

Boxes A0553-A0554 & one OS Box  
(Two manuscript boxes, one oversized box: 1.3 cu ft.)  
Loc. 7.2.C and 7.2.A  
AccNo 1986.048

Fish Family Papers  
Lawrence Chaffee Fish (1872-1936)  
1876-1950

Brooklyn Historical Society  
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## **Introduction**

The collection primarily concerns the life and career of Lawrence Chaffee Fish, Brooklyn attorney, magistrate and judge (1872-1936). It contains a Bible, documents, correspondence, financial records, news clippings, photos and four scrapbooks relating to the Fish Family of Brooklyn, New York. The materials were donated by Carl Turkstra in 1987.

## **Biography**

Lawrence Chaffee Fish was born in Brooklyn on June 21, 1872. Fish attended Columbia University Law School but transferred to the New York Law School and graduated in 1893 as one of the newly founded school's first graduates. He passed the New York State bar exam in 1896 and served over the years as an attorney for Grover Cleveland, David B. Still and James G. Blaine. Fish's professional achievements include eight years as a magistrate of Brooklyn's traffic court and a successful 1927 campaign bid as the Democratic candidate for judge in the Municipal Court of the second district.

Fish distinguished himself as a young man in the Prohibition movement and his involvement with prohibition work spanned the years 1888 to 1894, during which time he organized temperance lectures and was the Chief Templar at his lodge. He was also a member of many social clubs, including the Andrew Jackson Club and the Elks, and was active in the First Free Baptist Church.

In 1896 he married Margaret Summers, who died fourteen months later. In 1901 he married Emma Ellis.

## **Scope and Content**

The collection illustrates Fish's professional achievements and social activities, including tenure as magistrate of Brooklyn's traffic court, his election campaign for justice of the Municipal Court of the second district, and his temperance work. These papers span most of Fish's life until his death in 1936. The collection also includes materials related to Fish's family, including genealogical correspondence, news articles concerning Fish's wives and relatives, and correspondence regarding Fish's son, Lawrence Chaffee Fish, Jr.

**Note:** The scrapbooks and newspaper articles are in poor condition, with broken bindings and crumbling newspaper articles. Various conservation measures, including copying of newspaper articles, are needed. This collection was previously foldered at an unknown date but no inventory was created. The accession record states that a family bible and approximately 20 photos (including 6 backed with wooden stands) were also a part of this collection. The photographs were removed to the image collection but the Bible is unlocated at this time. Some of the scrapbook materials were placed into folders.

Container List

**(1876-1950)**

**Box 1 (A0553)**

	<b><u>Folder Title</u></b>	<b><u>Dates</u></b>
1	1 School Certificates and Programs	1876-1950
	2 Correspondence	1876-1949
	3 Miscellaneous Publications and Invitations	1884-1936
	4 Event Programs	1889-1917
	5 Prohibition Matters	1888-1849
	6 Newspaper Clippings	1892-1927
	7 Memorial Book- Thomas W. Field	1881
	8 Fish Family History Notes	No date
	9 Chaffee Family Records	No date
	10 Family Bible Photocopies and Articles	No date
	11 Induction Speech for Magistrate Fish (from Scrapbook)	1920
	12 Correspondence Re: Election Campaign (from Scrapbook)	1927
	13 Address List Re: Election Campaign (from Scrapbook)	ca 1927
	14 Documents and Draft letters Re: Election Campaign (from Scrapbook)	1927
	15 Financial Records of Election Campaign (from Scrapbook)	1927

**Box 2 (A0554)**

**Scrapbooks**

Vol.1	Early career and traffic court judge	1883-1918
Vol. 2	Early career and traffic court judge	1902-1927

**Box 3 (Oversized)**

**Scrapbooks**

Vol. 3	Traffic court cases	1920-1921
Vol. 4	Election Campaign	1925-1927