



# Guide to the of Harry A. Slattery Papers, 1890-1953

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## Summary

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**Collection Title:**

Harry A. Slattery papers, 1890-1953

**Creator:**

Slattery, Harry A.

**Extent:**

60 Linear Feet  
circa 35,300

**Physical Location:**

For current information on the location of these materials, please consult the library's online catalog.

**Language:**

English

**Language:**

English.

**Collection ID:**

RL.01203

**Permalink:**

<http://library.duke.edu/rubenstein/findingaids/slattery/>

**Preferred Citation**

[Identification of item], Harry A. Slattery Papers, David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library, Duke University.

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## Background

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**Scope and Content**

The Harry Slattery Papers span the period 1890-1953 with the bulk dated 1928 to 1944. They include correspondence, memoranda, writings and speeches, printed material, clippings, scrapbooks, and indexes. The collection chiefly concerns positions Slattery held during his years of public service and reflect

his lifelong interest in conservation. Very few of Slattery's personal papers are included in the collection.

The bulk of the collection relates to Slattery's positions as personal assistant to Harold L. Ickes (1933-1938), as Under-secretary of the Interior (1938-1939), and as administrator of the Rural Electrification Administration (REA) (1939-1944). Other papers concern his service as secretary to Gifford Pinchot (1909-1912), as secretary of the National Conservation Association (1912-1923), as special assistant to Interior Secretary Franklin K. Lane (1917-1918), as a Washington lawyer (1923-1933), and as counsel to the National Boulder Dam Association (1925-1929). There is also information about the Teapot Dome Scandal. While information about the REA is found throughout the collection, information pertaining to the other topics is found chiefly in the Correspondence, Memoranda, Writings and Speeches, Printed Material, and Clippings Series. A typescript of Slattery's autobiography, *From Roosevelt to Roosevelt*, Washington, D.C., 1948, and information relating to the published work *Rural America Lights Up*, Washington, D.C., 1940, which is attributed to Slattery, are found in the Writings and Speeches and Scrapbooks Series. Persons studying conservation issues in the United States and the spread of electricity to rural areas would find this collection particularly helpful.

There is extensive material relating to the controversy surrounding the Rural Electrification Administration, tensions between the REA and the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, whose executive manager was Clyde Ellis, and the conflict between Slattery and the Secretary of Agriculture Claude W. Wickard. Correspondents include Harold L. Ickes, Judson King, Basil Maxwell Manly, Gifford Pinchot, Amos R. Pinchot, John Patrick Grace, Cornelia B. Pinchot, and Philip Patterson Wells.

## Biographical/Historical

### Chronology

<b>Date</b>	<b>Description</b>
1887, June 13	Born, Greenville, South Carolina
1909-1912	Secretary to Gifford Pinchot, chief forester in Theodore Roosevelt's administration.
1912-1917	Executive Secretary of the National Conservation Association, appointed by its founder, Pinchot

<b>Date</b>	<b>Description</b>
1917-1918	Special Assistant to Franklin K. Lane, Secretary of the Interior
1919-1923	Counsel to the National Conservation Association
1923-1933	Practiced law in Washington
1925-1929	Executive and counsel for the National Boulder Dam Association
1929-1932	Counsel for the National Conservation Commission
1931-1933	Washington representative for New York Power Authority
1933-1938	Assistant to administrator of Federal Emergency Administration of Public Works Personal assistant to Harold Ickes, Secretary of the Interior
1938-1939	Undersecretary of the Interior
1939-1944	Administrator of Rural Electrification Administration (REA), from which he resigned after a conflict with the Secretary of Agriculture in 1944
1940-1942	Consultant to the power subcommittee of the advisory commission of the Council of National Defense
1944	Received LL.D. from the University of South Carolina
1949, Sept. 1	Died

Slattery attended Mount Saint Mary's College in Maryland, Georgetown University and George Washington University. As part of government efforts to indict big business for the exploitation of the country's natural resources, he was involved in Senate investigations of the Mulhall exposure during Wilson's administration and the Teapot Dome Scandal of 1921. The 1944 controversy between the REA and the Department of Agriculture over the administration of REA led to a Senate investigation. Slattery was involved in the passage of a federal coal and oil leasing measure, federal water power legislation, Alaska coal and home rule acts, and rural electrification legislation. He was a member of the National Power Policy Committee, the Energy Resources and Land Committees of the National Resources Planning Board, the Interbureau Coordinating Committee, the Federal States Relations Committee, the Society of American Foresters, the National Press Club, the Missouri Athletic Club, and Delta Theta Phi Fraternity.

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## **Administrative Information**

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### **Publication Statement**

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### **Access Restrictions**

Collection is open for research.

Researchers must register and agree to copyright and privacy laws before using this collection.

All or portions of this collection may be housed off-site in Duke University's Library Service Center. The library may require up to 48 hours to retrieve these materials for research use.

Please contact Research Services staff before visiting the David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library to use this collection.

## Use Restrictions

The copyright interests in the Slattery Papers have not been transferred to Duke University. For further information, see the section on copyright in the Regulations and Procedures of the Special Collections Library.

## Acquisition Information

The Harry A. Slattery Papers, 1890-1953, were acquired by the David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library through deposit in 1953 and by gift in 1958.

## Processing Information

Processed by Janie Morris

Assisted by Denise Dolan

Date Completed: May 28, 1992

Encoded by Alvin Pollock

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## Names and Subjects

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- Rural electrification -- Law and legislation -- United States
- United States -- Politics and government -- 1901-1953
- Teapot Dome Scandal, 1921-1924
- Lawyers -- Political activity
- Lawyers -- Washington (D.C.)
- United States -- Public lands
- United States. Rural Electrification Administration
- United States. Department of the Interior -- Officials and employees
- Slattery, Harry A.
- Pinchot, Gifford, 1865-1946
- Wickard, Claude R. (Claude Raymond), 1893-1967
- Wells, Philip Patterson, b.1868
- Manly, Basil Maxwell, 1886-1950
- Lane, Franklin K.
- King, Judson
- Ickes, Harold L. (Harold LeClair), 1874-1952
- Pinchot, Cornelia Bryce, 1881-1960
- Pinchot, Amos, 1873-1944

- National Rural Electric Cooperative Association
- National Conservation Association
- Ellis, Clyde T. (Clyde Taylor)
- Grace, John P. (John Patrick), 1874-1940
- Boulder Dam Association

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## Collection Inventory

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### Correspondence, 1908-1953, undated (bulk 1928?1944).

#### Scope and Contents note

Chiefly typed professional letters documenting Slattery's career. About half consists of Slattery's outgoing and incoming mail. The remainder is between other individuals. Also contains a few telegrams, cards, memoranda and clippings. One folder dated Oct., 1938 contains copies of microfilmed records relating to oil scandals. Arranged chronologically.

#### Scope and Contents note

One box of alphabetized file cards compiled by the David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library staff indexes letters in the Correspondence Series written to Slattery by prominent individuals. Cards record the date of the letter, place of origination, and, in some cases, the format in which it was written. This box is filed at the end of the collection.

1908-1923 Apr.	Box 1
<b>Physical Description:</b> 19 folders	
1923 May-1926 Aug.	Box 2
<b>Physical Description:</b> 20 folders	
1926 Sept.-1928 June	Box 3
<b>Physical Description:</b> 18 folders	
1928 July-1931 Dec.	Box 4
<b>Physical Description:</b> 23 folders	
1932 Jan.-1933-June	Box 5
<b>Physical Description:</b> 17 folders	
1933 July-1934 Apr. 7	Box 6
<b>Physical Description:</b> 19 folders	

1934 Apr. 8 -1935 May	Box 7
<b>Physical Description:</b> 19 folders	
1935 June-1936 July 20	Box 8
<b>Physical Description:</b> 21 folders	
1936 July 21-1937 July 10	Box 9
<b>Physical Description:</b> 18 folders	
1937 July 12-1938 May	Box 10
<b>Physical Description:</b> 15 folders	
1938 June-1939 Nov. 20	Box 11
<b>Physical Description:</b> 18 folders	
1939 Nov. 21-1940 June 20	Box 12
<b>Physical Description:</b> 16 folders	
1940 June 21-1941 Jan. 26	Box 13
<b>Physical Description:</b> 15 folders	
1941 Jan.27-1942 May 15	Box 14
<b>Physical Description:</b> 16 folders	
1942 May 16-1943 Feb. 10	Box 15
<b>Physical Description:</b> 14 folders	
1943 Feb. 11-July	Box 16
<b>Physical Description:</b> 14 folders	
1943 Aug.-1944 June	Box 17
<b>Physical Description:</b> 14 folders	
1944, July-1953, undated	Box 18
<b>Physical Description:</b> 8 folders	

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## Office Calendars, 1940-1944.

### Scope and Contents note

Typed logs of daily visits and phone calls to Slattery's office, presumably while he was employed at the REA. Most are bound by year, with pages for each

workday. Some entries also contain phone messages and schedules for meetings and speaking engagements.

**Scope and Contents note**

Arranged chronologically by volume.

1940-1943, Feb.	Box 18
<b>Physical Description:</b> 5 folders	
1943, Feb.-1944	Box 19
<b>Physical Description:</b> 6 folders	

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**Memoranda, 1908-1944, undated (bulk 1928-1940s).**

**Scope and Contents note**

Chiefly typed material relating to Slattery's career in the form of articles, speeches, reports, and press releases. They pertain to a variety of topics including conservation, utilities, legislation, and governmental investigations. Most speeches were given by individuals other than Slattery. Also includes correspondence; printed material in the form of newsletters, invitations, conference programs, and announcements; statements; clippings; notes; lists; meeting minutes; financial records; and a few photographs. The majority of material was not originated by Slattery.

**Scope and Contents note**

Arranged chronologically by month, year and decade. Folders created within the chronological order for material relate to particular people and subjects.

1901-1916	Box 19
<b>Physical Description:</b> 6 folders	
1916-1920s, Franklin K. Lane, Secretary of Interior	Box 19
1916-1920s, Franklin K. Lane, Secretary of Interior	Box 20
1917-1923	Box 20
<b>Physical Description:</b> 5 folders	
1924, Draft of Oil Brief by Harry Slattery on leases of Naval Oil Reserves	Box 20

1924-1927	Box 20
<b>Physical Description:</b> 8 folders	
1927	Box 21
<b>Physical Description:</b> 2 folders	
1927,Boulder Dam	Box 21
<b>Physical Description:</b> 3 folders	
1927-1928	Box 21
1928	Box 21
<b>Physical Description:</b> 7 folders	
1928, story of Teapot Dome Oil Scandal	Box 21
1928,Boulder Dam	Box 21
1929	Box 21
<b>Physical Description:</b> 2 folders	
1930-1932	Box 22
<b>Physical Description:</b> 16 folders	
1933-1935	Box 23
<b>Physical Description:</b> 14 folders	
1935,Bonneville Dam Project (photographs)	Box 23
1935-1938, Kiplinger Washington Newsletter, with annotations	Box 23
1935-1938, Kiplinger Washington Newsletter	Box 24
1936-1939	Box 24
<b>Physical Description:</b> 16 folders	
1939	Box 25
<b>Physical Description:</b> 2 folders	
1939,Addresses given at special meetings by Slattery	Box 25
1930s	Box 25

1940	Box 25
<b>Physical Description:</b> 8 folders	
1941	Box 25
<b>Physical Description:</b> 3 folders	
1941	Box 26
1941-1944, slattery's personal files	Box 26
<b>Physical Description:</b> 2 folders	
1942	Box 26
<b>Physical Description:</b> 4 folders	
1942, REA: Daily Press Digest	Box 26
Directory	Box 26
1942, Winder/Pollock Investigation	Box 26
1943	Box 26
<b>Physical Description:</b> 7 folders	
1943	Box 27
<b>Physical Description:</b> 3 folders	
1943, National Rural Electric Cooperative Association - Rural Electrification Administration controversy	Box 27
1944-1953	Box 27
<b>Physical Description:</b> 9 folders	
1940s, Democratic state leaders	Box 27
undated	Box 27
<b>Physical Description:</b> 2 folders	
undated	Box 28

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**Writings and Speeches, 1906-1940s, undated (bulk 1920-1940s).**

### Scope and Contents note

Typed copies of articles, speeches, memoranda, and press releases by a number of authors; a book and book manuscript; and book orders and other miscellaneous material relating to Slattery's political career. Arranged chronologically. Slattery's two works are placed at the end of the series.

1912-1940s, undated Box 28

**Physical Description:** 3 folders

Autobiography: From Roosevelt to Roosevelt, 1906-1946(7 folders, 1 vol.) Box 28

Rural America Lights Up, 1940 and undated Box 28

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### Miscellaneous, 1910s-1944, undated

#### Scope and Contents note

Photographs, notes, legal papers, reports, memoranda, clippings, receipts, copies of legislation, and lists. Arranged chronologically, then alphabetically by topic. The subseries Financial Papers is placed at the end of the series.

1910s-1944, undated Box 28

**Physical Description:** 2 folders

1930-1931, Louis T. McFadden Box 28

1921-1939, undated, Pictures Box 28

1914-, Relief provisions relating to oil and gas Box 28

1939, undated, Rural Electrification Administration (REA) Box 28

1927-1928, Walsh bill and resolution Box 28

### Financial Papers

1921-1943, undated Box 28

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### Cards and Invitations, 1930s-1945, undated

**Scope and Contents note**

Calling cards, greeting cards, and invitations to banquets and other public events; both personal and professional in nature. Arranged chronologically.

1930s, Cards and invitations Box 28

1930s-1945, undated Box 29

**Physical Description:** 5 folders

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**Printed Material, 1907-1945, undated (bulk 1920-1945).**

**Scope and Contents note**

Primarily booklets of speeches, articles, and government reports. Also includes brochures, programs, bulletins, addresses, periodicals, articles, reports, pamphlets, and government publications. Arranged chronologically.

1907-1922 Box 29

**Physical Description:** 9 folders

1922-1924, undated, Teapot Dome Box 30

1923-1928 Box 30

**Physical Description:** 10 folders

1928, Hoover campaign material Box 30

1929 Box 30

**Physical Description:** 2 folders

1930-1944 Box 31

**Physical Description:** 15 folders

1944-1945, undated Box 32

**Physical Description:** 4 folders

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**Clippings, 1910-1940s, undated (bulk 1920-1940s).**

**Scope and Contents note**

Mostly newspaper, but also some magazine clippings, from a variety of sources. Most are loose, but some are glued on paper. Includes sections of the

Congressional Record relating to rural electrification. Arranged alphabetically by topic. There is a "Persons" subsection within this order in which folders are arranged alphabetically by last names of individuals.

Chester Lake Hunger Strike, 1944 Box 32

Conservation and Boulder Dam, 1910-1930s, undated Box 32

**Physical Description:** 6 folders

Conservation and Reclamation, 1913-1932 Box 32

**Physical Description:** 5 folders

Conservation and Reclamation, 1933-1940s Box 33

**Physical Description:** 3 folders

Democratic Party and Politics, 1921-1941 Box 33

Ku Klux Klan, 1929 Box 33

Nye (Gerald) Committee, 1929-1931 Box 33

### Persons

Appleby, Paul, 1941-1944 Box 33

Brandeis, Louis, 1927-1941 Box 33

Byrnes, James, 1942-1943 Box 33

Carmody, John M., 1941 Box 33

Corcoran, Thomas, 1937-1942, undated Box 33

Davis, Chester, 1943 Box 33

Henderson, Leon, 1941-1942 Box 33

Hoover, Herbert, 1915-1932 Box 33

**Physical Description:** 9 folders

Huston, Claudins Hart, 1924-1942 Box 33

Ickes, Harold LeClair, 1933-1943 Box 33

Lane, Franklin K., 1916-1920s Box 33

LaFollette family, 1924-1934	Box 33
Morgan, John Pierpont, 1927-1937	Box 33
Morrow, Dwight Whitney, 1927-1931	Box 33
Nelson, Donald, 1941-1943	Box 33
Norris, George William, 1927-1943	Box 33
Pinchot, Gifford, 1919-1925	Box 33
Pinchot, Gifford, 1926-1944, undated <b>Physical Description:</b> 12 folders	Box 34
Reed, James Alexander, 1927-1929	Box 34
Roosevelt, F. D., 1923-1944, undated <b>Physical Description:</b> 5 folders	Box 35
Slattery, Harry A., 1930's-1944	Box 35
Slemp, Bascom, 1923	Box 35
Smith, Alfred E., 1927-1929	Box 35
Vare, William Scott, 1926-1929 <b>Physical Description:</b> 2 folders	Box 35
Wallace, Henry, 1937-1943	Box 35
West, Ray O. and Charles West, 1928-1937	Box 35
Wickard, Claude W., 1940-1945	Box 35
Wilkie, Wendell, 1940-1941	Box 35
Price control and priorities, 1941-1943	Box 35
Public works and utilities, 1906-1928 <b>Physical Description:</b> 6 folders	Box 35
Public Works and Utilities, 1928-1944, undated <b>Physical Description:</b> 11 folders	Box 36
Radio, 1930-1932	Box 36

Red Cross, 1931	Box 36
Rural Electrification Administration (REA), 1940-1945, undated <b>Physical Description:</b> 6 folders	Box 36
Teapot Dome oil scandal, 1915-1921 <b>Physical Description:</b> 2 folders	Box 36
Teapot Dome oil scandal, 1922-1933, undated <b>Physical Description:</b> 12 folders	Box 37
Miscellaneous, 1915-1944, undated	Box 37

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### **Scrapbooks, 1890-1944.**

#### **Scope and Contents note**

Includes newspaper and magazine clippings from a variety of sources, press releases, pamphlets, correspondence and excerpts from articles chiefly relating to Slattery and issues which arose while he was administrator of the REA. Arranged chronologically. See Oversize Material section of the inventory.

National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, 1943-1944(2 vols.)	Box 37
Rural Electrification Administration, 1944	Box 37

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### **Indexes, 1909-1944.**

#### **Scope and Contents note**

Three boxes contain indexes, presumably prepared by REA staff, referring to letters in the Correspondence Series and may also refer to material in other parts of the collection as well. These contain typed index cards filed alphabetically under the names of individuals. They include the date of correspondence, place of origination, and topic or type of material sent. Some refer to outgoing as well as incoming mail. Arranged alphabetically.

Rural Electrification Administration Indexes, 1939-1944(3 boxes)	Box 38
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## **Oversize Materials**

### **Correspondence**

Correspondence, 1924-1944 Box 44

### **Memoranda**

Memoranda, 1920-1928, undated Box 44

### **Writings and Speeches**

Writings and Speeches, 1940 Box 44

### **Miscellaneous**

Miscellaneous, 1928-1941 Box 44

Miscellaneous: Photograph Album, 1935-1941  
(Photographs of people connected with the  
REA) Oversize-box 43

### **Cards and Invitations**

Cards and Invitations, 1936-1937, undated Box 44

### **Printed Material**

Printed Material, 1909-1944, undated Box 44

### **Scrapbooks**

Scrapbook, 1890-1939, Aug. Oversize-box 39

Scrapbook, 1939, Sept.-Dec. Oversize-box 39

Scrapbook, 1940, Jan.-Sept. Oversize-box 40

Scrapbook, 1940, Sept.-1941, Sept. Oversize-box 40

Scrapbook, 1941, Sept.-1942, July Oversize-box 41

Scrapbook, 1942, July-1943, Mar. Oversize-box 41

Scrapbook, 1943, Apr 1944, Oct. Oversize-box 42

Scrapbook, 1940-1941 (Clippings relating to  
Rural America Lights Up)

Oversize-box 42

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