3	box 6	volume 191
1890 October 8-1893 December 22	box 6	volume 192
1890 January 3-August 11	box 6	volume 193
1891 February 6-July 31	box 6	volume 194
1891 July 31-1892 February 24	box 6	volume 195
1892 February 24-October 12	box 6	volume 196
1892 October 13-1893 May 29	box 7	volume 197
1893 May 29-October 31	box 7	volume 198
1893 October 31-1894 March 14	box 7	volume 199
1894 March 15-July 11	box 7	volume 200
1894 July 12-October 24	box 7	volume 201
1894 October 24-1895 February 5	box 7	volume 202
1895 February 6-May 16	box 7	volume 203
1895 May 16-October 5	box 7	volume 204
1895 October 5-1896 February 1	box 7	volume 205
1896 February 1-May 25	box 7	volume 206
1896 May 26-October 15	box 7	volume 207

1896 October 16-1897 January 27	box 7	volume 208
1897 January 27-March 27	box 7	volume 209
1897 March 27-May 24	box 7	volume 210
1897 November 3-1899 March 6	box 7	volume 211

JDR Personal, 1904-1918

Physical Description: 42 Bound Volumes Volumes 212-253

Scope and Contents

These letterbooks cover JDR's activities as he saw them from outside the office after his retirement. They cover both business and philanthropy and include letters of instruction to the office.

Title/Description	Instances	
1904 June 17-December 7	box 7	volume 212
1904 December 7-1905 April 25	box 7	volume 213
1905 April 25-July 20	box 7	volume 214
1905 July 20-October 24	box 7	volume 215
1905 October 24-1906 January 11	box 7	volume 216
1906 January 11-May 1	box 7	volume 217
1906 October 16-1907 February 18	box 7	volume 218
1906 May 1-October 16	box 7	volume 219
1907 February 18-June 12	box 7	volume 220
1907 June 13-October 4	box 7	volume 221
1907 October 4-1908 January 8	box 7	volume 222
1908 January 8-July 10	box 7	volume 223
1908 July 11-October 8	box 7	volume 224
1908 October 8-1909 February 12	box 7	volume 225
1909 February 12-May 20	box 7	volume 226
1909 May 21-August 23	box 7	volume 227
1909 August 24-December 7	box 8	volume 228
1909 December 7-1910 March 12	box 8	volume 229
1910 March 13-June 15	box 8	volume 230
1910 June 15-September 17	box 8	volume 231
1910 September 17-1911 January 4	box 8	volume 232
1911 January 5-April 25	box 8	volume 233

1911 April 26-August 17	box 8	volume 234
1911 August 17-November 20	box 8	volume 235
1911 November 20-1912 February 3	box 8	volume 236
1912 February 3-April 26	box 8	volume 237
1912 April 26-July 15	box 8	volume 238
1912 July 15-October 21	box 8	volume 239
1912 October 21-1913 July 20	box 8	volume 240
1913 January 20-May 2	box 8	volume 241
1913 May 2-July 16	box 8	volume 242
1913 July 16-November 18	box 8	volume 243
1913 November 18-1914 April 10	box 8	volume 244
1914 April 11-July 8	box 8	volume 245
1914 July 8-September 21	box 8	volume 246
1914 September 21-December 15	box 8	volume 247
1914 December 15-1915 March 20	box 8	volume 248
1915 March 23-July 14	box 8	volume 249
1915 July 14-August 10	box 8	volume 250
1915 September 21-November 19	box 8	volume 251
1915 November 17-December 30	box 8	volume 252
1918 January 2-May 9	box 8	volume 253

JDR Jr. Personal, 1897-1916

Physical Description: 71 Bound Volumes Volumes 254-324

Scope and Contents

These letterbooks reflect JDR Jr.'s growing participation in his father's affairs as well as the management of his own interests. These are not exclusively JDR Jr. letters but include letters by members of JDR's personal staff.

Title/Description	Instances	
1897 October 2-1898 September 27	box 8	volume 254
1898 September 27-1899 May 16	box 8	volume 255
1899 May 17-1900 May 1	box 8	volume 256
1900 May 4-November 24	box 8	volume 257
1900 November 26-1901 February 14	box 9	volume 258
1901 February 14-June 11	box 9	volume 259

1901 June 13-December 10	box 9	volume 260
1901 December 11-1902 February 20	box 9	volume 261
1902 February 20-June 24	box 9	volume 262
1902 June 25-1903 January 29	box 9	volume 263
1903 January 29-May 10	box 9	volume 264
1903 May 12-November 10	box 9	volume 265
1903 November 11-1904 March 24	box 9	volume 266
1904 March 25-June 14	box 9	volume 267
1904 June 14-November 9	box 9	volume 268
1904 November 11-1905 June 1	box 9	volume 269
1905 June 2-December 20	box 9	volume 270
1905 December 21-1906 April 16	box 9	volume 271
1906 April 16-November 8	box 9	volume 272
1906 November 10-1907 March 25	box 9	volume 273
1907 March 26-October 10	box 9	volume 274
1907 April 22-May 31	box 9	volume 275
1907 May 31-July 17	box 9	volume 276
1907 July 18-September 5	box 9	volume 277
1907 September 6-October 18	box 9	volume 278
1907 October 14-1908 February 21	box 9	volume 279
1908 February 21-May 21	box 9	volume 280
1908 May 22-December 18	box 9	volume 281
1908 December 21-1909 March 11	box 9	volume 282
1909 March 12-June 26	box 9	volume 283
1909 June 28-December 16	box 9	volume 284
1909 December 17-1910 February 17	box 9	volume 285
1910 February 17-April 19	box 9	volume 286
1910 April 21-June 10	box 9	volume 287
1910 June 13-September 16	box 9	volume 288
1910 September 16-November 11	box 9	volume 289
1910 November 12-December 29	box 9	volume 290
1910 December 30-1911 January 23	box 10	volume 291

1911 January 20-February 23	box 10	volume 292
1911 February 24-March 24	box 10	volume 293
1911 March 27-April 25	box 10	volume 294
1911 April 27-June 2	box 10	volume 295
1911 June 2-July 13	box 10	volume 296
1911 July 13-September 8	box 10	volume 297
1911 September 8-October 25	box 10	volume 298
1911 October 26-December 14	box 10	volume 299
1911 December 15-1912 January 23	box 10	volume 300
1912 January 25-February 27	box 10	volume 301
1912 February 28-April 3	box 10	volume 302
1912 April 3-May 13	box 10	volume 303
1912 May 13-June 24	box 10	volume 304
1912 June 25-August 12	box 10	volume 305
1912 August 12-October 16	box 10	volume 306
1912 October 17-December 7	box 10	volume 307
1912 December 9-1913 January 24	box 10	volume 308
1913 January 24-March 11	box 10	volume 309
1913 March 6-April 22	box 10	volume 310
1913 April 22-May 28	box 10	volume 311
1913 May 27-July 23	box 10	volume 312
1913 July 24-September 30	box 10	volume 313
1913 October 1-November 14	box 10	volume 314
1913 November 14-December 22	box 10	volume 315
1913 December 22-1914 January 27	box 10	volume 316
1914 January 27-March 5	box 10	volume 317
1914 March 6-April 14	box 10	volume 318
1914 April 14-June 10	box 10	volume 319
1914 June 9-September 25	box 10	volume 320
1914 September 26-December 4	box 10	volume 321
1914 December 4-1915 February 1	box 10	volume 322
1915 February 3-June 17	box 11	volume 323

1915 June 17-1916 June 3

box 11

volume 324

Abeyton Realty, 1909-1916Physical Description: 5 Bound Volumes Volumes 325-329**Scope and Contents**

Management of Cleveland properties through a real estate company.

Title/Description	Instances	
1909 June 5-1910 September 17	box 11	volume 325
1910 September 20-1911 December 7	box 11	volume 326
1911 December 8-1913 May 7	box 11	volume 327
1913 May 7-1914 September 29	box 11	volume 328
1914 September 30-1916 May 25	box 11	volume 329

JDR - Frederick T. Gates - Business, 1893-1905Physical Description: 12 Bound Volumes Volumes 330-341**Scope and Contents**

F.T. Gates management of JDR's principal investments. His responses to investment opportunities offered to JDR.

Title/Description	Instances	
1893 January 30-1894 April 2	box 11	volume 330
1894 April 10-November 9	box 11	volume 331
1894 November 10-1895 April 27	box 11	volume 332
1895 April 29-September 30	box 11	volume 333
1895 September 30-1896 June 29	box 11	volume 334
1896 June 29-1897 April 7	box 11	volume 335
1897 April 8-December 31	box 11	volume 336
1898 January 1-1899 June 16	box 11	volume 337
1899 June 20-1901 January 15	box 11	volume 338
1901 January 16-1904 February 29	box 11	volume 339
1904 March 4-1905 October 31	box 11	volume 340
1905 November 1-1905 December 29	box 11	volume 341

JDR - Frederick T. Gates - Philanthropy, 1891-1905Physical Description: 11 Bound Volumes Volumes 342-352

Scope and Contents

F.T. Gates as JDR's chief almoner. Investigations of worthy causes. Gifts and declinations.

Title/Description	Instances	
1891 December 5-1893 January 13	box 11	volume 342
1893 January 17-1894 April 2	box 11	volume 343
1894 April 9-1896 January 7	box 11	volume 344
1896 January 7-1897 January 4	box 11	volume 345
1897 January 5-1898 March 28	box 11	volume 346
1898 March 28-1900 December 10	box 11	volume 347
1900 December 12-1902 November 21	box 11	volume 348
1902 November 21-1904 June 6	box 11	volume 349
1904 June 10-1905 April 18	box 11	volume 350
1905 April 18-November 2	box 11	volume 351
1905 November 4-December 29	box 11	volume 352

Frederick T. Gates Personal, 1895-1913

Physical Description: 9 Bound Volumes Volumes 353-361

Scope and Contents

Strictly F.T. Gates affairs. Family fortunes, homes, relations.

Title/Description	Instances	
1895 September 4-1898 May 31	box 11	volume 353
1898 January 7-1900 March 13	box 11	volume 354
1900 March 13-1902 September 13	box 12	volume 355
1902 September 15-1904 February 15	box 12	volume 356
1904 February 17-1906 March 15	box 12	volume 357
1906 March 15-1907 November 26	box 12	volume 358
1907 November 27-1909 December 20	box 12	volume 359
1909 December 20-1912 January 17	box 12	volume 360
1912 January 17-1913 June 13	box 12	volume 361

Duluth, Missabe & Northern Railway Company, 1894-1904

Physical Description: 6 Bound Volumes Volumes 362-366

Scope and Contents

F.T. Gates managing railway company. Five annual reports to state railway commission.

Title/Description	Instances	
1894 February 14-1895 September 16	box 12	volume 362
1895 September 20-1896 August 18	box 12	volume 363
1896 August 21-1897 December 6	box 12	volume 364
1897 December 7-1900 April 24	box 12	volume 365
1900 April 24-1903 April 11	box 12	volume 366

Tilden Mining Company, 1896-1917

Physical Description: 5 Bound Volumes Volumes 367-371

Title/Description	Instances	
1896 March-December	box 12	volume 367
1896 December 28-1897 November 1	box 12	volume 368
1897 November 1-1898 May 13	box 12	volume 369
1896 August 1-1903 July 10	box 12	volume 370
1903 July 13-1917 January 25	box 12	volume 371

Lake Superior Consolidated Iron Mines, 1894-1899

Physical Description: 5 Bound Volumes Volumes 372-376

Scope and Contents

F.T. Gates managing the iron company.

Title/Description	Instances	
1894 February 14-October 26	box 12	volume 372
1894 October 26-1895 August 23	box 12	volume 373
1896 April 20-October 31	box 12	volume 374
1896 November 2-1897 October 1	box 12	volume 375
1898 June 10-1899 March 21	box 12	volume 376

Bessimer Steamship Company, 1896-1898

Physical Description: 1 Bound Volumes Volume 377

Scope and Contents

F.T. Gates managing the steamship company.

Title/Description	Instances	
-------------------	-----------	--

1896 January 7-1898 February 1

box 12

volume 377

Everett & Monte Cristo Railway Company, 1894-1903Physical Description: 4 Bound Volumes Volumes 378-381**Scope and Contents**

F.T. Gates managing the railway company.

Title/Description	Instances	
1894 November 15-1898 January 17	box 12	volume 378
1895 June 29-1897 January 23	box 12	volume 379
1898 January 18-1901 July 2	box 12	volume 380
1901 July 2-1903 August 20	box 12	volume 381

Starr J. Murphy, 1905-1908Physical Description: 1 Bound Volumes Volume 387**Scope and Contents**

Murphy, as G.E.B. secretary, handles college appeals.

Title/Description	Instances	
1905 August 25-1908 June 17	box 12	volume 387

Laura Spelman Rockefeller Estate, 1915-1916Physical Description: 1 Bound Volumes Volume 381

Title/Description	Instances	
1915 June 18-1916 June 5	box 12	volume 388

Receipt Book

Title/Description	Instances	
Receipt Book	box 12	volume 389

Standard Oil Company, 1885-1888Physical Description: 1 Bound Volumes Volume 390

Title/Description	Instances	
1885 June 5-1888 April 3	box 12	volume 390

William Rockefeller, 1871-1896Physical Description: 2 Bound Volumes Volumes 391-392

Title/Description	Instances	
-------------------	-----------	--

1895 July 3-1896 January 30	box 12	volume 391
1871 May 16-1876 March 9	box 12	volume 392
Rockefeller, Andrews and Flagler, 1867-1868 <u>Physical Description:</u> 2 Bound Volumes Volumes 393-394		
Title/Description	Instances	
1867 August 20-1868 March 20	box 12	volume 393
1868 March 20-1868 September 9	box 12	volume 394

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)