

Collection #
SC 2640

**CHARLES W. FAIRBANKS
LETTER, 17 FEBRUARY 1899**

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Processed by

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31 December 1997

Revised 16 May 2002

Updated 9 March 2004

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Indiana Historical Society
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COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF COLLECTION:	1 folder
COLLECTION DATES:	17 February 1899
PROVENANCE:	Remember When Auctions, P.O. Box 1829, Wells, ME 04090, 24 October 1997
RESTRICTIONS:	None

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ALTERNATE FORMATS: None

RELATED HOLDINGS: M 0100, Charles Warren Fairbanks Papers; BV 1150–1169, Charles W. Fairbanks Collection; SC 0550, William E. English Will and Testament; SC 1654, William E. English Letter

ACCESSION NUMBER: 1998.0038

NOTES:

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Charles Warren Fairbanks (1852–1918), the son of Lorsiton M. and Mary A. (Smith) Fairbanks, was born in a log cabin near Unionville Center, Ohio. He graduated from Ohio Wesleyan University in 1872, and three years later received a master's degree from the same institution. Through the influence of his uncle William Henry Smith he obtained a position with the Associated Press, serving in its Pittsburgh and Cleveland offices from 1872 to 1874. At the same time he managed to study law and to be admitted to the bar in 1874. In the same year he married Cornelia Cole (1852–1913), a college classmate, and moved to Indianapolis. They had five children: Adelaide (1875 or 1876–1961), Warren Charles (1878–1938), Frederick C. (1881–1940), Richard M. (1883–1944) and Robert C. (ca. 1887–1951).

For the next twenty years, Fairbanks specialized in railroad law, practicing in Ohio, Illinois, and Indiana. He was paid well for his work, and amassed a considerable fortune, which permitted him to give up practice when he decided to enter politics.

Fairbanks' first venture into politics was as a leader of Walter Q. Gresham's campaign for the Republican presidential nomination in 1888. When this effort failed, Fairbanks supported the successful nominee, Benjamin Harrison. In 1893, Fairbanks was the Republican candidate for U.S. senator, but was defeated. He was an early advocate of women's suffrage. He became a good friend of William McKinley, and at his suggestion was keynote speaker at the Republican convention in 1896. From that time on, Fairbanks had considerable influence in the Indiana Republican Party.

In 1897, Fairbanks was elected to the U.S. Senate. He served on several committees, and, as a close friend of President McKinley, he often served as the president's spokesman in the Senate. Fairbanks was also a member of a joint commission that negotiated outstanding disputes with Great Britain.

He was elected to a second term in 1903, but resigned the next year when he began a four-year term as vice president under Theodore Roosevelt. Fairbanks was mentioned as a possible presidential candidate in 1908, but lost out to William Howard Taft. Upon leaving public office, Fairbanks took a world tour in 1909 and 1910. He was an influential Methodist layman, and served as board chairman of Methodist Hospital in Indianapolis. He took an active interest in conservation and forestry, and was president of the Indiana State Forestry Association.

William Eastin English (1850–1926) was the son of Indiana politician William Hayden English. William E. was born in “Englishton Park” near Lexington (Scott County), Indiana. He moved to Indianapolis in 1865 with his family, where he attended public and private schools. English received a law degree from Northwestern Christian University (present-day Butler University) in 1873. He was admitted to the bar the same year and practiced law in Indianapolis until 1882. In 1880, his father built English’s Opera House in Indianapolis, which William E. managed for a period of

time. In 1930, the opera house's name was changed to The English Theatre.

English served as a Democratic state representative (1880–84), and was a delegate to the Democratic National Conventions of 1892 and 1896. In 1900, English joined the Republican Party. He served as captain and aide-de-camp to General Joseph Wheeler during the Spanish-American War. English was a delegate to the Republican National Convention of 1912, and was a Republican state senator from 1916 until his death in 1926.

English married Anna Josephine Desmond Fox (d. 1885) in 1880. After her death, he married Helen Orr Phaff in 1898; they had one child.

Sources: Collection guides for M 0100, Charles Warren Fairbanks Papers; SC 2618, Albert J. Beveridge Letters.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

This collection contains one letter, dated 17 February 1899, from Charles W. Fairbanks (Washington, D.C.) to William E. English (Indianapolis) regarding Fairbanks having recently met a General Wheeler and spoken with him about English. The General Wheeler mentioned might have been Joseph Wheeler (1836–1906), a former Confederate Major General and Calvary Commander. The letter is on United States Senate letterhead.

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, SC 2640).
5. When you find the collection, go to the "Full Record" screen for a list of headings that can be searched for related materials.