

Collection #
P 0396

HAROLD C. FEIGHTNER, COLLECTION, N.D.–CA. 1958

[Collection Information](#)

[Biographical Sketches](#)

[Scope and Content Note](#)

[Series Contents](#)

[Cataloging Information](#)

Processed by

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Indiana Historical Society
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Indianapolis, IN 46202-3269

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COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF COLLECTION: 1 document case; 1 oversize box; 3 folders

COLLECTION DATES: n.d.-ca. 1958

PROVENANCE: David Woods, Indianapolis, 1994

RESTRICTIONS: None

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ALTERNATE FORMATS:

RELATED HOLDINGS:

ACCESSION NUMBER: 1994.0021

NOTES:

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES

Harold C. Feightner: Born in 1892 in Huntington County, Indiana, Feightner was an authority on state and federal politics. He worked as a newspaper reporter and editor in Indiana from 1913 to 1934. In 1934 he became executive director of the Indiana Brewers Association, a position he held until 1967. Through his life Feightner associated professionally and socially with Indiana politicians and was regarded in these circles and by members of the media as an authority on state and county government. Governor Roger D. Branigin made Feightner a Sagamore of the Wabash in 1967. Feightner died in Indianapolis on 13 August 1969.

Ralph F. Gates: Born in Columbia City, Indiana, 24 February 1893, Gates served as governor of Indiana from 1945 to 1949. He was the state Republican chairman from 1941 to 1944. Gates practiced law in Columbia City following his term of office.

James P. Goodrich: Born in Winchester, Indiana, 18 February 1864, Goodrich served as governor of Indiana from 1917 to 1921. He was state Republican chairman from 1901 to 1910, and served on the Republican National Committee from 1912 to 1916. In 1924 he accepted an appointment to the St. Lawrence Waterways Commission. Goodrich died on 15 August 1940 at Winchester.

Harold Handley: Born in LaPorte, Indiana 27, November 1909, Handley served as governor of Indiana from 1957 to 1961. He was a state senator in 1941, and from 1949 to 1952. Governor George N. Craig appointed Handley lieutenant governor in 1953. He died on 30 August 1957 at Rawlins, Wyoming.

Harry G. Leslie: Born in West Lafayette, Indiana, 6 August 1878, Leslie served as governor of Indiana from 1929 to 1933. He was a member of the Indiana House of Representatives from 1923 to 1927, and was Speaker of the House in 1925. Leslie helped organize the Standard Life Insurance Company of Indiana and was president of the organization when he died on 10 December 1937.

William Ezra Jenner: Born 21 July 1908 in Marengo, Indiana, Jenner was a state senator from 1934 to 1942. Jenner was elected to the Senate (U.S.) in 1944, 1946, and 1952. He practiced law in Paoli, Shoals, and Bedford, Indiana. Jenner died on 9 March 1985 at Bedford.

Frank Martin McHale: Born in Logansport, Indiana, 9 March 1891, McHale was a member of the Democratic National Committee from 1937 to 1952. He died on 26 January 1975.

Warren T. McCray: Born 4 February 1865 near Kentland, Indiana, McCray served as governor of Indiana from 1921 to 1924. Convicted of mail fraud in 1924, McCray served three years in a federal prison. President Herbert Hoover pardoned McCray in 1930. He died 19 December 1938 at his farm near Kentland.

Paul V. McNutt: Born 19 July 1891 at Franklin, Indiana, McNutt served as republican governor of Indiana from 1933 to 1937. He was high commissioner to the Philippines from 1933 to 1937 and from 1946 to 1947. McNutt died in New York City in 1955.

Henry F. Schricker: Born 20 August 1883 at North Judson, Indiana, Schricker served as democratic governor of Indiana from 1941 to 1945 and from 1949 to 1953. He was a state senator in 1931 and 1936, and died 28 December 1966 at Knox, Indiana.

Thomas Taggart: Born 17 November 1856 in Amyvale, Ireland, Taggart came to Ohio in 1861. He arrived in Indianapolis in 1877. Taggart was mayor of Indianapolis from 1895 to 1901, and rose to national prominence in 1904 when he managed Judge Alton P. Parke's presidential campaign against Theodore Roosevelt. He was a member of the Democratic National Committee from 1900 to 1916, and committee chairman from 1904 to 1908. Taggart ran unsuccessfully for Senate (U.S.) in 1916 and 1920. He died 6 March 1929.

James E. Watson: Born 2 November 1863 at Winchester, Indiana, Watson was a congressman from 1895 to 1897, and from 1899 to 1909. He was a senator (U.S.) from 1916 to 1933, and senate majority leader from 1929 to 1933. Watson died 29 July 1948.

Matthew E. Welsh: Born 15 September 1912 at Detroit, Michigan, Welsh and his family moved to Vincennes, Indiana in 1924. He served as governor of Indiana from 1961 to 1965. Welsh was a congressman 1941 and 1943, and a state senator from 1955 to 1959. He was Democratic majority leader in 1957 and 1959. Welsh died 28 May 1995.

Sources: Bodenhamer, David S., and Robert G. Barrows. *Encyclopedia of Indianapolis*. Bloomington & Indianapolis: Indiana University Press, 1994. F534.I55 E4 1994

"Ex-Hoosier Governor Matthew Welsh Dies After Life of Service," *Indianapolis Star*, 30 May 1995, p. 1, col. 4.

"Feightner Dies: Ex-Aide to Brewers," *Indianapolis Star*, 8 August 1969, p. 1, col. 8.

"Feightner Hardly Looked the Part," *Indianapolis News*, 26 January 1970, p. 11, col. 1.

Sobel, Robert, and John Raimo. *Biographical Dictionary of the Governors of the United States, 1789–1978*. Vol. 1. Westport, Connecticut: Meckler Books, 1978. Reference Room Collection: E.176. B573 1978

Who Was Who in America. Vol. 7. Chicago: Marquis Who's Who, 1981. Reading Room Collection: E176.W64, vol. 7

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The collection contains twelve signed, inscribed portraits of Indiana politicians, one photograph of the ship *Chiriqui*, and three letters from Indiana politicians to Harold C. Feightner.

Feightner acquired the photographs beginning in the 1920s when he worked as a news reporter and editor for the *Indianapolis News*. His association with Indiana politicians continued until his death in 1969. For this reason the collection reflects Feightner's long career as a confidant within Indiana political circles. The Indiana politicians represented in the collection are as follows: Ralph F. Gates; James P. Goodrich; Harold Handley (photograph by Harris and Ewing, Indianapolis); Harry G. Leslie (photograph by Harris and Ewing); William Ezra Jenner (photograph by Chase Statler); Frank Martin McHale; Warren T. McCray; Paul V. McNutt (photograph by Vienna Studio, Manila, Philippines); Henry F. Schricker; Thomas Taggart (photograph by the Bretzman Studio, Indianapolis); James E. Watson; and Matthew E. Welsh (photograph by Harris and Ewing).

Each portrait is signed and inscribed to Feightner. James E. Watson, James P. Goodrich, and Warren T. McCray signed their respective photographs in June 1930. Harold Handley signed and inscribed his portrait in 1958. These dates do not necessarily reflect when the portraits were made. A letter to Feightner from Goodrich included in the collection

states that the portrait was made during Goodrich's term of office as governor (1917–21). Frank McHale's image is a copy photograph of a drawing. Mildew has damaged the signature and inscription on this item. Portraits of Ralph F. Gates, Harold Handley, William Jenner, Harry G. Leslie, Warren T. McCray, Paul V. McNutt, and James E. Watson are mounted on cardboard.

James P. Goodrich, Warren T. McCray, and James E. Watson wrote letters to Feightner regarding their portraits. The letters were originally affixed to the back of framing mats made for the portraits by the Leiber Company of Indianapolis. Conservators removed the mats and frames for conservation reasons. McCray's letter mentions the progress of crops on his farm near Kentland, and includes an invitation to "come up" and visit the farm. James E. Watson apologizes for the quality of his photograph, stating that his image looked worse in the portrait than in a recent newsreel.

SERIES CONTENTS

Series 1: Photographs, n.d–1958

CONTENTS	CONTAINER
Frank Martin McHale, n.d. [on glass]	Box 1, Folder 1
James P. Goodrich, n.d.	Box 1, Folder 2
Harold W. Handley, 1958	Box 1, Folder 3
Bill Jenner, n.d.	Box 1, Folder 4
Harry G. Leslie, n.d.	Box 1, Folder 5
Warren T. McCray, 1930	Box 1, Folder 6
James E. Watson, n.d.	Box 1, Folder 7
Matthew Welsh, ca. 1958	Box 1, Folder 8
Ralph F. Gates, n.d.	OVA Photographs: Folder 1
Henry F. Schricker, n.d.	OVA Photographs: Folder 2
Thomas Taggart, n.d.	OVA Photographs: Folder 3
Paul M. McNutt	OVA Photographs: Folder 4
S.S. Chiriqui	OVA Photographs: Folder 5

Series 2: Letters to Harold C. Feightner, n.d.–1930

CONTENTS	CONTAINER
Letter from Warren T. McCray, 18 June 1930	Manuscript Collections: Folder 1
Letter from James E. Watson, 24 June 1930	Manuscript Collections: Folder 2

CATALOGING INFORMATION

For additional information on this collection, including a list of subject headings that may lead you to related materials:

1. Go to the Indiana Historical Society's online catalog: <http://157.91.92.2/>
2. Click on the "Basic Search" icon.
3. Select "Call Number" from the "Search In:" box.
4. Search for the collection by its basic call number (in this case, P 0396).
5. When you find the collection, go to the "Full Record" screen for a list of headings that can be searched for related materials.