Register of the Hodghead (Beverly L.) Speeches & Other Papers, 1894-1910

Collection number: Mss146

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Contact Information
Holt-Atherton Department of Special Collections
University Library, University of the Pacific
Stockton, CA 95211
Phone: (209) 946-2404
Fax: (209) 946-2810
URL: http://www.pacific.edu/Library/Find/Holt-Atherton-Special-Collections.html

Processed by:
Daryl Morrison; revised by Don Walker
Date Completed:
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Encoded by:
Don Walker

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Descriptive Summary
Title: Hodghead (Beverly L.) Speeches & Other Papers,
Date (inclusive): 1894-1910
Collection number: Mss146
Creator: Beverly Eckles Hodghead
Extent: 0.5 linear ft.
Repository: University of the Pacific. Library. Holt-Atherton Department of Special Collections
Stockton, CA 95211
Shelf location: For current information on the location of these materials, please consult the library's online catalog.
Language: English.
Access
Collection is open for research.

Preferred Citation
[Identification of item], Hodghead (Beverly L.) Speeches & Other Papers, Mss146, Holt-Atherton Department of Special Collections, University of the Pacific Library

Biography
Mr. Beverly Lacy Hodghead (1865-1928) was mayor of Berkeley (Calif.) from 1909 to 1911. An attorney and politically active Progressive Democrat, Hodghead was instrumental in the development of a new charter for the city of Berkeley (1909). Berkeley's city charter, based on that of Galveston, Texas, promoted government as a sound business operation with knowledgeable commissioners, rather than one of partisan politics where city positions are given out as favors. Changes included: a primary election in which all nominations were made by non-partisan petition; a small council with each councilman elected at-large and serving as a commissioner of a department; and, ultimate veto power to the people through the initiative, referendum or recall.

Beverly Hodghead was educated at the University of California and at Hastings College of Law, San Francisco (1891). He was admitted to the California bar in that year and began practice in San Francisco. Active in many legal and political organizations and endeavors throughout his life, Hodghead was Vice President of the Board of Freeholders, Berkeley;
President of the League of California Municipalities (1910-1911); Chairman of the arrangements committee for the meeting of the American Bar Association in San Francisco (August 1922); Master of Ceremonies at the Commonwealth Club banquet for Chief Justice Taft and Lord Shaw (1922); and representative for the California Bar Association at the American Law Institute, Washington (1924).

Scope and Content
The Beverly Hodghead papers consist primarily of about forty speeches. The majority of these are devoted to explaining the Berkeley city charter. Other speeches consider the roles of citizens in support of municipal government, the annexation of Berkeley by Oakland and the creation of a dam in the Hetch Hetchy Valley to provide a water source for San Francisco.

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