

James R. Doolittle Papers

A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress



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**Manuscript Division, Library of Congress
Washington, D.C.**

2007

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Contact information:

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

Additional search options available at:

<http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms007062>

LC Online Catalog record:

<http://lcn.loc.gov/mm79018762>

Prepared by Joseph Sullivan

Revised by Joseph K. Brooks

Collection Summary

Title: James R. Doolittle Papers

Span Dates: 1859-1927

Bulk Dates: (bulk 1859-1896)

ID No.: MSS18762

Creator: Doolittle, James R. (James Rood), 1815-1897

Extent: 130 items ; 1 container ; .4 linear feet ; 1 microfilm reel

Language: Collection material in English

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

Summary: United States senator and jurist. Correspondence, speeches, newspaper clippings, and miscellaneous material relating mostly to Doolittle's Senate career and touching on the issues of the Civil War and Reconstruction.

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

Doolittle, James R. (James Rood), 1815-1897.

Hendricks, Thomas A. (Thomas Andrews), 1819-1885--Correspondence.

Johnson, Andrew, 1808-1875.

Lee, Samuel Phillips, 1812-1897--Correspondence.

Paulding, Hiram, 1797-1878--Correspondence.

Reed, Amos--Correspondence.

Seward, William Henry, 1801-1872--Correspondence.

Subjects

African Americans--Africa.

Indians of North America--Government relations.

Reconstruction (U.S. history, 1865-1877)

Slavery.

Places

Middle West--History.

United States--History--Civil War, 1861-1865.

Occupations

Jurists.

Senators, U.S. Congress--Wisconsin.

Administrative Information

Provenance

The papers of James R. Doolittle, United States senator and jurist, were given to the Library of Congress by Duane Mowry between 1913 and 1932.

Processing History

The papers of James R. Doolittle were arranged and described in 1968. The collection and the finding aid were revised in 2007.

Copyright Status

The status of copyright in the unpublished writings of James R. Doolittle is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.).

Access and Restrictions

The papers of James R. Doolittle 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 these papers is available on one reel. Consult a reference librarian in the Manuscript Division concerning availability for purchase or interlibrary loan.

Preferred Citation

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

Biographical Note

| <i>Date</i> | <i>Event</i> |
|---------------|---|
| 1815, Jan. 15 | Born, Hampton Township, Washington County, N.Y. |
| 1834 | Graduated from Geneva (now Hobart) College, Geneva, N.Y. |
| 1837 | Admitted to the bar, Rochester, N.Y. Married Mary L. Cutting |
| 1847-1850 | District attorney, Wyoming County, N.Y. |
| 1851 | Settled in Racine, Wisconsin |
| 1853 | Elected judge of the First Circuit Court, Wisconsin |
| 1857-1869 | United States senator from Wisconsin |
| 1869 | Returned to private practice in Racine, Wis., and Chicago, Ill. |
| 1871 | Unsuccessful Democratic candidate for governor of Wisconsin |
| 1897, July 27 | Died, Providence, R.I. |

Scope and Content Note

The papers of James Rood Doolittle (1815-1897) consist of letters received and a few letters sent, typed transcripts of letters sent and received, copies of speeches, and newspaper clippings. The transcripts, in part, are annotated by Duane Mowry, the donor of the collection. The papers span 1859-1927, with the bulk of the collection concentrated in 1859-1896.

The collection relates primarily to Doolittle's interests while he served in the United States Senate, and later, as a lawyer in private practice. There is no documentation for his career prior to his election to the Senate.

Correspondence for the years Doolittle spent in the Senate (1857-1869) touches on the issue of slavery and its aftermath, in particular the resettlement of African Americans in Africa and political reaction in Ohio and other Midwestern states to President Andrew Johnson's veto of congressional measures in 1866. Correspondence with Amos Reed, a federal official in the Utah Territory, discusses hostility toward the United States by Indians living in the territory and includes an appraisal of the Indian Bureau. Correspondence with Secretary of State William Henry Seward relates to negotiations between the

United States and Denmark regarding the purchase of the Danish West Indies. Other correspondents include Thomas A. Hendricks, Samuel Phillips Lee, and Hiram Paulding.

Among subjects discussed in Doolittle's post-Senate period are Radicalism and the Republican Party, tariff issues, and bimetallism.

Arrangement of the Papers

This collection is arranged alphabetically by type of material and therein chronologically.

Container List

Available on microfilm. Shelf no.14,110

| <i>Container</i> | <i>Contents</i> |
|------------------|--|
| BOX 1 REEL 1 | General correspondence, 1859-1896, undated (13 folders) |
| BOX 1 REEL 1 | Mowry, Duane, 1913, 1927, undated |
| BOX 1 REEL 1 | Newspaper clippings, 1859, 1864, 1875, 1903-1904, 1913, undated (2 folders) |
| BOX 1 REEL 1 | Speech file, 1870, 1884-1886, undated (8 folders) |