

Salmon P. Chase Papers

A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress



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Washington, D.C.**

2010

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Contact information:

<http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/mss.contact>

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<http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms006011>

LC Online Catalog record:

<http://lccn.loc.gov/mm79015610>

Prepared by Audrey Walker

Revised and expanded by Patrick Kerwin, Lia Apodaca, and Donna Ellis

Collection Summary

Title: Salmon P. Chase Papers

Span Dates: 1755-1898

Bulk Dates: (bulk 1824-1872)

ID No.: MSS15610

Creator: Chase, Salmon P. (Salmon Portland), 1808-1873

Extent: 12,500 items ; 39 containers plus 1 oversize ; 15 linear feet ; 38 microfilm reels

Language: Collection material in English

Location: Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Summary: Abolitionist, lawyer, United States senator, governor of Ohio, United States secretary of the treasury, and chief justice of the United States Supreme Court. Correspondence, memoranda, diaries, speeches, writings, financial and legal papers, biographical material, and other papers pertaining to Chase's career and personal life. Topics include Chase's activities as an abolitionist, his law practice in Cincinnati, membership in the Liberty Party, involvement in national and state politics as United States senator and governor of Ohio, the Kansas-Nebraska Act (1854), events and military operations of the Civil War, formulation of wartime policy as a member of Abraham Lincoln's cabinet, work as United States secretary of the treasury on problems of national finance and the development of a national banking system, his service as chief justice of the United States Supreme Court, trial and impeachment of Andrew Johnson, Reconstruction, and creation of a national currency.

Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

People

Ammen, Daniel, 1820-1898--Correspondence.
Ball, Flamen--Correspondence.
Bannister, Dwight--Correspondence.
Birney, James Gillespie, 1792-1857--Correspondence.
Carlisle, George--Correspondence.
Carrington, Henry Beebee, 1824-1912--Correspondence.
Chase family.
Chase, Edward I.--Correspondence.
Chase, Philander, 1775-1852--Correspondence.
Chase, Salmon P. (Salmon Portland), 1808-1873.
Chase, William F.--Correspondence.
Clay, Cassius Marcellus, 1810-1903--Correspondence.
Cooke, Jay, 1821-1905--Correspondence.
Denison, George S. (George Stanton), 1833-1866--Correspondence.
Denison, Rachel--Correspondence.
Fish, Hamilton, 1808-1893--Correspondence.
Garfield, James A. (James Abram), 1831-1881--Correspondence.
Greeley, Horace, 1811-1872--Correspondence.
Hamlin, Edward Stowe, 1808-1894--Correspondence.
Hanna, Joshua--Correspondence.
Hayes, Rutherford Birchard, 1822-1893--Correspondence.
Hoadly, George, 1826-1902--Correspondence.
Hoyt, Janet Ralston Chase, 1847-1925--Correspondence.
Jay, John, 1817-1894--Correspondence.
Johnson, Andrew, 1808-1875--Correspondence.
Johnson, Andrew, 1808-1875--Impeachment.
Johnson, Reverdy, 1796-1876--Correspondence.
Latty, A. Sankey (Alexander Sankey)--Correspondence.

Leavitt, Joshua, 1794-1873--Correspondence.
Lincoln, Abraham, 1809-1865.
Nash, Simeon, 1804-1879--Correspondence.
Opdyke, George, 1805-1880--Correspondence.
Parsons, Richard Chappell, 1826-1899--Correspondence.
Rosecrans, William S. (William Starke), 1819-1898--Correspondence.
Schuckers, J. W. (Jacob William), 1831-1901--Correspondence.
Seward, William Henry, 1801-1872--Correspondence.
Skinner, J. Ralston (James Ralston)--Correspondence.
Smith, Gerrit, 1797-1874--Correspondence.
Smith, Hamilton--Correspondence.
Sprague, Kate Chase, 1840-1899--Correspondence.
Sprague, William, 1830-1915--Correspondence.
Sumner, Charles, 1811-1874--Correspondence.
Taylor, James W. (James Wickes), 1819-1893--Correspondence.

Organizations

Liberty Party (U.S. : 1840-1848)
United States. Department of the Treasury. Office of the Secretary.
United States. Kansas-Nebraska Act.
United States. Supreme Court.

Subjects

Antislavery movements--United States.
Banks and banking--United States.
Constitutional law--United States.
Currency question--United States.
Finance, Public--United States.
Law--United States.
National banks (United States)
Practice of law--Ohio--Cincinnati.
Reconstruction (U.S. history, 1865-1877)
Slavery--United States.

Places

Ohio--Politics and government--1787-1865.
United States--Appropriations and expenditures.
United States--Economic policy--To 1933.
United States--History--1865-1898.
United States--History--Civil War, 1861-1865--Campaigns.
United States--History--Civil War, 1861-1865.
United States--Politics and government--1849-1877.

Occupations

Abolitionists.
Cabinet officers.
Governors--Ohio.
Jurists.
Lawyers.
Senators, U.S. Congress.

Administrative Information

Provenance

The papers of Salmon P. Chase, abolitionist, lawyer, United States senator, governor of Ohio, United States secretary of the treasury, and chief justice of the United States Supreme Court, were purchased by the Library of Congress, 1902-2009.

Processing History

The papers of Salmon P. Chase were processed and prepared for microfilming in 1979. The finding aid was revised and an item that had previously been cataloged separately was transferred to the collection in 2003. Two additional items were added in 2010.

Copyright Status

The status of copyright in the unpublished writings of Salmon P. Chase is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.).

Access and Restrictions

The papers of Salmon P. Chase are open to research. Researchers are advised to contact the Manuscript Reading Room prior to visiting. Many collections are stored off-site and advance notice is needed to retrieve these items for research use.

Microfilm

A microfilm edition of part of these papers is available on thirty-eight reels. Consult reference staff in the Manuscript Division concerning availability for purchase or interlibrary loan. To promote preservation of the originals, researchers are required to consult the microfilm edition as available.

Online Content

The papers of Salmon P. Chase are available on the Library of Congress Web site at <http://hdl.loc.gov/loc/mss/collmss.ms000036>.

Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: Container or reel number, Salmon P. Chase Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Biographical Note

<i>Date</i>	<i>Event</i>
1808, Jan. 13	Born, Cornish, N.H.
1824-1826	Student at Dartmouth College, Hanover, N.H.
1826	Moved to Washington, D.C.
1827-1829	Studied law under supervision of William Wirt Taught school in Washington, D.C.
1830	Began law practice in Cincinnati, Ohio
1833-1835	Compiled <i>Statutes of Ohio</i>
1834	Married Catherine Jane Garniss (died 1835)

1839	Married Eliza Ann Smith (died 1845)
1840	Joined Liberty Party
1846	Married Sarah Bella Dunlop Ludlow (died 1852)
1849	Elected United States senator from Ohio
1855	Elected governor of Ohio
1857	Reelected governor of Ohio
1860	Elected United States senator but resigned to take position in Abraham Lincoln's cabinet
1861	Appointed secretary of the treasury
1864	Resigned as secretary of treasury Appointed chief justice of the U.S. Supreme Court
1873, May 7	Died, New York, N.Y.

Scope and Content Note

The papers of Salmon Portland Chase (1808-1873) cover the years 1755-1898, with the bulk of the material spanning 1824-1872. The collection consists of [diaries](#), correspondence, [letterbooks](#), [speeches](#), memoranda, [financial papers](#), [legal documents](#), and [miscellany](#).

The early [diaries](#) are more intimate and detailed than later ones. The first volume includes marginalia citing names of people, topics, or events discussed in the adjacent text. References to people are generally accompanied by biographical information. The diaries covering the years 1861-1864 document Chase's participation in the formulation of policy and events relating to the Civil War. The diary for 9 December 1861 to 30 September 1863 contains Chase's draft of Lincoln's 6 March 1862 message to Congress on the abolition of slavery, three letters from Chase to his daughter, Janet, written 7, 8, and 11 May 1862 on "The Taking of Norfolk," and a "Narrative of Operations" of the war from 11 May to 24 June 1862. An account of the cabinet meeting at which Lincoln proposed the Emancipation Proclamation is in the diary covering the period 20 July to 12 October 1862 published later by the American Historical Association as volume two of its *Annual Report* for 1902. Entries in both volumes for 1862 are in the handwriting of Homer G. Plantz; those for 1863 were recorded by Jacob W. Schuckers. The diary for 24 June to 6 July 1864 includes Chase's activities in the days immediately preceding and following his resignation as secretary of the treasury. The contents of the 1870 diary are confined largely to comments on routine affairs, along with a few notes and memoranda.

All facets of Chase's public career are covered in the [General Correspondence](#) series. Early letters relate to Chase's law practice, Ohio and national politics, the Liberty Party, and his opposition to slavery. During his years as secretary of the treasury, the correspondence centers on problems of national finance, the establishment of a national banking system, routine operations of the Treasury Department, and the military operations of the Civil War. This segment of correspondence contains letters from George S. Denison, who served in various capacities as Chase's official and personal representative in New Orleans from June 1862 to March 1865. In the years following his appointment as chief justice of the United States, the letters reflect Chase's continued interest in national matters, politics, the impeachment of Andrew Johnson, the creation of a national currency, and the progress of Reconstruction as well as Chase's involvement with cases and other business of the Supreme Court and the circuit courts. An incomplete [card index](#) to the correspondence is located in the Manuscript Division Reading Room.

The [Letterbooks and Letterpress Copybooks](#) series treats the same topics found in the [General Correspondence](#). Some volumes are indexed, and most include a few family letters. A number of letters written after 1870 are represented by notes

rather than by copies of the letters themselves. The letterbook for 1833-1837 consists solely of letters of the law firm of Caswell and Chase, and the letterbook for September 1870-June 1871 contains copies of letters written during the months of Chase's recuperation from an attack of paralysis and relates primarily to his health and personal finances.

A printed copy of *Appeal of the Independent Democrats*, written by Chase to denounce the Kansas-Nebraska bill, is included in the [Speeches and Writings](#) series. The [Miscellany](#) series contains an unfinished biography of Chase written by Edward L. Pierce in 1854 or 1855 when he was a student in Chase's office.

Correspondents include Daniel Ammen, Flamen Ball, Dwight Bannister, James Gillespie Birney, George Carlisle, Henry Beebee Carrington, Edward I. Chase, Philander Chase, William F. Chase, Cassius Marcellus Clay, Jay Cooke, George S. Denison, Rachel Denison, Hamilton Fish (1808-1893), James A. Garfield, Horace Greeley, Edward Stowe Hamlin, Joshua Hanna, Rutherford Birchard Hayes, George Hoadly, Janet Ralston Chase Hoyt, John Jay, Andrew Johnson, Reverdy Johnson, A. Sankey Lattay, Joshua Leavitt, Simeon Nash, George Opdyke, Richard Chappell Parsons, William S. Rosecrans, J.W. Schuckers, William Henry Seward, James R. Skinner, Ralston Skinner, Geritt Smith, Hamilton Smith, Katherine Chase Sprague, William Sprague, Charles Sumner, and James W. Taylor.

Organization of the Papers

The collection is arranged in eleven series:

- [Diaries, 1829-1870](#)
- [Family Correspondence, 1821-1872](#)
- [General Correspondence, 1810-1898](#)
- [Letterbooks and Letterpress Copybooks, 1833-1873](#)
- [Speeches and Writings, 1849-1868](#)
- [Financial Papers, 1774-1873](#)
- [Legal File, 1755-1872](#)
- [Miscellany, 1840-1896](#)
- [Special Indexes](#)
- [Additions, 1850-1858](#)
- [Oversize, 1840.](#)

Description of Series

Container

BOX 1-2

REEL 1

Series

Diaries, 1829-1870

Diaries kept by Chase.
Arranged chronologically.

BOX 3-4

REEL 1-2

Family Correspondence, 1821-1872

Letters written between members of the Chase family, including the families of Chase's wives.
Arranged alphabetically by name of author.

BOX 5-27

REEL 3-27

General Correspondence, 1810-1898

Letters sent and received and copies of letters sent.
Arranged chronologically.

BOX 27-30

REEL 27-28

Letterbooks and Letterpress Copybooks, 1833-1873

Copies and letterpress copies of letters sent.
Arranged chronologically within bound volumes.

BOX 31

REEL 28

Speeches and Writings, 1849-1868

Speeches, published letters, draft article, and a poem.
Arranged by type of material and chronologically therein.

BOX 31-33

REEL 28-31

Financial Papers, 1774-1873

Account books, bills and receipts, promissory notes, canceled checks, income tax returns, insurance policies, guardianship and trustee accounts, accounts of law partnerships, and papers relating to the Reform School of the District of Columbia.
Arranged chronologically and by type of material.

BOX 34

REEL 31-32

Legal File, 1755-1872

Abstracts of titles, bonds, deeds, leases, mortgages, powers of attorney, wills, notes on cases, memoranda, and other papers relating to Chase's law practice; also his notes on Supreme Court cases and Supreme Court case assignments.
Arranged by type of material and chronologically therein.

BOX 35-38

REEL 32-34

Miscellany, 1840-1896

Autobiographical, biographical, and genealogical material, awards and certificates, a commonplace book, drawings, miscellaneous manuscripts, notes and memoranda, papers relating to Woodward College, printed matter, and a scrapbook of newspaper clippings.
Arranged alphabetically by type of material.

BOX n/a
REEL 35-38

Special Indexes

Incomplete card index to the correspondence (original available in the Manuscript Division Reading Room)

BOX 39
not filmed

Additions, 1850-1858

A letter, a holograph speech, and a typewritten transcript of the speech.
Arranged in order of processing date.

BOX OV 1
REEL 31

Oversize, 1840

An indenture.
Arranged according to the series and folder from which the item was removed after filming.

Container List

Available on microfilm. Shelf no. 17,782

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BOX 2 REEL 1	1862, July 21-Oct. 12 Digital content available 1864, June 24-July 6 Digital content available 1870, Jan.-Dec. Digital content available
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Family Correspondence, 1821-1872

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Whipple, Ithamar C.
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Whipple, John W.
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Whiteman, Mrs. C. L.
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Other family members
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BOX 5-27
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General Correspondence, 1810-1898

Letters sent and received and copies of letters sent.
Arranged chronologically.

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General Correspondence, 1810-1898

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General Correspondence, 1810-1898

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General Correspondence, 1810-1898

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BOX 31 REEL 28	Speeches and Writings, 1849-1868 Speeches, published letters, draft article, and a poem. Arranged by type of material and chronologically therein.
BOX 31 REEL 28	Speeches

1849, Aug. 27 , Charleston, S.C.

[Digital content available](#)

1851, May 30 , Toledo, Ohio

[Digital content available](#)

1853, Apr. 9 , debate in United States Senate

[Digital content available](#)

1854

Jan. 19 , *Appeal of the Independent Democrats in Congress to the People of the United States*

[Digital content available](#)

Feb. 3 , "Maintain Plighted Faith," speech in United States Senate against repeal of the Missouri Compromise

[Digital content available](#)

1856, Jan. 14 , inaugural address before the Ohio Senate and House of Representatives

[Digital content available](#)

1860 , "Galileo," speech delivered before various groups

[Digital content available](#)

1864, Nov. 12, Mozart Hall, Cincinnati, Ohio

[Digital content available](#)

1863 , "Going Home to Vote," *Authentic Speeches of S.P. Chase...During His Visit to Ohio...*, Washington, D.C.

[Digital content available](#)

Writings

1852, July 15 , "The Radical Democracy of New York and Independent Democracy," letter to Benjamin F. Butler

[Digital content available](#)

1853, Nov. 14 , "Politics in Ohio," letter to A. P. Edgerton

[Digital content available](#)

1868, May 18 , refutation of article, "The Chase Conspiracy," in *Washington Chronicle*, draft

[Digital content available](#)

Undated, poem

[Digital content available](#)

BOX 31-33
REEL 28-31

Financial Papers, 1774-1873

Account books, bills and receipts, promissory notes, canceled checks, income tax returns, insurance policies, guardianship and trustee accounts, accounts of law partnerships, and papers relating to the Reform School of the District of Columbia.

Arranged chronologically and by type of material.

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1774-1834

[Digital content available](#)

1835-1836

[Digital content available](#)

BOX 31
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Financial Papers, 1774-1873

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	Digital content available
	1850-1852
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	Checkbook and canceled checks, 1858-1873
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	Insurance policies, 1865 , 1867
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	Law partnership accounts, 1849-1853
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	Personal account books, 1849 , 1864-1873
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Reform School of the District of Columbia, 1865-1872

[Digital content available](#)

BOX 34
REEL 31-32

Legal File, 1755-1872

Abstracts of titles, bonds, deeds, leases, mortgages, powers of attorney, wills, notes on cases, memoranda, and other papers relating to Chase's law practice; also his notes on Supreme Court cases and Supreme Court case assignments.

Arranged by type of material and chronologically therein.

BOX 34
REEL 31

Abstracts of titles, bonds, deeds, leases, and mortgages

1755-1842

[Digital content available](#)

1844-1851

[Digital content available](#)

1852-1862

[Digital content available](#)

1864-1869, undated

[Digital content available](#)

Clients and cases

1829-1844

[Digital content available](#)

1845-1850

[Digital content available](#)

BOX 34
REEL 32

1852-1860

[Digital content available](#)

1861-1872

[Digital content available](#)

Undated

[Digital content available](#)

Chase's charge to jury in "Whiskey Frauds" case

[Digital content available](#)

Chase's notes on Supreme Court cases (notebook)

[Digital content available](#)

Miscellany

[Digital content available](#)

Papers relating to Chase's law partnerships

[Digital content available](#)

Printed matter

[Digital content available](#)

Supreme Court
[Digital content available](#)

BOX 35-38
REEL 32-34

Miscellany, 1840-1896

Autobiographical, biographical, and genealogical material, awards and certificates, a commonplace book, drawings, miscellaneous manuscripts, notes and memoranda, papers relating to Woodward College, printed matter, and a scrapbook of newspaper clippings. Arranged alphabetically by type of material.

BOX 35
REEL 32

Chase, Salmon P.

Autobiographical sketches
[Digital content available](#)

Awards, certificates
[Digital content available](#)

Biographical and genealogical data
[Digital content available](#)

Biography by Edward L. Pierce
[Digital content available](#)

Commemorations
[Digital content available](#)

Farm diary, 1872, Mar. 4-May 13 ; calling list, 1873
[Digital content available](#)

Notebooks, 1843-1867
[Digital content available](#)

Notes and memoranda
[Digital content available](#)

BOX 36
REEL 32

Notes on antislavery. family notes, and memoranda

[Digital content available](#)
Ohio election of 1857

[Digital content available](#)

Papers relating to the construction and furnishings of Chase's residence
[Digital content available](#)

Wills
[Digital content available](#)

General
Architectural drawings
[Digital content available](#)

Calling list, 1868, Jan.
[Digital content available](#)

BOX 36
REEL 33

Clippings

[Digital content available](#)
Commonplace book

[Digital content available](#)
Manuscripts relating to Ohio

[Digital content available](#)

	Memoranda
	Digital content available
	Miscellaneous writings
	An account of Francis P. Blair's offer to Robert E. Lee of the command of the United States Army
	Digital content available
	Balch, Benjamin, inaugural proclamation for a national organization of the Patriotic Union Club...National Union Party
	Digital content available
	Bannister, R. J., "The Cabinet Trouble"
	Digital content available
	"Condition of the Agriculturist"
	Digital content available
BOX 37	Murray, John D., "Lecture on the Rise, Progress and Present Extent of Slavery in the United States," 1842, Feb. 2
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	Notes and fragments
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	Papers relating to the United States Treasury and national finance
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	Printed matter
	Digital content available
	Poetry
	Digital content available
	Schuckers, J. W., newspaper articles about Chase, 1889-1896
	Digital content available
	Statistics of congressional districts
	Digital content available
	Survey plats and maps
	Digital content available
	Votes by counties, German voters, 1848-1851
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	Woodward College, Cincinnati, Ohio, 1845-1848
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BOX n/a	Special Indexes
REEL 35-38	Incomplete card index to the correspondence (original available in the Manuscript Division Reading Room)
REEL 35	Abbey, M. H.-Crooks, C. R.
	Digital content available
REEL 36	Crooks, James R.-Marvin, LeGrand
	Digital content available
REEL 37	Maryland, Baltimore (Police Commissioners)-Sparrow, William
	Digital content available

Special Indexes

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BOX 39 not filmed	2003 Addition Correspondence, 1850 Digital content available 2010 Addition Speech and transcript, 1858 Digital content available
BOX OV 1 REEL 31	Oversize, 1840 An indenture. Arranged according to the series and folder from which the item was removed after filming.
BOX OV 1 REEL 31	Legal File Abstracts of titles, bonds, deeds, leases, and mortgages, 1840 (Container 34; reel 31)