

# **Guide to the George Clement Perkins Papers**

**WA MSS S-2706**



by Lisa Conathan

2012

P. O. Box 208330  
New Haven, CT 06520-8330  
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## Collection Overview

**REPOSITORY:** Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library  
P. O. Box 208330  
New Haven, CT 06520-8330  
(203) 432-2977  
beinecke.library@yale.edu  
<http://beinecke.library.yale.edu/>

**CALL NUMBER:** WA MSS S-2706

**CREATOR:** Perkins, George C. (George Clement), 1839-1923

**TITLE:** George Clement Perkins papers

**DATES:** 1862-1946

**BULK DATES:** 1879-1915

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:** 1.84 linear feet (7 boxes)

**LANGUAGE:** English

**SUMMARY:** The Papers consist of speeches, correspondence, financial records, photographs, scrapbooks and ephemera documenting the political life of George Clement Perkins. Speeches consist of manuscript versions in unidentified hands. Some speeches are identified within the folders; others are untitled and undated. The papers do not comprehensively document Perkins's official activities as a California legislator and governor, but focus on his political activity generally and his 1879 gubernatorial campaign. Some ephemera documents the activities of the Bohemian Club of San Francisco circa 1880. Posthumous records document Perkins's estate.

**ONLINE FINDING AID:** To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/beinecke.perkinsgc>

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## Requesting Instructions

To request items from this collection for use in the Beinecke Library reading room, please use the request links in the HTML version of this finding aid, available at <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/beinecke.perkinsgc>.

To order reproductions from this collection, please send an email with the call number, box number(s), and folder number(s) to [beinecke.images@yale.edu](mailto:beinecke.images@yale.edu).

Key to the container abbreviations used in the PDF finding aid:

b. box  
f. folder

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## Administrative Information

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### Immediate Source of Acquisition

Purchased from Vigilante Rare Books on the Edwin J. Beinecke Book Fund, 2002.

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### Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

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### Conditions Governing Use

The George Clement Perkins Papers is the physical property of the Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University. Literary rights, including copyright, belong to the authors or their legal heirs and assigns. For further information, consult the appropriate curator.

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### Preferred Citation

George Clement Perkins Papers. Yale Collection of Western Americana, Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library.

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### Processing Information

Former call number: Uncat MSS 347.

Collection are processed to a variety of levels, depending on the work necessary to make them usable, their perceived research value, the availability of staff, competing priorities, and whether or not further accruals are expected. The library attempts to provide a basic level of preservation and access for all collections, and does more extensive processing of higher priority collections as time and resources permit.

This collection received a basic level of processing, including rehousing and minimal organization, in 2012.

Information included in the Description of Papers note and Collection Contents section is drawn from information supplied with the collection and from an initial survey of the contents. Folder titles appearing in the contents list below are often based on those provided by the creator or previous custodian. Titles have not been verified against the contents of the folders in all cases. Otherwise, folder titles are supplied by staff during initial processing.

This finding aid may be updated periodically to account for new acquisitions to the collection and/or revisions in arrangement and description.

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## George Clement Perkins, 1839-1923

George Clement Perkins was born in Kennebunkport, Maine in 1839 and died in Oakland, California in 1923. He began his career as a cabin boy on a merchant ship and quickly became successful in diverse entrepreneurial endeavors, including a steamship business. A Republican politician and businessman, he was a California State Senator (1869-1876), the 14th governor of California (1880-1883) and a United States Senator (1893-1915). He was married to Ruth A. Parker and they had several children.

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## Scope and Contents

The Papers consist of speeches, correspondence, financial records, photographs, scrapbooks and ephemera documenting the political life of George C. Perkins. Speeches consist of manuscript versions in unidentified hands. Some speeches are identified within the folders; others are untitled and undated. The papers do not comprehensively document Perkins's official activities as a California legislator and governor, but focus on his political activity generally and his 1879 gubernatorial campaign. Some ephemera documents the activities of the Bohemian Club of San Francisco circa 1880. Posthumous records document Perkins's estate.

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## Arrangement

Organized into four series: I. Speeches, circa 1880-circa 1915. II. Correspondence and Business Papers, 1862-1946. III. Photographs, 1880-circa 1940. IV. Other Papers, 1878-1915.

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## Collection Contents

### Series I: Speeches, circa 1880-circa 1915

*0.42 linear feet (1 box)*

Series I. consists of manuscript versions (in unidentified hands) of speeches by George C. Perkins.

Not arranged in any particular order.

b. 1, f. 1-21

Speeches by Perkins, manuscripts

undated  
[1880s-1910s]

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**Series II: Correspondence and Business Papers, 1862-1946**

*0.42 linear feet (1 box)*

Series II consists of correspondence, financial records, invitations, and estate documents. Correspondence during Perkins’s lifetime is fragmentary and relates chiefly to his social and political activity and to legal affairs, but does not comprehensively document his official duties as California legislator and governor. Correspondence and papers after 1923 relate chiefly to Perkins’s estate. Financial records relate chiefly to the business of Goodall, Nelson & Perkins (later Goodall, Perkins & Co.).

Not arranged in any particular order.

b. 2, f. 22	Correspondence	1860-1916
b. 2, f. 23-24	Invitations	1880-1926
b. 2, f. 25-26	Empty envelopes	1897-1931
b. 2, f. 27	Financial records	1862-1899
b. 2, f. 28-31	Perkins estate records	1916-1946

**Series III: Photographs, 1880-1940**

*0.21 linear feet (1 box)*

Series III includes several copies of a portrait of George C. Perkins as California governor, circa 1880. Also included are unidentified photographs, presumably of family members, possibly including George C. Perkins as a young man.

Not arranged in any particular order.

b. 3, f. 32-38	Portraits of George C. Perkins, including reproductions and engravings Also stored in: Oversize Box 6, folder 71	circa 1880
b. 3, f. 39	George C. Perkins and family members, including Fred K. Perkins	circa 1880- circa 1940
	Members of the Assembly, 33rd Session, California Legislature Stored in: Oversize Box 6, folder 72	1899



**Series IV: Other Papers, 1878-1915***0.63 linear feet (2 boxes)*

Series IV consists of scrapbooks, clippings, printed ephemera, and sketches. Scrapbooks and clippings relate chiefly to Perkins's political campaigns and activity. Printed ephemera includes brochures and broadsides relating to Perkins. Sketches are pencil studies of shapes, signed "Perkins." Also included is a printed version of a speech by Charles E. Travers.

Not arranged in any particular order.

b. 4, f. 40	<i>Twenty-Eighth Anniversary of the Corporate Society of California Pioneers</i> , oration by Col. Charles E. Travers, printed version	1878
b. 4, f. 41	Scrapbook of gubernatorial campaign	1879
b. 4, f. 42	Scrapbook of Senate years	undated
	Scrapbook Stored in: Oversize Box 7	1890s
b. 4, f. 43-60	Clippings	1879-1915
b. 5, f. 61-65	Clippings	1893-1913
b. 5, f. 66-67	Printed ephemera Also stored in: Oversize Box 6, folders 73-74	1885-1910, undated
b. 5, f. 68	Printed ephemera relating to the Bohemian Club, San Francisco, California	1879-1882
b. 5, f. 69-70	<i>Pen Pictures of our Representative Men</i> , by Hugh J. Mohan, E.H. Clough, John P. Cosgrave, printed versions, inscribed by the authors	1880
	Sketches, studies of shapes, pencil Stored in: Oversize Box 6	undated

**Oversize Material***0.17 linear feet (2 boxes)*

b. 6, f. 71	Engraving of George C. Perkins (Series III.)	undated
b. 6, f. 72	Photograph of Members of the Assembly, 33rd Session, California Legislature (Series III.)	1899
b. 6, f. 73-74	Printed ephemera (Series IV.)	1885, undated
b. 6, f. 75	Sketches, studies of shapes, pencil (Series IV.)	undated
b. 7, f. 76	Scrapbook (Series IV.)	1890s

## **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.

### **Subjects**

Governors -- California  
Legislators -- California  
Legislators -- United States  
Political campaigns -- California

### **Geographic Names**

California -- Politics and government --  
1850-1950

### **Genres / Formats**

Photographic prints  
Speeches (documents) -- California --  
1850-1950

### **Occupations**

Governors -- California -- 1850-1950  
Legislators -- California -- 1850-1950  
Legislators -- United States -- 1850-1950

### **Names**

Perkins, George C. (George Clement), 1839-1923

### **Corporate Bodies**

Bohemian Club (San Francisco, Calif.)  
California. Legislature