James Watson Gerard was born August 25, 1867 at Geneseo, New York. In 1892 he received his LL.B. from New York Law School and was admitted to the New York bar. He was interested in politics and in 1907 was elected an associate justice of the Supreme Court of the State of New York. He resigned before the end of his term to accept an appointment from President Woodrow Wilson as United States Ambassador to Germany in 1913. After World War I began his duties increased, and he was entrusted with the interests of Great Britain, Japan, Serbia, Romania, and San Marino. The German government asked him to leave in January 1917. He left the following month and retired from diplomatic service the following July.

Gerard returned to private law practice but retained his interest in Democratic politics. He played a leading role in the nomination of Franklin D. Roosevelt as the Democratic candidate for President in 1932 and served several terms as treasurer for the Democratic National Committee and as chairman of the Democratic Finance Committee. He wrote three books: *My Four Years in Germany* (1917), *Face to Face with Kaiserism* (1918), and *My First Eighty-Three Years in America* (1951).

Gerard married Mary Daly, daughter of Marcus Daly, in 1901. During his lifetime he maintained an interest in the Montana properties and investments of the Daly family, and had a ranch of his own north of Hamilton, Montana.

The majority of materials in this collection document Gerard's rise to prominence as a New York State Supreme Court Justice, two-time U.S. Senate candidate, Ambassador to Germany, candidate for New York Governor, and a life-long Democratic Party leader/activist. However, the collection also contains extensive financial, legal, and biographical records from the Gerard and Daly families, including investment documents such as those found in the Cinquo Minas Mining Company Series described below.

**Series VIII: Cinquo Minas Mining Company, 1897-1942**
13.0 linear feet and 7 oversize volumes

This series contains extensive records of mining operations at the Cinquo Minas site in Jalisco, Mexico, and sporadic records from related mining operations. James Gerard was a major investor in the mining company along with his father-in-law, Marcus Daly. Most of the materials in this series was created or collected by Henry Crawford, Cinquo Minas General Manager, to address Gerard's questions and concerns. Generally, these records exceed the standard range of investor reports and reflect the importance mine management placed on Gerard's investment.

The scope of materials in this series includes incoming and outgoing correspondence, auditor and tax records, production and profit reports, property maps and structural blueprints, legal depositions and real estate descriptions, capital inventories and general bound financial volumes. Of particular note, this series includes two folders (box 470) of document copies issued by the State of Jalisco, Mexico. These documents and maps detail title descriptions and operation expansion applications for the Cinquo Minas Mining Company between 1901 and 1911. Most of the documents are photocopies of negative film.