False accusations and innuendo have been a part of American presidential politics since the founding of the republic. Over the years many different issues have been used in attempts to damage a candidate’s chance for victory. Many times claims were made that a candidate was of mixed-race, with one parent or grandparent having African American lineage. These racist claims were believed to influence a voter’s choice. Such accusations were made during the 1920 presidential campaign of Warren Harding. The letter shown here, archived in the Museum of American History at Cabot, makes false claims that Harding’s father was of mixed blood. The accusation seems to have had little impact on his campaign. He easily defeated the Democratic candidate James Cox.