

# Guide to the Farwell Knapp Papers

YCAL MSS 256



by H. Dean

July 2007

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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:** YCAL MSS 256

**CREATOR:** Knapp, Farwell, 1893-1942

**TITLE:** Farwell Knapp papers

**DATES:** 1891-1947

**BULK DATES:** 1907-1942

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:** 7.75 linear feet (20 boxes)

**LANGUAGE:** English

**SUMMARY:** The Farwell Knapp Papers, largely consisting of correspondence, journals, photographs, and other papers, documents the personal and professional life of Connecticut tax lawyer Farwell Knapp. Knapp's experience as a student at Yale University and Harvard University law school are recorded, including his involvement with the secret society Skull and Bones and friendships with fellow alumni (such as poet Phelps Putnam and painter Russell Cheney). The life of Knapp's wife, Helen Bayne Knapp, and her family are also documented in the papers.

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

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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.knappf>.

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

Gift of Helen Bayne Knapp (1967 and 1973) and Elizabeth Knapp Packard (2006).

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## Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

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## Conditions Governing Use

The Farwell Knapp 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

Farwell Knapp Papers. Yale Collection of American Literature, Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library.

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## Processing Information

The Farwell Knapp Papers contain archival material formerly classed in YCAL MSS 116.

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## Farwell Knapp (1893-1942)

Farwell Knapp was born in Bridgeport, Connecticut, on November 28, 1893. He was educated at the Taft School (in Watertown) and Yale University where he was a member of Phi Beta Kappa and Skull and Bones. After his graduation from Yale in 1916 Knapp entered Harvard University Law School. Knapp left his studies in 1917 and enlisted in the Army, where he served with the 302nd Field Artillery in France. Knapp returned to law school after the war, graduating in 1921, and was admitted to the Connecticut Bar in 1922. The following year Knapp married Helen Bayne (1896-1984) with whom he had two daughters (Emily Perkins and Elizabeth Cheney). Knapp first worked in the office of Shipman & Goodwin before he was appointed assistant tax commissioner of the state of Connecticut in 1925, a position he would hold until 1937, at which point he became a partner in the firm of Marsh, Stoddard & Day. In 1941 Knapp worked for a short time as a trust officer in the Phoenix State Bank & Trust Company before his retirement due to a heart condition. During his career Knapp also taught at the Hartford College of Law. Knapp died by suicide in 1942.

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## Scope and Contents

The Farwell Knapp Papers, consisting of correspondence, journals, photographs, and other papers, document the personal and professional life of Connecticut tax lawyer Farwell Knapp. Knapp's experience as a student at Yale University and Harvard University law school are recorded, including, for example, friendships with fellow alumni and his involvement with the secret society Skull and Bones. Farwell Knapp and his wife Helen Bayne Knapp's family life and friendships (including poet Phelps Putnam and painter Russell Cheney) are also represented in the papers. Knapp's journals contain entries on topics ranging from his everyday family life and health to philosophical ponderings and explicit details of sexual experiences. Knapp's career is also documented in both his own writings and contemporary publications that mention his legal cases.

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## Arrangement

The Farwell Knapp Papers is organized into the following four series: Correspondence, Journals, Professional Papers, and Personal Papers. Oversize material is listed at the end of the collection.

## Collection Contents

### Series I: Correspondence, 1907-1947

2.29 linear feet (6 boxes)

The series contains Farwell and Helen Knapp's personal correspondence dating from 1907 to 1947 and documents their relationships with family and friends.

The series is organized into two subseries: Farwell Knapp Correspondence and Helen Bayne Knapp Correspondence. Within each subseries correspondence is arranged alphabetically by correspondent. Some of Farwell Knapp's correspondence can also be found in his journals in Series II.

#### Farwell Knapp Correspondence

b. 1, f. 1	"A" General	1914-1929
b. 1, f. 2	"B" General	1919-1942
b. 1, f. 3-5	Bayne, Elizabeth	1922-1941
b. 1, f. 6	Bayne, Emily	1929
b. 1, f. 7	Bayne, Hugh Aiken	1923-1940
b. 1, f. 8	Blodgett, William Henry	1915-1942
b. 1, f. 9	Bushnell, Sam	1917-1923
b. 1, f. 10	Butler, Nicholas Includes Knapp's essay "The Nose of the Camel"	1936-1937
b. 1, f. 11	"C" General	1915-1941
b. 1, f. 12	Cheney, Lillian	1923-1940
b. 1, f. 13	Cheney, Russell	1915-1942
b. 1, f. 14-15	Cooley, Francis	1915-1941
b. 1, f. 16	Cowles, Esther	1923-1942
b. 1, f. 17-18	Cowles, Knight	1910-1940
b. 1, f. 19	"D" General	1916-1941
b. 1, f. 20	"F" General	1923-1941
b. 1, f. 21	Farwell, Frank	1913-1923
b. 1, f. 22	Farwell, Libby	1915-1923
b. 1, f. 23	"G" General	1914-1923
b. 1, f. 24	Garrett & Co. Inc.	1938
b. 1, f. 25	Geary, Donald	1922-1923
b. 1, f. 26	General Electric	1937

## Farwell Knapp Correspondence (continued)

b. 1, f. 27	Gross, Charles	1941
b. 1, f. 28	"K" General	1917-1922
b. 1, f. 29	Kellogg, Freda	1918-1919
b. 1, f. 30	Knapp, Emily Hale Perkins	1917-1940
b. 1, f. 31	Knapp, Emily Perkins	1939-1942
b. 2, f. 32-33	Knapp, Helen Bayne	1921-1926
b. 2, f. 34	Knapp, Howard Hoyt	1909-1917
b. 2, f. 35-36	Kunhardt, George and Martha	1910-1923
b. 2, f. 37	"L" General	1924-1940
b. 2, f. 38	"M-N" General	1917-1940
b. 2, f. 39	Manning, Frederick Johnson	1920-1942
b. 2, f. 40	Messina, Francesco, Count	1928
b. 2, f. 41	Military Emergency Board	1914-1918
b. 2, f. 42	Oler, Wesley M.	1915-1940
b. 2, f. 43	"P" General	1918-1942
b. 2, f. 44-45	Perkins, Lucy	1914-1922
b. 2, f. 46	Perkins, Thomas and Hafza Includes bookplates with Perkins coat of arms	1918-1923
b. 2, f. 47	Peters, Dorothy	1916-1921
b. 2, f. 48-51	Putnam, Phelps See also: <a href="#">Putnam, Phelps</a>	1918-1928
b. 2, f. 52	"R" General	1939-1941
b. 2, f. 53	"S" General	1917-1941
b. 2, f. 54-55	Stewart, Donald	1916-1941
b. 3, f. 56	Swain, Robert	1929, 1941
b. 3, f. 57	"T" General	1915-1940
b. 3, f. 58	Tener, Kinley J.	1916-1923, 1940
b. 3, f. 59-60	Tighe, Hester Smith	1919-1930
b. 3, f. 61-62	Tighe, Laurence Gotzian	1916-1939
b. 3, f. 63	Underhill, Ednah	1923, 1940
b. 3, f. 64	"V-W" General	1915-1941

## Farwell Knapp Correspondence (continued)

b. 3, f. 65	Walker, Charles Rumford and Adelaide	1941-1942
b. 3, f. 66	Wilson, Ralph Includes inventory of Knapp's collection of erotic literature	1938-1939
b. 3, f. 67	Yale University	1914-1915, 1941
b. 3, f. 68	----, Betsy	1941-1942
b. 3, f. 69	Unidentified	1915-1941
Helen Bayne Knapp Correspondence		
b. 4, f. 70-72	"A-Z" General	1916-1942
b. 4, f. 73-77	Bayne, Elizabeth	1910-1925
b. 4, f. 78-79	Bayne, Helen Cheney	1907-1937
b. 4, f. 80-81	Bayne, Hugh	1913-1944
b. 4, f. 82-87	Cheney, Lillian	1912-1925
b. 4, f. 88-89	Cheney, Russell	1912-1931
b. 4, f. 90	Cowles, Knight	1918-1923
b. 4, f. 91	Cowles, Tom	1914-1917
b. 4, f. 92	Fisher, Bob	1918
b. 4, f. 93	Jennings, Annie	1937-1939
b. 4, f. 94	Kitchell, Lloyd	1923, undated
b. 5, f. 95-116	<a href="#">Putnam, Phelps</a> Includes black and white photographs of Russell Cheney, Phelps Putnam, Helen Knapp, Farwell Knapp, and "Nina" See also: <a href="#">Putnam, Phelps</a>	1918-1947
b. 6, f. 117-119	Putnam, Phelps, typed transcriptions Transcriptions made by Helen Bayne Knapp of journals dating 1919-1947	1967
b. 6, f. 120	Putnam, Phelps, typed transcriptions Transcriptions made by Helen Bayne Knapp of correspondence between Phelps Putnam and the Knapps from 1922 to 1942. Include introduction by Helen Bayne Knapp who entitled the collection "Three Against Chance"	1973
b. 6, f. 121	Smith, Edna Dow	undated
b. 6, f. 122	Stewart, Donald	1921-1929
b. 6, f. 123	Venner, Herman	1919-1920
b. 6, f. 124	----, Charles	1920-1923
b. 6, f. 125	----, Malcolm	1921

## Helen Bayne Knapp Correspondence (continued)

b. 6, f. 126	----, Uncle [Minnie?]	1916
b. 6, f. 127	Unidentified	1914-1924
Third Party Correspondence		
b. 6, f. 128	Bayne, Hugh Aiken	1913, 1937
b. 6, f. 129-133	Putnam, Phelps to Elizabeth Bayne	1918-1943
b. 6, f. 134	Putnam, Phelps to Frederick Manning, typed transcripts Includes correspondence and poetry collected and transcribed by Helen Bayne Knapp in 1967	1915-1939



**Series II: Journals, 1907-1942****4.38 linear feet (11 boxes)**

The series contains Farwell Knapp's journals written between 1907 and 1942. The series also includes two sets of typed excerpts from the journals made by Helen Bayne Knapp. In addition to journal entries the journals contain correspondence, ephemera, and black and white photographs of the Knapps as well as their family and friends.

The journals are arranged in chronological order. Loose items were removed from the journals and placed in the folder following the journal or in Oversize (as noted).

b. 7, f. 135-139	Journals	1907-1914
b. 8, f. 140	Journal	1914
b. 8, f. 141	Loose material removed from journal	1914
b. 8, f. 142	Journal	1915
b. 8, f. 143	Journal	1916
b. 8, f. 144	Loose material removed from journal	1916
b. 8, f. 145	Journal	1917
	Loose material removed from journal Stored in: Oversize box 20, folder 221	1917
b. 9, f. 146	Journal	1918
b. 9, f. 147	Loose material removed from journal	1918
b. 9, f. 148-149	Journals	1918
b. 9, f. 150-151	Journals	1919
b. 10, f. 152	Journal	1920
b. 10, f. 153	Loose material removed from journal	1920
b. 10, f. 154	Journal	1921
b. 10, f. 155	Loose material removed from journal	1921
b. 10, f. 156	Journal	1921
b. 10, f. 157	Loose material removed from journal	1921
b. 11, f. 158	Journal	1922 January - 1922 October
b. 11, f. 159	Loose material removed from journal Also stored in: Oversize box 20, folder 221	1922 January - 1922 October
b. 11, f. 160	Journal	1922 October - 1923 Summer
b. 11, f. 161	Loose material removed from journal Also stored in: Oversize box 20, folder 221	1922 October - 1923 Summer

b. 12, f. 162	Journal	1923 December - 1924 December
b. 12, f. 163	Loose material removed from journal	1923 December - 1924 December
b. 12, f. 164	Journal	1924 December - 1925 June
b. 12, f. 165	Loose material removed from journal	1924 December - 1925 June
b. 13, f. 166	Journal	1925 June - 1926 September
b. 13, f. 167	Loose material removed from journal	1925 June - 1926 September
b. 13, f. 168	<a href="#">Journal</a>	1926 October - 1927 October
b. 13, f. 169	Loose material removed from journal	1926 October - 1927 October
b. 14, f. 170	Journal	1927 October -1928 December
b. 14, f. 171	Loose material removed from journal Also stored in: Oversize box 20, folder 221	1927 October -1928 December
b. 14, f. 172	Journal	1928 December - 1929 March
b. 14, f. 173	Loose material removed from journal Also stored in: Oversize box 20, folder 221	1928 December - 1929 March
b. 15, f. 174	Journal	1930 March - 1931 August
b. 15, f. 175	Loose material removed from journal	1930 March - 1931 August
b. 15, f. 176	Journal	1931 August - 1932 December
b. 15, f. 177	Loose material removed from journal Also stored in: Oversize box 20, folder 221	1931 August - 1932 December
b. 16, f. 178	Journal	1933
b. 16, f. 179	Loose material removed from journal	1933
b. 16, f. 180	Journal	1939-1942
b. 16, f. 181	Loose material removed from journal Also stored in: Oversize box 20, folder 221	1939-1942
b. 16, f. 182	Journal transcripts Transcriptions of journals from 1907 to 1921	undated

b. 17, f. 183-189	"Farwell Knapp Journal: Love Story of a Stoic Philosopher" Typed transcripts made by Helen Bayne Knapp of period between 1921 and 1923	1967
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**Series III: Professional Papers, 1920-1937***0.42 linear feet (1 box)*

The series contains writings by Knapp as well as other printed material relating to his professional life between 1920 and 1937.

The series is arranged into two subseries: Writings and Other Papers. Writings are organized chronologically and Other Papers by last name of author and, when multiple or unknown authors, by title.

## Writings

b. 18, f. 190	"The Effect of Smith v. Loughman on Non-Resident Transfer Taxation", <i>Connecticut Bar Journal</i>	1928 April
b. 18, f. 191	"Charitable Exemptions" and "Third Report of the Committee of the National Tax Association on Double Domicile in Inheritance Taxation"	1934, 1937
b. 18, f. 192	Meeting notes	1935, 1941

## Other Papers

b. 18, f. 193	Bigelow, E. Victor. "Mistakes of the Interchurch Steel Report"	1920
b. 18, f. 194	<i>Harvard Law School Class of 1921 Report</i>	1924
b. 18, f. 195	Newspaper clipping regarding Knapp's employment with law firm Marsh, Stoddard & Day	1937
b. 18, f. 196	Perkins, Arthur. "History of an Old Law Firm Now Known as Perkins, Wells, Davis, and Schaefer of Hartford"	1930
b. 18, f. 197-198	<i>Supreme Court of Errors of the State of Connecticut</i> Includes Farwell Knapp's cases	1926-1931
b. 18, f. 199	<i>In the Supreme Court of the United States</i> Includes Farwell Knapp's cases	1927-1932

**Series IV: Personal Papers, 1891-1944***0.42 linear feet (1 box)*

This series contains personal papers of Farwell Knapp and Helen Bayne Knapp. The personal papers document financial and legal dealings, travel, and education.

The series is organized into three subseries: Financial Records, Legal Records, and Other Papers. The subseries are arranged alphabetically.

Financial Records		
b. 19, f. 200	Notes	1939, undated
b. 19, f. 201	Receipts	1917-1944
b. 19, f. 202	Taxes Also stored in: Oversize box 20, folder 222	1920-1936
Legal Records		
b. 19, f. 203	Passports and driver's licenses	1921-1930
b. 19, f. 204	Life insurance	1944
b. 19, f. 205	Lease and bond for deed	1925, 1944
b. 19, f. 206-207	Wills	1937-1943
Other papers		
b. 19, f. 208	Journal fragments of Howard Hoyt Knapp	1891-1925
b. 19, f. 209	School papers, essays, and poetry	1914-1915, undated
b. 19, f. 210	Harvard Law School first year examination	1916-1917
b. 19, f. 211	Certificates	1918-1943
b. 19, f. 212	Personal notes of Helen Bayne Knapp	1922-1944
b. 19, f. 213	Photographic postcard of Knapp, Odette Labourie, Mrs. Olive Squire, and STM	1921
b. 19, f. 214-216	Postcards of France, Italy, and Spain	undated
b. 19, f. 217	Souvenir booklet from Weathered Oak Herb Farm	1939
b. 19, f. 218	List of erotica	undated

**Oversize**

*1.67 linear feet (1 box)*

b. 20, f. 219	Loose items removed from journals (Series II)	1917-1942
b. 20, f. 220	Taxes (Series IV)	1930-1936

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## 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

Books and reading  
Childbirth -- Connecticut  
Courtship -- Connecticut  
Marriage -- Connecticut  
Sex -- Connecticut

### Contributors

Knapp, Farwell, 1893-1942  
Knapp, Helen Bayne, 1896-1984

### Genres / Formats

Diaries -- United States -- Connecticut  
Photographs -- United States

### Occupations

Tax lawyers

### Preferred Titles

*Farwell Knapp journal*

### Names

Bayne, Hugh Aiken, 1870-1954  
Cheney, Russell, 1881-1945  
Knapp, Farwell, 1893-1942  
Knapp, Helen Bayne, 1896-1984  
Manning, Frederick J. (Frederick Johnson)  
Pearson, Norman Holmes, 1909-1975  
Putnam, Phelps, 1894-1948  
Stewart, Donald Ogden, 1894-1980

### Corporate Bodies

Harvard Law School -- Alumni and alumnae  
Marsh, Stoddard & Day  
Order of Skull & Bones  
Phi Beta Kappa  
Shipman & Goodman (Law firm)  
University of Connecticut. School of Law  
Yale College (1887- ). Class of 1916  
Yale University  
Yale University -- Alumni and alumnae