



ArchivesSpace

# Fenning (Karl) Papers

## **An inventory of Karl Fenning Papers at DC Public Library**

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This finding aid was produced using ArchivesSpace on October 19, 2020.

English

Describing Archives: A Content Standard

People's Archive, MLK Library

901 G Street NW

Washington, DC

[archives.dcpl@dc.gov](mailto:archives.dcpl@dc.gov)

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## Summary Information

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<b>Repository:</b>	People's Archive, MLK Library
<b>Creator:</b>	Fenning, Karl, 1881-1963
<b>Title:</b>	Karl Fenning Papers
<b>ID:</b>	074
<b>Date [inclusive]:</b>	1881-1962
<b>Physical Description:</b>	4.5 Linear feet
<b>Physical Description:</b>	4 Boxes
<b>Language of the Material:</b>	English
<b>Language of the Material:</b>	English

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## Biographical / Historical

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Karl Fenning was born in Washington, D.C., on March 30, 1881, the only child of James and Annie Dey Fenning (he had an older, half brother, Frederick A. Fenning). He attended Central High School in the District, and later Trinity College in Hartford, Connecticut, where he earned a bachelor's degree in 1903. He then returned to Washington to attend law school at National University and Columbian College (now George Washington University). Fenning practiced law in Washington from 1904-1906, in New York City from 1906-1911, and in Cleveland, Ohio from 1911-1921. On June 7, 1917, he married Hazel O'Neil. In 1921, President Warren Harding appointed Fenning Assistant Commissioner of Patents, and in 1925, he was appointed Special Assistant to the Attorney General, a position in which he served until 1928. From 1923 until 1946, Fenning was a professor of patent law at Georgetown University. He died February 28, 1963 in Washington.

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## Scope and Contents

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The collection consists of personal and professional correspondence, professional publications, clippings, genealogical and biographical information, memorabilia and family photographs. The materials are divided into four series: Professional Papers, Personal Papers, Photographs, and Ephemera.

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## Arrangement

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Series 1: Professional Papers This series is made up of correspondence relating to professional activities and teaching, professional publications, clippings, and biographical materials. Series 2: Personal Papers This series consists of educational records, correspondence and research concerning Karl Fenning's ancestry, and papers relating to his wife, Hazel O'Neil Fenning, brother Frederick A. Fenning, and mother, Annie Dey Fenning. This series also contains general correspondence, including a letter from Carrie J. Kingdon (possibly Karl's aunt or cousin), who was vacationing in Switzerland at the outbreak of World War I. Series 3: Photographs This series includes photos of Karl Fenning at various ages. Also included are family photographs, Karl Fenning's birthplace, and images taken in Washington, D.C., New Jersey, Florida, Boston, and Yosemite National Park. Series 4: Ephemera This series includes the baby book of Karl's niece, Katherine Hine Fenning, 2 leather wallets, a Metropolitan Police Department badge, a passport issued to Fenning in 1916, and various personal and professional certificates.

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## Administrative Information

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### Publication Statement

People's Archive, MLK Library

901 G Street NW  
Washington, DC  
[archives.dcpl@dc.gov](mailto:archives.dcpl@dc.gov)

## Custodial History

Frederick F. Wright, grandnephew of Karl Fenning, donated the collection to the Library in July 2006, with subsequent donations in September 2006.

## Processing Information

Basic archival processing procedures were applied to the collection when it was processed.

## Conditions Governing Use

No known restrictions.

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## Related Materials

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### Related Materials

Lemon and Mary Hine Correspondence Collection (Collection 076)

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## Controlled Access Headings

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- Photographs
- Correspondence
- Genealogy
- Ephemera
- College teachers
- Lawyers
- United States--Officials and employees

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## Collection Inventory

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### Series 1: Professional Papers

## Scope and Contents

This series is made up of correspondence relating to professional activities and teaching, professional publications, clippings, and biographical materials.

Title/Description	Instances	
Biography, Undated	Box 1	Folder 1
General Correspondence, 1903-1925	Box 1	Folder 2
General Correspondence, 1926-1962	Box 1	Folder 3
Department of Agriculture Appointments, 1900-1901	Box 1	Folder 4
Department of the Interior Appointments, 1902	Box 1	Folder 5
Clippings, 1904, 1917, 1921	Box 1	Folder 6
Publications: "A Neglected Well of Information" Scientific American, 1924	Box 1	Folder 7
"Patent Office" Chemical Age, 1924	Box 1	Folder 8
Teaching and Lectures: Correspondence, 1925-1926	Box 1	Folder 9
Teaching and Lectures: Correspondence, 1932, 1947-1948	Box 1	Folder 10
Civil Service Application, 1942	Box 1	Folder 11
General Professional Papers, 1908	Box 1	Folder 12

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## Series 2: Personal Papers

### Scope and Contents

Series II consists of educational records, correspondence and research concerning Karl Fenning's ancestry, and papers relating to his wife, Hazel O'Neil Fenning, brother Frederick A. Fenning, and mother, Annie Dey Fenning. This series also contains general correspondence, including a letter from Carrie J. Kingdon (possibly Karl's aunt or cousin), who was vacationing in Switzerland at the outbreak of World War I.

Title/Description	Instances	
General Correspondence, 1898-1926, 1948, 1953	Box 1	Folder 13
General Correspondence - Carrie J. Kingdon to Karl Fenning, November 1914	Box 1	Folder 14
Trinity College, 1899-1905	Box 1	Folder 15
Trinity College: Phi Gamma Delta, 1901-1904, 1948	Box 1	Folder 16
Law School, 1903-1905	Box 1	Folder 17
Property, 1917	Box 1	Folder 18
Family: Ancestry, 1899-1942	Box 2	Folder 1

Family: Ancestry Correspondence, 1899-1942	Box 2	Folder 2
Family: Hazel Fenning, 1917, 1936, 1939	Box 2	Folder 3
Family: Frederick A. Fenning, 1907, 1936, 1944, 1964	Box 2	Folder 4
Baby Book of Katherine Hine Fenning, 1902	Box 2	folder 5
Family: Annie Dey Fenning - Sketchbook, 1870	Box 2	Folder 6
Family: Annie Dey Fenning, 1921	Box 2	Folder 7
General Personal Papers, Undated	Box 2	Folder 8
General Personal Papers, Undated	Box 2	Folder 9
Memorabilia, Undated	Box 2	Folder 10

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## Series 3: Photographs

### Scope and Contents

This series includes photos of Karl Fenning at various ages. Also included are family photos, Karl Fenning's birthplace, and images taken in the Washington, DC area, New Jersey, Florida, Boston, and Yosemite.

Title/Description	Instances	
Childhood, 1882-1900	Box 2	Folder 11
Trinity College Commencement, 1903	Box 2	Folder 12
Fenning and Family, 1912	Box 2	Folder 13
Patent Office Photograph, 1925	Box 2	Folder 14
House, Undated	Box 2	Folder 15
Woman, 1919	Box 2	Folder 16
Postcard: Huguenot Memorial Church - Pelham Manor NY, Undated	Box 2	Folder 17
House - Woman - Man, Undated	Box 2	Folder 18
Framed Photo of Katherine Hine Fenning, 1910	Box 3	Folder 1
Adirondacks, 1901	Box 3	Folder 2
Harper Ferry - Train Scene, 1904	Box 3	Folder 3
Karl Fenning, 1896	Box 3	Folder 4
Karl Fenning, 1904	Box 3	Folder 5
Karl Fenning - Trinity College Commencement, 1903	Box 3	Folder 6
Karl Fenning, 1900	Box 3	Folder 7

Karl Fenning (more likely Frederick Fenning), Undated	Box 3	Folder 8
Karl Fenning's birthplace - interior and exterior, 1881	Box 3	Folder 9
Karl Fenning and Annie Dey Fenning - framed, 1905	Box 3	Folder 10
Karl Fenning - framed, 1908	Box 3	Folder 11
Annie Fenning - framed, 1900	Box 3	Folder 12
Mother of Annie Fenning (?) - framed, Undated	Box 3	Folder 13
Photo Album - DC Area - Mt. Vernon, 1900	Box 3	Folder 14
Photo Album - Trinity College - Yosemite - Summer Jobs - DC Area - Hazel O'Neil Fenning, 1910-1925	Box 3	Folder 15
House, Undated	Box 3	Folder 16
Building, Undated	Box 3	Folder 17
Man - dog - house, Undated	Box 3	Folder 18
Annie Fenning - Asbury Park NJ, 1907	Box 3	Folder 19
Mirror Lake - Yosemite, Undated	Box 3	Folder 20
Washington DC scenes, Undated	Box 3	Folder 21
The New Lucerne Hotel Booklet, 1912-1913	Box 3	Folder 22
Thomas Brokaw - Orlando FL, 1914	Box 3	Folder 23
Karl and Annie Fenning - Orlando, 1914	Box 3	Folder 24
D.K. Dey, October 1906	Box 3	Folder 25
Postcard: to Annie Fenning from Carrie J. Kingdon - 13 Brainard St. Mt. Holly NJ, 1909	Box 3	Folder 26
Thomas Brokaw - woman - house, Undated	Box 3	Folder 27
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Brokaw, 1919	Box 3	Folder 28
Photographs: Katherine Fenning, 1902-1912	Box 3	folder 29
Photograph: Katherine Fenning, 1902-1912	Box 4	Folder 1
Photograph: Karl Fenning and 6 men, 1903	Box 4	Folder 2

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## Series 4: Ephemera



## Scope and Contents

Series IV includes the baby book of Karl's niece, Katherine Hine Fenning, 2 leather wallets, a Metropolitan Police Badge, a passport issued to Fenning in 1916, and various personal and professional certificates.

Title/Description	Instances	
Baby book of Katherine Hine Fenning, 1902	Box 4	Folder 3
Certificate - Admitted to Practice Law in Ohio, 1911	Box 4	Folder 4
Certificate - Member - Ohio Sons of the American Revolution, 1912	Box 4	Folder 5
Certificate - Appointed Scoutmaster - Boy Scouts of America, 1913	Box 4	Folder 6
Certificate - Admitted - Attorney and Counselor - US Court of Appeals - Sixth Circuit, 1916	Box 4	Folder 7
Certificate - Admitted - Attorney and Counselor - Supreme Court of the United States, 1925	Box 4	Folder 8
Certificate - Member - American Arbitration Association - National Panel of Arbitrators, 1941	Box 4	Folder 9
Passport - Karl Fenning, 1916	Box 4	Folder 10
Metropolitan Police Department Badge, Undated	Box 4	Folder 11
Wallet, labeled KHF, Undated	Box 4	Folder 12
Wallet - Trinity Senior Prom, 1903	Box 4	Folder 13

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