



Gates (Frederick T.) papers

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Rockefeller Archive Center

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Table of Contents

Summary Information	3
Biographical/Historical note	3
Scope and Contents note	4
Arrangement note	4
File Plan note	5
Administrative Information	5
Related Materials	6
Controlled Access Headings	6
Collection Inventory	6

Summary Information

Repository:	Rockefeller Archive Center
Creator - aut:	Gates, Frederick Taylor
Creator:	Rockefeller Foundation
Title:	Frederick T. Gates papers
ID:	FA028
Date [inclusive]:	1877-1939
Physical Description:	1.8 Cubic Feet 6 document cases
Language of the Material:	English .

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Biographical/Historical note

Frederick T. Gates (1853-1929) was born in Broome County, New York. The son of a school teacher who read medicine and later became an ordained Baptist Minister, Gates spent the first fourteen years of his life in small villages and towns in New York. In 1867 his father joined the American Baptist Home Mission Society and the family moved to Kansas where Gates attended Highland University, a preparatory school. At fifteen he taught school and for the next five years had such various jobs as selling harrows to farmers, clerking in a village dry goods store and later in a bank. In 1873, he was admitted to advanced standing in the classical course at the University of Rochester, a small Baptist school. Instead of remaining in Rochester, he returned to Kansas for two years of independent study before he rejoined his class in 1875. On graduation from Rochester, he enrolled in the Rochester Baptist Theological Seminary and graduated in 1880.

His first and only pastorate was the Fifth Avenue Baptist Church in Minneapolis, Minnesota. In 1884 the church changed its name to the Central Baptist Church and moved to new buildings. Gates remained until 1888, when he became the fund raiser in a campaign to support the Baptist school, Owatonna Academy in Minnesota. After a successful campaign he was influential in the formation of the American Baptist Education Society and became its first Secretary. He moved to Racine, Wisconsin, and then to Morgan Park, Illinois, to carry on further fund raising activities, this time for a college which would grow into the University of Chicago.

It was in this capacity that he became acquainted with John D. Rockefeller, who invited him in 1891 to assist with his charities and investigate his appeals. This grew in time into a dual function of investigating and then managing some of Mr. Rockefeller, Sr.'s business interests.

Trustee of the Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research, Trustee of the General Education Board, 1902-1928, and Chairman of the Board 1907-1917, Chairman of the Rockefeller Sanitary Commission for the Eradication of Hookworm Disease, 1909-1914, Trustee of the Rockefeller Foundation, 1913-1923, and member of the International Health Commission, the China Medical Board and the Peking Medical College, Gates resigned from business activities in 1912 and devoted himself to these philanthropies until 1928.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Scope and Contents note

Records consist of correspondence, clippings, pamphlets, memoranda, manuscript drafts, and a ledger.

Important subjects in the collection include religion, economy, medicine, philanthropy, labor, World War I, the China Medical Board, the General Education Board, The Rockefeller Institute, The University of Chicago, Consolidation Coal Co., the Merritt Case, education, homeopathy, agriculture, meningitis, diabetes, and theology.

Among the correspondents are: L. M. Bowers; Simon Flexner; J. J. Jesserand; Harry Pratt Judson; Frederick T. Gates; John D. Rockefeller, Sr.; John D. Rockefeller, Jr.; Charles W. Eliot; and Wallace Buttrick.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Arrangement note

This collection is arranged alphabetically up until box 4. The alphabetical files are followed by three folders of abstracts, and an autobiography, scrapbook, and ledger. Gates' s own system has been retained.

Letters are frequently filed by correspondent.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

File Plan note

Former Classification: IV 2A 03

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Administrative Information

Publication Statement

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Conditions Governing Access

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Processing Information note

Processing was completed as of February 2, 1970. Processing Level 3: Standard Processing. All material is available in acid free manuscript boxes and folders.

Immediate Source of Acquisition note

The papers of Frederick T. Gates were deposited with the Rockefeller Foundation Archives in 1955 and 1961 by Russell C. Gates and Dorothy Gates Elsmith.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Related Materials

Related Archival Materials note

Further records will be found in the Rockefeller Family Archives.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Controlled Access Headings

- Philanthropy
- World War I
- Labor
- Diabetes
- Theology
- Agriculture
- Alternative medicine
- Meningitis
- Economics
- Education
- Religion
- Social service

Collection Inventory

Title/Description	Instances	
Lyman Abbott, 1915	box 1	folder 1
E. Benjamin Andrews, 1908	box 1	folder 2
Scope and Contents note		
Philanthropy.		
"Atlantic Monthly", 1911	box 1	folder 3
Baptist Church of Montclair, 1892	box 1	folder 4

James Barton, 1905	box 1	folder 5
Scope and Contents note		
Gift to American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions.		
John A. Broadus, 1877-1927	box 1	folder 6
Wallace Buttrick, 1923	box 1	folder 7
Florence A. Cahoon, 1908	box 1	folder 8
"Capital and Labor", undated	box 1	folder 9
Scope and Contents note		
Unions.		
China Medical Board, 1910-1917	box 1	folder 10
Scope and Contents note		
Policy, mission hospitals, resignation.		
W. N. Clark, 1909	box 1	folder 11
Clippings, undated	box 1	folder 12
"Competition vs. Cooperation", undated	box 1	folder 13
Letters of Congratulation and Complement, 1897-1926	box 1	folder 14
Congregational Church of Montclair, 1924	box 1	folder 15
Consolidation Coal Company, 1915	box 1	folder 16
Scope and Contents note		
Negotiations; B & O, Western Maryland railroads; Fairmont and Somerset fields; Northern Coal and Coke Company, Elkhorn Mining Corporation.		
"Corporations", undated	box 1	folder 17
Correspondence, 1929	box 1	folder 18
Harvey Cushing, 1907-1921	box 1	folder 19
Scope and Contents note		
Osler biography.		
George H. Doran and Company, 1918-1919	box 1	folder 20
Scope and Contents note		
"Red Triangle Girl in France."		
Charles W. Elliot, 1910-1925		

Scope and Contents note

box 1

folder 21

Philanthropy, medicine in China, agriculture, Germany, railroad strikes, American government, medicine and physicians, southern education, family life, industrial education, Howard University, World War I.

Charles W. Elliot, 1910-1925

box 1

folder 22

Scope and Contents note

Philanthropy, medicine in China, agriculture, Germany, railroad strikes, American government, medicine and physicians, southern education, family life, industrial education, Howard University, World War I.

Simon Flexner, 1908-1926

box 1

folder 23

Scope and Contents note

Antimeningitis serum, homeopathy, Rockefeller Institute, epidemics, World War I, diabetes, insulin, influenza, pneumonia, religion, resignation.

"The Financial Situation", 1903

box 2

folder 24

Scope and Contents note

Prediction of 1906 panic.

"A Forgotten Episode", undated

box 2

folder 25

Scope and Contents note

Socialism and the pilgrims.

"Fundamental Principles of Philanthropy", 1908

box 2

folder 26

Gates Portrait, 1920-1921

box 2

folder 27

General Education Board, 1903-1926

box 2

folder 28

Scope and Contents note

Policy, Rockefeller Foundation charter, Negro education, medical policy, gifts to state universities.

Golf, 1912

box 2

folder 29

T. W. Goodspeed, 1907-1921

box 2

folder 30

Scope and Contents note

University of Chicago history, Rockefeller Institute background.

Health, 1906-1912	box 2	folder 31
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Scope and Contents note

Personals.

High School Fraternities, 1903-1905	box 2	folder 32
-------------------------------------	-------	-----------

Homeopathy, 1911	box 2	folder 33
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Scope and Contents note

Dr. Biggar, meningitis, allopathy, Samuel Hahnesmann.

Hookworm, 1913-1914	box 2	folder 34
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Scope and Contents note

The Rockefeller Sanitary Commission.

David F. Houston, 1911	box 2	folder 35
------------------------	-------	-----------

Insulin Gift, 1923	box 2	folder 36
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Italy, undated	box 2	folder 36A
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J. J. Jesserand, 1916-1917	box 2	folder 37
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Scope and Contents note

Gift for trench soldiers.

Harry Pratt Judson, 1908-1923	box 2	folder 38
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Scope and Contents note

Honorary degree, resignation from University of Chicago board, development of University of Chicago, World War I, submarines, academies, Oriental investigation.

Landis Decision, 1907	box 2	folder 39
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"The Latin Race", undated	box 2	folder 40
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S. A. Lattimore, 1911-1912	box 2	folder 41
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Scope and Contents note

Phi Beta Kappa.

H. C. Mabie, 1915	box 2	folder 42
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Shailer Matthews, 1916	box 2	folder 43
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Medicine, undated	box 2	folder 44
Scope and Contents note		
Medical education, medical schools, University of Minnesota, General Education Board and the Rockefeller Foundation appropriations.		
Dwight R. Meigs, 1916	box 2	folder 45
Scope and Contents note		
Classical education.		
S. J. Meltzer, 1914	box 2	folder 46
Merritt Pamphlet, 1912	box 2	folder 47
Letter on Missions, undated	box 2	folder 48
Scope and Contents note		
Gift to the American Board of Commissioners.		
Missouri Pacific Railroad, 1911	box 3	folder 49
Scope and Contents note		
B. F. Bush.		
William C. Morey, 1914	box 3	folder 50
Scope and Contents note		
Outline history, philanthropy.		
A. S. Ochs, 1912	box 3	folder 51
Robert C. Ogden, 1908	box 3	folder 52
Scope and Contents note		
Religion.		
Walter H. Page, 1906-1922	box 3	folder 53
Sir Horace Plunkett, 1907-1909	box 3	folder 54
Scope and Contents note		
Rural economy, agriculture, publications.		
Polish Relief, 1915	box 3	folder 55
Albert C. Ritchie, 1927	box 3	folder 56
John D. Rockefeller, Sr., 1892-1927	box 3	folder 57

Scope and Contents note

Philanthropy, Finance Committee, "World's Work" financial articles, gardening, Committee on Benevolence, education in China, church endowment, bank stocks, Oriental Institute, University of Chicago, world philanthropy.

John D. Rockefeller, Jr., 1907-1926	box 3	folder 58
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Scope and Contents note

Stock market values and exchange, sectarianism, Institute of Economic Research, reorganization of the Rockefeller organizations, Young Men's Christian Association (YMCA), hookworm, the Merritt pamphlet, Spelman College, compensation, University of Chicago chapel, theological seminaries, Christian College in Cairo, Colorado Fuel and Iron, L. M. Bowers.

John D. Rockefeller, Jr., 1907-1926	box 3	folder 59
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Scope and Contents note

Stock market values and exchange, sectarianism, Institute of Economic Research, reorganization of the Rockefeller organizations, Young Men's Christian Association (YMCA), hookworm, the Merritt pamphlet, Spelman College, compensation, University of Chicago chapel, theological seminaries, Christian College in Cairo, Colorado Fuel and Iron, L. M. Bowers.

Laura Spelman Rockefeller, 1892	box 3	folder 60
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The Rockefeller Foundation, 1920-1939	box 3	folder 61
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Rockefeller Institute, 1911-1931	box 3	folder 62
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Scope and Contents note

10th Anniversary, expansion, endowment, Business Board, Harold Swift, history, testimonial.

Walter Rauschenbusch, 1909	box 3	folder 63
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Scope and Contents note

Theology, social crisis.

St. John the Divine, 1923	box 3	folder 64
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Shanghai, undated	box 3	folder 65
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Scope and Contents note

Medical school.

Albert Shaw, 1909	box 3	folder 66
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Scope and Contents note

College athletics.

"The Spirit of True Religion", undated	box 3	folder 67
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Stanley Committee, 1911	box 3	folder 68
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Scope and Contents note

Merritt's Duluth, Missabe and Northern railroads; loans, consolidation.

Testimonials, undated	box 3	folder 69
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William R. Thayer, 1914-1916	box 3	folder 70
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Scope and Contents note

"Life of Cavour."

"True Wealth", undated	box 3	folder 71
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University of Chicago, 1892-1908	box 3	folder 72
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Scope and Contents note

Buildings, Rush Medical College, Dr. Harper, debt and endowment, gifts and withdrawal.

University of Chicago, 1921	box 3	folder 73
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Scope and Contents note

Testimonial.

William Welch, 1911	box 4	folder 74
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Scope and Contents note

Improvement of Johns Hopkins hospital and medical school.

W. C. Wilkinson, 1875	box 4	folder 75
-----------------------	-------	-----------

Scope and Contents note

Iron stock, Grant-Chase syndicate.

Andrew D. White, undated	box 4	folder 76
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Young Men's Christian Association (YMCA), 1910	box 4	folder 77
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Scope and Contents note

Work abroad.

Gates Papers, 1916-1917	box 4	folder 78
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Scope and Contents note

Abstracts including the American Baptist Education Society 1892, states method, Negro education, Congressional Record of January 1917 on the influence of private interests on public education.

Gates on Policy, 1905-1926

box 4

folder 79

Scope and Contents note

Abstracts, philanthropy as a science, reorganization of Rockefeller boards, world philanthropy, world medicine.

American Baptist Education Society, 1888-1891

box 4

folder 80

Scope and Contents note

Abstracts from letterpress books, University of Chicago, Wake Forest, Baptist colleges, Cook Academy.

Autobiography, undated

box 4A

folder 81

Clipping Scrapbook, 1907-1917

box 5

folder 82

Scope and Contents note

Gift to the American Board, the General Education Board, Women's Colleges, Frederick T. Gates, Rockefeller philanthropy, the University of Chicago, rural education, the Merritt case, the Rockefeller Foundation.

General note

Scrapbook not in box, as of September 2004.

Personal Ledger, 1894-1916

box 5

folder 83