



City of Boston Archives and Records Management Division

Guide to the Mayor Frederick W. Mansfield records

Finding aid prepared by Tom Keville

This finding aid was produced using the Archivists' Toolkit

With grant funding from the National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC)

Repository:	City of Boston Archives and Records Management Division
Title:	Mayor Frederick W. Mansfield records
Collection No.:	0240.001
Dates:	1934-1938
Quantity:	12.0 Cubic feet

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Biographical note

Frederick W. Mansfield, mayor of Boston from 1934-1937, led the city in the midst of the Great Depression. Though disadvantaged by a mounting welfare burden and rampant unemployment, Mansfield was able to bring about significant changes to Boston. Using the federal Works Progress Administration to the cities advantage he was able to bring about the Hunting Avenue subway extension, Huntington avenue underpass, and upgrades to various city parks. Additionally, the Mansfield administration saw to the construction of the City Hospital surgical building, reconstruction of Faneuil Hall, opening of seven new schools, and a reduction in the cities debt while modernizing the city accounting and auditing systems.

Often, Mansfield would take his political appeals to the radio where he would broadcast right out of the mayor's office in Old City hall. Though unsuccessful in reducing the bureaucracy that slowed city reform, he was very progressive in his ideals. He was a strong advocate for a sales tax on non-necessities and an increased focus on

creating low-income housing instead of substandard housing, both of which became governmental standards.

Before his time as mayor, Mansfield was the first Democrat to be elected state treasurer in 1914. Additionally, he served 12 years on the State Judicial council and 29 years as counsel to the Boston Catholic Archdiocese. He remained a prominent member of the Boston political system until his death on November 6, 1958.

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Scope and Contents note

This series contains 10 boxes of scrapbooks, 1 box of ephemera (in box 11), and 1 box of framed certificates (in box 12). The only notable gaps in time between scrapbooks are August 13 1934 - September 29, 1934 and September 3, 1935 and October 8, 1935. Box 11 contains a guest book ranging from February 7, 1934 to January 31, 1938, four copies of speeches (1 inauguration speech, and 3 annual addresses), 2 pages of a copied newspaper article, and a pamphlet issued to attendees of the Frederick W. Mansfield inauguration. The guest book contains the signatures of visiting politicians, foreign dignitaries, and celebrities. Notable examples include Robert Ripley of Ripley's Believe it or Not (dated February 12, 1934), the Moulin Rouge Good Will Caravan, and numerous diplomats from China, Russia, and Japan. Box 12 contains three framed certificates: a citation from Saint Peters College to Frederick Mansfield thanking him for his service, a "Golden Jubilee Anniversary Greetings" given to Mr. and Mrs. Mansfield on their 50th anniversary, and a framed military certificate stating "Frederick W. Mansfield - U.S.S. Vulcan"; the ship in which he served as an apothecary during the Spanish American War.

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Series I: Scrapbooks

Box

1	1934 January 1- January 8
1	1934 January 9-January 24
1	1934 February 9-February 28
1	1934 March 18-March 31
1	1934 April 1-April 9
2	1934 April 10-April 26
2	1934 April 27-May 14
2	1934 May 15-May 27
2	1934 May 28-June 11
2	1934 June 12-June 27
2	1934 June 28-July 13
2	1934 July 14-August 13
3	1934 September 29-October 17
3	1934 October 18-November 13
3	1934 November 14-November 30
3	1934 December 1-December 19
3	1934 December 20-December 31
3	1935 January 1-January 15
3	1935 January 16-January 29
4	1935 January 30-February 22

4	1935 February 23-March 9
4	1935 March 10-March 24
4	1935 March 25-April 8
4	1935 April 9-April 30
4	1935 May 1-May 15
4	1935 May 16-May 28
5	1935 May 29-June 11
5	1935 June 12-June 28
5	1935 June 29-July 14
5	1935 July 15-August 3
5	1935 August 4-August 20
5	1935 August 21-September 3
5	1935 October 8-October 23
6	1935 October 24-November 18
6	1935 November 19-December 10
6	1935 December 11-December 19
6	1935 December 20-1936 January 5
6	1936 January 6-January 15
6	1936 January 16-January 26
7	1936 February 9-February 13
7	1936 February 3-February 17
7	1936 February 14-February 17
7	1936 February 18-March 14
7	1936 March 15-March 31
7	1936 April 1-April 14
7	1936 April 15-April 26
8	1936 April 27-May 14
8	1936 May 15-May 31
8	1936 June 12-June 24
8	1936 June 25-July 5
8	1936 July 6-July 31
8	1936 August 1-August 14
8	1936 August 15-September 7
9	1936 September 8-September 17
9	1936 September 18-October 16
9	1936 October 17-November 5
9	1936 November 6-November 24
9	1936 November 25-December 12
9	1936 December 13-December 31
9	1937 January 1-January 15
9	1937 January 29-February 12
10	1937 February 13-February 27
10	1937 February 28-March 15
10	1937 March 16-March 28

- 10 1937 March 29-April 11
- 10 1937 April 12-April 25
- 10 1937 April 26-May 5
- 10 1937 May 12-June 8

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Series II: Ephemera

Box

- 11 Guest book, 1934 February 7-1938 January 31
- 11 Book presented to Frederick Mansfield by the Citizens Committee, 1937 December 15
- 11 Ceremony program for the inauguration of Frederick W. Mansfield, 1934

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Series III: Speeches, 1934 - 1937

Box

- 11 Inaugural address, 1934
- 11 Annual address, 1935
- 11 Annual address, 1936
- 11 Annual address, 1937

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Series IV: Framed Documents

Box

- 12 Saint Peters College Citation to Frederick William Mansfield, undated
- 12 "Golden Jubilee Anniversary Greeting" given to Honorable and Mrs. Frederick W. Mansfield, 1954 June 29
- 12 Frederick W. Mansfield: U.S.S. Vulcan, undated

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