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Note
History --History, California --History, Central Valley/Sierra
Geographical (By Place) --California --Central Valley/Sierra
Biological and Medical Sciences --Biological Sciences --Environment

Collection number: BANC MSS C-B 511

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Collection Summary

Collection Title: Robert Bradford Marshall Papers,
Date (inclusive): 1898-1949
Collection Number: BANC MSS C-B 511
Creator: Marshall, Robert Bradford, 1867-1949
Extent: Number of containers: 23 boxes, 4 scrapbooks, 1 portfolio, 1 volume
Linear feet: 12
Repository: The Bancroft Library.
Berkeley, California 94720-6000

Physical Location: For current information on the location of these materials, please consult the Library's online catalog.

Abstract: Correspondence, notes, manuscripts of his writings, speeches, memoranda, clippings and scrapbooks, mainly relating to the Marshall Plan for water development, conservation, Hetch-Hetchy, roads, Yosemite National Park and other parks. Family correspondence and personal papers also included.

Languages Represented: English

Access
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Ballinger, R. A.:
Address . . . delivered at Public Lands Convention, Denver, Sept. 1911. A portrayal of bureaucratic government in America.
California Council For Protection Of Roadside Beauty.
Annual Report. 1931.
California. Department of Natural Resources, Division of Parks.
Circular A, B, D, 1928.
California. Legislature.
California. State Water Commission.
Rules and regulations governing the appropriation of water in California in accordance with Chapter 586, statutes of 1913.
Colorado Mountain Club.
Complete list of members. 1913.
Great Northern Railway.
Short jaunts for little money -Glacier National Park. n.d.
Miller, Clement H.
Address . . . before the S. F. Center of the California Civic League on the wisdom of the proposed grant by congress of the use of Hetch-Hetchy Valley . . . n.d.
National Highway Association.
National Highways and Good Roads Everywhere. [1913?]
National Park Conference.
O'Shaughnessy, H. M.
U.S. Congress.
Public Resolution no. 27.
U.S. Congress, 72nd Congress, 2d Session.
U.S. Congress.
Yosemite and General Grant National Parks. (An act to set apart certain land in the state of California as forest reservations) Approved Oct. 1, 1890.
U.S. Dept. of the Interior.
Some lakes of Glacier National Park. 1912.
U.S. Dept. of the Interior.
Office of the Secretary.
(1) General information regarding Crater Lake National Park, Season of 1913.
(2) General information regarding Sequoia and General Grant National Parks, Season of 1913.
(3) General information regarding Yosemite National Park, Season of 1915.

U.S. Secretary of the Interior.

Letter to Mayor and Supervisors of City and County of San Francisco, California. Feb. 25, 1910.

Biography

Robert Bradford Marshall, geographer and father of the Marshall Plan for irrigation and water conservation of the Central Valley in California, was born in Amelia County, Virginia in 1867. He entered the U.S. Geological Survey as a geographer in 1889, became Geographer of the Pacific Division in 1907 and was appointed Chief Geographer of the U.S. Geological Survey in 1910. This position he held until 1915 when he was appointed Superintendent of Parks. He resumed the position of Chief Geographer in 1917. In 1919 he resigned his government post to devote himself fully to developing and publicizing his Marshall Plan of irrigation and water control of the Central Valley of California. Due in part to his extensive and intensive schedule of speeches, he developed a severe throat irritation requiring the removal of his larynx in 1927. He thereby lost power of speech and was able to converse only with the aid of an artificial larynx. In 1928 he was appointed State Landscape Engineer in the California Division of Public Works where his duties related to highway beautification and safety. At this time he also did considerable research for the California State Planning Board concerning California and her natural resources. He retired at the age of 70 in 1937 and died in 1949 after several years of ill health, shortly before the completion of one of his dreams, the Shasta Dam.

He married Myra Crow of California in 1896, and had two daughters, Evelyn Bradford Marshall (Mrs. Philip Maddox) and Virginia Mann Marshall.

Scope and Content

This collection, given to the Bancroft Library in 1953 by Virginia Mann Marshall, consists of 23 boxes, 4 scrapbooks, 1 portfolio, 1 volume and maps.

Marshall's letters and writings show him as an enthusiastic supporter of state and national parks, intensely interested in all phases of conservation, acutely aware of natural beauty, a crusader for public good, and an ardent geographer. He was a man with vision and foresight -his Marshall Plan of 1919-1920 came to be the basis of the Central Valley Project of the 1930's. He constantly fought for his plan and for flood control of the Mississippi River.

Letters to Marshall, from such conservationists as William Edward Colby, John Muir, John Frederic Badh, John Nesbet Le Conte and James Grafton Rogers, form an important part of the collection. Much of the correspondence from Hiram Martin Chittenden, Frank Bond, H. C. Benson and the U.S. Department of the Interior relates to the early history of Yosemite as a National Park. Letters from Charles Averill Barlow and Ed Fletcher, though chiefly concerned with private financial business, also reflect the early workings of California water projects. Letters from the California Council for Protection of Roadside Beauty show Marshall's interest in the beauty of highways and his battle against unsightly highway signs. Photocopies of letters from Rudolph Spreckels, letters from Annette (Abbott) Adams, Carter and Barrett, and Paul A. McCarthy deal with Marshall's suit against Spreckels. Many letters relate to national and state parks, the Marshall Plan, conservation, maps, and some pertain to routine business matters such as insurance, retirement, property in Virginia, etc. Letters to and from his family demonstrate an unusually devoted and harmonious domestic life.

Part I contains general correspondence from Marshall, mostly typed copies, arranged chronologically, from 1898-1948; letters to Marshall, arranged alphabetically, A-Z; Marshall's writings, including notes, drafts and manuscripts; memoranda from and to Marshall; and assorted material related to his work.

Part II consists mainly of letters from Marshall to his fiancee, Myra Crow, and to his wife, a few letters to his children and sister-in-law; letters from Mrs. Marshall to her husband, 1898-1948; letters from daughters Evelyn and Virginia to parents; from Evelyn (Crow) Simmons, to Mrs. Marshall; letters of condolence, tributes to R. B. Marshall, and miscellaneous personal papers.

Material removed from the collection consists in: maps -approximately 300, quadrangles and miscellaneous with no annotations and no specific relationship to papers, dispersed, with source noted on each; maps, approximately 175, manuscripts and printed with manuscript notations, kept as unit; 7 photographs (Myra C. Marshall, C. C. Young and Newton B. Drury) to portrait collection; and 17 printed items, mainly pertaining to national parks and water conservation, for separate cataloguing.

Box I: Letters from Marshall, 1898-1930
Box II: Letters from Marshall, 1931-1948
Box III: Letters to Marshall, A-D
Box IV: Letters to Marshall, E-P
Box V: Letters to Marshall, R-Z
Box VI: Marshall's writings:
Scope and Content Note
Notes, drafts, manuscripts; Report on national parks, Rocky Mountain National Park, San Luis Lakes, Sawtooth National Park; Marshall Plan; Our National Parks; California Highway Beautification Survey; "Are We Also Stupid?" and miscellaneous.

Box VII: Marshall's writings:
Scope and Content Note
Notes, drafts, manuscripts; California State Planning Board special reports; California tours; a list of U.S. And state shield sign route numbers and mileages; Agriculture Development in California; Resources of California; Speeches; biographical data; California as I have seen it; John Muir.

Box VIII: Memoranda from Marshall, 1909-1937
Memoranda to Marshall, 1915-1935
Scope and Content Note
Arranged chronologically.

Box IX: California. Department of Public Works. Division of Water Resources. Minutes of consulting board, 1921-1922.
Scope and Content Note
(These contain statements from engineers and "promoters" in various parts of the state, discussing each area's particular water needs, problems and projects, and the means to solve them. The purpose of the board was to gather together this information to present to the state legislature in 1923. Include speeches by Robert Bradford Marshall, U.S. Webb, William Mulholland, J. C. Forkner, Dan Hadsell, U.S. Grant III, John E. Raker and many others.)

Yosemite National Park: Reports, 1891-1893, 1904, and miscellaneous material.

Box XI: California State Irrigation Association. Reports, 1921-1922.
Scope and Content Note
Partial lists and lists of members.

Box XII: Drafts concerning legislation re Hetch-Hetchy, military mapping, state parks, highways, water, Yosemite; U.S. Department of the Interior press releases; U.S. Geological Survey expense accounts, miscellaneous maps, projections, tables, reports and surveys.

Box XIII: Manuscript of Cora Keagle's Water in the Valley.

Box XIV: Clippings, arranged according to subject:
Biographical
Central Valley Project, 1933-1950
Marshall Plan
Marshall as superintendent of National Parks
Key to Arrangement

Box XV:
Clippings, arranged according to subject:
- Rocky Mountain National Park
- Sequoia National Park, Yosemite and Hetch-Hetchy
- American Legion
- automobiles
- editorials, cartoons
- military mapping
- California Missions
- obituaries
- Spreckels
- water
- Will Rogers
- World War II
- miscellaneous
  - scattered issues of the Annuitant
  - a few issues of the Lindsay Gazette.

scrapbook Scrapbooks:
- v.1: 1913-1915--Poems, clippings, maps, problems inherent to map-making,
- v.2: Reactions of the Press to Marshall Plan, 1919-1921, arranged according to counties, A-N.
- v.3: Reactions of the Press to Marshall Plan, 1919-1921, arranged according to counties, O-Z.
- v.4: Reactions of the Press to Marshall Plan, 1920-1921, arranged according to counties, A-Z.

volume volume:
Report to the Honorable the Secretary of the Interior of Commission appointed pursuant to act of Congress approved April 28, 1904, to investigate conditions and situations in Yosemite National Park, by Hiram Martin Chittenden, Frank Bond, and R. B. Marshall. Concerning boundaries and the possibility of making a good road to the park.

portfolio portfolio:
Partial list of reservoir sites in the Sierra Nevada Mountains, 1921; California Highway Beautification Survey Progress Report, 1932; Estimates for landscaping and care of state highway parksides . . . 1929; Certificates.

Box I: Letters from Marshall to Myra Crow, fiancée, 1896, and to wife, 1897-1927, arranged chronologically, and a few letters to Evelyn Bradford Marshall, daughter, and Evelyn (Crow) Simmons, sister-in-law.

Box II: Letters to Marshall from wife, 1898-1907, arranged chronologically.
Scope and Content Note

Box III: Letters to Marshall from wife, 1911-1929, arranged chronologically.
Scope and Content Note
Box IV: Letters to Marshall from wife, 1930-1948, arranged chronologically.
Scope and Content Note


Box VI: Miscellaneous letters, invitations to Myra Crow. Visiting cards, etc. to Mr. & Mrs. R. B. Marshall.
Scope and Content Note

Box VII: Legal documents re California, Virginia property, Patterson Ranch, Marshall vs. Spreckels, miscellaneous, including last will; Crow Oil Co. - Correspondence, notes, appointments and discharges.

Box VIII: Receipts, insurance records, medical records, tax records, miscellaneous personal records.

Adams, Annette (Abbott), 1877-1956

American Civic Association
see

McFarland, John Horace

Watrous, Richard Benedict

Barlow, Charles Averil, 1858-1927

Benson, H. C.
2 letters, 1904-1916. Include copy of letter to Hiram Martin Chittenden concerning the boundaries of Yosemite National Park

Bethel, Ellsworth
4 letters, 1913-1914. Mainly concerning Rocky Mountain National Park and geographic nomenclature.

Bond, Frank, 1856-1940
41 letters, 1904-1914. Include letters to Hiram Martin Chittenden. Mainly written as Commissioner to examine Yosemite National Park lands, concerning topography and the park boundary.

California. Department of Natural Resources. Division of Parks.
17 letters, 1928-1938. Mainly concerning state parks. Include copy of letter to C. H. Purcell and copy of letter from William Edward Colby to Governor Young. Some letters written by Frederick Law Olmsted.

California. Department of Public Works.
3 letters, 1933-1937. Relate to Central Valley Project. Written by Earl Lee Kelly. See also Meek, B. B.

California. Department of Public Works. Division of Highways.
40 letters, 1928-1936. Include copies of letters to California State Planning Board, Frederick Law Olmsted, California Council for the Protection of Roadside Beauty, and responses to circular requesting suggestions for state parks.

California. Department of Public Works. Division of Water Resources.
2 letters, 1931. Written by Edward Hyatt. Include copy of memorandum concerning Friant Dam.
List of important correspondents, in Boxes III - V:

California Arts and Architecture
see Daniels, Mark

California Council for Protection of Roadside Beauty
11 letters, 1929-1932. Also a copy of minutes of first meeting of the Council, Sept. 12, 1929.

California State Irrigation Association.
see Barlow, Charles Averil

California State Parks Council
see Drury, Newton Bishop

California State Planning Board
20 letters, 1934-1940. References to Lake Tahoe problems. Mainly written by Leon Deming Tilton, b. 1890. Include copies of letters to Harold Le Claire Ickes, Edward Hyatt and California State Emergency Relief Administration.

California State Water and Power League

Canadian Camp
4 letters, 1911. Written by G. Lenox Curtis.

Carter and Barrett (Firm)

Chamberlain, Allen, 1867-
4 letters, 1912-1916

Chapin, William Wallace, 1874-1957
3 letters, 1927-1930

Chittenden, Hiram Martin, 1858-1915
31 letters, 1904-1912. Mainly relate to Yosemite National Park boundaries and legislation. Include copies of letters to James Carson Needham, Frank Bond and others, concerning Yosemite; also copy of letter from Frank Bond to Chittenden.

Church, Denver Samuel, 1866-1952
2 letters, 1919-1930

Colby, William Edward, 1875-
24 letters, 1904-1931. Include copies of letters to Franklin Knight Lane, W. F. McClure, Hiram Martin Chittenden; mimeographed letter to Governor Rolph. Some letters written as Secretary of the Sierra Club concerning Hetch-Hetchy, Yosemite and Sequoia National Parks. References to John Muir.

See also
California. Department of Natural Resources. Division of Parks
McFarland, John Horace

Colorado Geographic Board
2 letters, 1915. One letter signed by James Grafton Rogers.

Colorado Mountain Club
see Rogers, James Grafton

Curtis, G. Lenox
see Canadian Camp

Daniels, Mark, 1881-
1 letter, Aug. 11, 1935. Written as editor of California Arts and Architecture.

D'Egilbert, W.

Drury, Newton Bishop, 1889-
14 letters, 1928-1930. Include letters and copies of letters to Charles B. Wing, California Department of Natural Resources, Division of Parks; B. B. Meek, California Department of Public Works; and to Charles Henry Purcell. Several written as Secretary of Save-the-Redwoods League and California State Parks Council.

Evans, Aaron Loyd, 1877-
5 letters, 1949. Also letter from Earl Warren to Evans.
Also seven letters, 1949-1952, to Myra (Crow) Marshall in Part II, Box VI.
Farquhar, Francis Peloubet, 1887-
   1 letter, Aug. 11, 1932
Fletcher, Edward, 1872-1955
   18 letters, 1927-1933. References to southern California water development plans.
   Include letter and copy of letter to William Schuyler Post, copies of letter to Metropolitan Water District and their answer.
Gillett, Frederick Huntington, 1851-1935
   2 letters, 1916
Glavis, Edward S.
   see U.S. Federal Emergency Administration of Public Works
Gregory, Henry E.
   1 letter, June 27, 1913
Hadsell, Dan
   1 letter, Aug. 1, 1924
Hichborn, Franklin
   see California State Water and Power League
Hoover, Herbert Clark, Pres. U.S., 1874-
   2 letters, 1930-1933. Written in his behalf by secretaries.
Hopkins, Timothy, 1859-1937
   1 letter, June 12, 1912
Hyatt, Edward
   see California. Department of Public Works. Division of Water Resources.
Johnson, Hiram Warren, 1866-1945
   1 letter, Apr. 17, 1933
Johnson, Willard D.
   6 letters, 1890-1914
Jones, Herbert C.
   see Progressive Voters’ League of California
Keagle, Cora L.
   (See Box XIII of Part I for manuscript of Water in the Valley.)
Kelly, Earl Lee
   see California. Department of Public Works
Lehmer, O. W.
   5 letters, 1911-1913. Relate to transportation in Yosemite.
Long, Mrs. Oscar Fitzalan
   see Mitten, Amy (Requa) Long
Mitten, Amy (Requa) Long
   17 letters, 1930-1948. Written as Amy (Requa) Long.
   Also letter of condolence to Mrs. Marshall in Part II, Box VI.
Mitten, Mrs. Homer
   see Mitten, Amy (Requa) Long
McCarthy, Paul Aloysius, 1882-
McColl, John B.
   6 letters, 1937-1938. Include copies of letters to Leon Deming Tilton, California State Planning Board, Governor Frank F. Merriam and George W. Malone. Also letter by Leon Deming Tilton to Senator McColl.
McFarland, John Horace, 1859-1948
   16 letters, 1911-1915. Mainly written as President of the American Civic Association.
   Include autobiographical sketch and references to John Muir. Include letter from William Edward Colby to McFarland.
McLaughlin, Frank Y.
   see U.S. Federal Emergency Administration of Public Works
Martin T. H.

Mather, Stephen Tyng, 1867-1930
24 letters, 1913-1928. Some written as Assistant to the Secretary of the Interior, in charge of National Parks, relate to Sequoia National Park and to Hetch-Hetchy. Include copy of letter to Adolph C. Miller.

Meek, B. B., 1883-
10 letters, 1928-1932. Some written as Director of the Department of Public Works of the State of California.

Merriam, Frank F., 1865-
1 letter, Apr. 29, 1937. Written on his behalf by his secretary.

Mills, Enos Abijah, 1870-1922
1 letter, May 20, 1915

Muir, John, 1838-1914
6 letters, 1907-1912

Mulholland, William, 1855-1935

Needham, James Carson, 1864-1942

Olmsted, Frederick Law, 1870-
1 letter, Nov. 16, 1928. Include copy of his statement re Kings River water power projects and proposed Roosevelt-Sequoia National Park.
See also: California. Department of Natural Resources. Division of Parks

Parton, Lemuel Frederick, d. 1943
1 letter, Feb. 9, 1931

Patterson, Thomas M., 1839-1916

Post, William Schuyler, 1872-1945
18 letters, 1927-1938. Include copies of letters to Fred C. Adams; J. C. Garrison; California Division of Water Rights; U.S. Office of Indian Affairs and reply. Also copies of letters from Harold L. Ickes, Secretary of the Interior.

Progressive Voters' League of California
5 letters, 1924. Written by Herbert C. Jones, b. 1880.

Reaburn, Dewitt Lee, 1871-
2 letters, 1928-1949

Rockhold, John Ellsworth, 1871-
2 letters, 1929. Include copy of letter to Ray Lyman Wilbur. Also copy of letter from Wilbur to Rockhold.

Rocky Mountain National Park Joint Committee
see Ross, Frederick R.

Rogers, James Grafton, 1883-
6 letters, 1912-1931. Some written as President, Colorado Mountain Club.
See also Colorado Geographic Board.

Rolph, James, Jr., 1869-1934
2 letters, 1931-1933. Written in his behalf by his secretary.

Roper, Denney Warren, 1869-1949
2 letters, 1913

Ross, Frederick R.
9 letters, 1913-1915. Written as member of Rocky Mountain National Park Joint Committee, concerning Rocky Mountain National Park.

Save-the-Redwoods League
see Drury, Newton Bishop

Seavey, Clyde Leroy, 1874-1943
10 letters, 1911-1938

Sherman, John Dickinson, 1849-1926
List of important correspondents, in Boxes III - V:

4 letters, 1913
Short, Frank Hamilton, 1862-1920

Sierra Club
7 letters, 1911-1915. Written by Joseph Nisbet Le Conte and William Frederic Bade. Include copy of letter from Le Conte to Walter L. Fisher, Secretary of the Interior. See also Colby, William Edward.

Simmons, Gertrude M.

Spreckels, Rudolph, 1872-1958
5 letters, 1924-1926. Negative photostats only. See also
Adams, Annette (Abbott)
Carter and Barrett (firm)
McCarthy, Paul Aloysius

Story, Isabelle Florence, 1888-
12 letters, 1930-1949. References to President Harry S. Truman. Also two letters, 1949, to Mrs. Marshall in Part II, Box VI.

Tacoma Commercial Club and Chamber of Commerce
see Martin, T. H.

Thompson, Almon Harris, 1839-1906
4 letters, 1890-1903. Some signed "Prof". Also three letters, 1899, to Mrs. Marshall in Part II, Boxes II, IV.

Tilton, Leon Deming
see
California State Planning Board
McCoy, John B.

Truman, Harry S., Pres. U.S., 1884-
1 letter, July 16, 1949. Written in his behalf by his secretary.

U.S. Department of the Interior
19 letters, 1904-1934. Include letters by Ethan Allan Hitchcock, Franklin Knight Lane and Ebert Keiser Burlew. Include copies of letters, some of which refer to Yosemite boundary. See also
Mather, Stephen Tyng
Post, William Schuyler

U.S. Federal Emergency Administration of Public Works

U.S. Geological Survey
41 letters, 1890-1937. Include copies of letters.

U.S. National Park Service

U.S. National Resources Committee

U.S. Public Roads Administration

Van Valkenburgh, Peter, 1871-1955
2 letters, 1937

Walcott, Charles Doolittle, 1850-1927
4 letters, 1898-1916. Include copy of letter to William M. Black.

Ward, A. H.
1 letter, May 4, 1904. Copy of letter to Secretary of the Interior concerning roads in Yosemite.

Watrous, Richard Benedict, 1869-
  3 letters, 1911-1913. Mainly written as Secretary of the American Civic Association.

Wilbur, Ray Lyman, 1875-1949
  2 letters, 1929-1930. See also Rockhold, John Ellsworth

Willis, Bailey, 1857-1949
  5 letters, 1914-1945. Mainly concerning California as I have seen it. Include Willis' preface for Water in the Valley.

Wilson, Woodrow, Pres. U.S., 1856-1924
  1 letter, Jan. 29, 1915

Wolman, Abel
  see U.S. National Resources Committee

Young, Clement Calhoun, 1869-1947
  2 letters, 1924-1930. One written in his behalf by his secretary.