COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF COLLECTION: 1 half-size document case of photographs, 1 PAC album, 1 OVA graphics box, 1 OVC graphics box

COLLECTION DATES: 1875–1988 (Bulk 1886–1901)

PROVENANCE: Multiple

RESTRICTIONS: None

COPYRIGHT:

REPRODUCTION RIGHTS: Permission to reproduce or publish material in this collection must be obtained from the Indiana Historical Society.

ALTERNATE FORMATS:

RELATED HOLDINGS:


NOTES: See also: Benjamin Harrison Collection (M 0132); Arthur G. Mitten Collection (M 0211); Indiana Postcard Collection (P 0408)
BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Born 20 August 1833 in North Bend, Ohio, Benjamin Harrison became the twenty-third president of the United States, serving in that office from 1889 to 1893. He was the son of John Scott Harrison (1804-1878) and Elizabeth Irwin (1810-1850), the grandson of President William Henry Harrison (1773-1841), and the great-grandson of Benjamin Harrison V (ca. 1726-1791), a signer of the Declaration of Independence and governor of Virginia.

Harrison attended Farmers’ College in Cincinnati and then graduated from Miami University of Ohio in 1852. On 20 October 1853, Harrison married Caroline Lavinia Scott (1 October 1832–25 October 1892). He read law for two years and was admitted to the bar in Ohio in 1854. That same year, Harrison and his wife moved to Indianapolis, where he established a law practice. He became active in Republican Party politics, and served as city attorney in 1857. Three years later he was elected reporter of the state Supreme Court.

Mr. and Mrs. Harrison were both active in the First Presbyterian Church. They had three children, Russell Benjamin Harrison (1854-1936), Mary (later Mrs. James R. McKee) (1858-1930), and a daughter who died very shortly after birth in 1861.

During the Civil War in 1862, Harrison helped to organize the Union’s 70th Indiana Infantry and was commissioned as it colonel. His regiment was assigned to guard the newly captured Louisville and Nashville Railroad. In 1864 Harrison and his men joined General William T. Sherman in Georgia, but Harrison was soon summoned back to Indiana by Governor Oliver P. Morton to assist in Republican political campaigning. He rejoined his command, and on 22 March 1865 was brevetted brigadier-general.

After the war, Harrison returned to his law practice. He ran for governor of Indiana in 1876, but lost. The next year during the national railroad strike, Governor James Douglas Williams appointed him as a member of the citizens’ committee to settle the strike in Indianapolis and placed him in command of the state troops there. In 1878 he presided over the Republican state convention, and in 1880 he was chairman of the Indiana delegation to the Republican National Convention. In 1881 he was admitted to practice before the United States Supreme Court, and he easily won election to the U.S. Senate.

Harrison attended the Republican National Convention in Chicago in 1884 and was considered a possible “dark horse” candidate, but he did not launch a campaign that year. In 1888 he did run for president, basing his campaign in Indianapolis. He daily addressed visiting delegations first at his Delaware Street house and later at University Park. He won the presidency after receiving 100,000 fewer popular votes than the incumbent Grover Cleveland because he received 233 votes in the Electoral College compared to Cleveland’s 168. Harrison’s vice president was Levi P. Morton of New York.

Significant events during the Harrison administration included the McKinley Tariff Act, the Sherman Anti-Trust Act, the Wounded Knee Massacre, and the expenditure of more than a
billion dollars by Congress for the first time. Although not popular, Harrison, as the incumbent, secured his party’s renomination in 1892, only to lose the election to Grover Cleveland.

Mrs. Harrison died of tuberculosis in the White House during her husband’s administration in 1892. She was buried in Crown Hill Cemetery in Indianapolis.

On 6 April 1896, Harrison married Mrs. Mary Scott Lord Dimmick (1858-1948) at St. Thomas Protestant Episcopal Church in New York City. Mary was the widowed niece of Harrison’s first wife, and had acted as her aunt’s secretary. She eventually was persuaded by her aunt to live with the Harrisons. Mary and Benjamin had a daughter together, named Elizabeth (1897-1955).

After his presidency, Harrison returned to his legal practice in Indianapolis. In 1900 he represented the Republic of Venezuela in a boundary dispute with Great Britain. He wrote several books, including *This Country of Ours* (1897), which became a popular textbook, and *Views of an Ex-President* (1901).

Harrison died of pneumonia on 13 March 1901. His body lay in state in the rotunda of the Indiana State Capitol all day Saturday, 16 March, and funeral services were held on Sunday at the First Presbyterian Church where Harrison had been a member for almost fifty years. He was buried in Crown Hill Cemetery in Indianapolis on 17 March.

Sources:


SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

This collection consists of black-and-white photographs, lithographs, one color advertisement, newspaper pages, and one pencil drawing relating to the life of President Benjamin Harrison. Included are portraits, images from the campaign for his presidency, political cartoons, scenes of Harrison with his Cabinet, photographs from a duck hunting trip and of Harrison’s funeral, and images of his birthplace in Ohio and residences in Indianapolis. The collection is arranged into eight series as detailed below.

**Series 1, Cabinet Card Portraits:** This series is composed of six cabinet card portraits of Benjamin Harrison, including one composite photograph that also shows Vice President Levi P. Morton.

**Series 2, Other Individual Portraits:** This series contains portraits of Harrison in formats other than the cabinet card. Also included are two pages from periodicals with images of Harrison's wife, Caroline.

**Series 3, Campaign Images:** This series consists of a photograph of the committee that notified Harrison of his nomination as well as photographs of people campaigning for Harrison. Also included are pages from *Frank Leslie’s Illustrated Newspaper* from 1888 with campaign and post-election illustrations.

**Series 4, Political Cartoons:** This series is composed of one pencil drawing that depicts Harrison and Grover Cleveland, as well as published cartoons featuring Harrison.

**Series 5, Harrison and His Cabinet:** This series includes a large color lithograph poster with a scene of Harrison and his Cabinet members in his early presidency, a large black-and-white lithograph poster with individual portraits of Harrison and his Cabinet in his early presidency, and a black-and-white photograph of Harrison with his Cabinet at the end of his presidency (some Cabinet posts were filled by different people in the second half of Harrison’s presidency).

**Series 6, Photograph Album—*Bengies Ducking Club, Maryland, March 1891***: This series consists of a photograph album of Harrison’s duck hunting trip in Bengies, Maryland, on 11–13 March 1891; the album contains five photographs with captions.

**Series 7, Funeral, 16–17 March 1901:** This series includes two copies each of nine images that were made from glass negatives in the possession of Miss Cathrine F. Carter in 1974, five smaller images, two mounted images, a front page from *Collier’s Weekly Journal of Current Events*, and pages of photographs from *Harper’s Weekly* and *Leslie’s Weekly*.

**Series 8, Residences:** This series contains images of Harrison’s birthplace in North Bend, Ohio; his first residence in Indianapolis on East Vermont Street; and his final residence on Delaware Street in Indianapolis.
SERIES CONTENTS

Series 1: Cabinet Card Portraits

CONTENTS

Looking slightly to his right, wearing coat (photo by Clark of Indianapolis, 1888). Written on back: “Benjn Harrison / U S Senator.” (Copy neg. no. C5826)

Photographs: Box 1, Folder 1

Sharper version of same image by Clark described above. Below image caption reads: “President Harrison.” (Published by the London Stereoscopic & Photographic Co., Ltd., n.d.) On reverse is an advertisement for Beecham’s Pills.

Photographs: Box 1, Folder 1

Three-quarter portrait, facing to his right, wearing suit with vest (photo by A. Bogardus of New York, n.d.).

Photographs: Box 1, Folder 1

Looking slightly to his left, wearing coat (photo by J.H. Clark of Indianapolis, n.d.).

Photographs: Box 1, Folder 1

Composite with Benjamin Harrison on the left and Levi P. Morton on the right. Portrait of Harrison is the same image by J.H. Clark described above. Morton is shown in profile, facing to his right as if looking at Harrison (publisher unknown, n.d.). (Markings on photograph in Morton’s hair.)

Photographs: Box 1, Folder 1

Profile of Harrison, facing to his right, in coat and tie, his signature “Benj Harrison” is below the image (photo by J.D. Merritt of Washington, DC, © 1891).

Photographs: Box 1, Folder 1

Series 2: Other Individual Portraits

CONTENTS

Two very small duplicate engraved portraits of Harrison turned toward his right, with his signature printed below (Baldwin & Gleason Co., New York, 1886).

Photographs: Box 1, Folder 2
Engraved portrait of Harrison turned toward his right, with his signature printed below (engraved by H.B. Hall’s Sons, New York, n.d.) (copy neg. no. 3324).

Copy print of engraved portrait of Harrison turned toward his right, with his signature printed below (same image as described above; engraved by H.B. Hall’s Sons, New York, n.d.) (copy neg. no. 3324).

Engraved three-quarter length portrait of Harrison turned toward his right with left hand on his hip and right hand resting on a stack of books, with his signature printed below (© James D. Richardson, 1899).

Color print advertisement for McLaughlin’s coffee, showing portrait of Ex-President Benjamin Harrison above a scene of an Army & Navy reception at the White House (lithograph by the Knapp Co. of New York, 1893). On back is a list of other available pictures from W.F. McLaughlin & Co. of Chicago (copy neg. no. C7583).

Oil painting portrait of Harrison, painting has cracks and some paint loss.

Portraits of “Mrs. Benjamin Harrison.” And “Mrs. J.R. McKee, Daughter of General Harrison.”
Frank Leslie’s Illustrated Newspaper, November 17, 1888, page 220.

Portrait of "The Late Mrs. Benjamin Harrison."
Illustration with obituary from The Graphic, November 12, 1892, page 351.

“The Funeral of Mrs. Harrison.”
Harper’s Weekly,” pp. 1061, 1062, [1892]
Story and images of Mrs. Harrison and the funeral.

Series 3: Campaign Images

CONTENTS

“The Notification Committee.” Mounted photograph of group of men taken in front of Harrison’s home, 4 July 1888 (photo by Harrie Rose of Indianapolis).

Copy photograph of the backs of three people under an umbrella bearing the words “He’s all right.” This was the slogan for the Harrison–Morton campaign, 1888 (copy neg. no. C3054).

Copy photograph of a group of men and boys outside the Harrison home with a large ball printed with words criticizing Grover Cleveland and supporting Harrison and Morton (ca. 1888) (copy neg. no. C2777).

Two matted full-plate tintypes showing two views of people holding a large Harrison–Morton banner in front of a house (ca. 1888) (one image has copy neg. no. C7052).

*Frank Leslie’s Illustrated Newspaper*, 3 November 1888, p. 185 includes illustrations made from sketches by Frank Adams: “The Visit of the Plug Hat Brigade, of Springfield, Ohio, to General Harrison, at Indianapolis, October 22d”; “Characteristic Features of the Presidential Campaign in Indiana—Parade of the Republican Railroad Club in Indianapolis.” On the back (p. 186), there is an article, “General Harrison’s Visitors.”

*Frank Leslie’s Illustrated Newspaper*, front page from week ending 17 November 1888, with color illustration showing campaigners outside of Harrison’s house: “The Late Election—Popular Demonstration at the Residence of General Harrison, in Indianapolis, in Honor of His Election to the Presidency.”

CONTAINER

OVC Graphics: Box 1, Folder 3

Photographs: Box 1, Folder 3

OVC Graphics: Box 1, Folder 12

Photographs: Box 1, Folder 4
**Frank Leslie’s Illustrated Newspaper**, 22 December 1888, p. 317, “Visit of Hon. Levi P. Morton, Vice-President-Elect, to General Benjamin Harrison, President-Elect, at Indianapolis” includes illustrations made from sketches by C. Bunnell: “General Harrison Welcomes Mr. Morton at his Residence”; “Conference of General Harrison and his Guest in the Library of the Former.”

**Series 4: Political Cartoons**

**CONTENTS**

Original pencil drawing (~10” x 14”) showing Harrison and Grover Cleveland (ca. 1888).

"I cannot support you, Mr. Harrison, but I shall deem it my duty to vote for Mr. Cleveland. Ta, ta!" Quote by Carl Schurz below color drawing by F. [Frederick] Opper that shows Harrison in "Republican web" spider web, with Schurz hovering above with a fly's wings holding paper that says "Letter to the Evening Post Endorsing Cleveland." Published in *Puck* [1888].


“All in the Family” Color cartoon by J. Keppler, published in *Puck*, [1889]
"Caesar Declines -- But He Wants it Just the Same."
Color illustration by [Louis] Dalrymple shows Harrison as Caesar refusing crown offered by the chairman of the Republican National Committee. Below is a statement from Gen. John C. New, presidential press agent: "I know that General Harrison has not given 1896 a serious thought. He is not working for the nomination, and will not accept it unless some great emergency shall arise like that which induces the patriot to take up arms for his country." [In matte, ca. 1895.]

Series 5: Harrison and His Cabinet

CONTENTS
Color lithograph showing President Benjamin Harrison holding a paper titled “Canadian Fisheries,” surrounded by members of his Cabinet including William H.H. Miller (Attorney General), John W. Noble (Secretary of the Interior), William Windom (Secretary of the Treasury), John Wanamaker (Postmaster General), Jeremiah M. Rusk (Secretary of Agriculture), James G. Blaine (Secretary of State), Redfield Proctor (Secretary of War), and Benjamin F. Tracy (Secretary of the Navy). The word “Judge” is above the image, and a note on the desk in the picture reads “Compliments of Judge.” Sign on wall in background of illustration reads “Protection at home and abroad.” Illustration is signed “Gillam.” Lithograph by Sackett & Wilhelms of New York (ca. 1889-91).
Large poster advertising Orton & Sadler’s business calculator and accountant’s assistant, with individual engraved portraits of President Harrison and his Cabinet including Benjamin F. Tracy (Secretary of the Navy), John Wanamaker (Postmaster General), Redfield Proctor (Secretary of War), James G. Blaine (Secretary of State), William Windom (Secretary of the Treasury), John W. Noble (Secretary of the Interior), William H.H. Miller (Attorney General), and Jeremiah M. Rusk (Secretary of Agriculture). (Printed by Isaac Friedenwald of Baltimore and distributed by W.H. Sadler of Baltimore, ca. 1889-91).

Large mounted photograph of Stephen B. Elkins (Secretary of War), John W. Noble (Secretary of the Interior), John W. Foster (Secretary of State), John Wanamaker (Postmaster General), President Benjamin Harrison, Benjamin F. Tracy (Secretary of the Navy), Charles Foster (Secretary of the Treasury), Jeremiah M. Rusk (Secretary of Agriculture), and William H.H. Miller (Attorney General). Their signatures are printed below (photo by the Gilbert Studios of Washington, DC, ©1893).

**Series 6: Photograph Album—** *Bengies Ducking Club, Maryland, March 1891*

**CONTENTS**

Photograph album measuring approx. 11” x 15” with dark textured cover and marble endpapers. The cover bears a title in gold print reading: “Bengies Ducking Club / Maryland / March 1891.” In the lower left corner of the cover are the initials (also printed in gold): “C. P. F.” A typed page is inserted into the album with excerpts from *The New York Times* about the duck hunting trip (12–14 March 1891).

Bengies Club House, March 1891 (page 1).

President Benjamin Harrison standing holding a shotgun with more than a dozen dead ducks hanging upside down on a fence behind him (copy neg. no. C3615) (page 2).
Hunting party gathered on the porch with more than two dozen dead ducks hanging on the fence. Pictured are: Sam B. Knight, General William J. Sewell, Colonel R. Dale Benson, S.C. Knight, President Harrison, and Edw. T. Clarke (copy neg. no. 3301) (page 3).

President Harrison and General Sewell standing in a blind, a man identified only as “Henry” and a dog are also pictured (copy neg. no. 3302) (page 4).

Group of a dozen African-American men, women, and children on a porch. Three in front identified as “Emeline,” “Henry,” and “Jerome.” Others are not identified (page 5).

**Series 7: Funeral, 16–17 March 1901**

**CONTENTS**

Five small images showing mourners outside the Harrison home (2 copies), the funeral procession with the horse-drawn carriage bearing the casket down residential street (2 views; one with copy neg. no. C6053), the casket outside the Capitol (copy neg. no. C7553), and the First Presbyterian Church with doorway draped with a flag (copy neg. no. C6054).

Formation of parade: militia of Indiana on south side of the Capitol, 16 March 1901, 10:15 a.m. (#192) (2 copies). (Line across left half of picture from crack in glass plate negative.)

Carrying casket into Statehouse (#193) (2 copies) (copy neg. no. A237).

Funeral procession showing McGowan house in background to the left, mourners lining the street, and the carriage holding the casket (#194) (2 copies).

Mourners leaving the Harrison home (#195) (2 copies).

Mr. Ransdell leaving the Harrison home, 17 March 1901, 11:00 a.m. (#196) (2 copies).
Senators Charles Warren Fairbanks and Albert J. Beveridge walking toward the Harrison home, with crowds of mourners in the background (#197) (2 copies).

President McKinley and Mrs. Durbin followed by Governor Winfield T. Durbin walking toward the Harrison home, with crowds of mourners in the background (#198) (2 copies).

President McKinley and Mrs. Durbin leaving the Harrison home (#199) (2 copies).

Mrs. Harrison and her brother-in-law Lieutenant Parker leaving the Harrison home to head for the church (#200) (2 copies).

Mounted photograph of funeral procession with mourners lining the street; the Park Theatre, Cleveland Club, and Washington Hall are in the background.

Mounted photograph of mourners and horse-drawn carriage with casket outside the Capitol.

Collier’s Weekly Journal of Current Events, front page from 30 March 1901, showing halftone photographs of Harrison’s funeral procession, mourners, the Harrison home, the Capitol, and the First Presbyterian Church: “Last Honors to Ex-President Harrison at Indianapolis.”

Leslie’s Weekly, n.d. “The Funeral of the Late Ex-President Harrison” shows three halftone photographs by R. L. Dunn: “Ex-President Harrison’s Remains Lying in State in the Rotunda of the Capitol”; “Civic Societies Falling in Line Ahead of the Hearse”; and “Carrying the Casket up the Steps of the State Capitol.” On the reverse of this page: “The Nation in Mourning at the Tomb of General Harrison” shows one halftone photo by R. L. Dunn, “President McKinley and Governor Durbin, Leaving the Executive Mansion, Indianapolis, Sunday Morning, to View the Remains of General Harrison”; and one halftone photo by F. M. Clark, “The Crowd at Monument Place, Watching in Silence the Passing of the Funeral Procession.”

Series 8: Residences

CONTENTS

Two panel card photographs of a painting by Ida F. Richardson of the birthplace of General Benjamin Harrison in North Bend, Ohio. On back of each is a label with typed description by Ida F. Richardson and handwritten authentication by J. Scott Harrison dated 30 December 1875 (photograph by J.H. Clark’s Gallery, Indianapolis).

Mounted photograph of “General Ben. Harrison’s First Residence In Indianapolis, on East Vermont Street” (photo by Harrie Rose of Indianapolis, n.d.).

President Harrison Memorial Home at 1230 Delaware Street in Indianapolis: two color postcards and one small black-and-white halftone image with typed description on back (n.d.) of the exterior (2 copies); three black-and-white real photo postcards of interior views showing a hallway, parlor, and Harrison’s bedroom.

Etching of the President Benjamin Harrison Home, special edition 15/50, signed by the artist, Kanwal Prakash Singh, 20 August 1988.