

**The New York Public Library  
Humanities and Social Sciences Library  
Manuscripts and Archives Division**

**Florence Kelley Papers**  
**1836-1932**  
MssCol 6303



Florence Kelley, 1930  
Nicholas Kelley Papers, Box 162

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## Summary

<b>Main entry:</b>	Kelley, Florence, 1859-1932
<b>Title:</b>	Florence Kelley Papers, 1836-1932 (bulk 1881-1932)
<b>Size:</b>	6.5 linear feet (16 boxes)
<b>Source:</b>	Received from Augusta M. Kelley, 1973 and 1975
<b>Abstract:</b>	<p>The Florence Kelley papers document the professional career and family life of the Progressive-era social reformer. The papers include correspondence with her grandparents Isaac and Elizabeth Pugh, her parents William Bartram Kelley and Caroline Bonsall and her children Nicholas, William Darrah, Jr., John Bartram and Margaret Kelley. Kelley's professional correspondence documents her commitment to social reform, from her time at Hull House in Chicago to her tenure as general secretary of the National Consumers' League. The collection also includes manuscripts and typescripts of Kelley's writings, address books, scrapbooks, photographs, and a few items of ephemera.</p>
<b>Access:</b>	Apply in the Special Collections Office for admission to the Manuscripts and Archives Division.
<b>Preferred citation:</b>	Florence Kelley Papers, Manuscripts and Archives Division, The New York Public Library.
<b>Special formats</b>	Photographs, scrapbooks

### **Provenance note**

The Florence Kelley Papers were removed from the Nicholas Kelley Papers and processed as a separate collection.

### **Related materials note**

Nicholas Kelley Papers. Manuscripts & Archives Division, The New York Public Library.

Kelley Family Papers, 1681-1936. Columbia University, Rare Book and Manuscript Library, New York, NY.

Florence Kelley Papers, 1889-1934 . Schlesinger Library, Radcliffe College, Cambridge, MA.

## Biographical note

Florence Kelley was a prominent Progressive-Era social reformer known for her advocacy of protective legislation on behalf of working women and children. She was born in 1859, the daughter of William Darrah Kelley, U.S. Congressman from Philadelphia, and his second wife Caroline Bonsall. Kelley graduated from Cornell University in 1882 and pursued graduate study in law and government at the University of Zurich in 1883. While in Europe she began translating the works of Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels and began a long-standing correspondence with Engels. In 1884 she married Polish socialist Lazare Wischnewetzky. The couple moved to New York City, but divorced in 1891. Kelley took their three young children, Nicholas (1885-1965), Margaret (1886-1905) and John (1888-1968) with her to Chicago where she began living and working at Jane Addams' Hull House.

During her years of work in the settlement house movement in Chicago, Kelley participated in the documentation of urban poverty, was appointed Chief Factory Inspector by Illinois Governor John P. Altgeld, and obtained a law degree from Northwestern University. In 1899 she returned to New York to assume the leadership of the National Consumers' League, an organization created to harness the purchasing power of the public to support firms with good labor practices and boycott others. She remained with the organization for over thirty years.

Kelley's strong Quaker background influenced her pacifist opposition to the U.S. entry into World War I, a stance for which she faced persistent public attack. Her continued efforts on behalf of public health and welfare helped create the Sheppard-Towner Act of 1921, authorizing federal aid to states in order to reduce infant mortality and improve maternal and child health care.

Kelley lived near Gramercy Park in New York City and also kept a home in Naskeag, Brooklin, Maine. She died in 1932.

## **Scope and content note**

The Florence Kelley papers document her professional career in social reform and family life as a single mother. The collection is an important resource for the history of governmental responsibility for social welfare, 1890 to 1930. The collection provides insight into the background of the Progressive-era reform movement in European socialism and in the abolitionist, suffragist tradition of Quakerism. Kelley's papers contain important documents on women's education, child labor, and evidence of Kelley's activities at Hull House in Chicago, as chief factory inspector under Illinois Governor John P. Altgeld, and as general secretary of the National Consumers' League after 1899. Materials include personal and professional correspondence of Kelley and her parents William Bartram Kelley and Caroline Bonsall, manuscripts and typescripts, address books, news clippings; scrapbooks; photographs; and a few items of ephemera.

## **Arrangement note**

The Florence Kelley Papers are organized in the following series:

- Series I. Correspondence
- Series II. Writings
- Series III. Personal miscellany, 1882-1931
- Series IV. Family papers, 1836-1903
- Series V. Photographs, 1870-1925

## Series descriptions and container list

### Series I. Correspondence

Florence Kelley's correspondence is arranged in two subseries: A. General correspondence, 1881-1932; B. Family correspondence, 1836-1903

#### IA. General correspondence, 1881-1932

The general correspondence is arranged chronologically and represents the professional and personal letters of Florence Kelley. Kelley's correspondence reflects her association with civic associations and the respect she commanded from prominent figures in government and education. Correspondence from 1892 to 1899 reflects Kelley's work with Supreme Court of Illinois and her legal education at the Northwestern University School of Law. Kelley's activities on behalf of the National Consumers' League are most evident in the correspondence between 1900 and 1920. After 1920, many of the letters are addressed to or composed by Kelley from her home in Naskeag, Brooklin, Maine.

Correspondents include Grace Abbot, Jane Addams, Louis Brandeis, Children's Bureau at the U.S. Department of Labor, Mabel Costigan, Alice Hamilton, Paul U. Kellogg, Robert M. La Follette, Julia Lathrop, Henry Demarest Lloyd, Martha McNeill, Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt, Millie Trumbull, Lillian D. Wald, and Richard Yates.

<u>Box</u>	<u>Fol</u>	
1	1	1881
	2	Susan B. Anthony, 1884 Jan. 21
	3	May Thorne Lewis, 1885
	4	Frederick Engels, 1892-1893 (2 A.L.S., 1892 Jan. 28, 1893 Nov. 11)
	5	1892-1893
	6	1894-1898
	7	1899 Jan-Sept.
	8	1899 Oct-Dec
	9	1900 Jun-July
	10	1900 Aug-Dec
	11	1901-1902
	12	1903
	13	1904
	14	1905
	15	1906-1909
	16	1910-1914
	17	1915
	18	1916
	19	1917
	20	1918
	21	1919
	22	1920
	23	1921
2	1	Julia Lathrop, 1922-1931
	2	1922
	3	1923 Feb-Jul
	4	1923 Aug-Dec
	5	1924 Jan-Jun
	6	1924 Jul-Aug
	7	1924 Sep-Dec

Florence Kelley Papers  
Series descriptions and box list

<u>Box</u>	<u>Fol</u>	
	8	1925 Jan-Aug
	9	1925 Oct-Dec
	10	1926 Jan-Jun
	11	1926 July
	12	1926 Aug
	13	1926 Sep-Dec
	14	1927 Jan-Jun
3	1	1927 Jul-Aug
	2	1927 Sep-Dec
	3	1928 Jan-Jun
	4	1928 Jul-Dec
	5	1929
	6	1930
	7	1931 Jan-Apr
	8	1931 May-Jun
	9	1931 Jul 1-15
	10	1931 Jul 15-Aug
4	1	1931 Sep
	2	1931 Oct
	3	1931 Nov
	4	1931 Dec
	5	1932
	6-10	n.d.
5	1-3	Christmas cards, n.d.



Box      Fol

**IB. Family correspondence, 1836-1903**

Florence Kelley's family correspondence contains materials documenting three generations of the Kelley family. The bulk of the subseries consists of Kelley's correspondence with her son Nicholas. Included also is Kelley's correspondence with her father, William Darrah Kelley (1814-1890), Republican member of the U.S. House of Representatives, her mother, Caroline Bartram Bonsall (1829-1903), and her children and grandchildren. There is no correspondence to or from Kelley's husband Lazare Wischnewetzky. For additional correspondence of William Darrah and Caroline Bonsall Kelley, see Series IV. Family papers.

5	4-5	William Darrah Kelley, 1865-1888, n.d.
	6-9	Caroline Bonsall Kelley, 1863-1904
	10	Isaac and Elizabeth Pugh, 1865-1872
	11	William Darrah Kelley, Jr., 1904-1929, n.d. William Darrah Kelley, Jr., son of Caroline Bonsall and William Darrah Kelley.
	12-18	Albert Bartram Kelley, 1895-1931, n.d. Albert Bartram Kelley, son of Caroline Bonsall and William Darrah Kelley, attended the University of Pennsylvania. He worked as an insurance agent in Philadelphia, New York City, Cincinnati, and Panama City, Florida.
6	1-7	John Bartram Kelley, 1898-1932 John Bartram Kelley, son of Florence Kelley, attended the Hillside Home School in Hillside, Wisconsin in the 1890s with his sister Margaret. He held many jobs throughout his life while he traveled the United States. The aspiring writer spent much of his time at Florence Kelley's home in Brooklin, Maine. Many of the letters from John Bartram to his mother are undated.
	8-11	Margaret Kelley, 1901-1905, n.d. Margaret Dana Kelley, daughter of Florence Kelley, was educated at the Hillside Home School in Hillside, Wisconsin, and at Ferry Hall in Lake Forest, Illinois. Margaret died suddenly during her first year at Smith College.
	12-13	Augusta Kelley, 1909-1922, n.d.
	14	Lola Maverick Lloyd, 1908-1915, n.d. Florence Kelley to Nicholas Kelley, 1900-1931
	15	1900-1901
	16	1902
7	1	1903
	2	1904
	3	1905
	4	1906
	5	1907
	6	1908
	7	1909
	8	1910-1911
	9	1912-1913
	10	1914-1915
	11	1916
	12	1917-1918
	13	1919
	14	1920-1921
	15	1922-1923

<u>Box</u>	<u>Fol</u>	
8	1	1924-1926
	2	1927-1928
	3	1929-1930
	4	1931
		Nicholas Kelley to Florence Kelley, 1892-1932
	5	1892-1899
	6	1900
	7	1901
	8	1902
	9	1903-1904
	10	1905-1906
	11	1907-1908
	12	1909-1910
	13	1911-1912
	14	1913
15	1914-1916	
9	1	1917-1918
	2	1919
	3	1920-1921
	4	1922-1923
	5	1924-1926
	6	1927-1928
	7	1929-1930
	8	1931
	9	1932
	10	William Darrah Kelley III, 1926, n.d.
	11	Nicholas Kelley, Jr. and Florence Kelley, 1917-1922, n.d. (Children of Nicholas and Augusta Kelley.)

## Series II. Writings

### IIA. Writings by Florence Kelley, 1882-1931

<u>Box</u>	<u>Fol</u>	
9	1	A Bill to be Entitled an Act, 1923
	2	Constructive Reform in New York City, 1908
	3	Establishment of minimum rates in box making industry, 1909
	4	Fort Marshall, n.d.
	5	Judicial Obstacles to Labor Legislation, n.d.
	6	Leisure by Law for Women, 1927
	7	Messenger girls, 1918
	8	Minimum Wage Legislation, n.d.
	9	Miscellaneous fragments, n.d.
	10	My Philadelphia, n.d. (Includes typescript and printed copies.)
10	1	National Consumers' League Leadership
	2	The Negro Children as Future Workers, n.d.
	3	The Next Thirty Years, n.d.
	4-9	Notes on Sixty Years, n.d.
	10	On some changes in the Legal Status of the Child Since Blackstone, 1882 (Includes typescript and draft copies.)
	11	The Pernicious Activity of Uplifters, n.d.
	12	Poems, n.d.
	13	Public schools, n.d.
	14	Review of <i>The Second Twenty Years</i> at Hull-House by Jane Addams, 1931
	15	Sheppard-Towner act , n.d.
	16	Social Standard in Industry Progress of Labor Legislation for Women, n.d.
	17	Speeches, 1931
	18	Statement on Infant Mortality, n.d.
	19	Unemployment Insurance, n.d.
	20	The U.S. Supreme Court and Labor Laws, n.d.
	21	Woman Patriot, n.d.
	22	World Government, n.d.

### IIB. Writings by others, 1918, n.d.

The writings by others include typescripts by Florence Kelley's associates on subjects pertinent to reform legislation. The subseries also includes miscellaneous writing by her daughter, Margaret.

23	Anarchists council, City of Saratoff, Russia, 1918
24	Costigan, Mabel Cory, n.d.
25	Eaton, Mrs. Horace A., n.d.
26	Loveland, Alice, n.d.
27	Kelley, Margaret, n.d.
28	Kellogg, Paul U., n.d.

**Series III. Personal miscellany, 1882-1931**

The Personal miscellany is divided into six subseries: IIIA. Address books, 1926-1930; IIIB. Clippings, 1906-1934; IIIC. Diary of Margaret Hicks, 1868; IIID. Financial and legal documents, 1895-1931; IIIE. Printed ephemera, 1882-1927; IIIF. Scrapbooks, 1894-1924.

<u>Box</u>	<u>Fol</u>	
11	1	<b>IIIA. Address books, 1926-1930</b> Address books, 1926, 1927, ca. 1930, and day planner, 1930
		<b>IIIB. Clippings, 1906-1934</b>
	2-4	Clippings, 1926-1934
	5-6	Clippings of reviews of Kelley's books, 1906-1929
	7	<b>IIIC. Diary of Margaret Hicks, 1868</b> Hicks was a friend of Kelley's at Cornell. The diary includes entries about school life and friendship.
		<b>IIID. Financial and legal documents, 1895-1931</b> Kelley's financial and legal documents include receipts, bank statements and financial information of the National Consumers' League.
	8	Accounts, 1897-1921
	9-11	Business correspondence, 1922-1927
12	1-3	Business correspondence, 1928-1931
	4	Divorce material, 1900
	6	National Consumers' League Budget, 1927-1928
	6-7	Receipts, 1895-1923, n.d.
	8	Stock certificates, 1927-1928
	9	Will, n.d.
		<b>IIIE. Printed ephemera, 1882-1927</b> The printed writings include published documents, pamphlets and programs. The series includes a 1907 pamphlet from the First International Conference of Socialist Women and materials from National Consumers' League benefits.
	10	Attack on Florence Kelley, 1927
	11	Cornell Class of 1882
	12	Du Bois, W.E.B., Dinner in honor of, 1924
	13	First International Conference of Socialist Women, 1907 (Includes pamphlets from the conference.)
	14	Kelley, Margaret, 1905 (Diploma from Brookline High School, Brookline, MA.)
	15	My Philadelphia, 1926 (Offprint of article from <i>Survey Graphic</i> magazine.)
	16	National Consumers' League ephemera, n.d.
	17	National Consumers' League, 25th Anniversary Dinner, 1924
	18	Press releases, n.d.
	19	Religious Society of Friends
	20-22	<i>Survey Graphic</i> , 1927

### **IIIF. Scrapbooks, 1894-1924**

<u>Box</u>	<u>Fol</u>	
13	1	Clippings, 1894-1895
	2	Dinner in honor of Florence Kelley, 1924 (Scrapbook contains letters in honor of Kelley's work for the National Consumers' League.)

### **Series IV. Family papers, 1836-1903**

The Family Papers are divided into two subseries, IVA. William Darrah Kelley; 1836-1878, n.d.; IVB. Caroline Bonsall Kelley, 1845-1903, n.d. The series includes correspondence and ephemera of Kelley's parents, except for letters to or from Florence Kelley. Included are letters from Caroline Bonsall's adoptive parents Isaac and Elizabeth Pugh.

#### **IVA. William Darrah Kelley, 1836-1878, n.d.**

	3	Letters sent and received, 1836-1884, n.d.
	4	William Darrah Kelley, Jr., 1847-1878
	5	Caroline Bonsall, 1856-1884, n.d.
14	1	Sarah Pugh, 1869
	2	Certificates, 1856-1878
	3	Clippings, 1850-1867
	4	Memorial Address on Life and Character of William Darrah Kelly, 1890
	5	Passport, 1884
	6	Philadelphia International Exhibition, 1873
	7	Poems, ephemera and cards, 1855-1875, n.d.
	8	Writings and speech, n.d.

#### **IVB. Caroline Bonsall Kelley, 1845-1903, n.d.**

Includes letters sent and received as well as letters addressed to her from her grandparents, aunt, husband and children.

	9	Isaac and Elizabeth Pugh, 1845-1883, n.d.
	10	Sarah Pugh, 1850, n.d.
	11	Letters sent and received, 1854-1899, n.d.
	12	William Darrah Kelley, 1854-1886, n.d.
	13	William Darrah Kelley, Jr., 1883-1900, n.d.
	14	Albert Bartram Kelley, 1887-1903. n.d.
	15	Margaret Kelley, 1900-1902
	16	Obituary notice of Henry L. Bonsall, 1838, Nov. 5

### Series V. Photographs, 1870-1925

The photographs, arranged alphabetically, include black and white albumen prints, cartes-de-visite and modern silver prints. There are photographs of the Kelley family and include childhood portraits both of Kelley and her sister Anna in Philadelphia. The images of Jane Addams date from a 1923 tour of Japan. The series also includes etchings of William Darrah Kelley. The unidentified photographs appear to have been taken in Brooklin, Maine or at Nicholas Kelley's home in Narragansett, Rhode Island.

<u>Box</u>	<u>Fol</u>	
14	17	Addams, Jane, 1923
	18	Bartram, John, n.d.
	19	Brooklin, ME, c. 1920
	20	Hicks, Margaret, 1879
	21	Hull House, 1893
	22	Kelley, Anna C., c. 1870
	23	Kelley, Caroline Bonsall, c. 1870
	24-25	Kelley, Florence, c. 1870-1876 (Kelley as a child and at Cornell)
15	1-2	Kelley, Florence, c. 1884-1910 (Kelley in Switzerland and as adult)
	3	Kelley, Margaret, c. 1886-1899
	4	Kelley, Nicholas, c. 1885
	5	Kelley, John Bartram, 1898-1899, n.d.
	6	Kelley, William and Albert, c. 1870-1890
	7	Kelley, William Darrah, c. 1870, n.d.
<u>Box</u>	<u>Vol</u>	
15	1-2	Photo albums, c. 1880-1900
<u>Box</u>	<u>Fol</u>	
16	1-5	Unidentified photographs