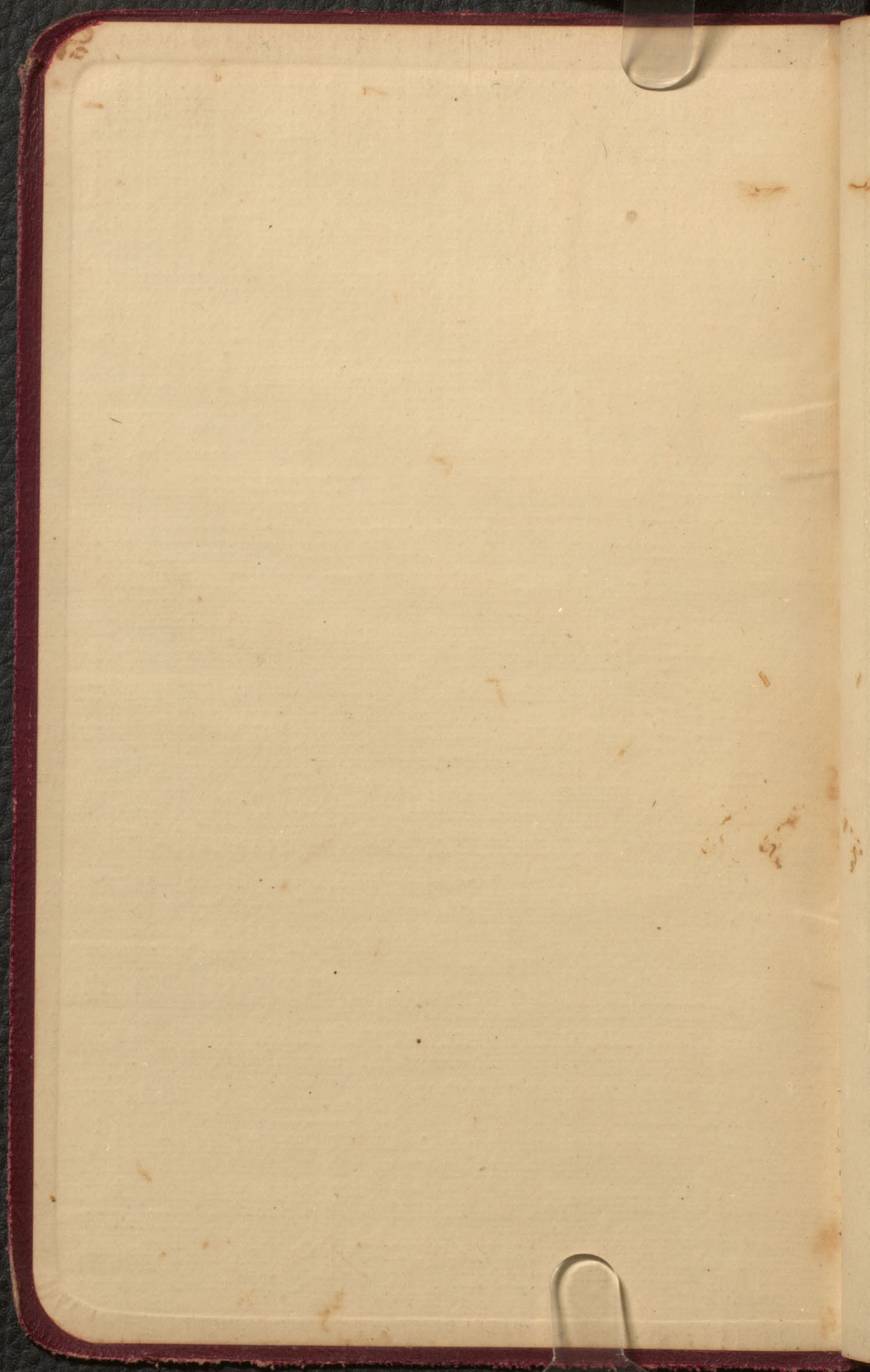
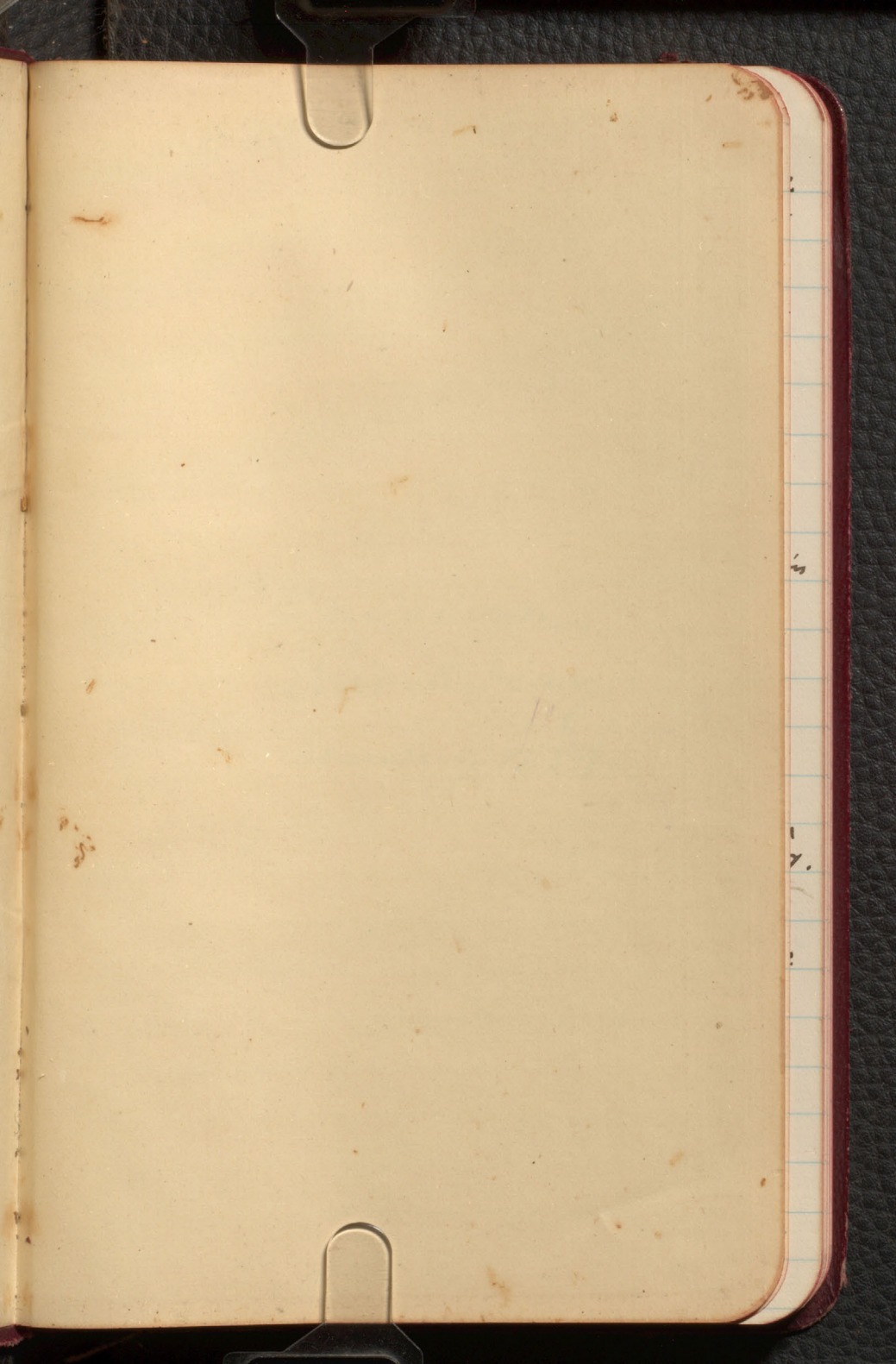
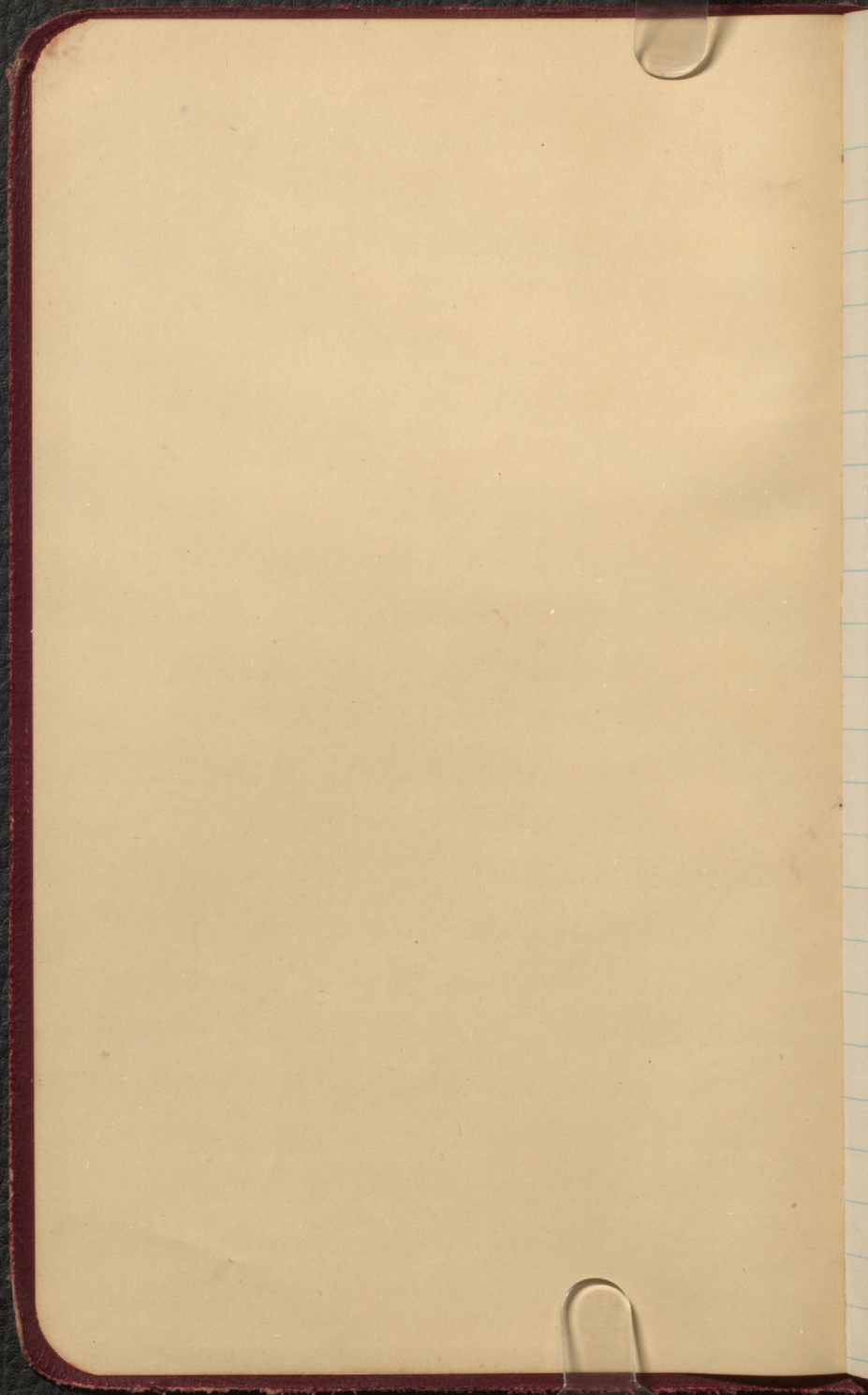


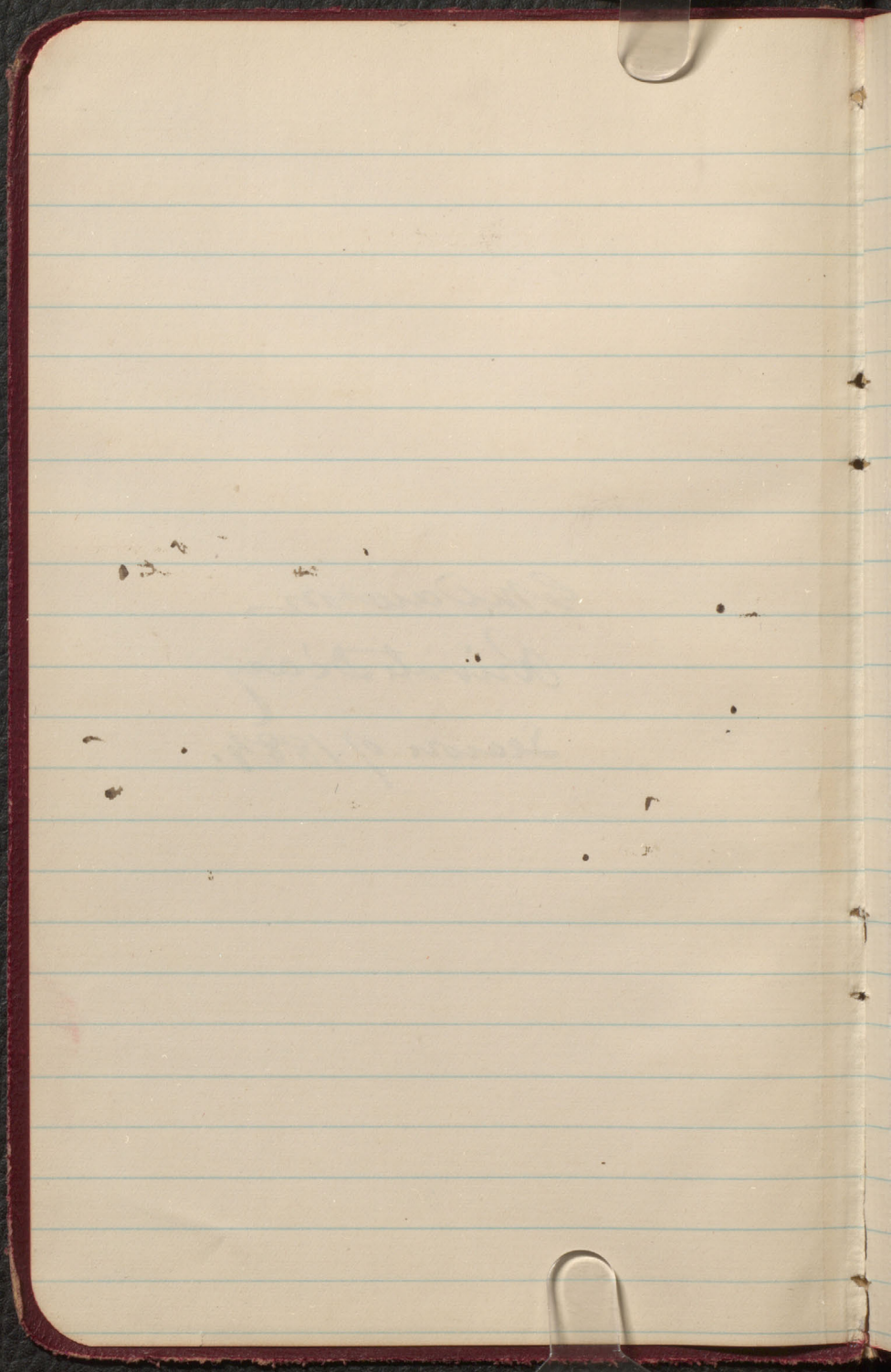
1884







G. M. Dawson
Private Diary
Season of 1884.



May 21. 84. Leave Ottawa by 10:30 P.M.
Train for Toronto & the west, accompanied
by Mr. Weston & my Macon.

22. Arrive Toronto & leave by Toronto
Gay & Bruce for Owen's Sound.
Leave Owen's Sound in steamer
Athabasca for Port Arthur about
4:30 P.M. Get into fog, & nearly
stationary all night. Meet White, who accompanies
me at Toronto.

23. Keeping on through fog most of
day & night.

24. At Detroit at upper end of Lake Huron
this morning. Steamer coaled. Get
through Sault St. Marie locks at
8:30 P.M. Weather apparently clearing.

25. Arrive at Port Arthur about 11 am.
& get off by train for Winnipeg before
3 P.M.

26. Arrive in Winnipeg at noon, having
had no breakfast as this being a
special train does not make usual
stoppages. Had lunch at C.P.R.
Restaurant. Then to Ed. Union Hotel

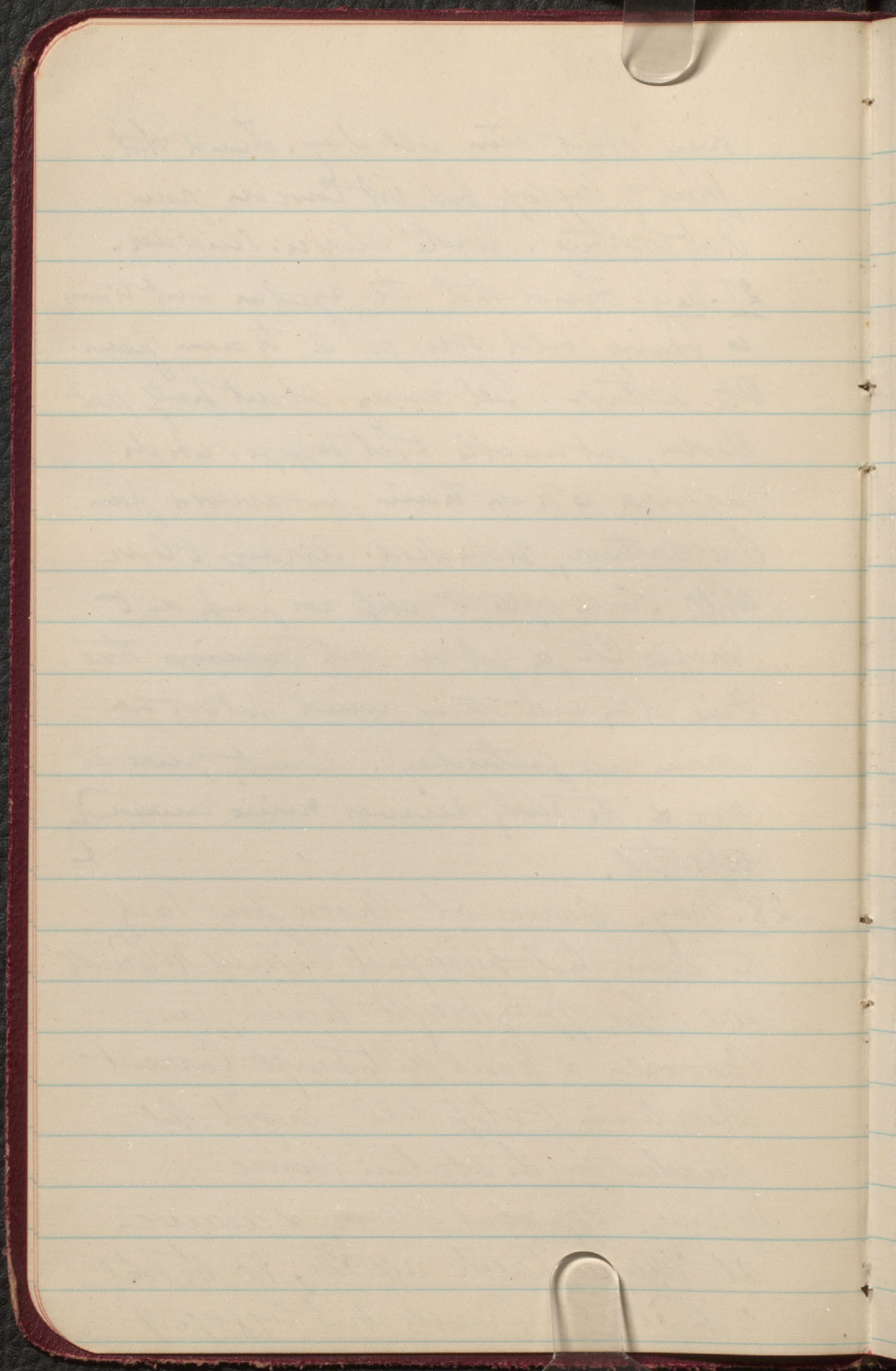
[Faint, illegible handwriting on lined paper]

busy about town all day. Found that
part of baggage has not come on from
Port Arthur. Wrote Selwyn. Scudder.

27. Aug. Found that the regular west train
is being held over for a train from
Pt. Arthur. Get away about half past
eleven, but unable to get baggage, which
I supposed to be on train just arrived from
Port Arthur, rechecked. Arrange to leave
while I look after it, while we push on to
Maple Ck, & get on with business there.
Fine day with strong wind, but not so
warm as yesterday. Country generally
dry & the early summer rains anxiously
expected.

28. May. Arrive at Moore few days
this am. Get backpack. Found McDonald
here. Get off by freight train, in
Caboose & travel on to Swift Current
where train to stop all night. Get
quarters in the Station House.

29 May. Off about 7 am, & arrive
at Maple Creek at 2 PM, to the table
of the place. Trouble about baggage &

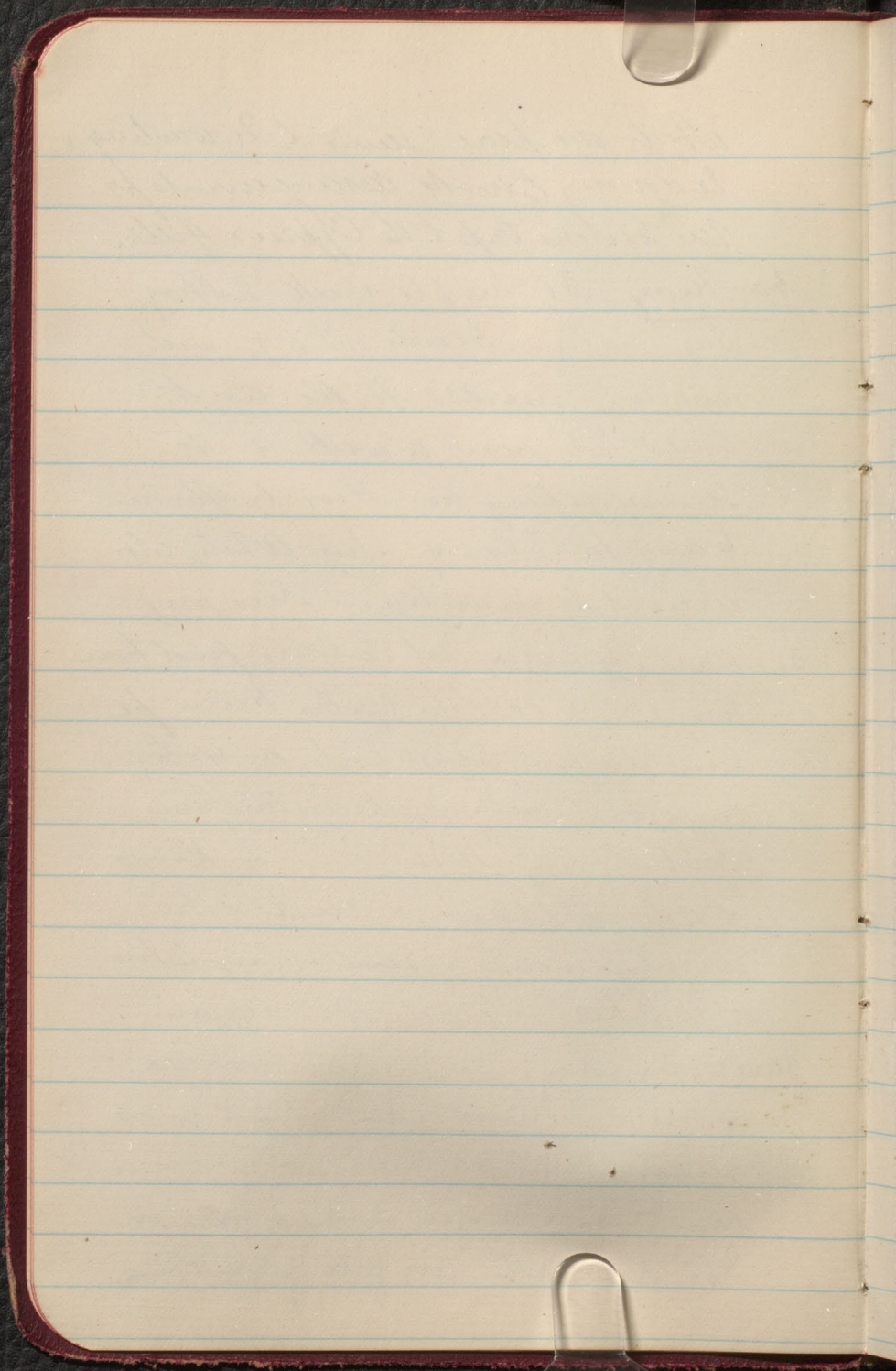


which are here seems to be wanting.
Endovary to make arrangements for
Mr Weston's trip to the Cypress Hills.

30 May at Maple Creek helping
Mr Weston. Decide not to go west
via the Cypress Hills as it
would take nearly a week & the
season getting on. Leave by afternoon
train for Calgary, Mr White, who
arrived by same train also going

31 May. On arrival at Calgary find train
going on, & no other regular train for
some days. Send White on with
luggage & money, with instructions
about storing horses etc. To Kings
& order supplies & make other
arrangements. Decide among to hire
a packer. Weather very warm.

June 1 Sunday. Mr. Burgess going on.
See several men who wish to be
packers, but can make no arrangements
owing to high wages asked for. A
hot day with air full of smoke.



June 2

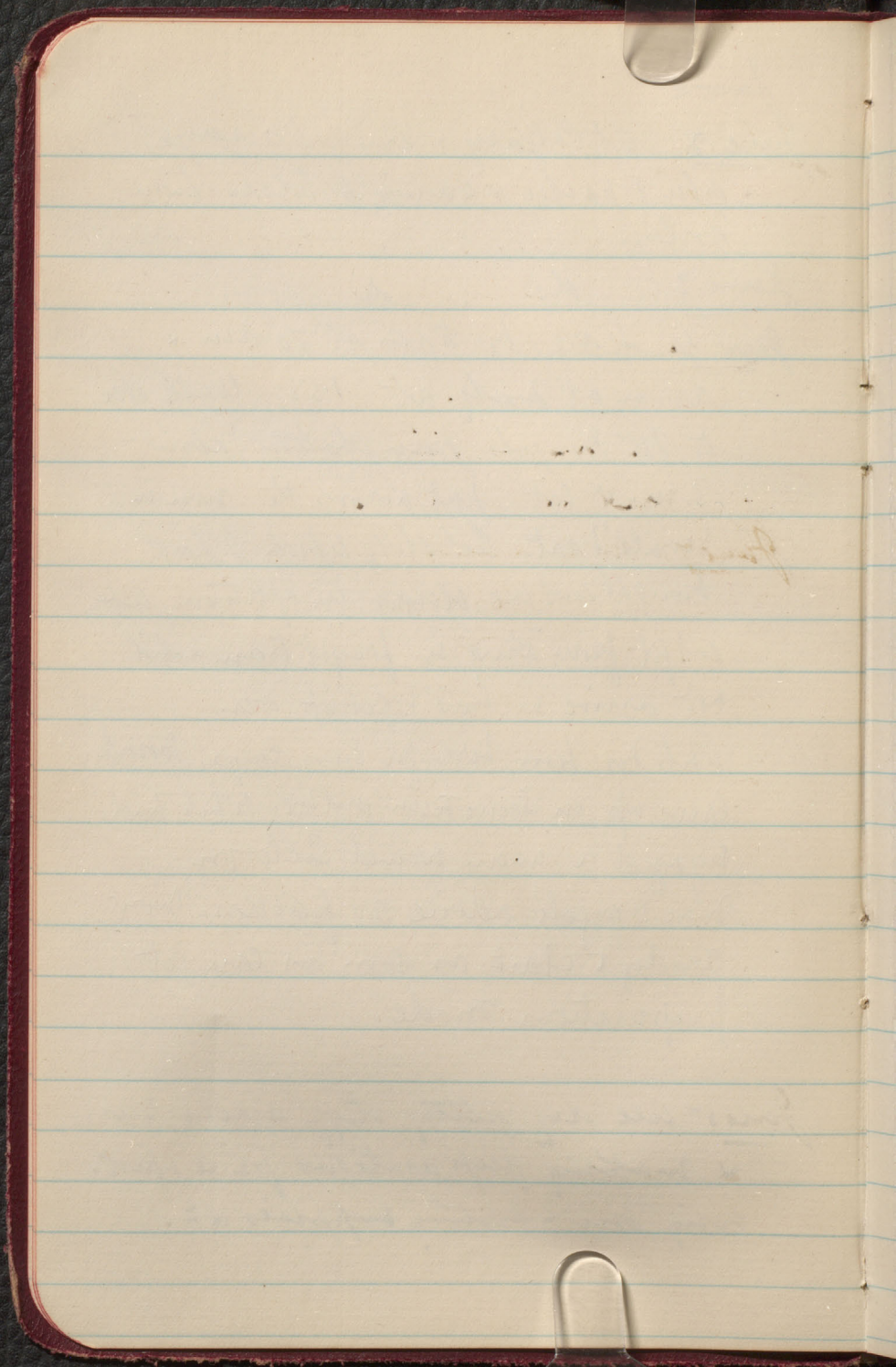
June 2 at Calgary. Trying to arrange
about packer & waiting for boxes from
Worley.

June 3 do do

June 4 Leave by train at 7:00 am &
arrive at Worley at 1:55. Walk over
to MacDongals farm station, about
3. m. & get put across the river in
small boat. Get stuff which I had
brought with me across in afternoon, but
outfit from King in freight train did
not arrive in time to get it over.

While has been here for some days. Worubain
came up in same train with me. Which had
engaged a man named Sallerton
MacDongals' advice as packer. Now
ready to start as soon as can get
preparations made.

June 5 - all day getting stuff across river
& making preparations for a start.
Going over & sorting supplies &c.



June 6. Got stuff down to river in waggon,
& across in 4 trips. Swims horses over.
After much delay got all packs arranged
& off. Wrote about 5:5 miles to lake
at head of Chisoguy Creek. Day
uncertain & cloudy. Partly showers to
S & N. Mountains for the most part
shrouded in clouds.

June 7. on to Kanarkis R. & enter the
pass, follows trail on right bank of stream.

June 8. Travelling up Kanarkis R.

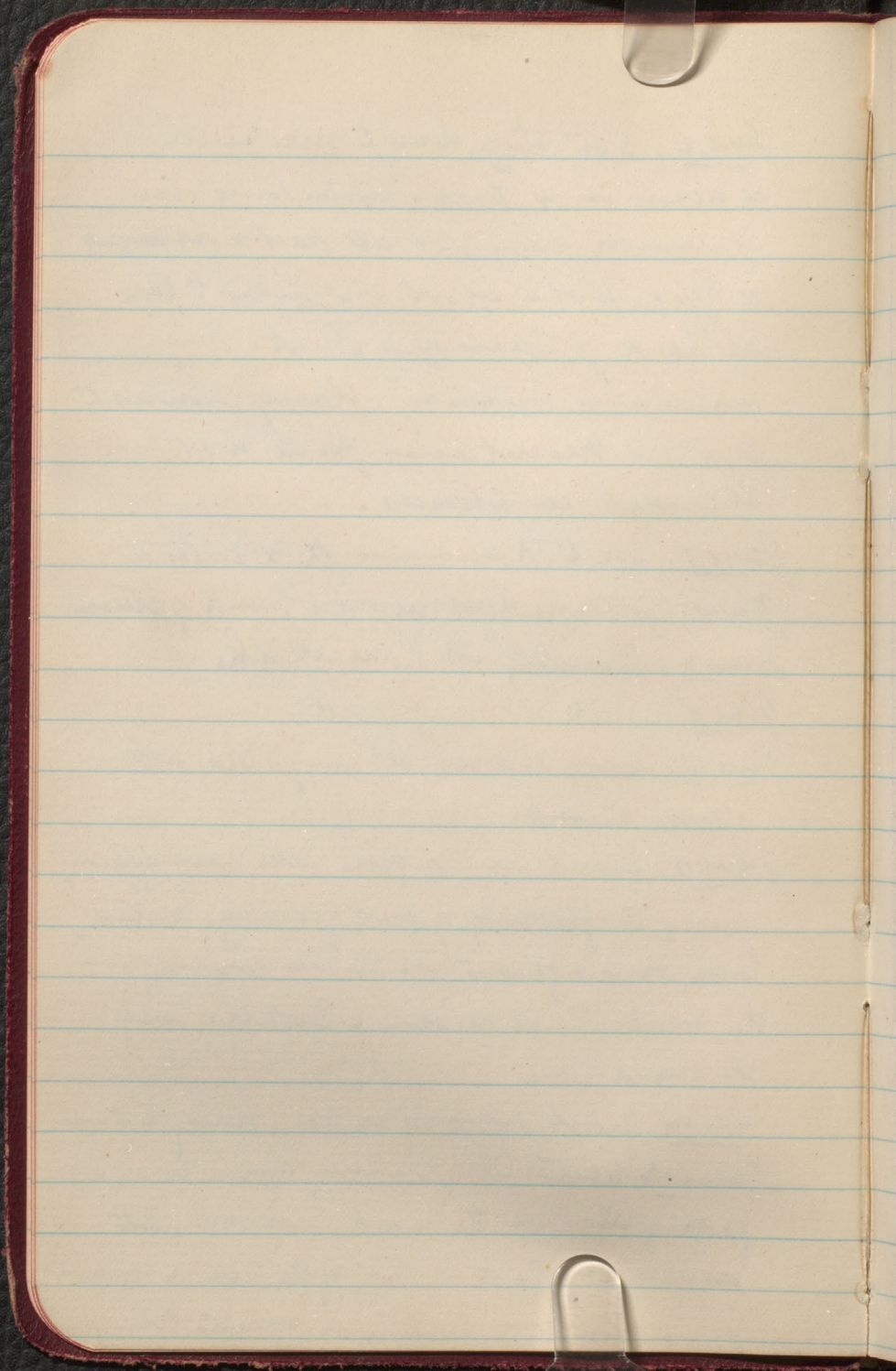
June 9 " " "

June 10. Heavy showers all day. Did not
move camp.

June 11. Travel on up river with some difficulty
owing to flooding of part of valley. Went up
above river & follow up small stream from
the south. Trail very hard & Crooked. Camp
at small lake

June 12 Travel only half a day, owing to rain

June 13 Saller ill, causing much delay in
packing etc. Cross the divide southward, but
uncertain whether it is that of the elk & bigwood.
Very pretty of country in divide valley



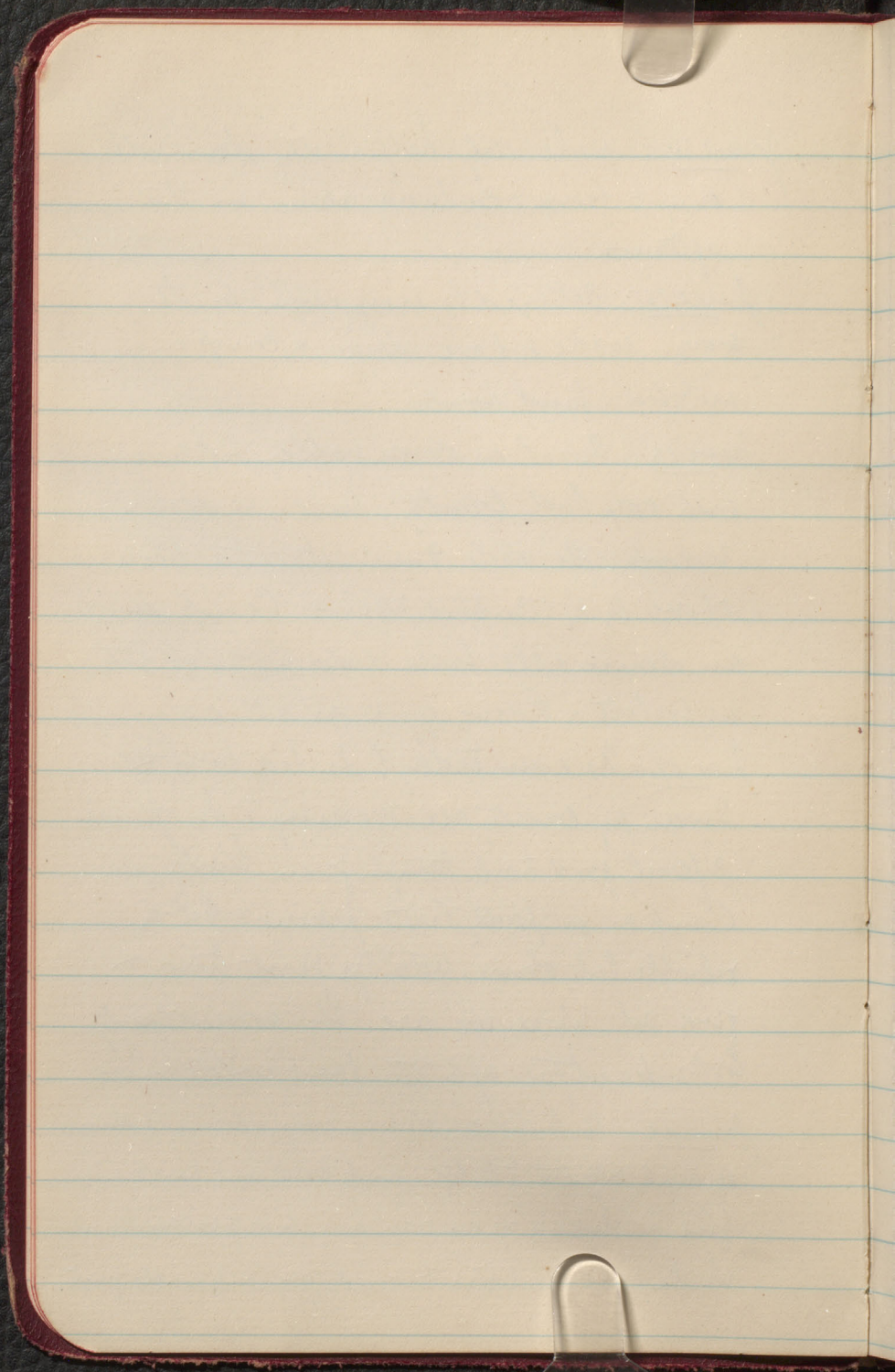
June 14, make only half a day down valley
owing to heavy & continuous rain in the
afternoon.

June 15, Delayed by heavy rain in the
morning. Woke but one drive, & camp in
wretched burnt woods.

June 16, Travel on down valley, but meet
with very bad country, brush, woodfall &
swamp. The whole ground saturated like a
sponge by the continued rains. Camp in
an abominable brush & do not pitch tents
as so late. Raining off & on all day.

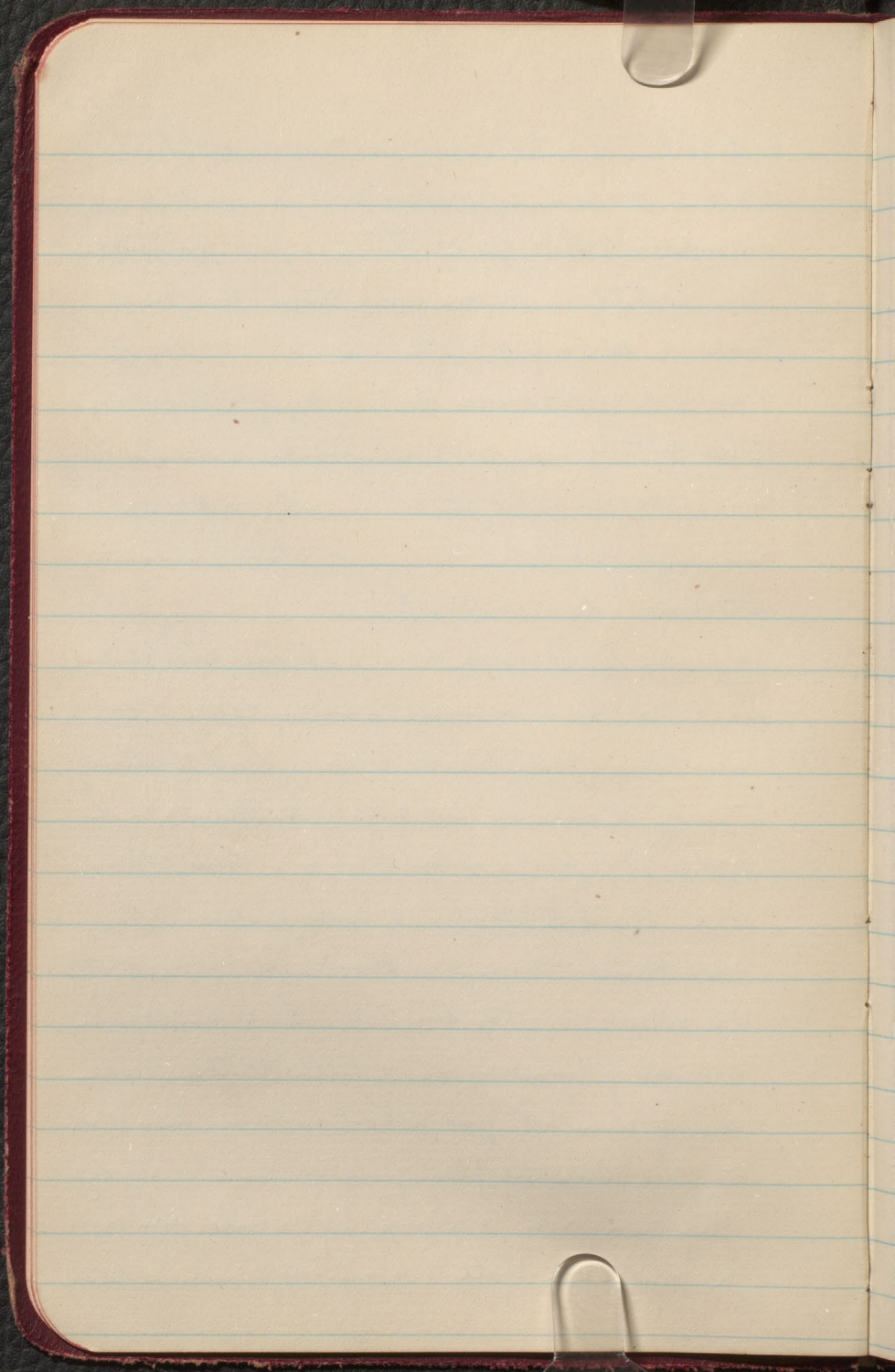
June 17. No rain today! In bad burnt &
swampy country all morning. In afternoon
a fairly good trail through green timber.
Camp on a pretty little prairie. Get a
reliable lat obs. today, for first time, &
find out where we are. The wooded country
looks beautiful after the burnt wilderness.

June 18. Continue on down river, & coming to division
of trail, take that to the left, as it looked most travelled. Some
find it striking up over ridge on E. side of valley. Mountain
whether nearly a detour to avoid some impassible part



of the valley, on a trail going S. toward over the watershed.
Decide to follow it, as we have got so far, & it is
unimportant which part of ^{river} valley is first examined.
Trail continued on for some miles through light small
timber on high ridges, & then descended to valley of
stream a small river, which evidently a tributary of
the Elk, but here running nearly parallel to it. Finding
much coal in the bed of the stream, stop, & spend
remainder of afternoon riding up stream & examining
the seams. Rain at intervals.

19 June. Travel down valley of stream some miles.
Trail crosses & recrosses & is very difficult to
trace. Many little prairie patches. Trail eventually
turns off & ascends high ridge to W. through thick
woods. Stop for lunch on summit, in little alpine
notch. Climb the hills above & make sketches of the
mountains. Unpropitious view. Then descend to the
Elk valley by very steep dim trail. Find ourselves in
a mass of burnt woods & fallen timber. Make
way to river, but find no trail in valley. Turn back
to find crossing place of lateral gulch which very
steep near river, & camp half a mile from river
in burnt windfall. Rain off & on all day.



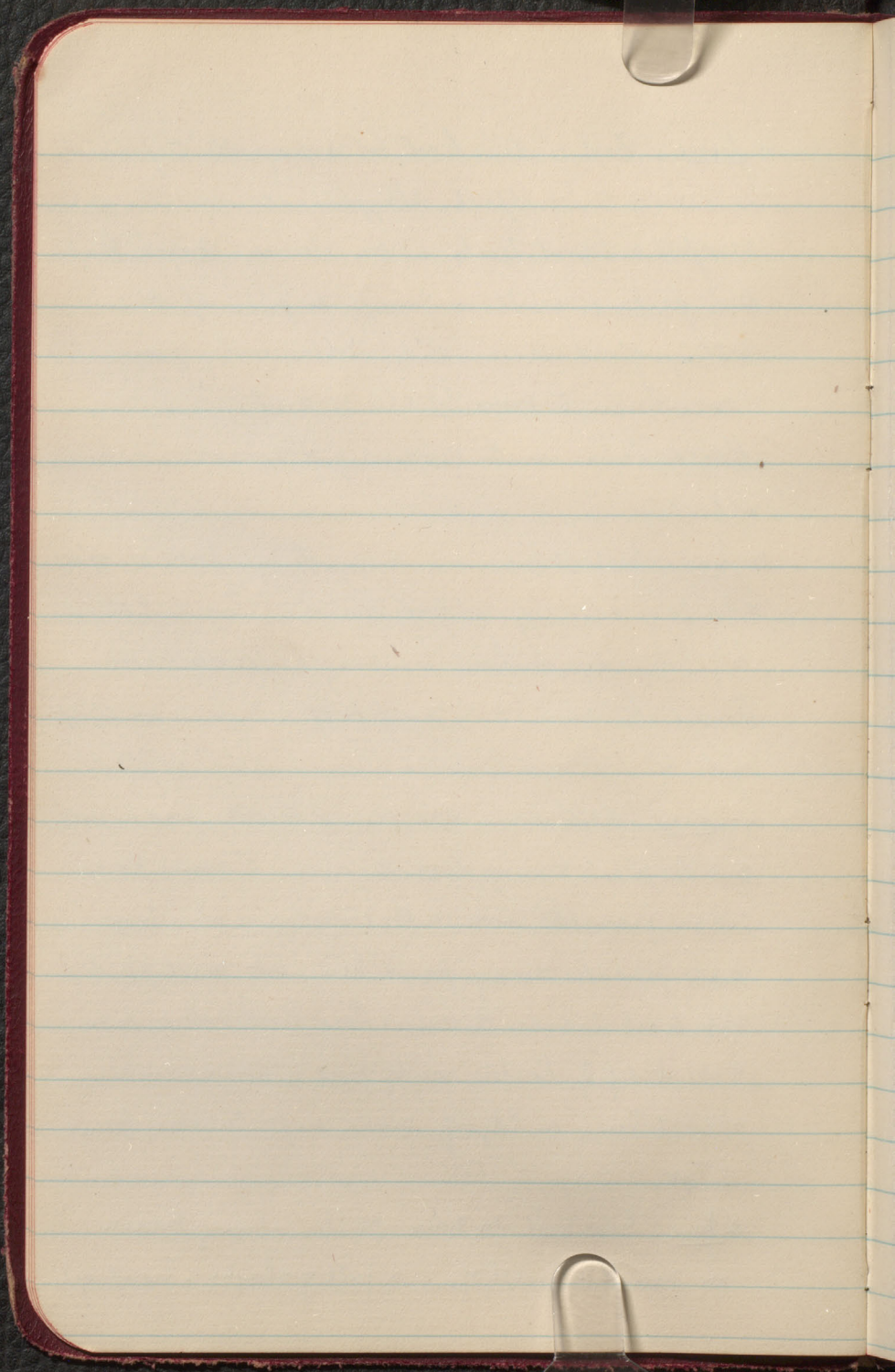
20 June. Found a deer trail, but impossible to follow it owing to windfall. Struggling all day through windfall & burnt timber in very deserts course. Make back for base of hill, & camp on green spot in valley of old snow-slide. Explore valley from mountain to river, but still no trail.

Heavy rain in the evening & occasional showers all day.

21 June. Made $3\frac{1}{2}$ m way today, through heavy windfall & woods, winding in very deserts. Try the hillside, but steep sided Anle's tumus off. Make back toward the river, but camp half a mile or so short of it at 7 P.M.

22 June. After some additional trouble, find a well marked trail running down the river. It must have crossed from the side a short distance above here. Make good headway for a time, but reach point where trail crosses the river. Ford rather deep, but make it safely. Continue on by good trail, & camp about 6 P.M., on edge of small swift tributary, from the SW.

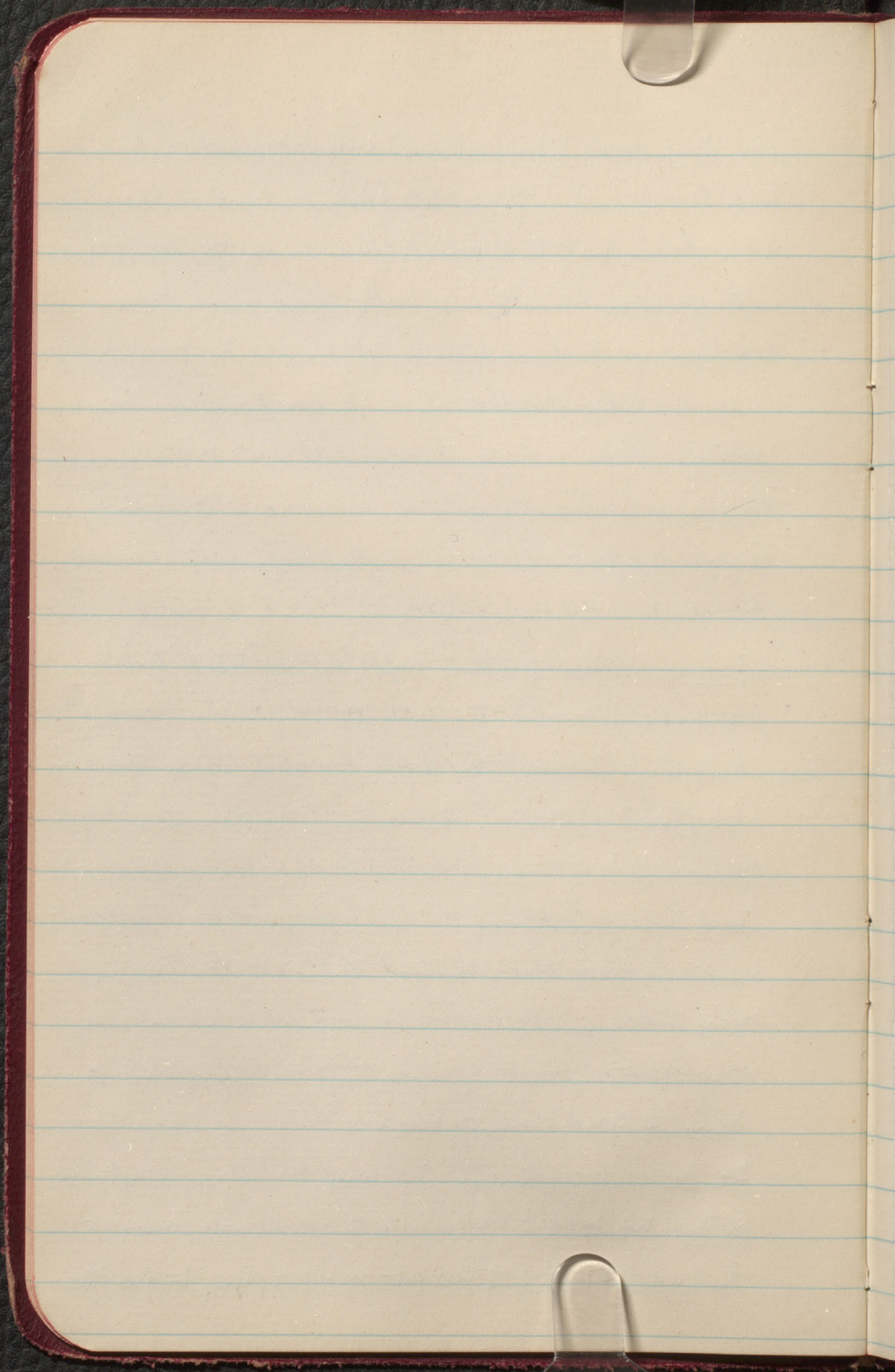
23 June. Good trail for some miles, when get down on river flat, partly open & full of sloughs. Trail again



lost. Important to find it, as must depend on it to find crossing of river. Stop early for lunch & search for trail. Find a well marked track & on in afternoon for a couple of miles, when again lost. Spend much time searching for trail, or place to raft or ford the river, & camp eventually at a spot which seems favorable for rafting. Rain in heavy showers all day making the ferns & bushes very wet & unpleasant to push through on foot. Completely soaked before long. Caught several porcupine in traps at lunch points.

23 June. Heavy morning rain, but on trial trip proved impossible to make the other side owing to strength of current & depth of water. River now in high flood owing to recent heavy rains. Spend afternoon prospecting for better place, & having found trail leading down on this side, decide to follow it tomorrow for a few miles. Almost continuous rain today. Ripe strawberries begin to be abundant. Hunt approximating delay, owing to rain & condition of river.

24 June at work all morning building a raft, but on trial trip find it impossible to get across, owing to the great strength of the current & depth, being too great for



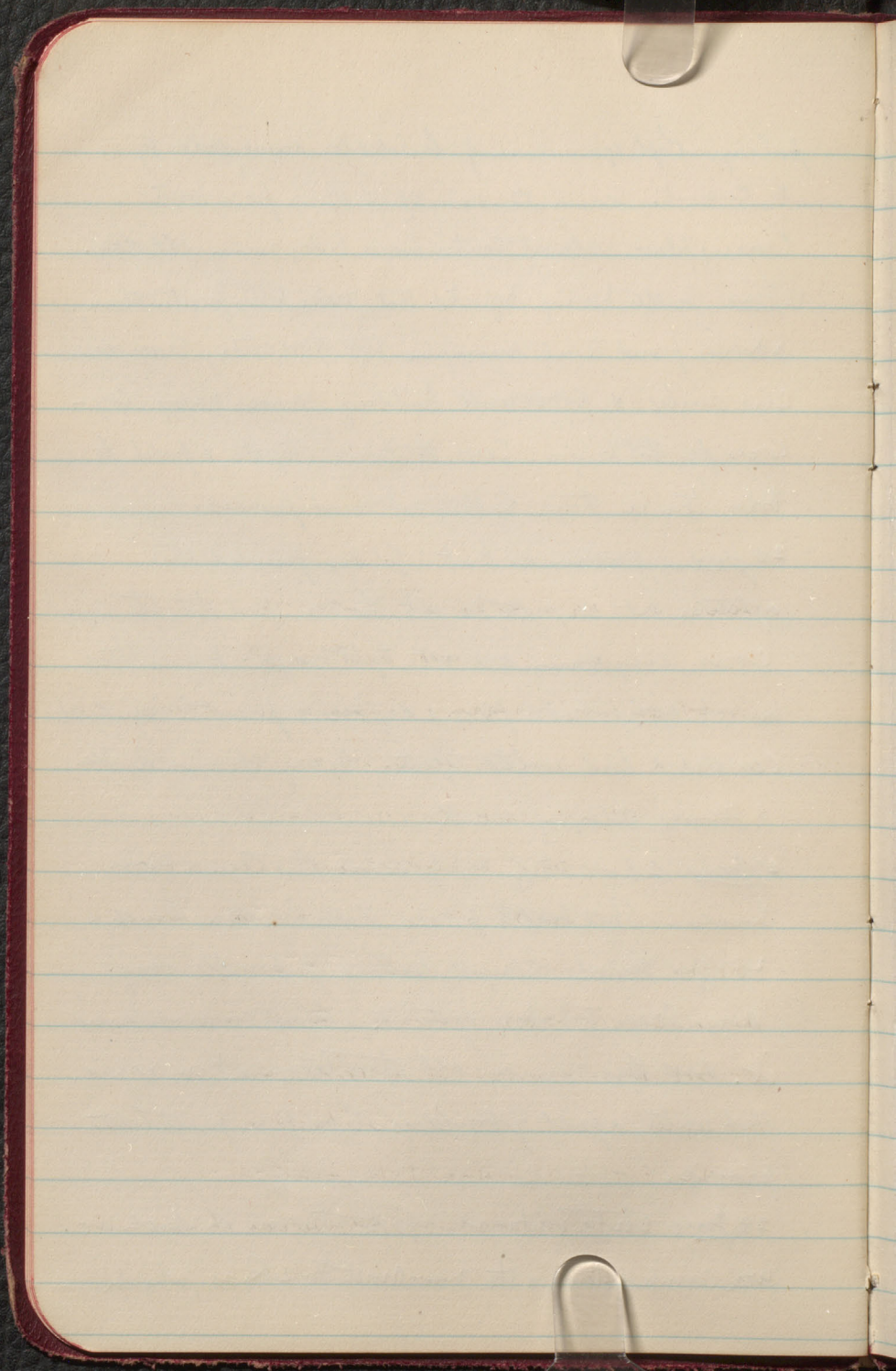
poleing. Raft is continuously landed on same side by
the current. Search the river up & down for a better
crossing place. Almost continuous heavy rain all day.

25 June Sester having reported that river better further down,
& having found trail running in that direction, went down
some miles & set to work building canoe, using cargo
covers for that purpose. Sew the covers together, & patch the
holes torn in them. Getting out wood frames.

26 June, working on boat. Got her finished this
afternoon, but on putting her into the river found that the
covers being warm are not tight enough. Had to take
her out again, build frame & dry her, & paint bottom with
cedar oil & lead melted together. Heavy showers in P.M.,
& evening delaying work.

27 June got all stuff safely across this time, & swim
horses. Pull boat to pieces. Took lot. obsn. lunch, &
set off. Much delayed looking for possible way
across large tributary of the Elk, & through swamps beyond
it. Found this river in all three times. Very rapid.
High water, & full of boulders. Camp on pretty little
prairie.

28 June start eastward up the stream on which we
were camped, toward the new North Fork Pass, which



we propose to go over. Very rough rocky trail, a continual
crossing & recrossing of stream which breaks through the
Western limestone range in narrow rocky, Canion. Then
on eastward, taking a branch of same stream. Trail
much encumbered by windfall, & finding it impossible
to make the summit camp rather early in dense woods, at
last grass.

29 June On up to Summit, where stop for lunch.
Fine view from a cliff on the ascent, in one place.
Small meadows at summit, but none on this stream
with logs & brush brought down by the Snow
slides, which are evidently frequent in winter, from
the overlooking mountains. Descent on E. side by
steep zig-zags. Travel on down valley, & branch of
N. Fork not examined last year. Camp in dense
wood, with little swamp with good grass for the
horses.

30 June On down valley. Trail generally
passably good, though for a couple miles through
bad, burnt timber. Many pretty little prairie patches
Camp on extensive prairie with bunch-grass. Reman-
t to the Stone Indians as "The prairie where the
Kobanic Child died". Day fine. Thunder storms
in evening

Is-e-enoo-met-e-we-win-^(river)si-pi Cree name
of old man River.

Is-sa-goo-win-ih-ska-da-^(river)_{-wop-ta} Stoney name
of old man R.

Kis-in-wi-ki "Home of the Cold" in Cree
name of the Livingstone Range.

Ti-sni " " in Stoney.

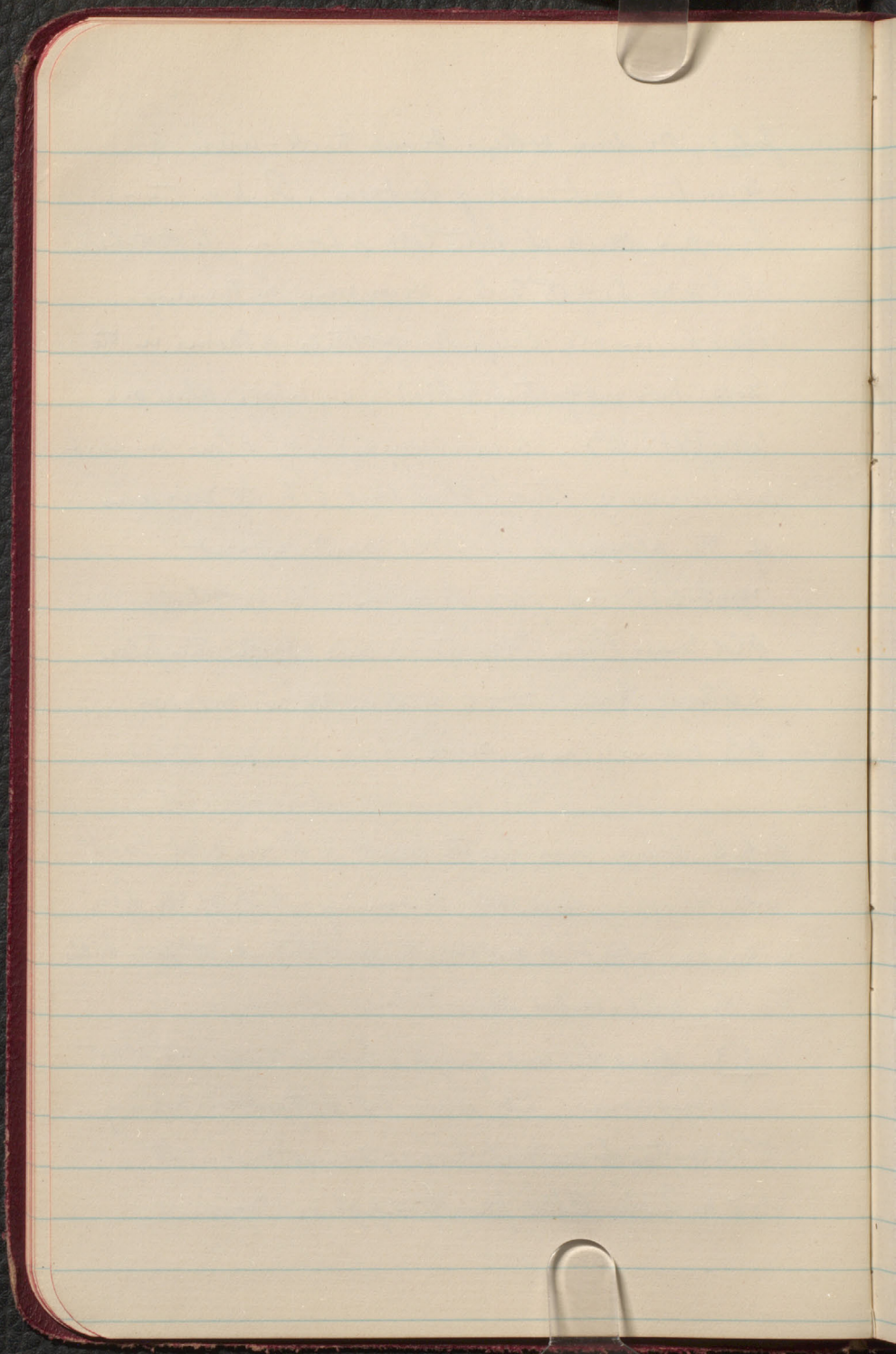
Wi-suk-i-tshak "The old man" or mythical being
referred to. The name does not mean "the old
man" however, & my informant is unable to
translate it.

Kah-lia-ti-oo-wut-tahis-tum "Crow's nest" the
mountain so called on map.

July 1, on down valley. Found track-remains by
connecting with work of last year. Push on through
the Gap, & camp at little lake or pool in the foot-hills
about 4 m. S. of the Gap. Heavy rain in evening.
There are in all three piles of stones & cairns in the
Gap. Two only of these noticed by me before. Also on a
little flat, the very obscure remains of a low rampart
or enclosure of stones. This said to be the remains
of the playground of the "Old Man" or first
mythical being of the Indians. The so-called
Old Man River takes its name from this place
& literally translated its Indian name means
"old man's playing river".

July 2. Heavy rain in the night, a dense cold mist
with drizzling rain all morning. Get off in P.M.,
& make about 8 m. southward through the foot-hills.
See two white-tailed deer today.

July 3. Another wet night. Get rather a late start
in consequence, but drive on without stopping
to Garnetts. Fuel will have to send over to the
store on Pincher Cr. for the supplies required.

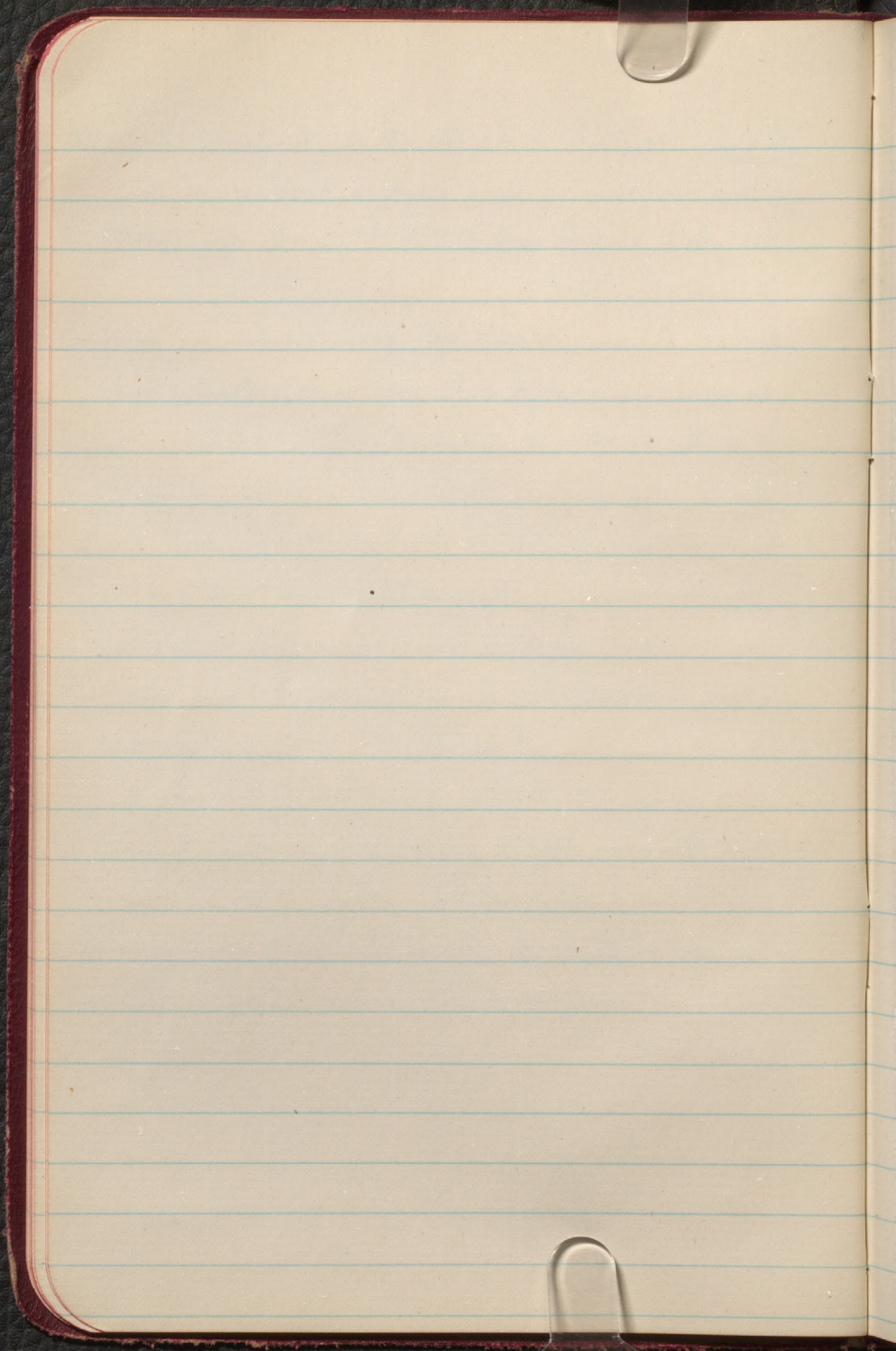


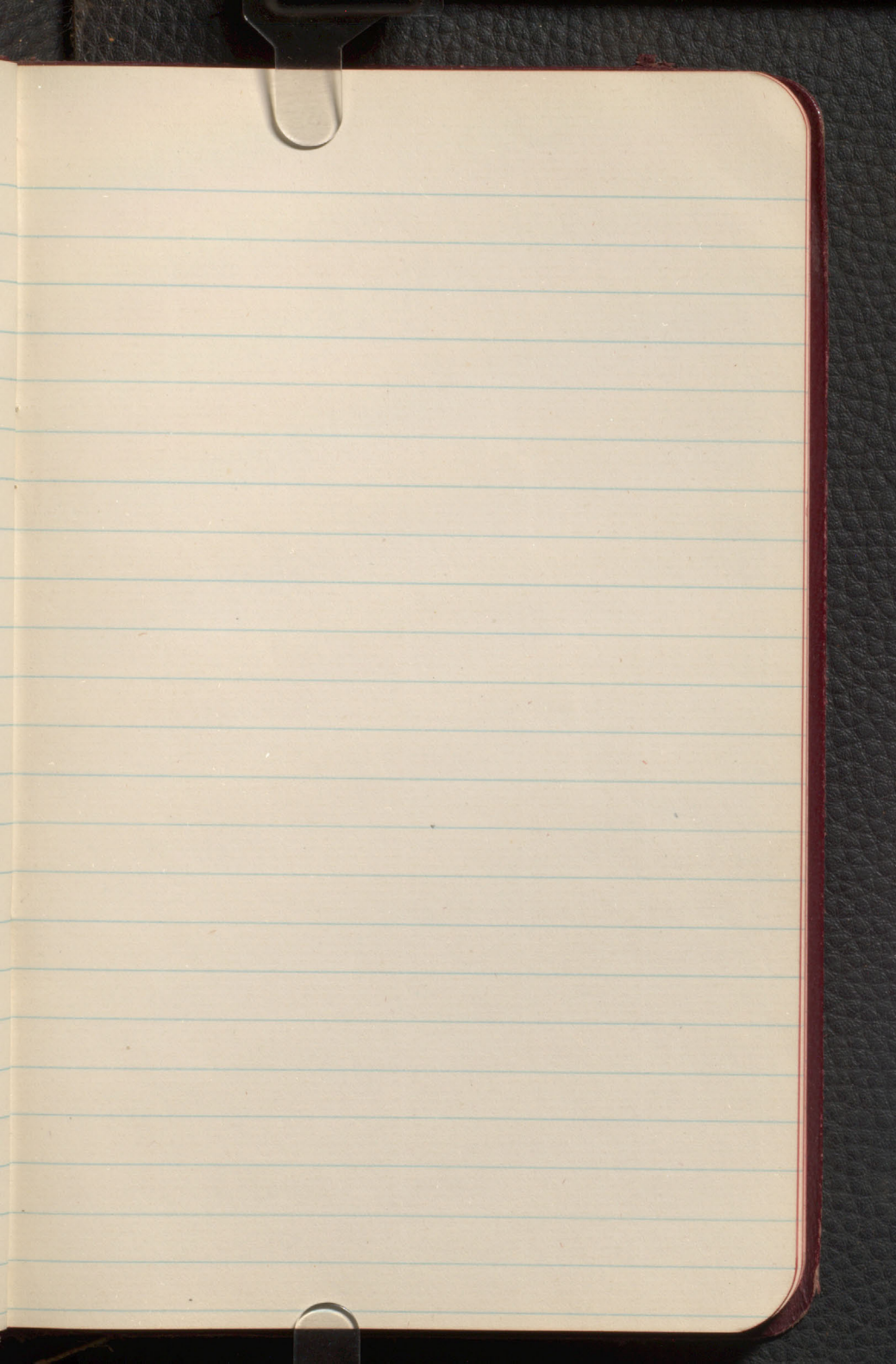
July 4. One White & Salter off all day, at Pincher Ck getting supplies & horse boxes reshod on the fore feet. Return about 7:30 P.M., left doing nothing or next thing to it.

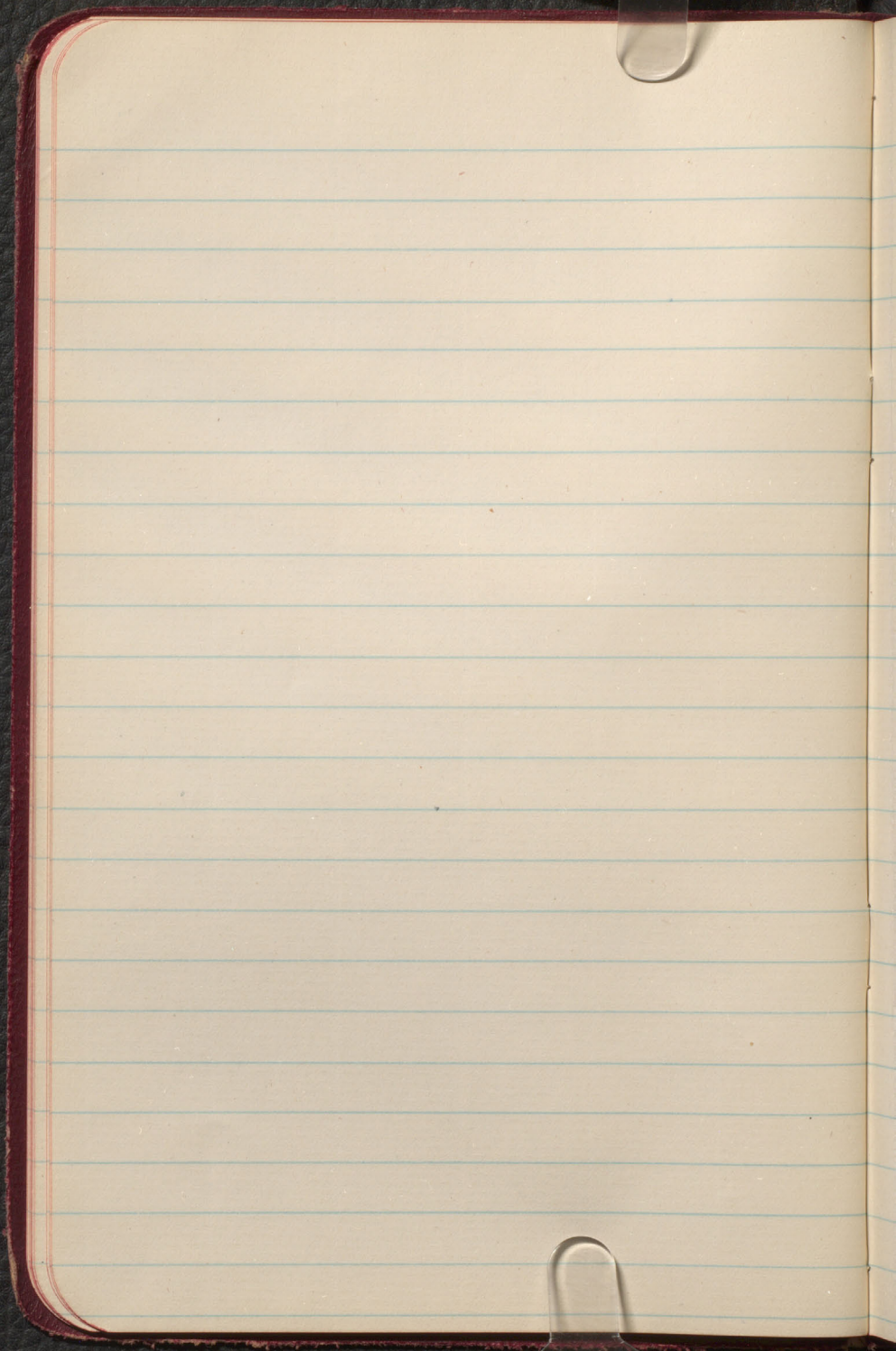
July 5. Get all packed up, axes sharpened. pack-saddle repaired & 2 off after lunch. Make about 9 miles northward through the hills.

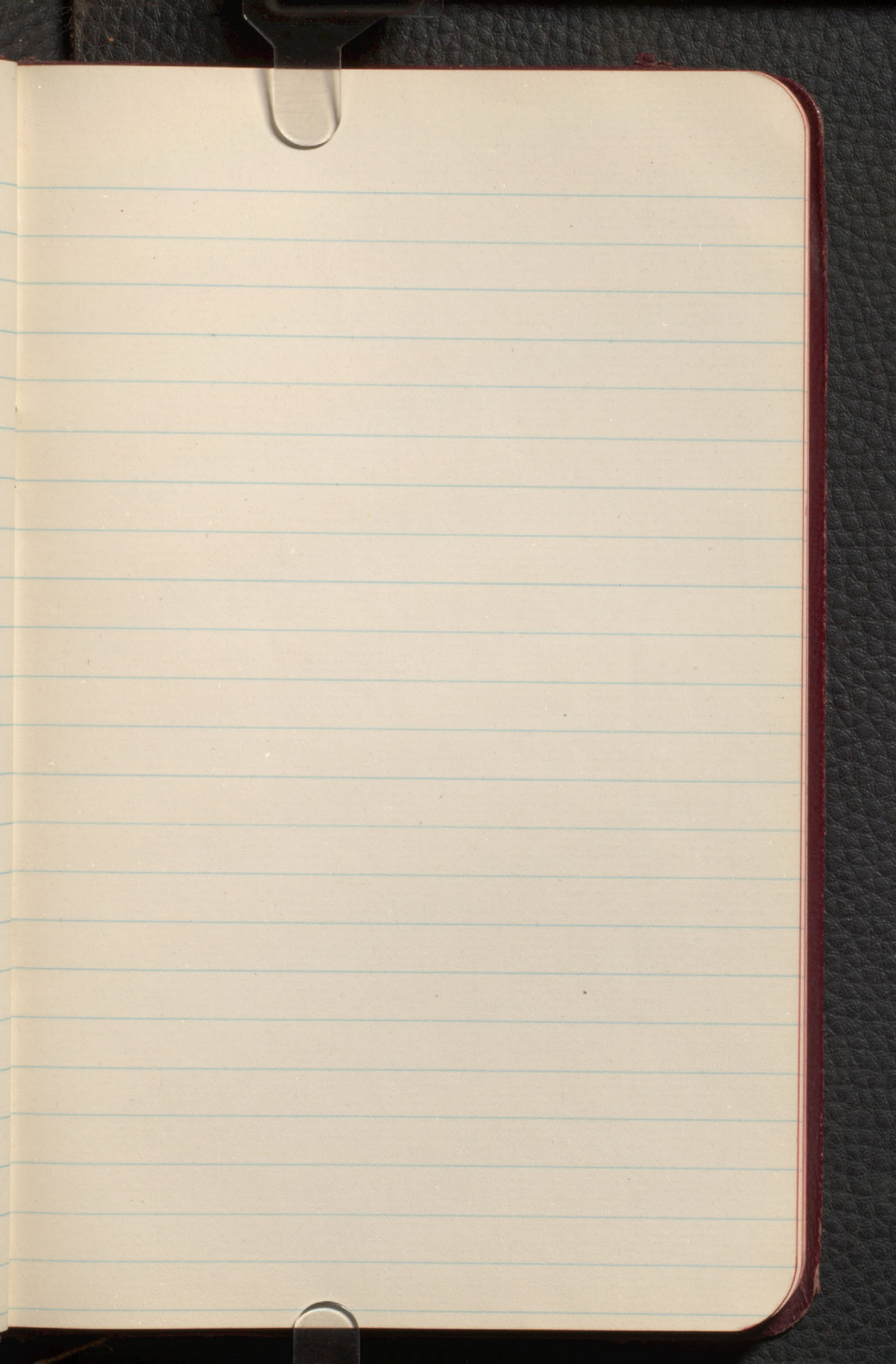
July 6. Off early & travel north to the gaps, camping just outside, on small flat above river. Tried fishing but unsuccessfully. Changed plates after dark.

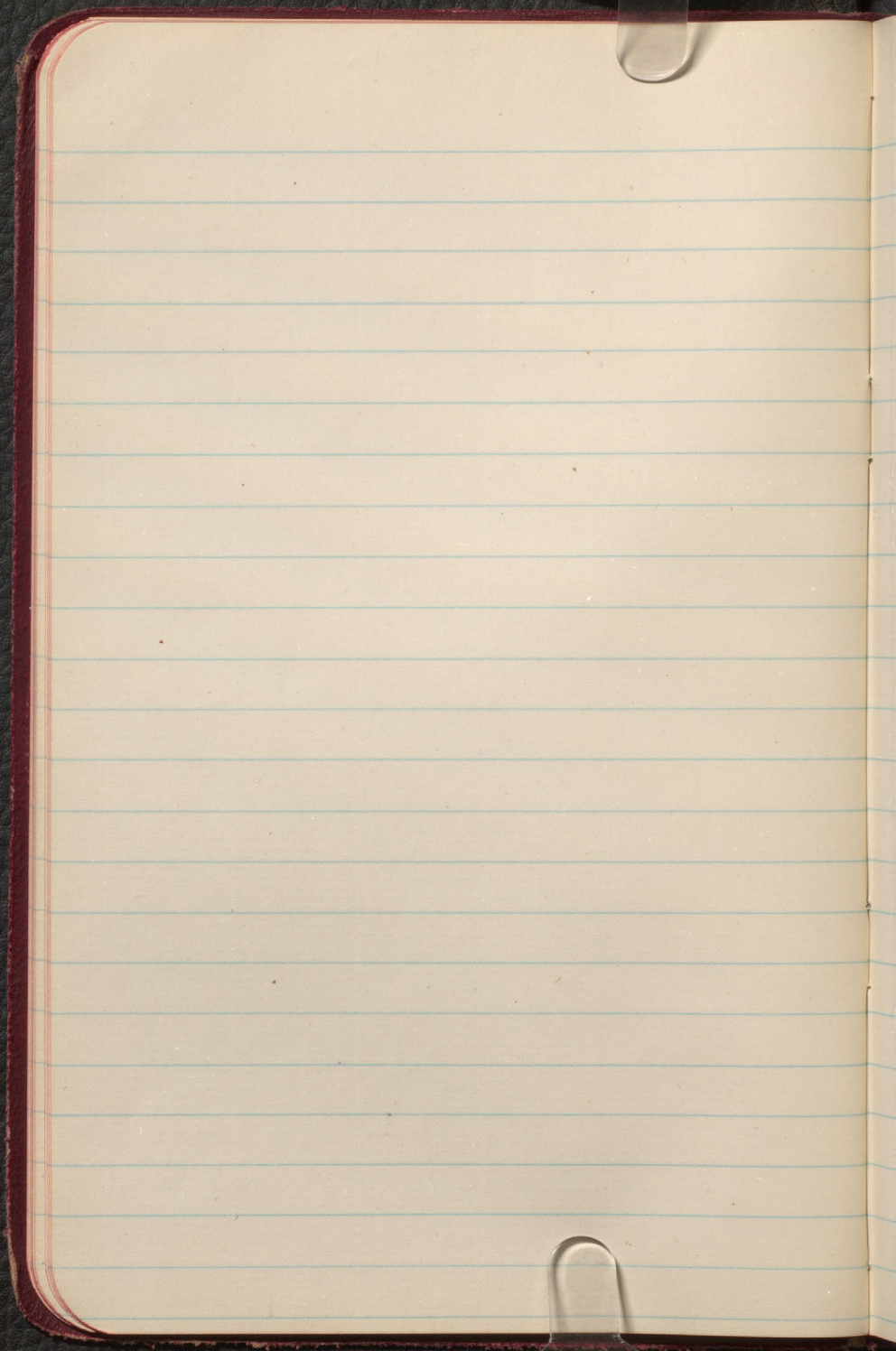
July 7. Heavy wind & rain sprung up in the night, making it very uncomfortable. Strong June farts from the mountains. Travel in through the Gaps & on up the N. Branch to opposite entrance of valley of N.W. Branch. Stop here for noon, & after learning all I can from Salter, decide to go up N.W. Branch & strike for head waters of Highwood R. Camp at pretty spot in pines. Catch a number of fine trout.

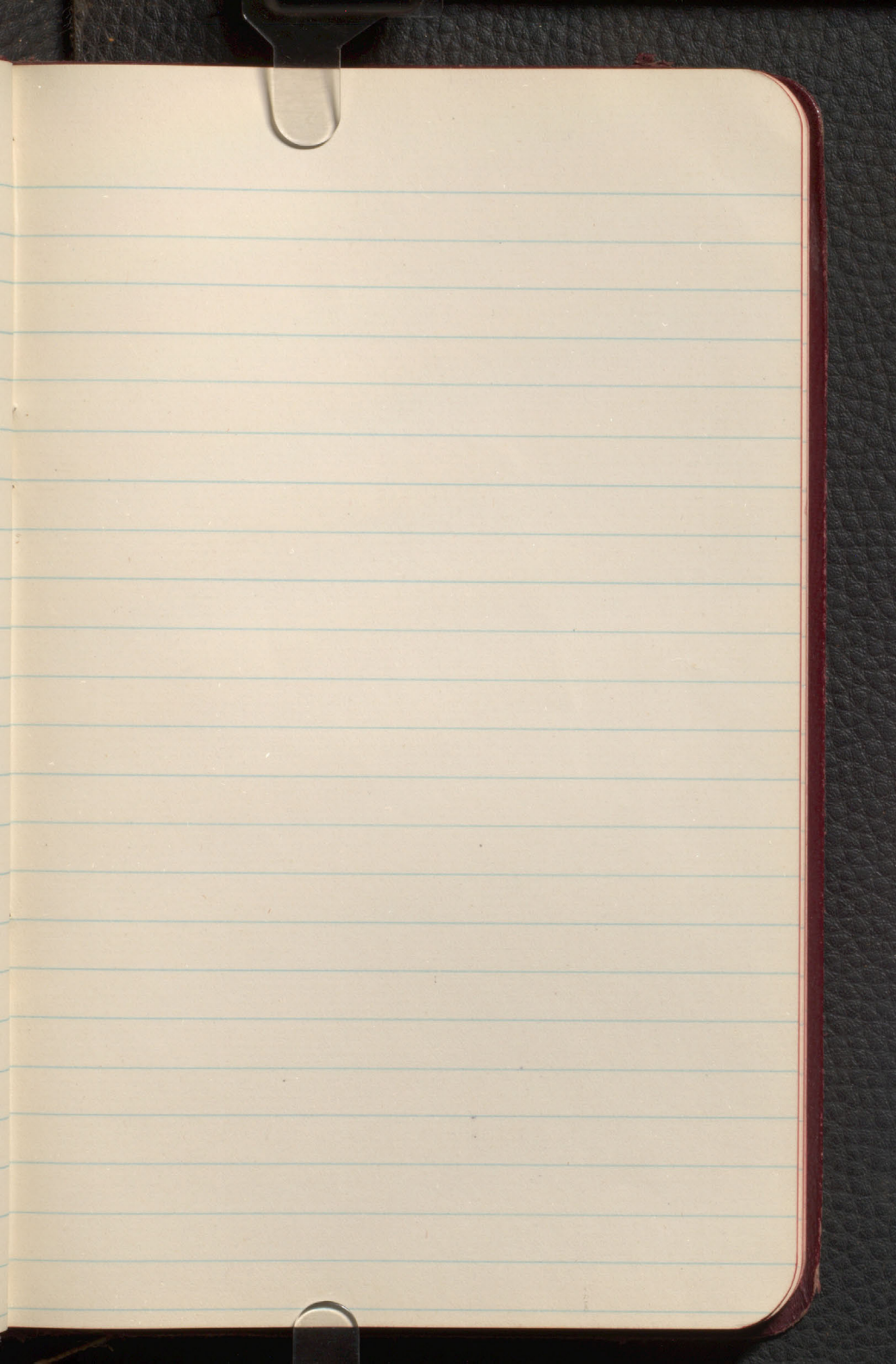


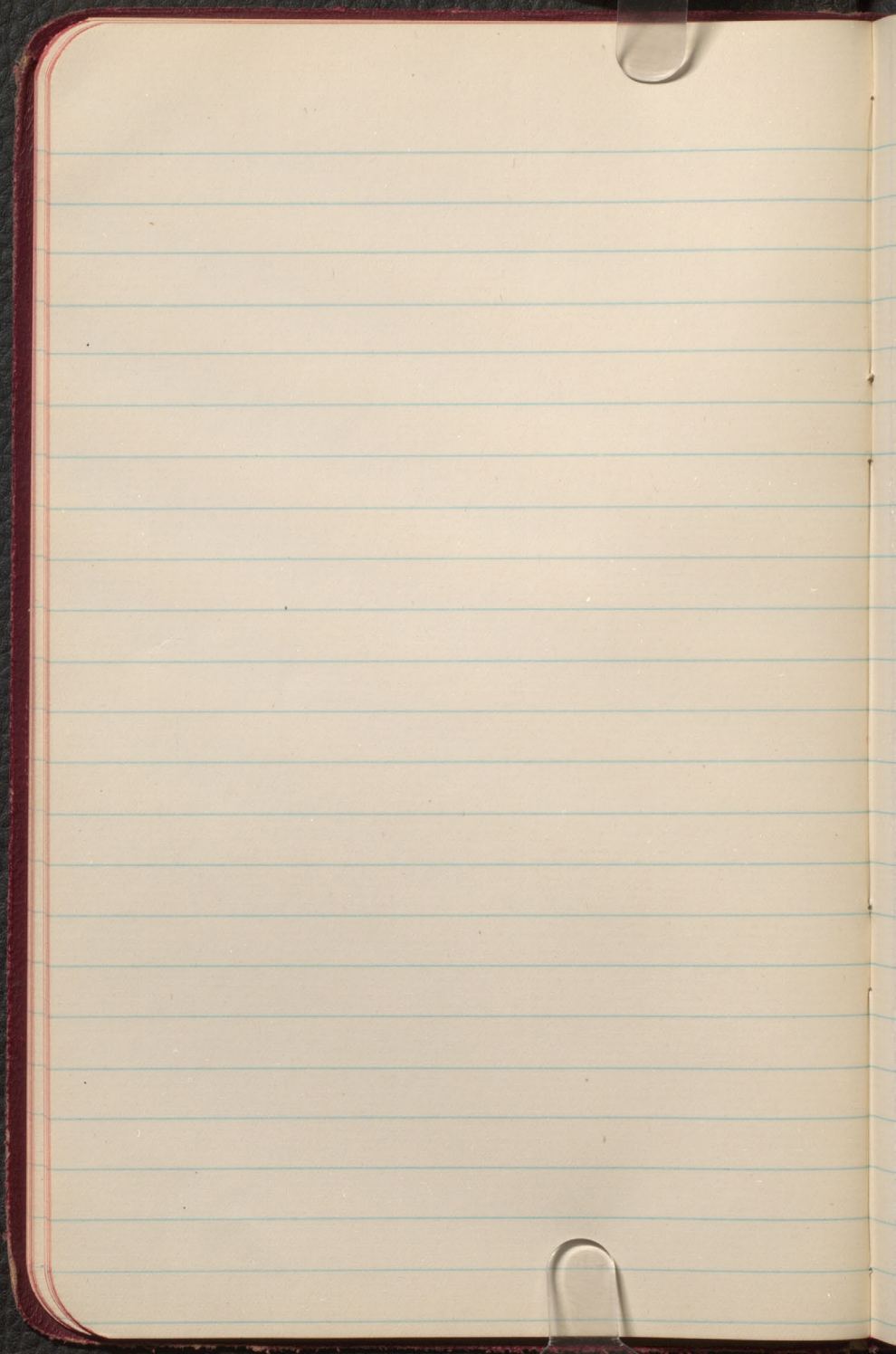


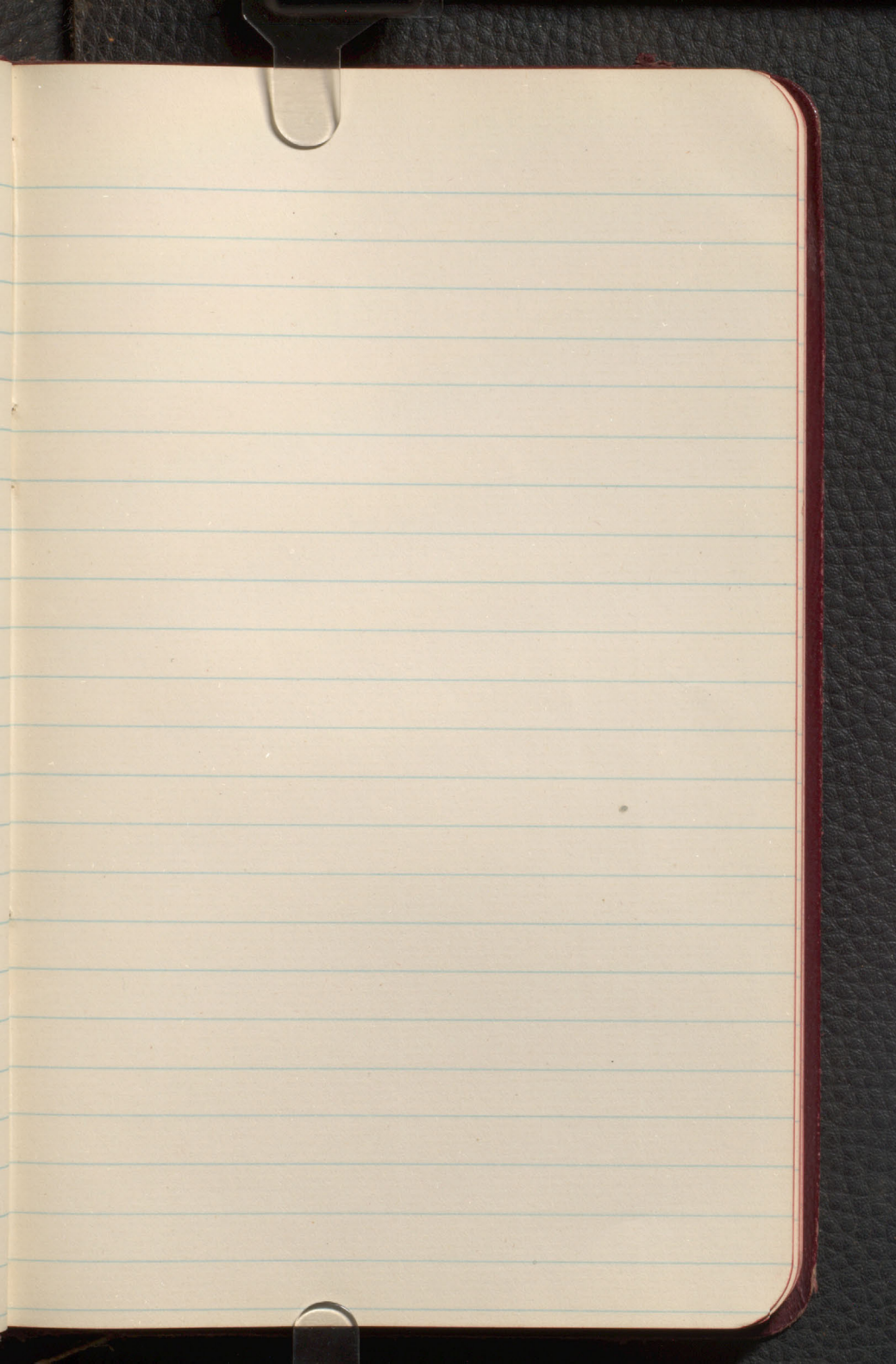


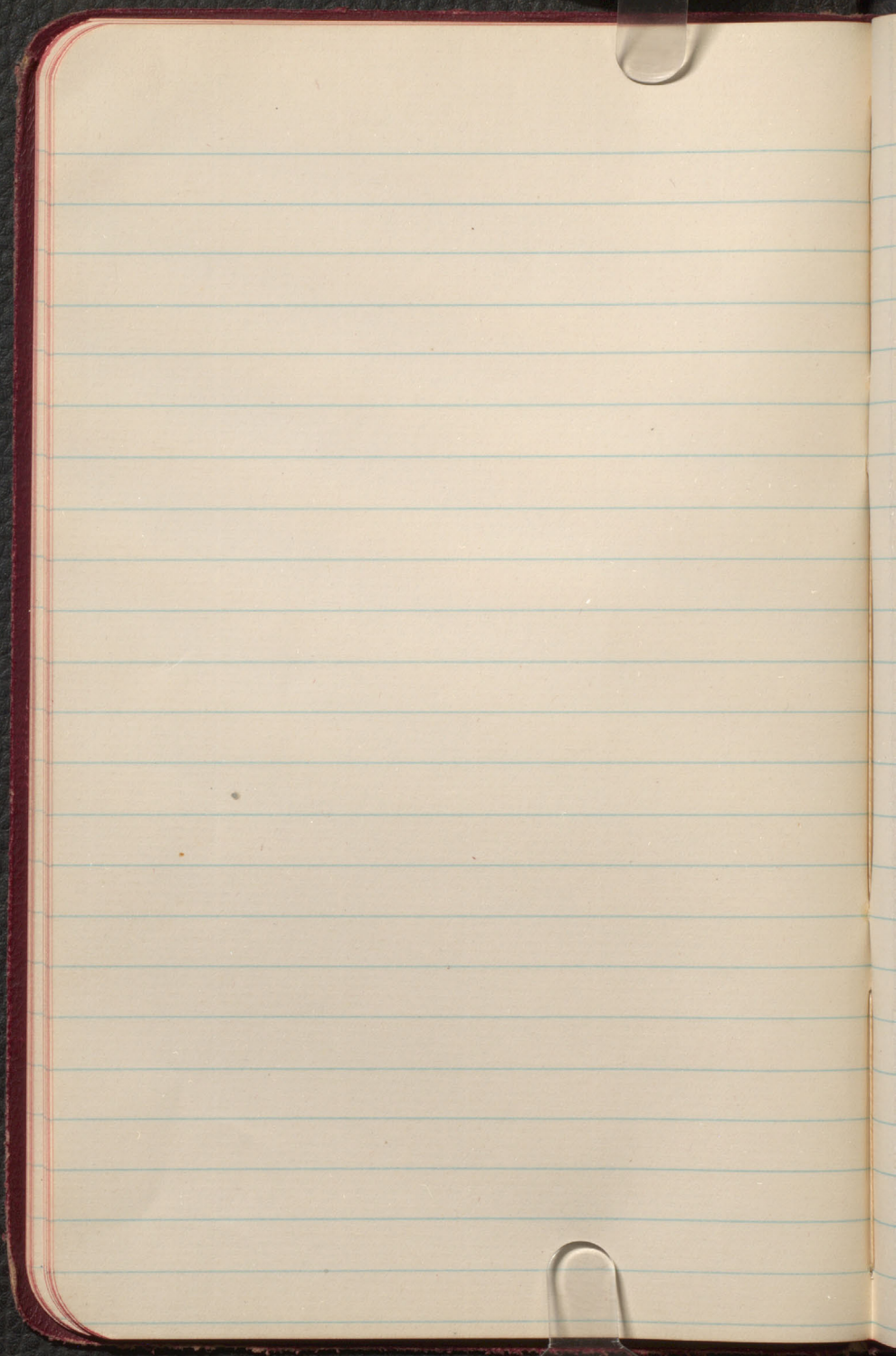


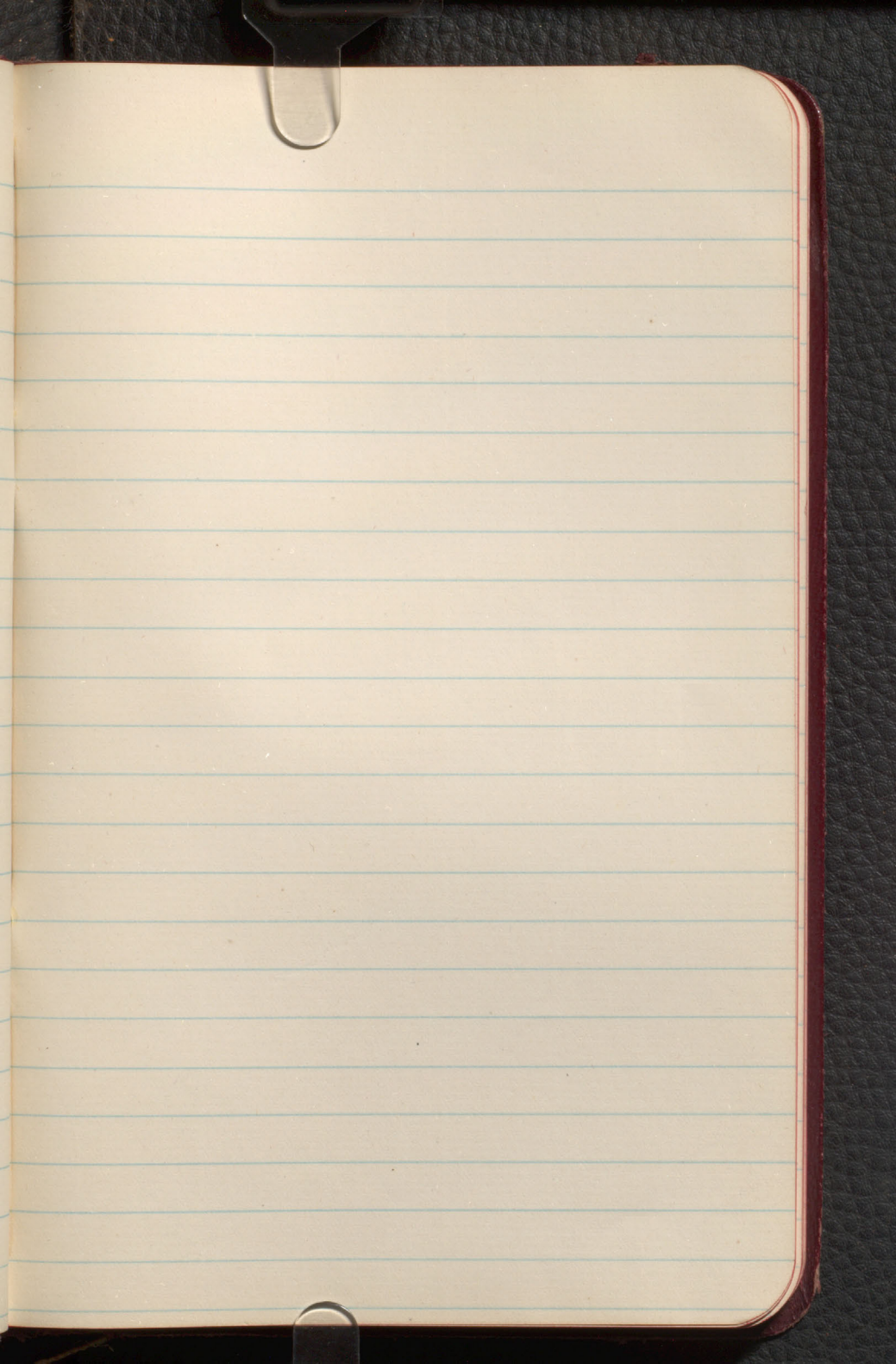


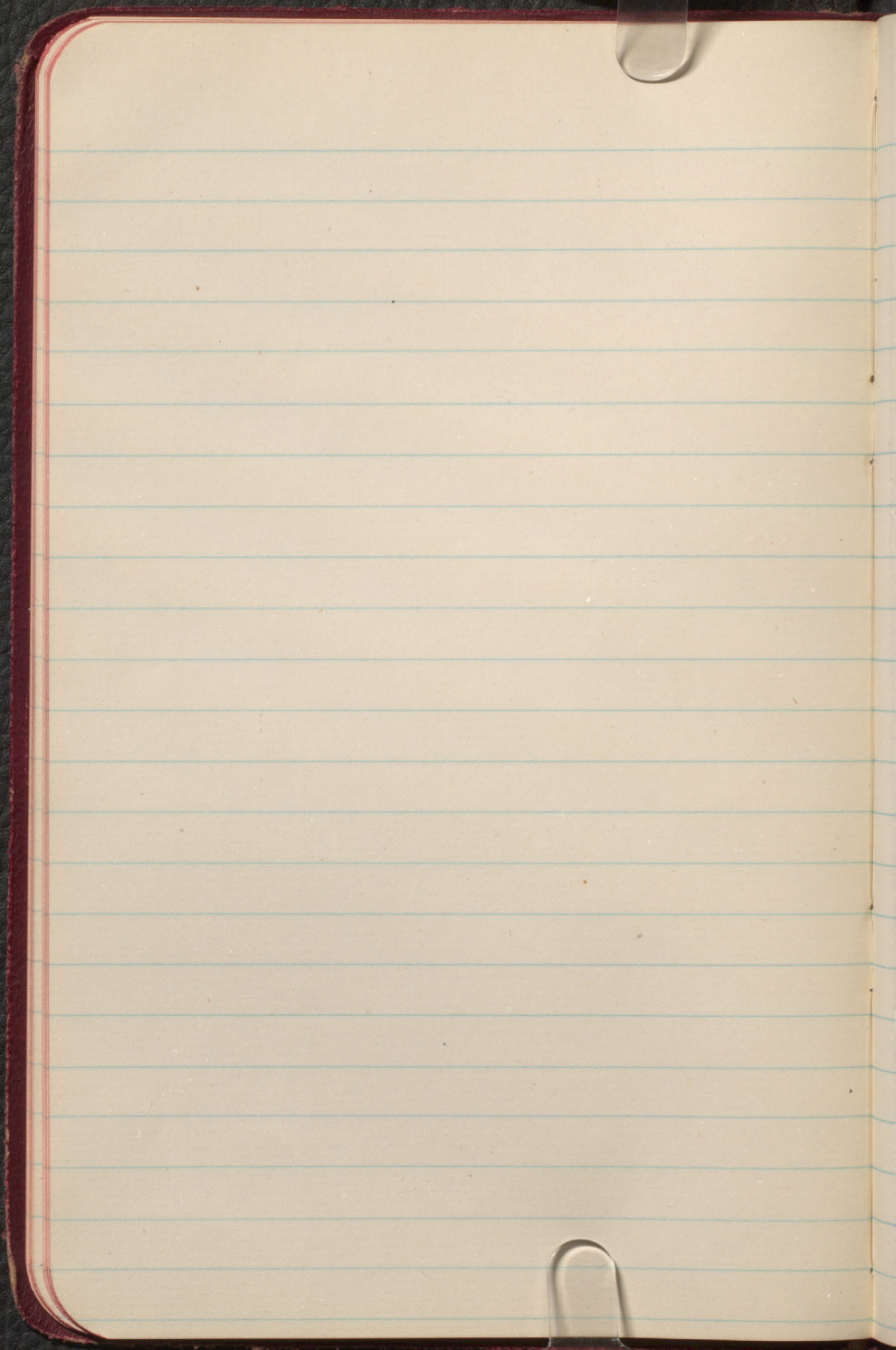


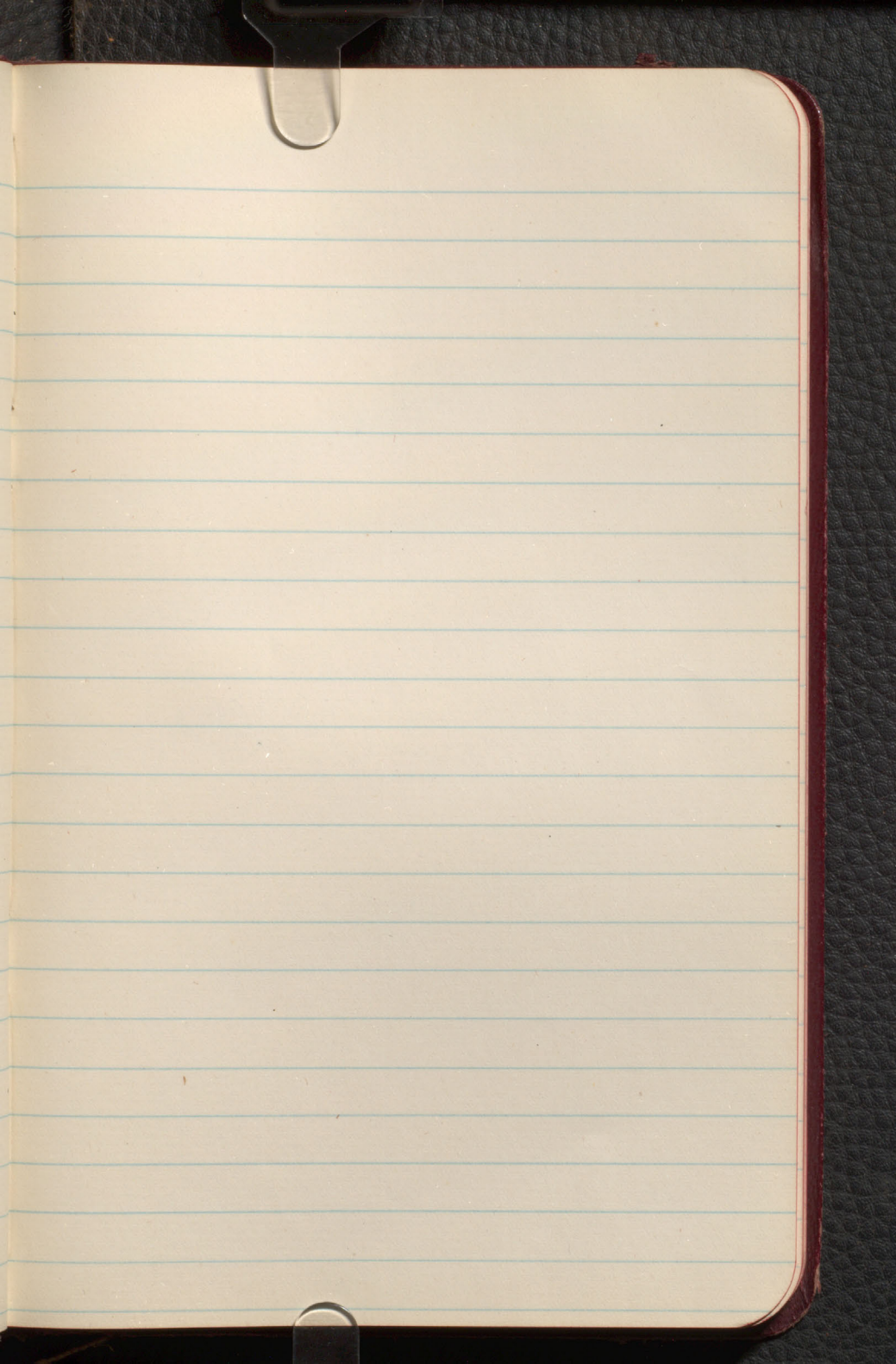


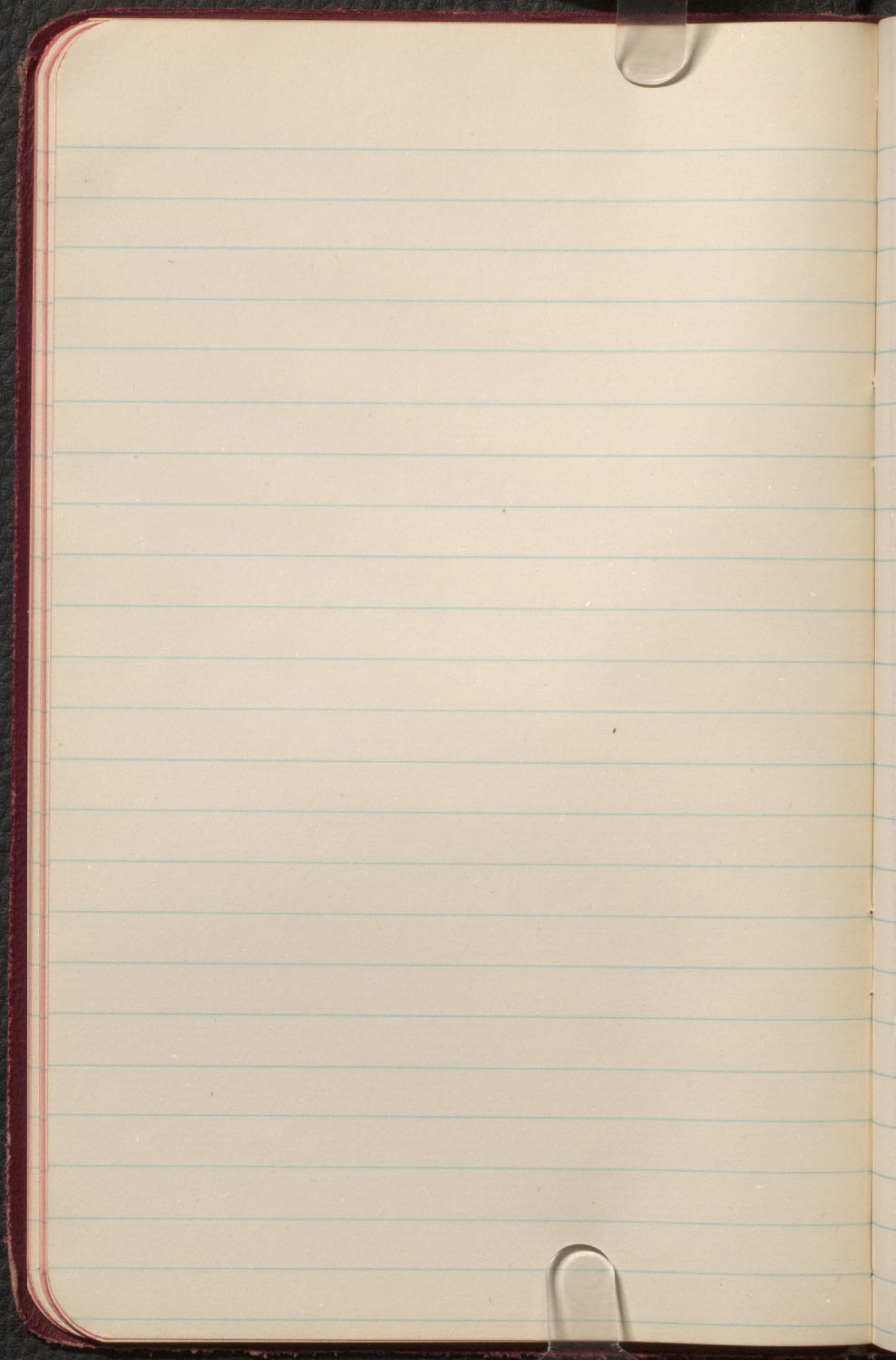


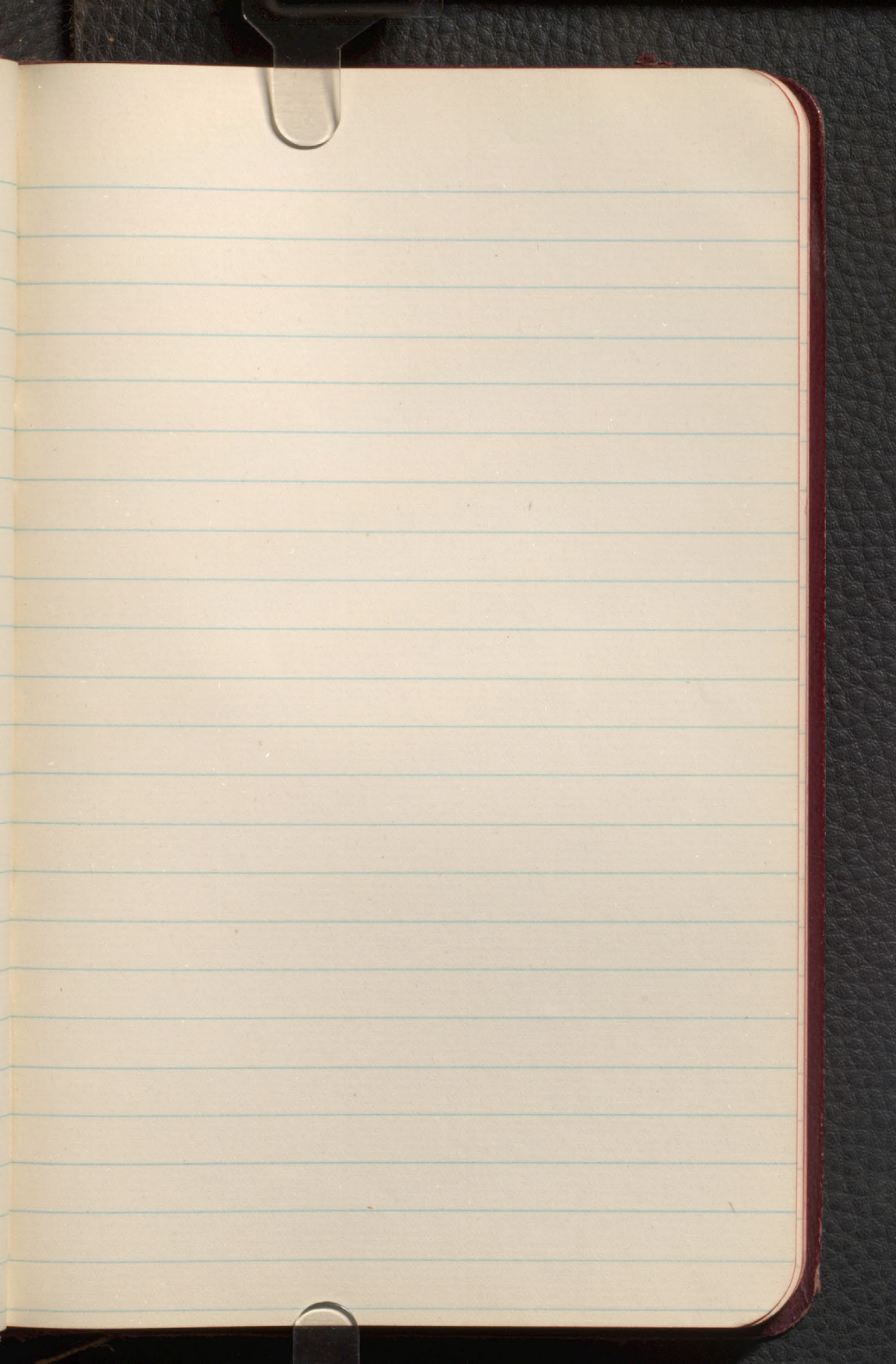


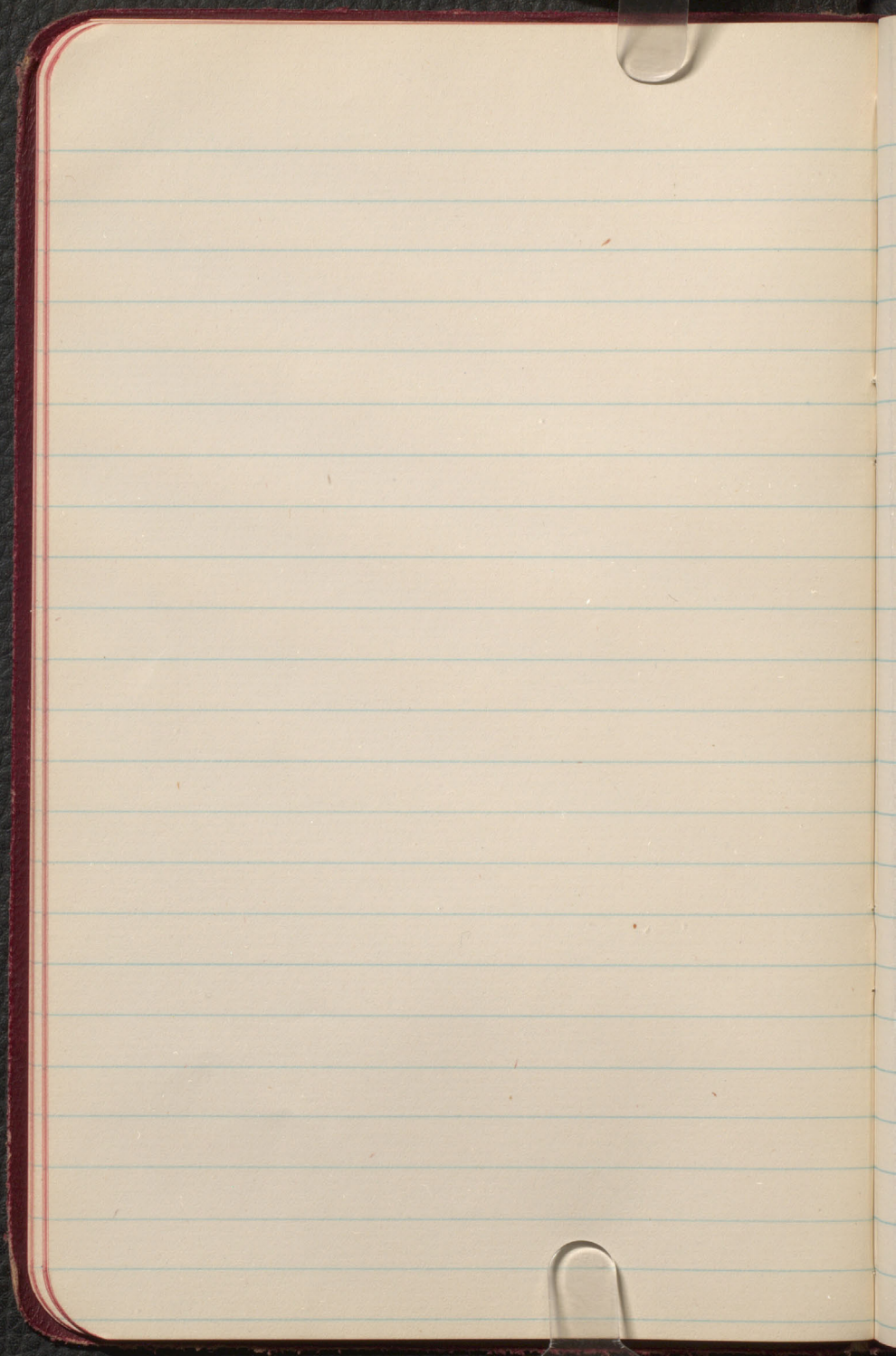


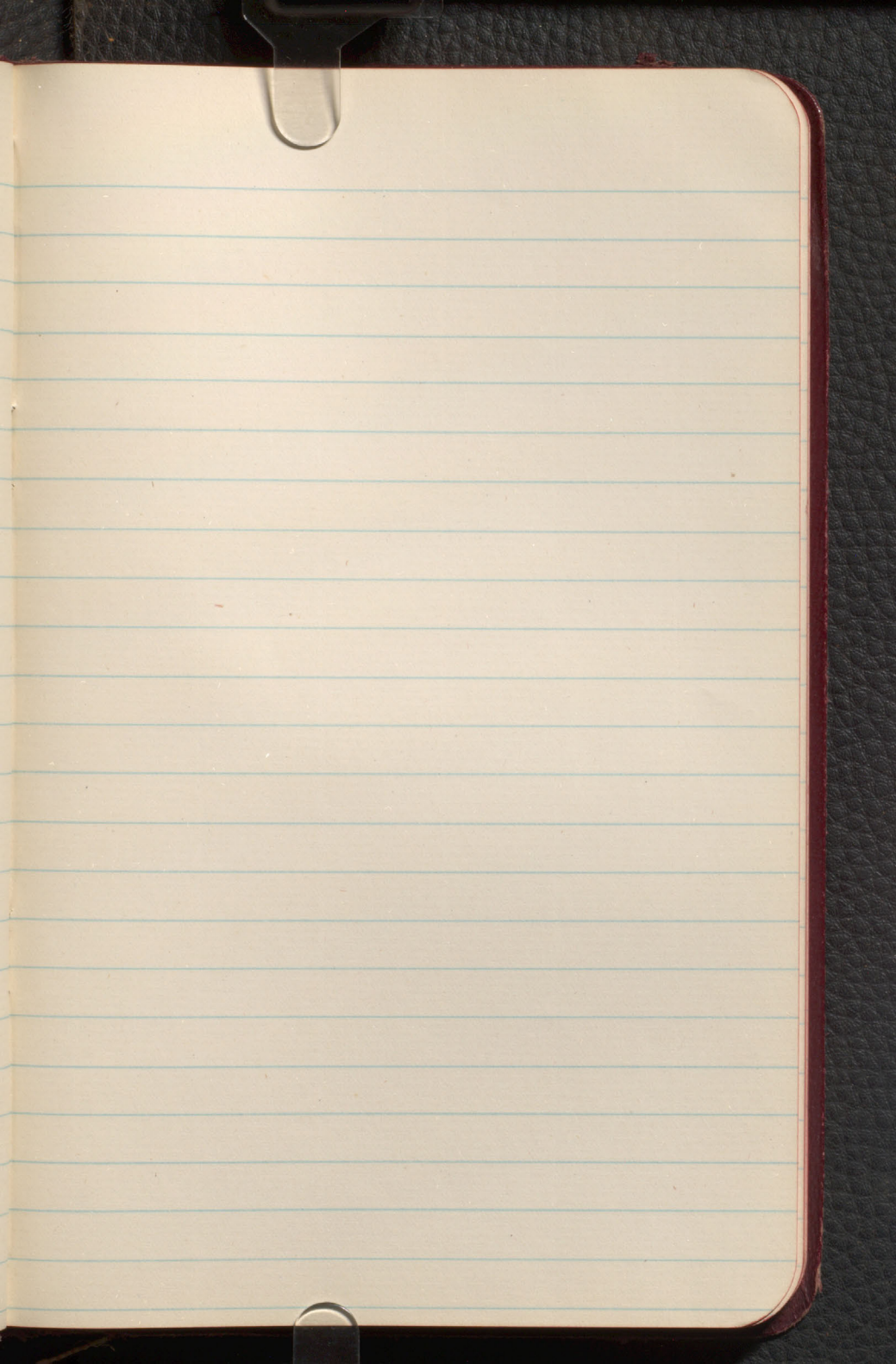


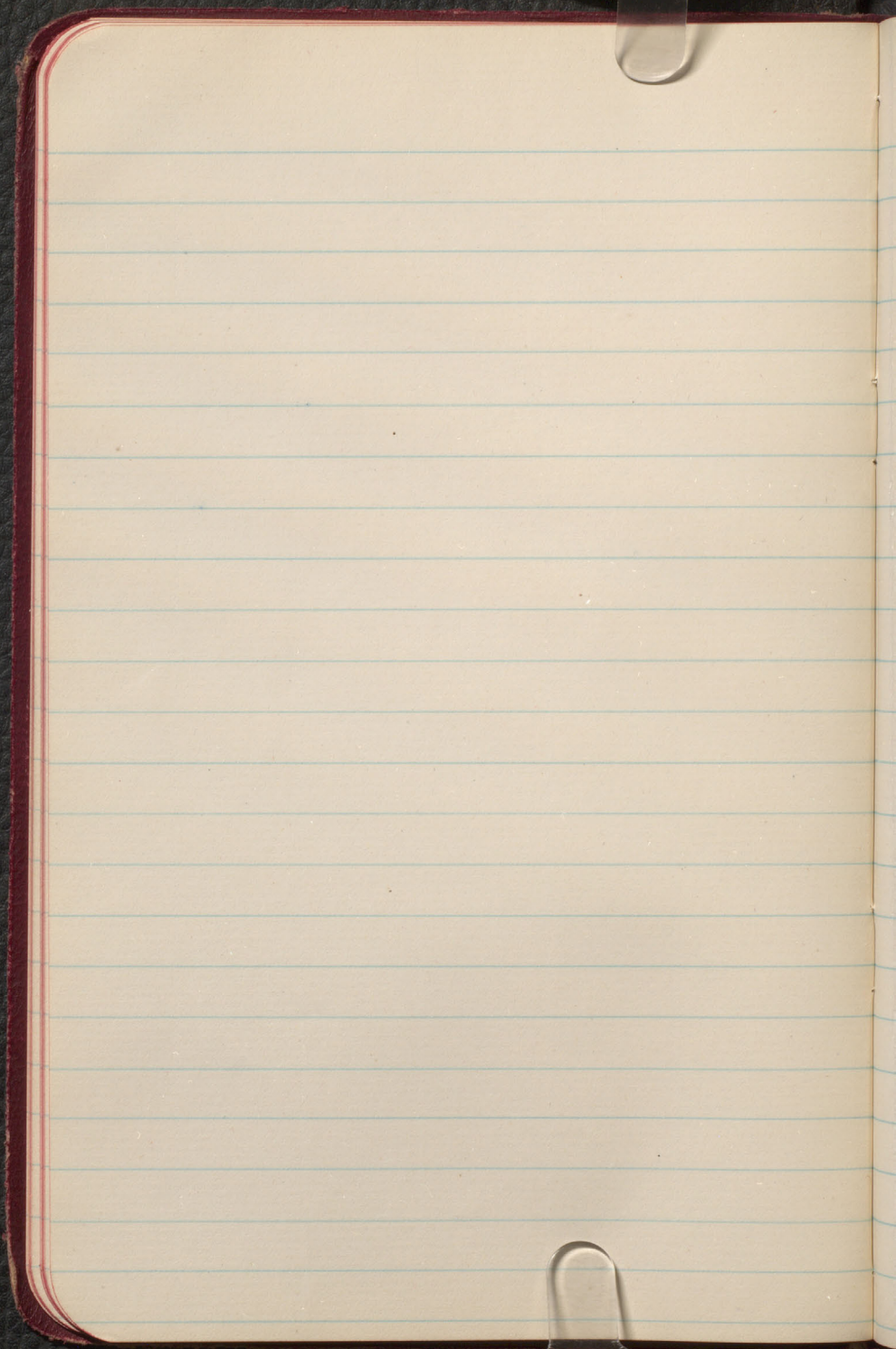


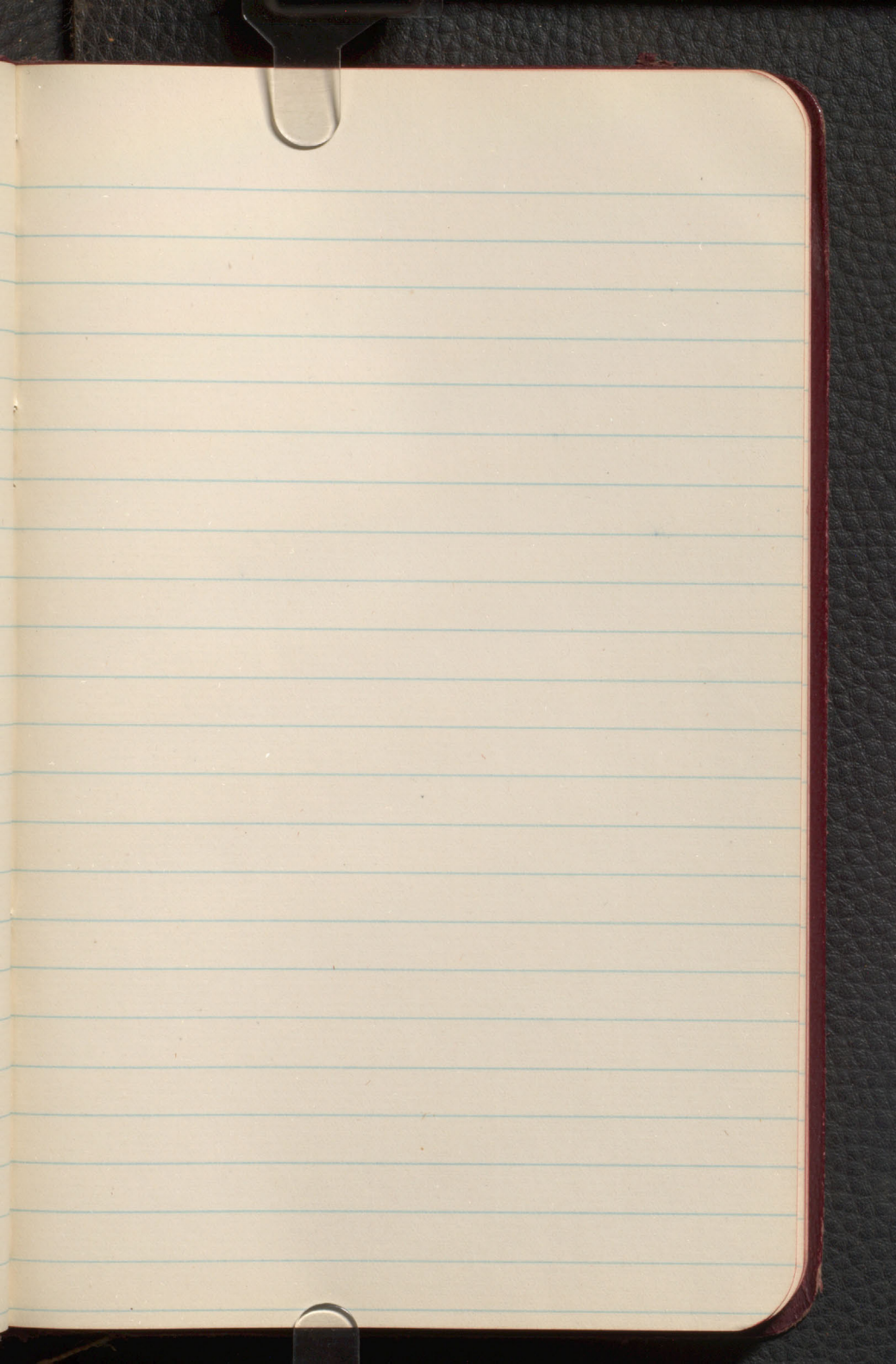


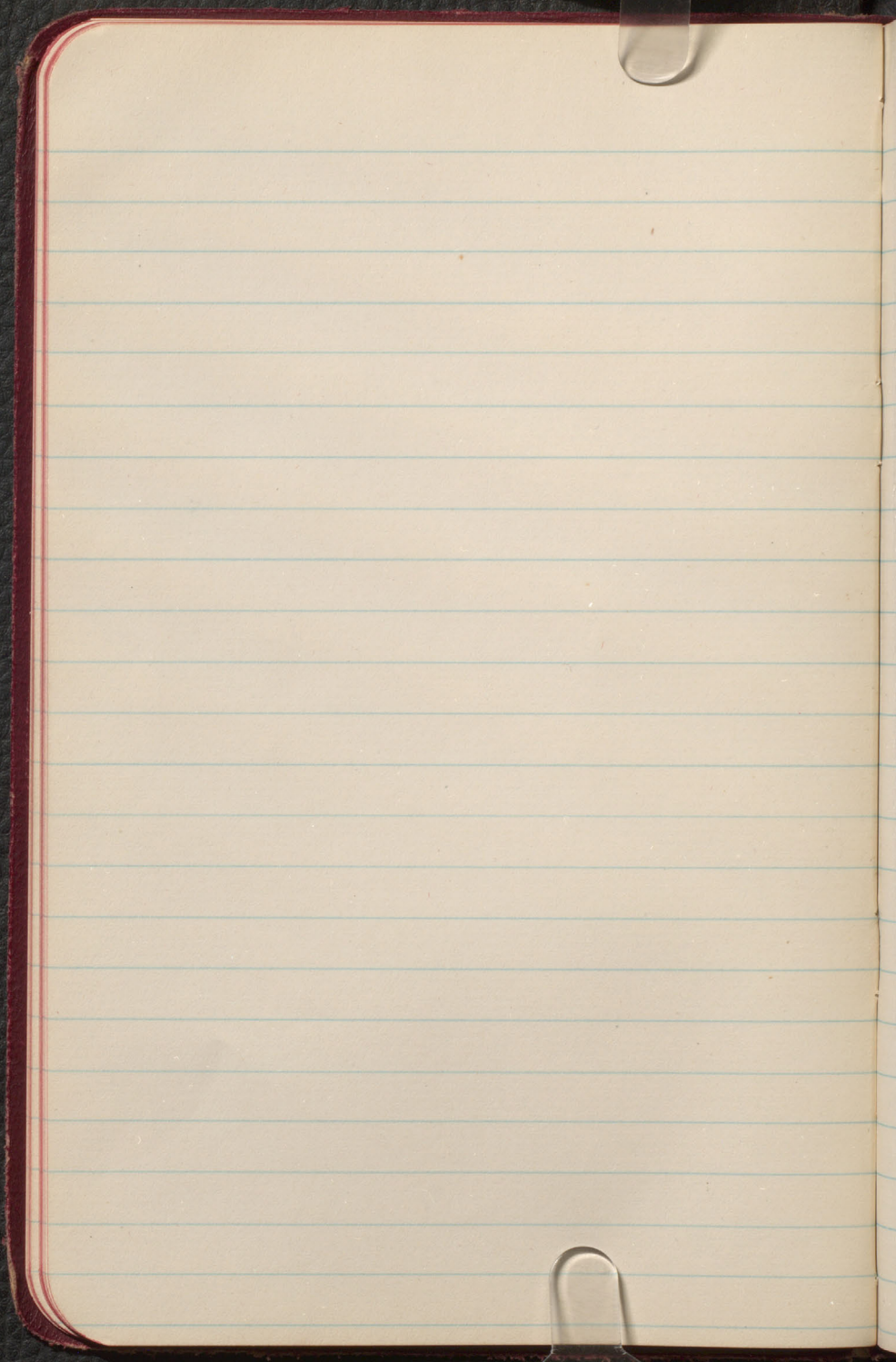


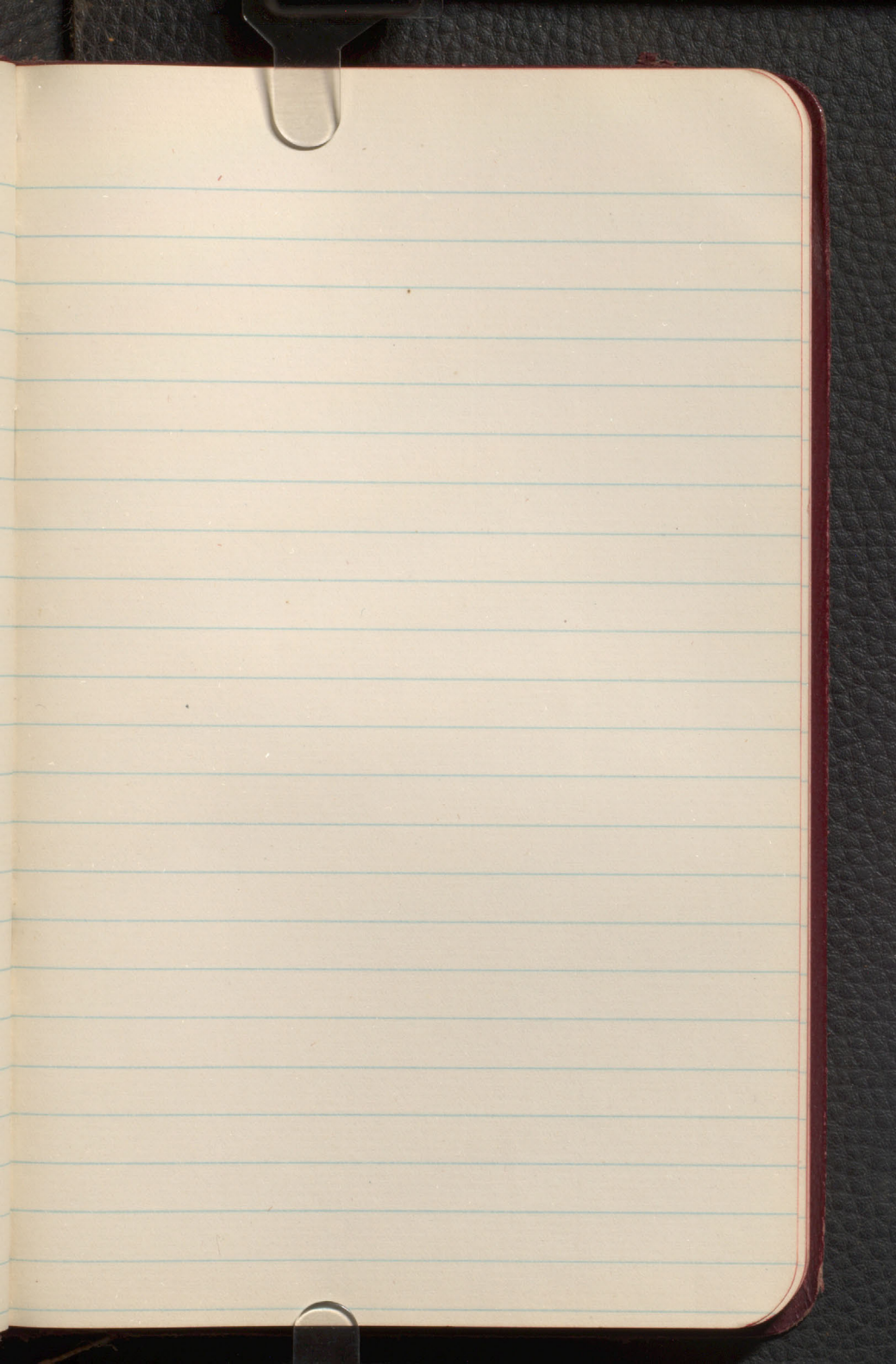


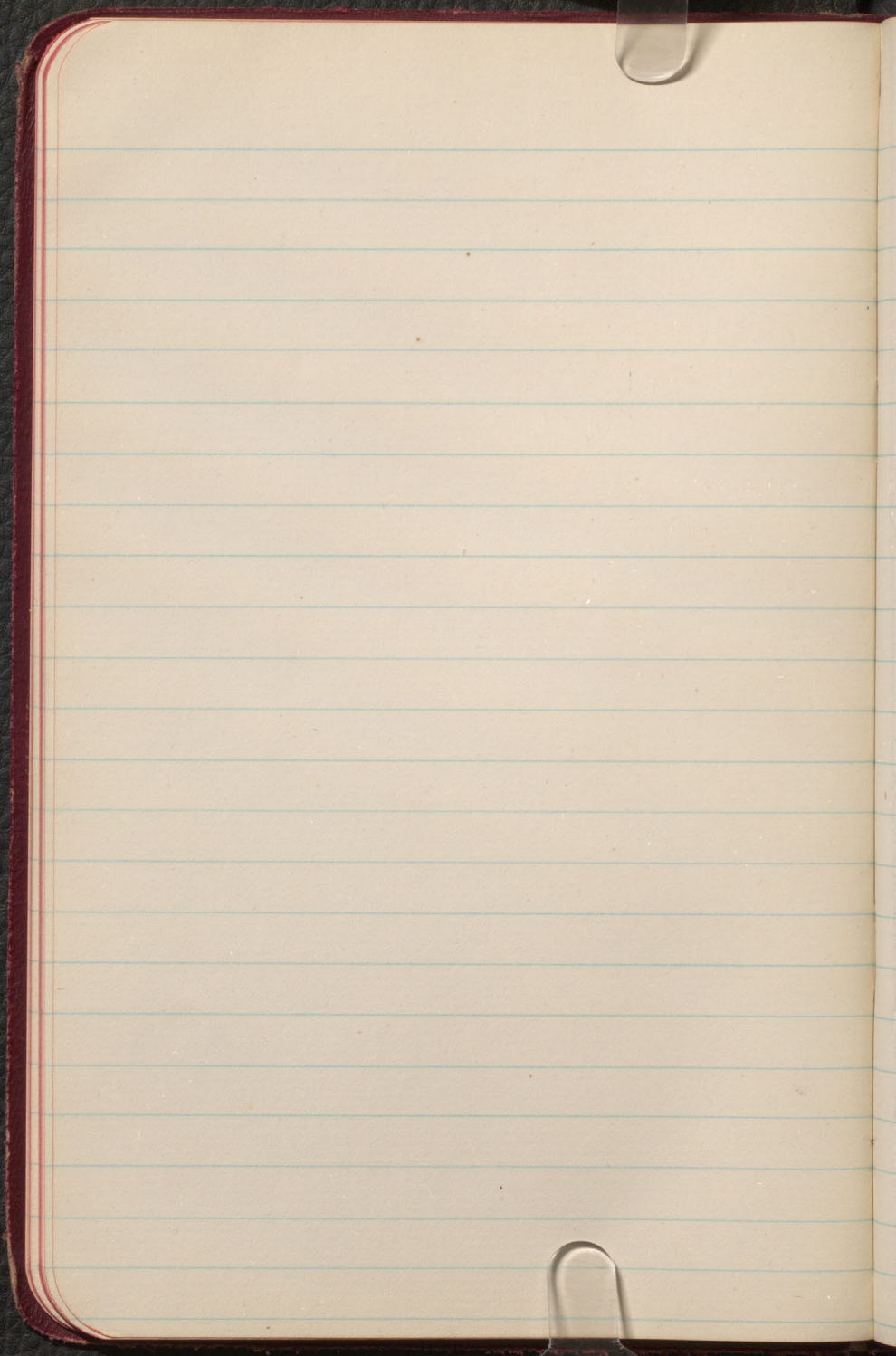


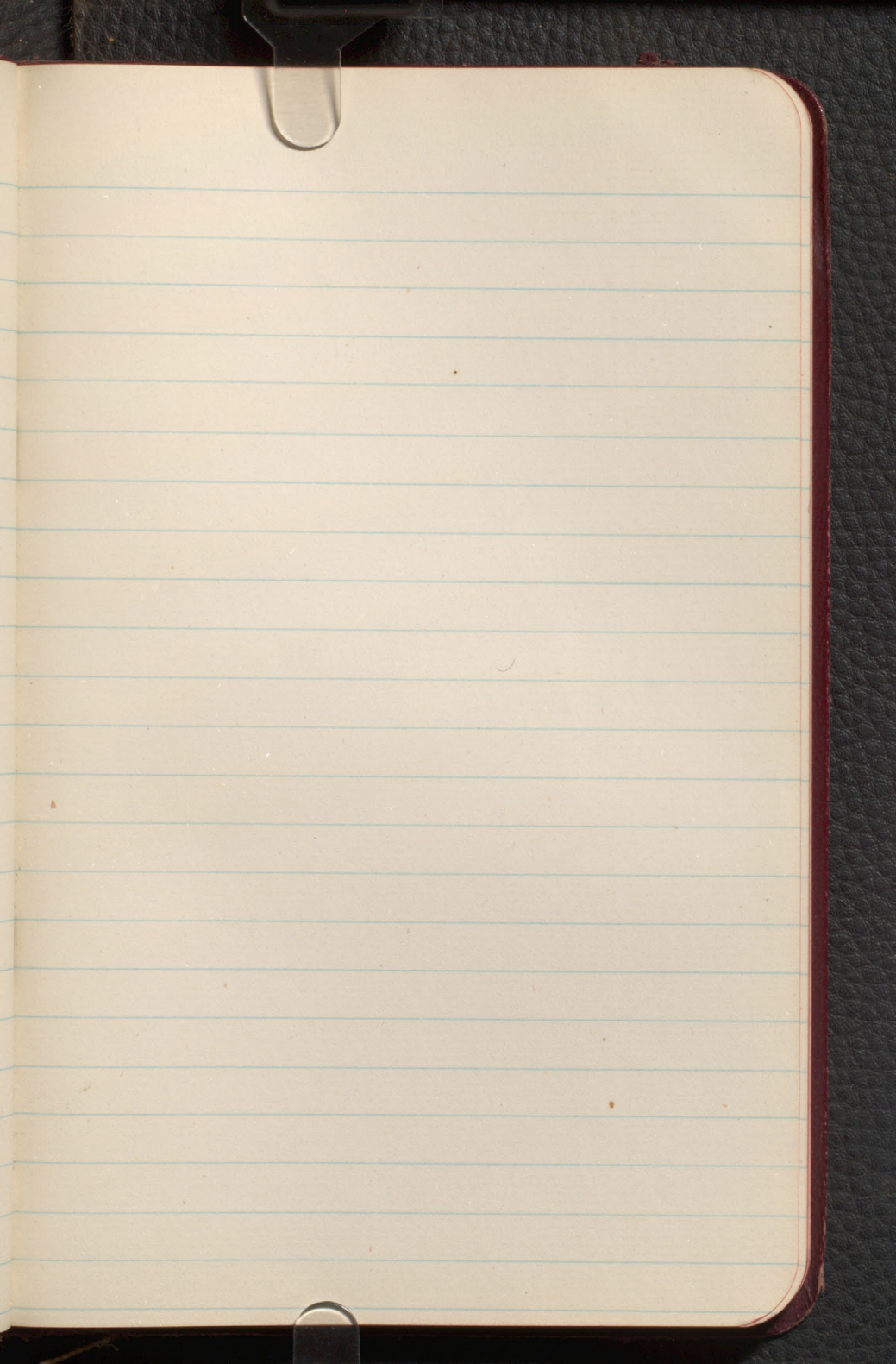


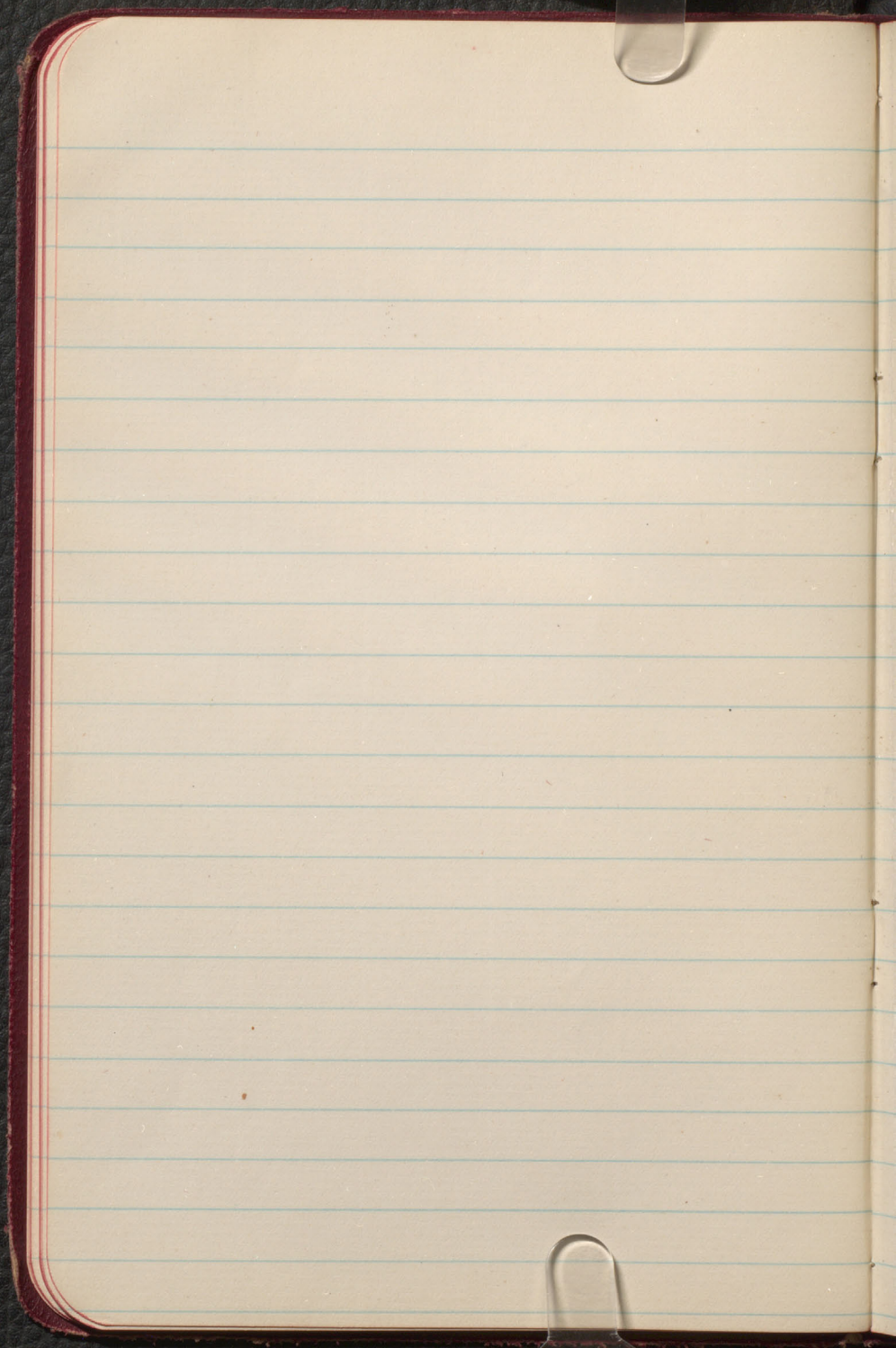


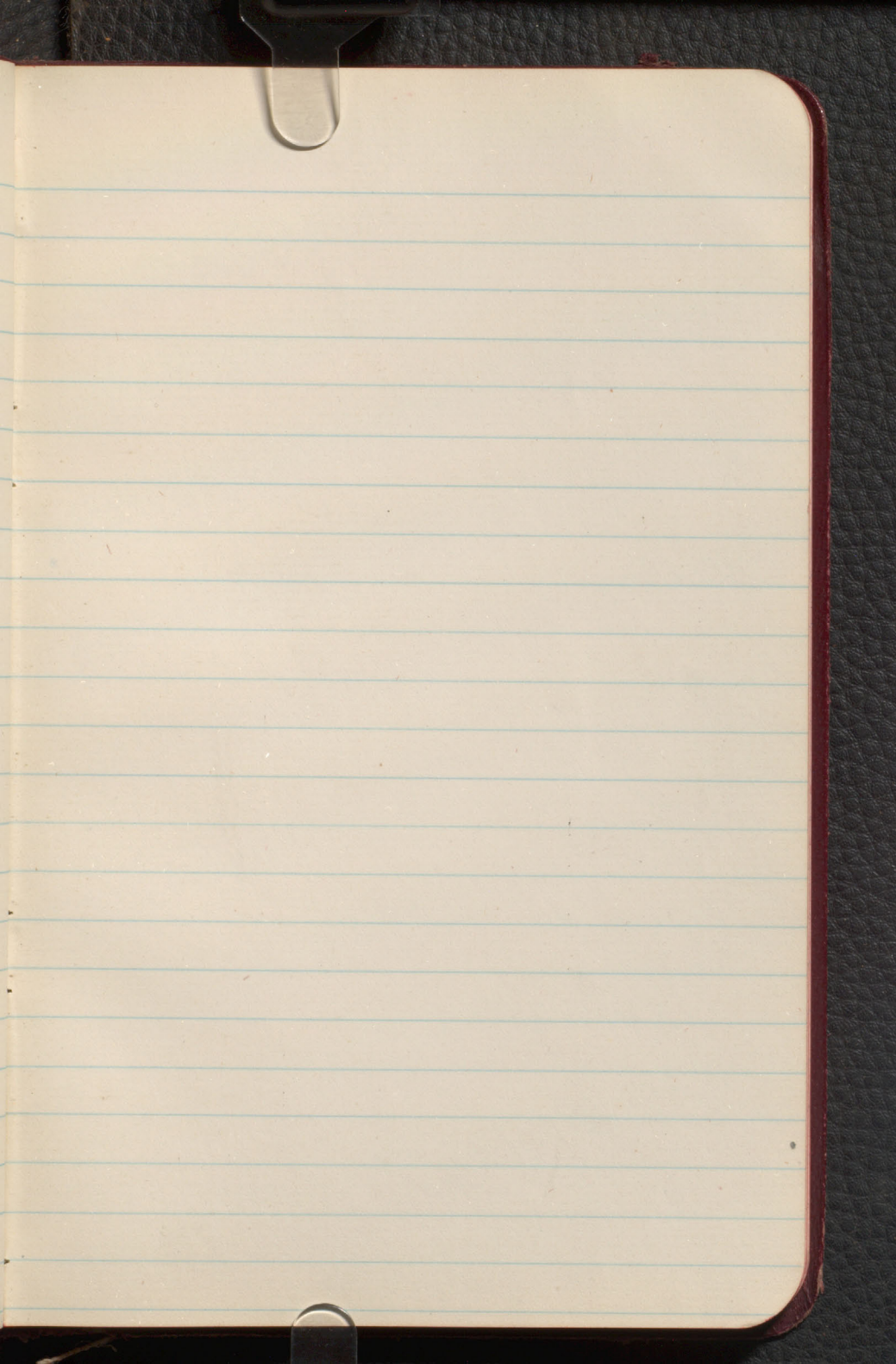


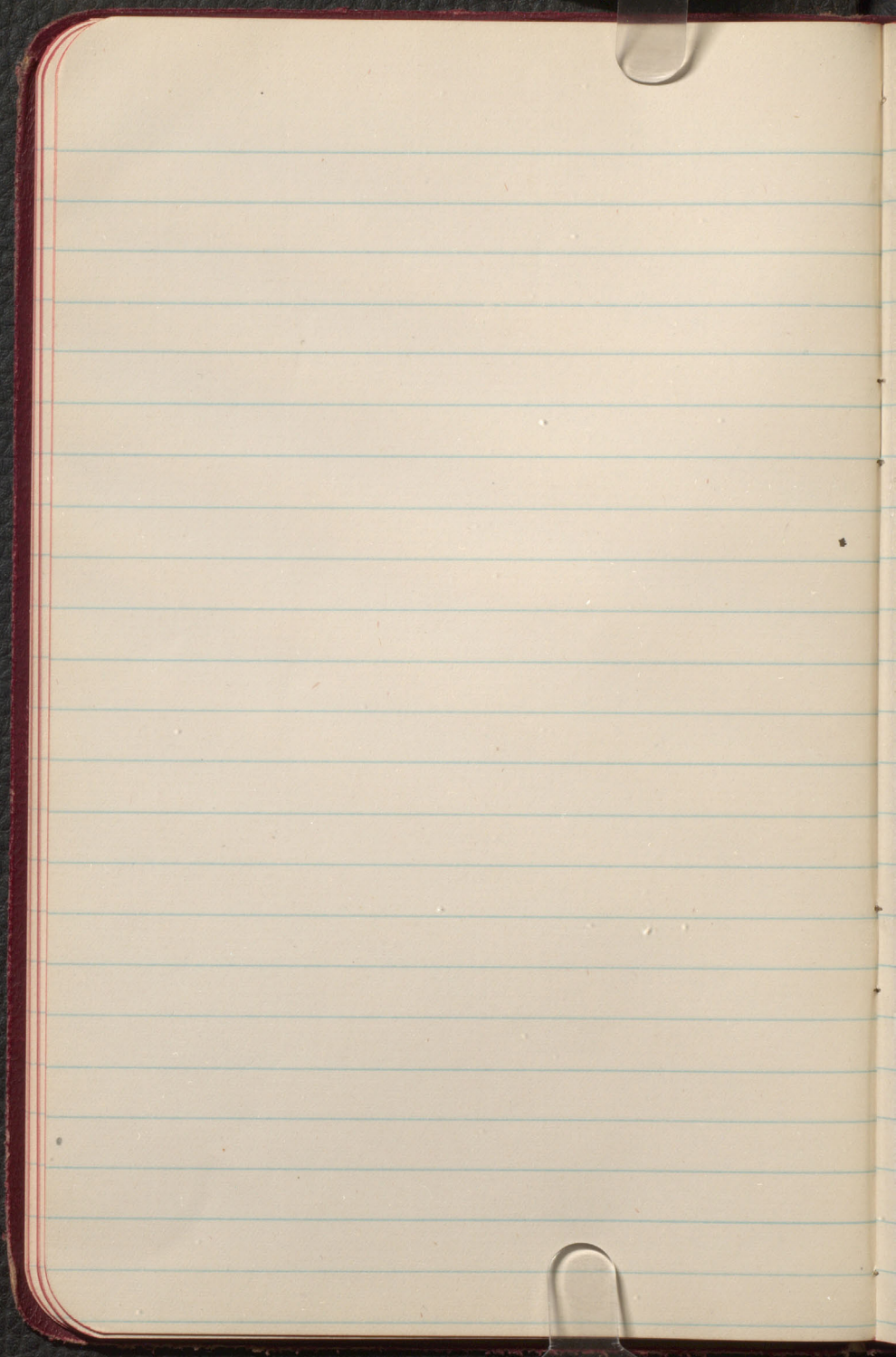


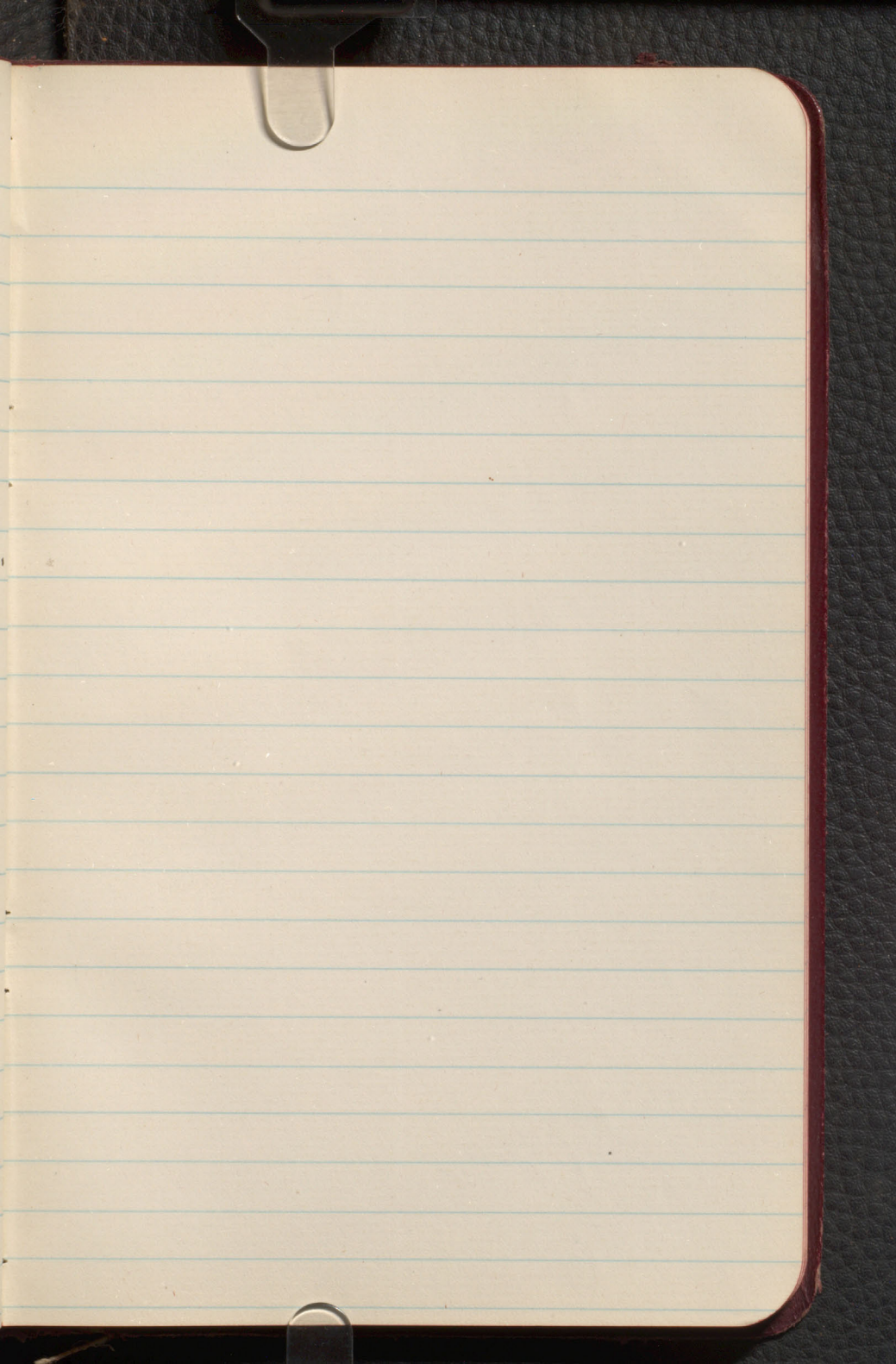


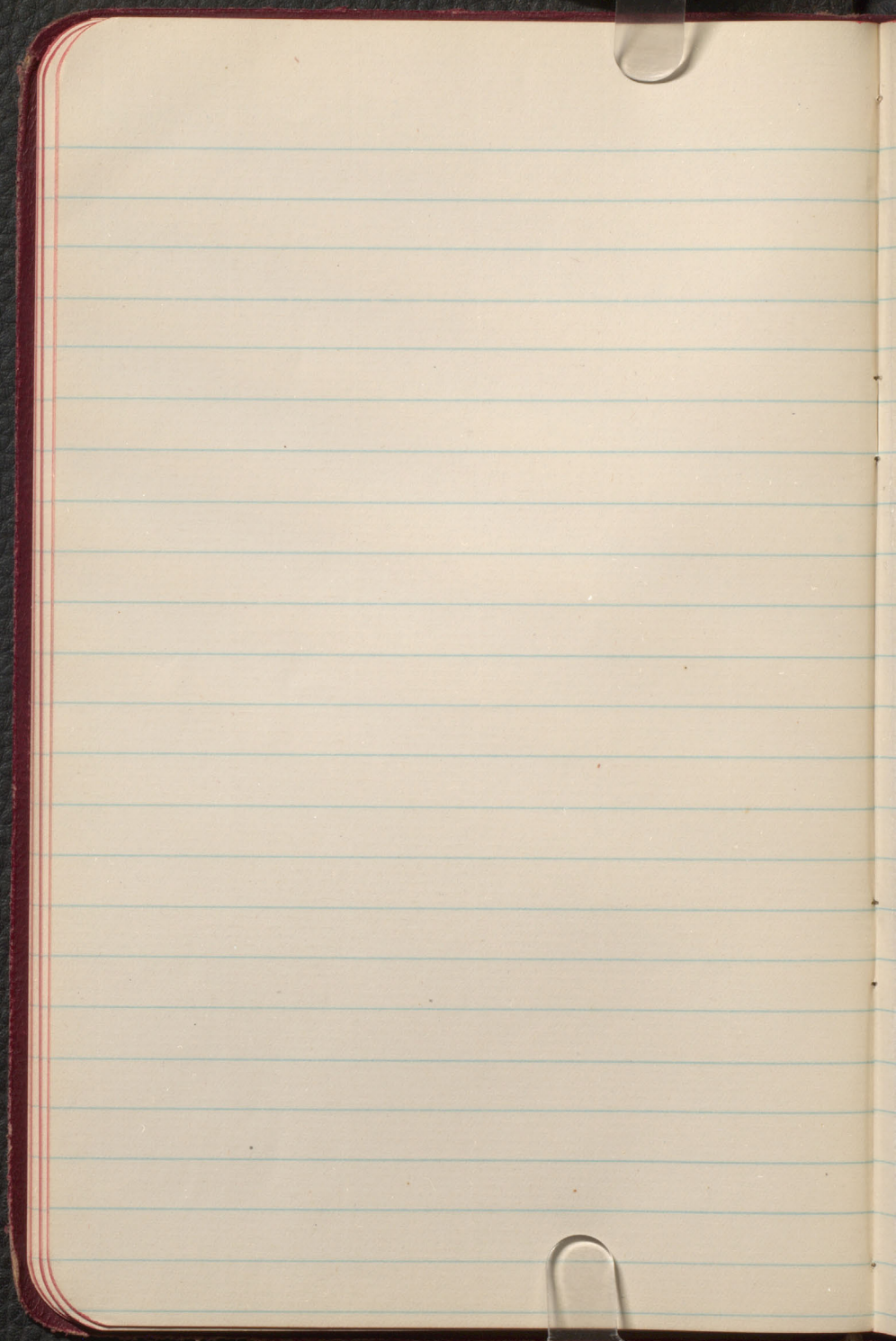


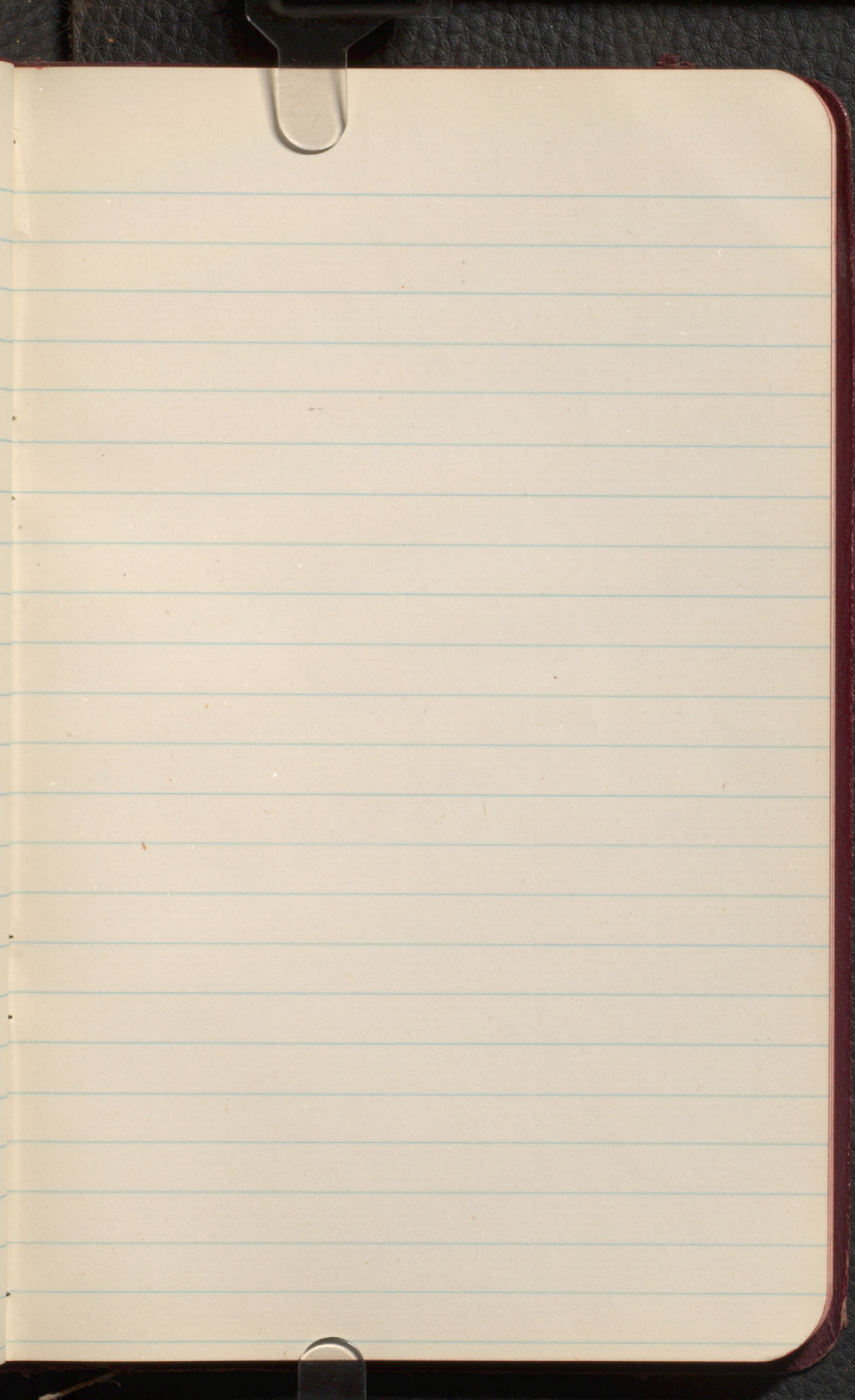


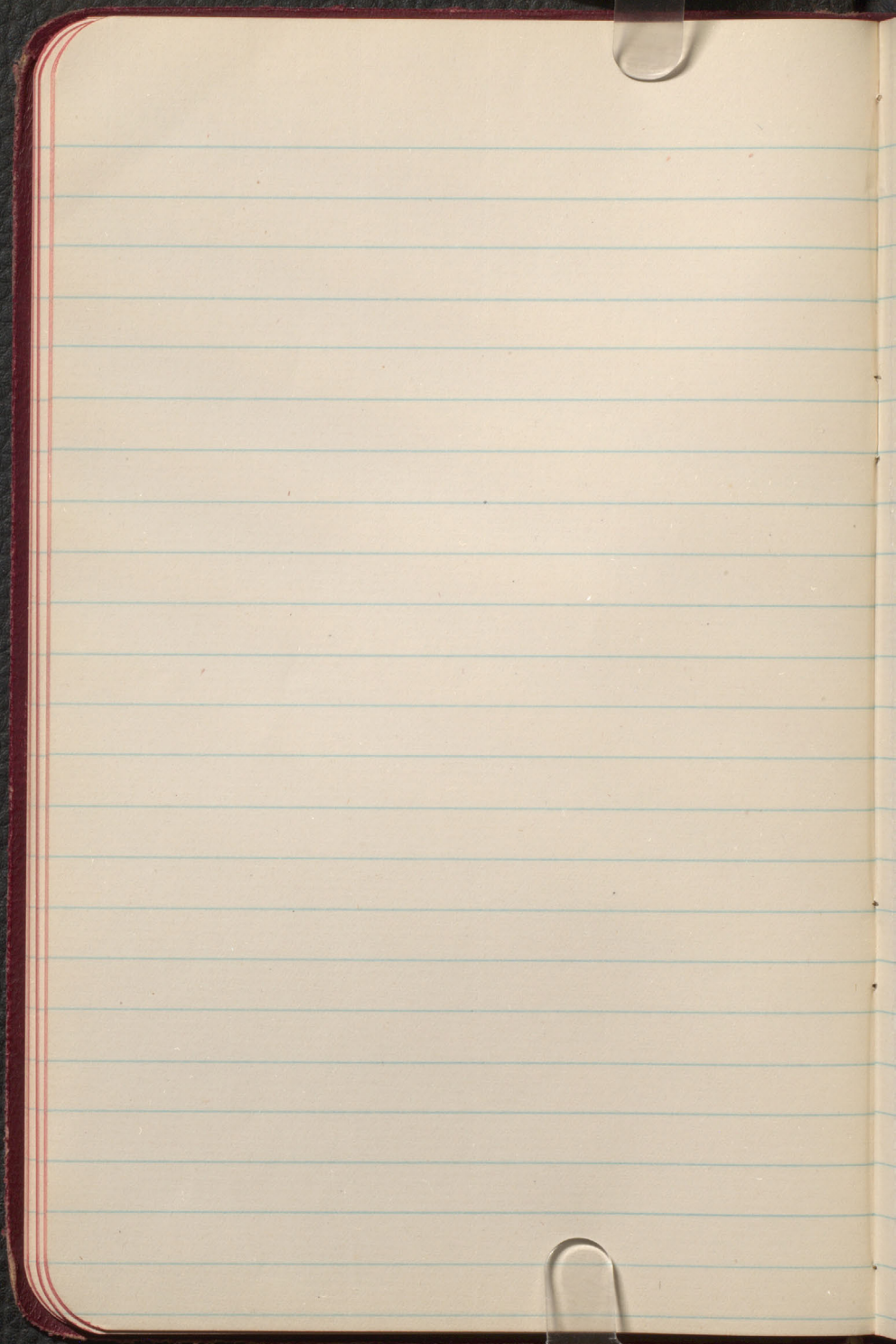


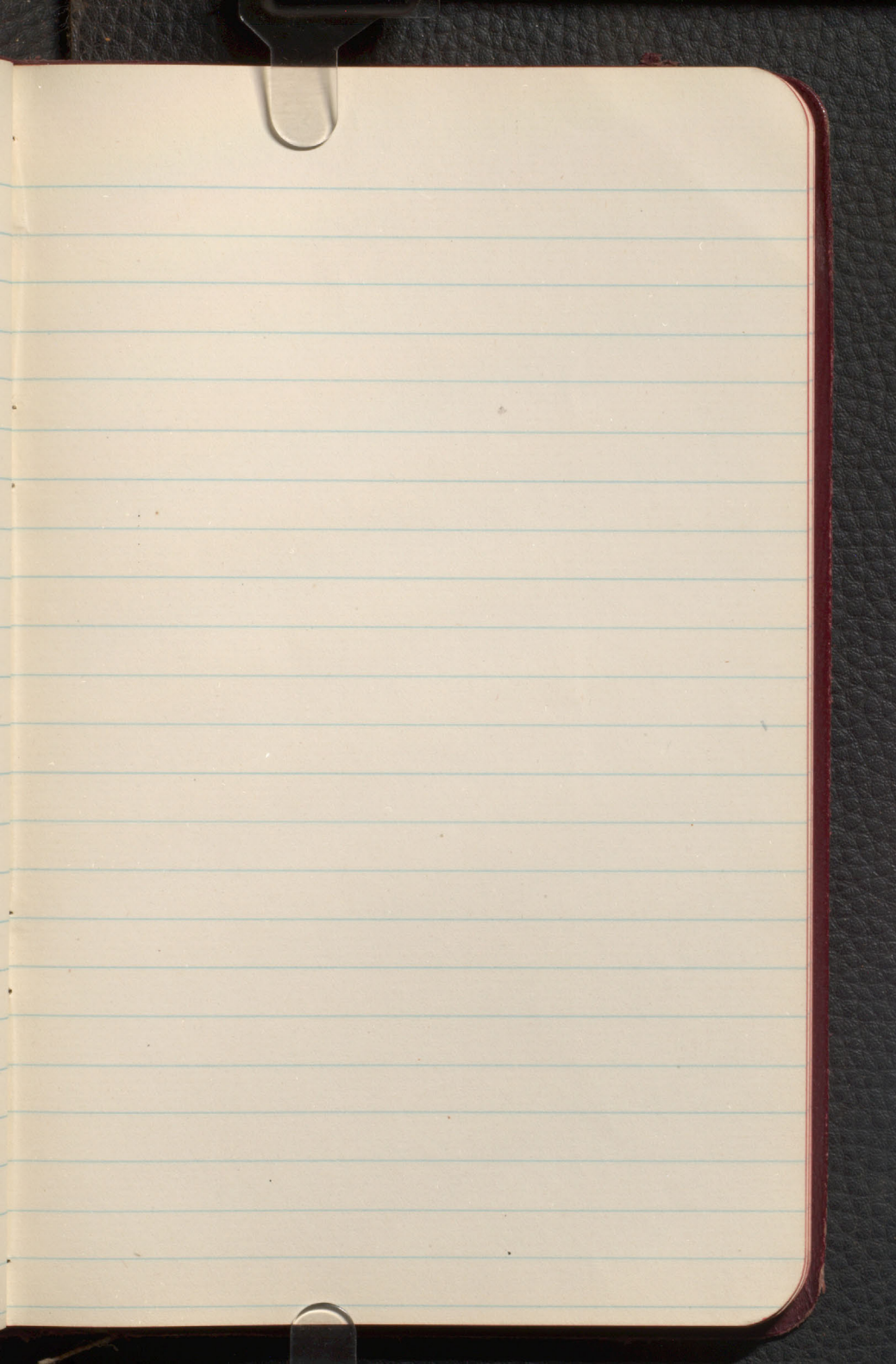


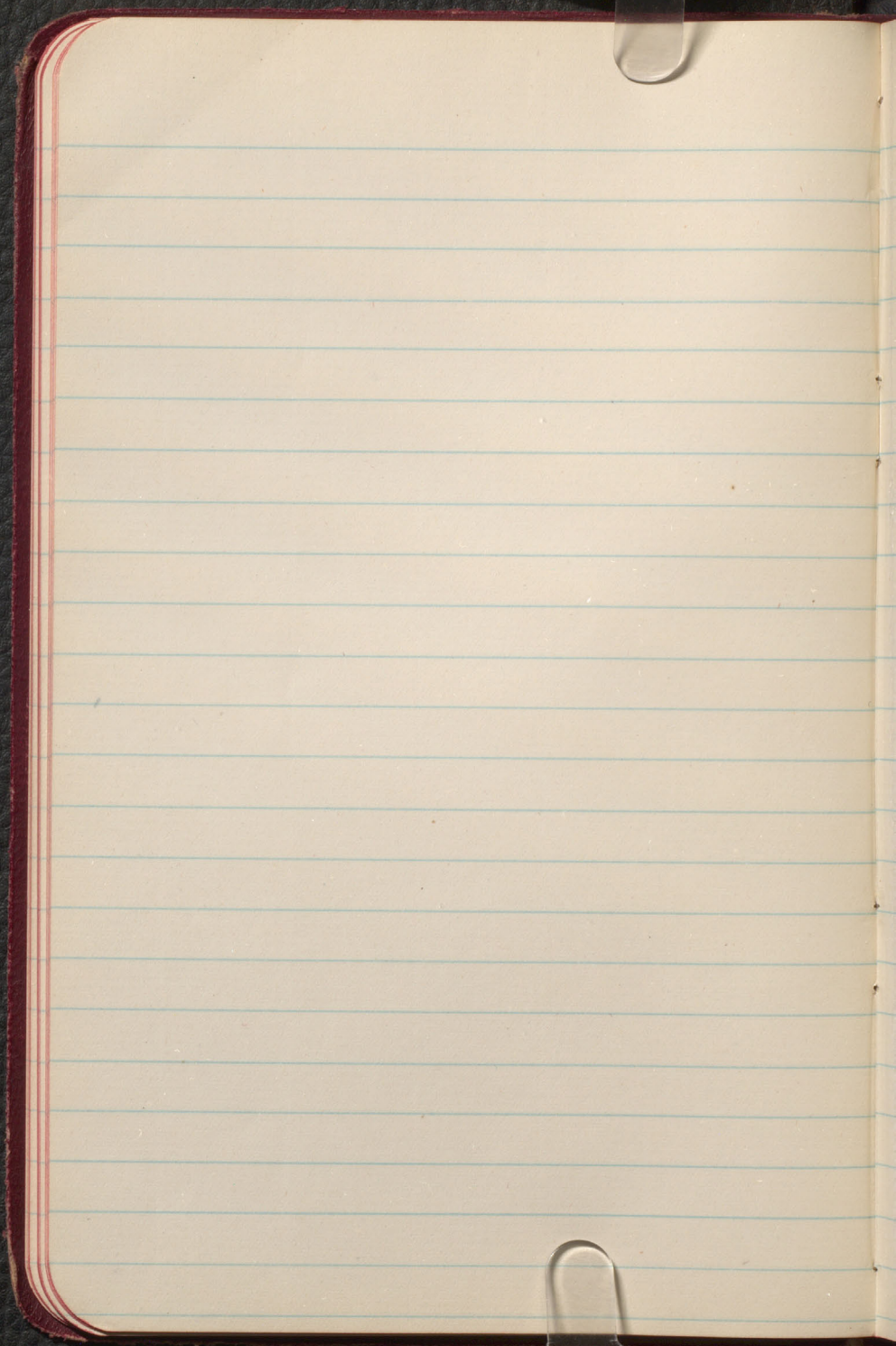


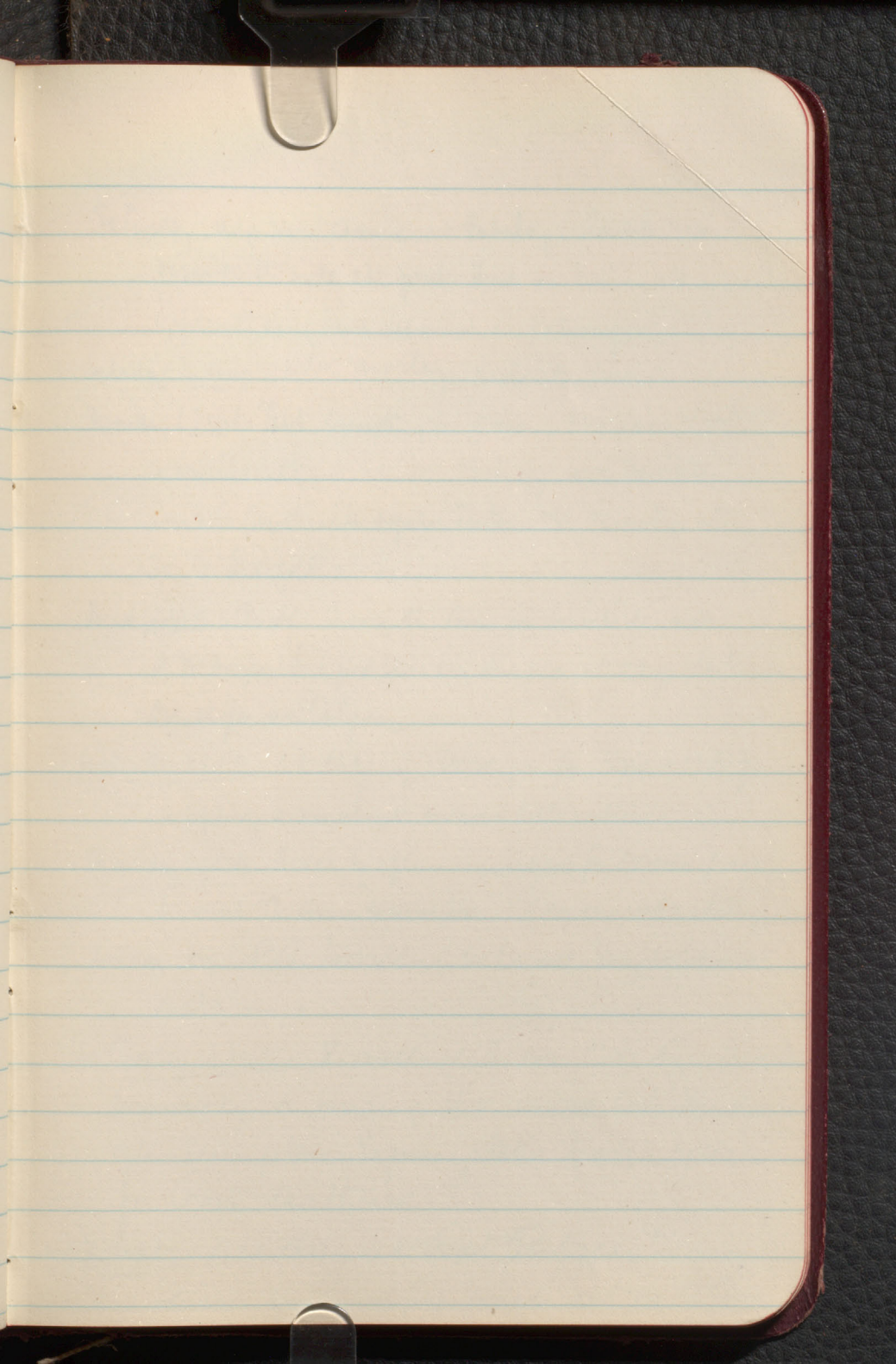


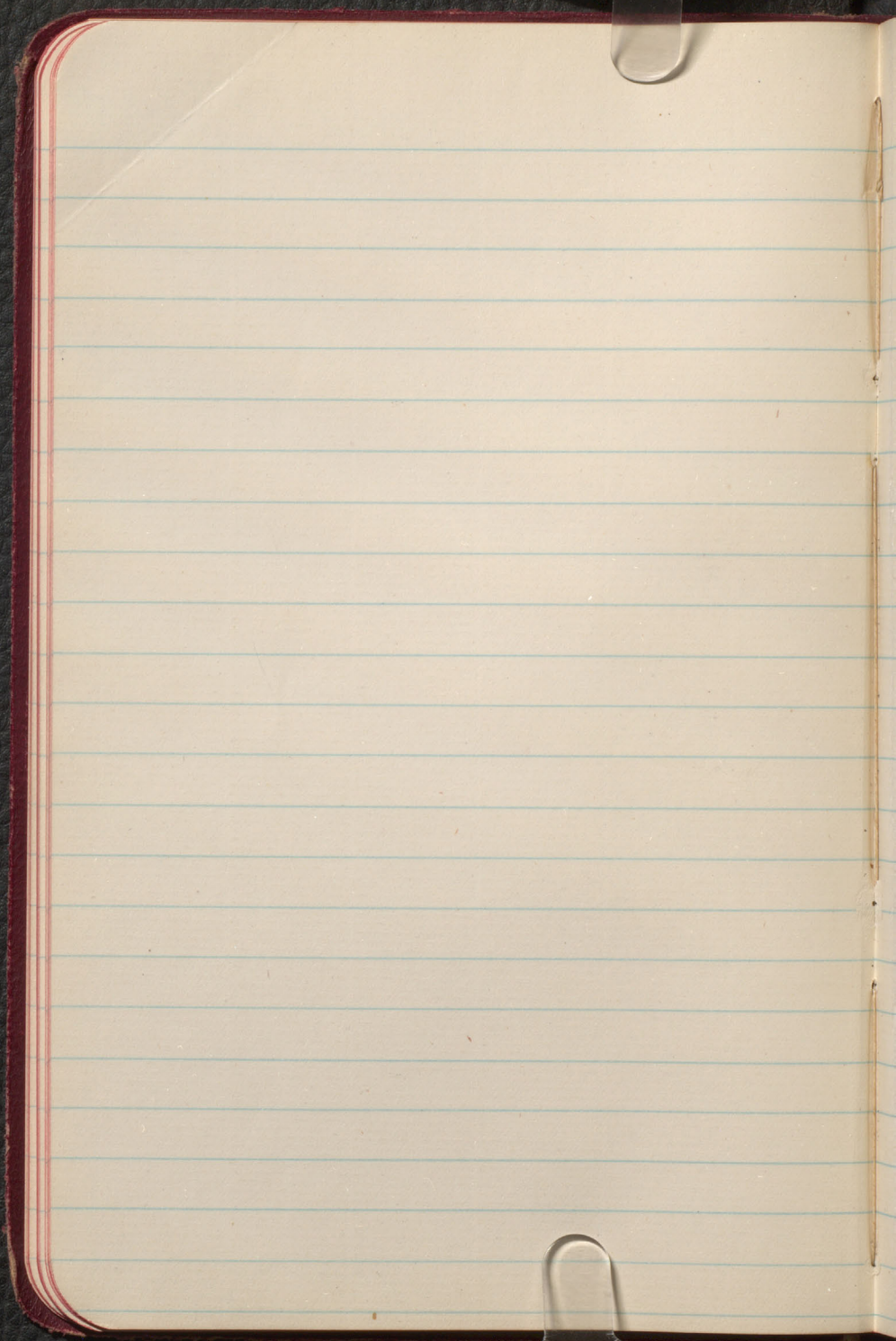












Saturday Aug 30. Arrive at ~~Barley~~, Camp near
open on N. side at ford. Find no letters, all
apparently having been disbanded at Calgary.

Sunday 31 Aug. At Morley. Unhatched stores etc.

Monday 1 Sept. Get everything in order, supplies reinforced,
horses shod etc., & see Mr White off with party to
Crooked Creek region. Take up quarters at
D. M. Douglass'.

Tuesday, Sept 2. Pack. Cross the Bow on horseback with
D. M. Douglass (ford still very deep) & get to Ry. Station.
On as far as Calgary

Wednesday, Sept 3. At Calgary. Arrange for new outfit of
supplies, & see about buying letter writers.

Thursday Sept 4. Secure by afternoon train for Winnipeg
to meet B. Ann. excursion. Day very wet & stormy.

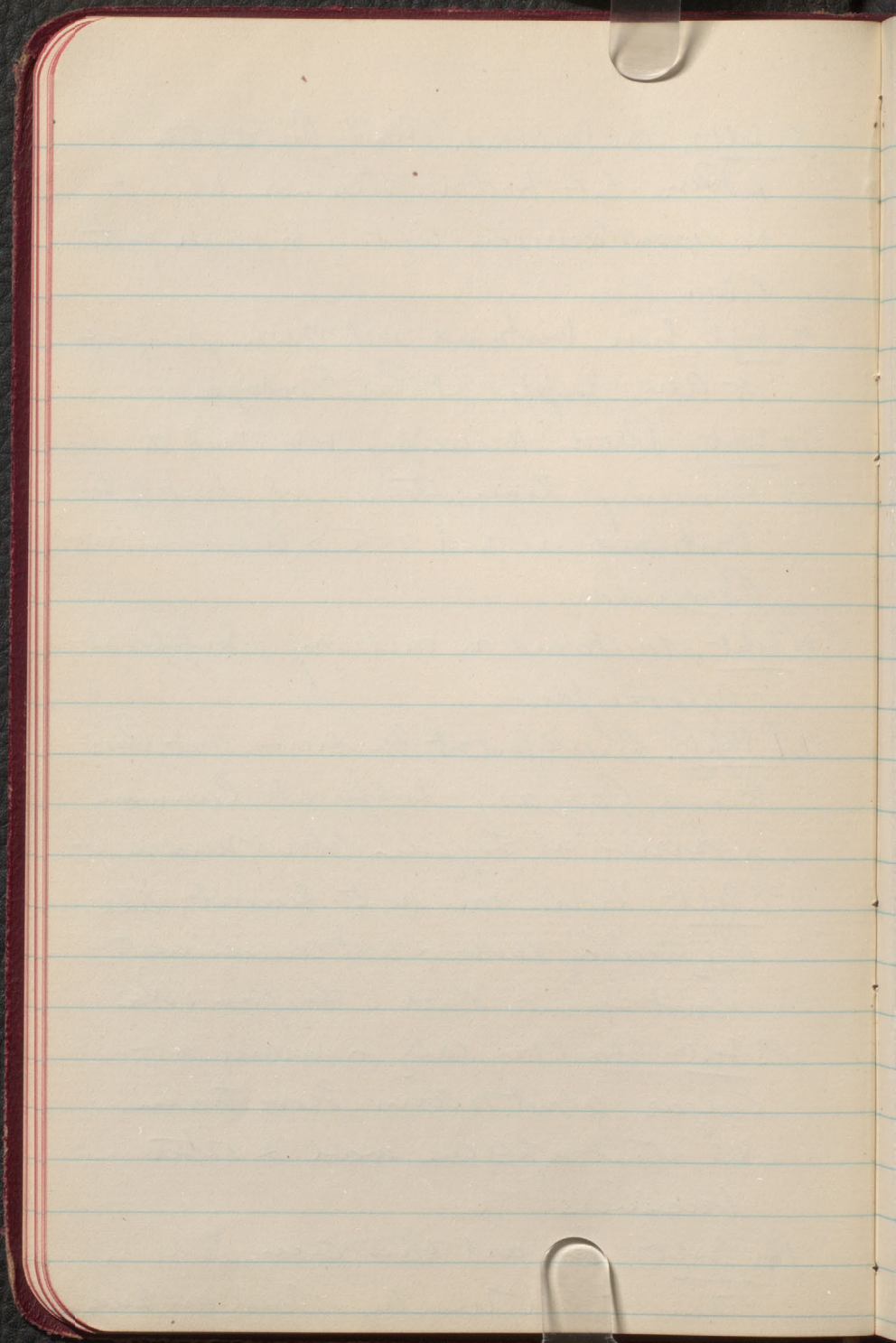
Friday on C.P.R. travelling eastward. Day cold wet
& stormy.

Saturday 6 Sept. Travelling E. on C.P. Ry, Reach
Winnipeg & finding that would have time,
after seeing Mr Egan, take train again
for Port Arthur.

7 Sept. all day at Rat Portage. Train
being delayed by wash out on the line

2, as to
dates,

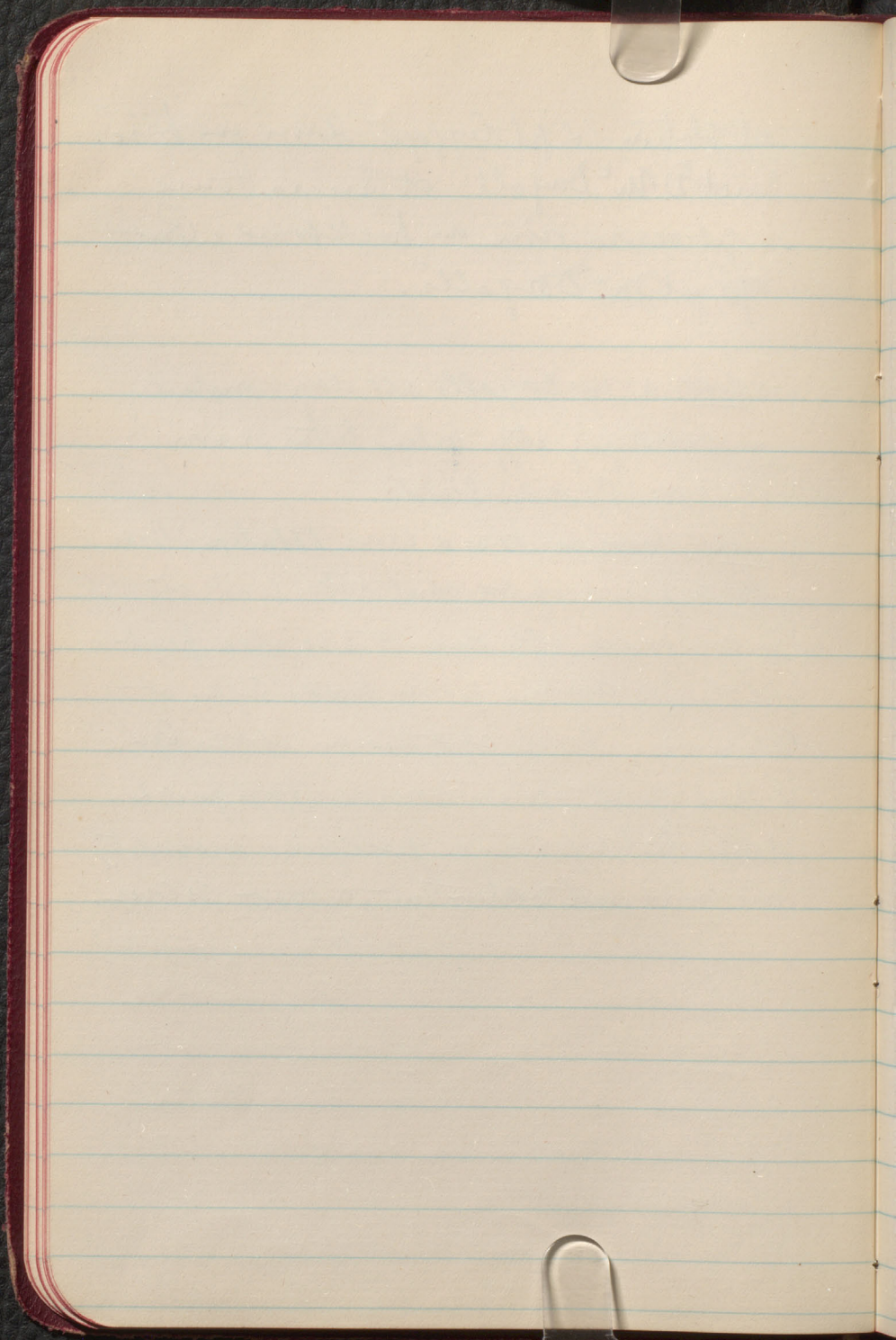
8. Sept., on Portward. Reach Port Arthur
6 P.M. Get berth on steamer where the
B. Assn. Excursion waiting for repair of the
line.
9. Sept. Leave westward with Assn. party at
8 am. Supper at Rat Portage.
- 10 Sept. Reach Winnipeg very early this
morning. Train stopped only about $\frac{1}{2}$ hour.
Westward at good rate & breakfast at
Brandon.
- 11 Sept. Westward on railway. Supper at
Moose jaw.
- 12 Sept. Breakfast at Medicine Hat. Pass
through Calgary. Supper at Camrose
& arrive at Laggan about midnight.
- 12 Sept. Train ran on to Securit. All
day seeing rocks & with excursionists
about Securit. Back to Laggan 6 P.M.
- 13 Sept. Start very early & arrive at
Calgary about 10 am. Leave train
See about supplies, mail & other
business.
- 14 Sept. very wet this am. Take
train W. to Warley. West on Green

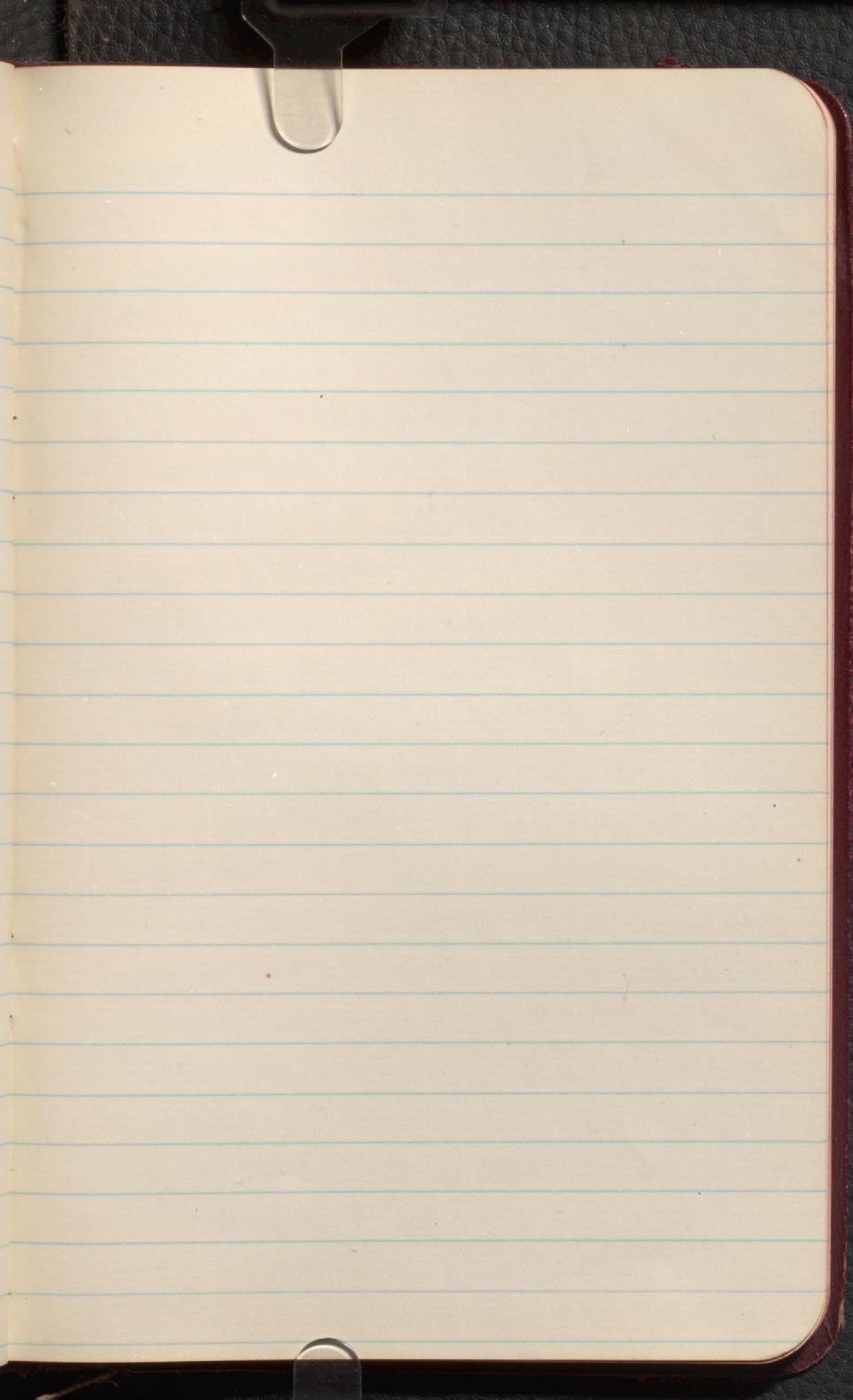


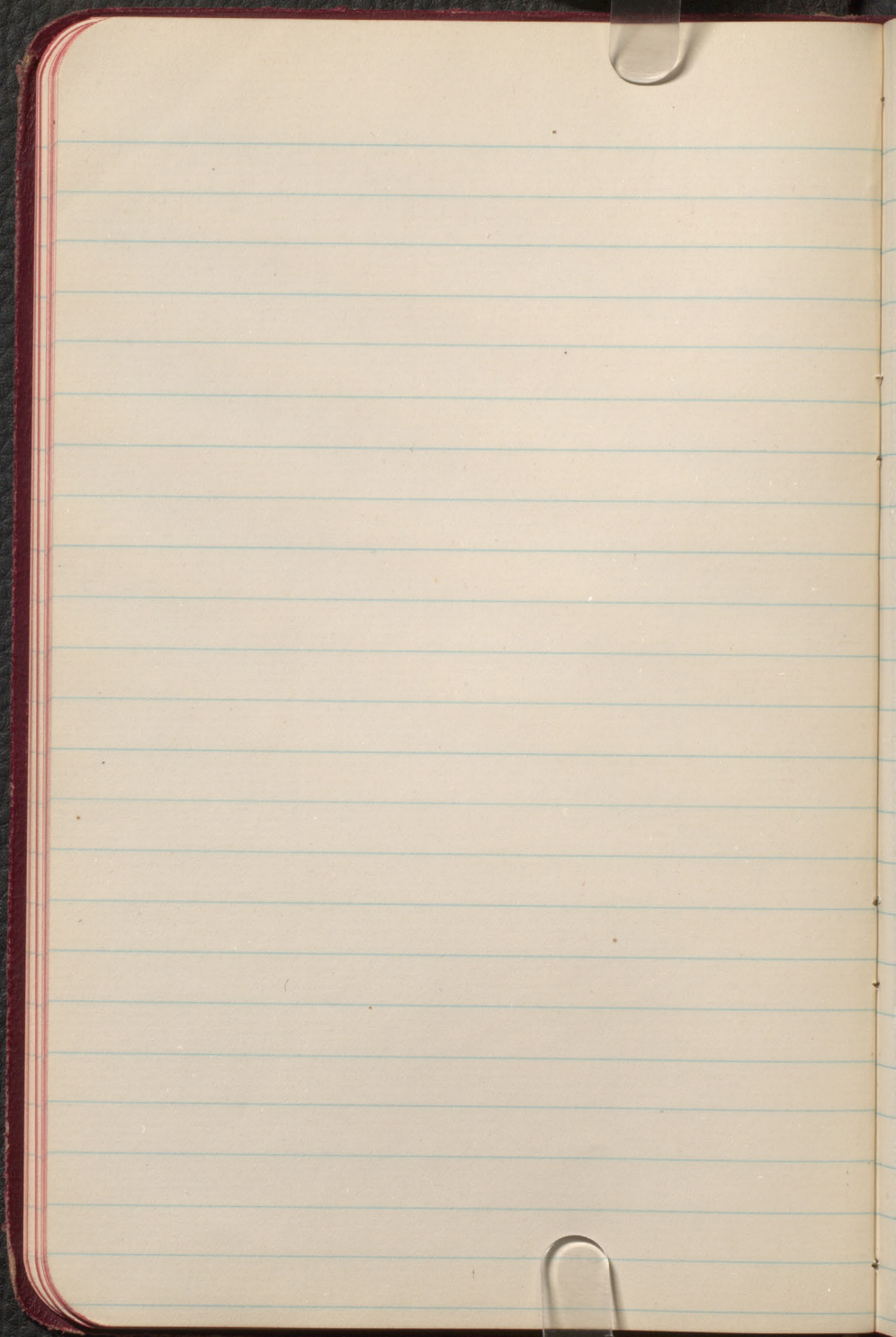
at station & get baggage down on horse.
Meet D Mc Donnell at Seer's House
& get across river on buckboard. Put
up at M. Donnell's.

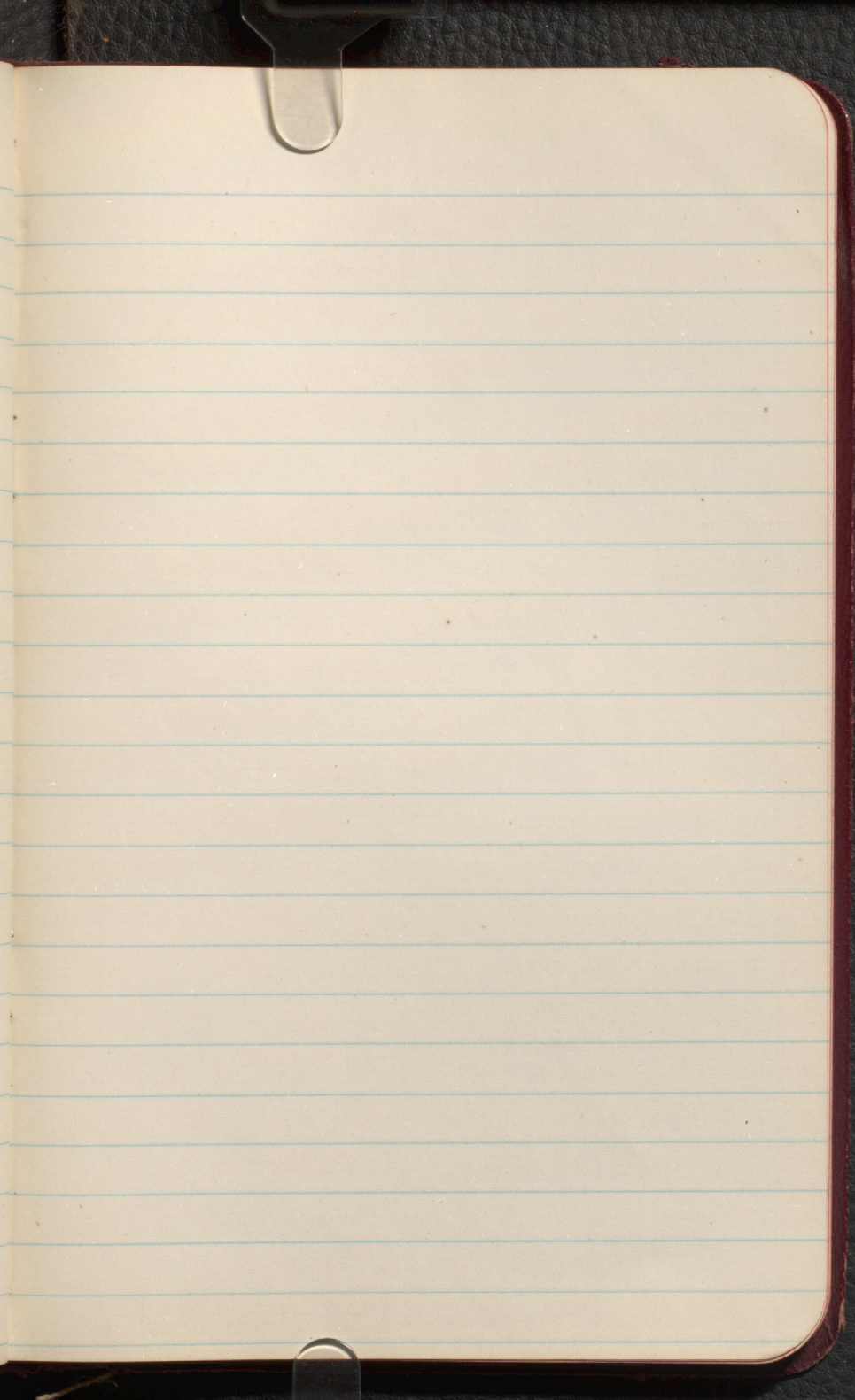
15 Sept. at Mc Donnell's all day, overhauling
& rearranging stuff. Writing letters, & arranging
about an Indian Guide.

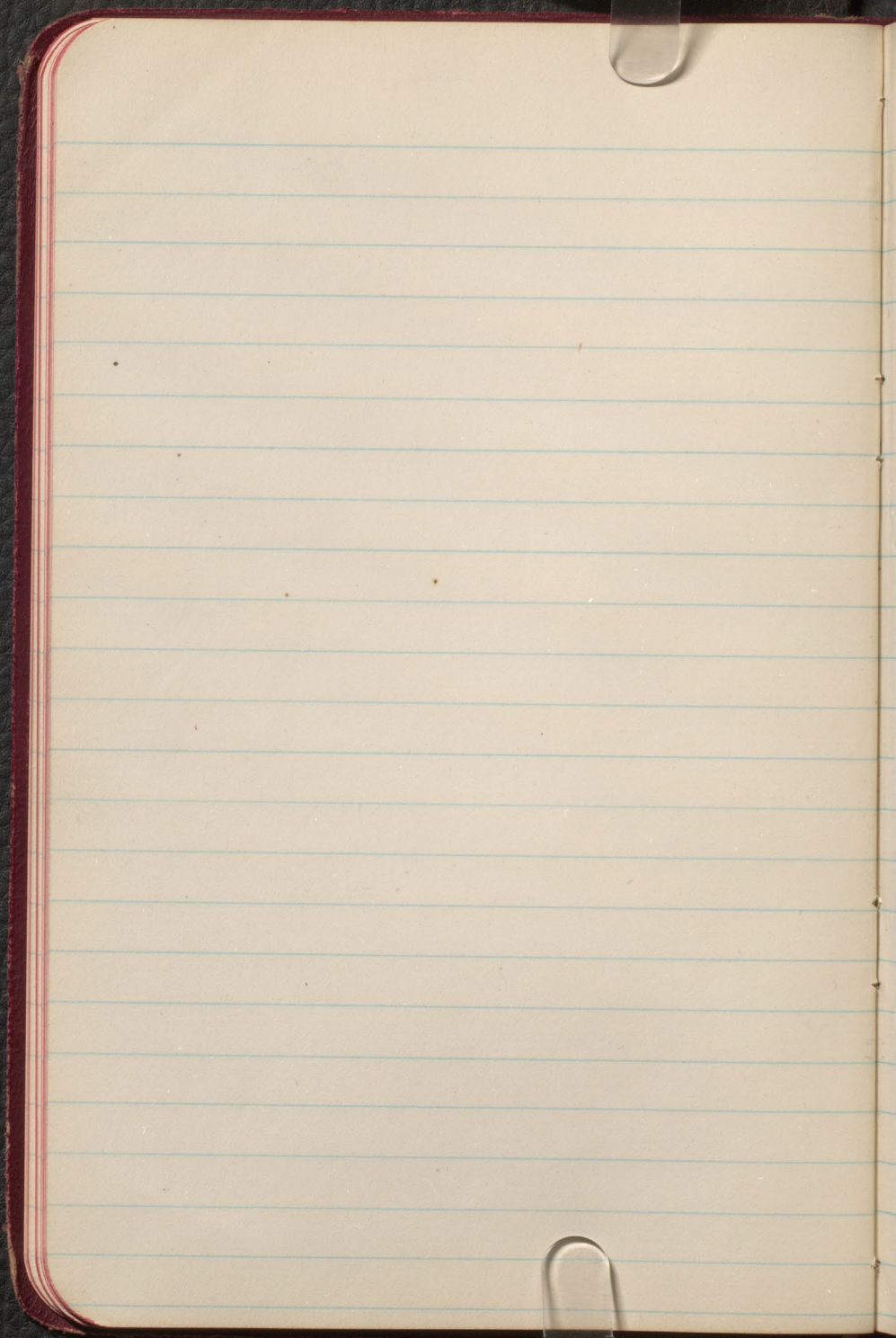
16. Sept. Leave at 10.30 & cross to station. Hear
that a freight departed about 10 P.M. Wait at
Seer's house all day till 3.30 when freight
at length arriving get on board. Supper at
Cannore. Reach 29th siding at 9.20 P.M.
& put up at Seer's House. Have first &
I hope last experience of sleeping on absolutely
bare board, with nothing but a wat as cover.

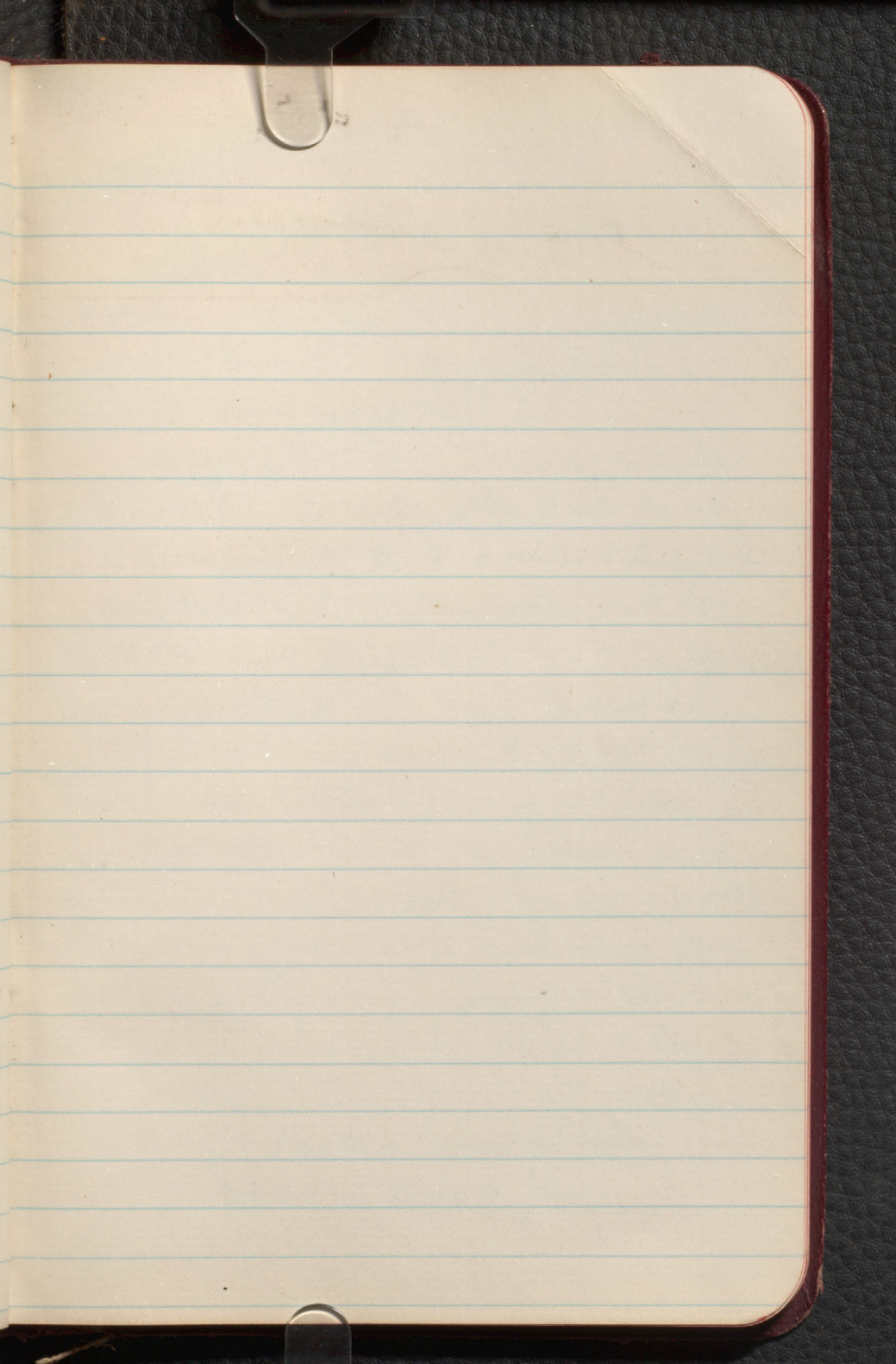


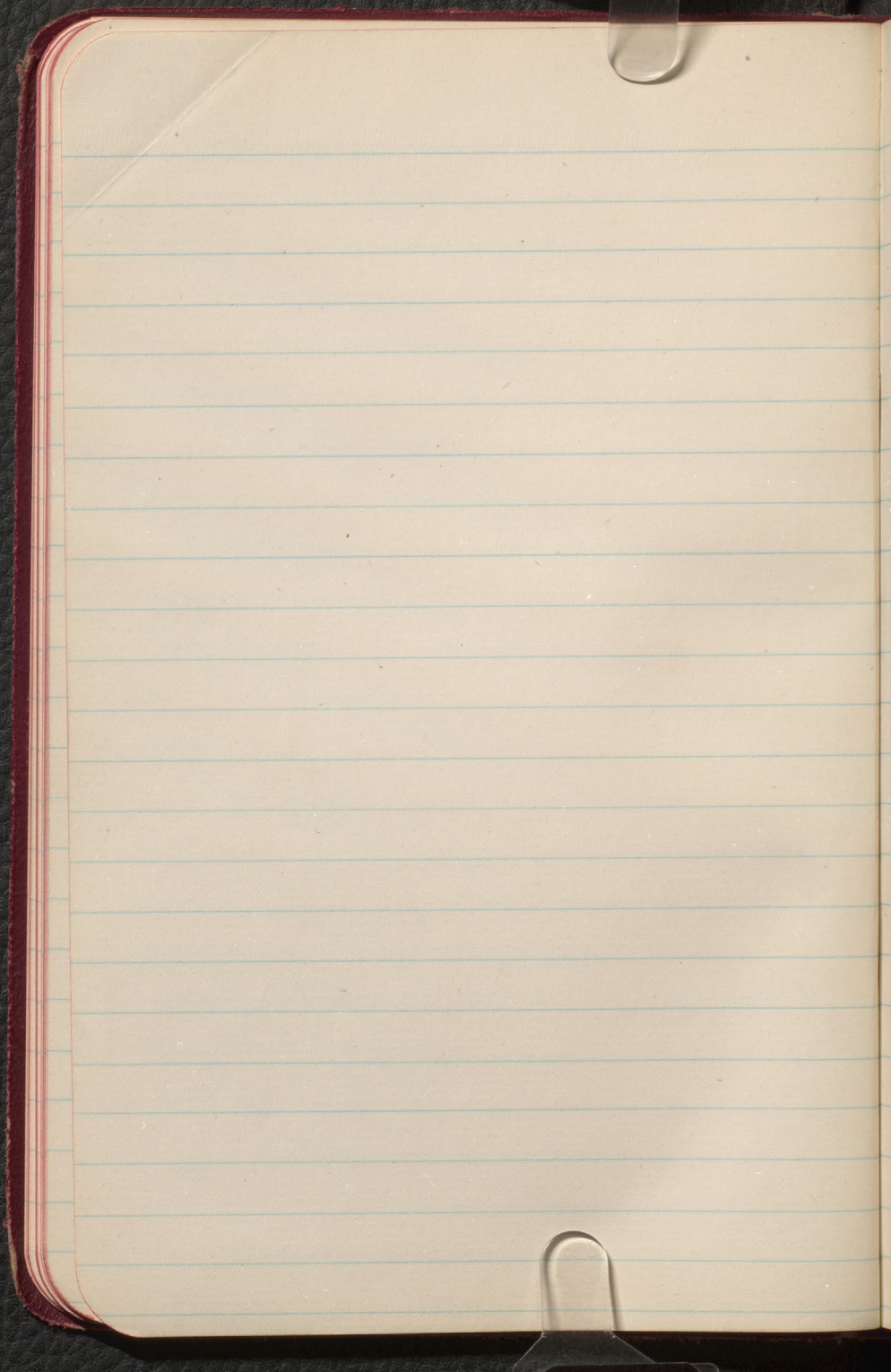












7. Oct. at Morley getting Jones & outfit
paid by

8 Oct - at Morley.

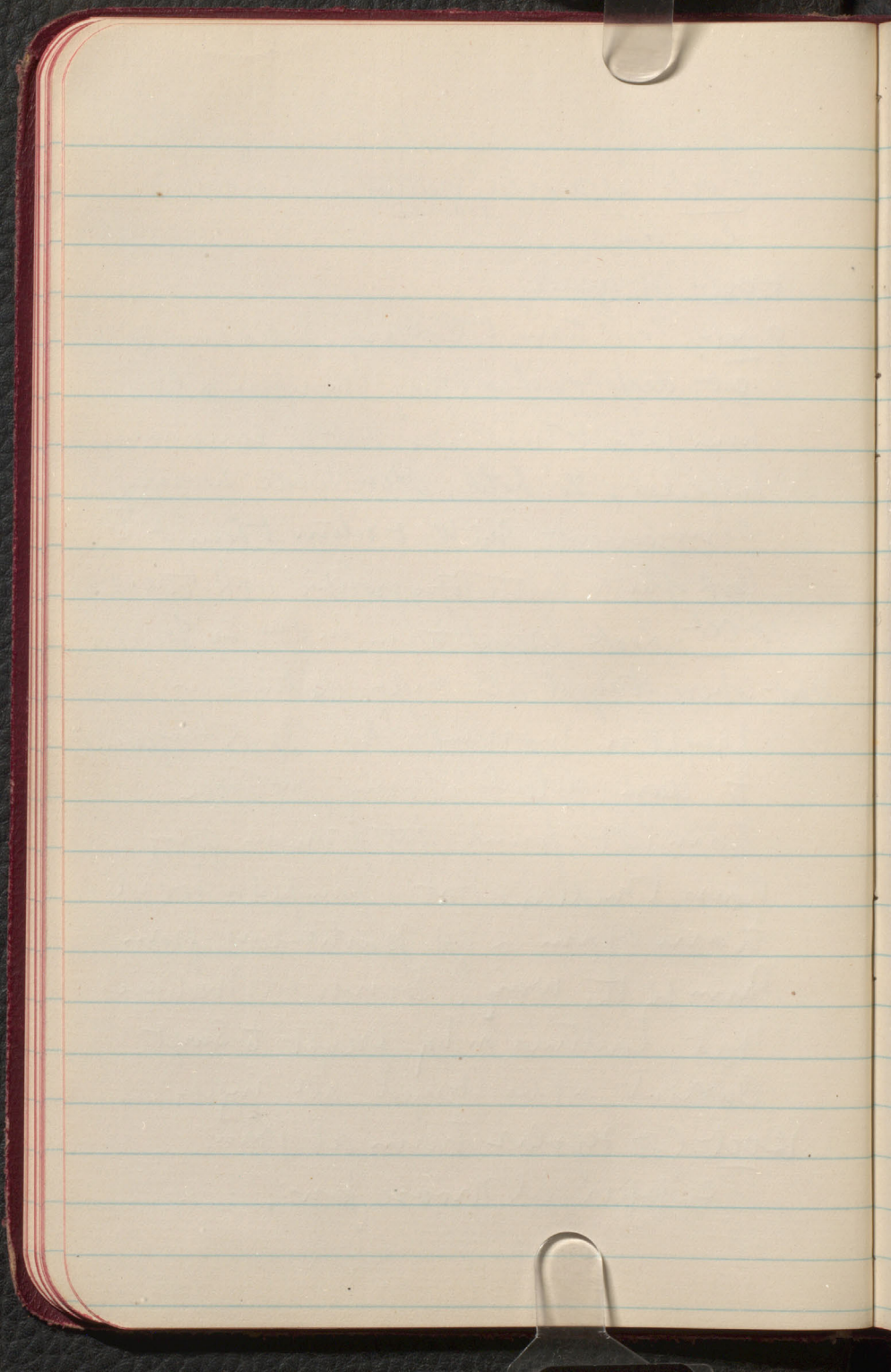
9 Oct. Took train to Calgary. Endeavored to
get draft cashed (Pay Mountain & let
him go on to Medicine Hat by same train,
but failed. To hotel. P.M. made necessary
arrangements. In W. to return to Summit &
look after a little topographic work there.

10 Oct. Took freight train in P.M. to Glichen

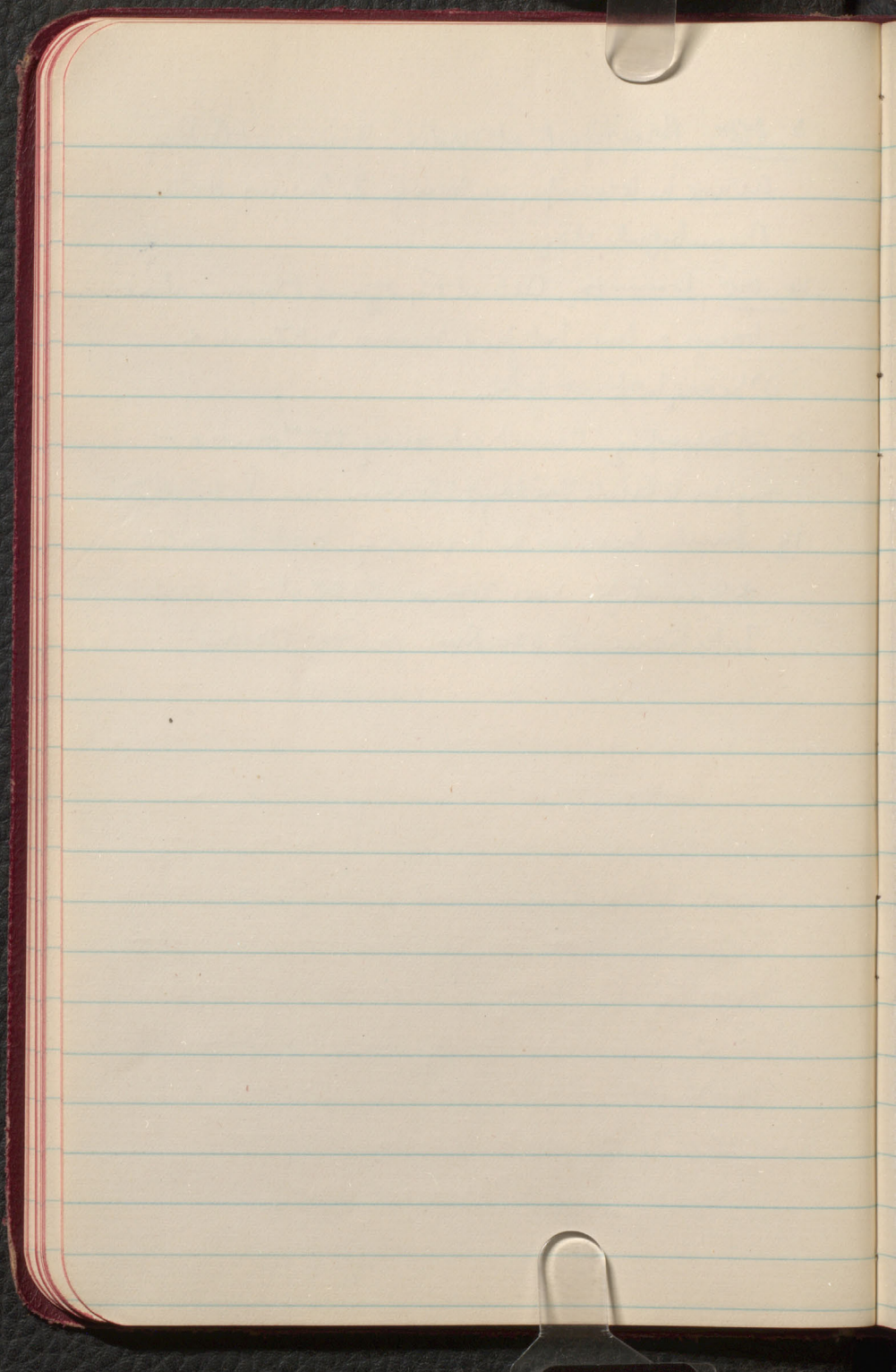
11 Oct. Where stayed all night. Continued on
freight in morning. Got off at Sangerin
to learn details of boring, but before
train left found that foreman going
down to Medicine Hat. Jumped on board
train again & got particulars from
him by the way. Diner at Medicine
Hat. Continued on by freight to Swift
Current, where stayed all night.

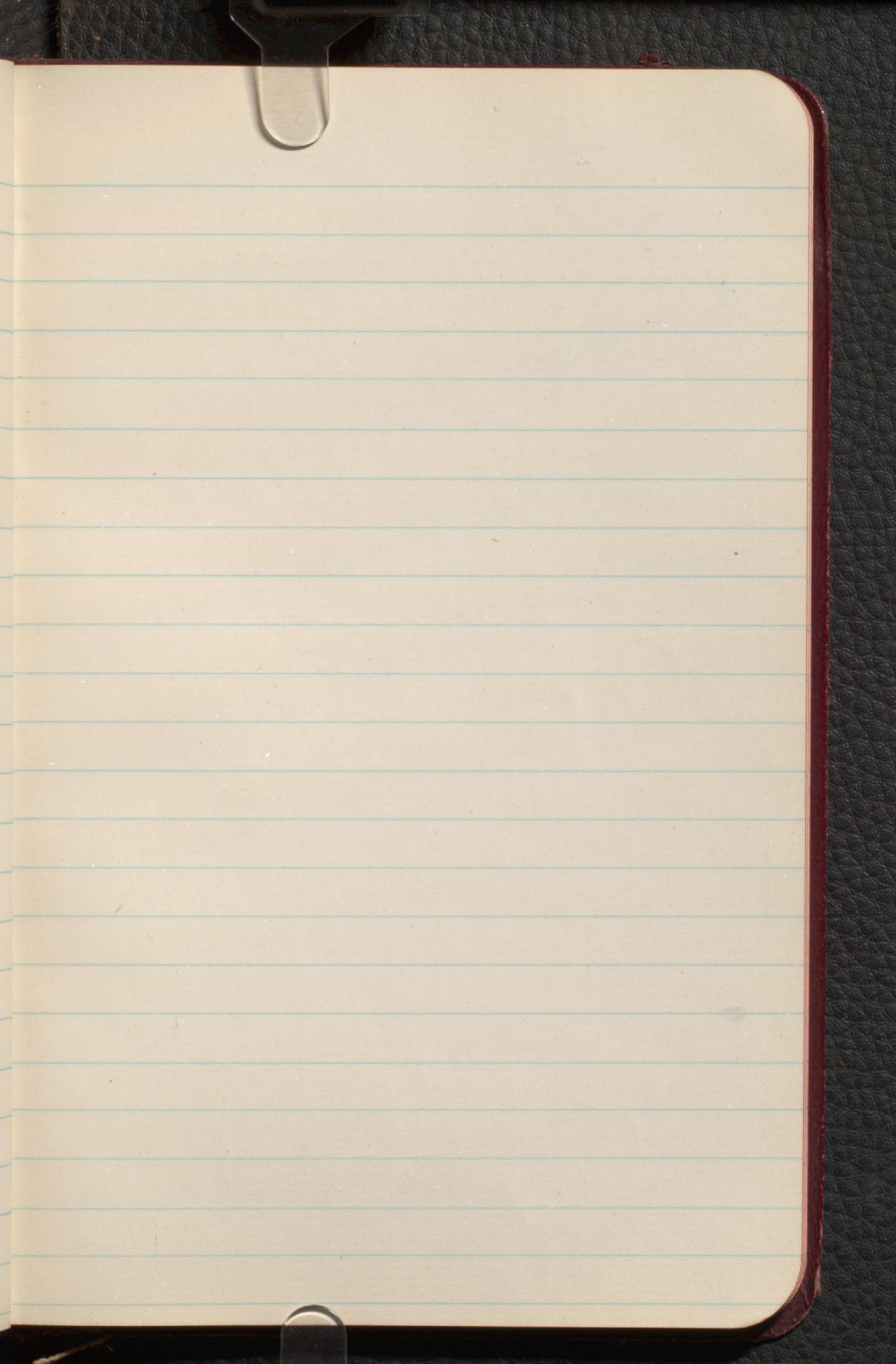
12 Oct. Got regular train at 1 P.M.

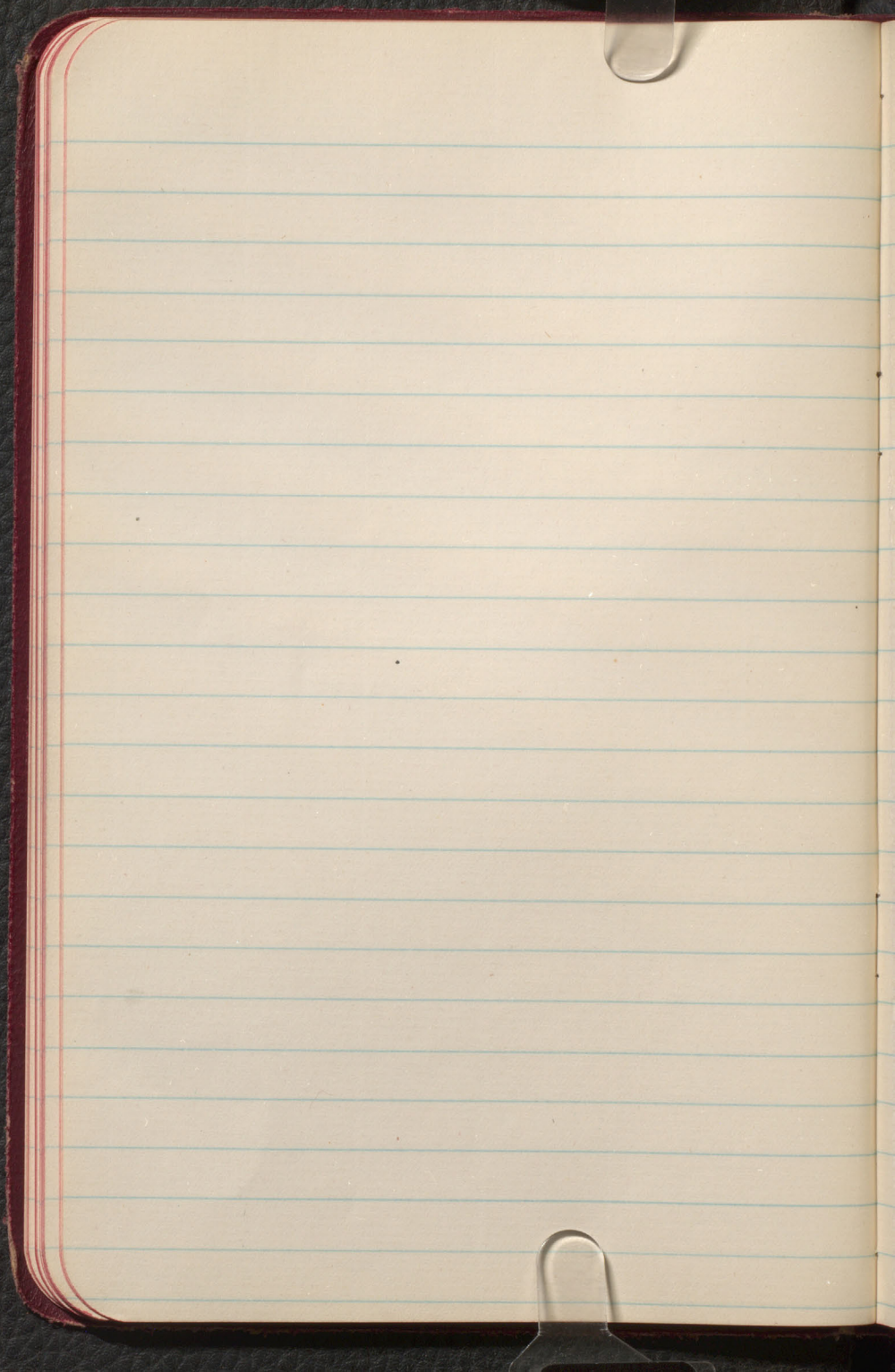
Supper at Moose Jaw.

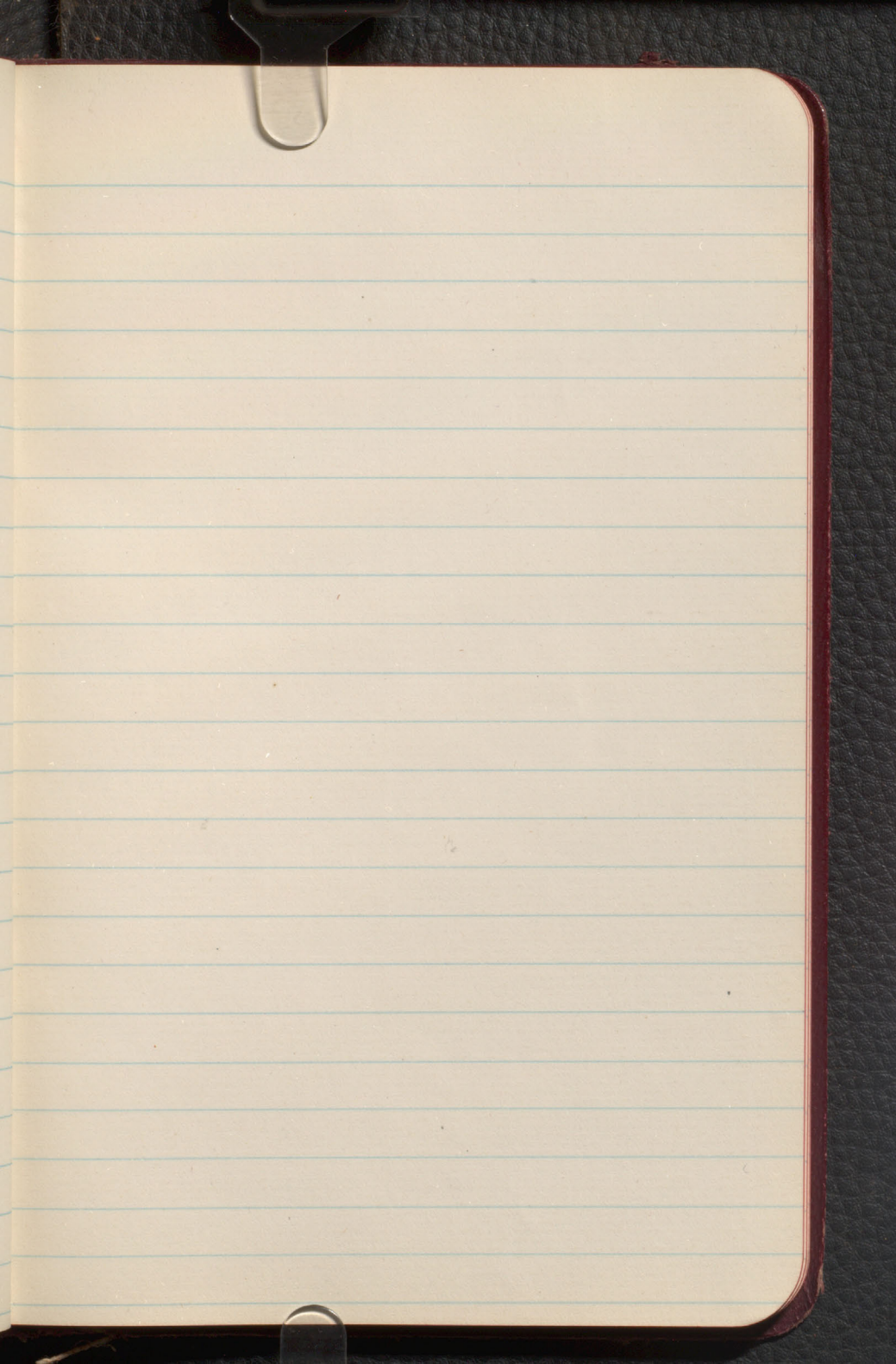


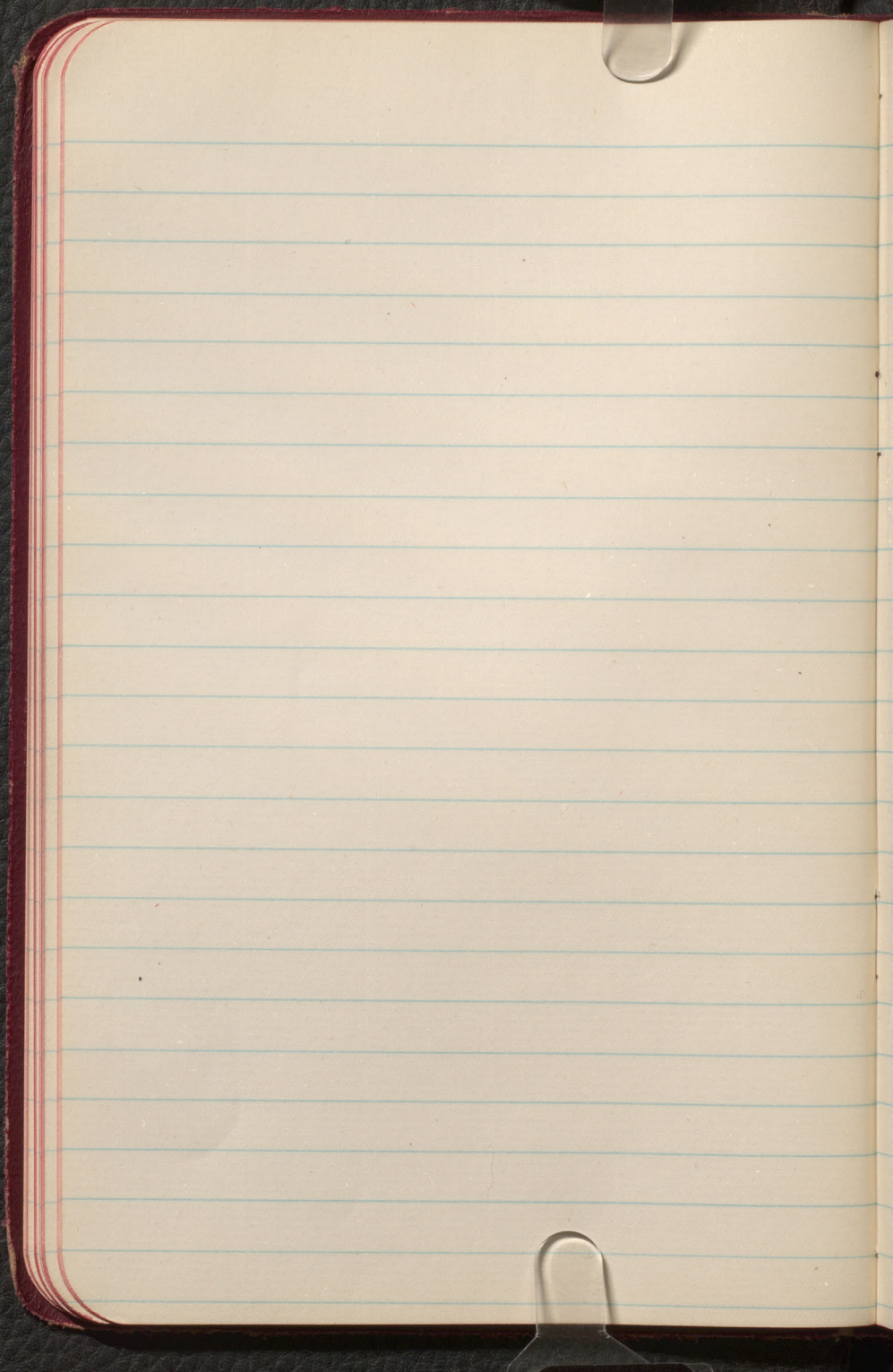
13. Oct. Breakfast at Verdun. Dinner at Carbery.
Arrive in Wrennipeg in evening. To Queens Hotel.
Beautiful day.
14. Oct., Wrennipeg. Call at Ry Affairs to inquire about
bumps on line, but find messrs McTear &
O'Searcy both out of town.
15. Oct. Wrennipeg. Cannot get away till tomorrow
night to catch Friday's steamer from Port Arthur.
16. Oct. Finish business in Wrennipeg, visit Historical
& Scientific Soc. rooms. Call at Fortin's.
Take train at 6:20 P.M. for Port Arthur.

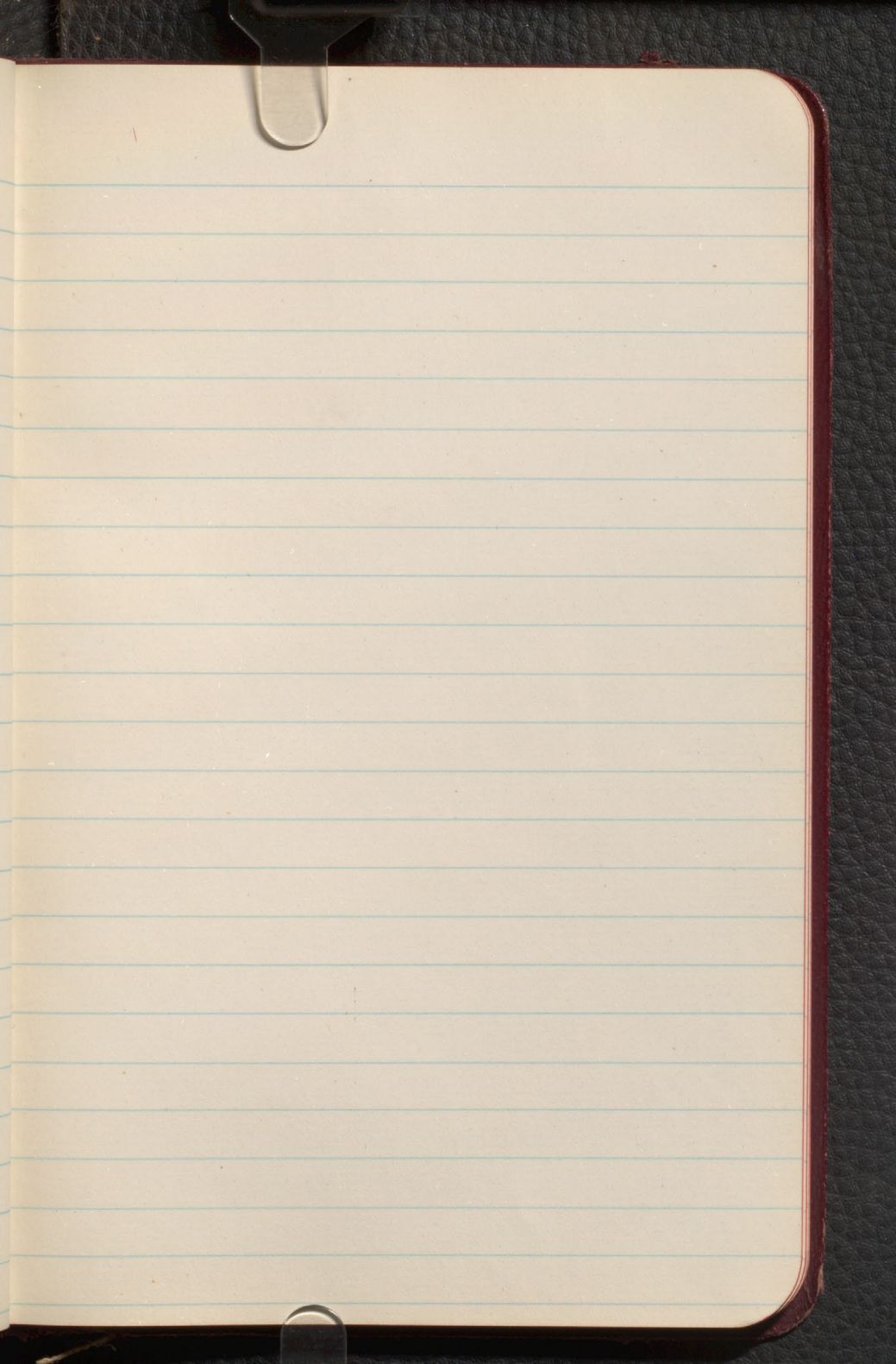


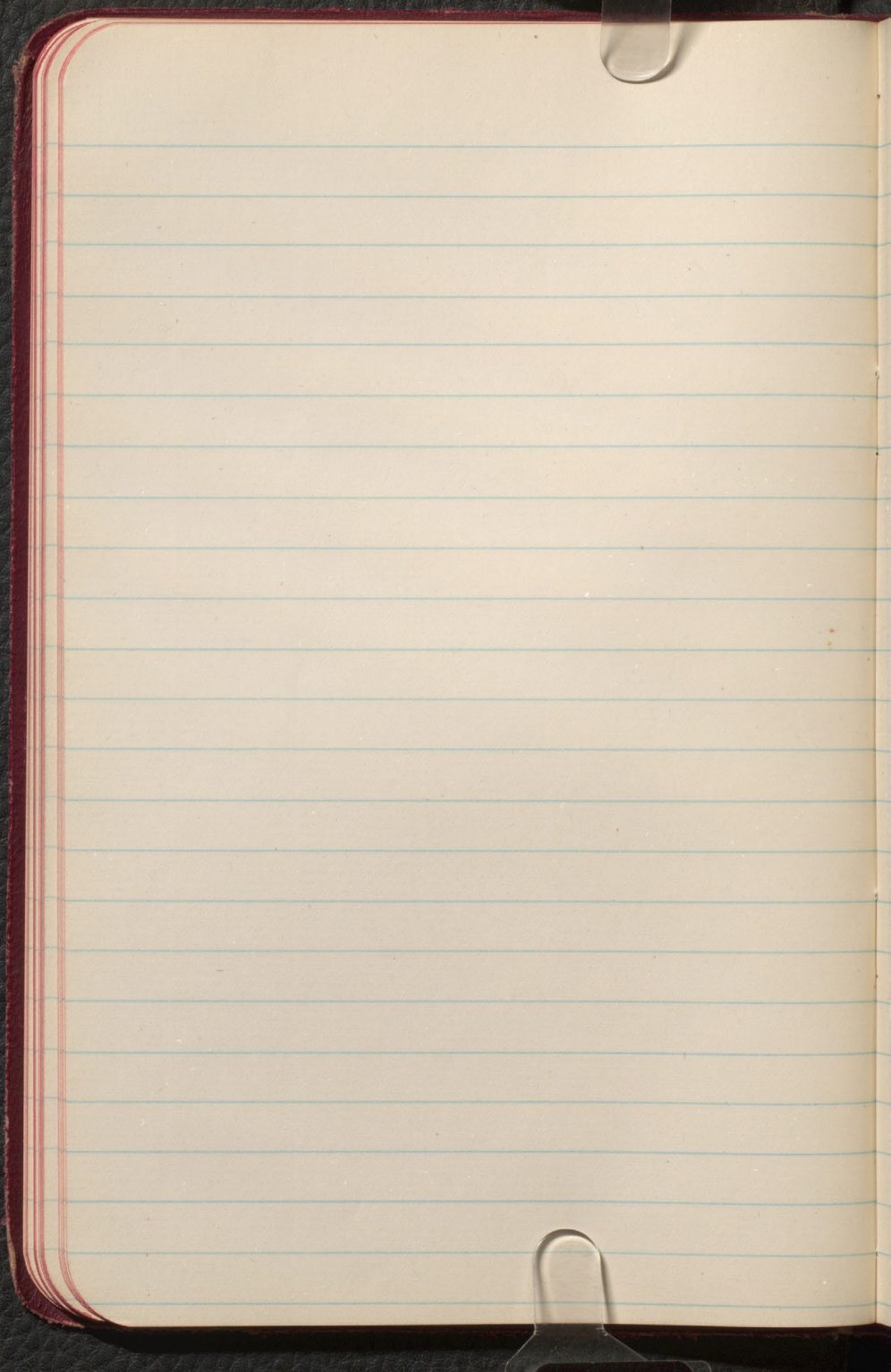


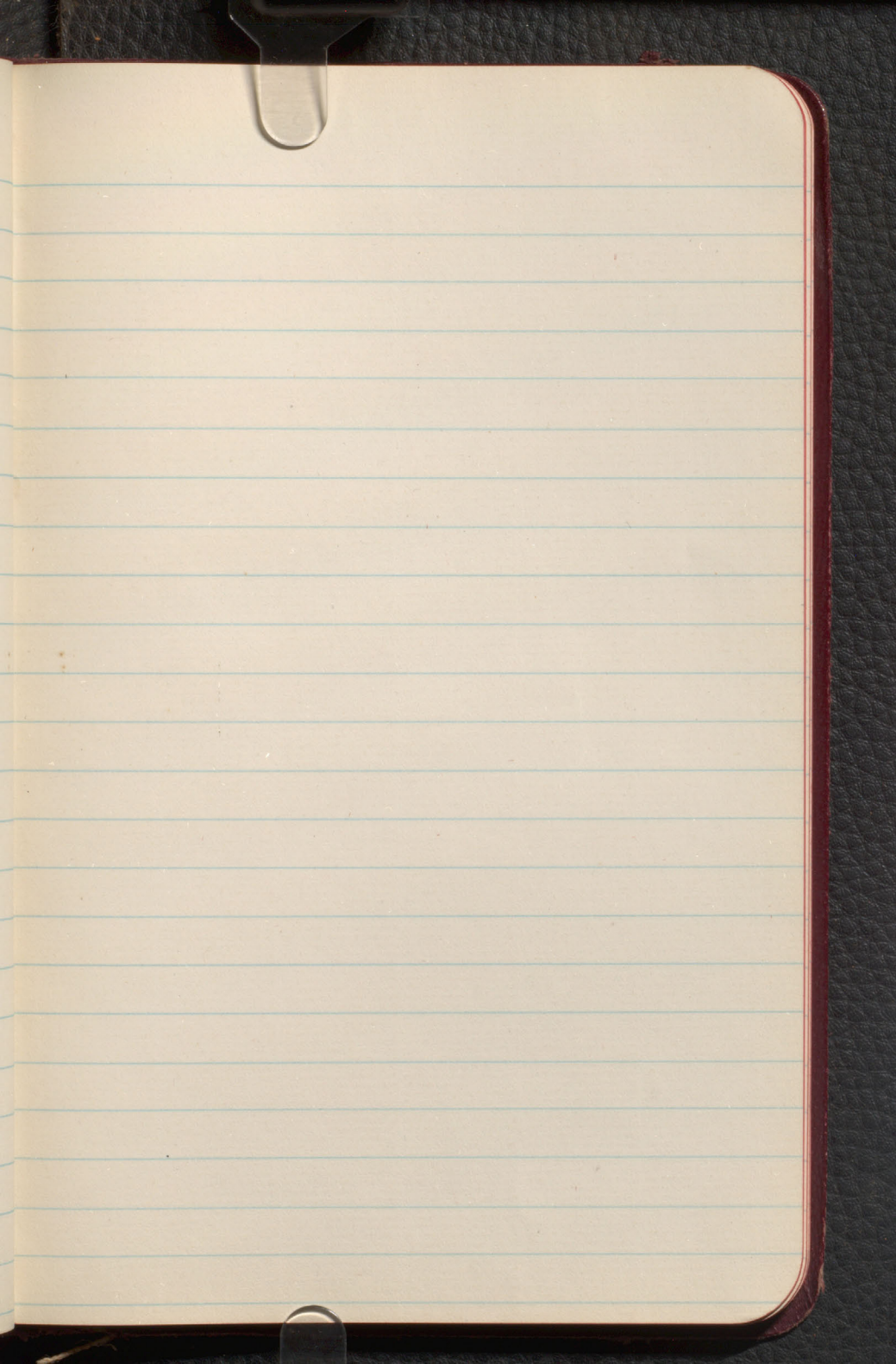


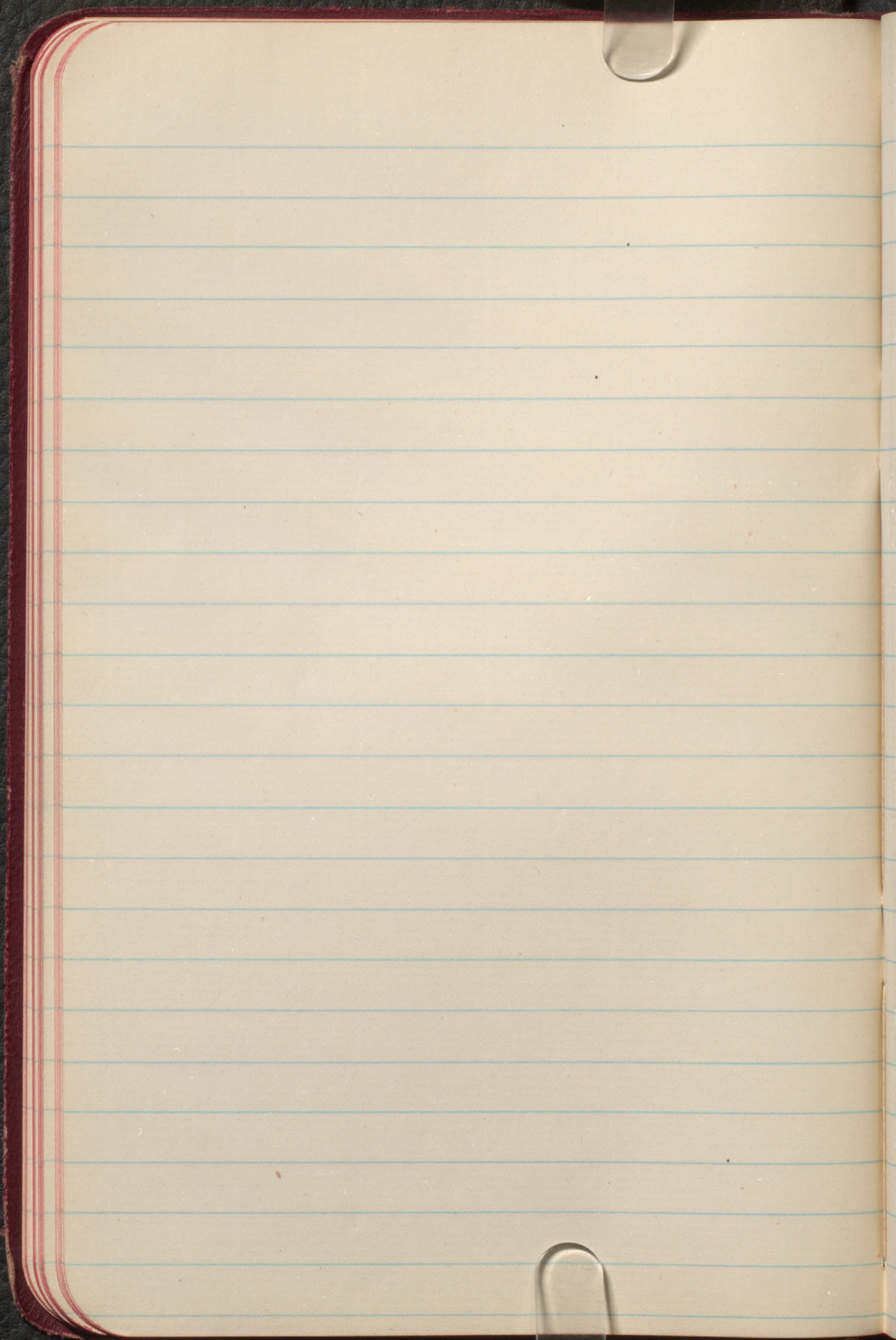


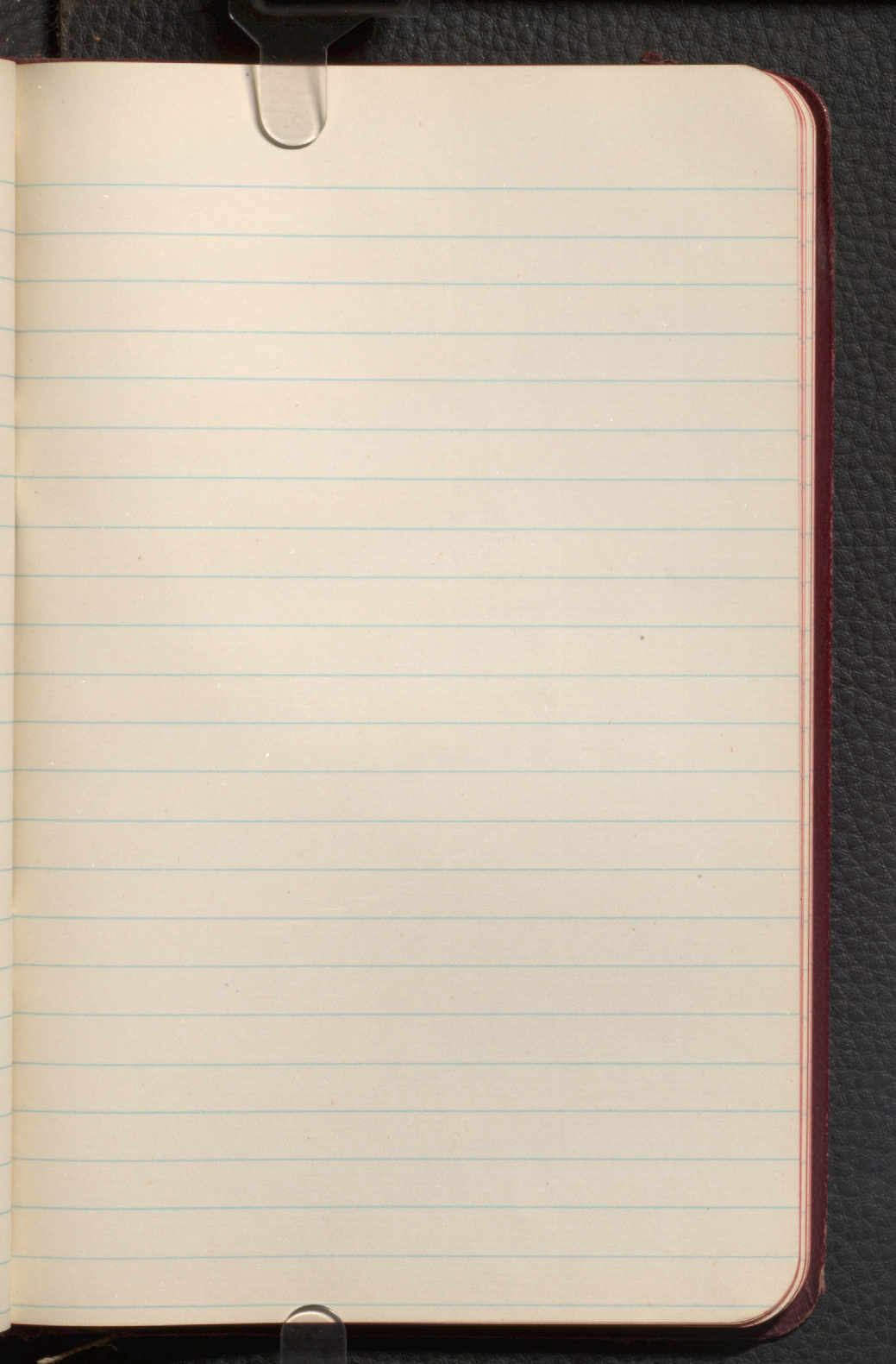


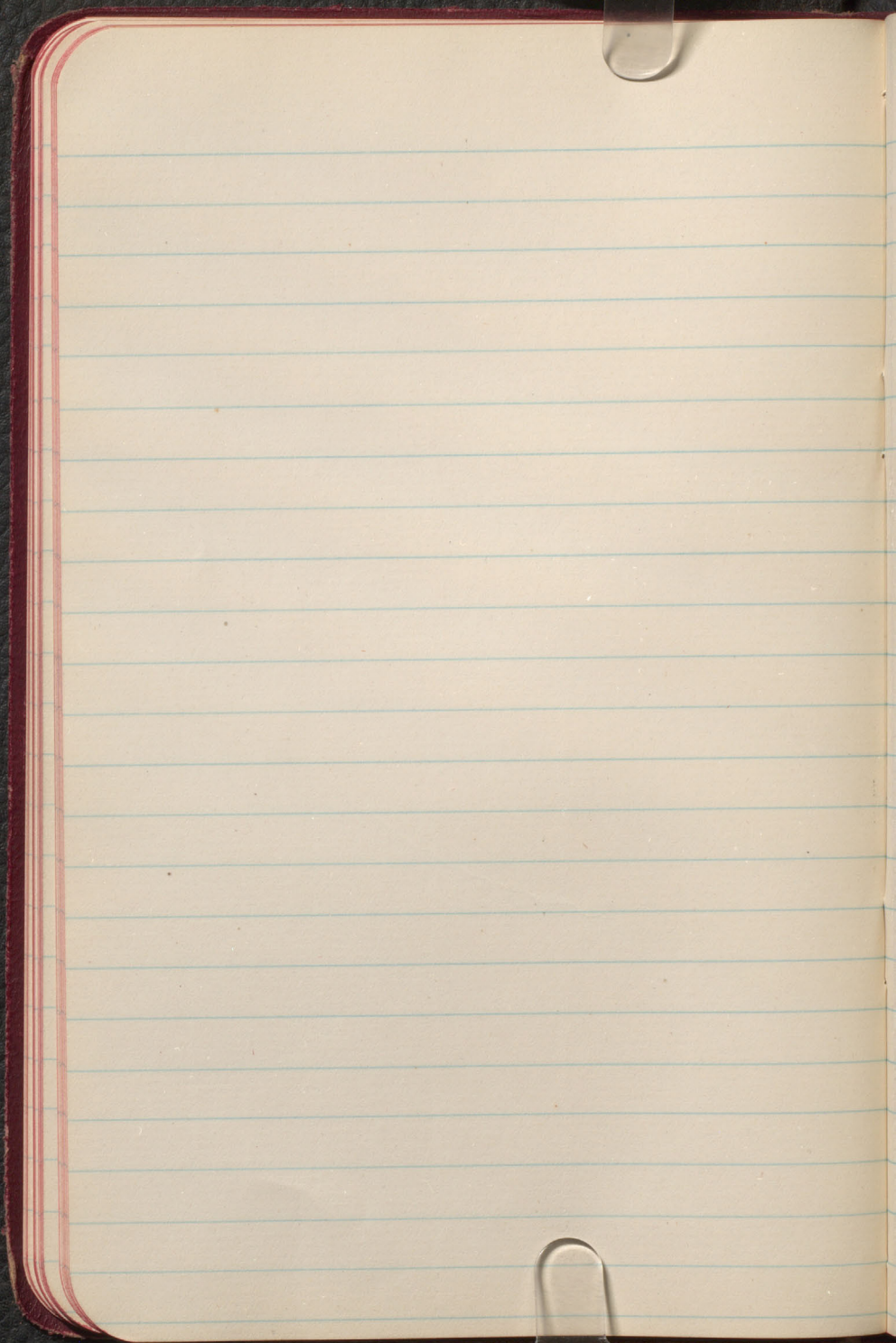


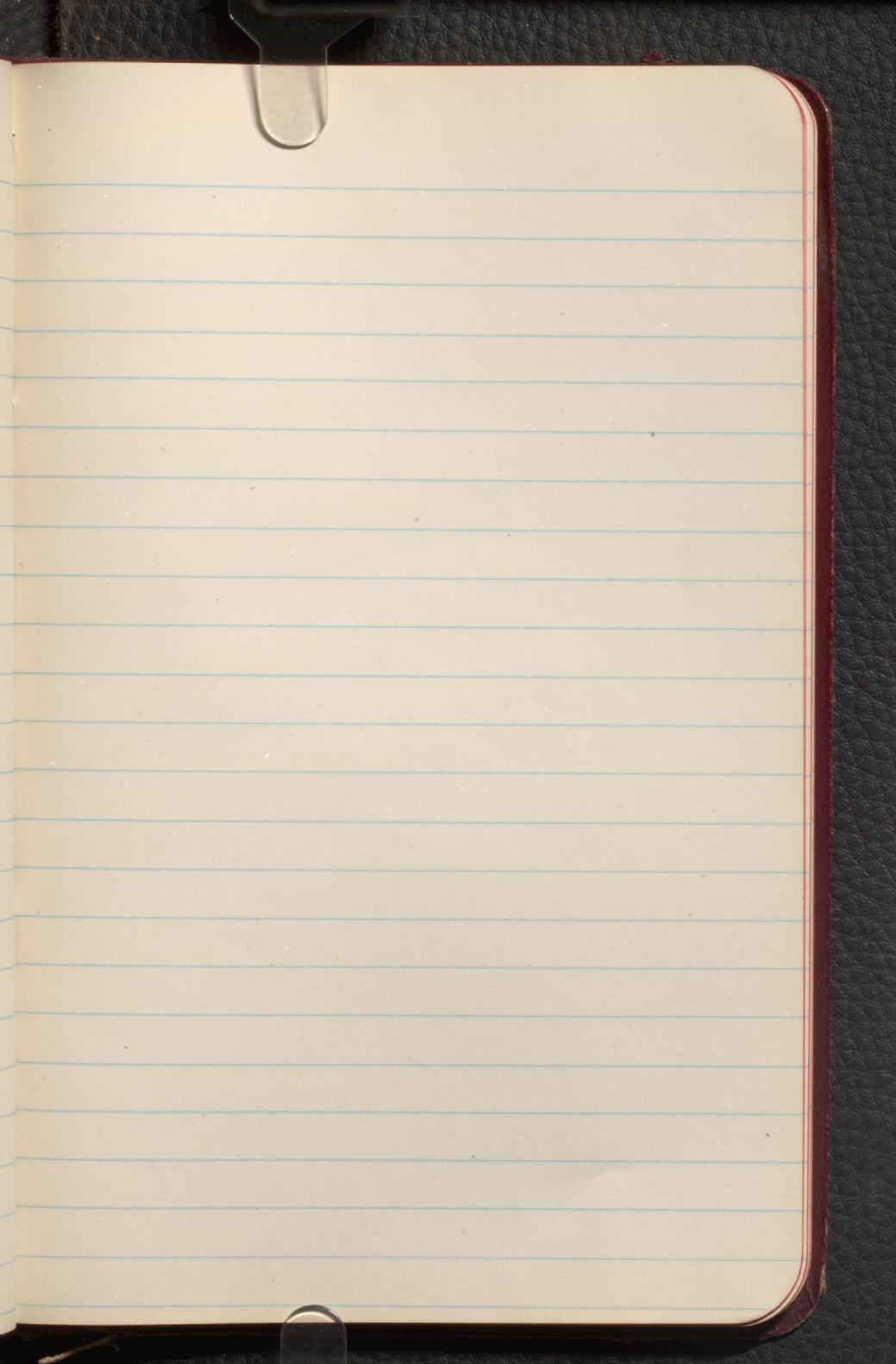


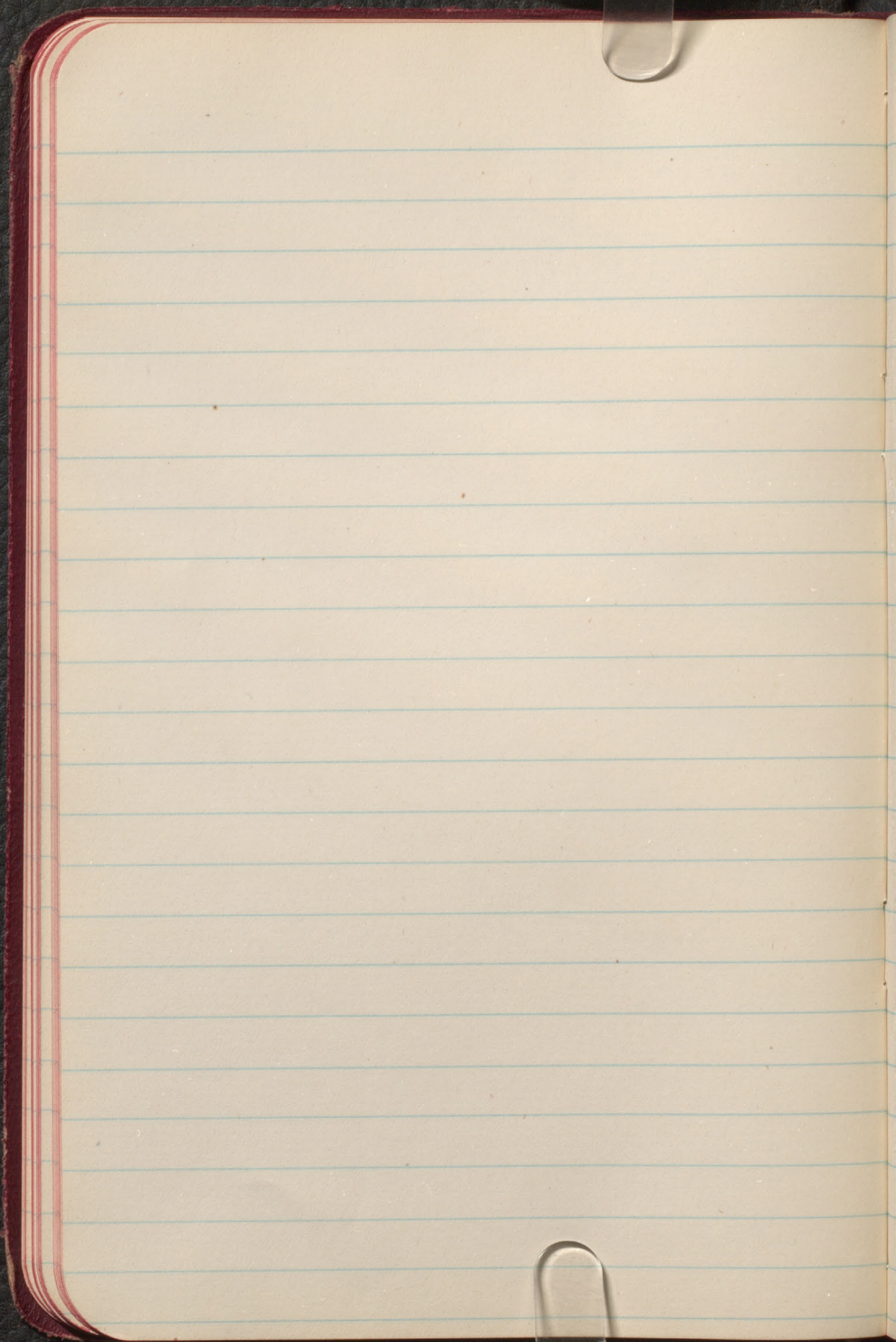


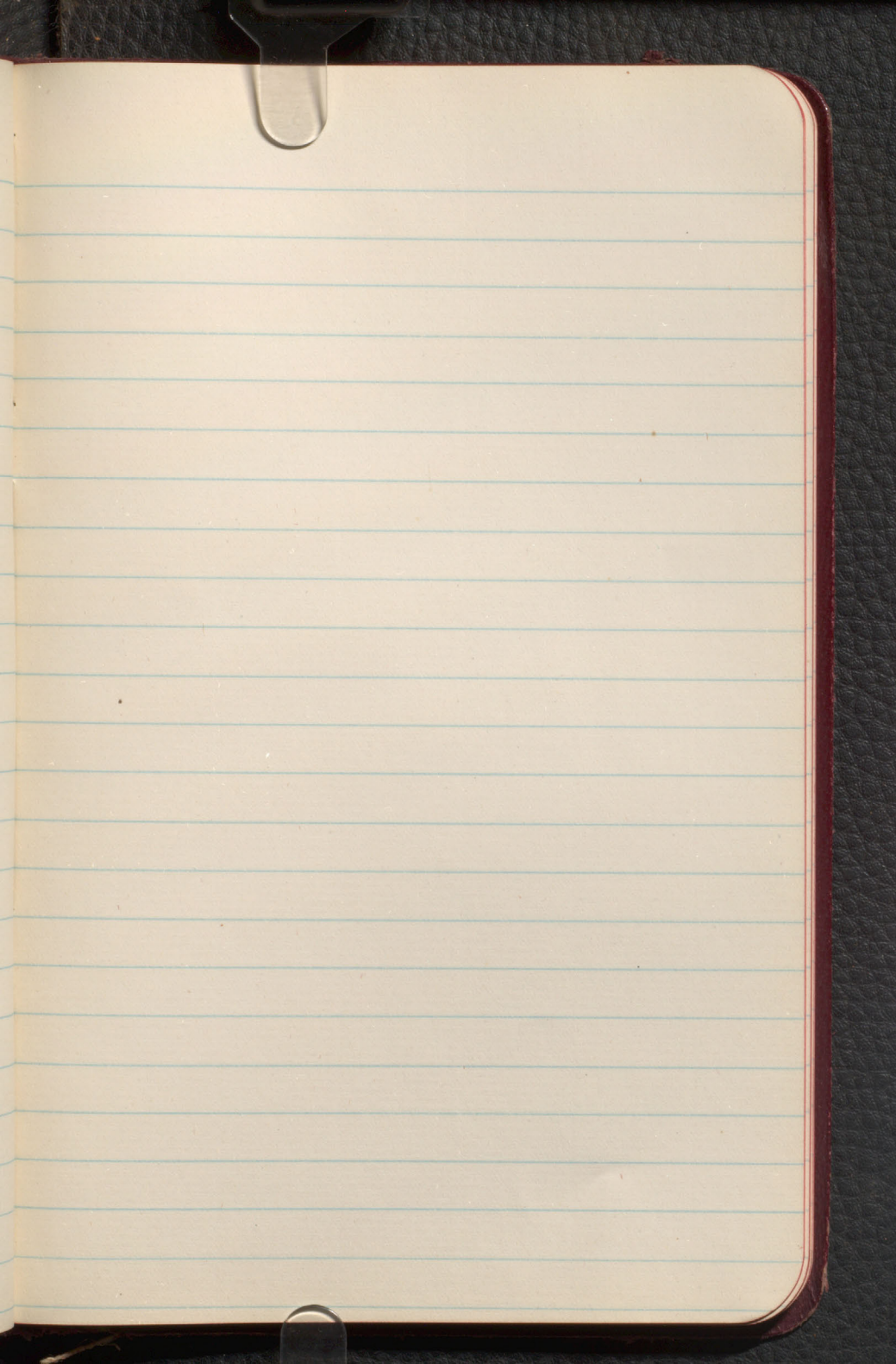


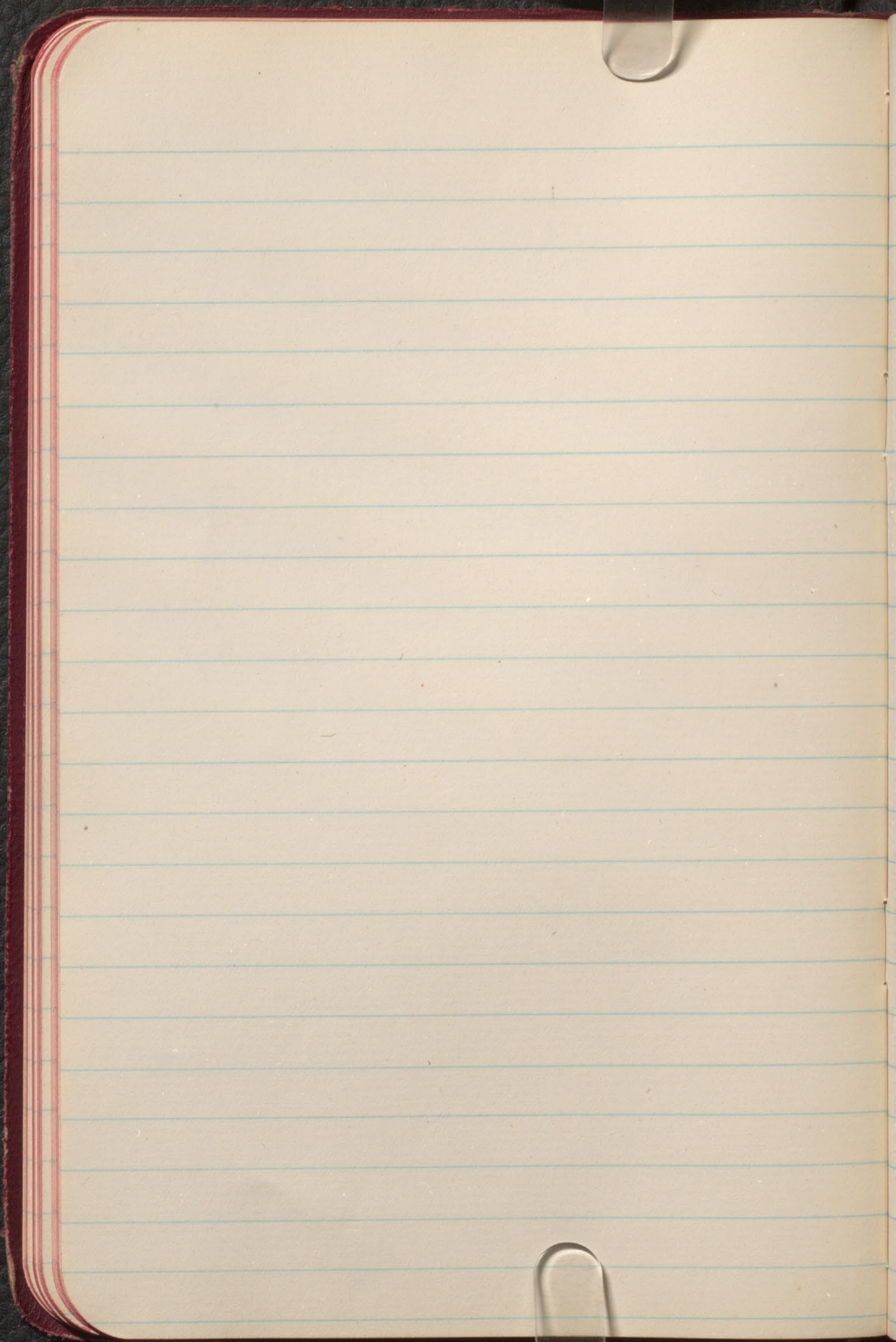


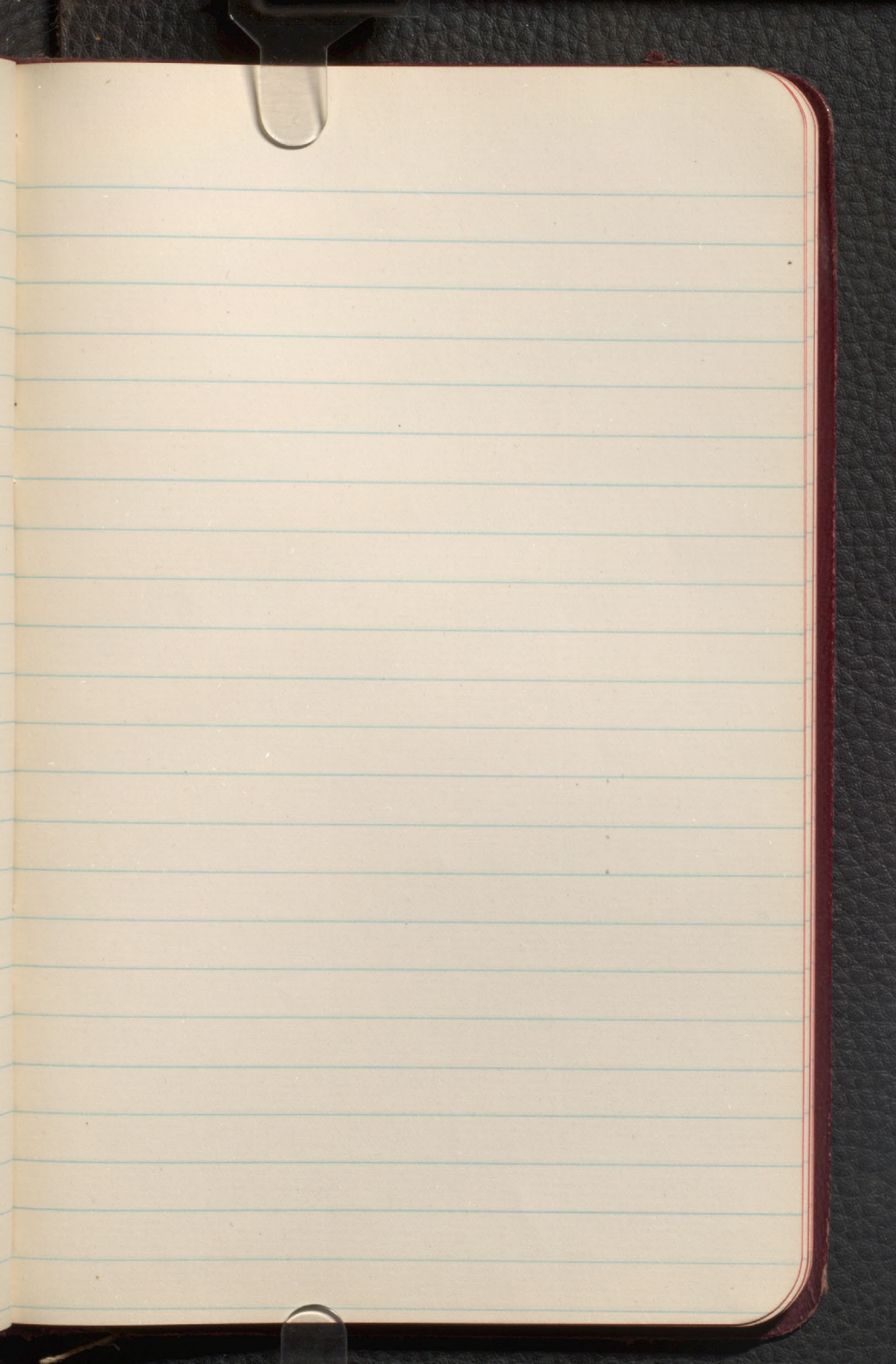


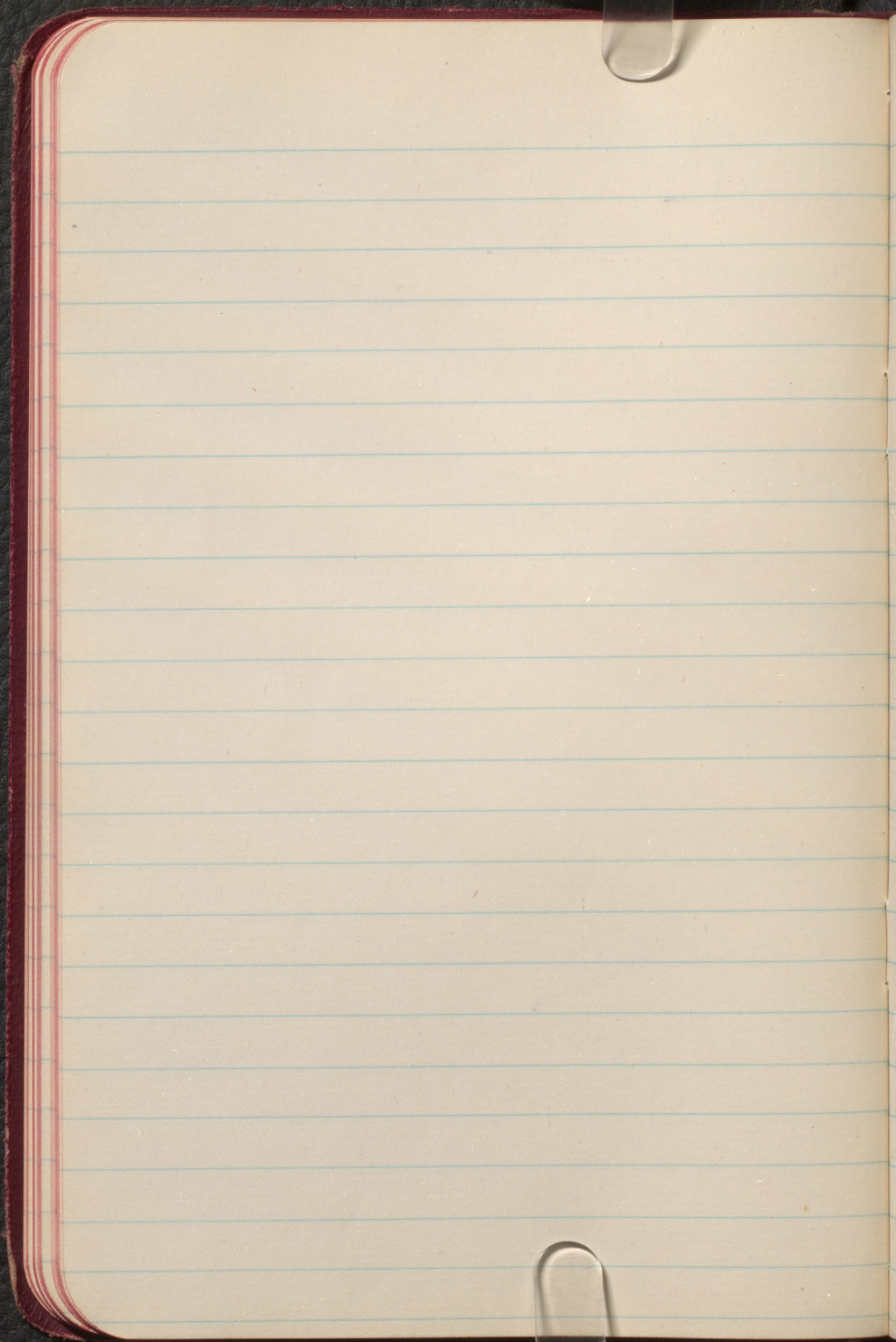


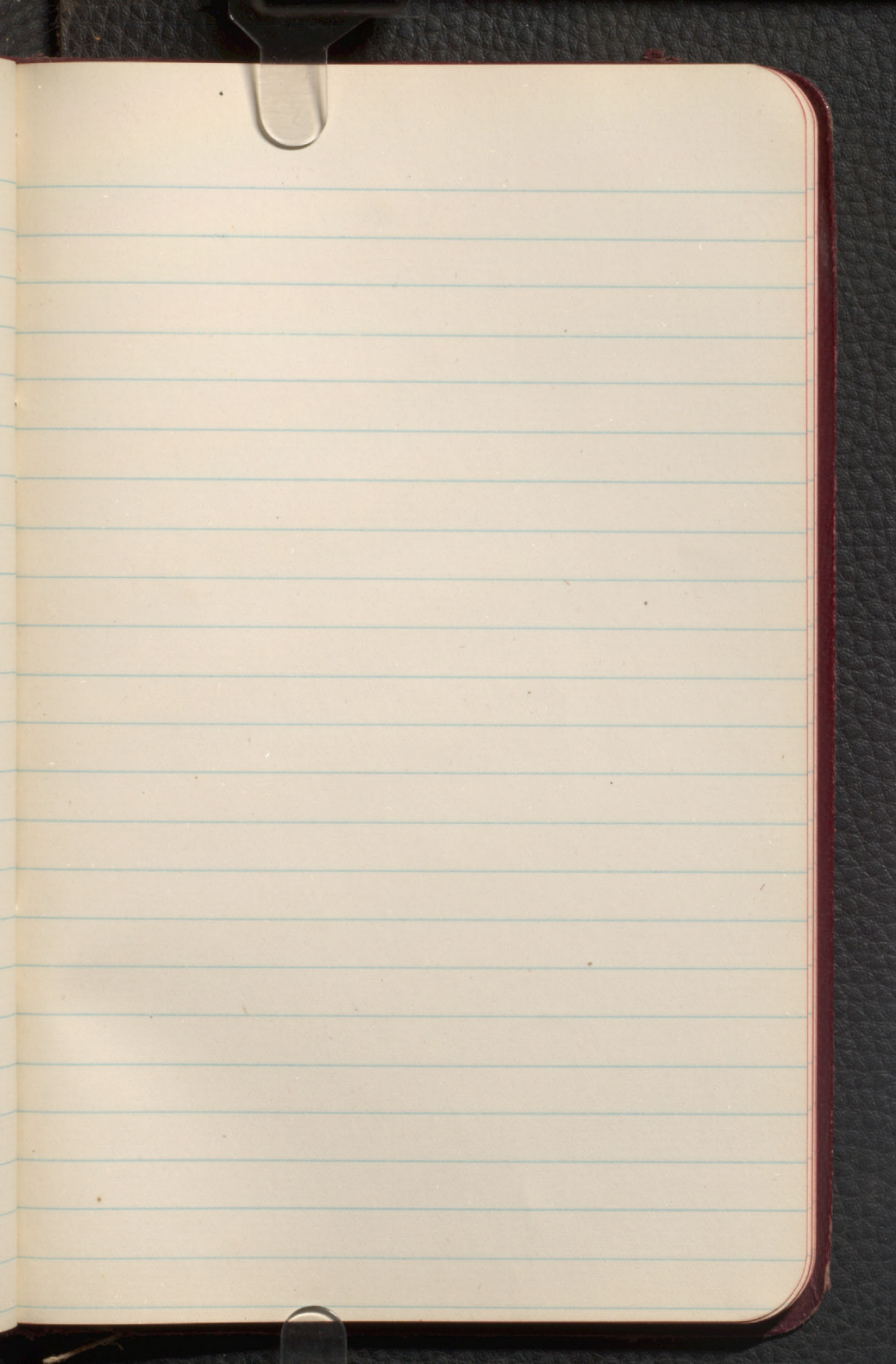


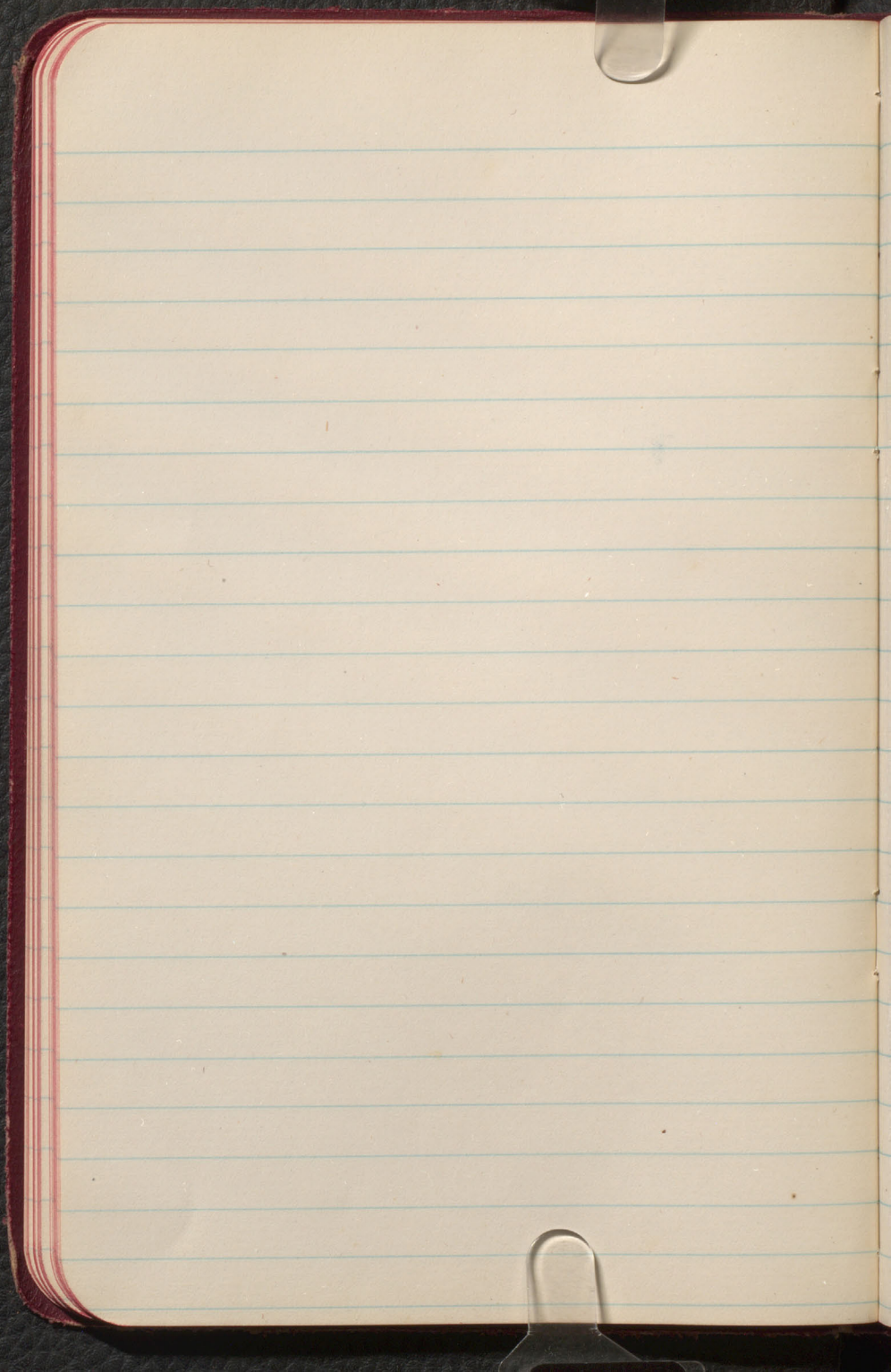


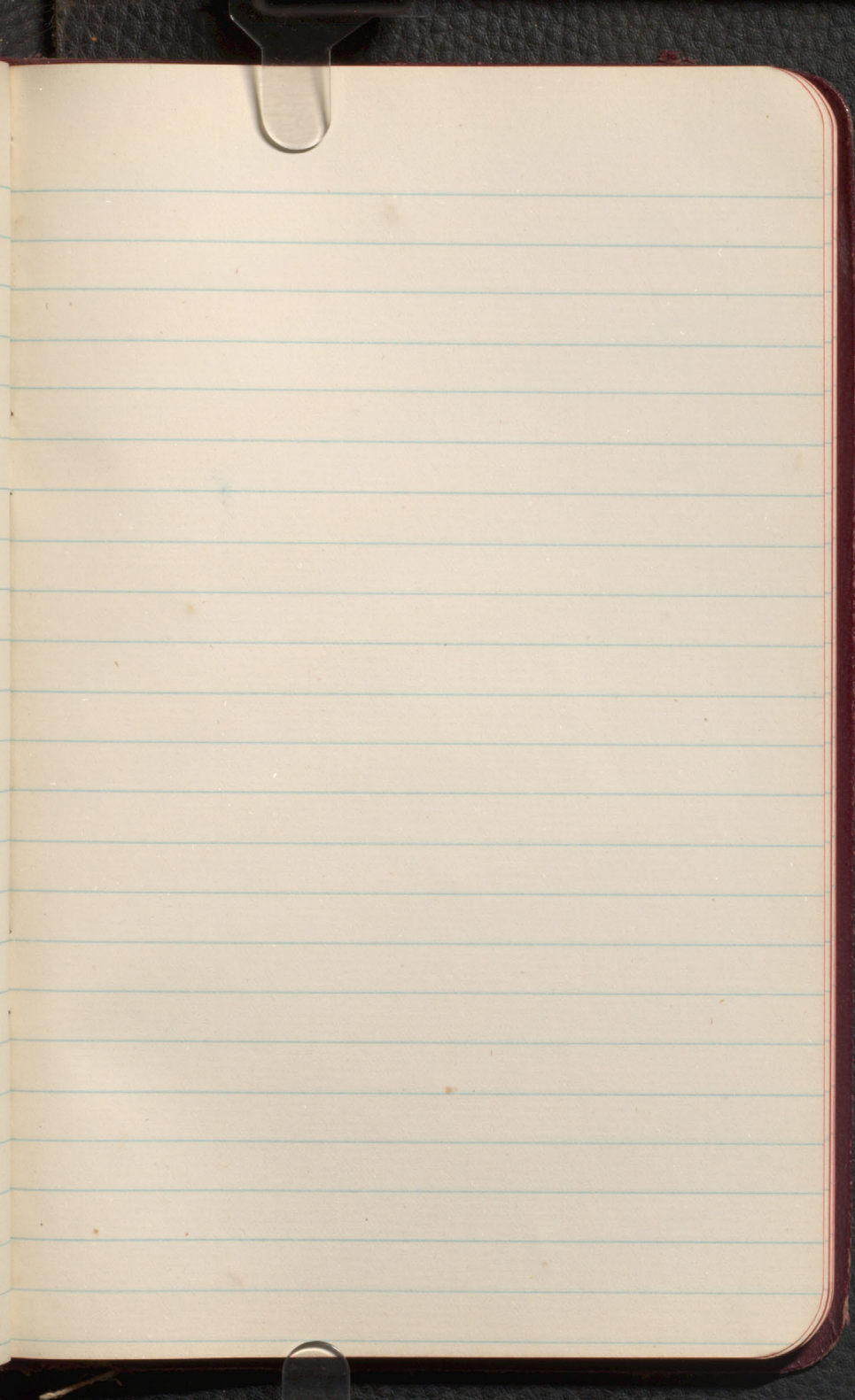


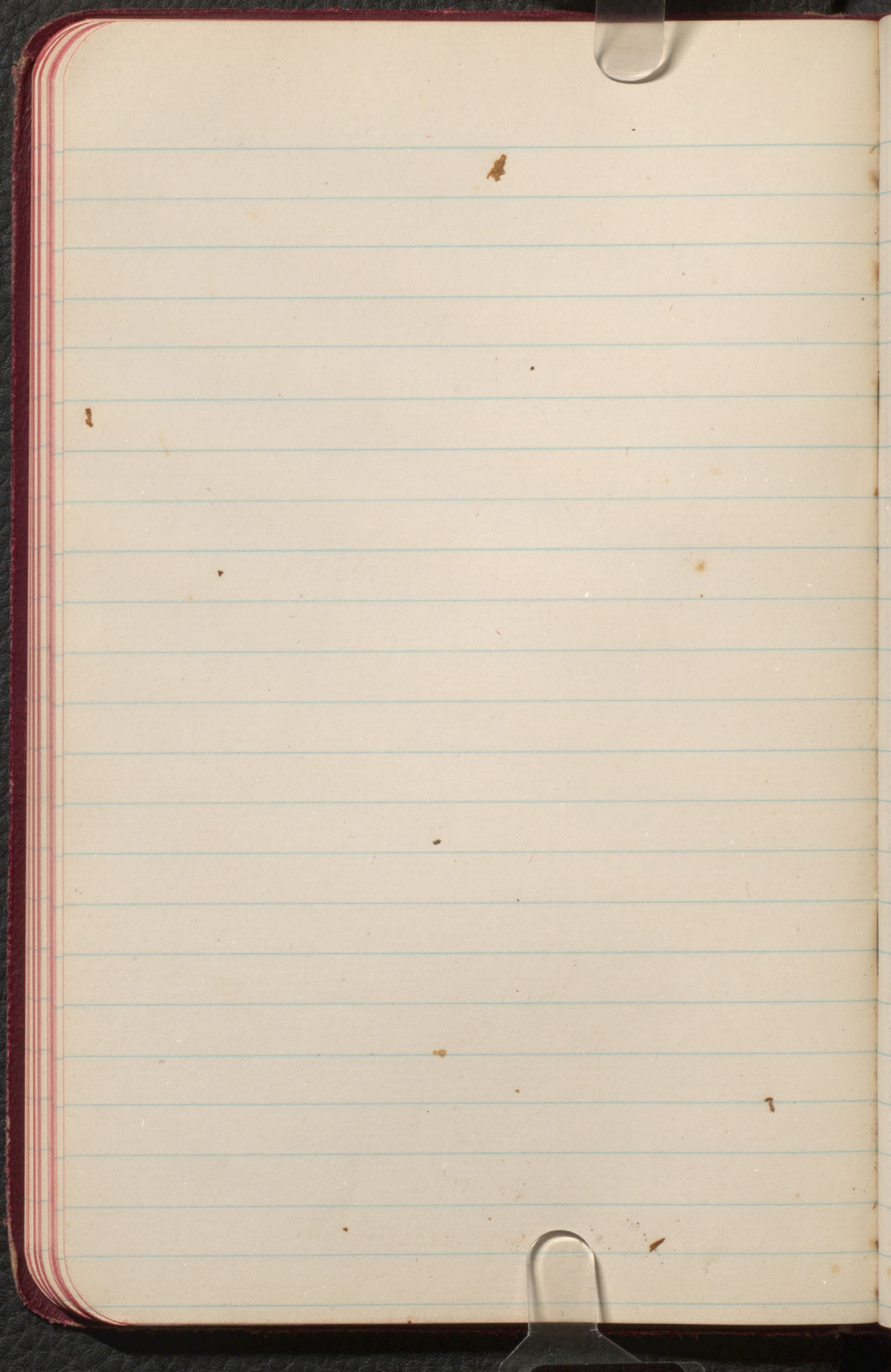


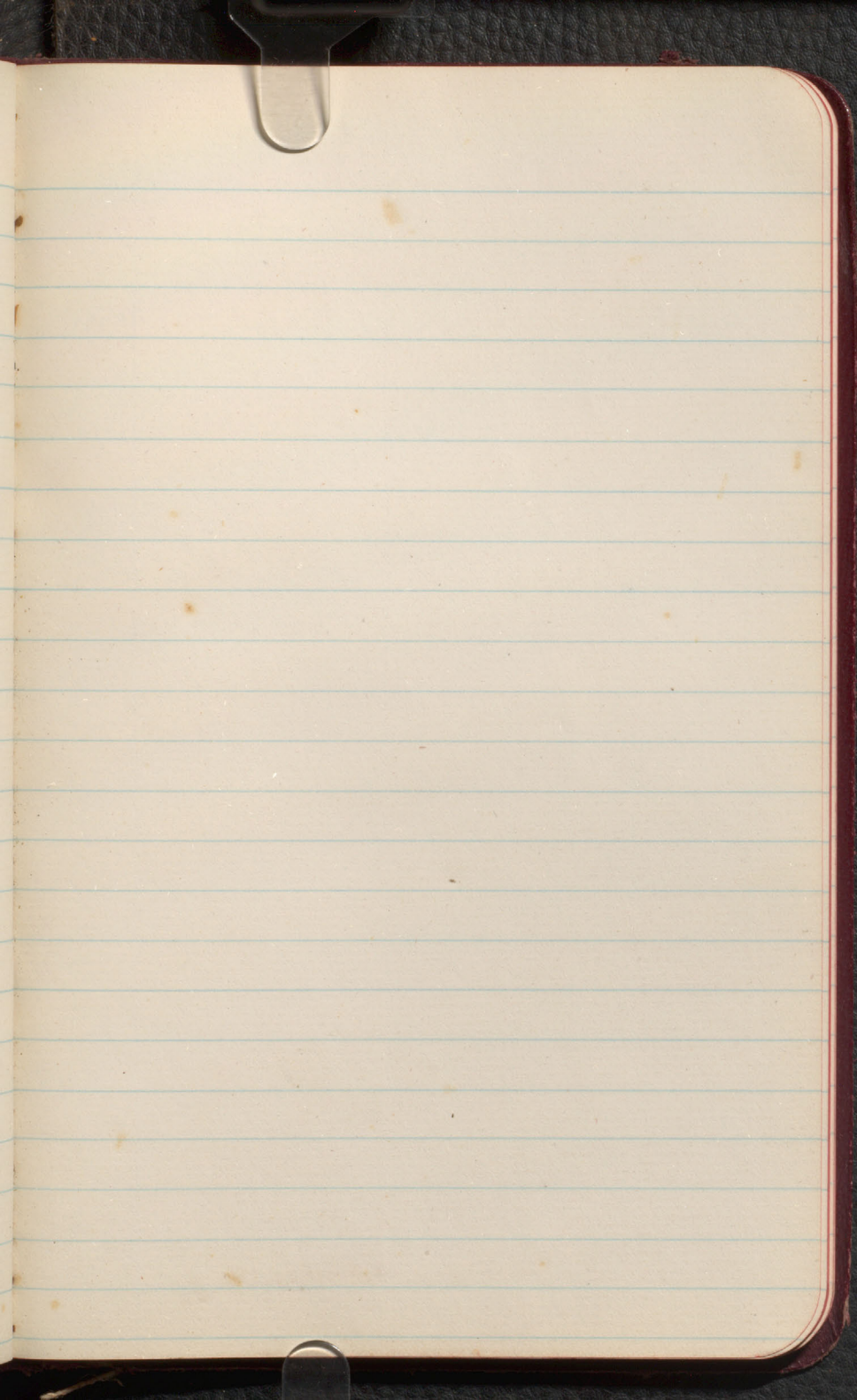


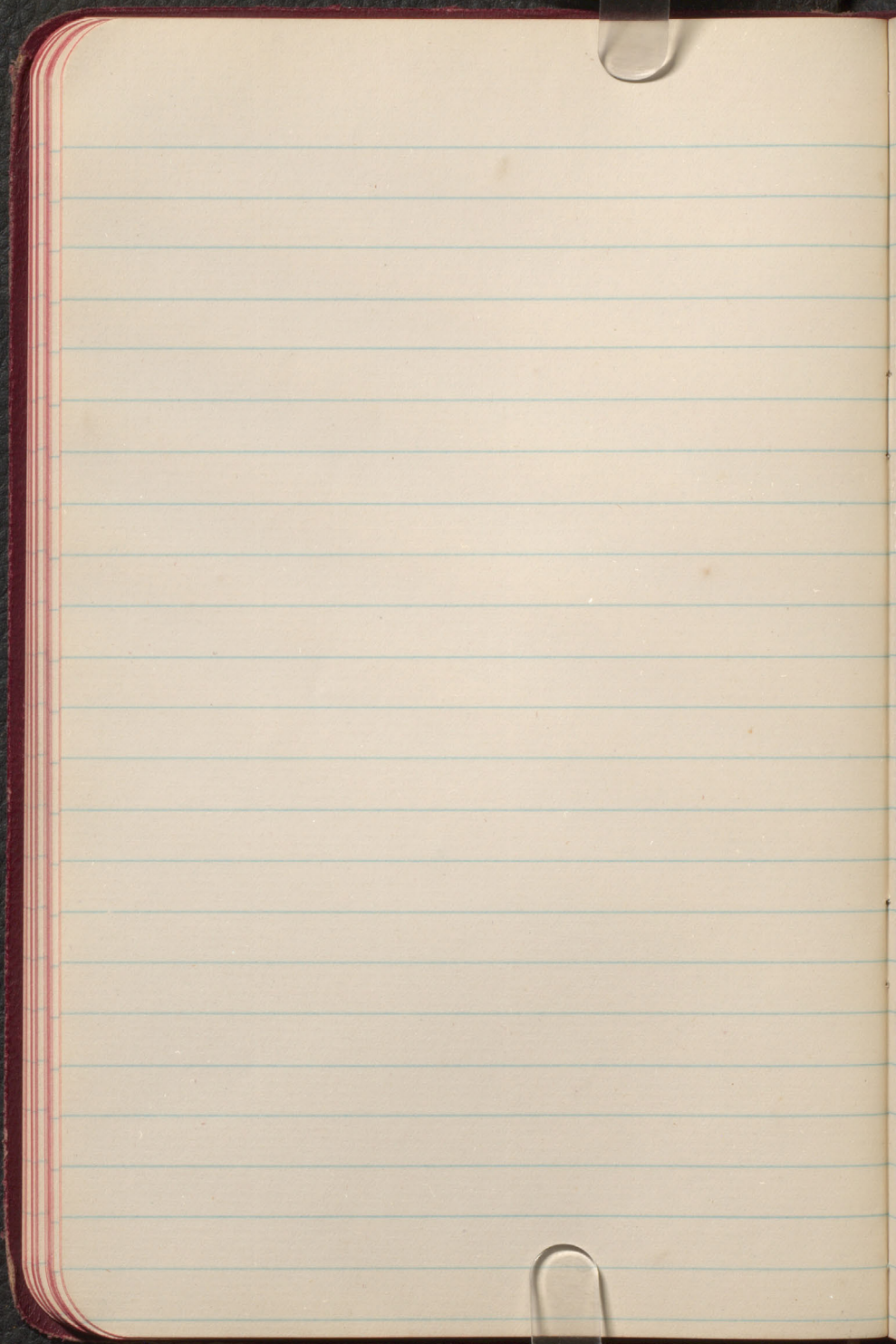


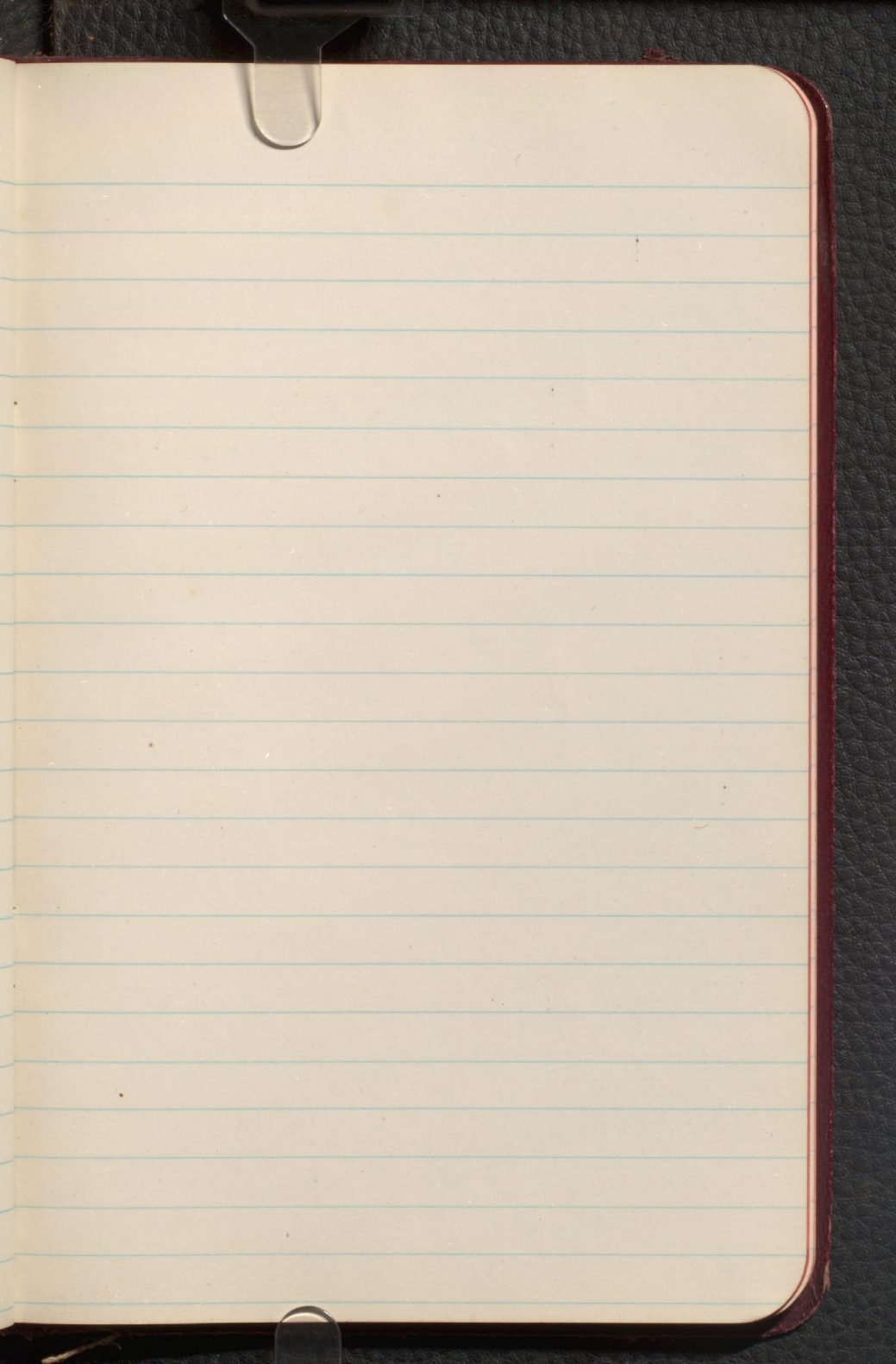


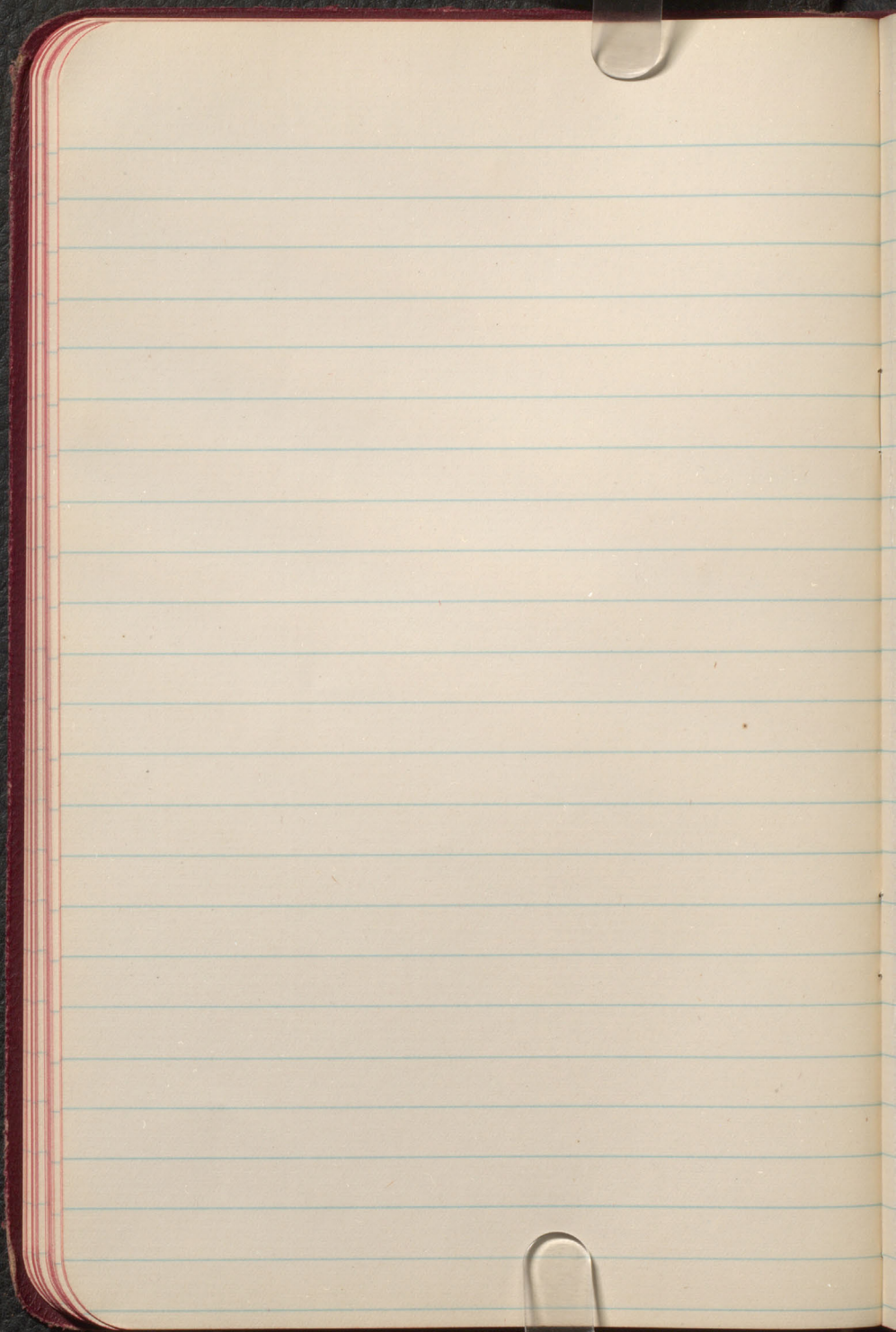


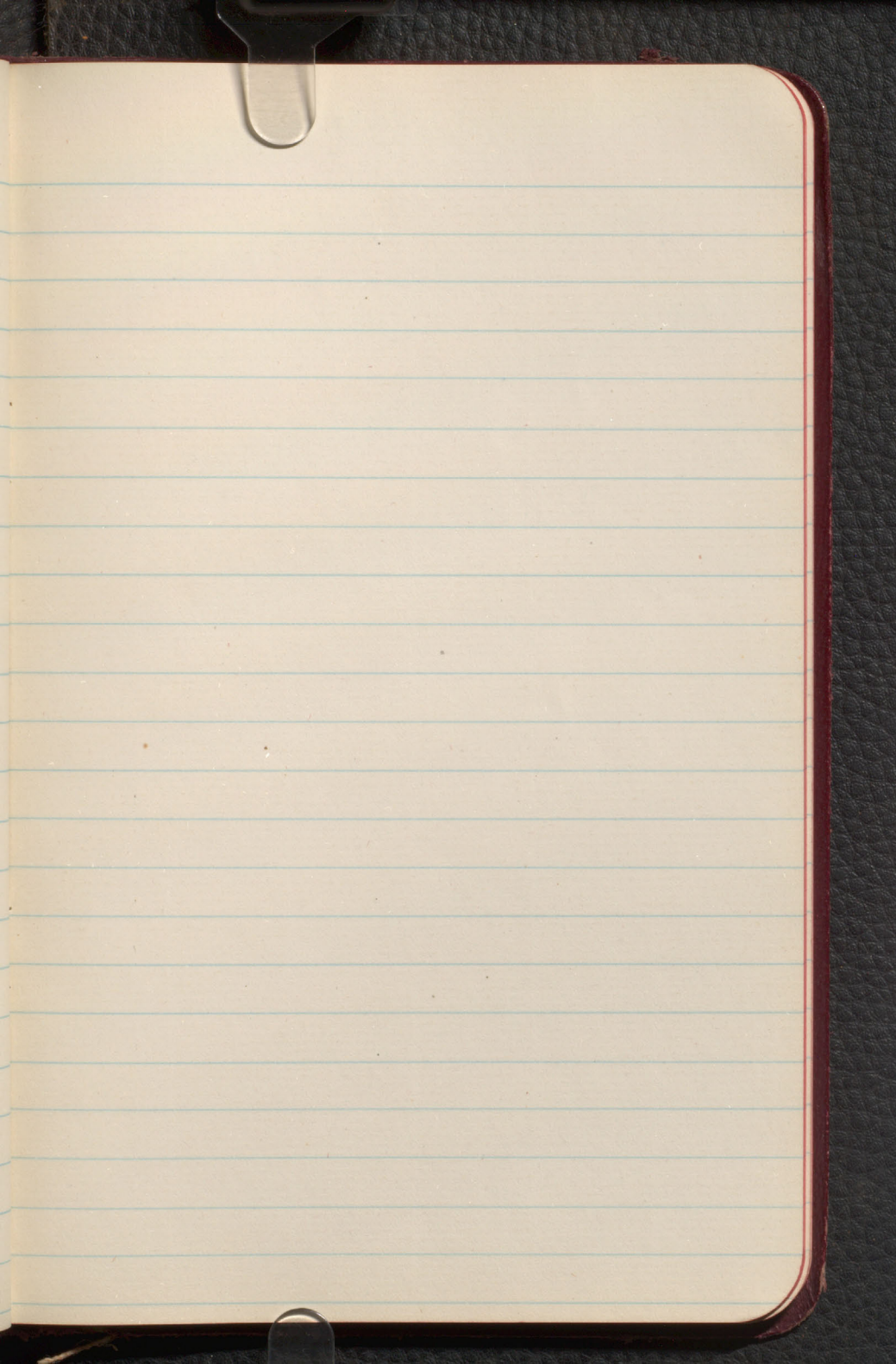


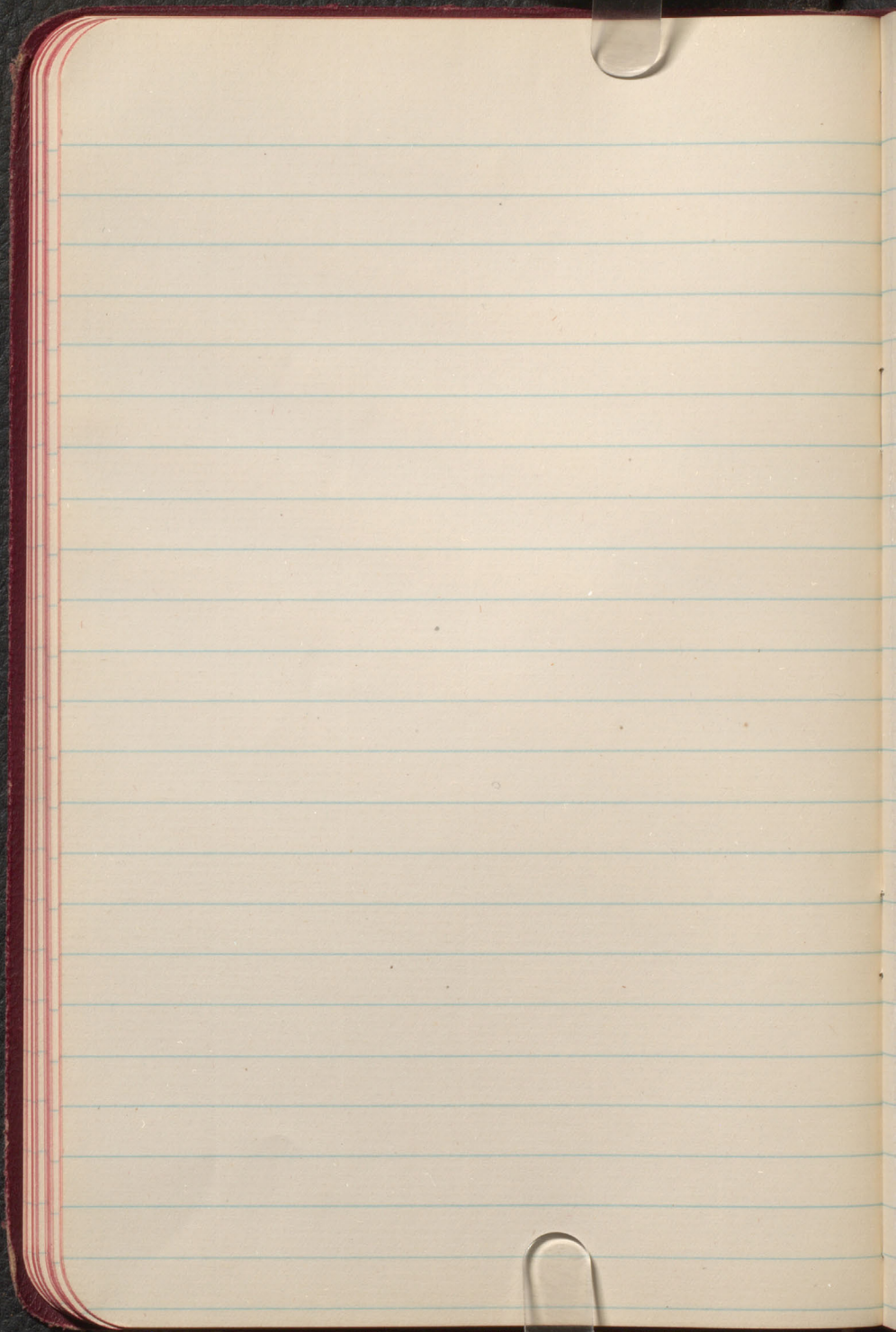


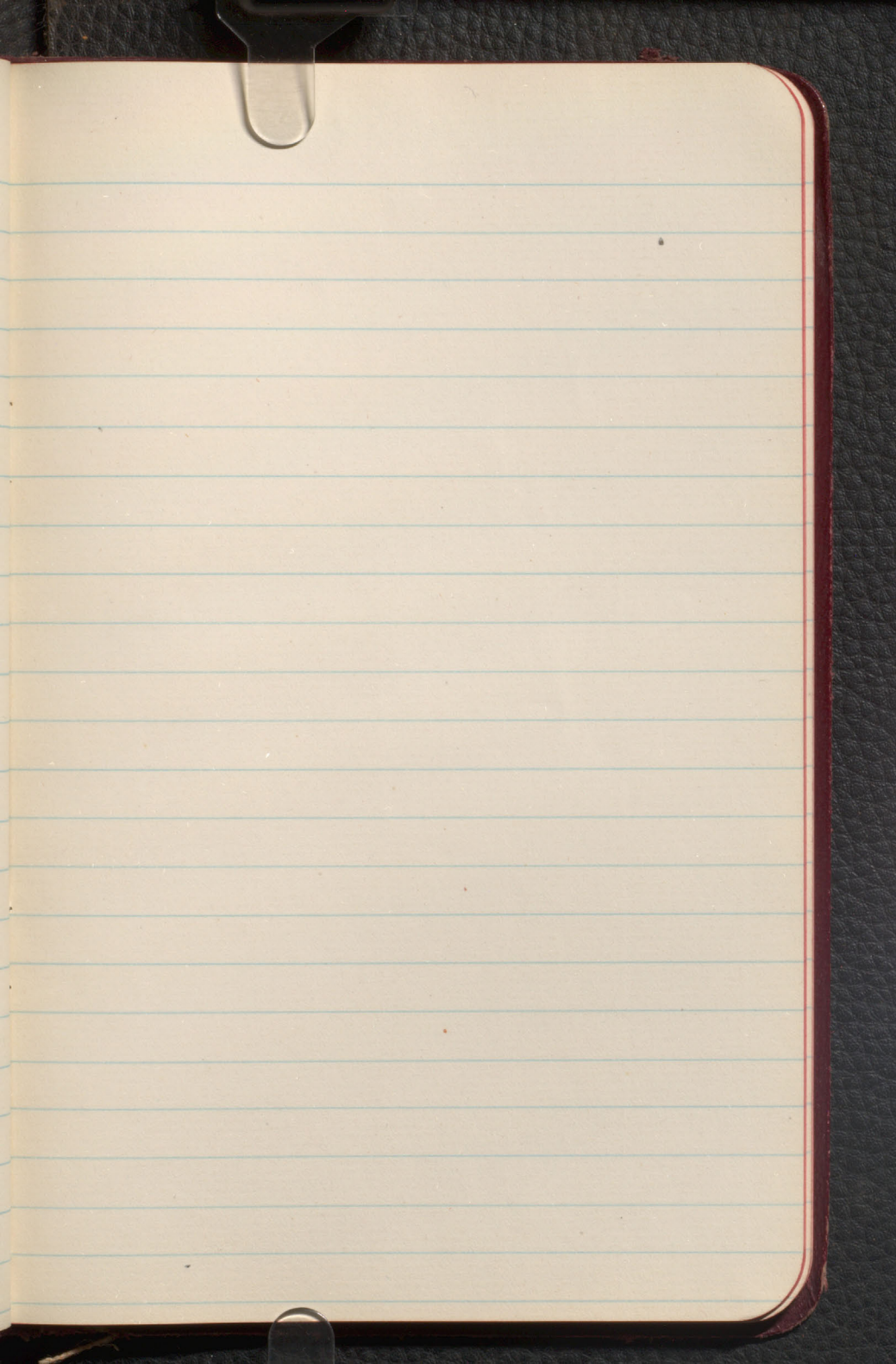


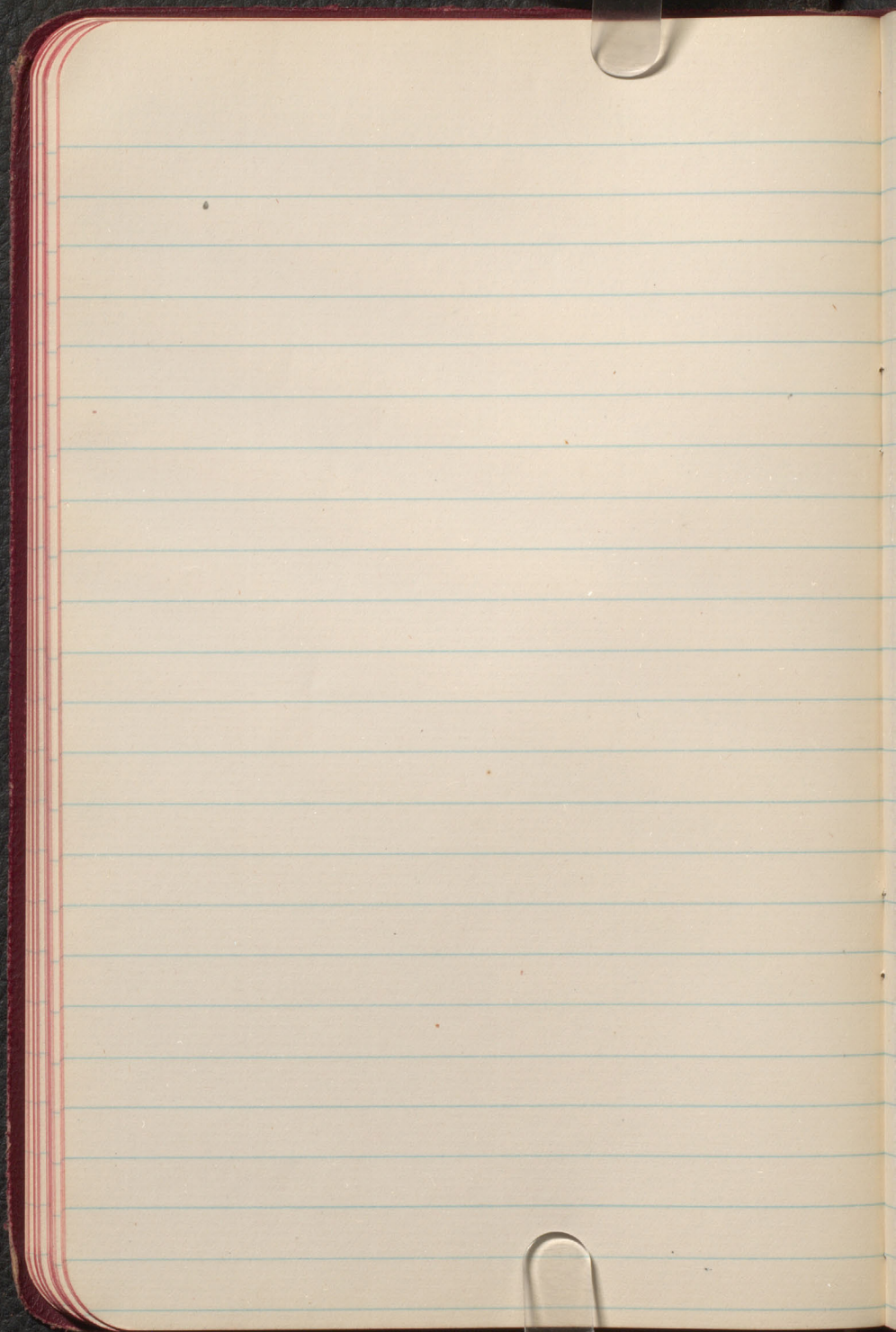


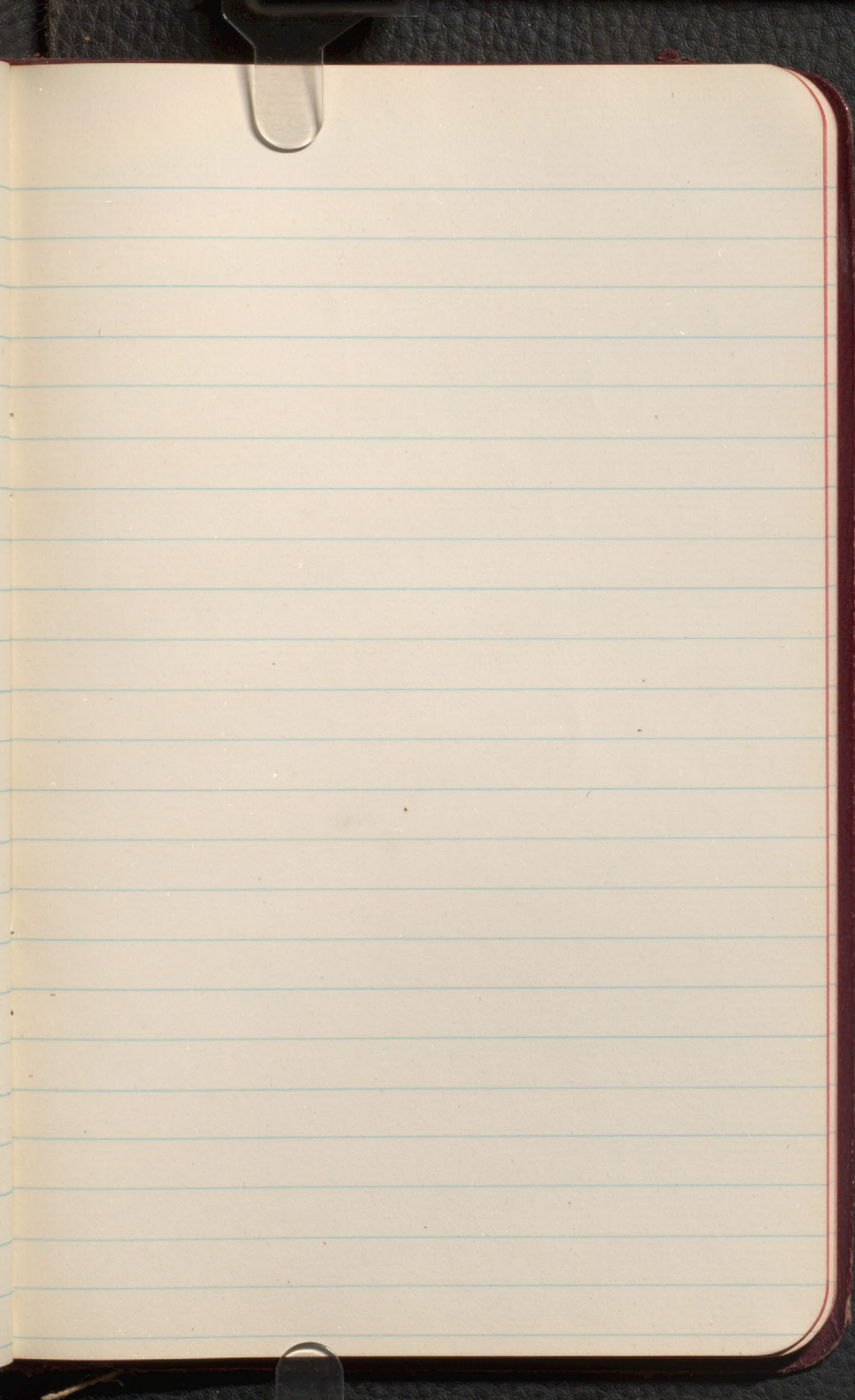


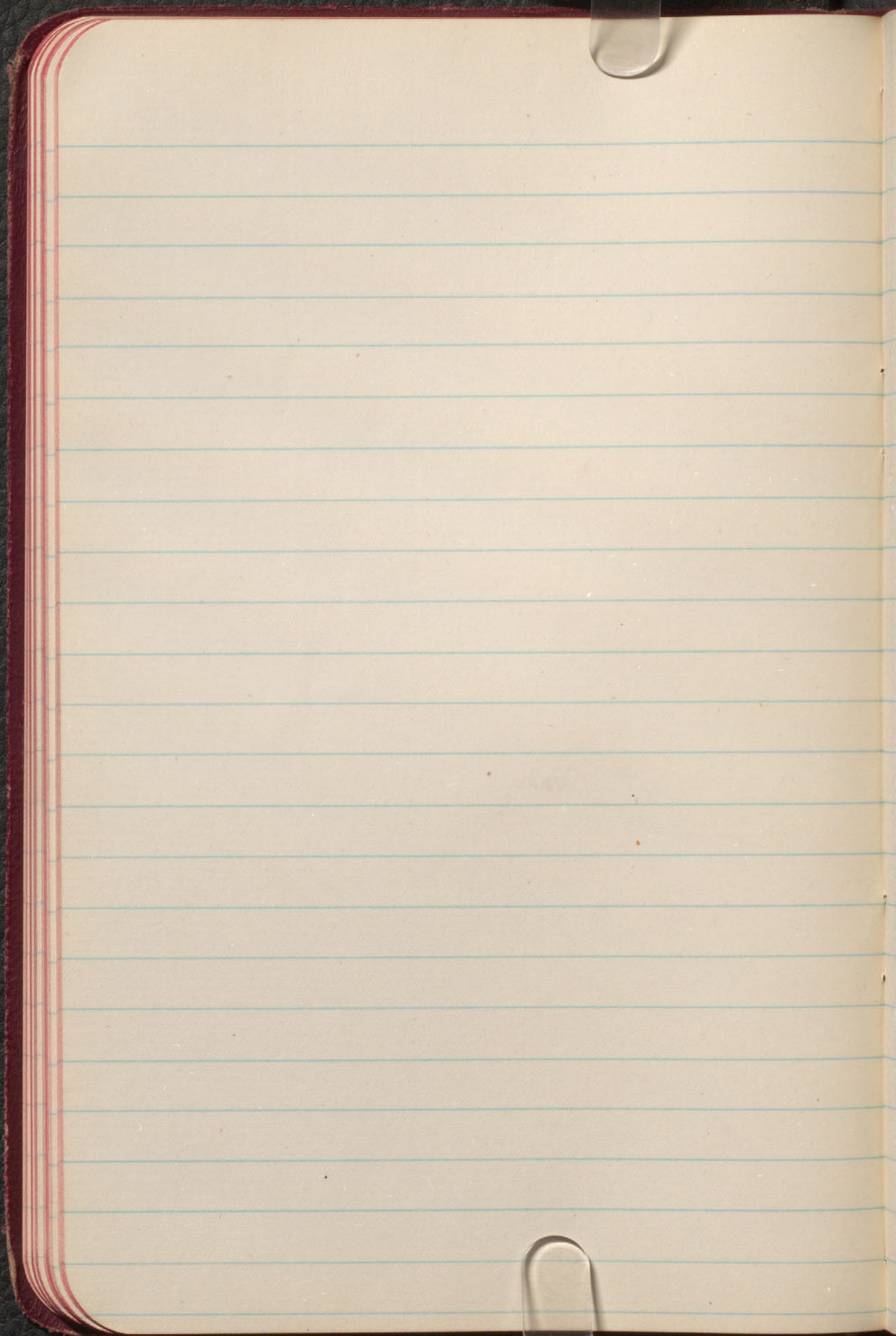


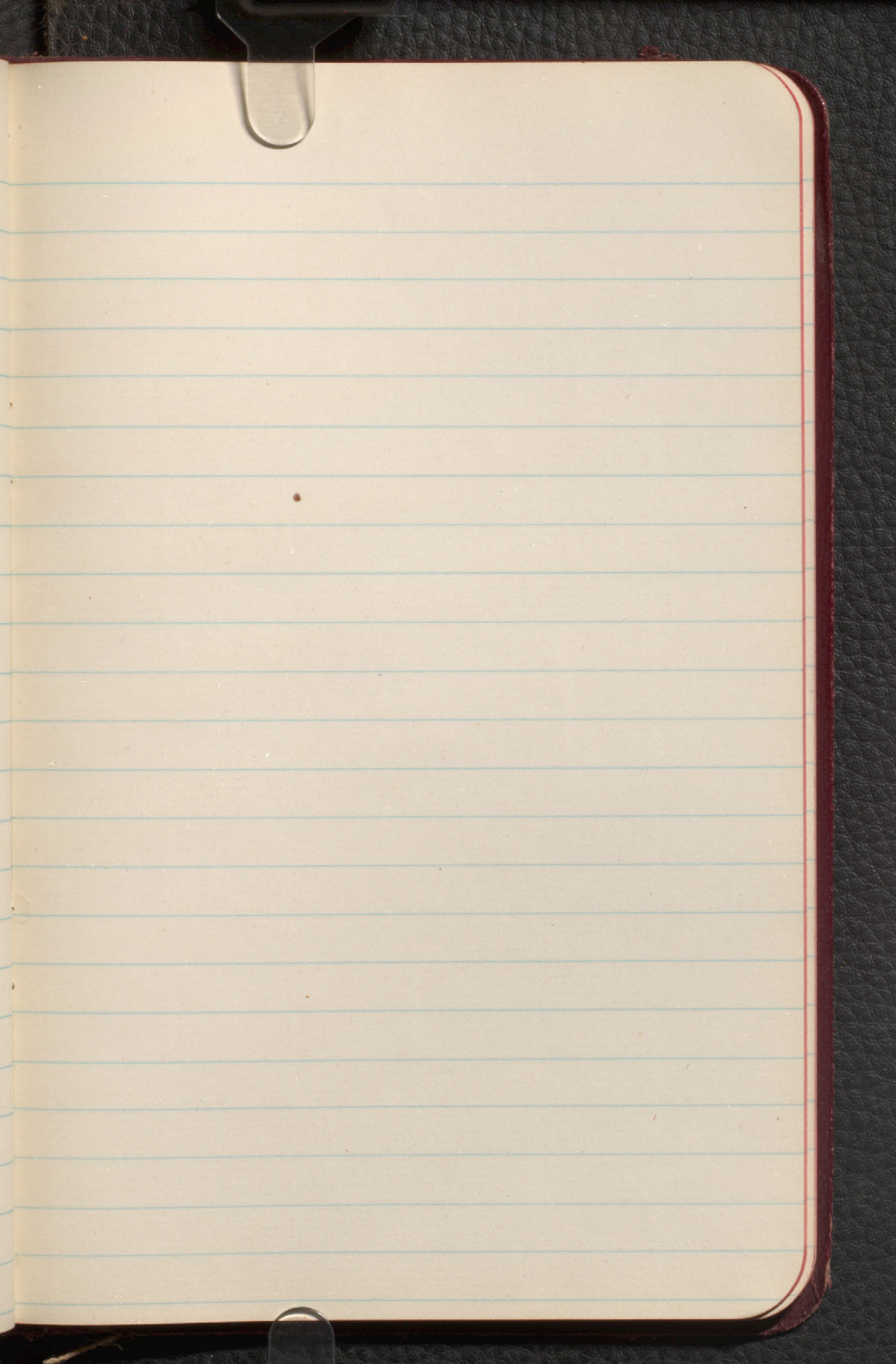


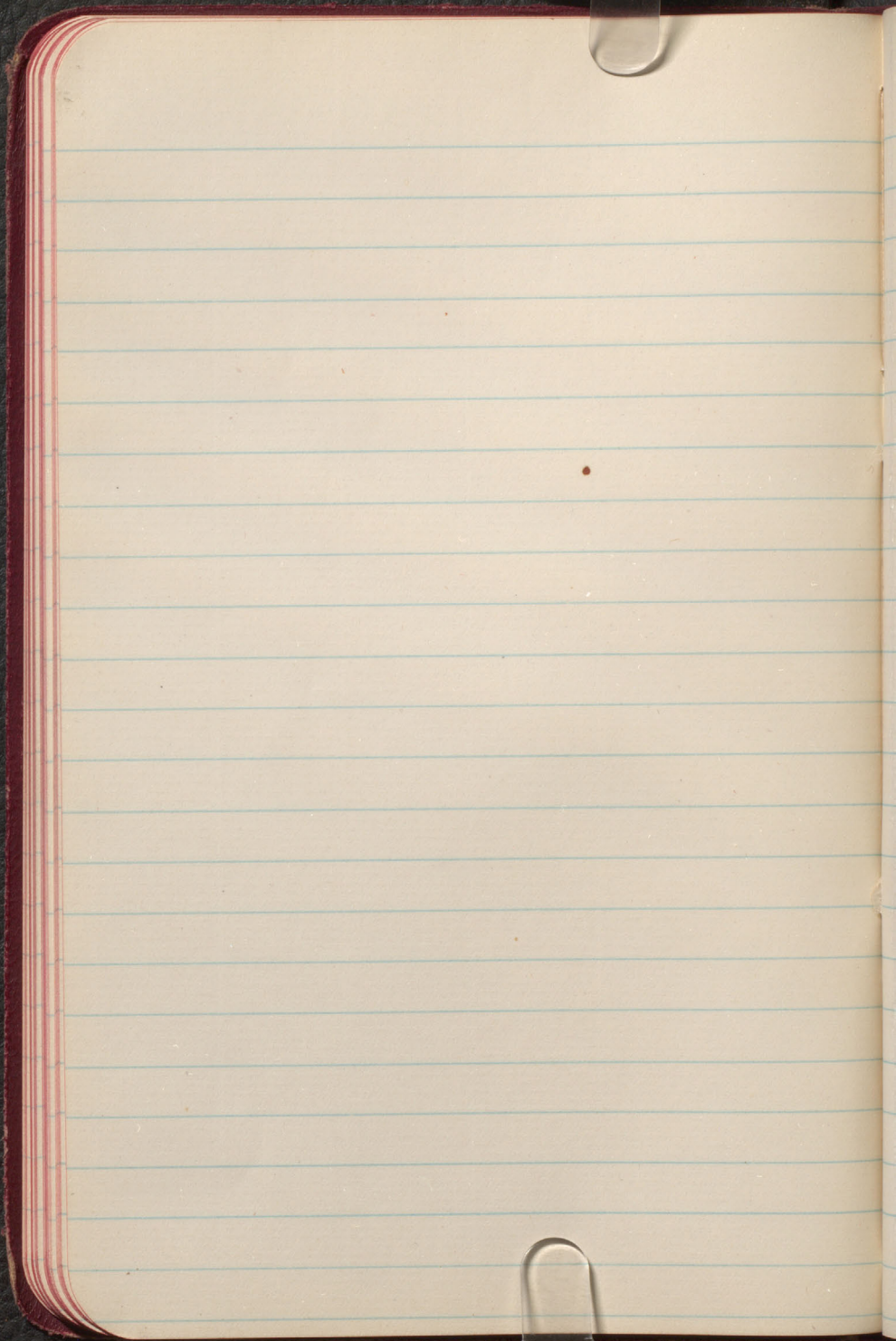


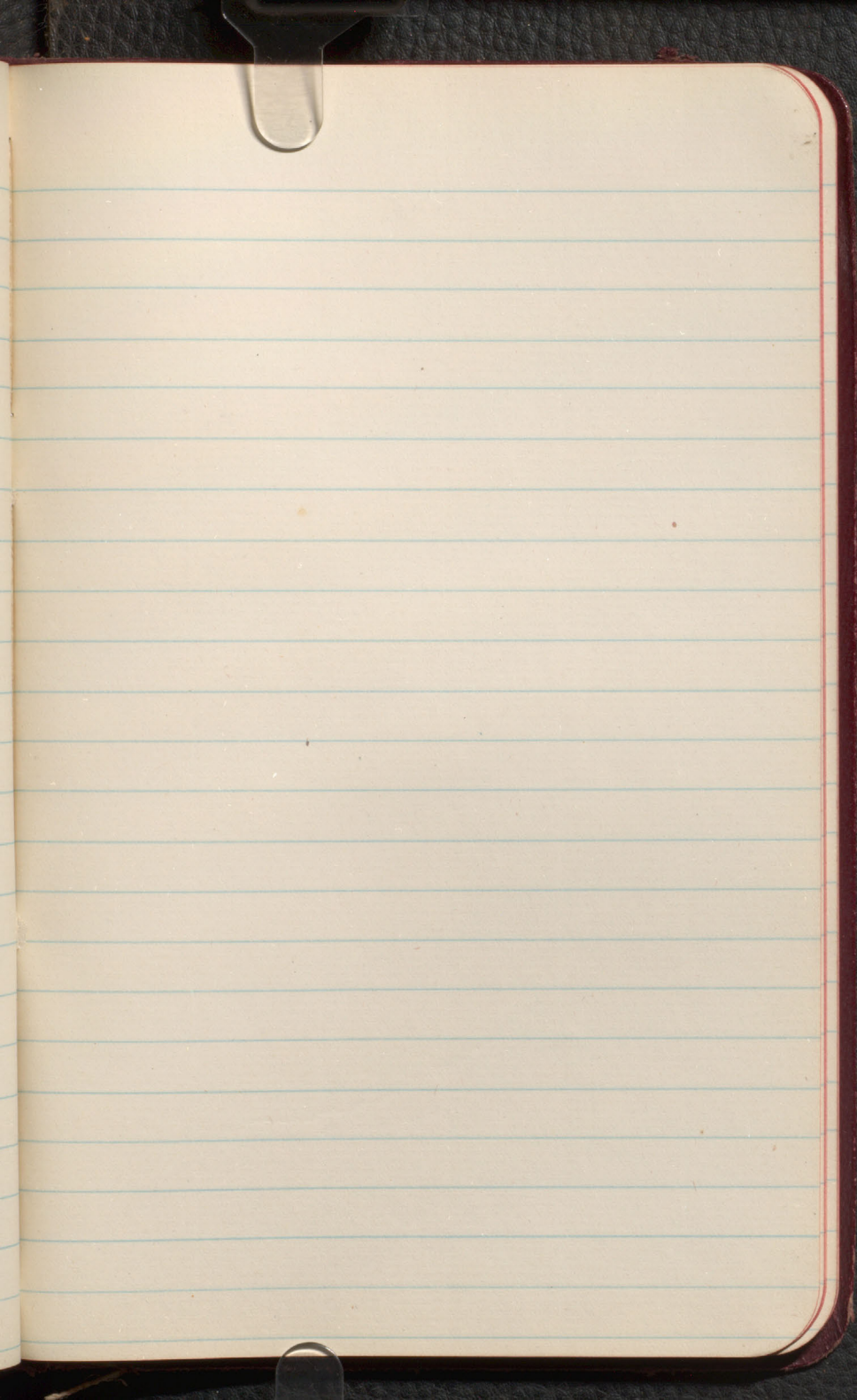


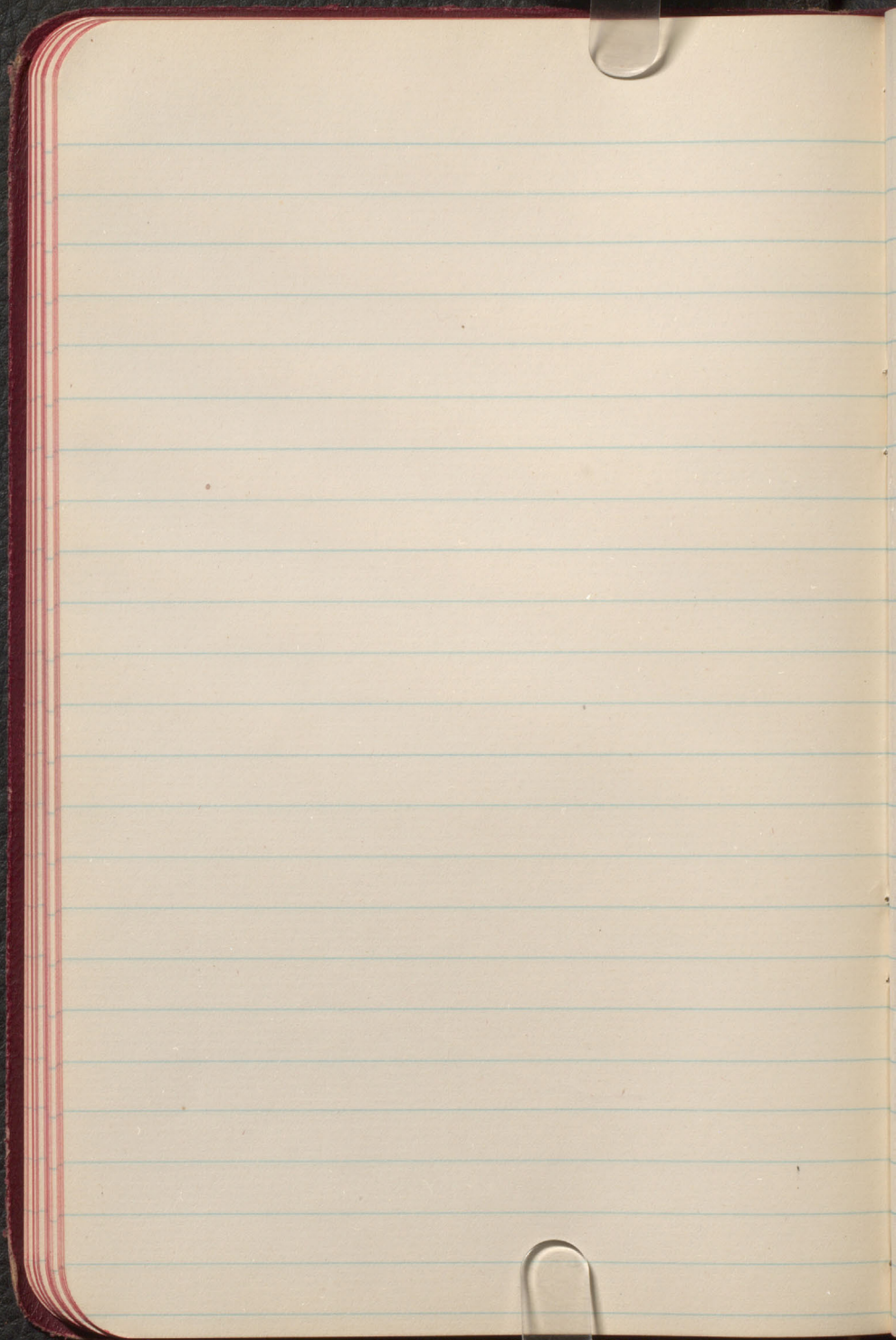


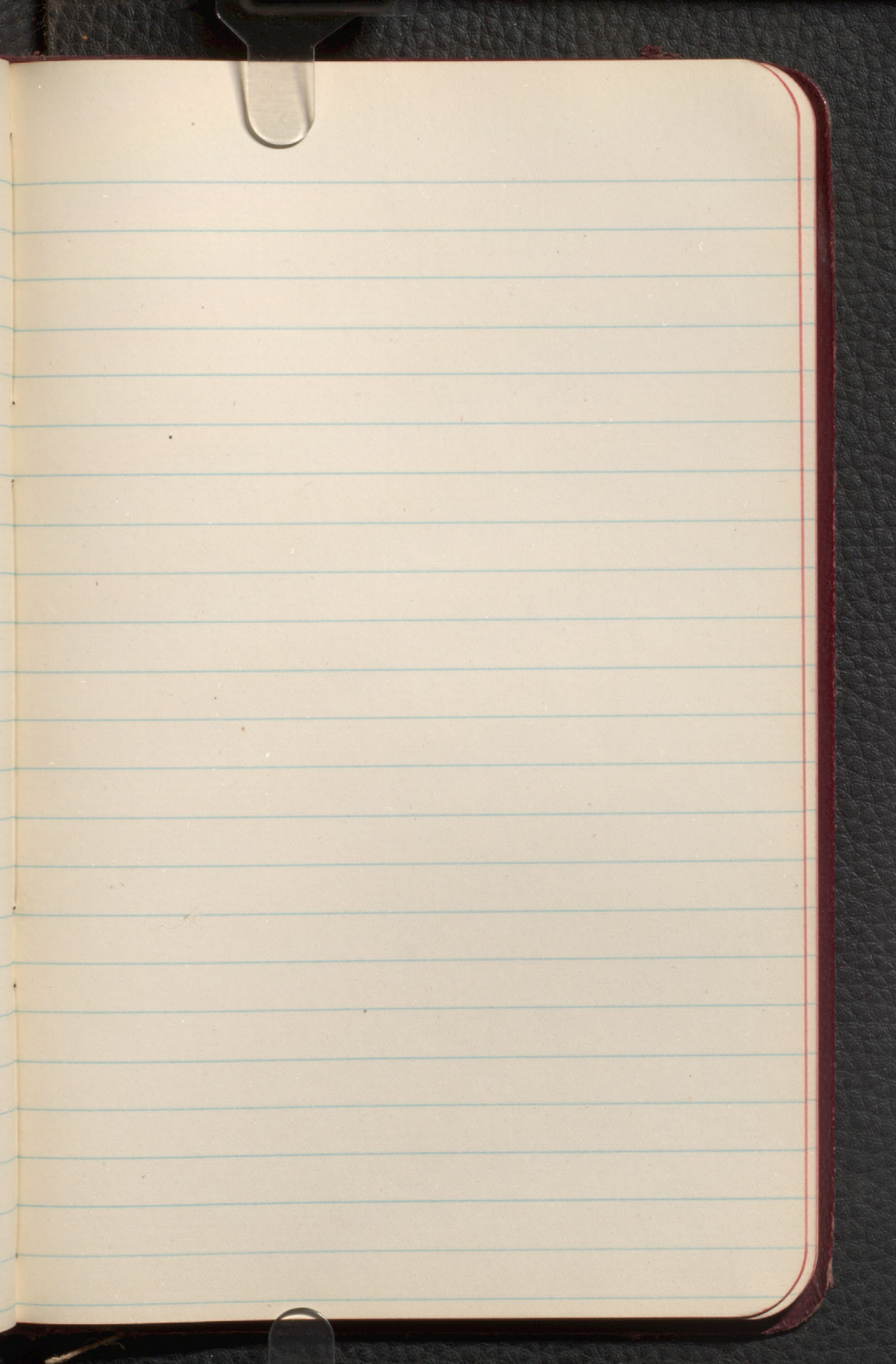


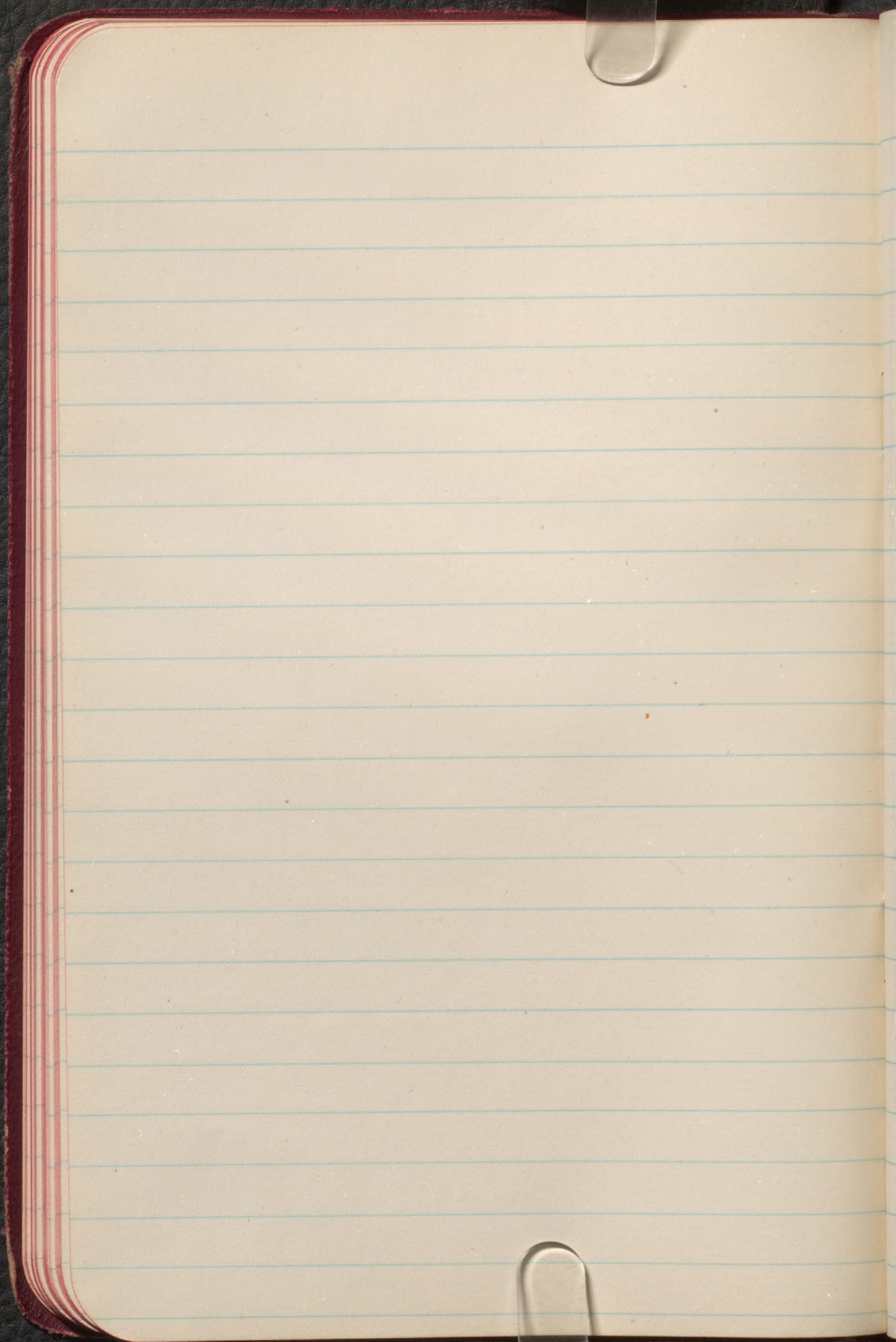


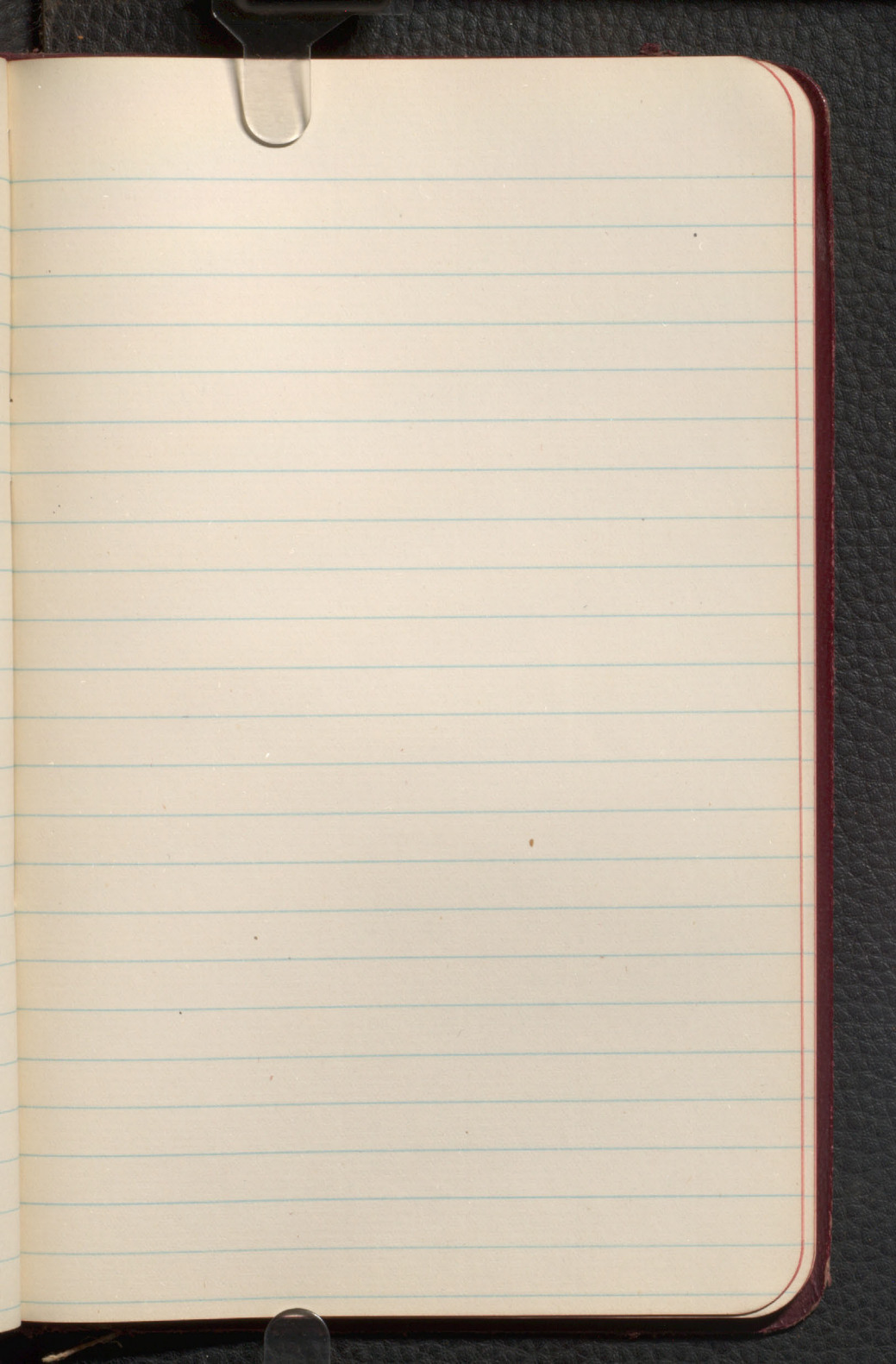


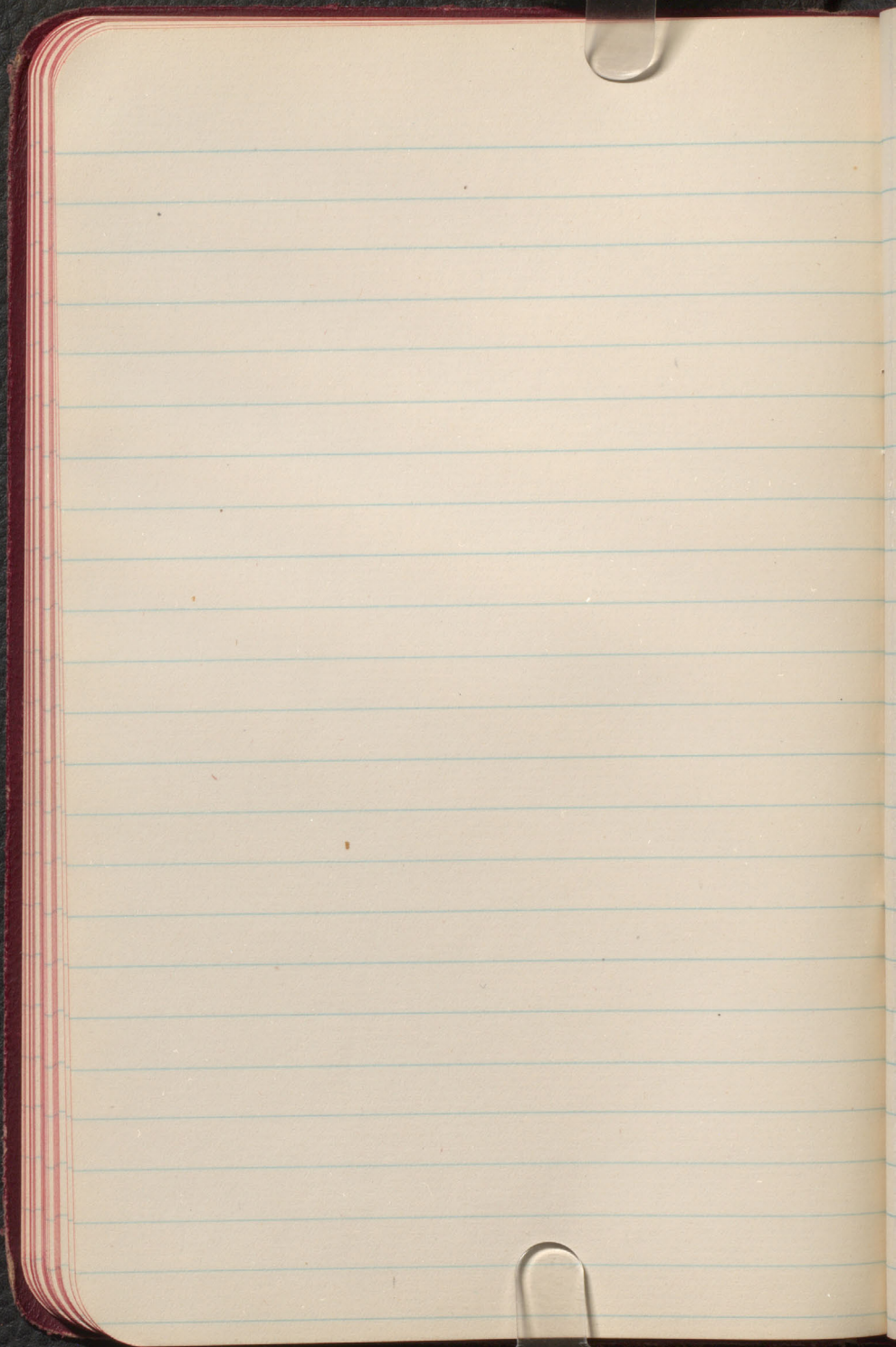


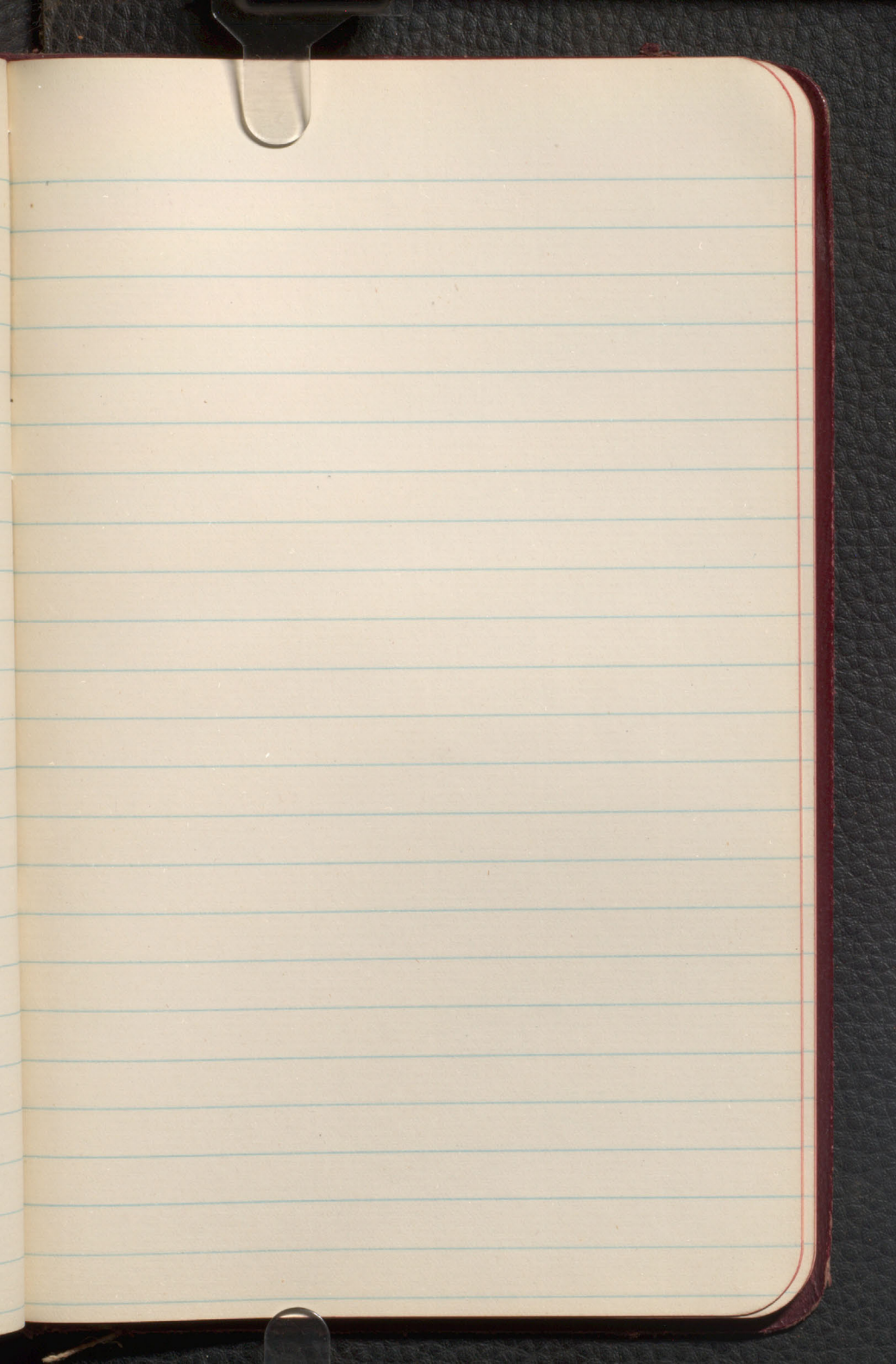


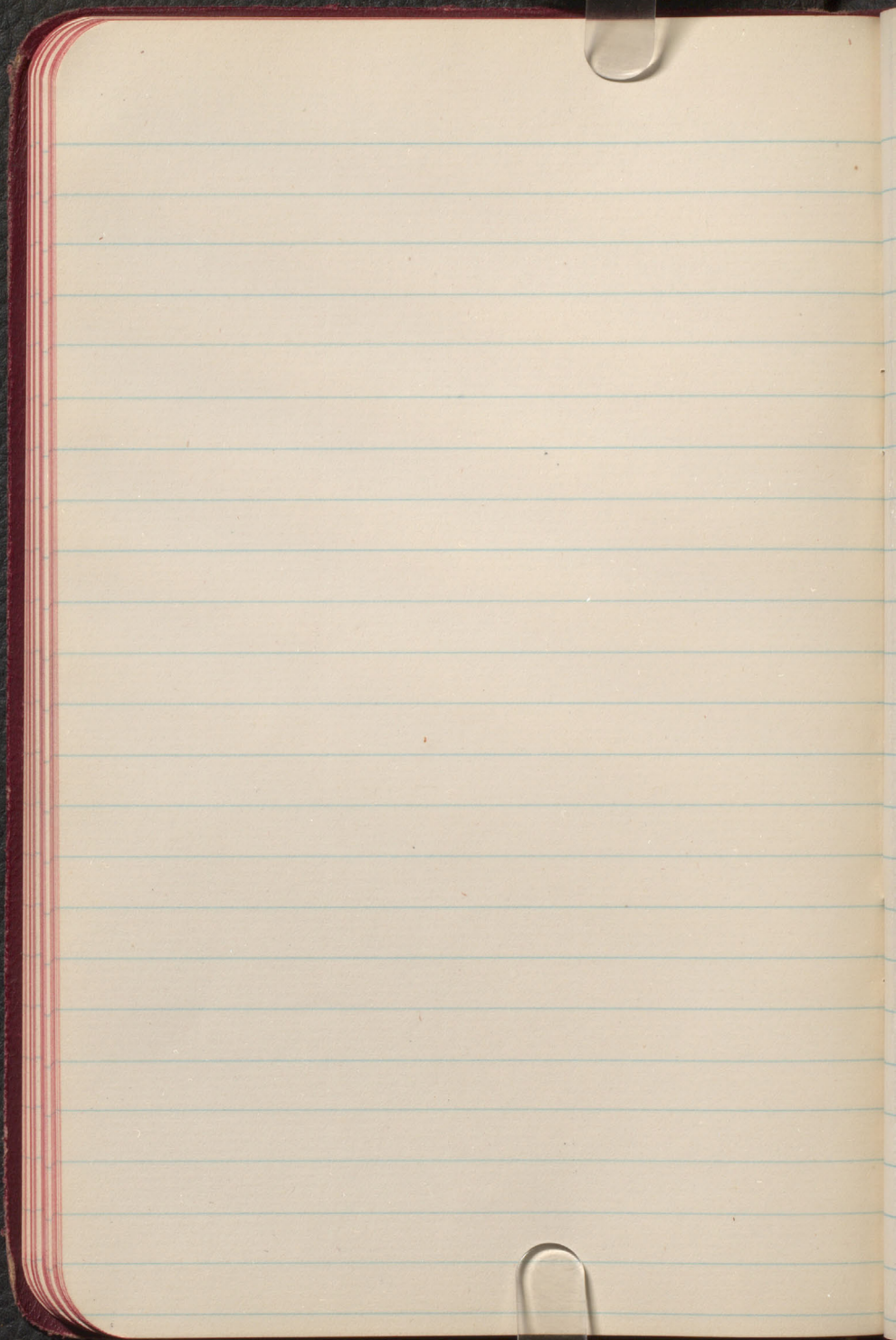


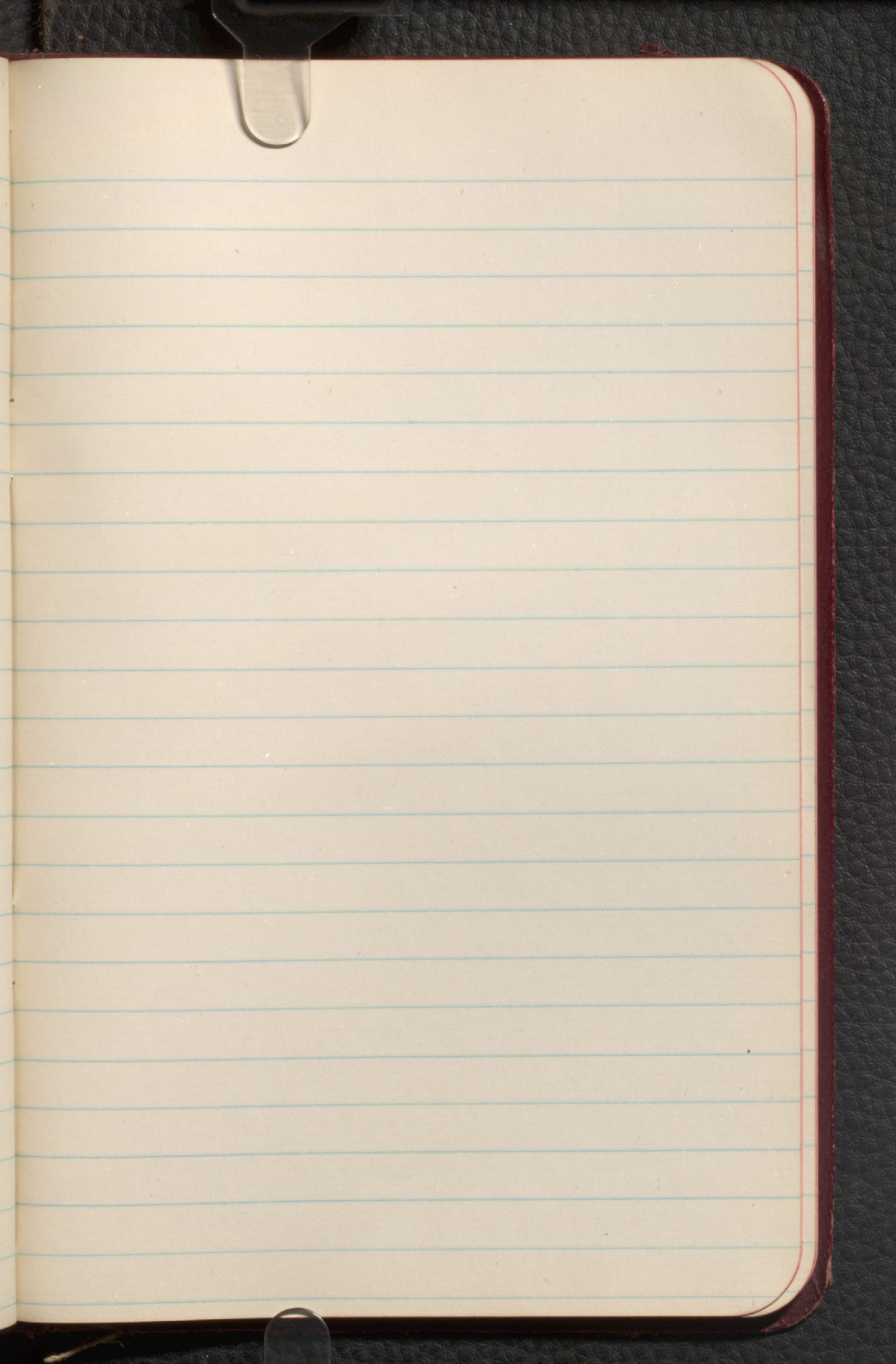


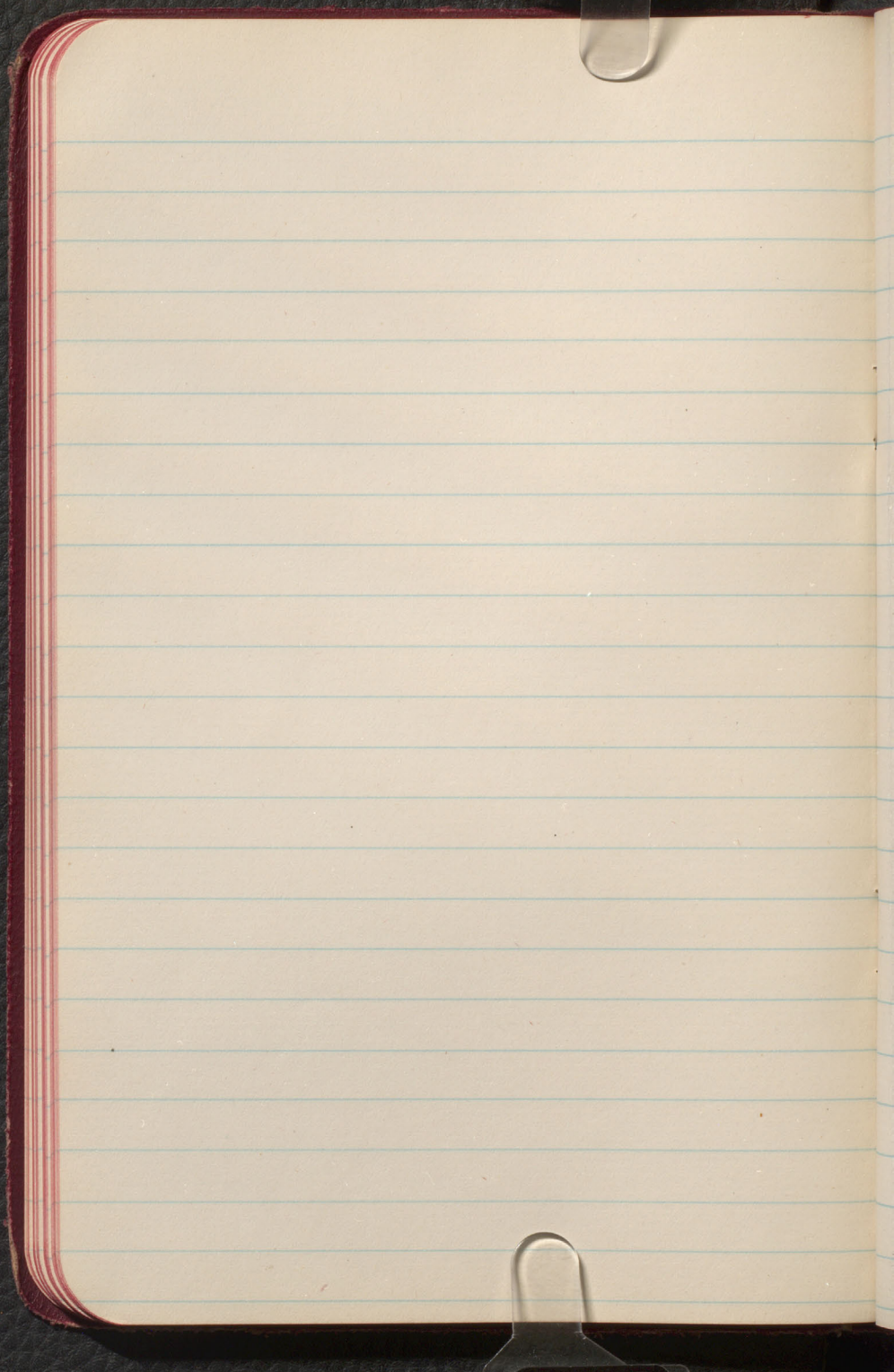


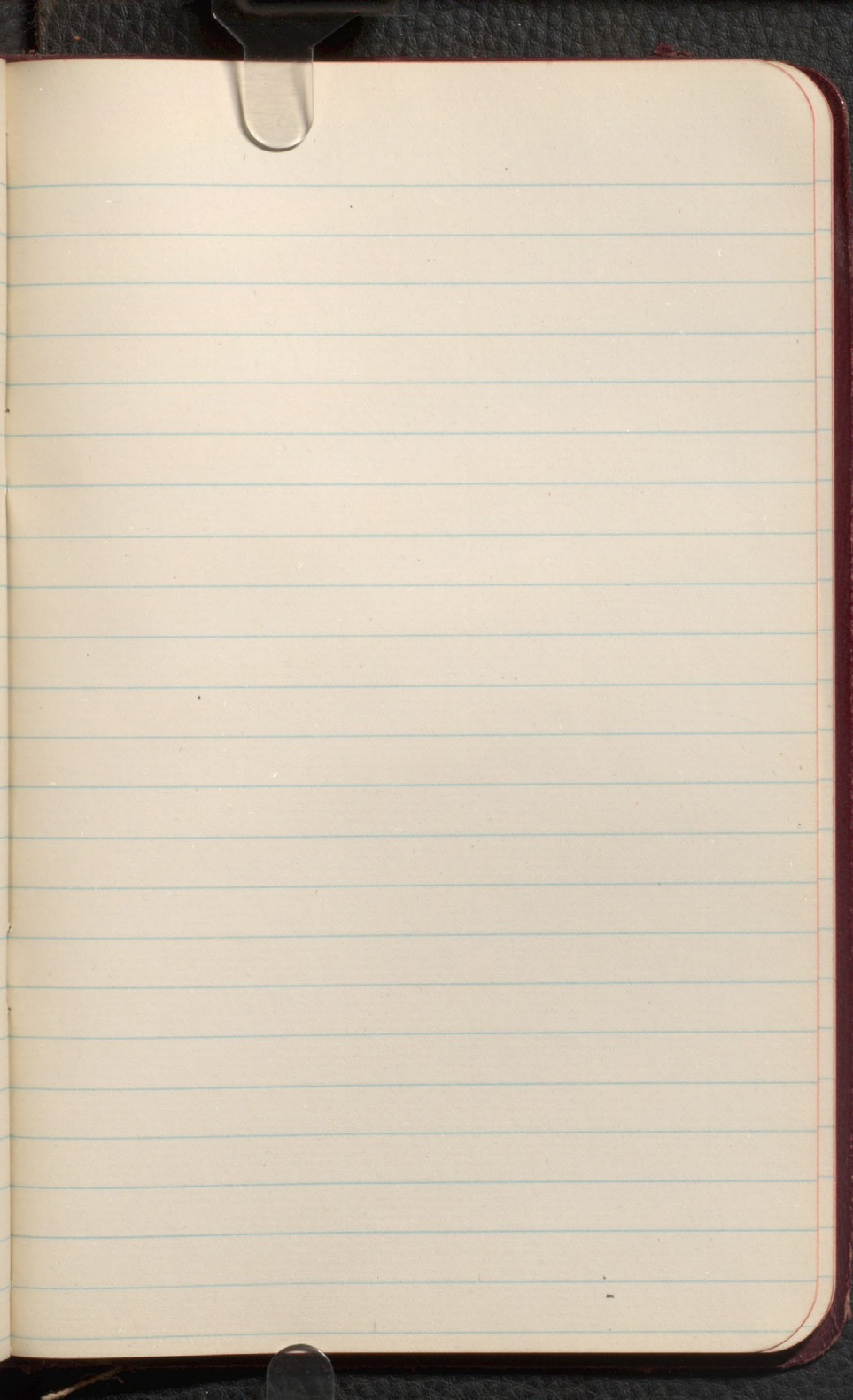


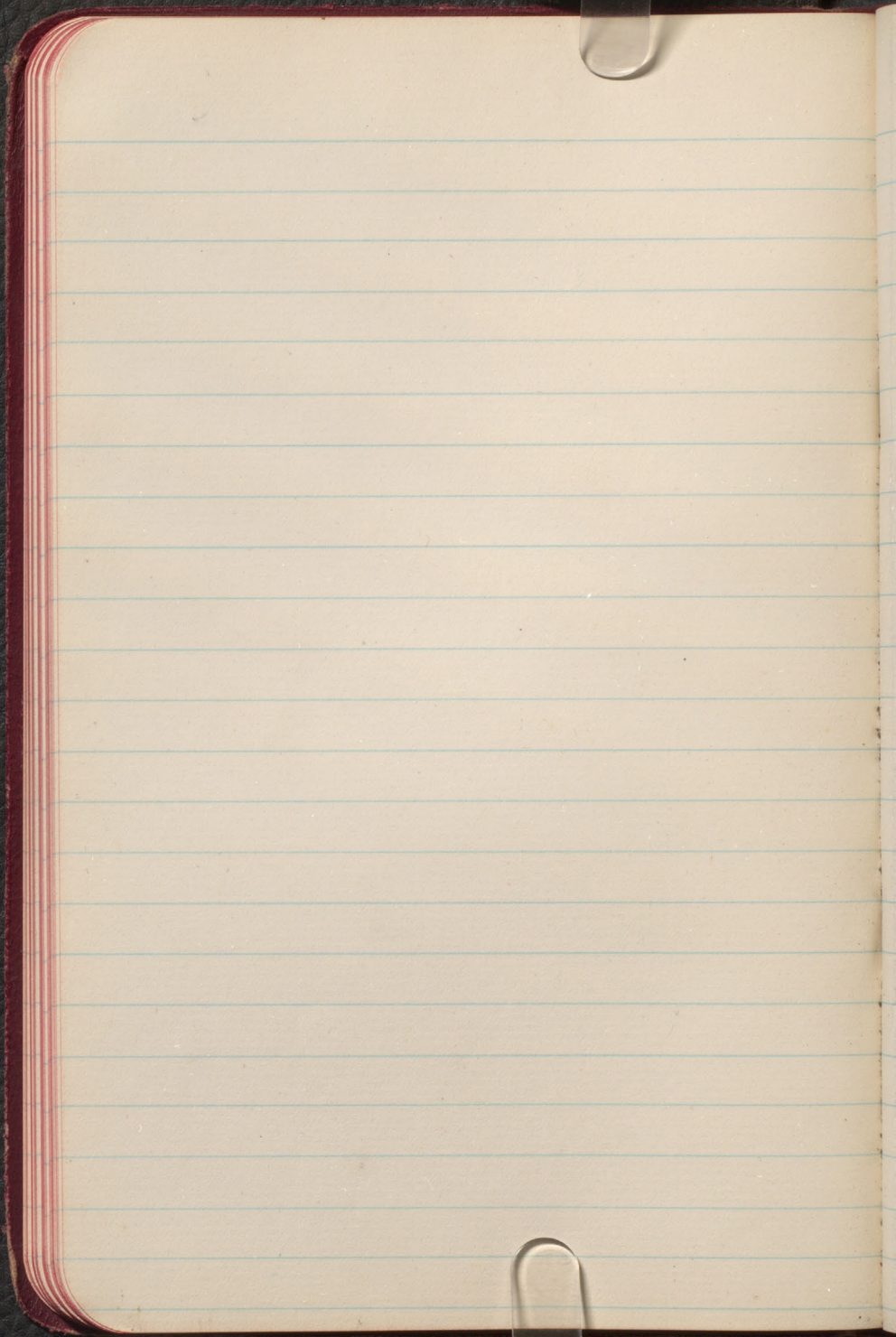


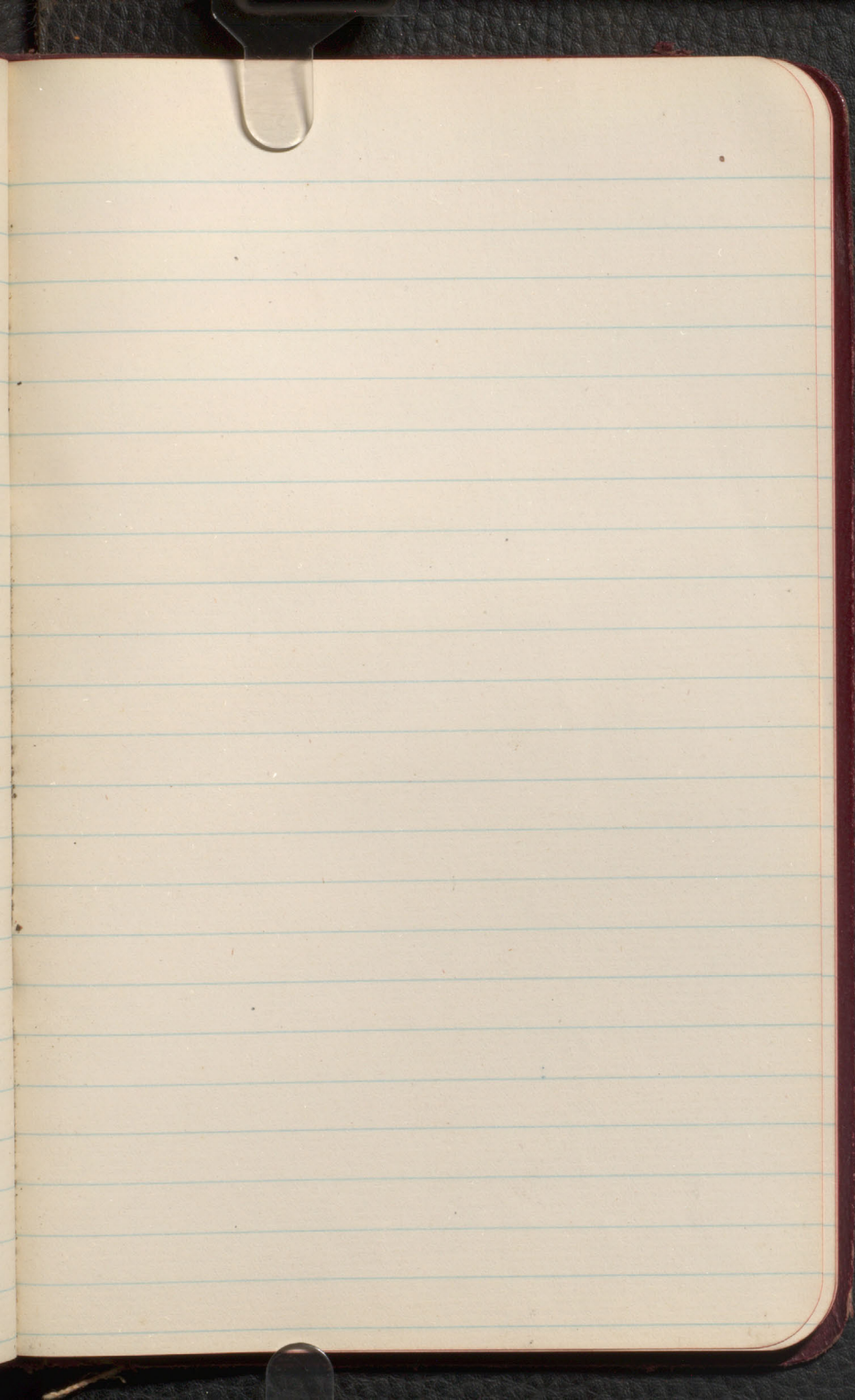


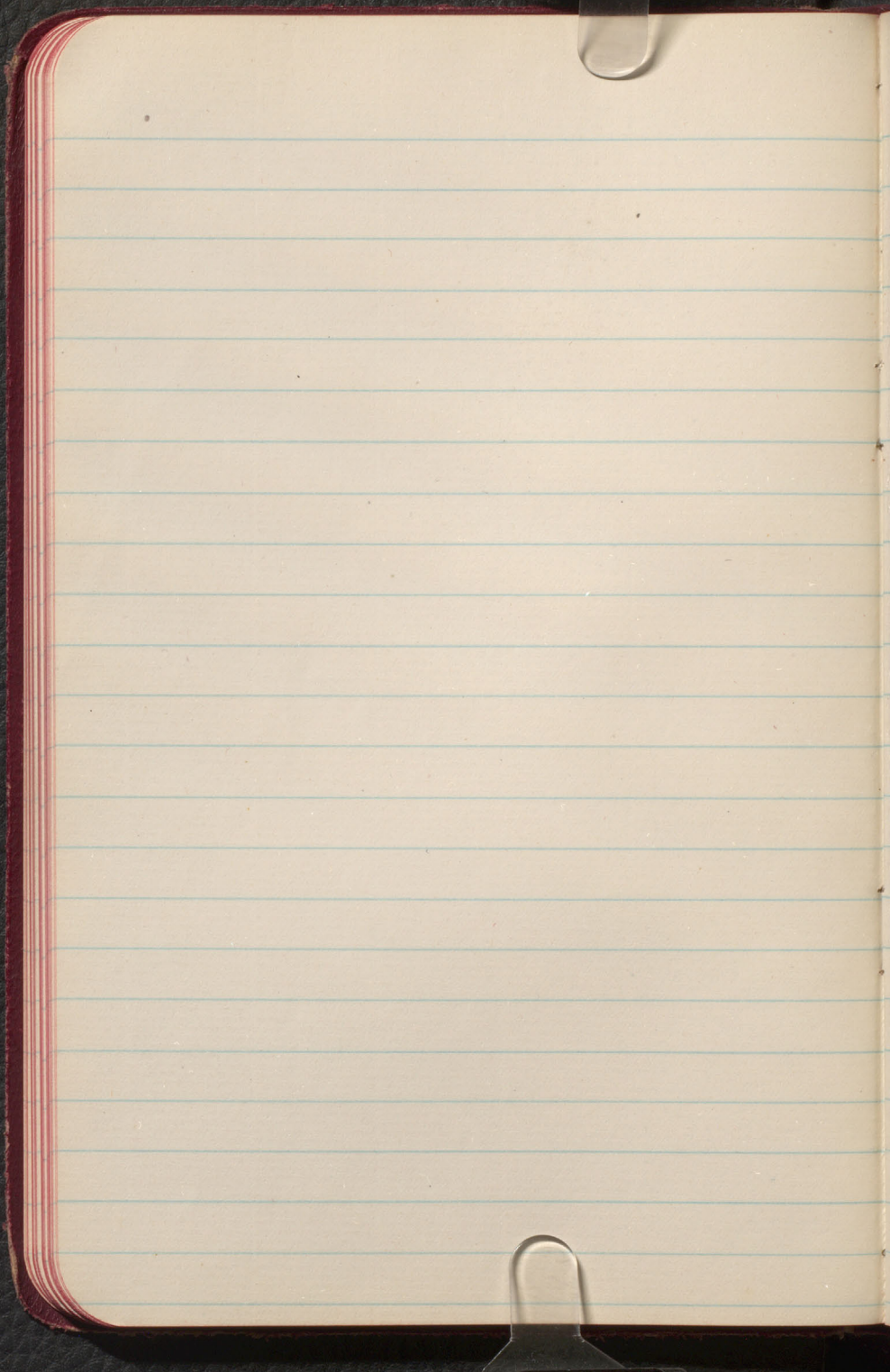


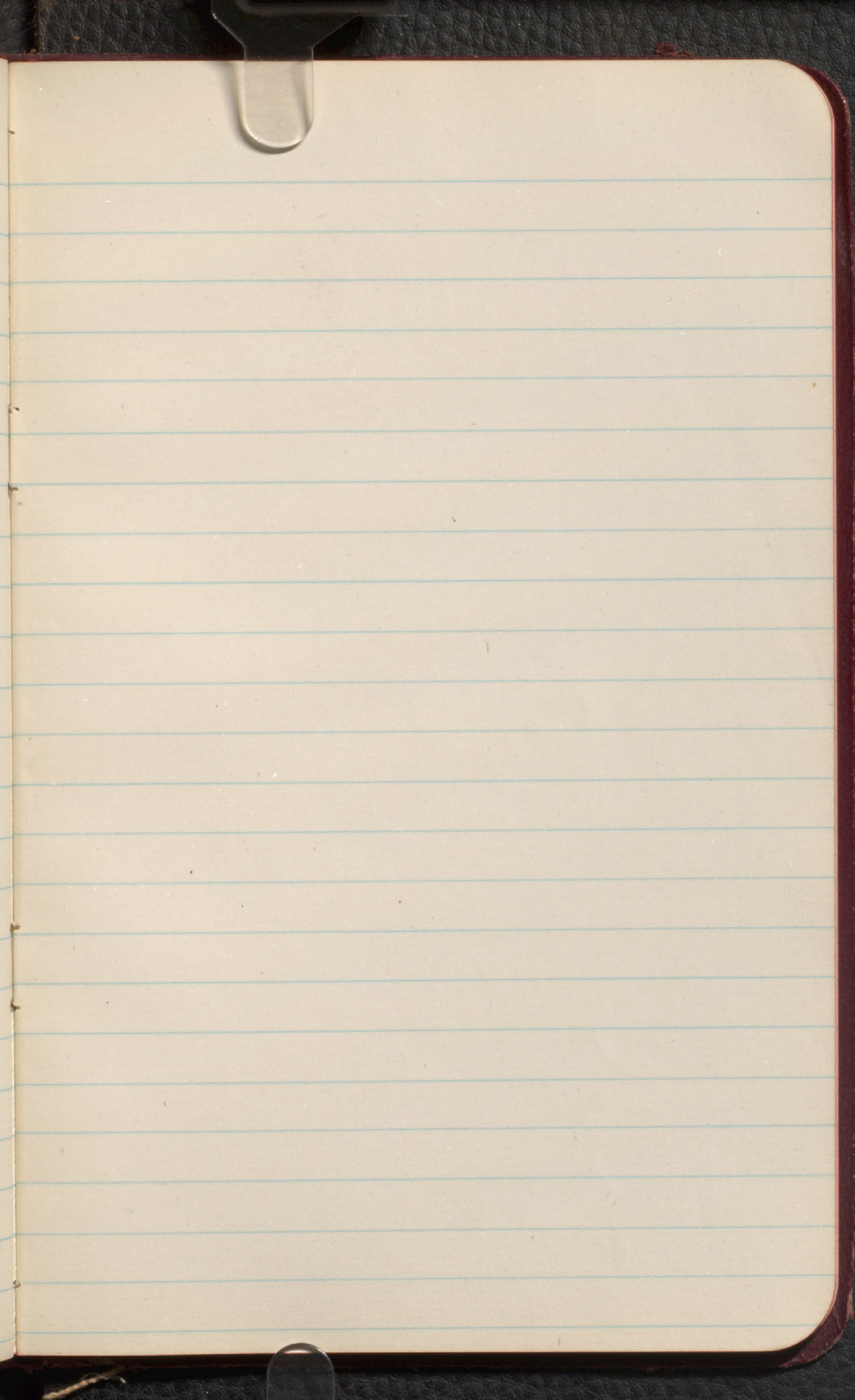


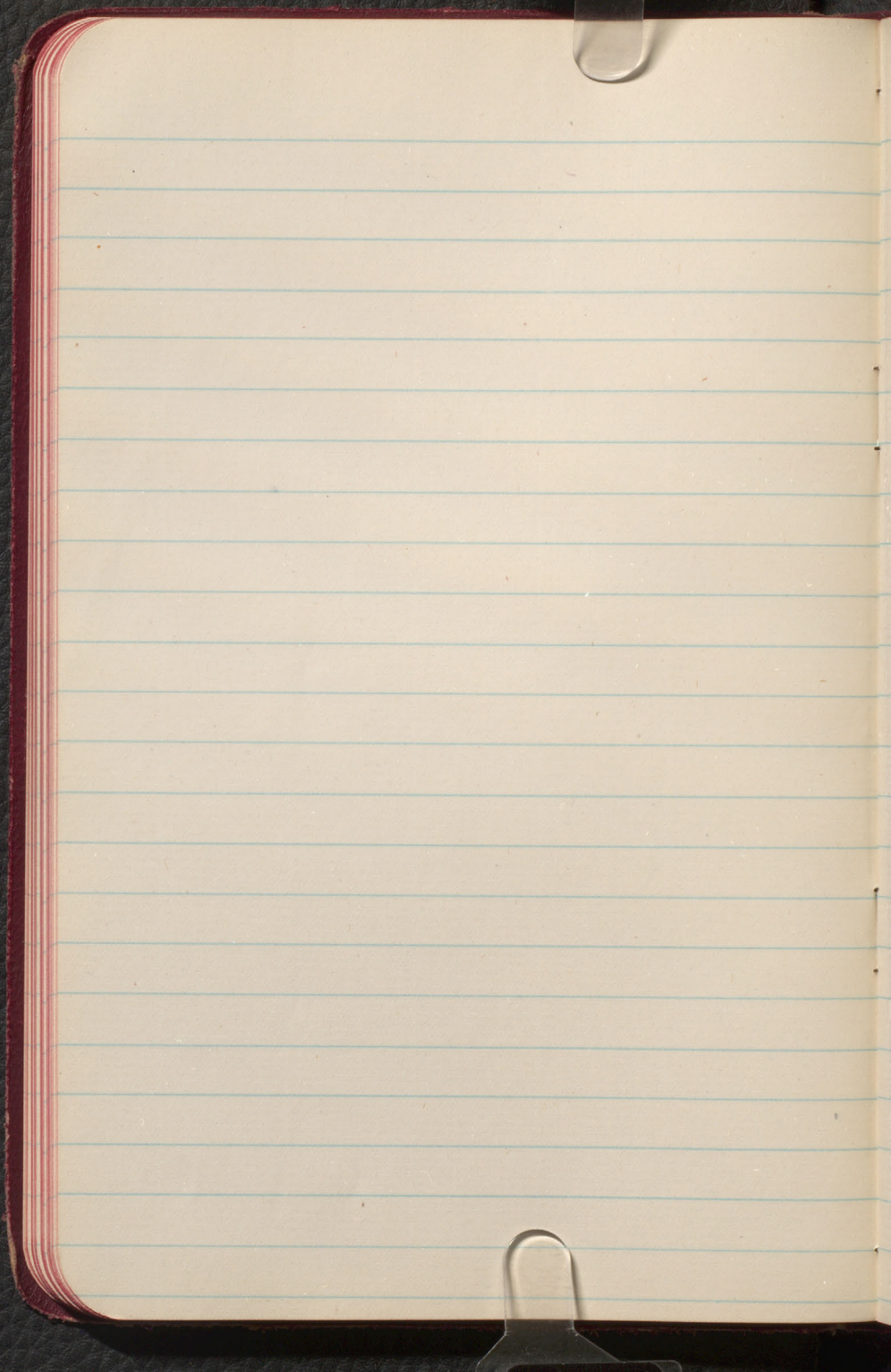


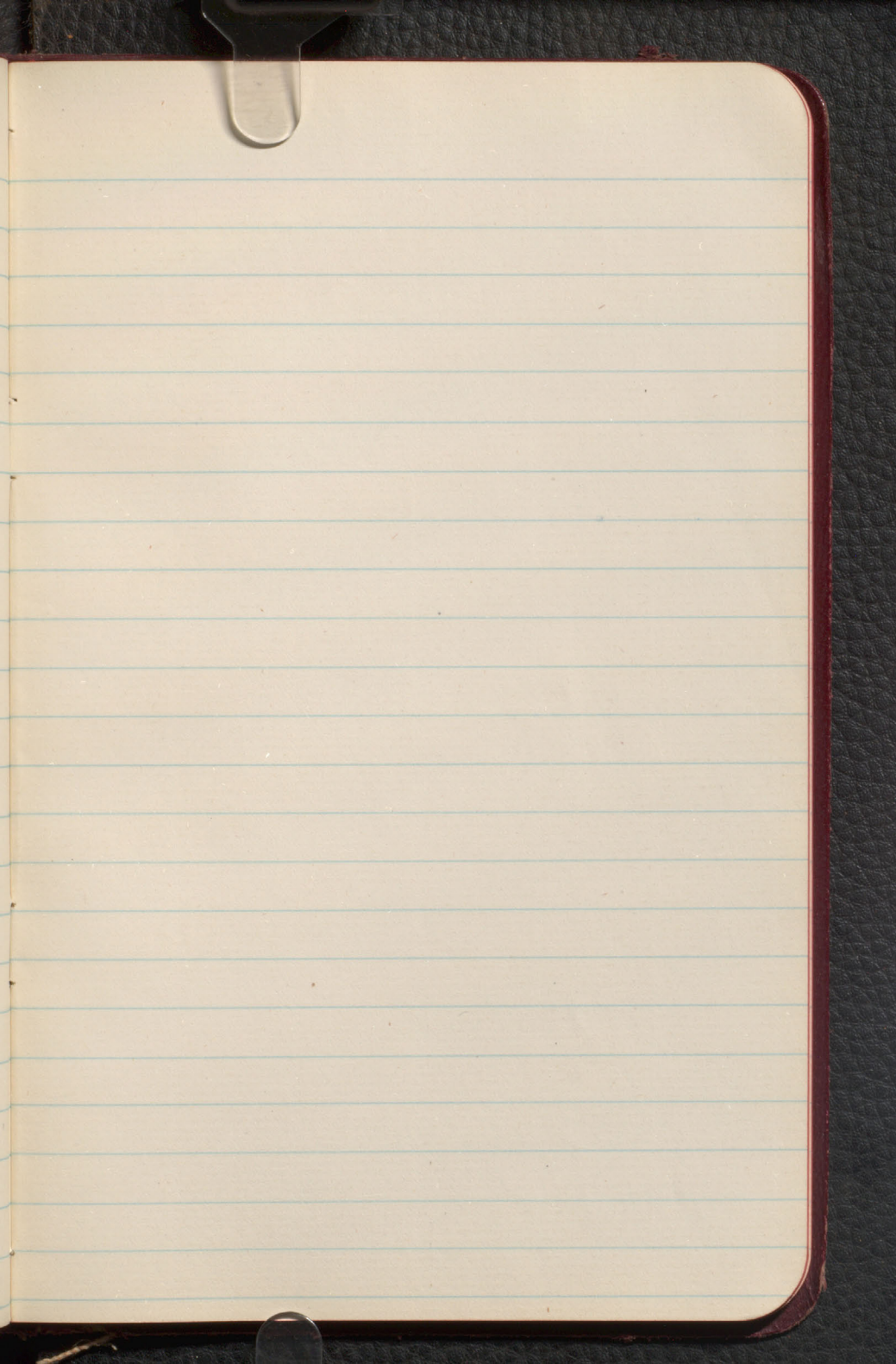


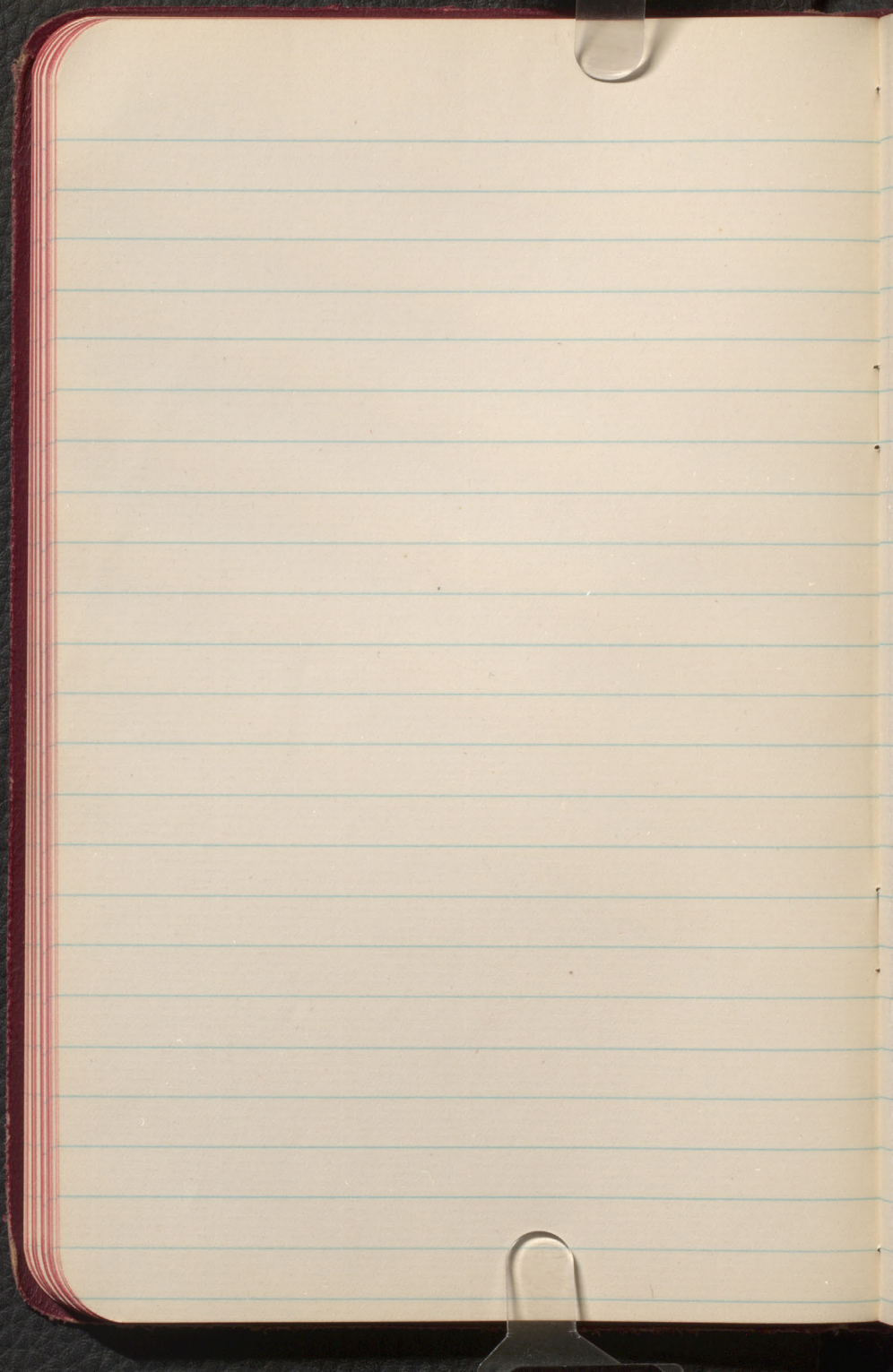


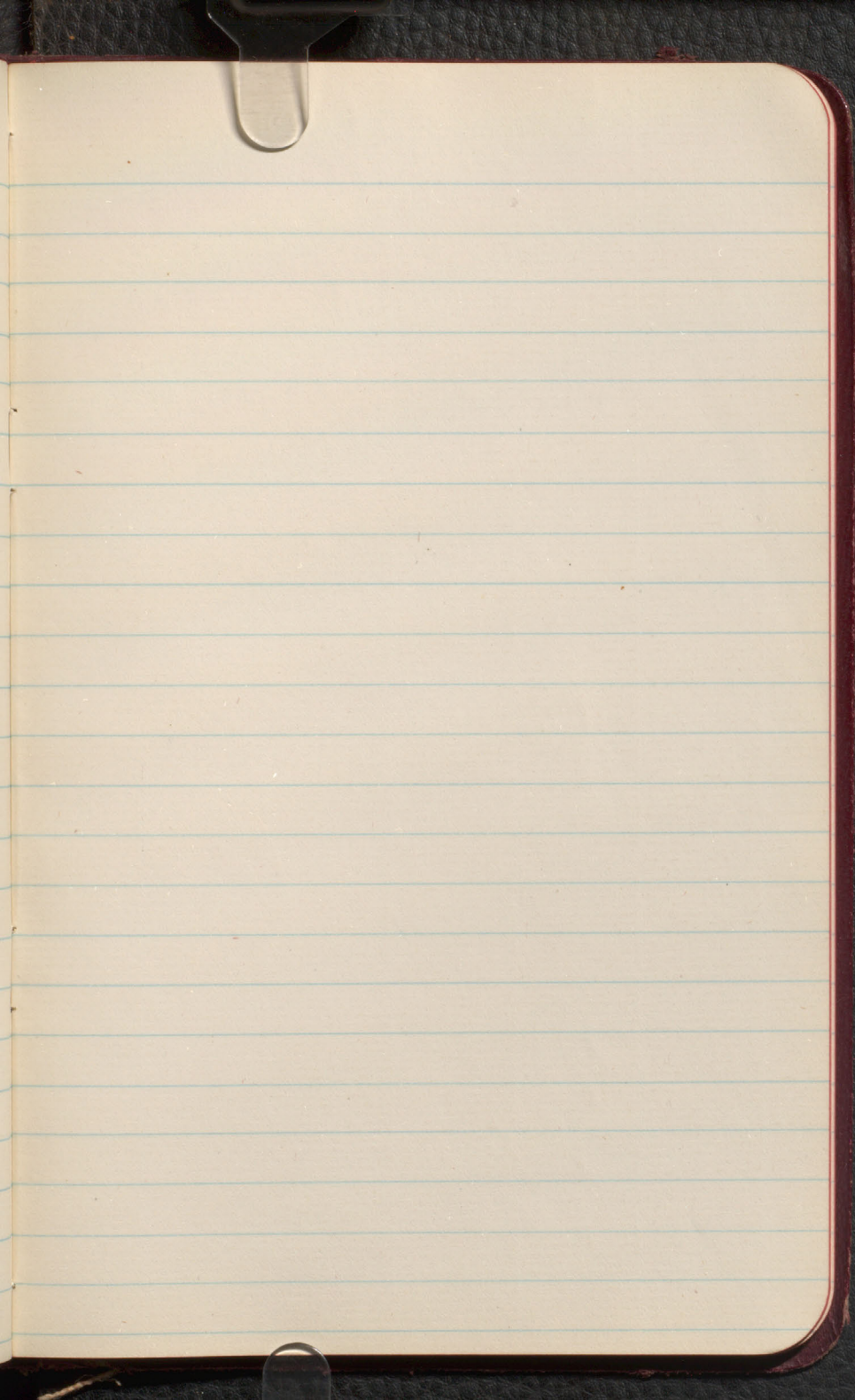


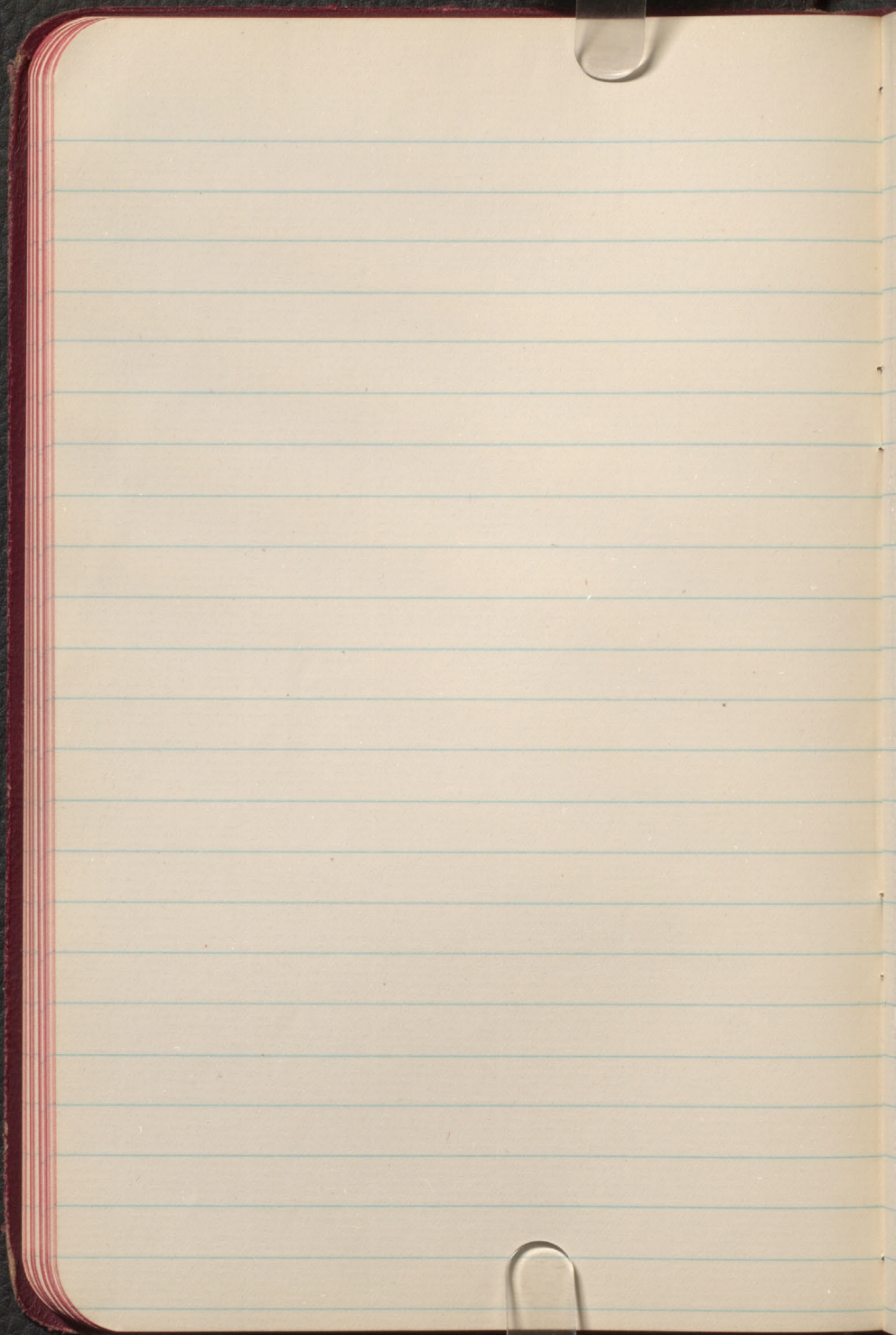


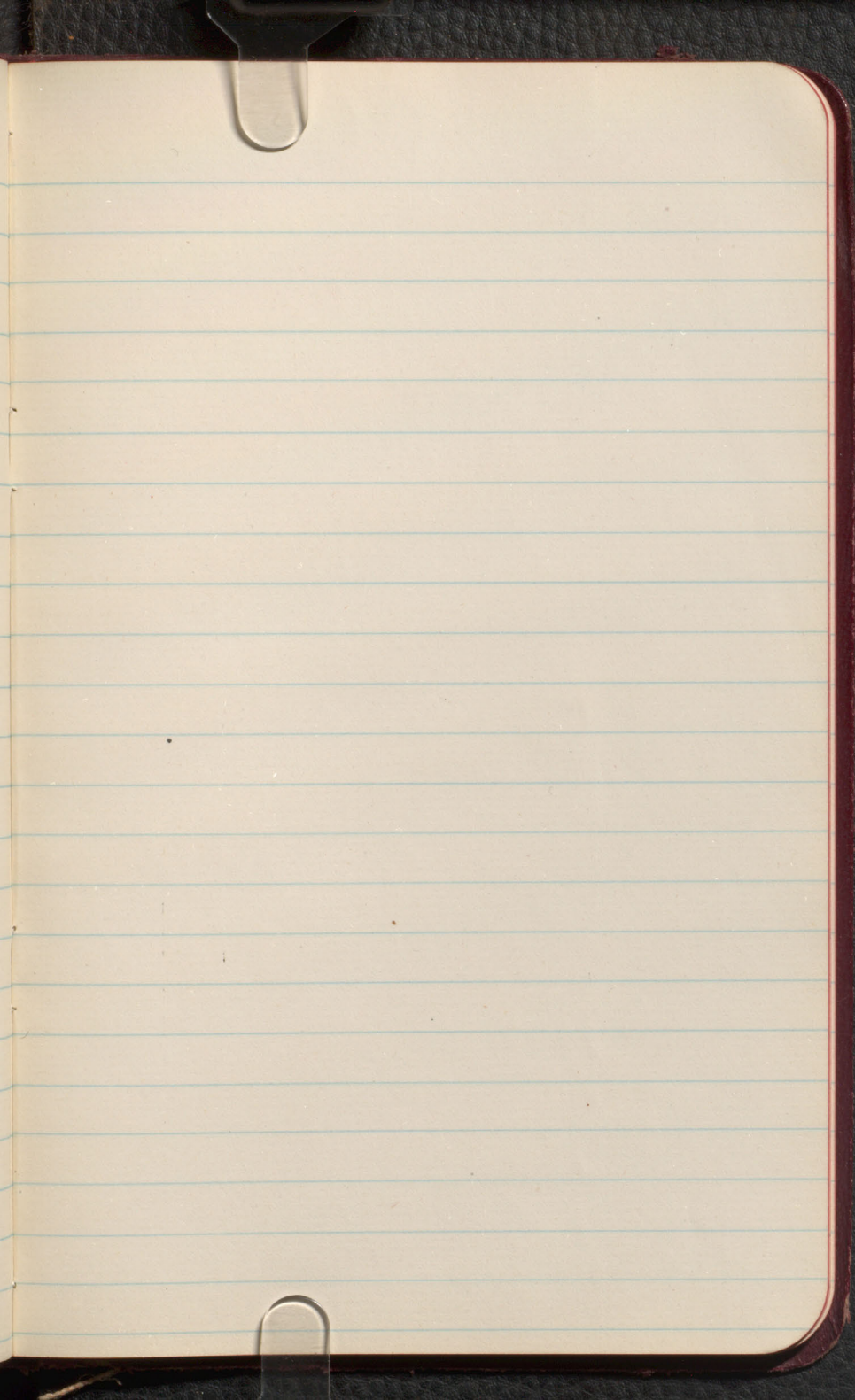


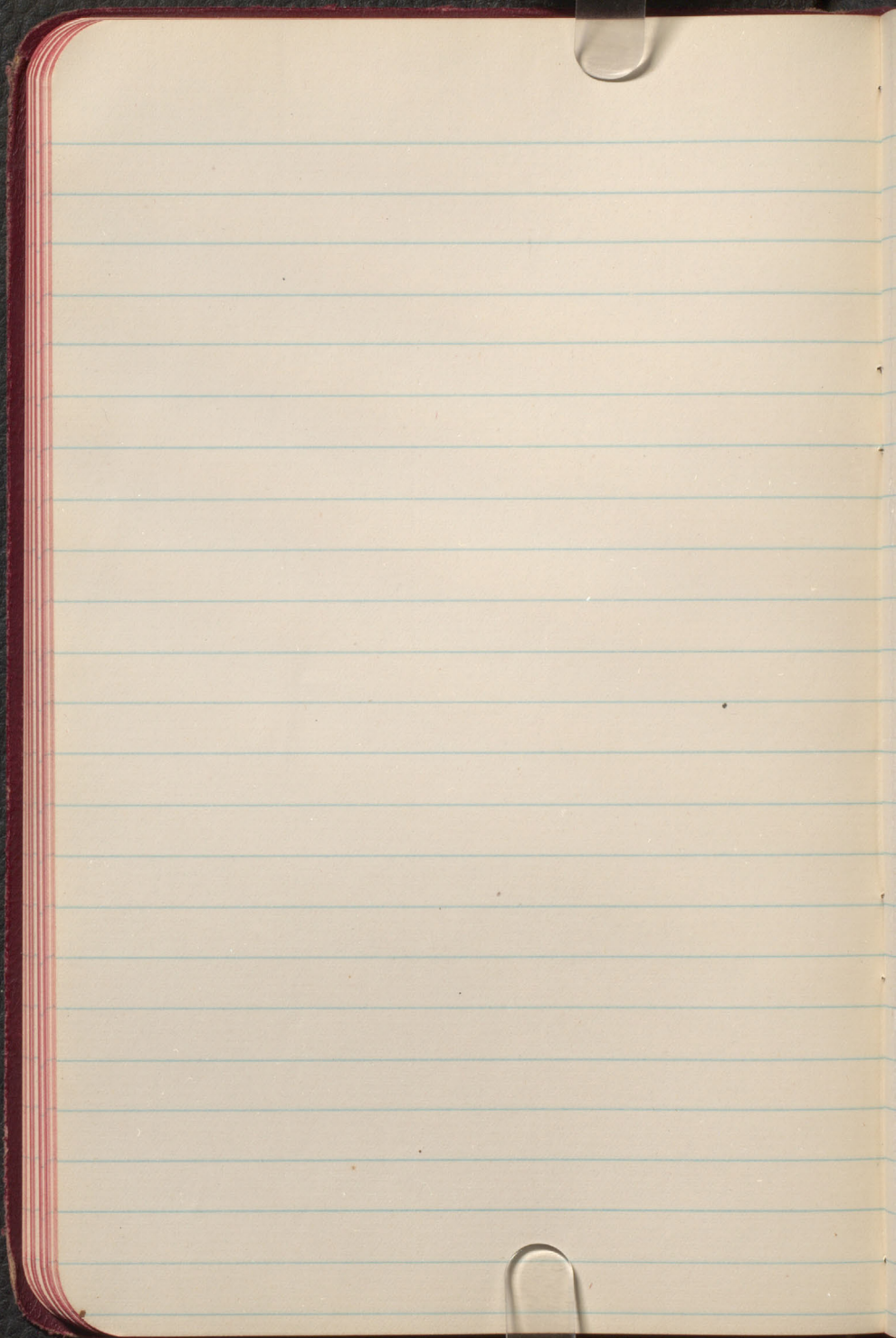


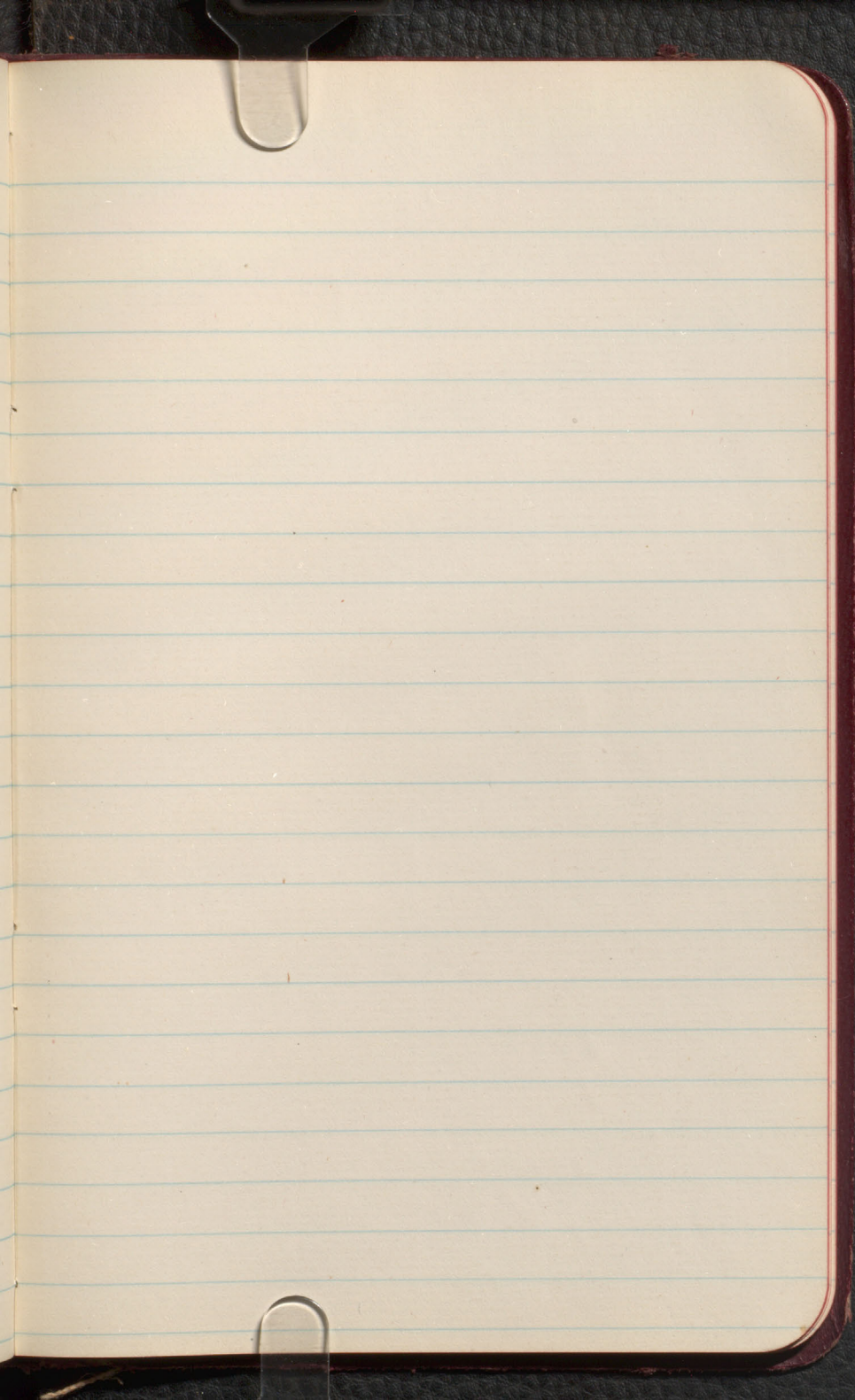


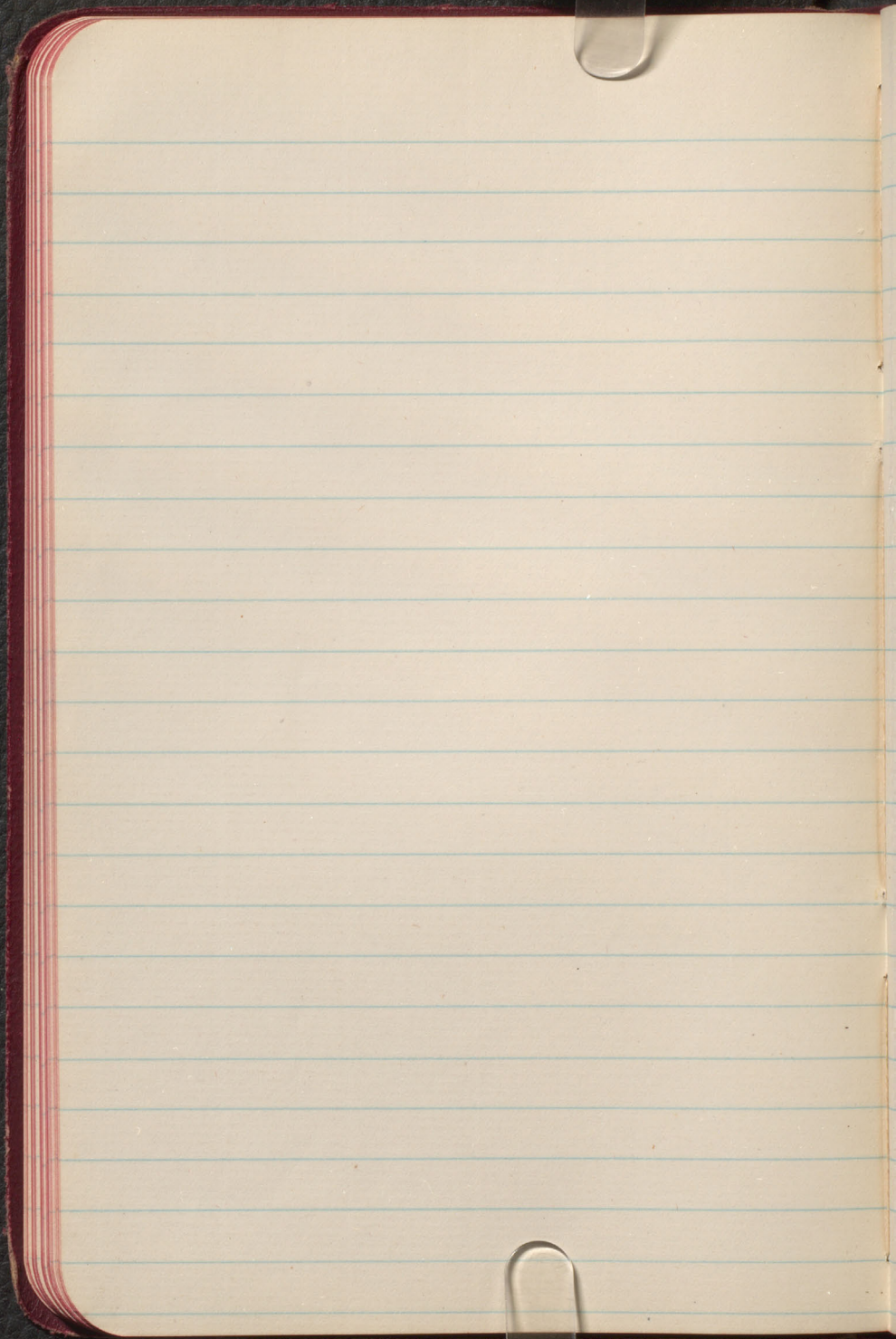


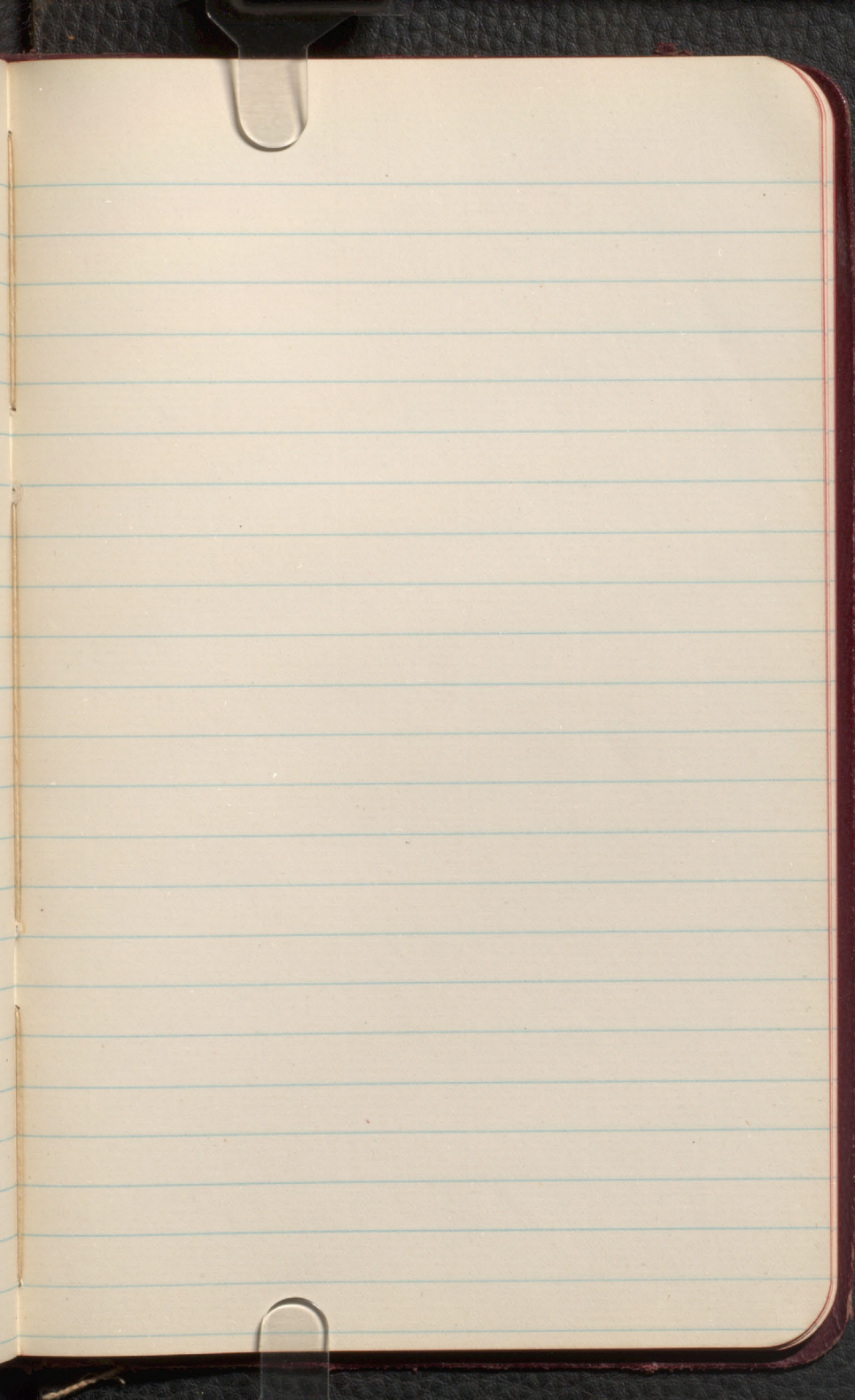


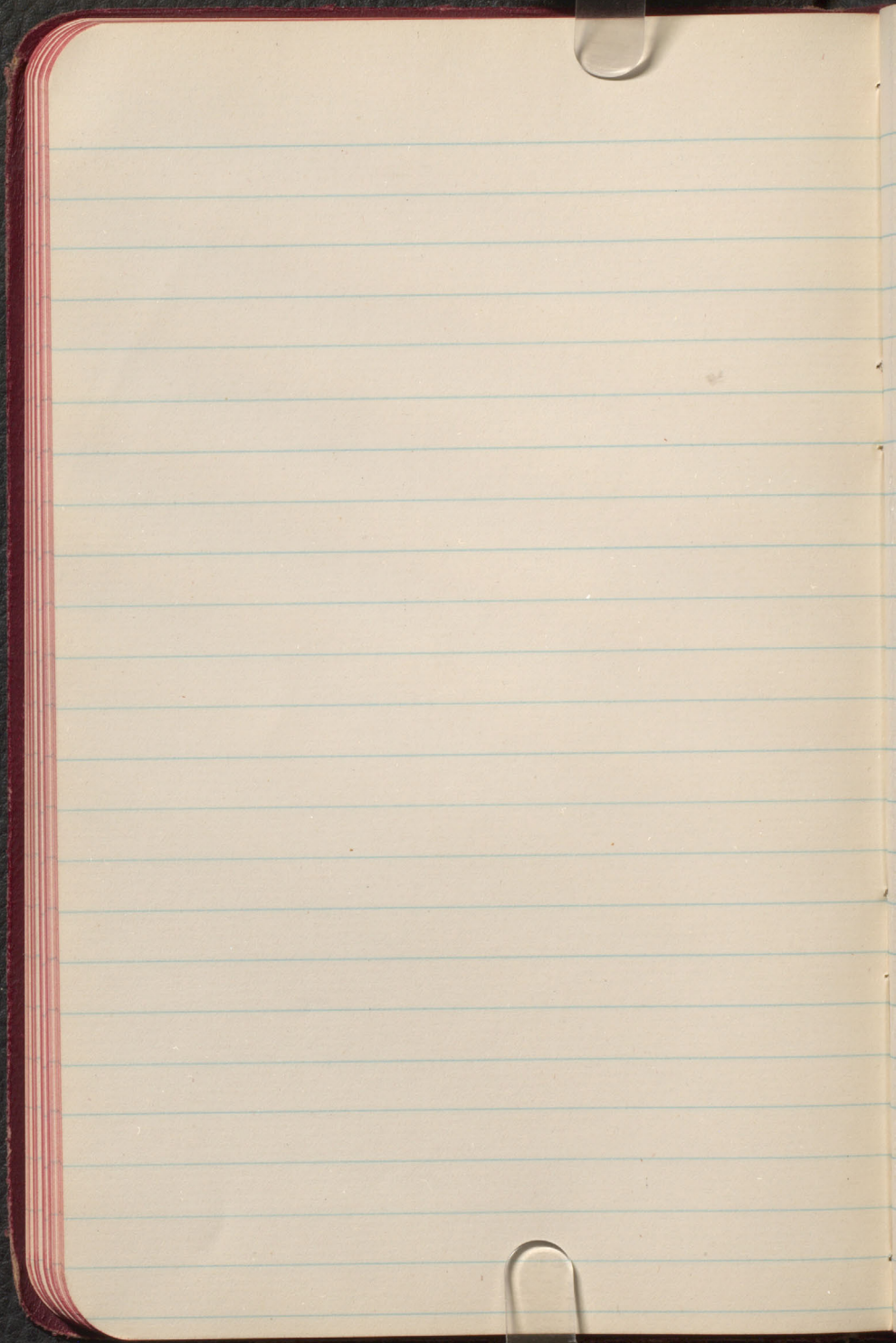


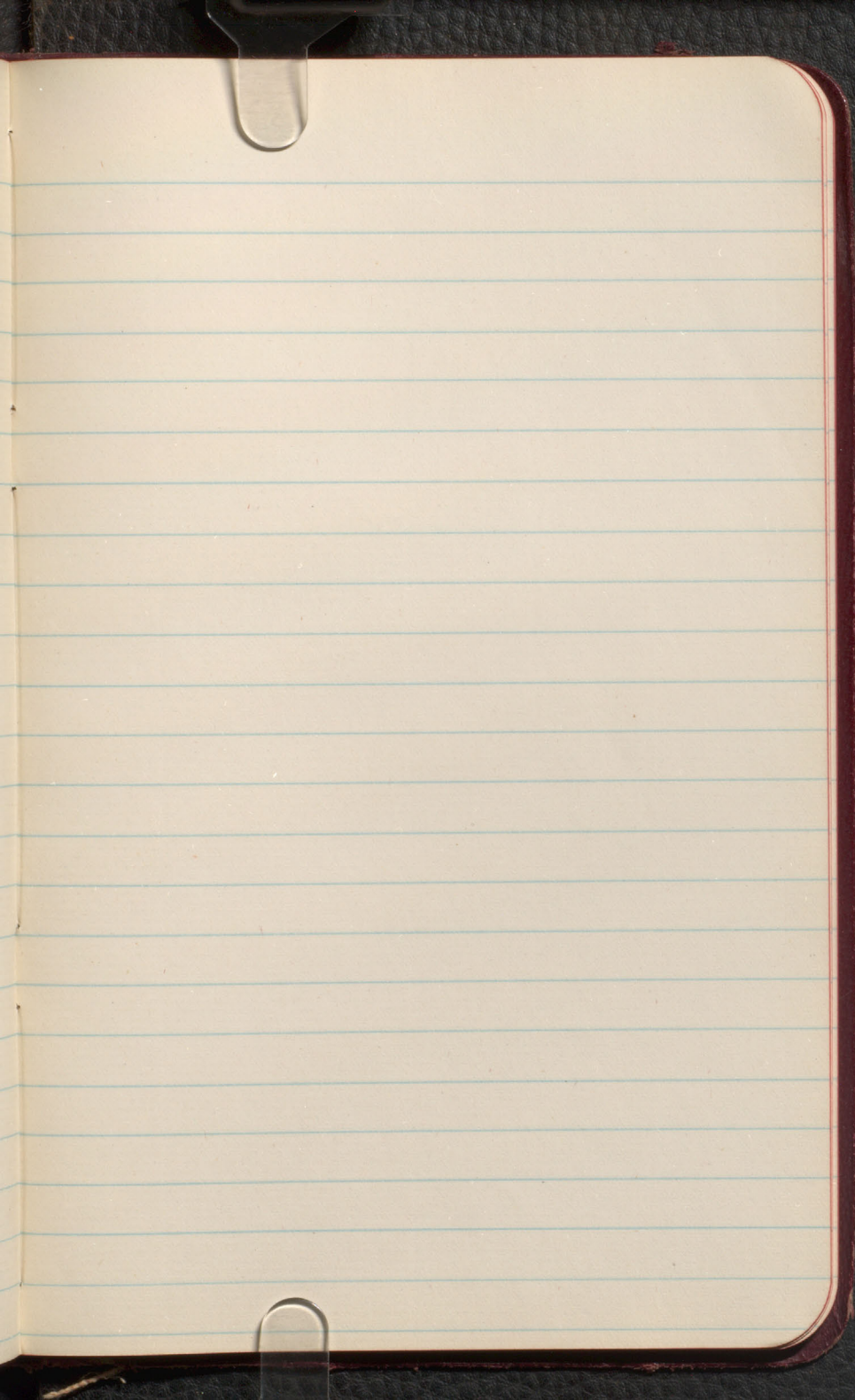


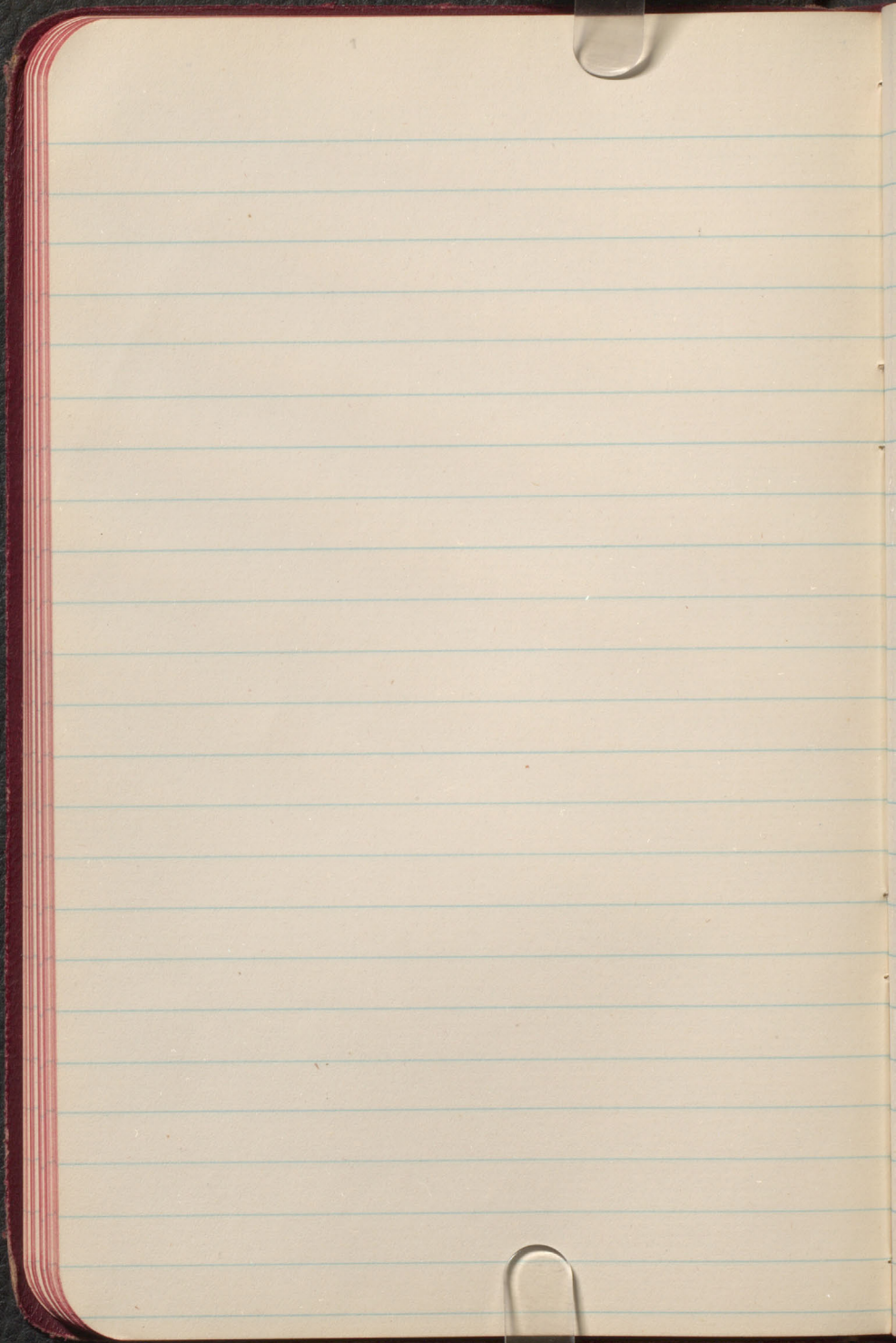


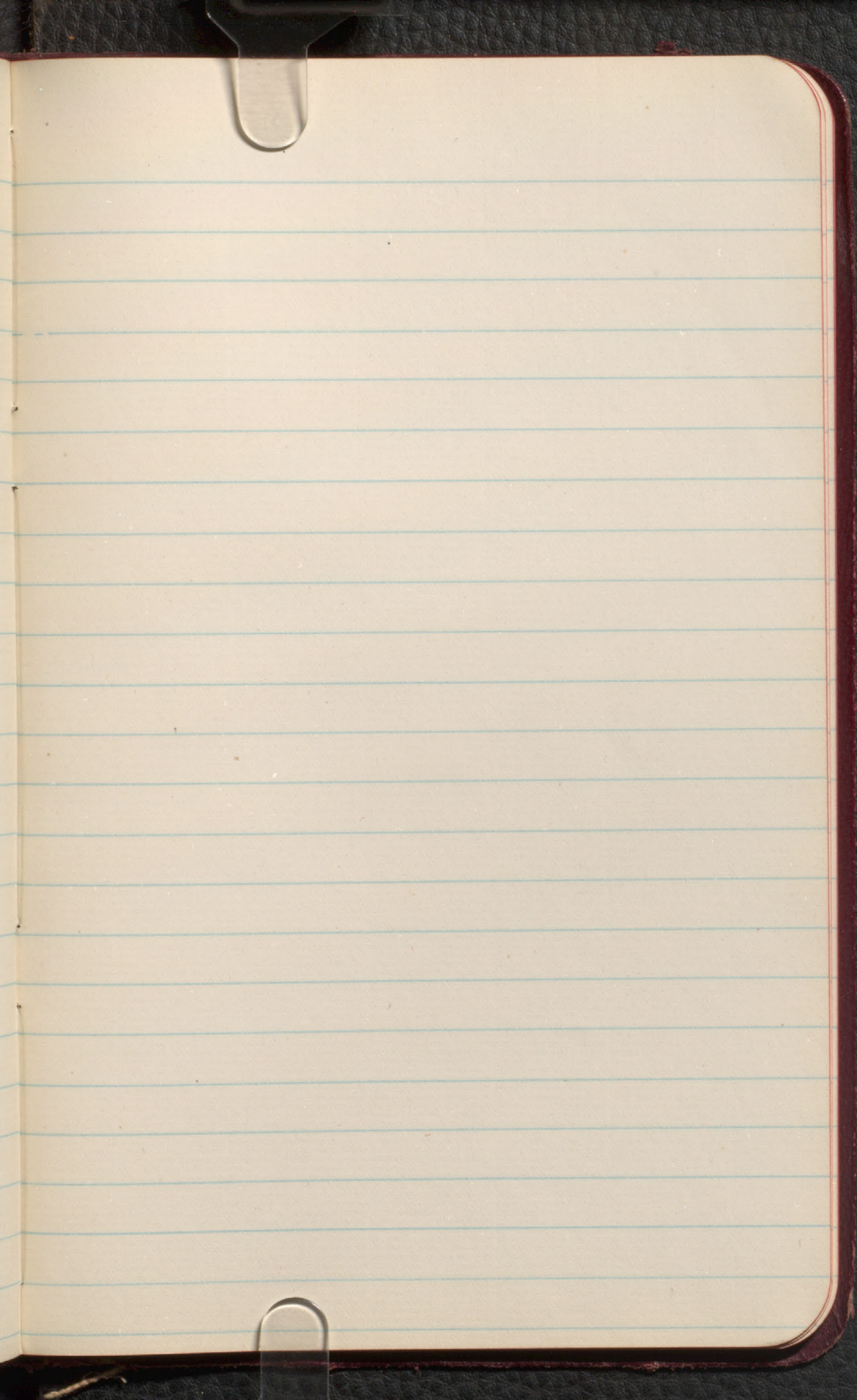


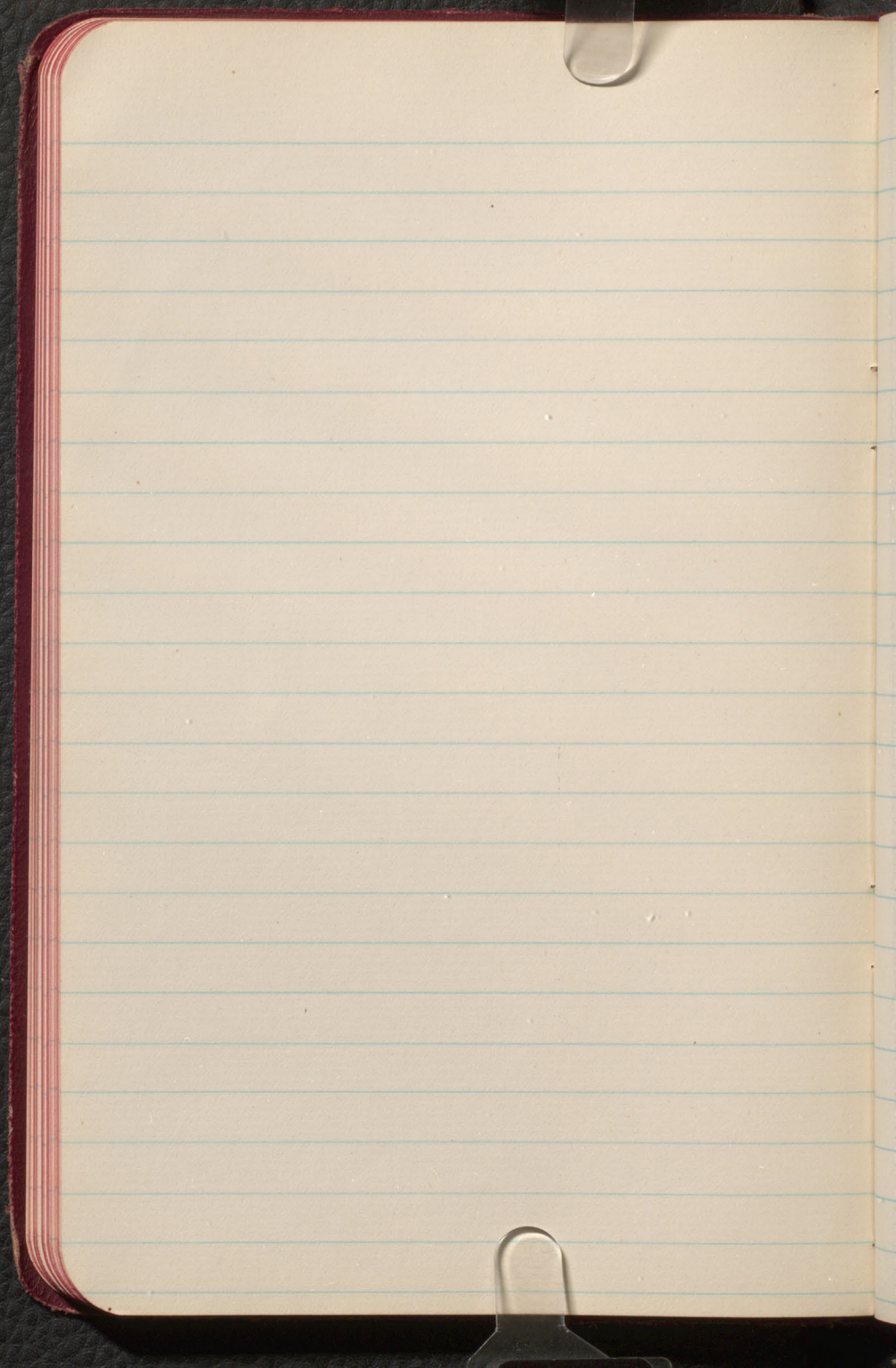


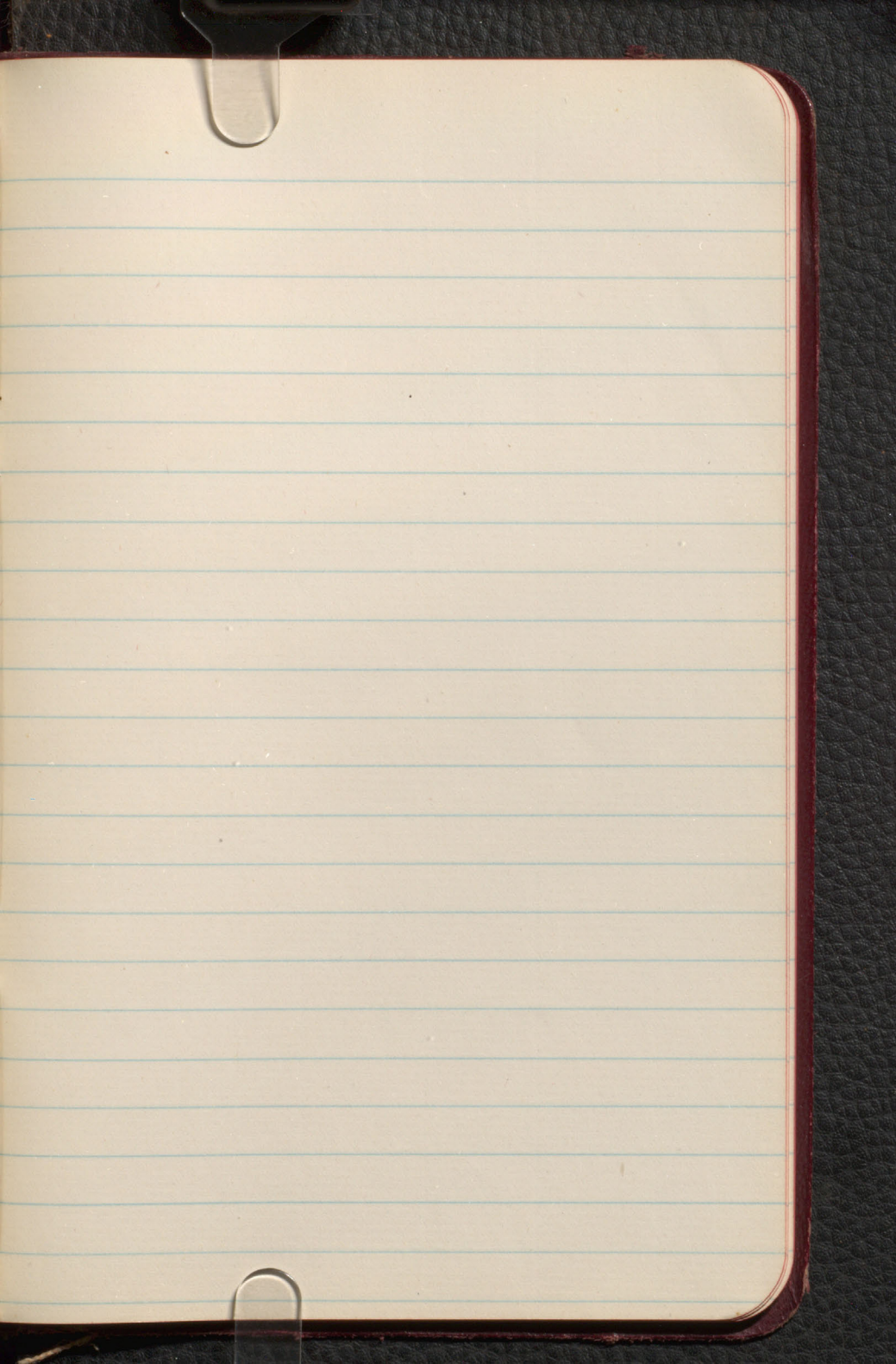


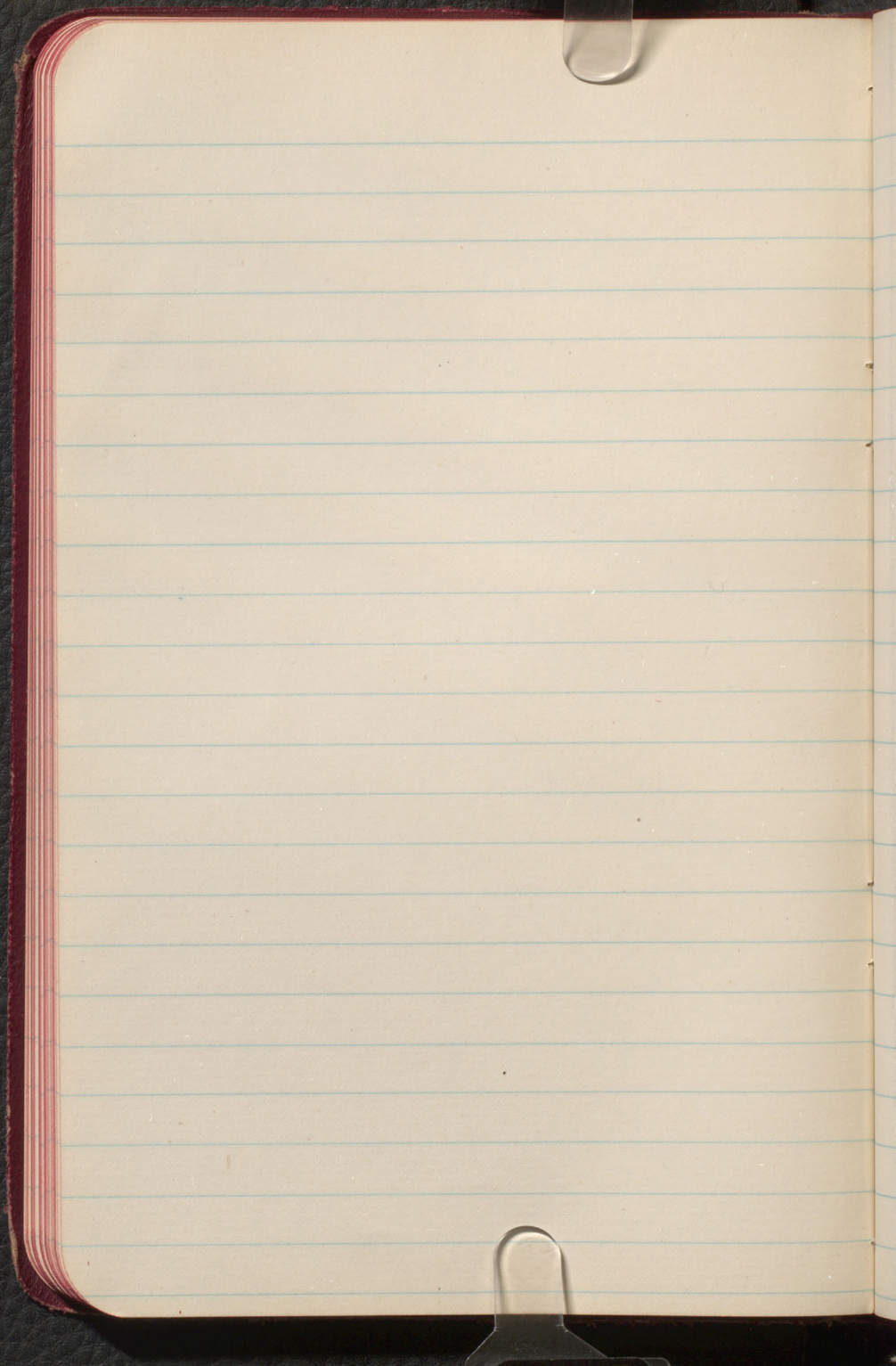


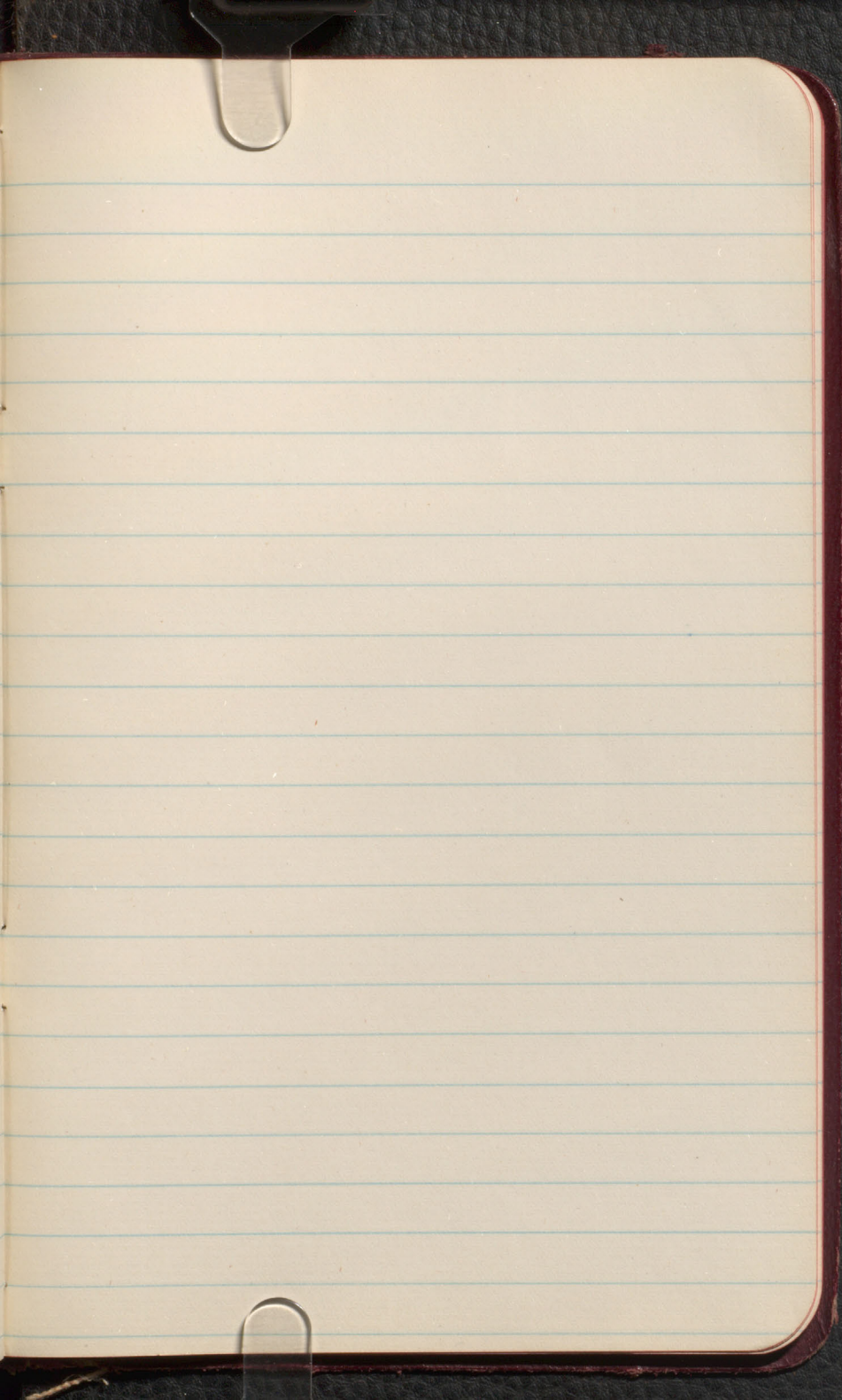


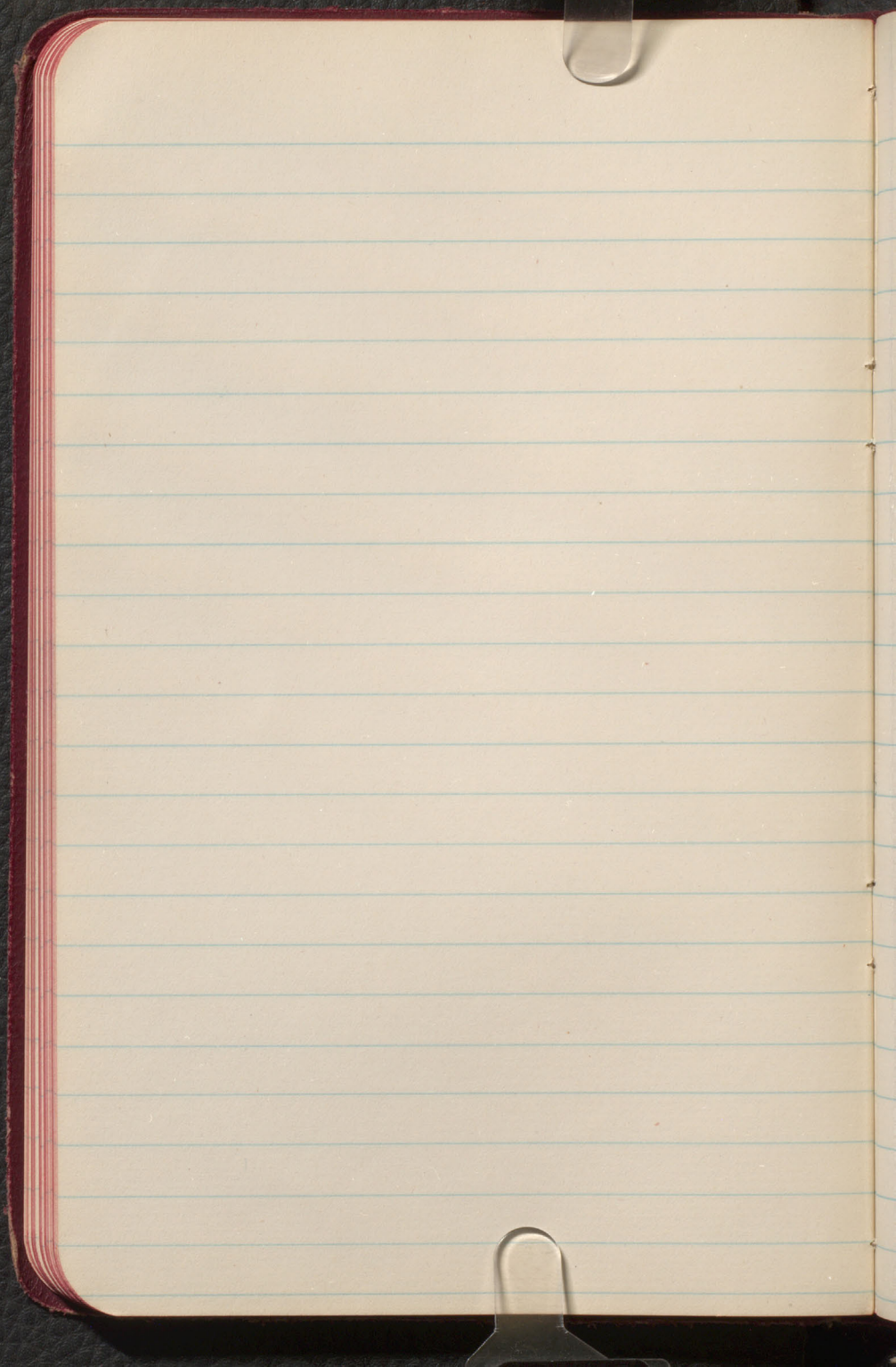


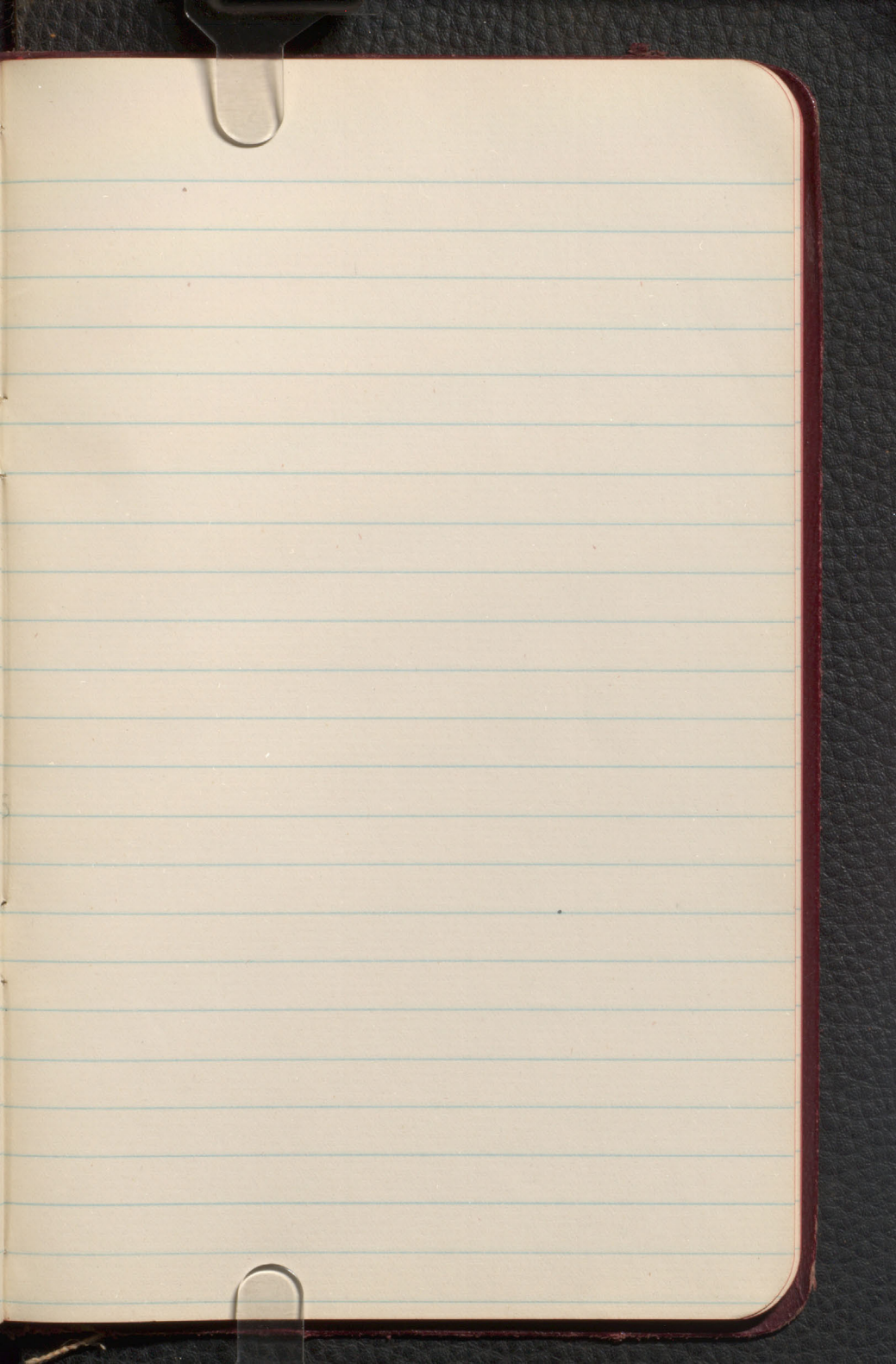


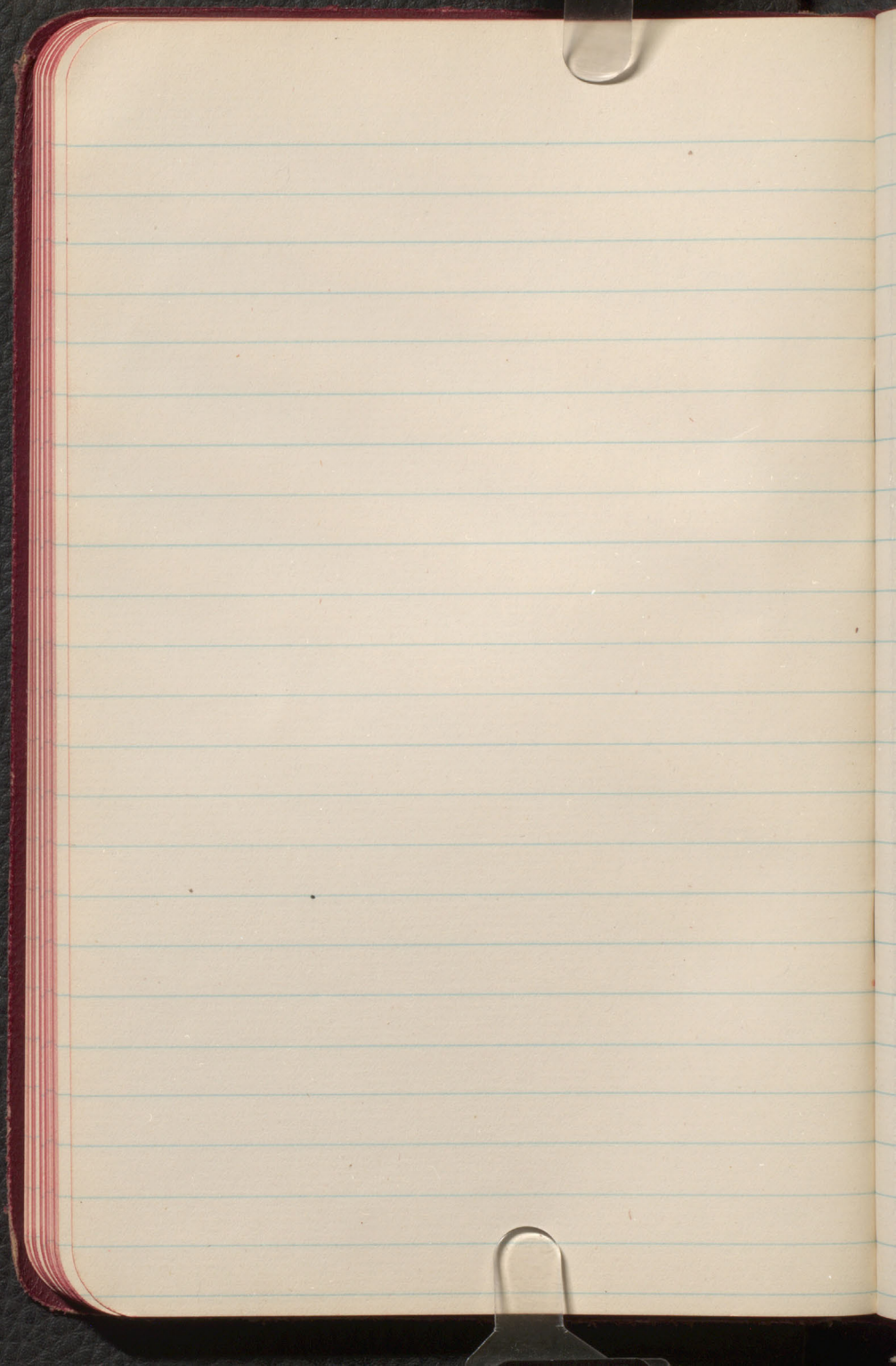


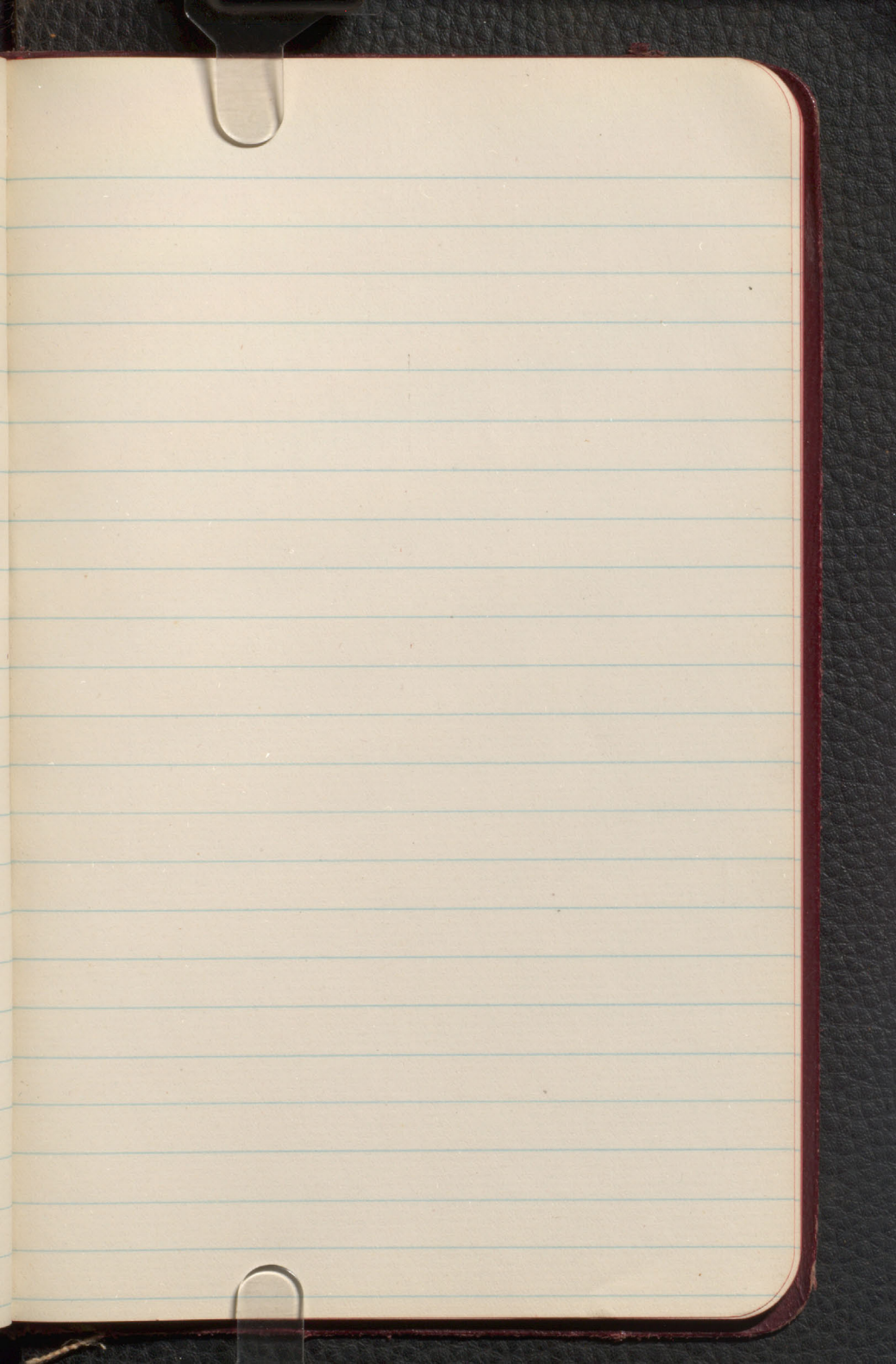


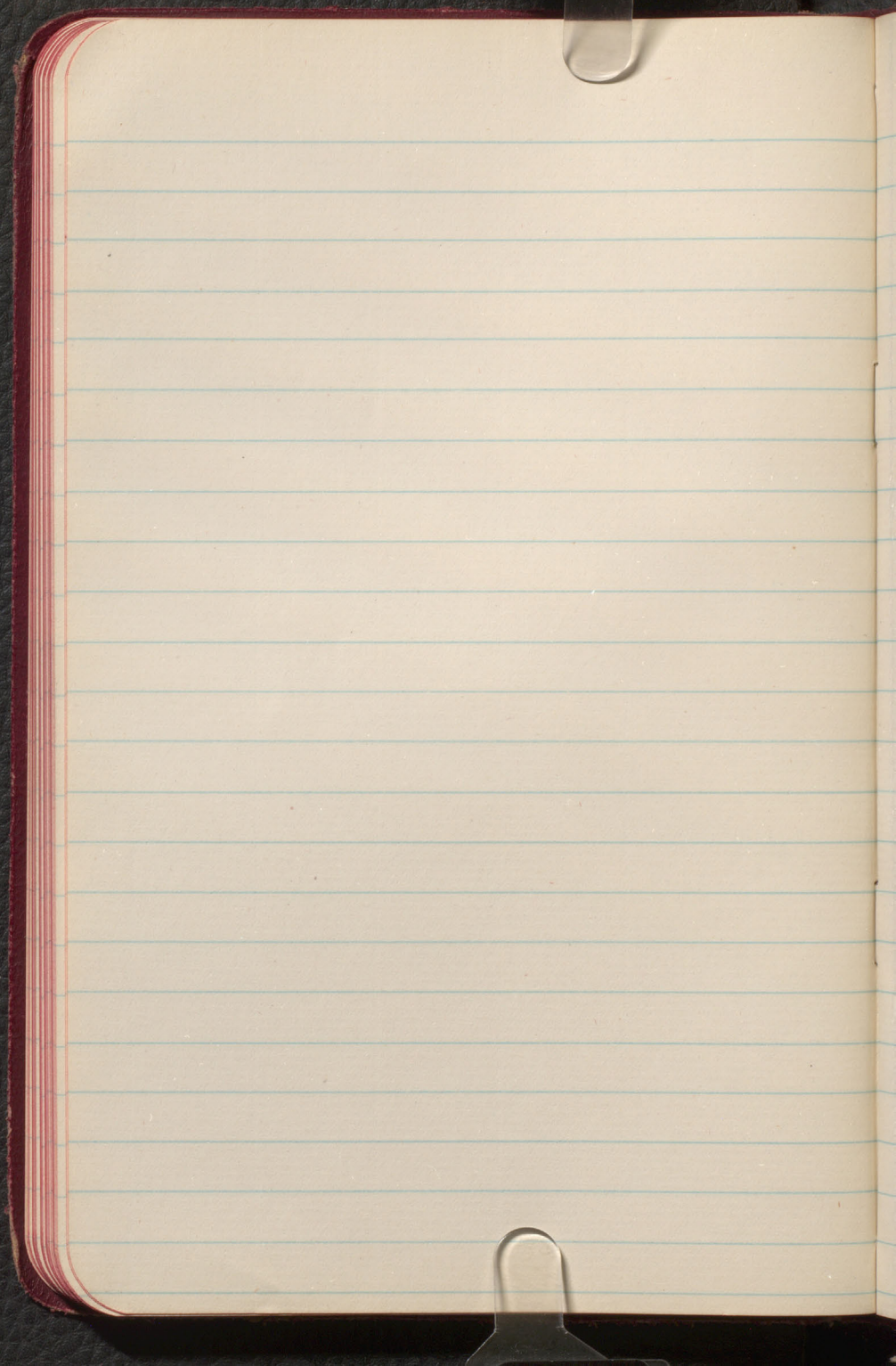


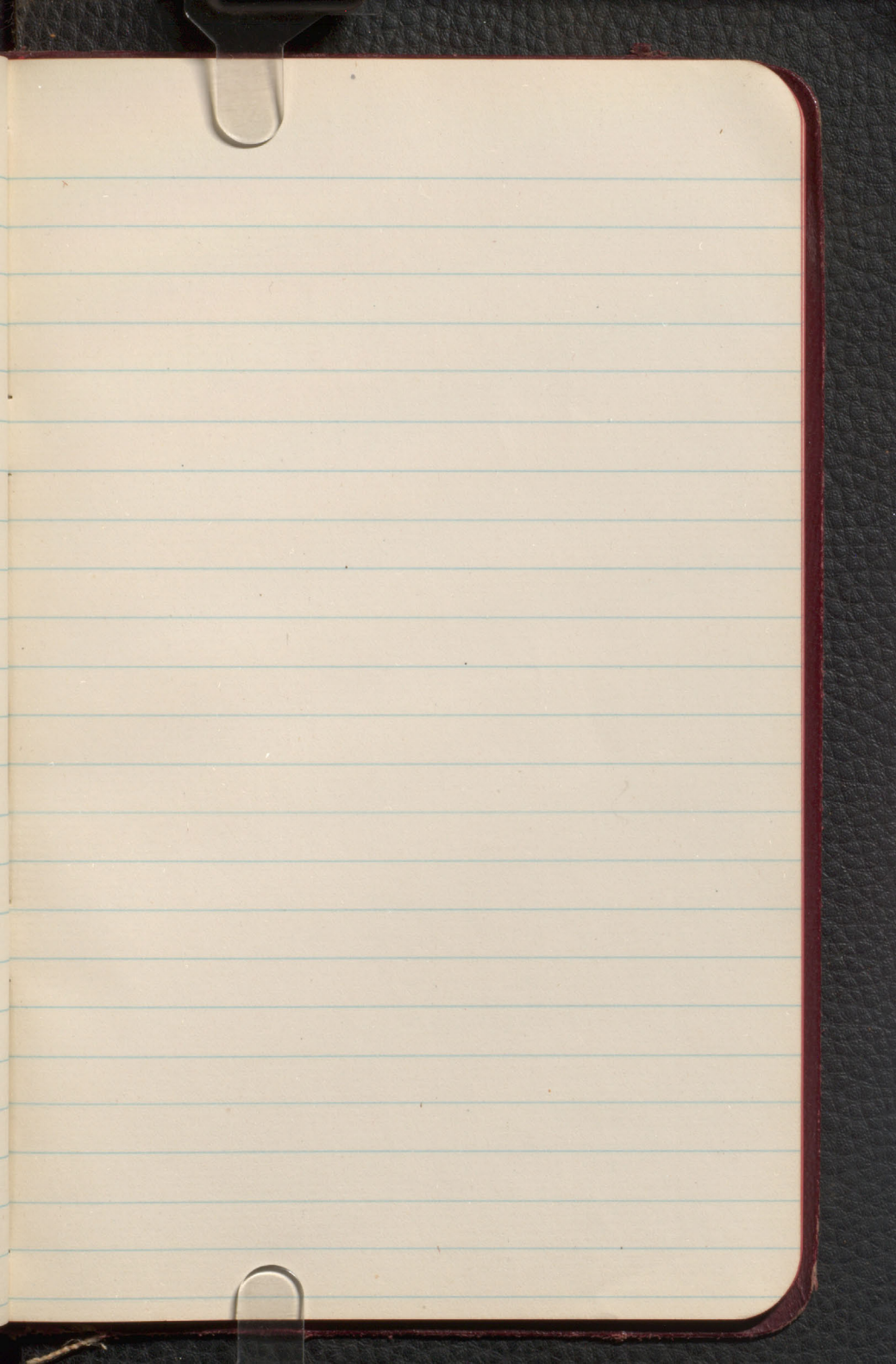


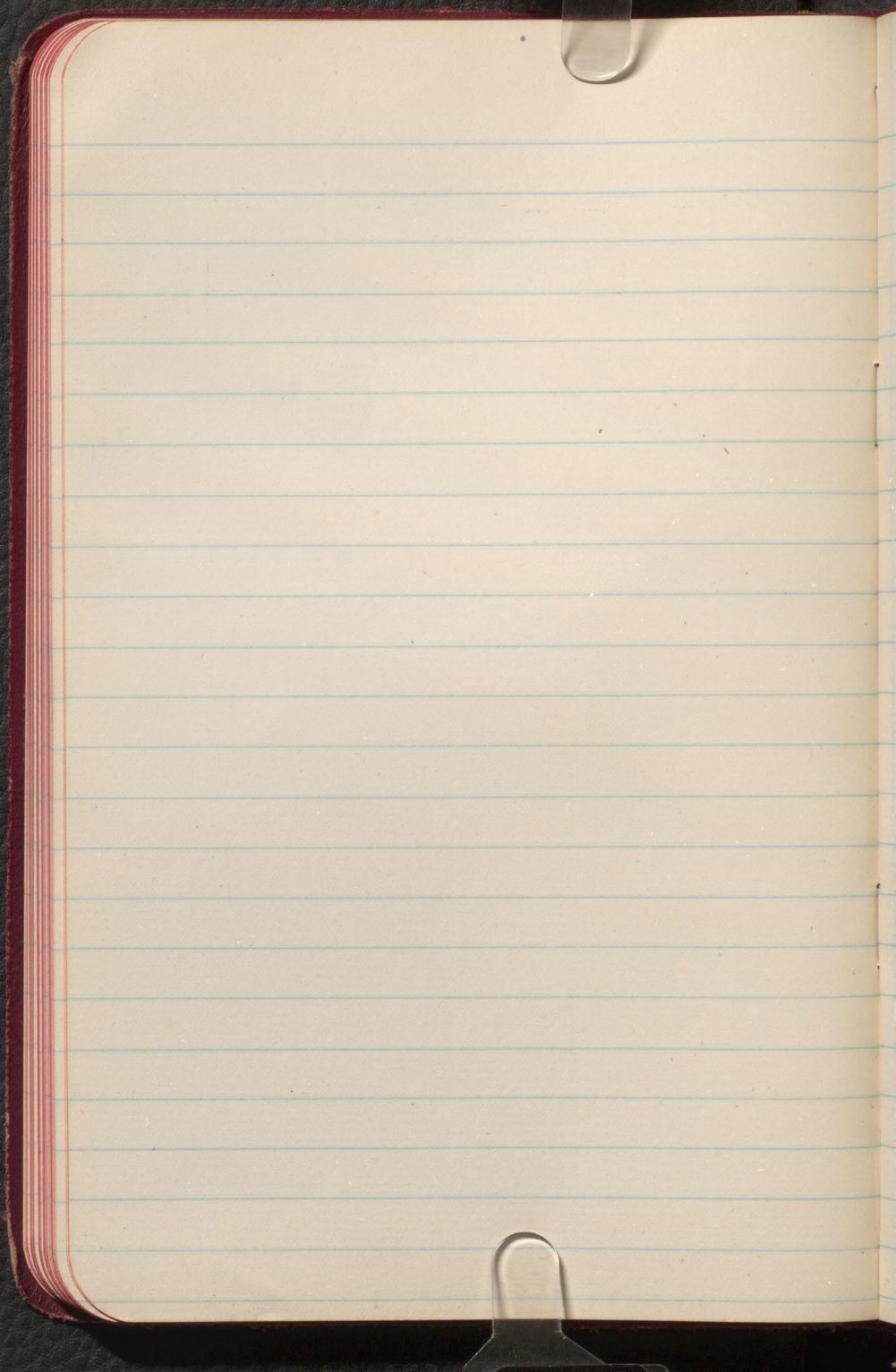


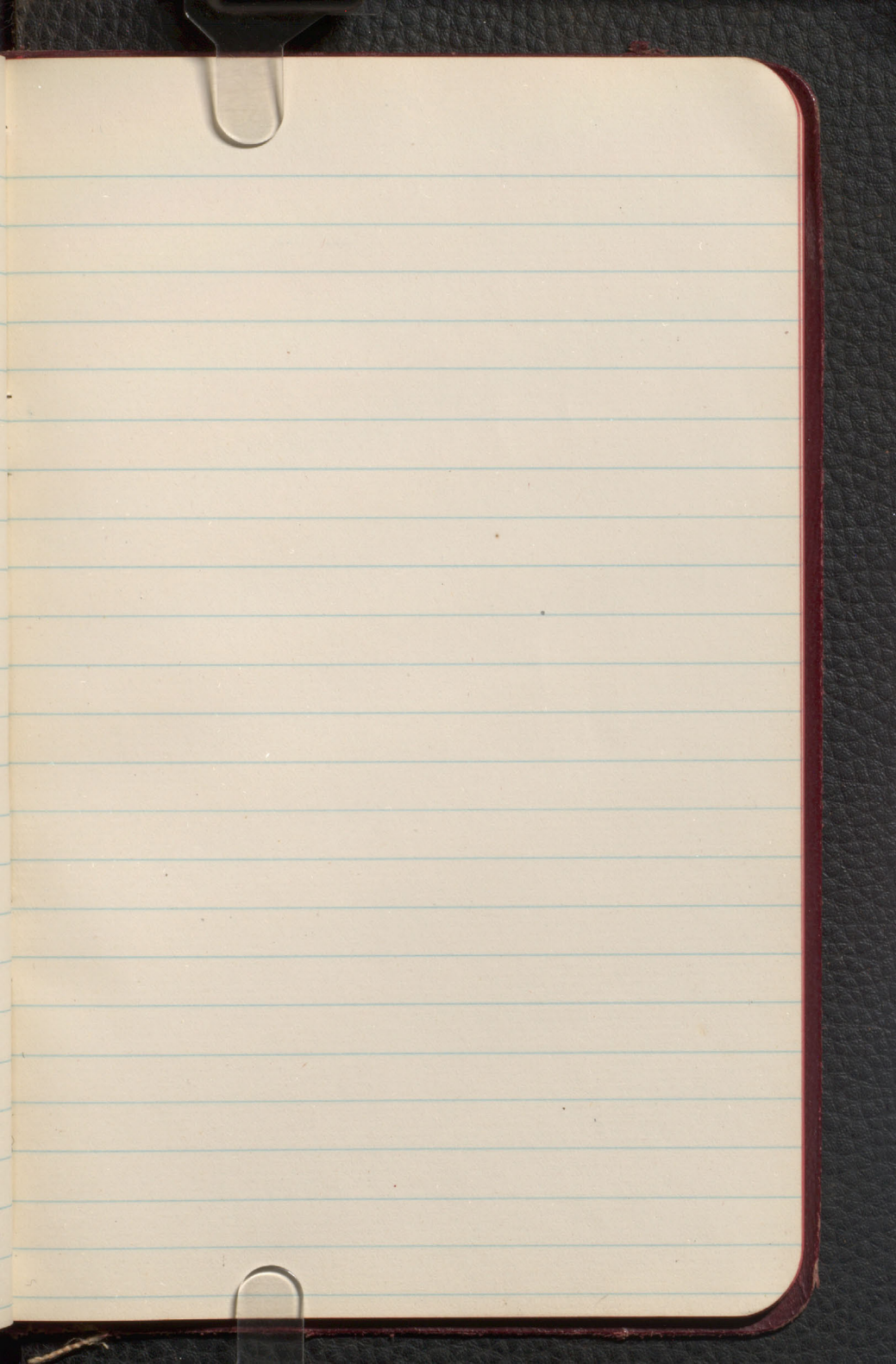


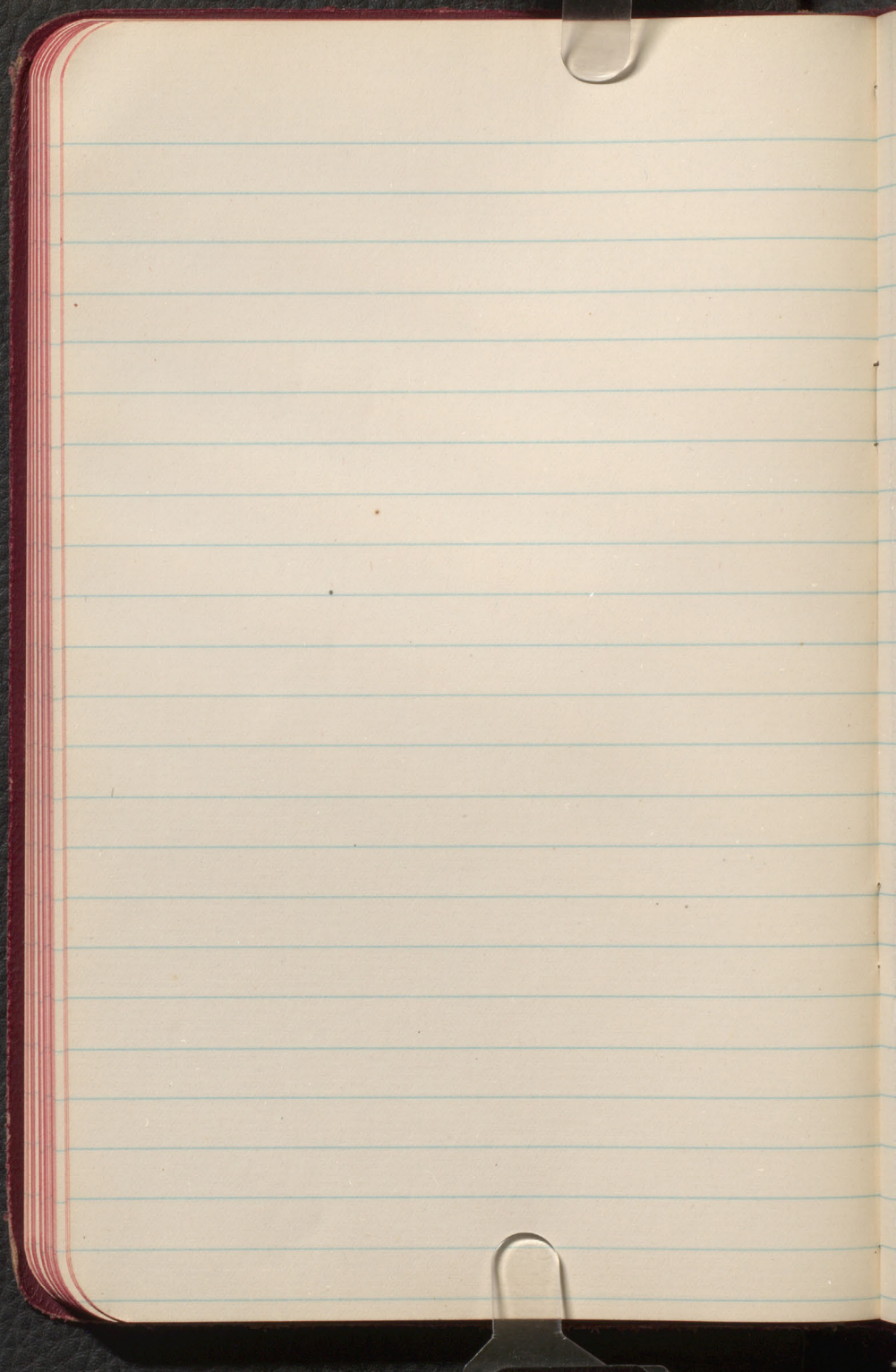


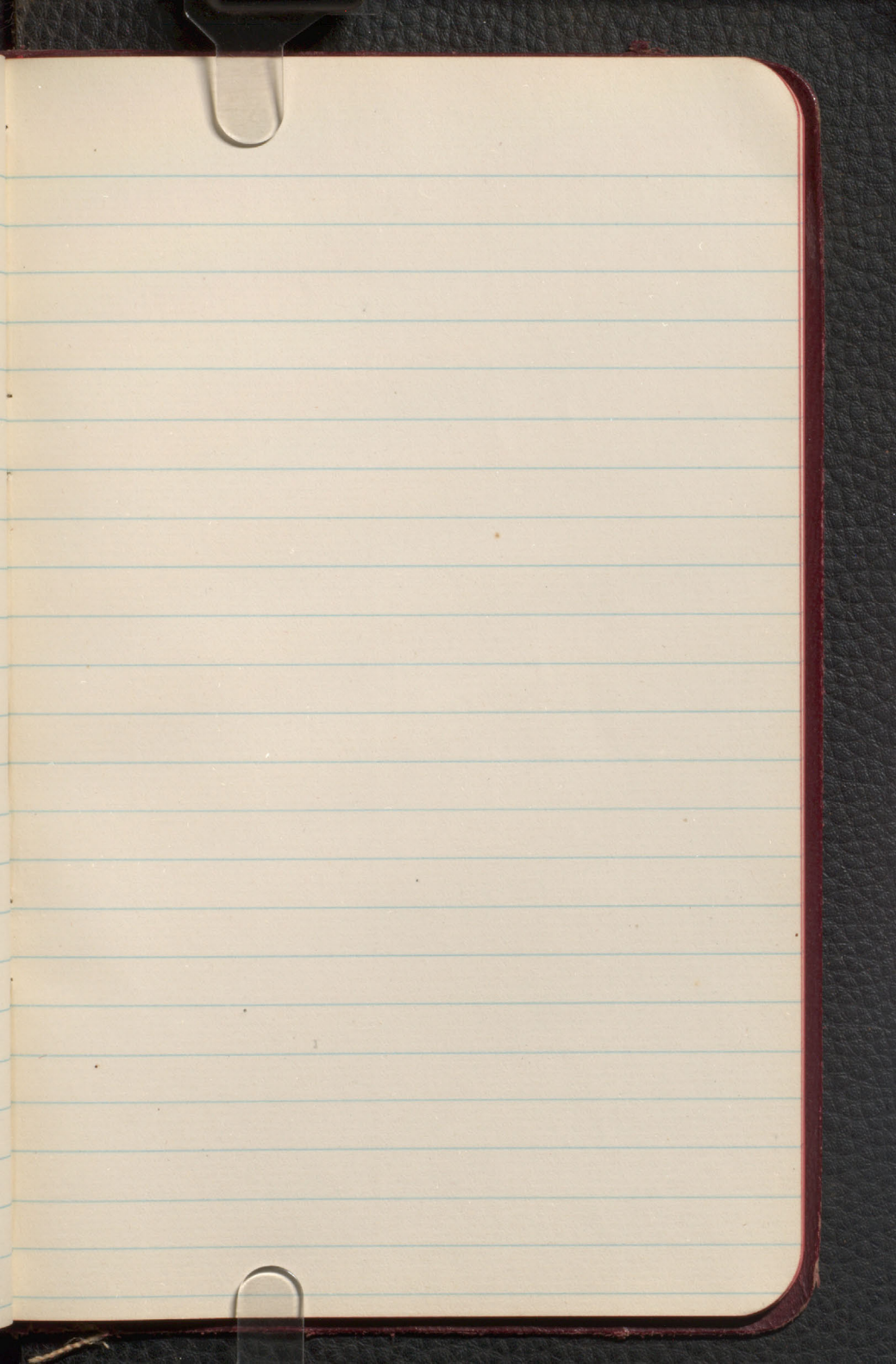


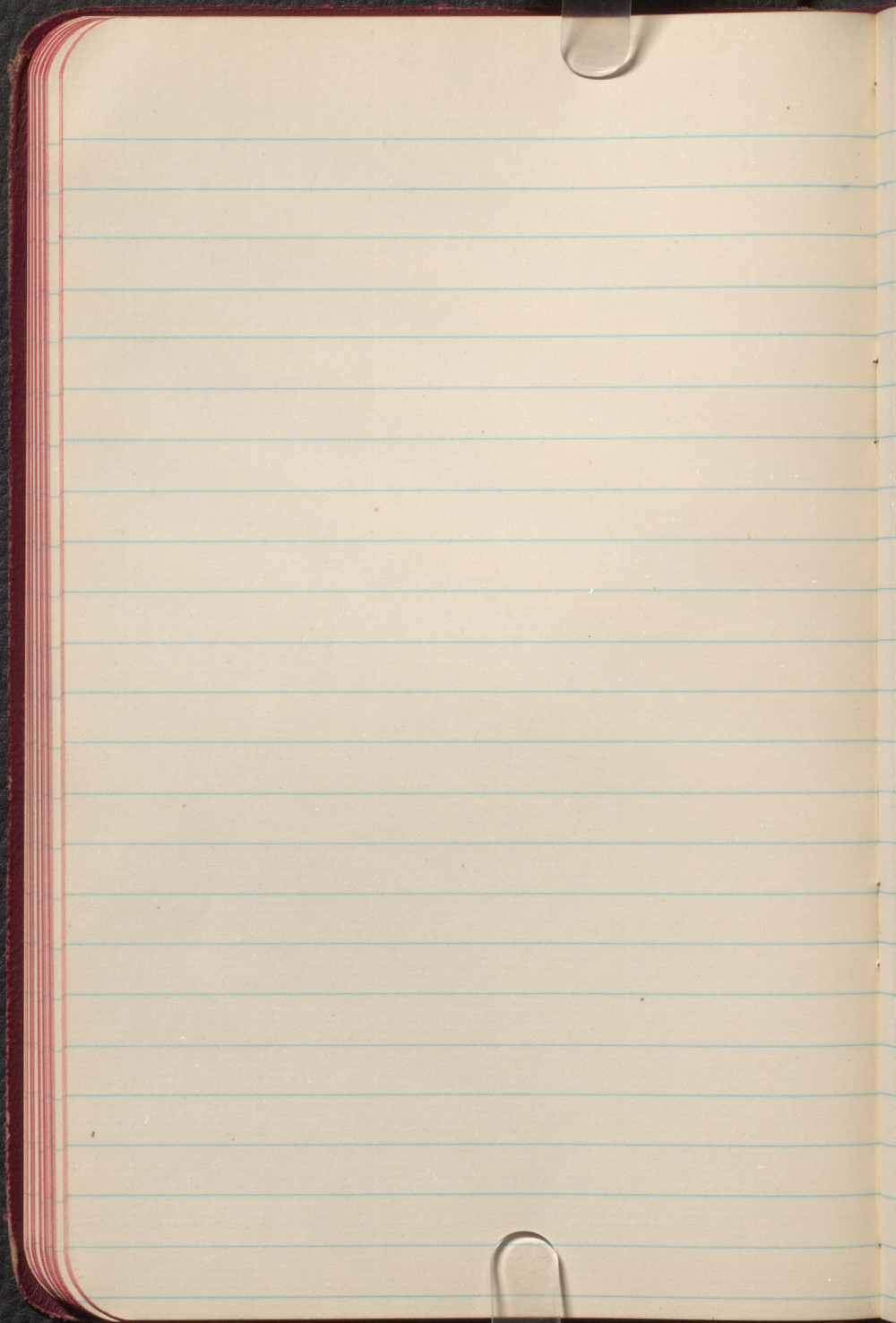


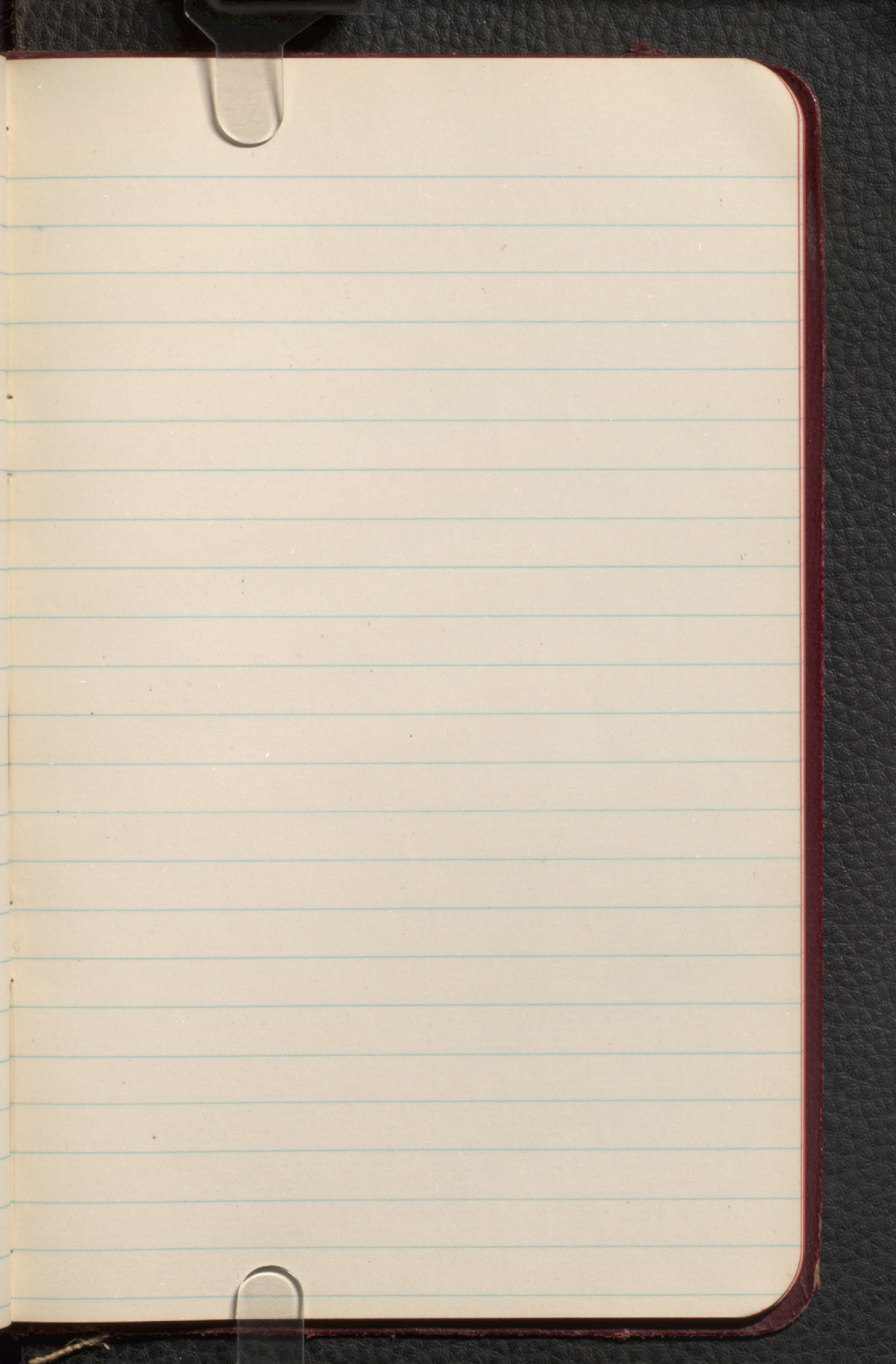


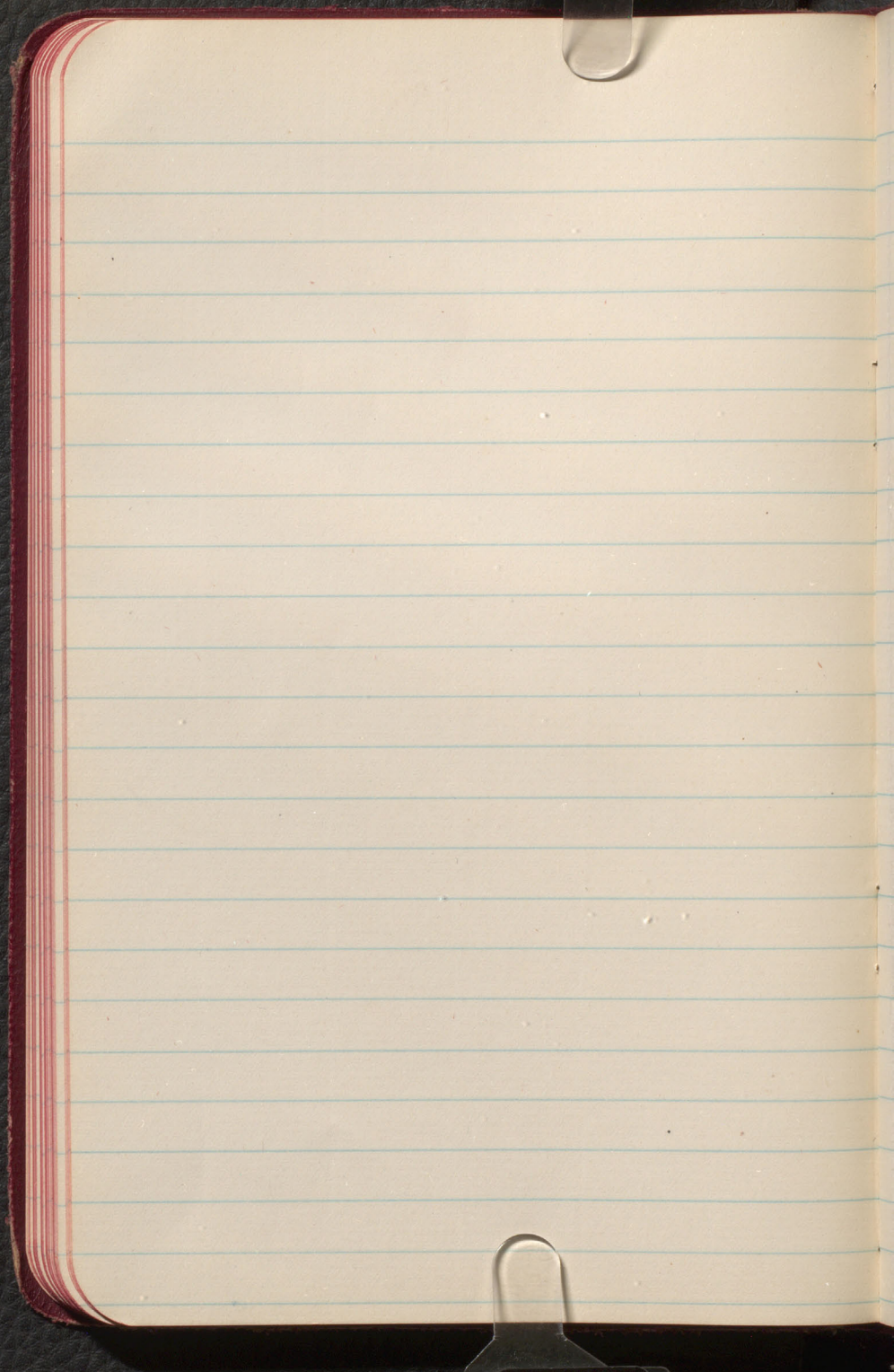


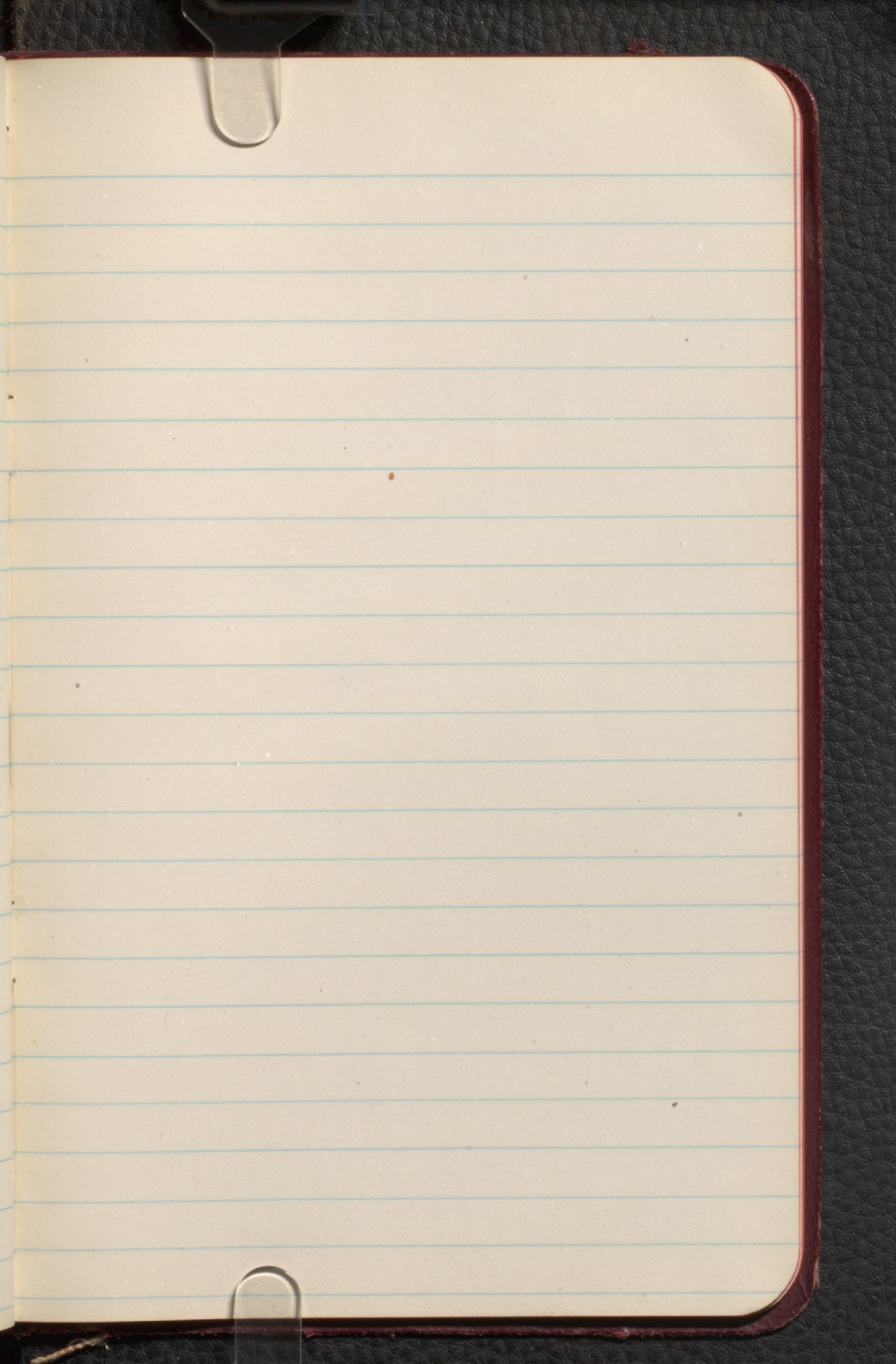


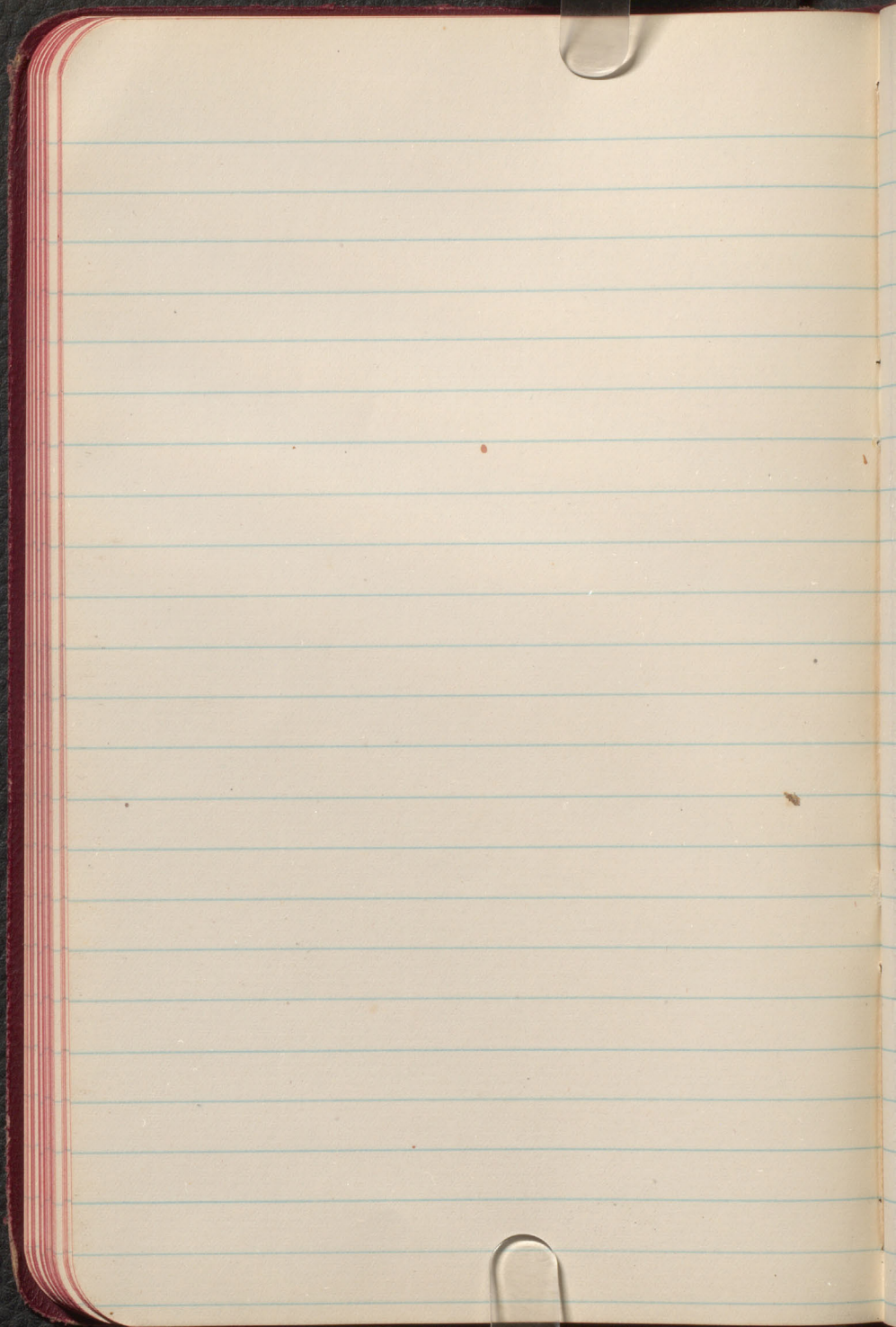


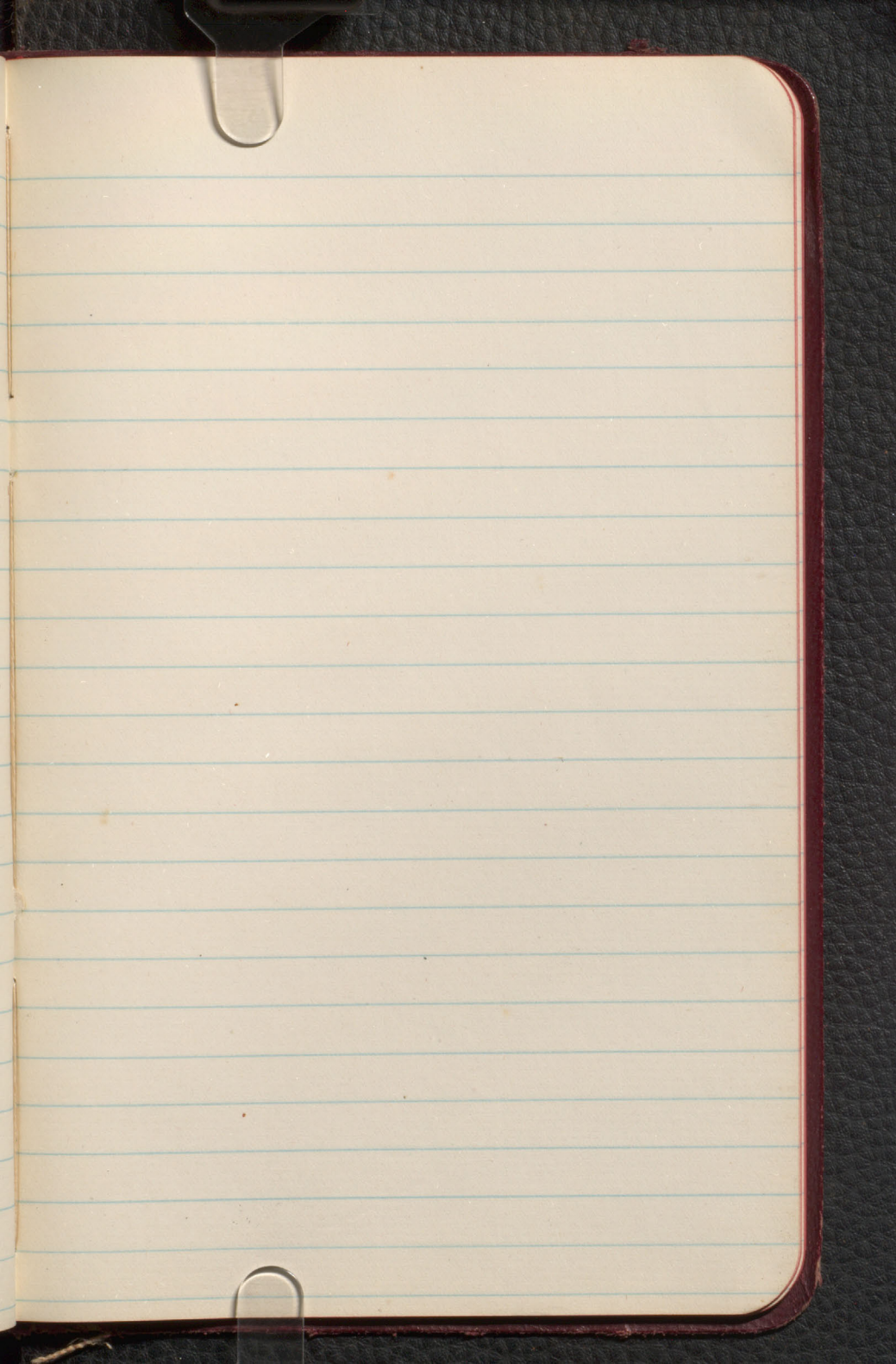


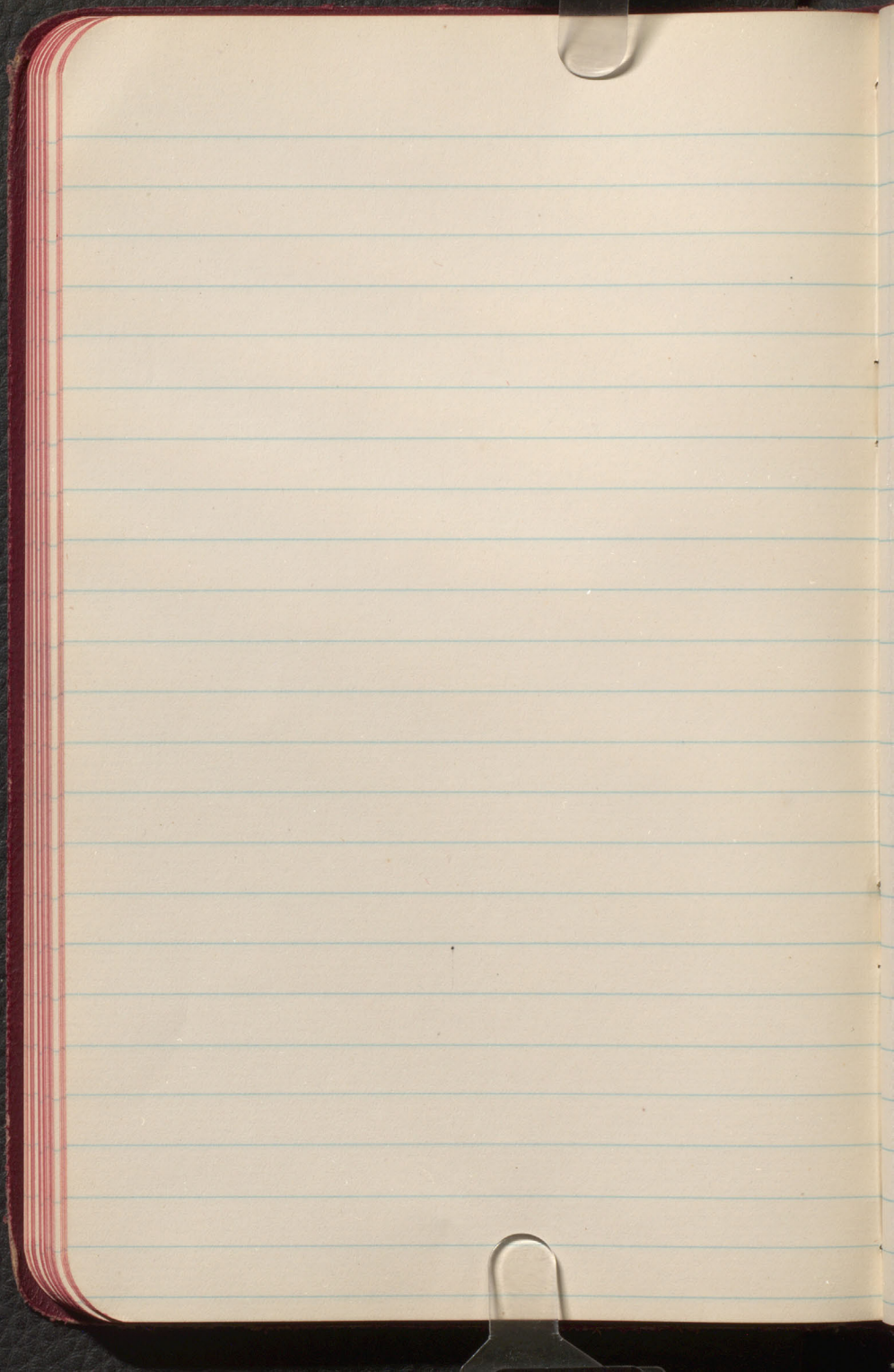


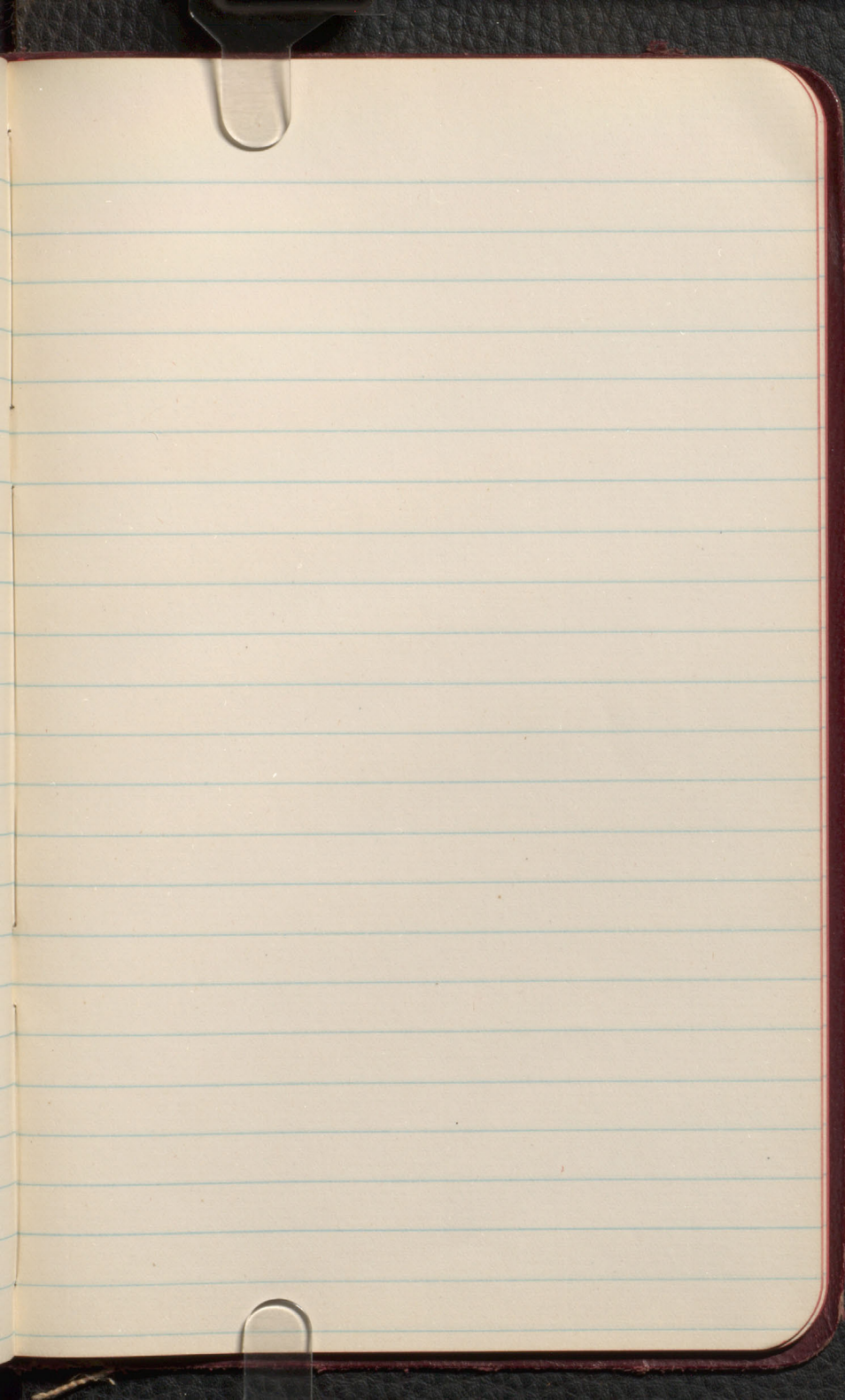


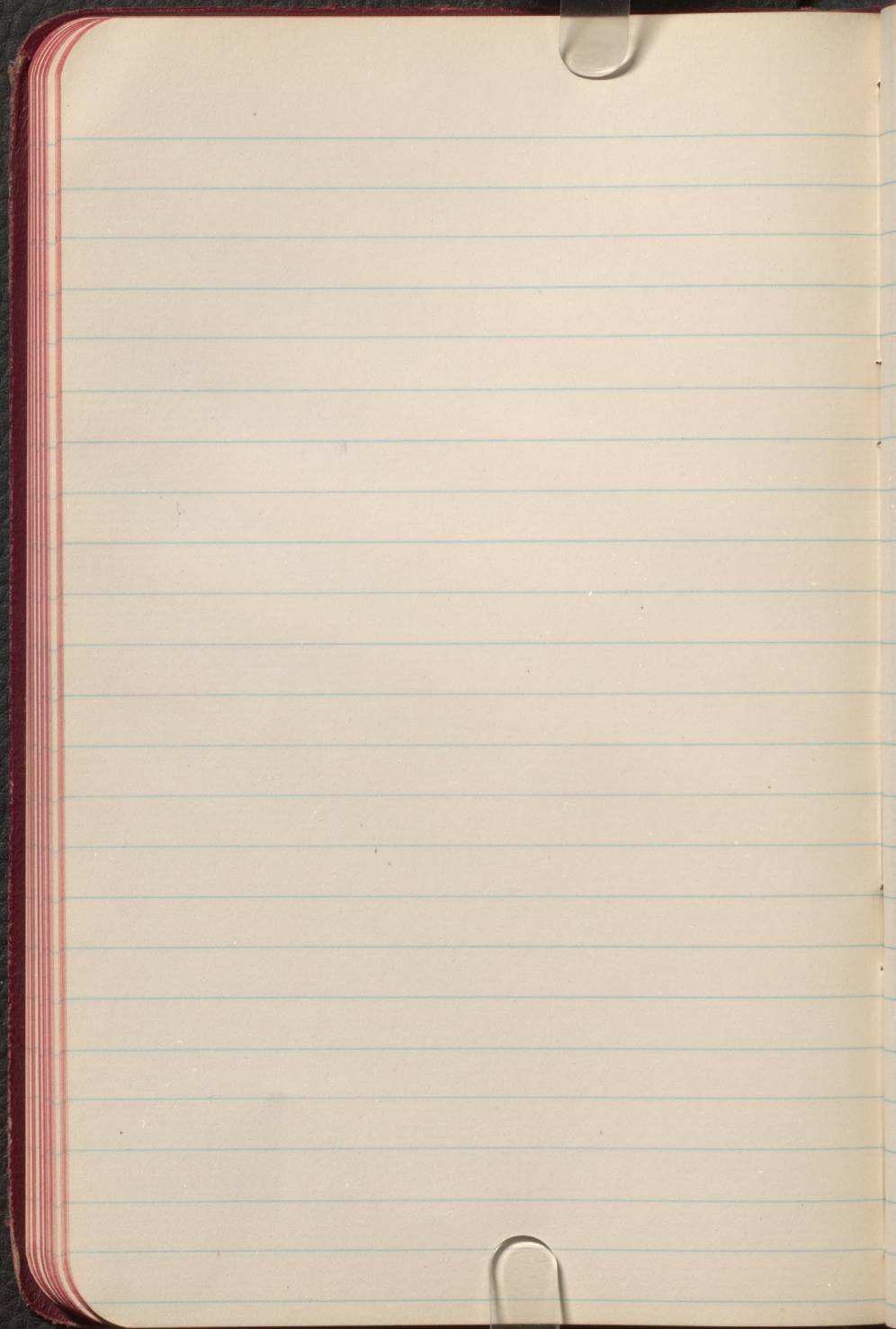


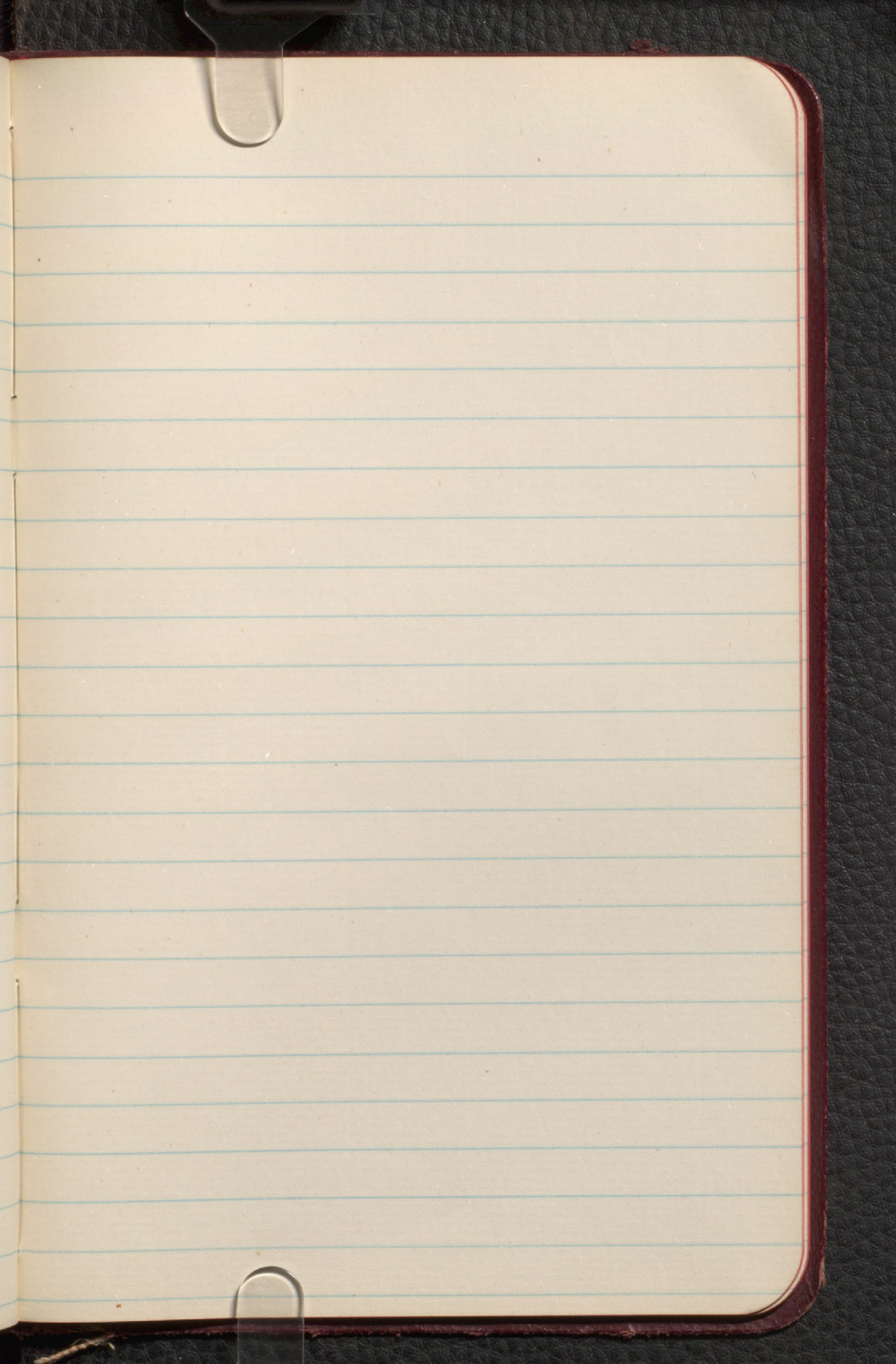


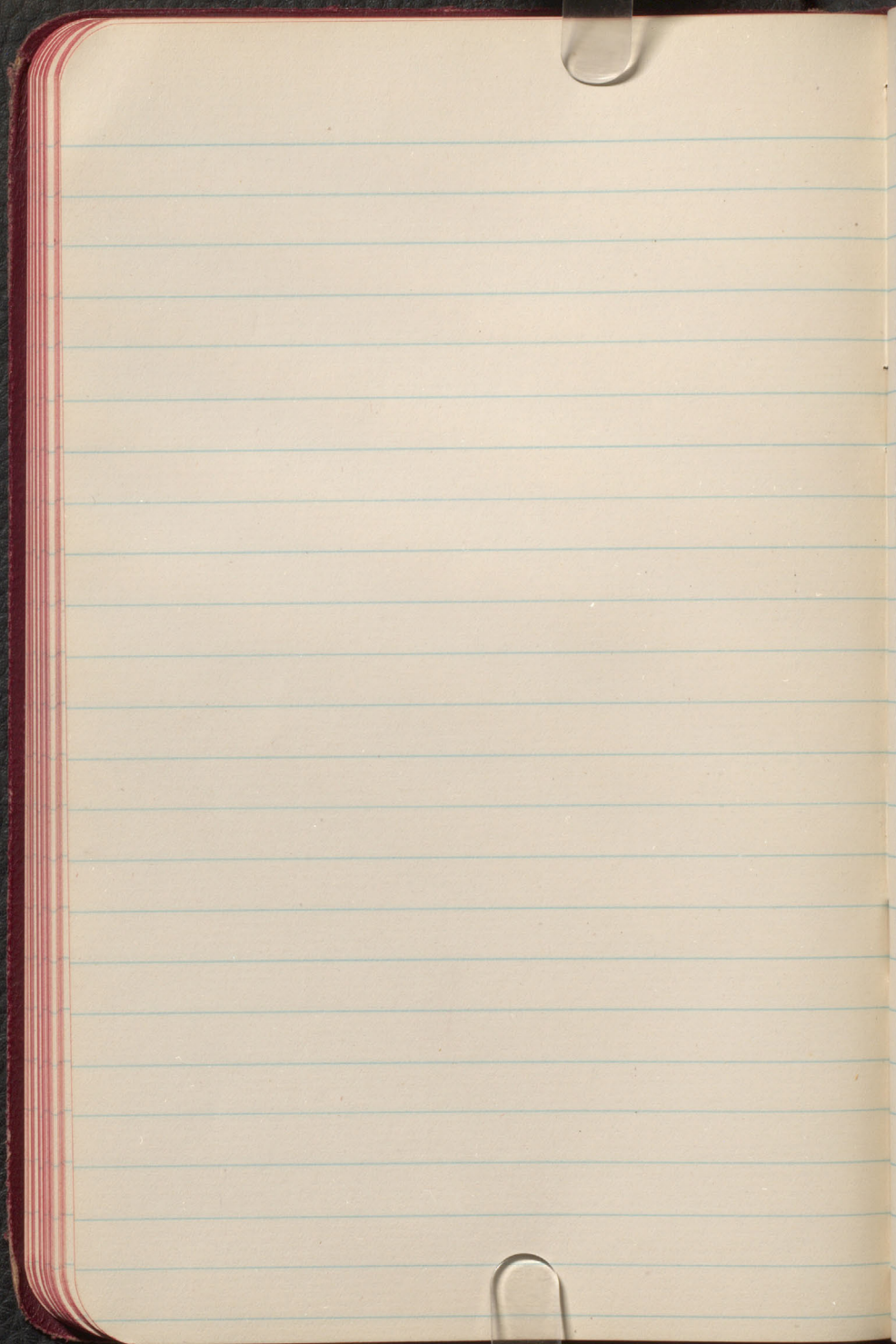


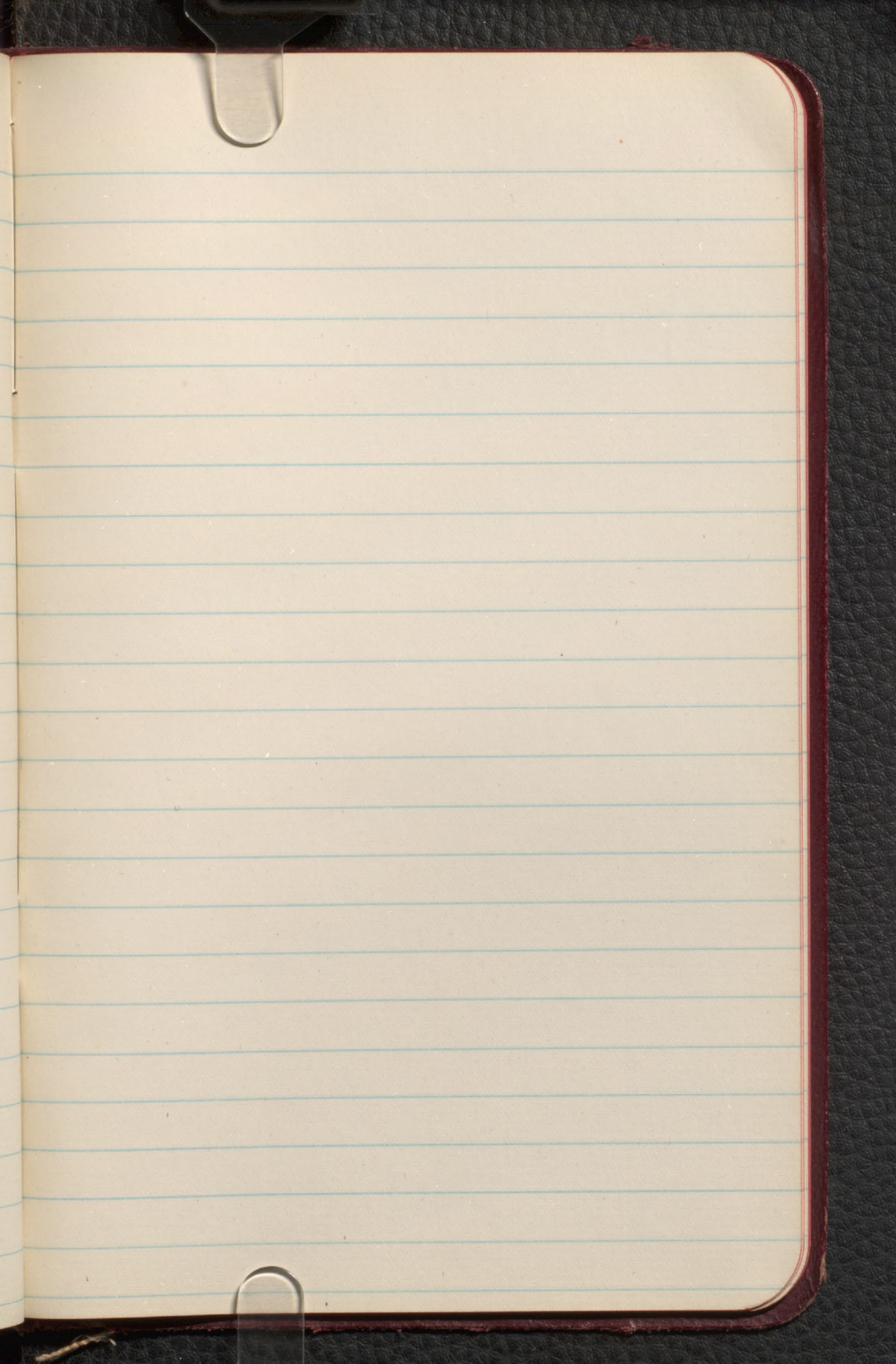


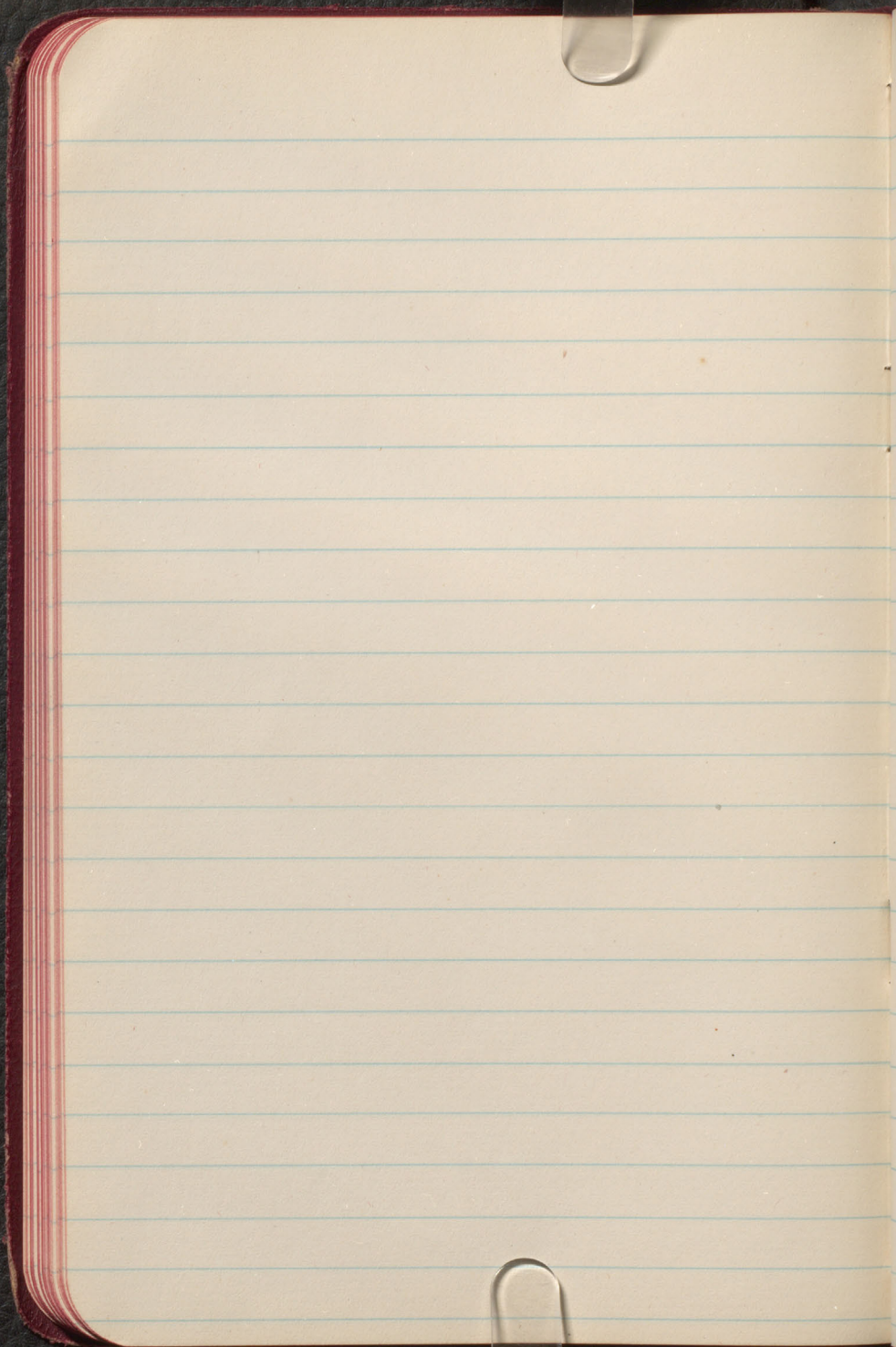


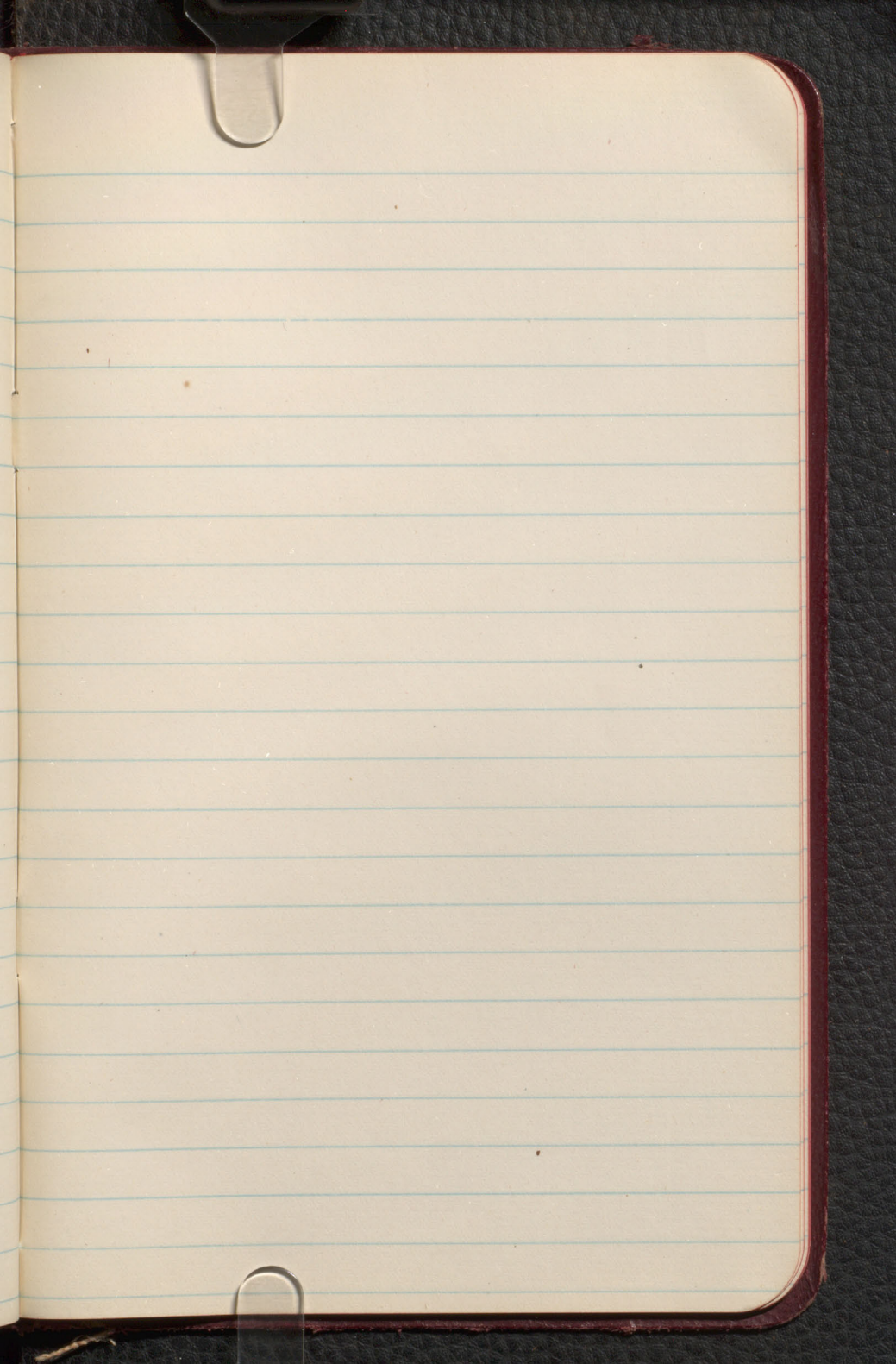


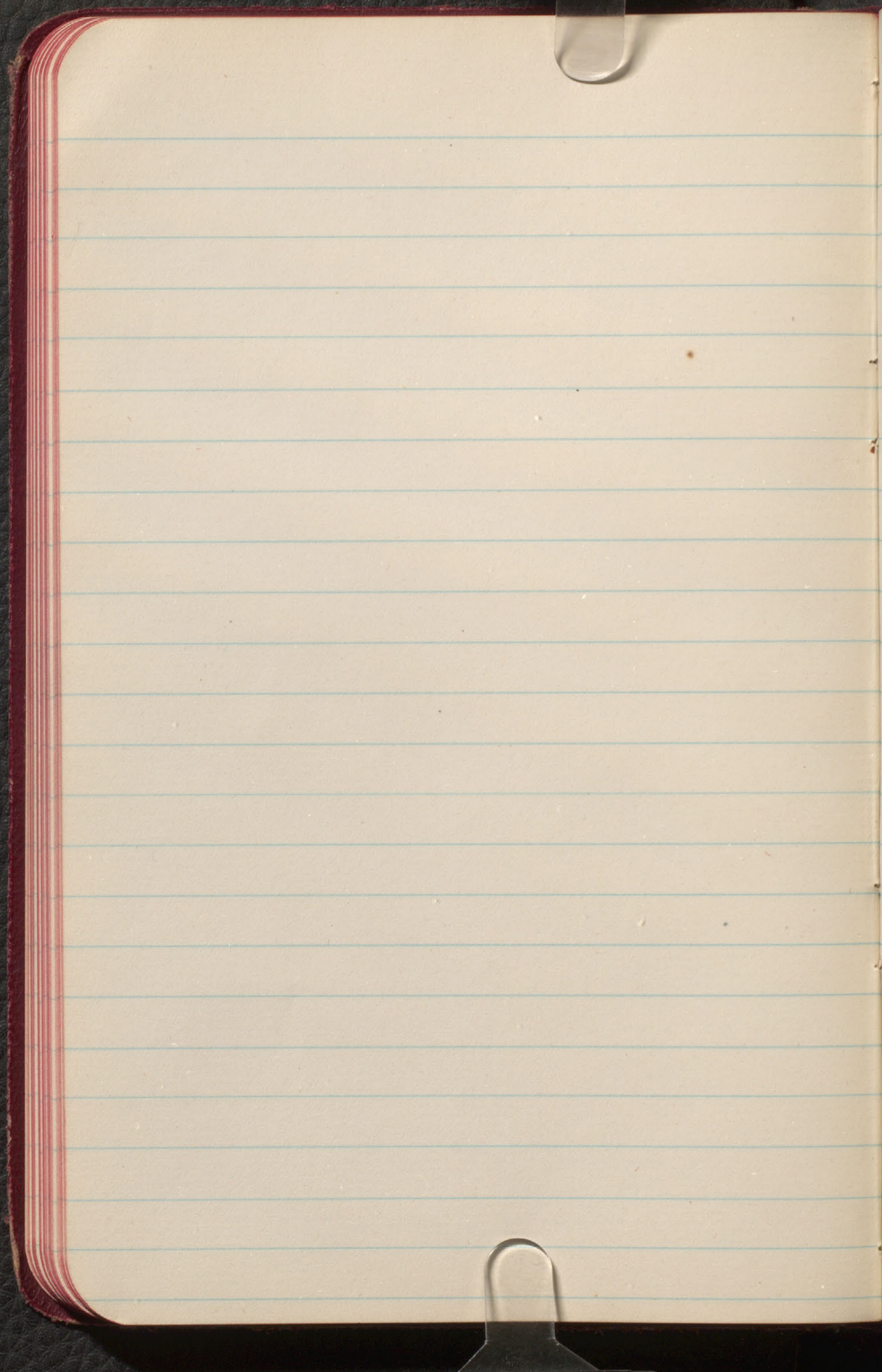


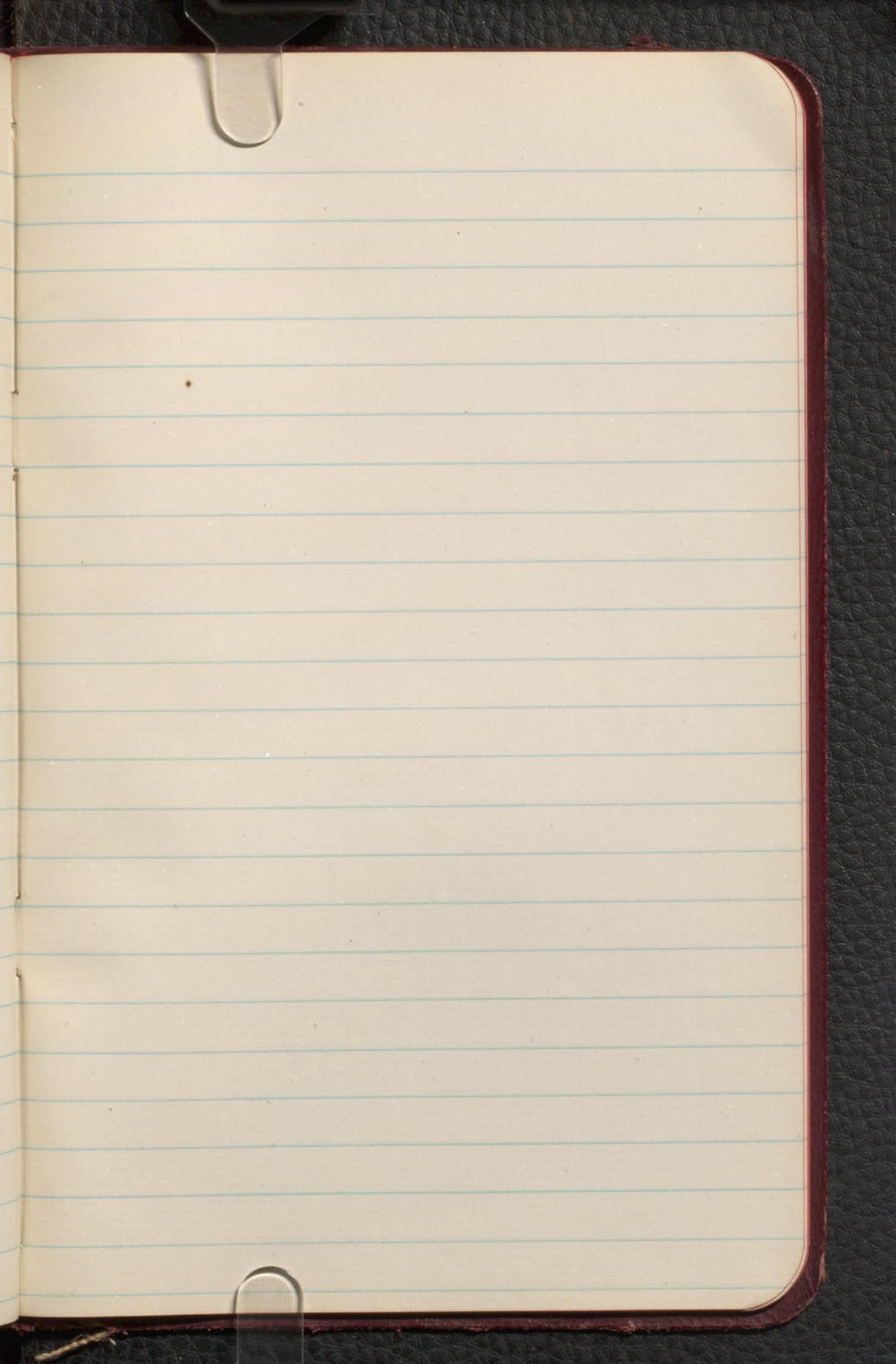


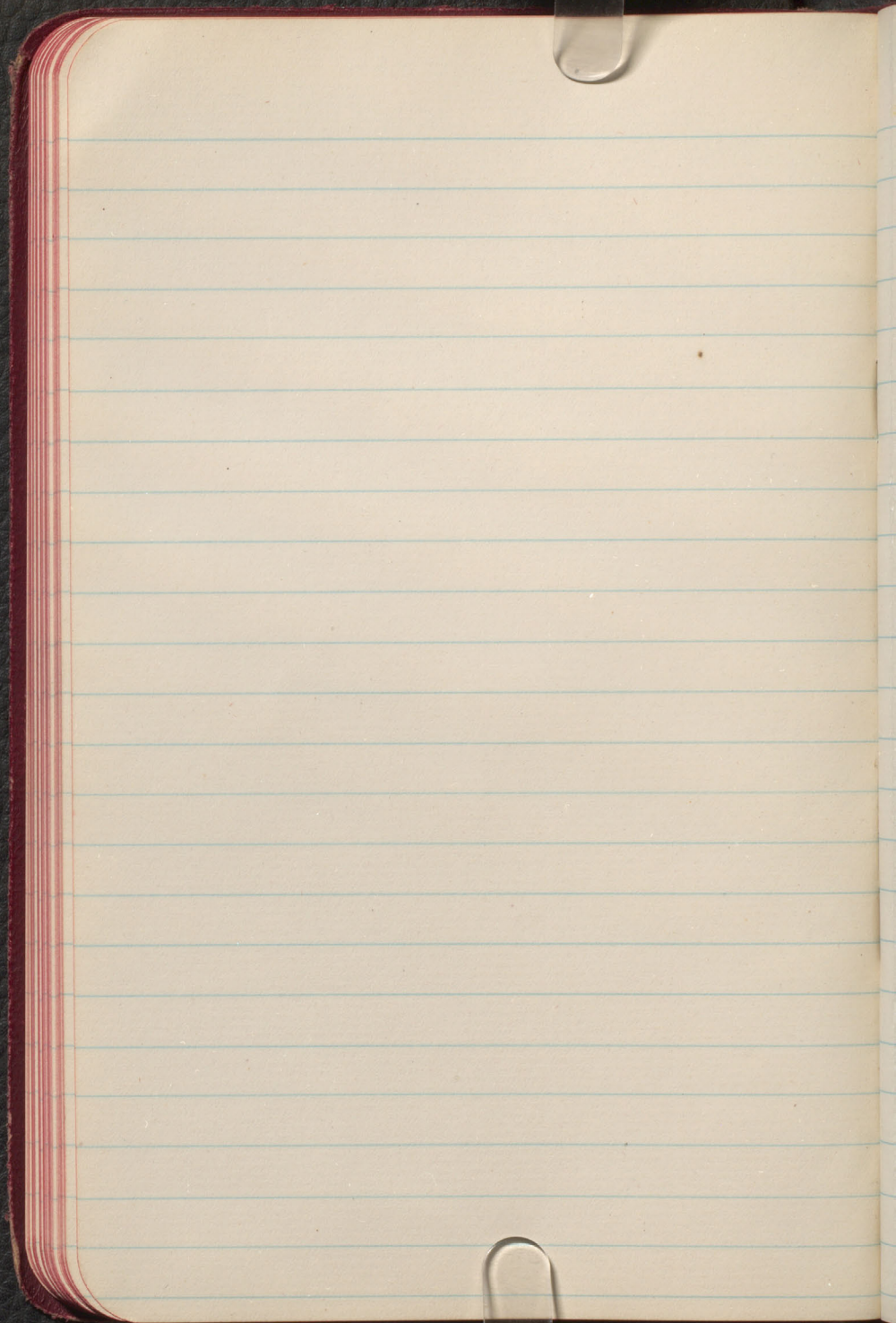


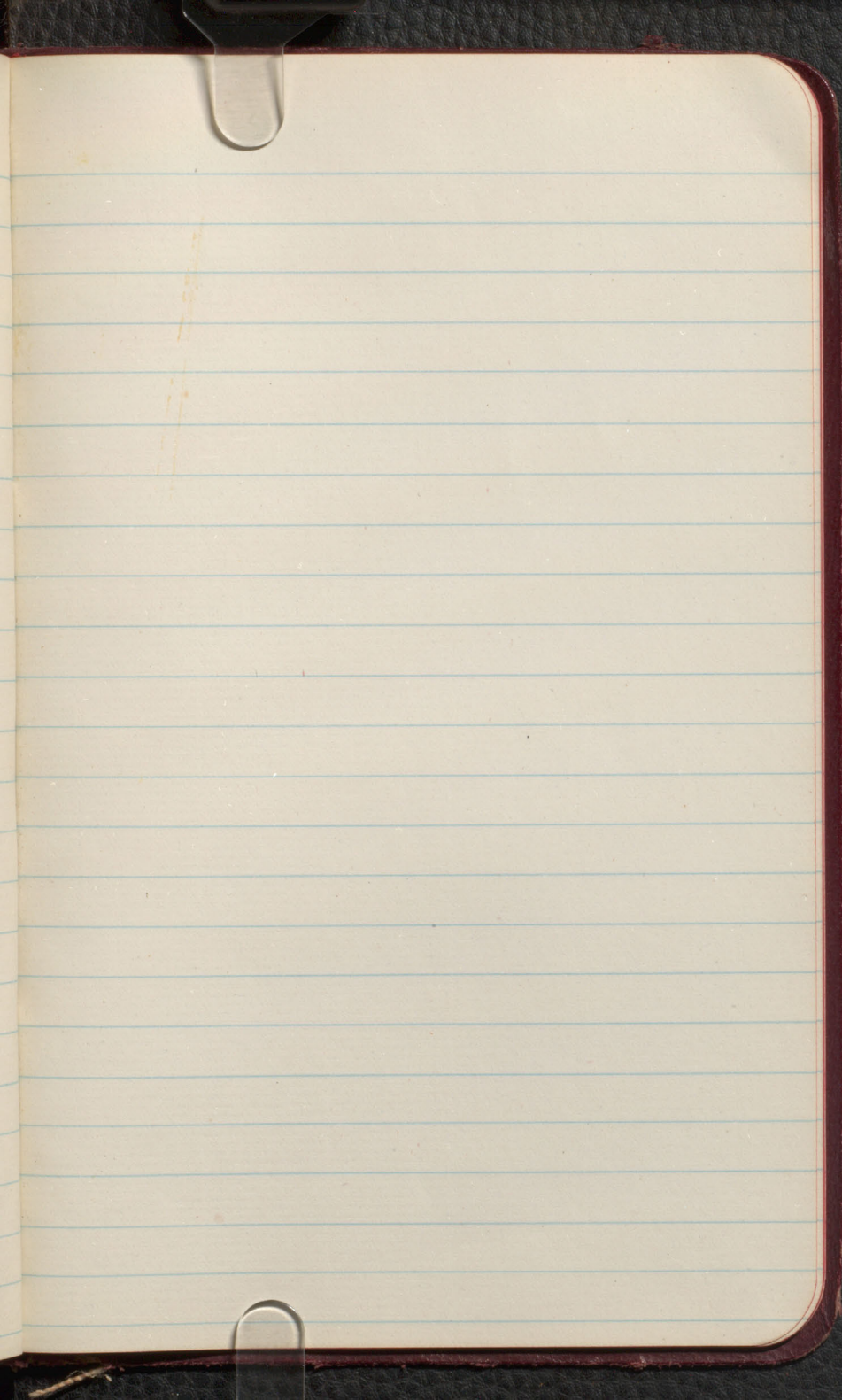


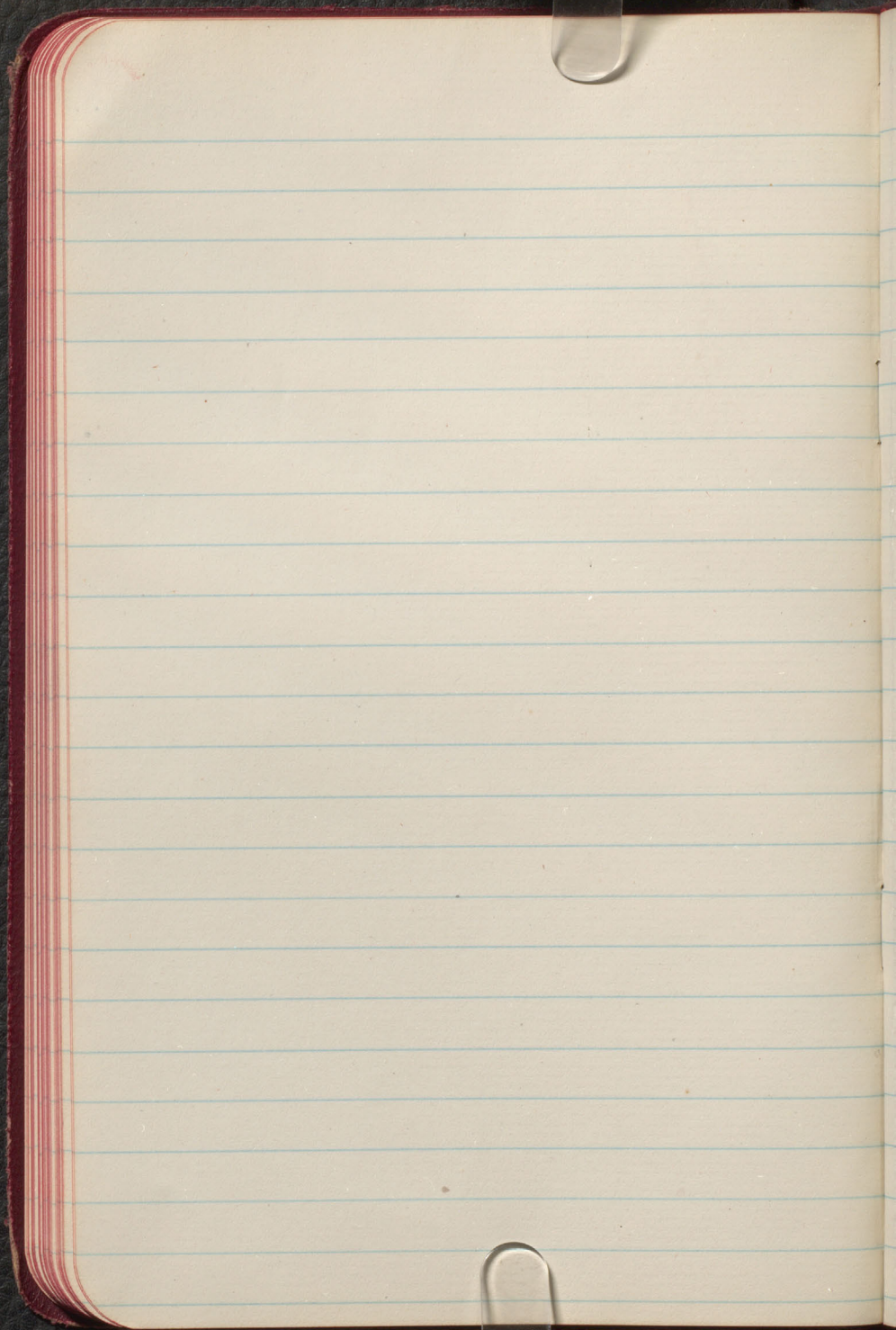


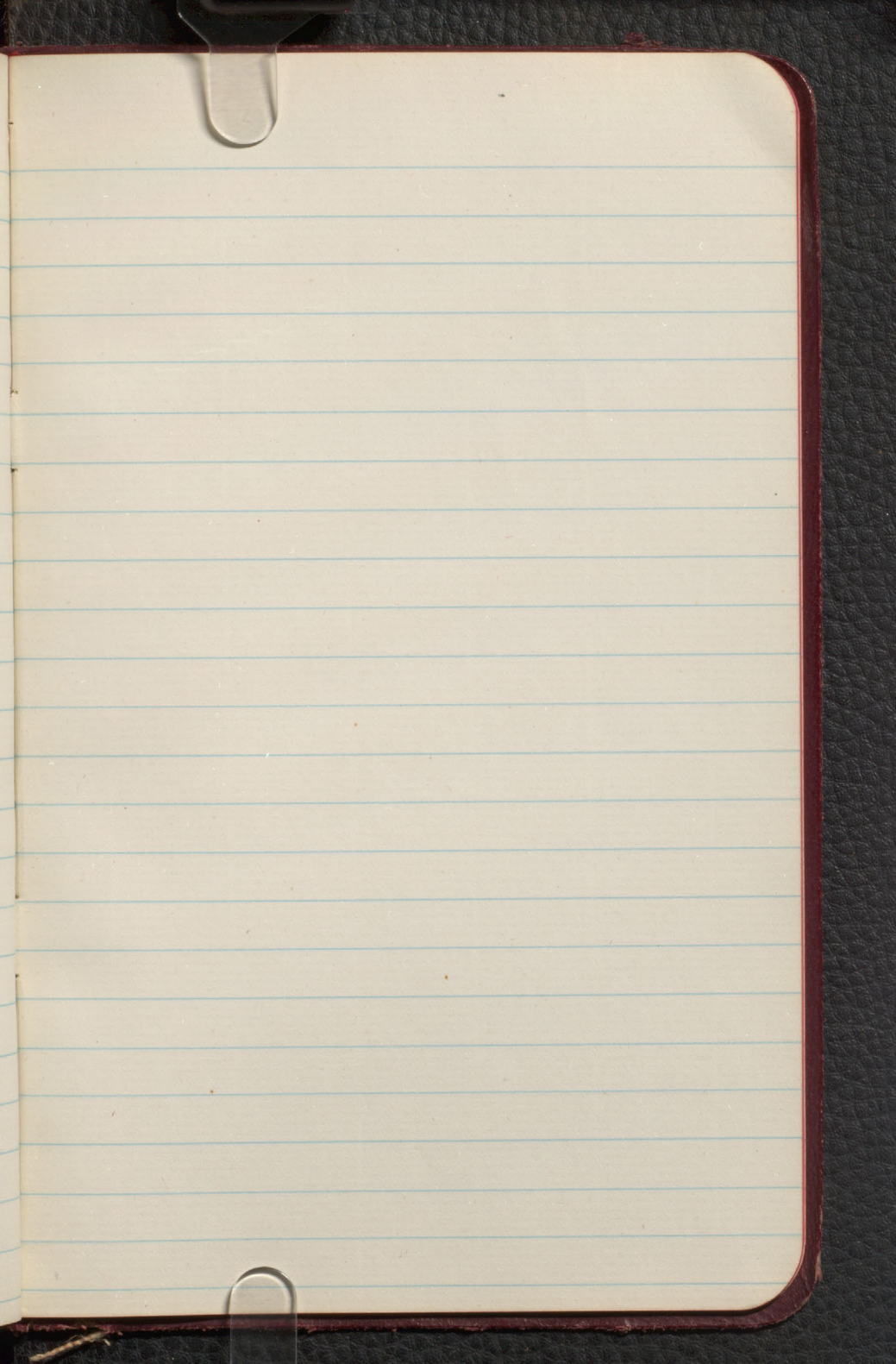


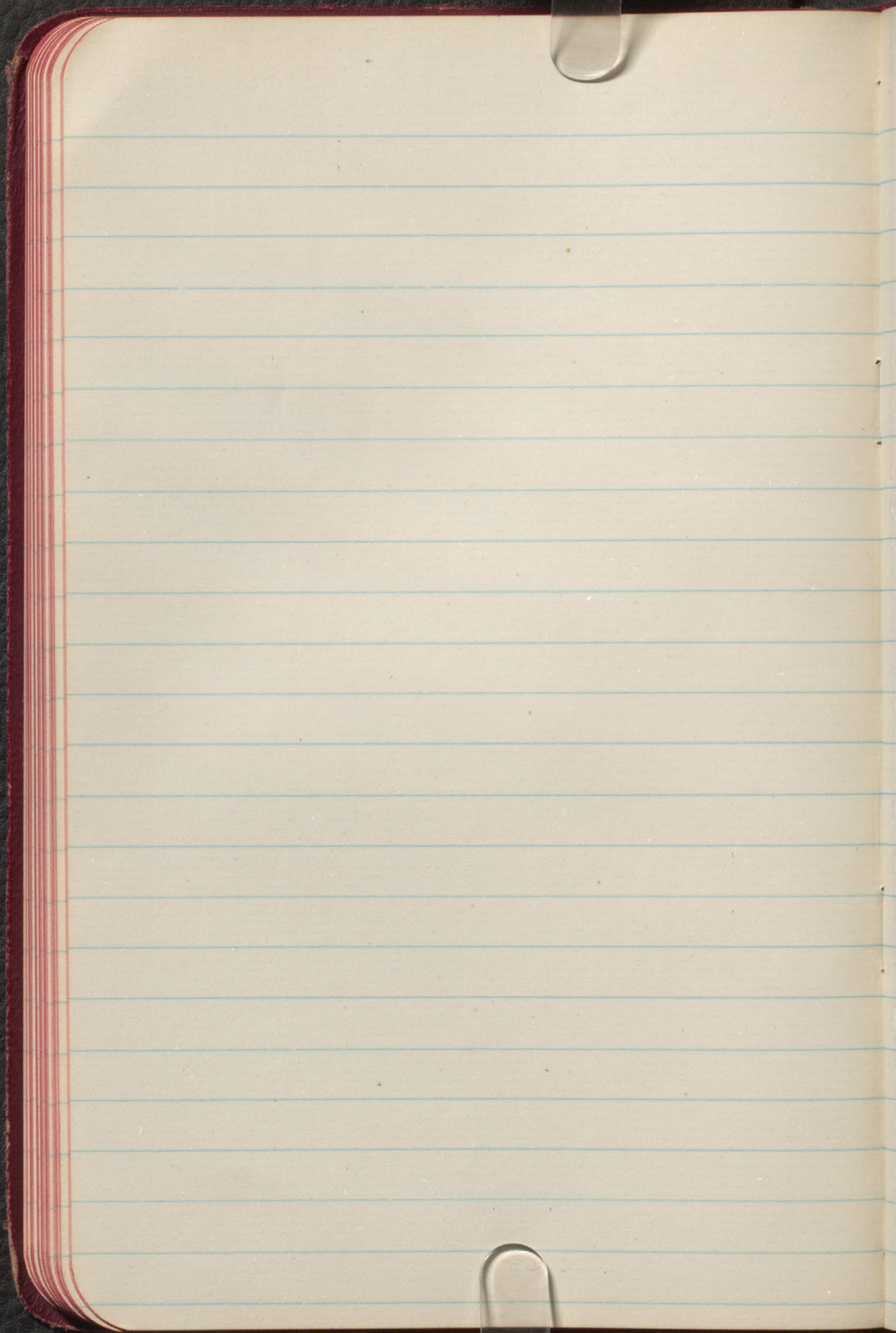


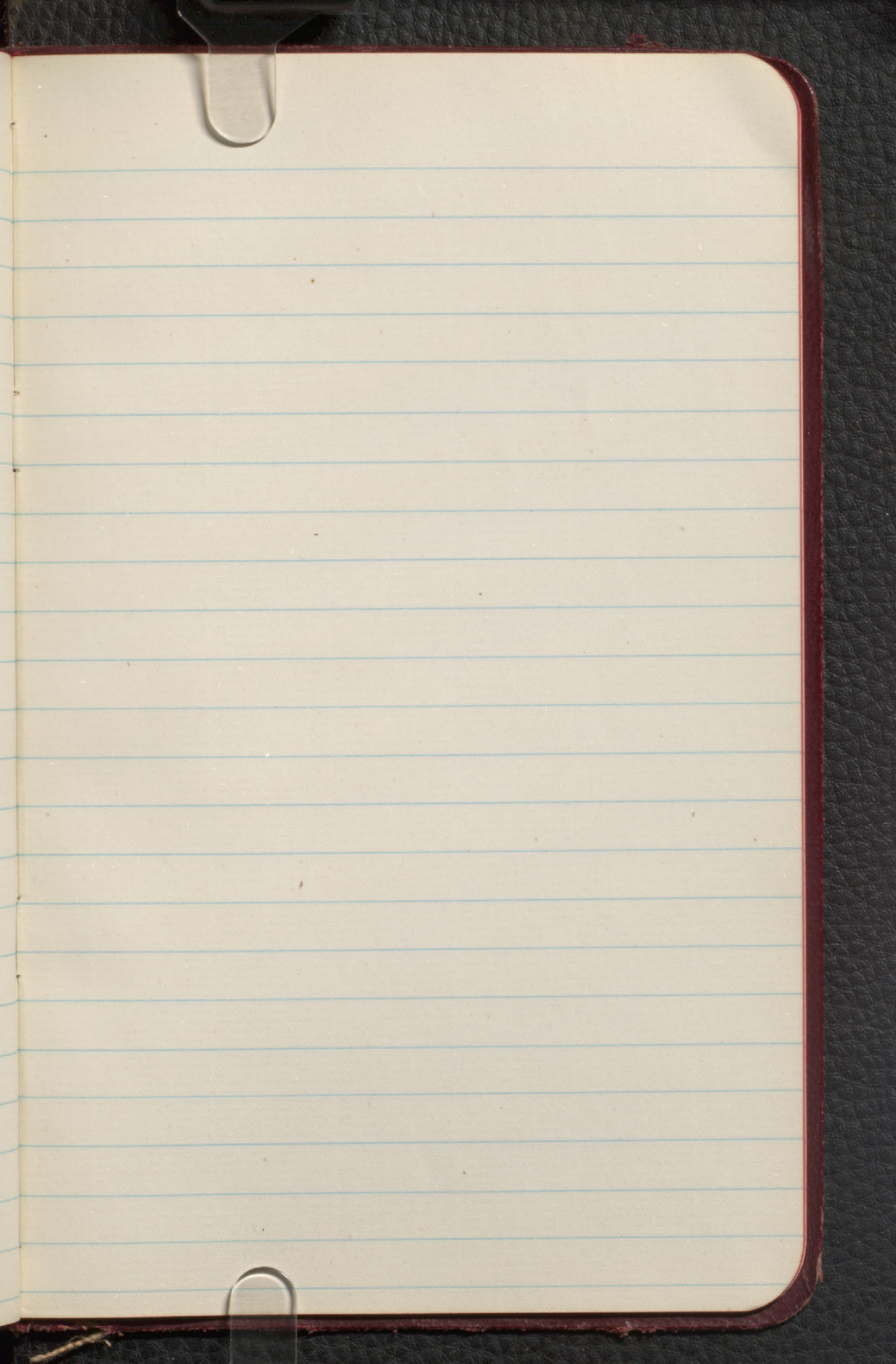


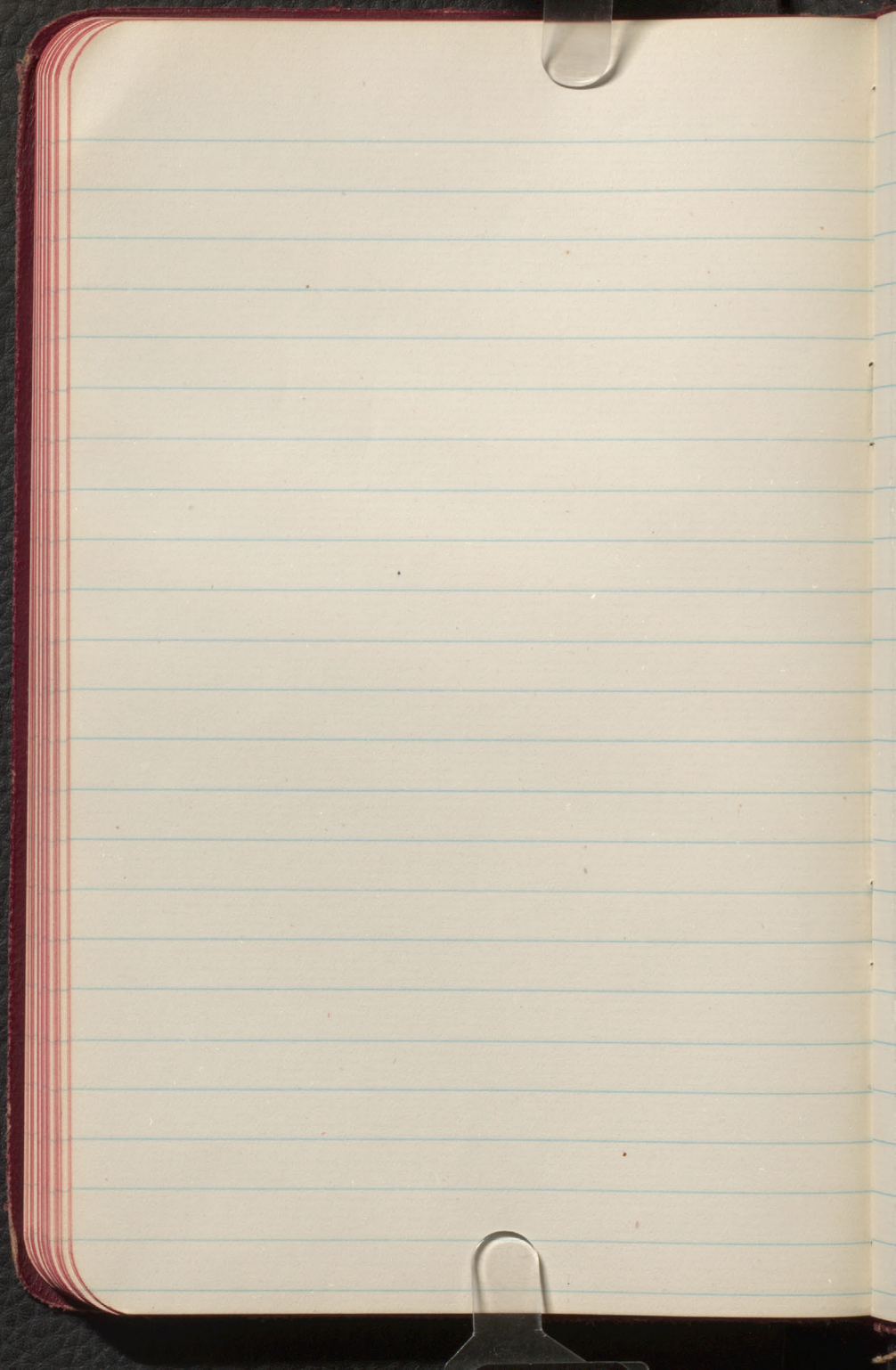


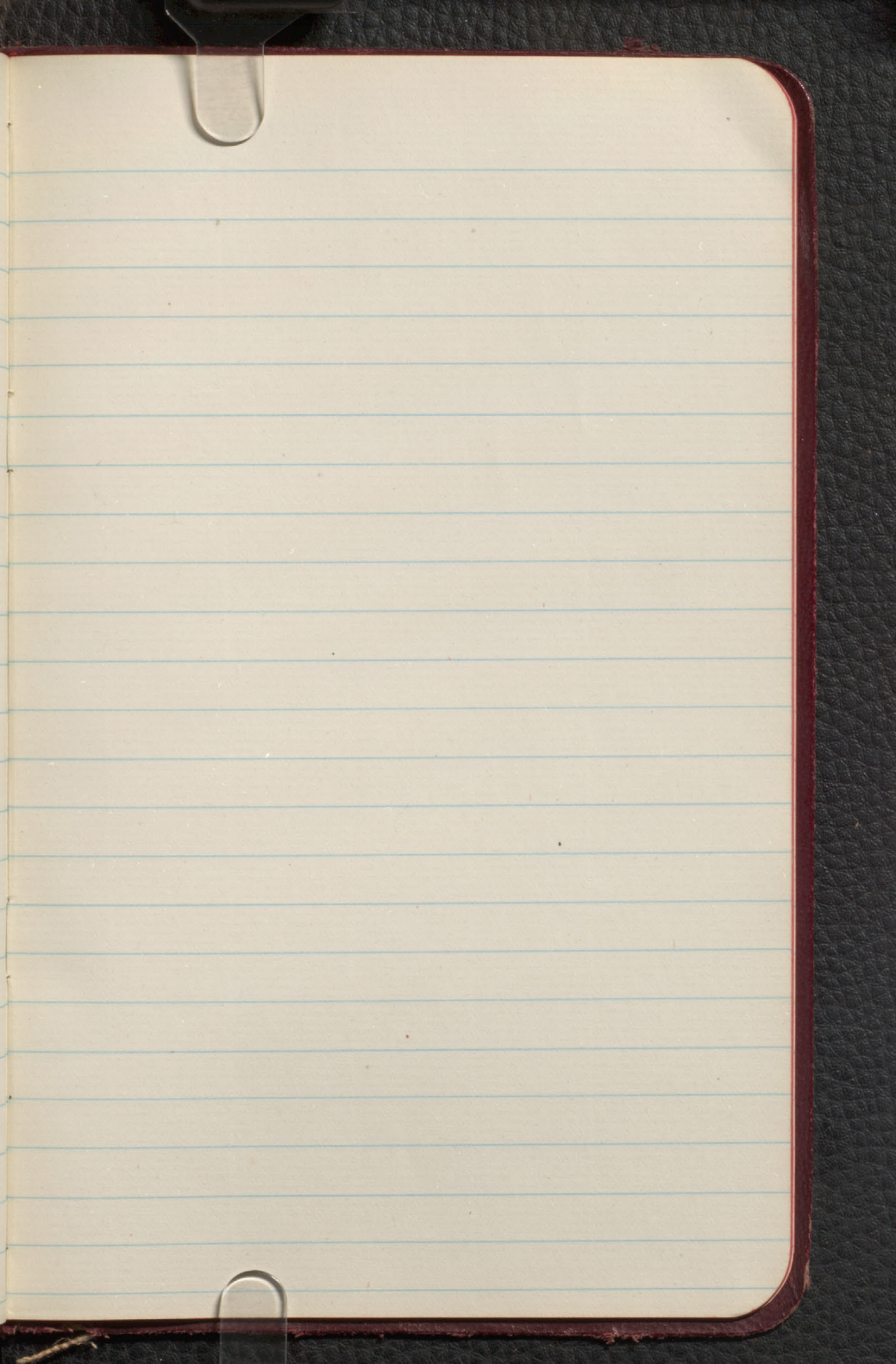


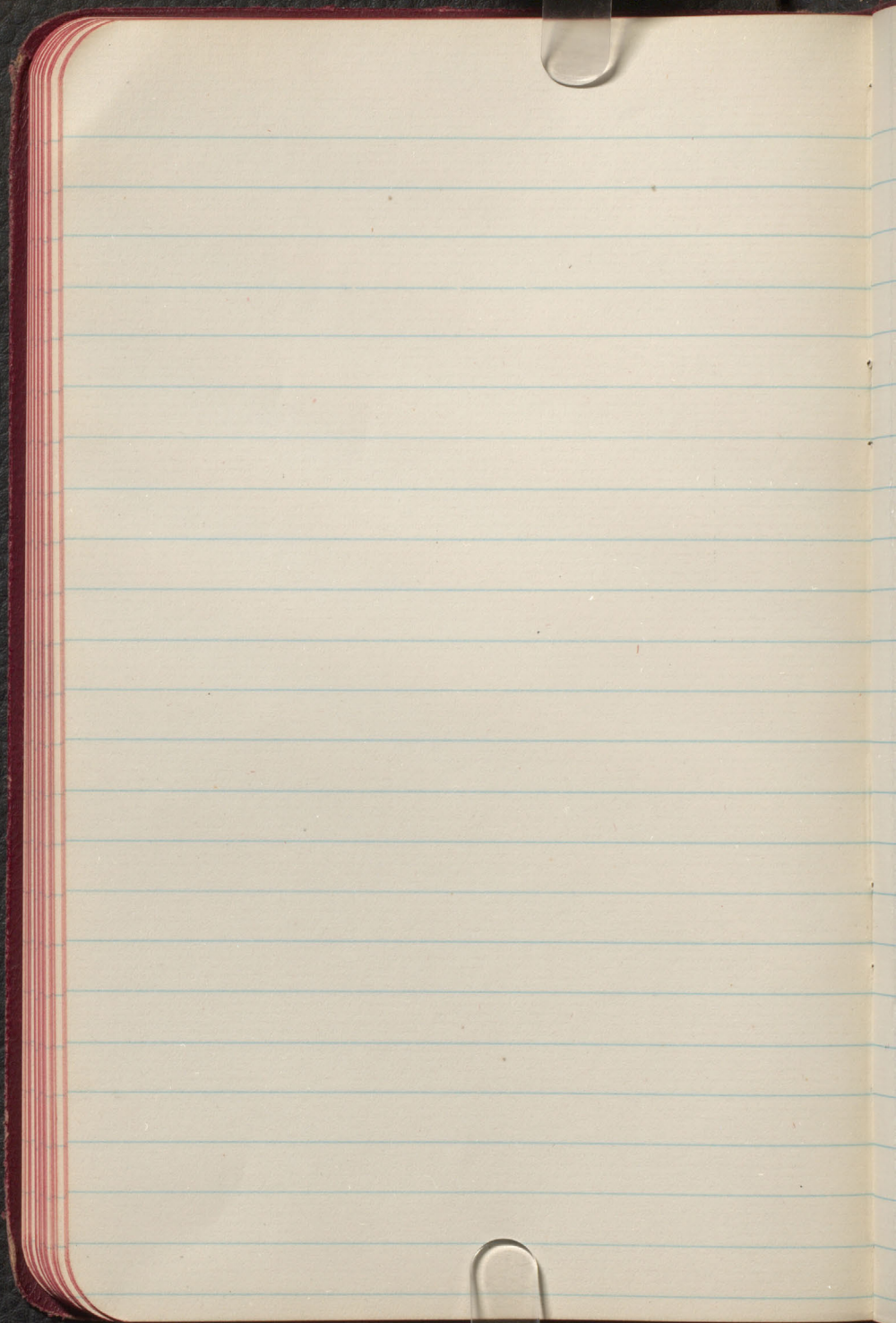


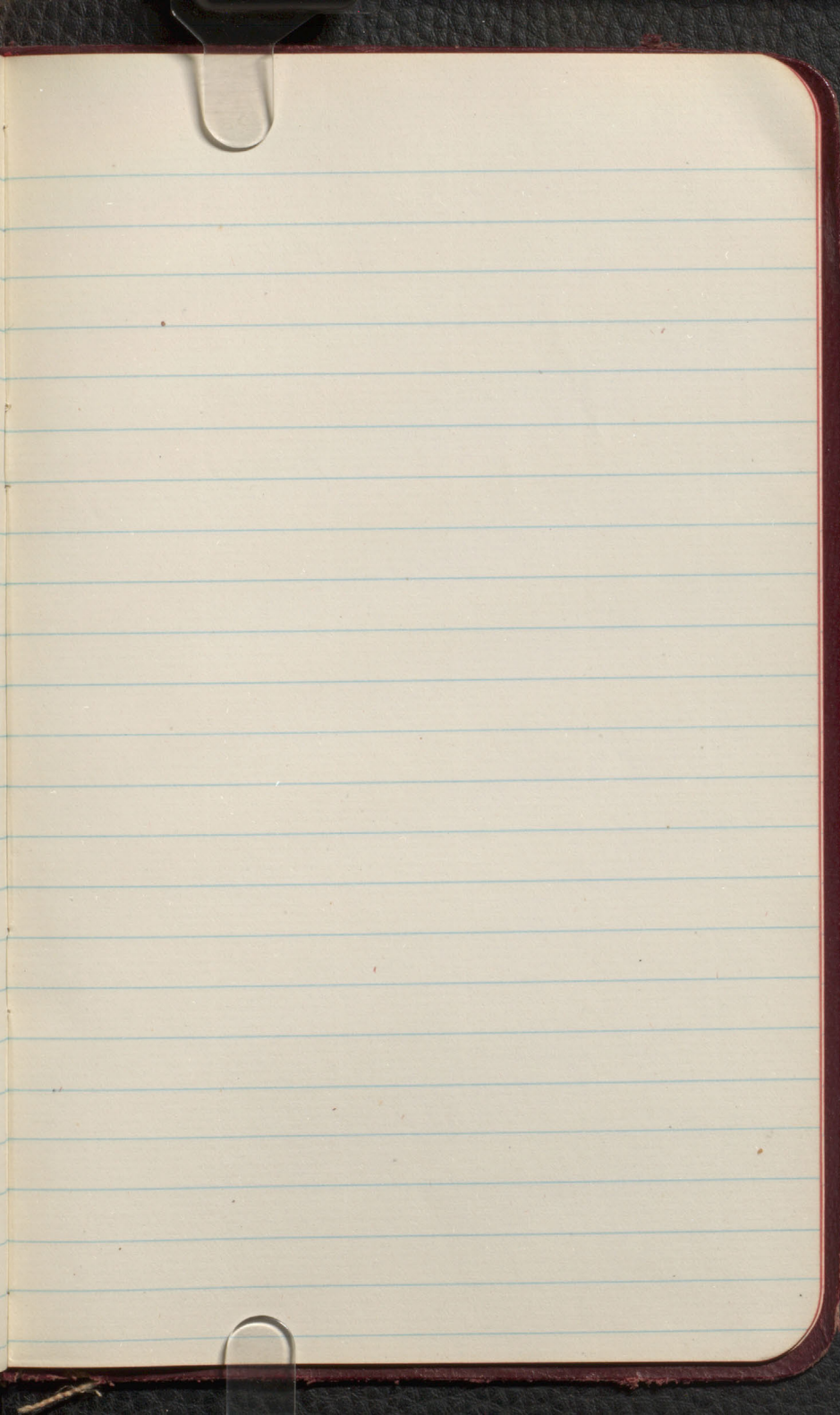


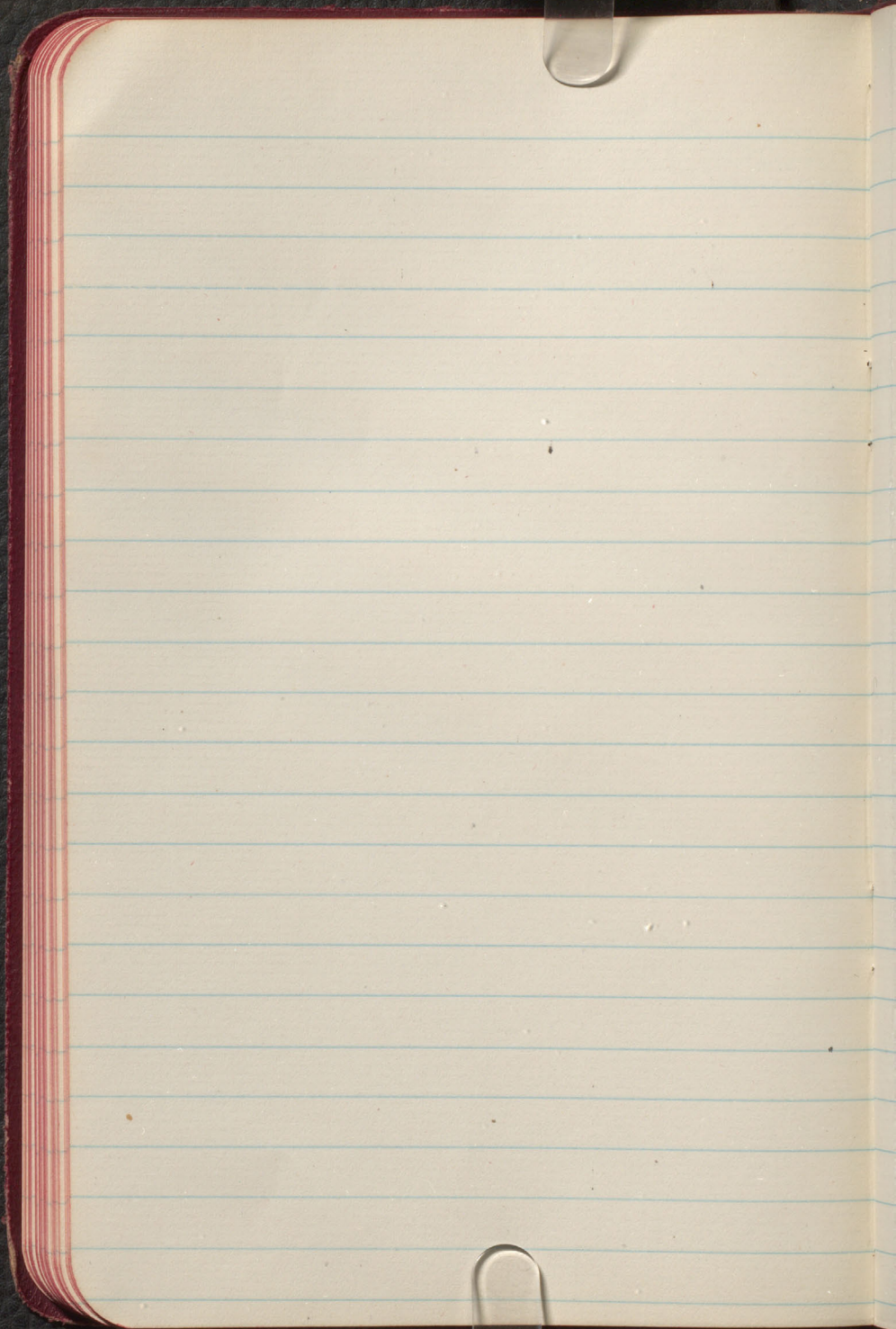


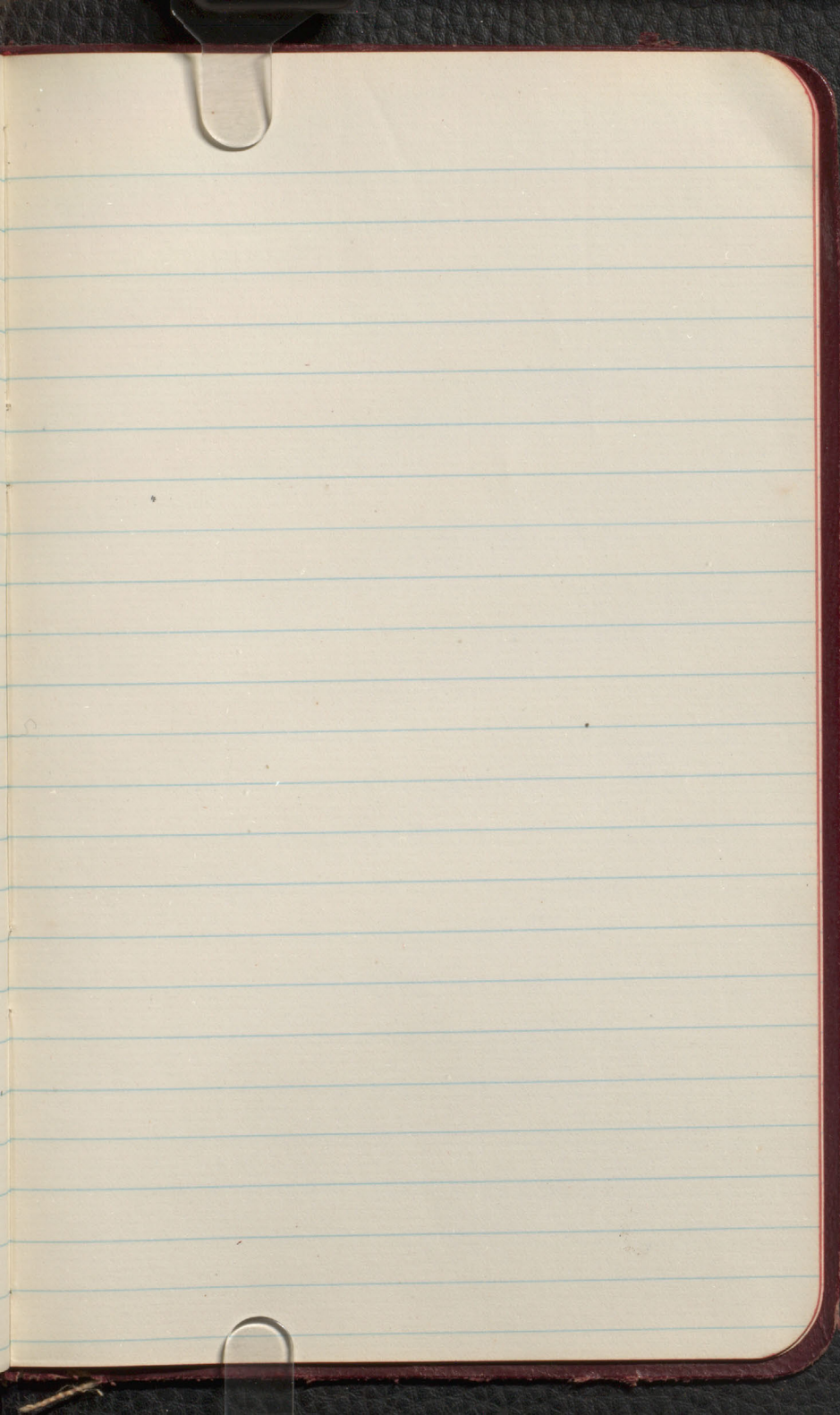


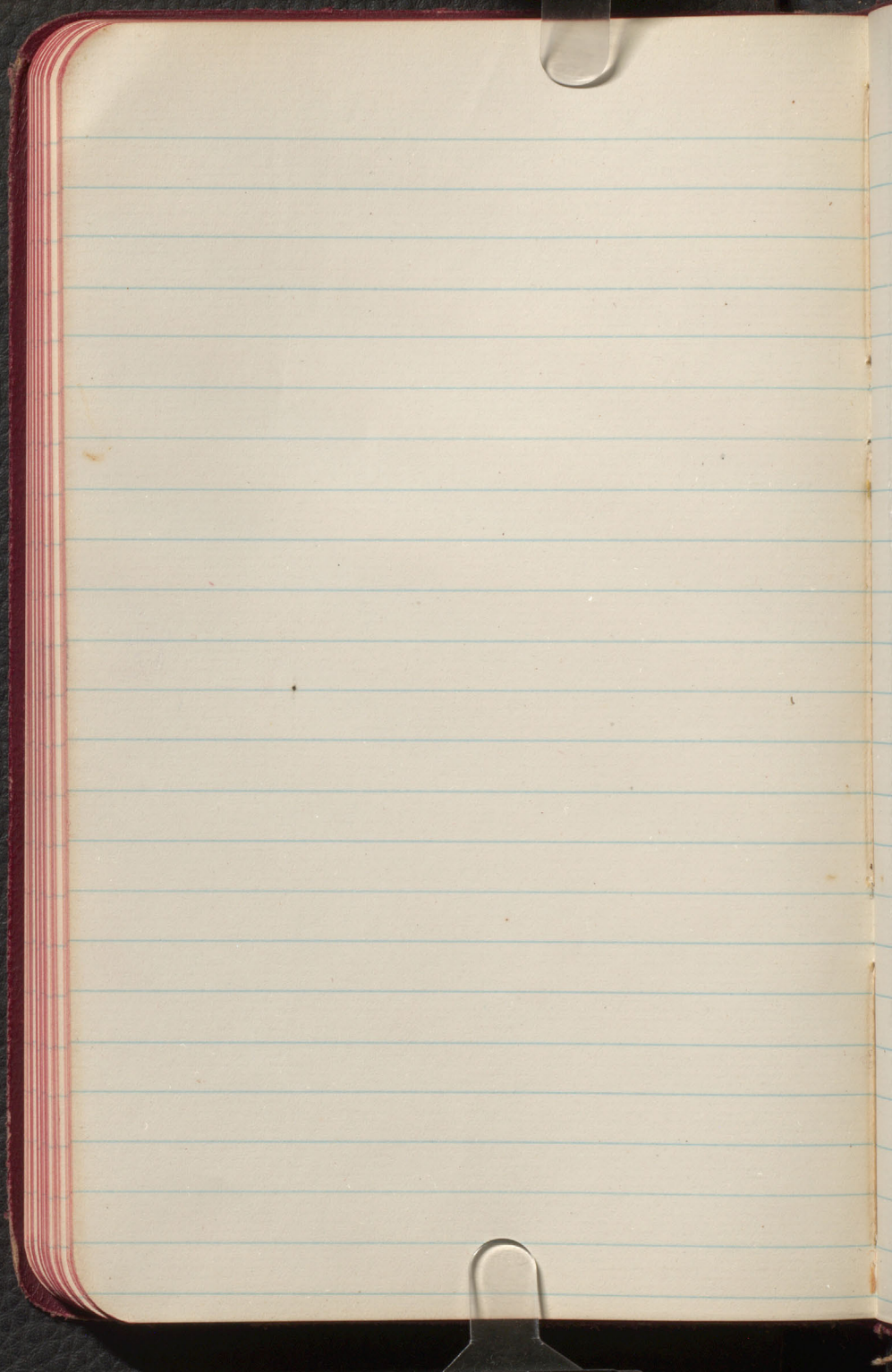


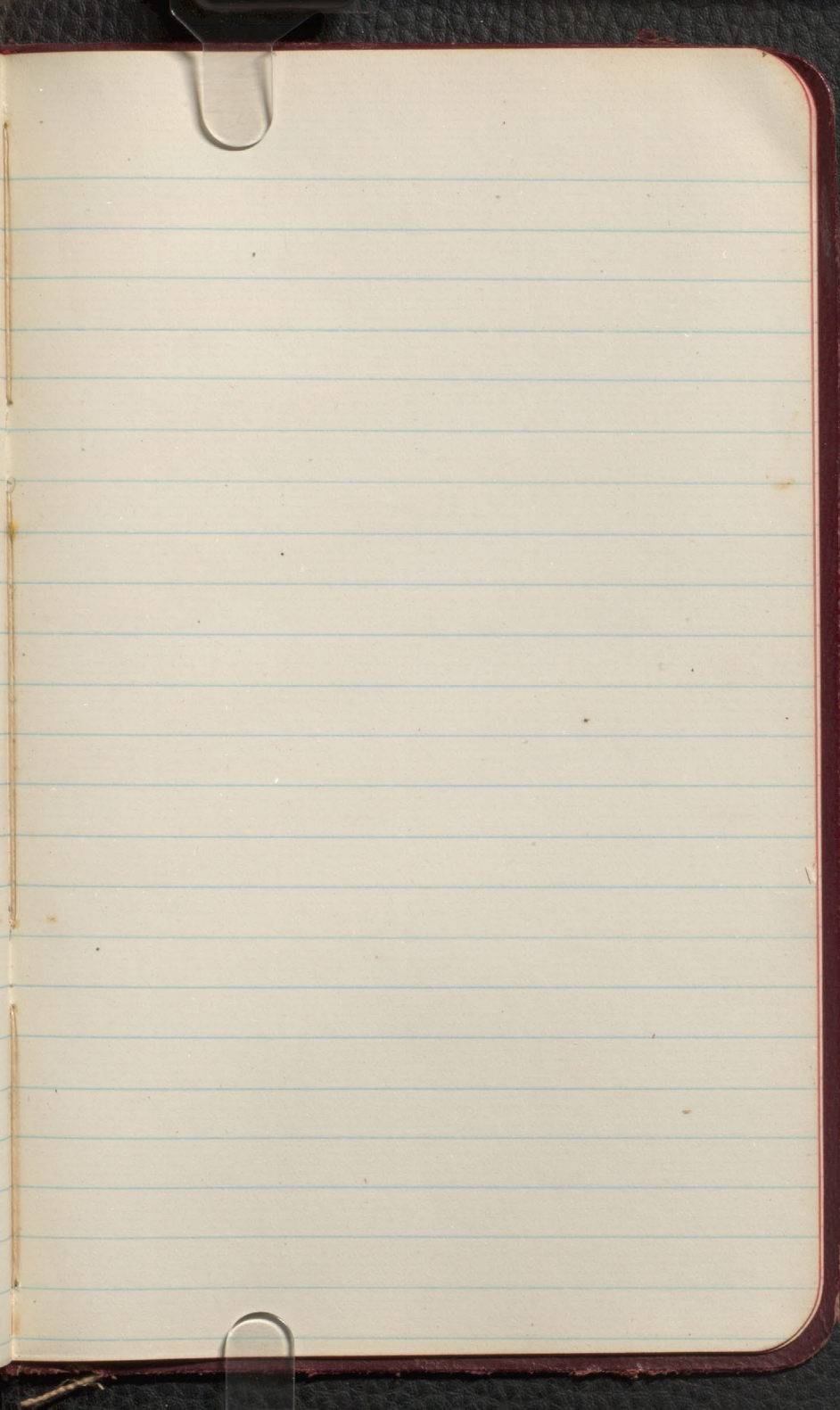


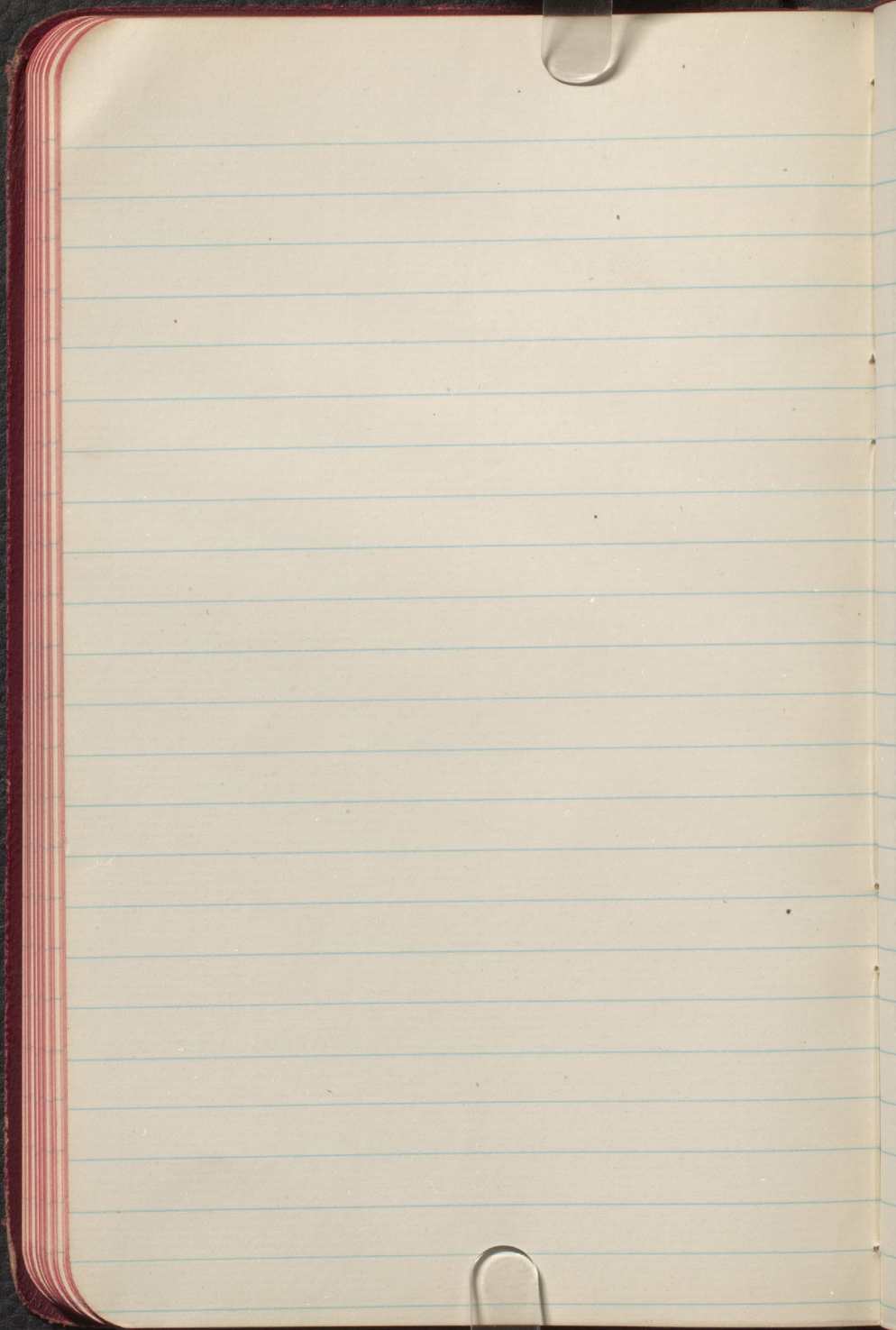


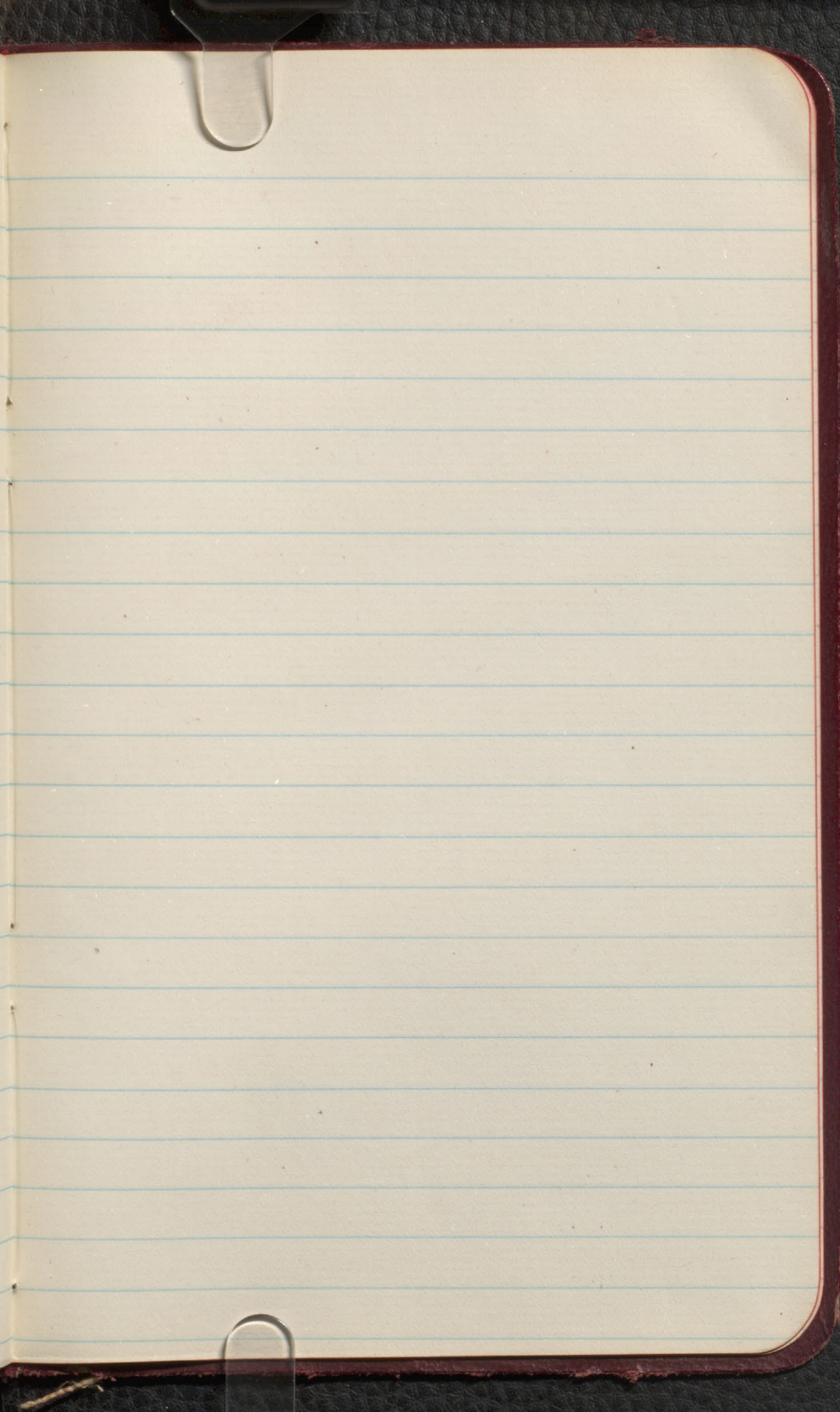


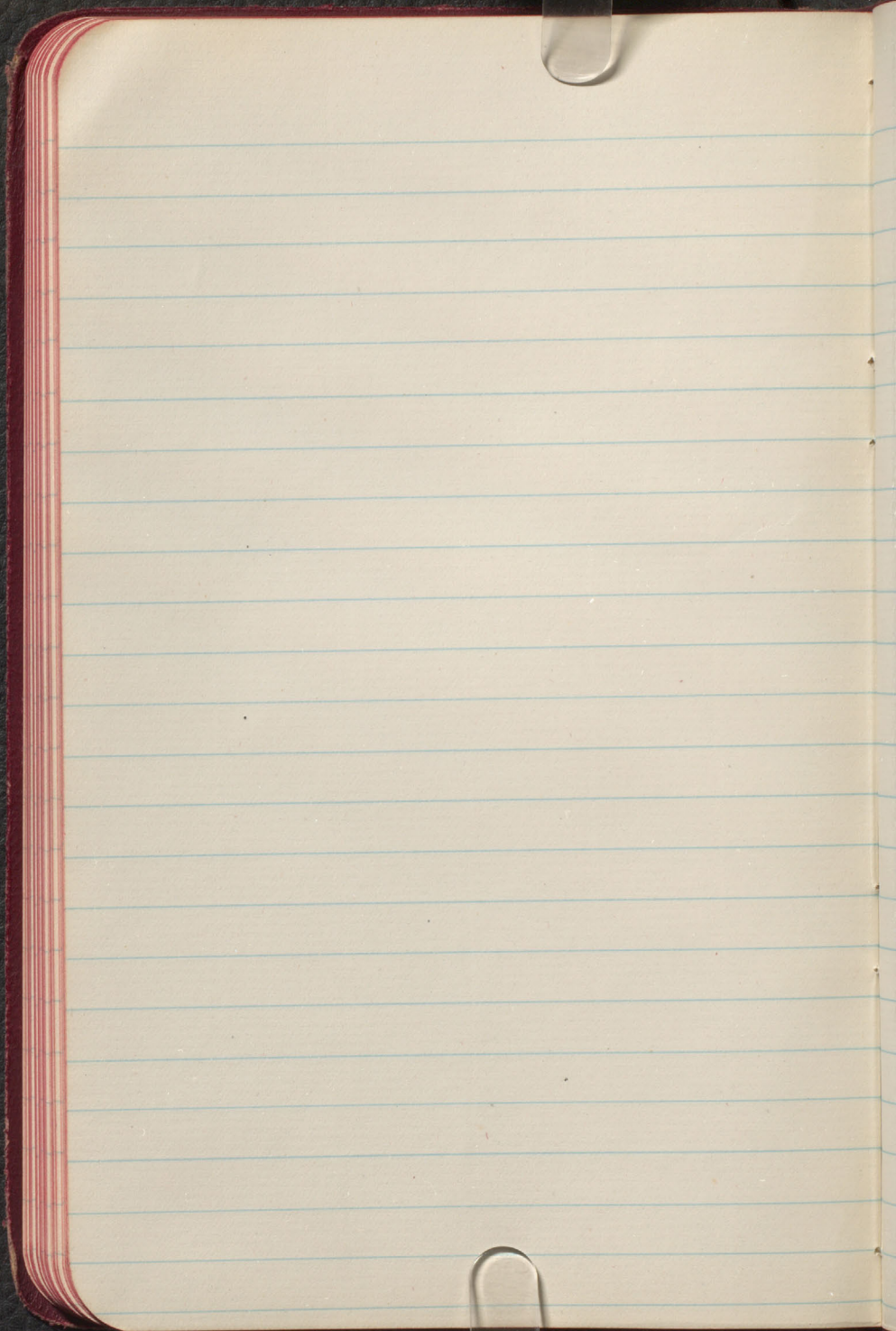


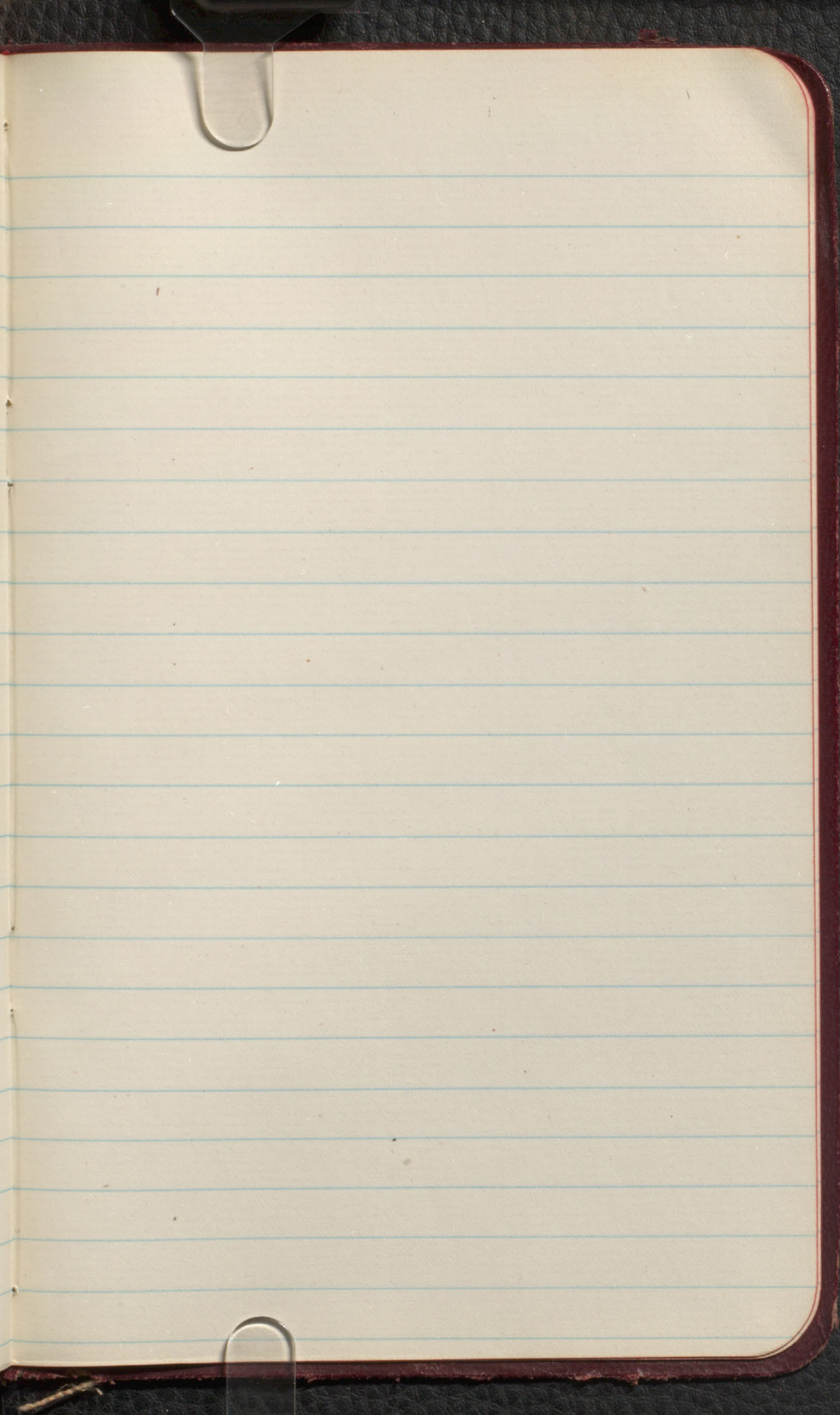


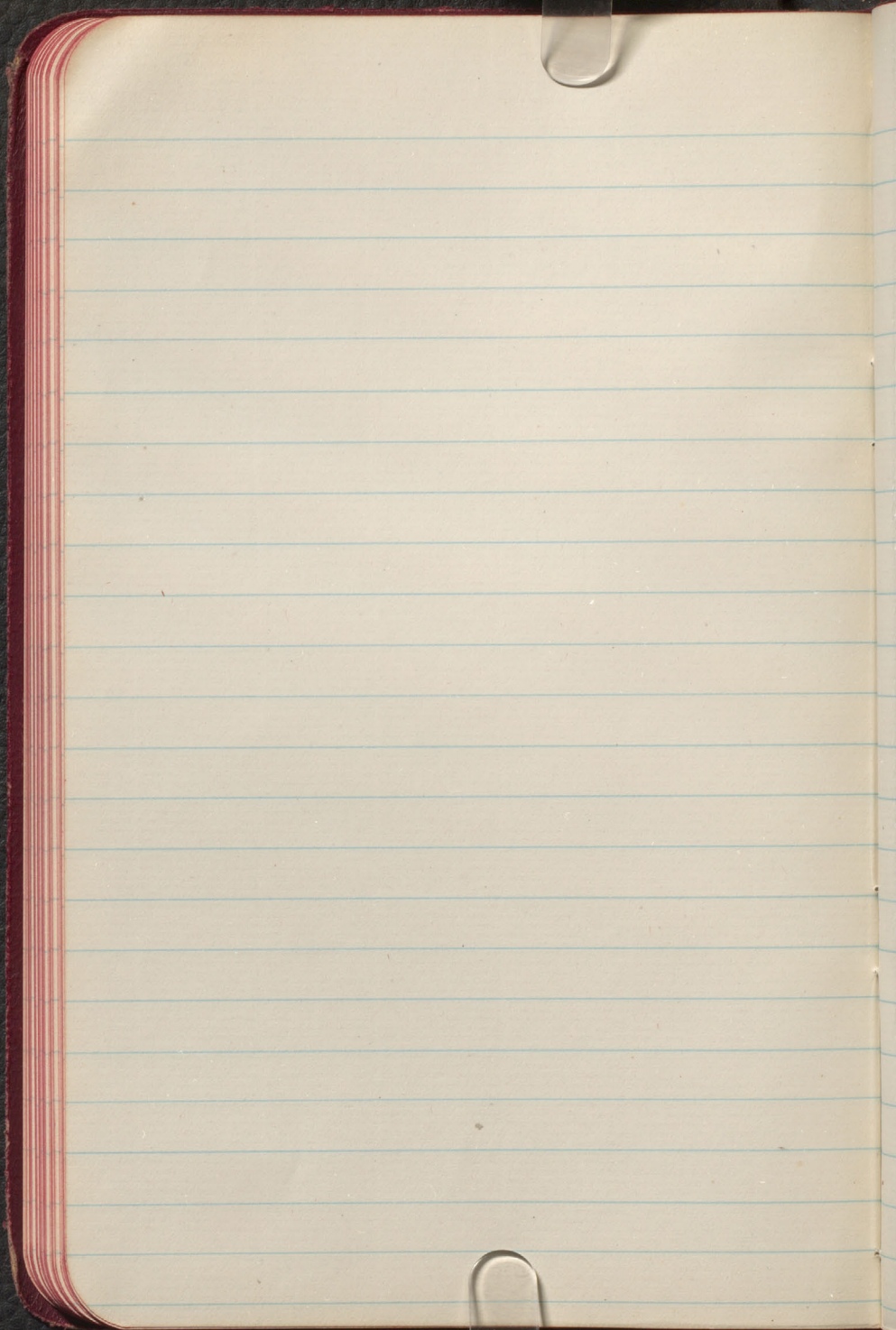


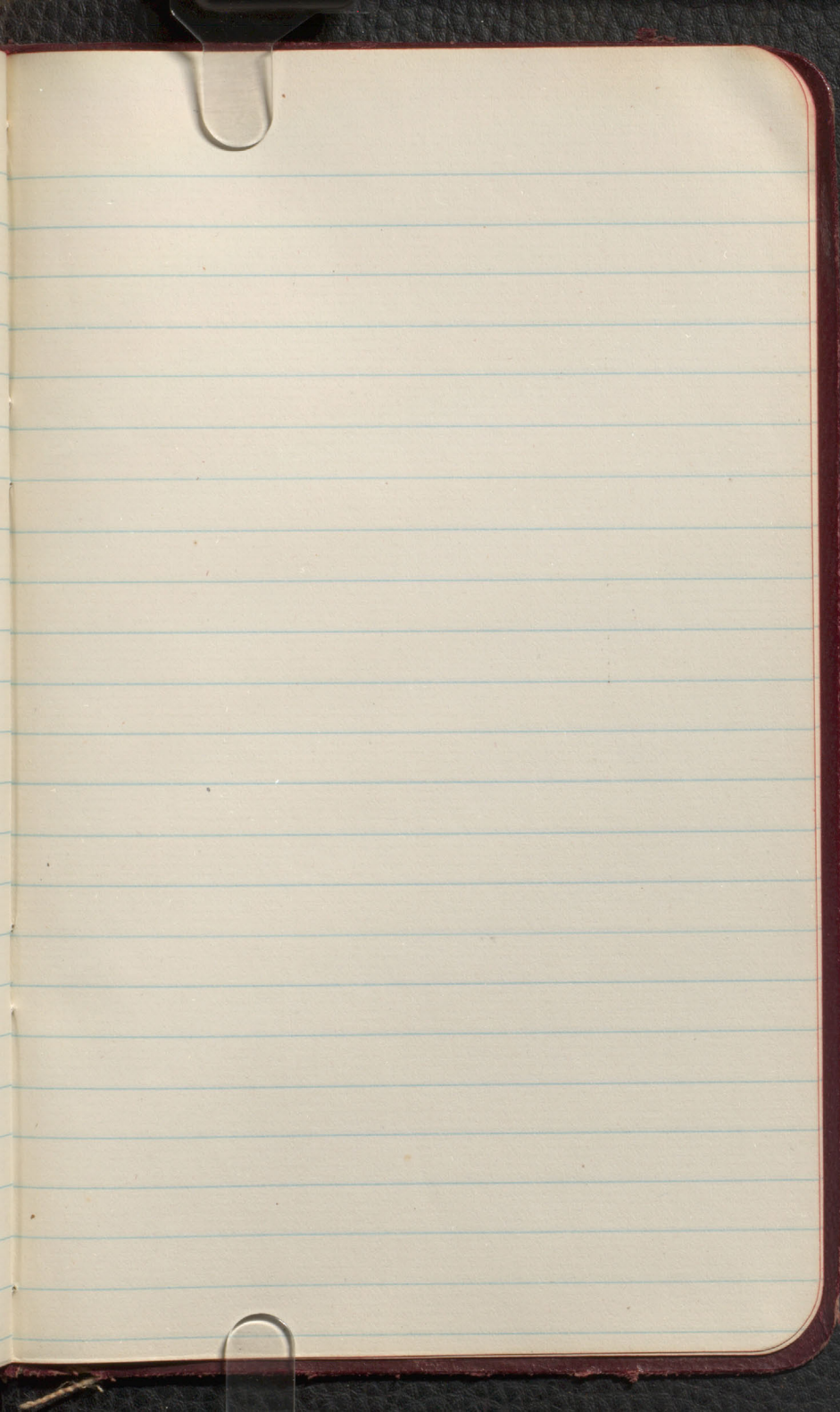


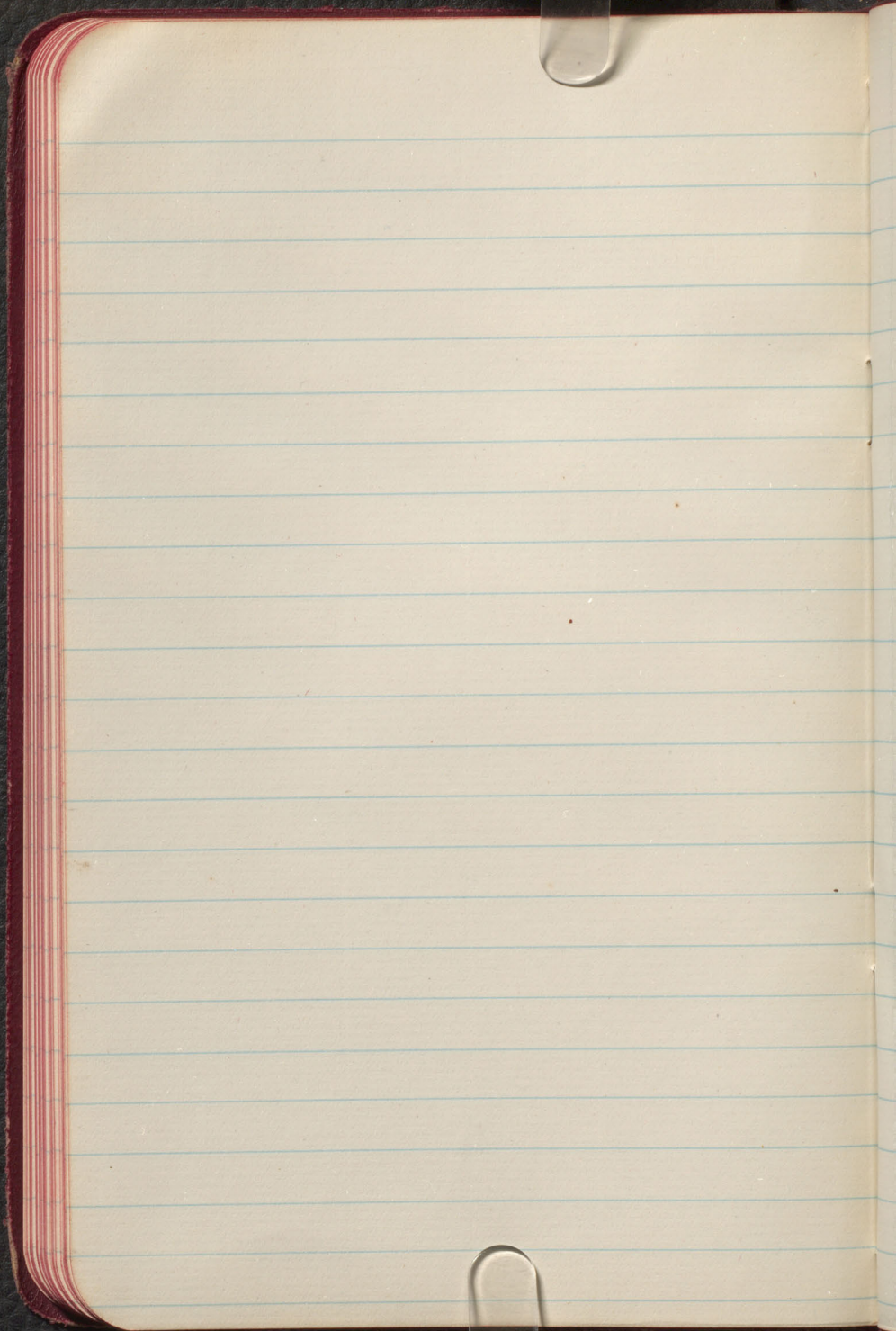


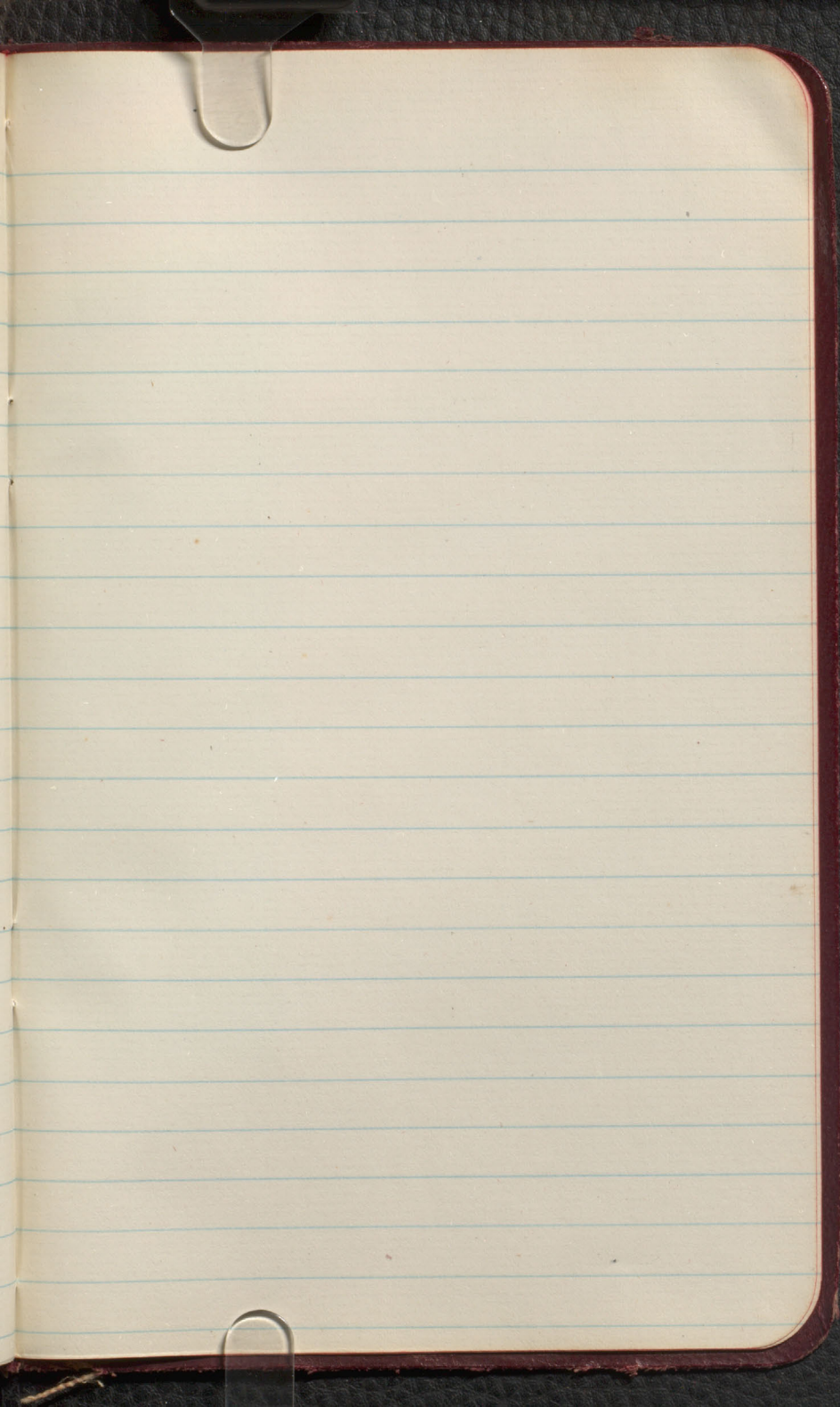


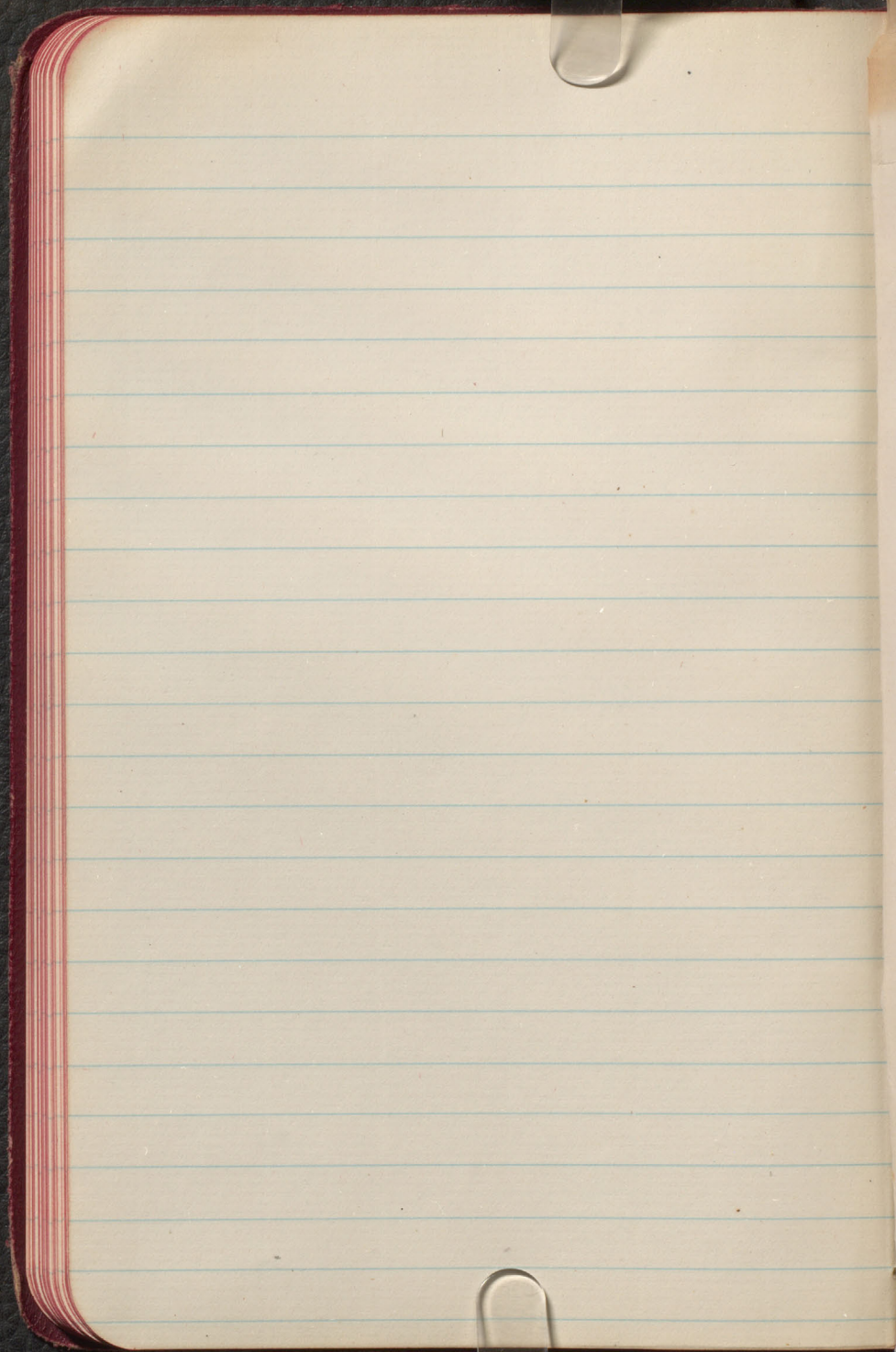












Dow Lake

Mi-nis - ne - im - ne

Cold water lake

same name for upper lake

os - kor - wioo - si - pi - sa - ga -

ne - gum

Pipe Stone

Stony { Pa - hoo - to - hi - apoo - pi - wap - ta
blue pipe stone river

Cree { Moui - span - gum - na - nis - si - pi

Creek where the Mountain Lion
was killed

Stony { Ih - moo - tunga - moos - ta - ga -
be - wap - ta

Cree { Mis - si - pi - sioo - ka - nipā - kikt -
si - pi.

GEOLOGICAL & NATURAL HISTORY SURVEY.

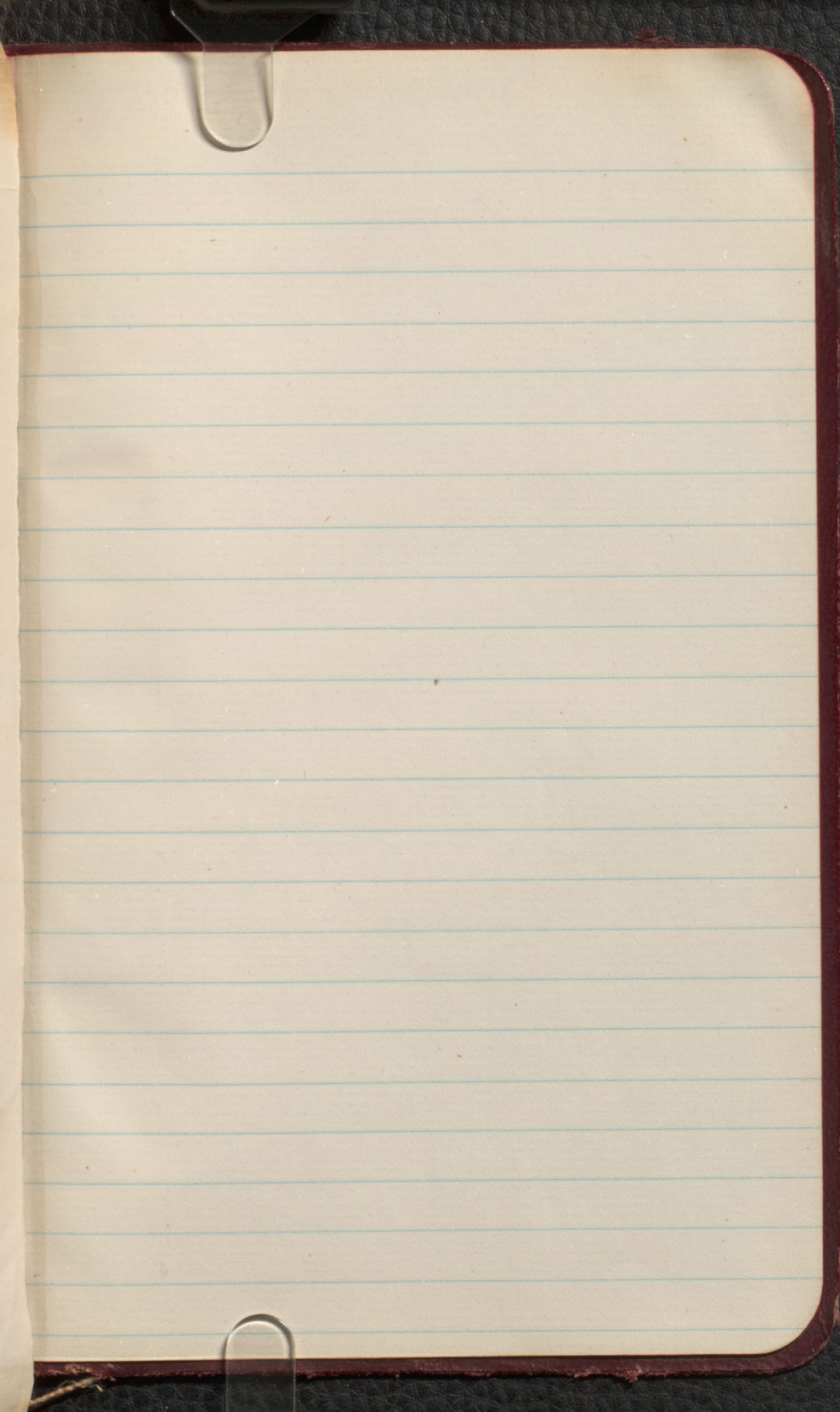
Alfred R. C. Selwyn L.L.D., F.R.S. Director

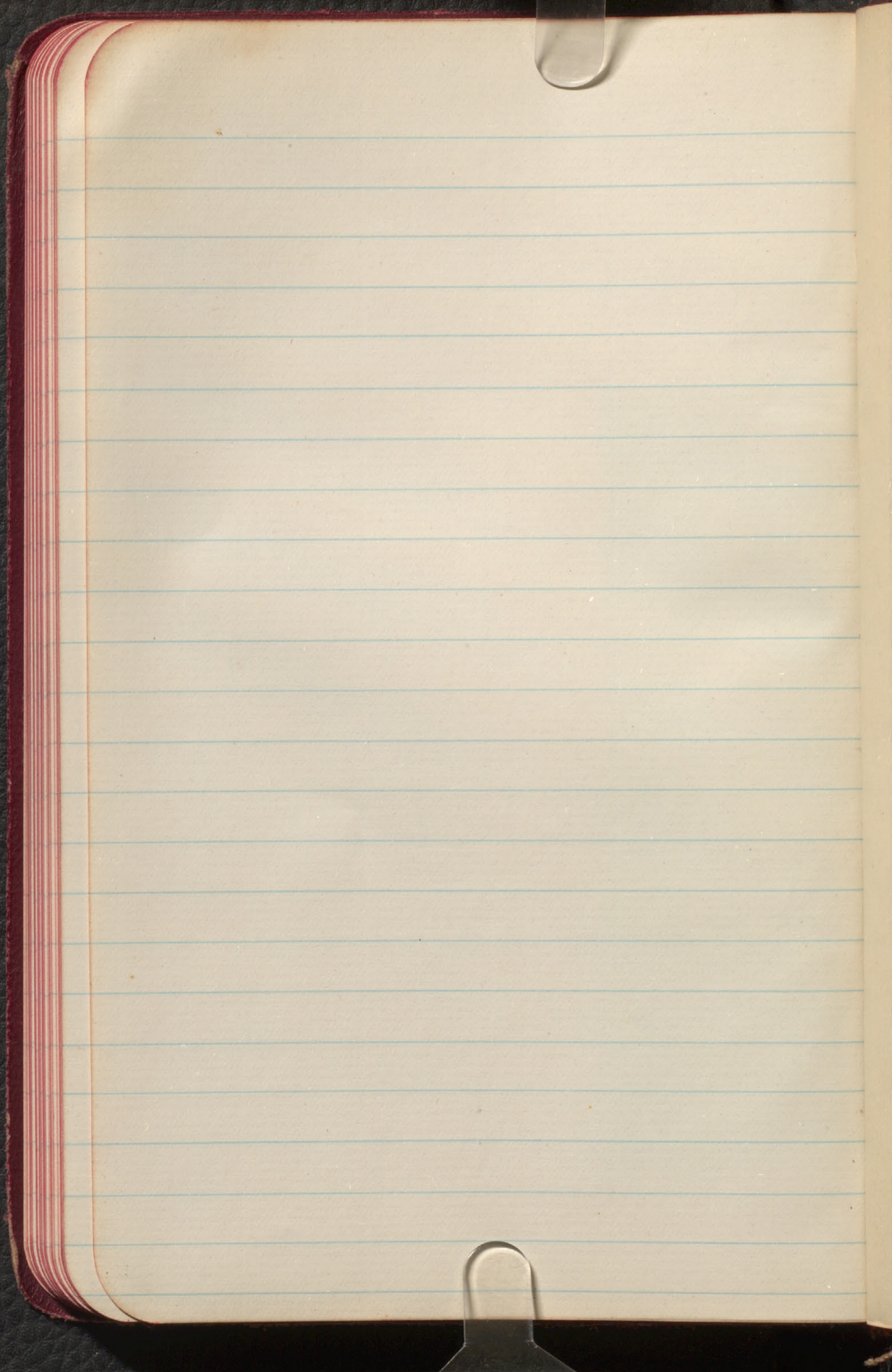
MUSEUM & OFFICE, SUSSEX ST. OTTAWA.

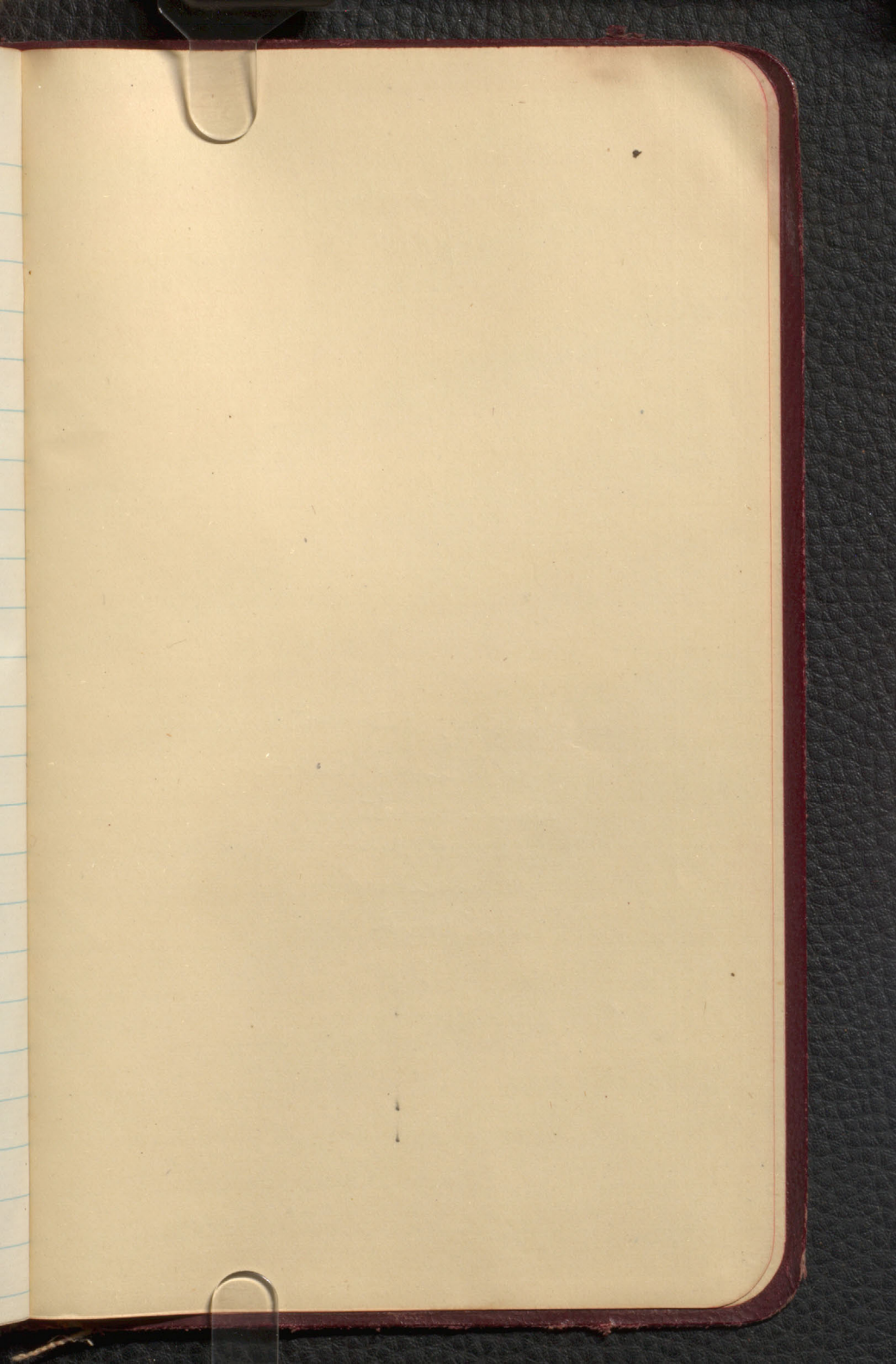
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[Faint, illegible handwritten notes in pencil, possibly bleed-through from the reverse side of the page.]







XV
as

Variation in color of flowers
in post hills etc

Prevalence of stony introduced weeds
along the line in Montanus.

Scrub's gerardia
wild buckwheat
" mustard
Corn flower

