

John C. Spooner Papers

A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress



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<http://lcn.loc.gov/mm81040980>

Prepared by Manuscript Division Staff

Collection Summary

Title: John C. Spooner Papers

Span Dates: 1855-1909

Bulk Dates: (bulk 1870-1907)

ID No.: MSS40980

Creator: Spooner, John C. (John Coit), 1843-1919

Extent: 10,000 items ; 203 containers ; 83 linear feet

Language: Collection material in English

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

Summary: U.S. senator and railroad corporation lawyer from Wisconsin. Correspondence with constituents, Republican Party leaders, congressional colleagues, cabinet members, industrialists, and railroad executives and miscellaneous papers relating mainly to Spooner's career as a businessman and senator.

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

Spooner, John C. (John Coit), 1843-1919.

Organizations

Republican Party (U.S. : 1854-)

Subjects

Cabinet officers--United States--Correspondence.

Executives--United States--Correspondence.

Industrialists--United States--Correspondence.

Legislators--United States--Correspondence.

Politicians--United States--Correspondence.

Railroads--United States.

Places

United States--Politics and government--1865-1933.

Occupations

Lawyers.

Senators, U.S. Congress--Wisconsin.

Administrative Information

Provenance

The papers of John C. Spooner, U.S. senator and railroad corporation lawyer from Wisconsin, were given to the Library of Congress by his son, Charles P. Spooner, in 1930-1931.

Processing History

The Spooner Papers were processed in 1963. The finding aid was revised in 2012.

Copyright Status

The status of copyright in the unpublished writings of John C. Spooner is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.).

Access and Restrictions

The papers of John C. Spooner 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.

Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: Container number, John C. Spooner Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Biographical Note

<i>Date</i>	<i>Event</i>
1843, Jan. 6	Born, Lawrenceburg, Ill.
1864	A.B., University of Wisconsin, Madison, Wis., while serving in Union Army
1867	Admitted to Wisconsin bar
1868	Married Anna E. Main
1872	Elected to Wisconsin assembly Appointed regent, University of Wisconsin, Madison, Wis. Practiced law mostly as counsel for railroads
1885-1891	Elected and served in U.S. Senate
1891	Defeated for re-election to U.S. Senate and resumed private law practice
1897	Re-elected to U.S. Senate
1907	Resigned from U.S. Senate and moved law practice to New York, N.Y.
1919, June 11	Died, New York, N.Y.

Scope and Content Note

The papers of John Coit Spooner (1843-1919) span the years 1885-1909, with the bulk of the material concentrated in the years 1870-1907 when he was prominent in the United States Senate, in the councils of the Republican Party, and in national affairs. The papers are organized into seven series: [General Correspondence](#), [Special Correspondence](#), [Business Correspondence](#), [Letterbooks](#), [Financial Papers](#), [Legal File](#), and [Miscellany](#).

The collection contains correspondence with constituents, Republican Party leaders, congressional colleagues, cabinet members, and some of the nation's leading industrialists and railroad executives; letterbooks; legal documents; financial papers pertaining to railroads and other business activities of the Senator; photographs; and printed material.

Prominent correspondents include congressional colleagues and Republican Party leaders as well as cabinet members, industrialists, and railroad executives between 1870 and 1907.

Arrangement of the Papers

This collection is arranged in seven series:

- [General Correspondence, 1870-1909](#)

- Special Correspondence, 1855-1889
- Business Correspondence, 1893-1896
- Letterbooks, 1866-1907
- Financial Papers, 1863-1907
- Legal File, 1865-1893
- Miscellany

Description of Series

<i>Container</i>	<i>Series</i>
BOX 1-94	<u>General Correspondence, 1870-1909</u> Letters sent and received with attachments. Arranged chronologically.
BOX 94	<u>Special Correspondence, 1855-1889</u> Letters sent and received, including with family members, and attached material. Arranged chronologically.
BOX 95-100	<u>Business Correspondence, 1893-1896</u> Letters sent and received with attached and related matter. . Arranged chronologically
BOX 101-191	<u>Letterbooks, 1866-1907</u> Letters sent in bound volumes with indexes at the end of each volume. Arranged chronologically.
BOX 192-200	<u>Financial Papers, 1863-1907</u> Bills, receipts, vouchers, cancelled checks, and other financial records. Arranged chronologically.
BOX 200-201	<u>Legal File, 1865-1893</u> Correspondence, patent and real estate documents, and other legal material. Arranged chronologically.
BOX 202-203	<u>Miscellany</u> Military papers, photographs, printed matter, newspaper clippings, and other miscellaneous items. Arranged by type of material.

Container List

<i>Container</i>	<i>Contents</i>
BOX 1-94	General Correspondence, 1870-1909 Letters sent and received with attachments. Arranged chronologically.
BOX 1	1870-1893, June
BOX 2	1893, July-1894, Jan.
BOX 3	1894 Feb.-Sept.
BOX 4	1894, Oct.-1895, Feb.
BOX 5	1895 Mar.-Nov.
BOX 6	1895, Dec.-1896, June
BOX 7	1896 July-Nov.
BOX 8	1896, Nov.-1897, Jan.
BOX 9	1897 Jan.-Mar.
BOX 10	Mar.-Apr.
BOX 11	Apr.
BOX 12	Apr.-May
BOX 13	May-June
BOX 14	June-July
BOX 15	July-Sept.
BOX 16	Oct.-Dec.
BOX 17	1897, Dec.-1898, Jan.
BOX 18	1898 Jan.-Feb.
BOX 19	Feb.-Mar.
BOX 20	Mar.-Apr.
BOX 21	Apr.-May
BOX 22	May-June
BOX 23	June
BOX 24	July-Aug.
BOX 25	Sept.-Nov.
BOX 26	Nov.-Dec.
BOX 27	1899 Jan.
BOX 28	Jan.-Feb.
BOX 29	Feb.-Mar.
BOX 30	Mar.-June
BOX 31	June-Oct.
BOX 32	Nov.-Dec.

General Correspondence, 1870-1909

<i>Container</i>	<i>Contents</i>
BOX 33	1900 Jan.
BOX 34	Jan.-Mar.
BOX 35	Mar.
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BOX 38	May-June
BOX 39	July-Sept.
BOX 40	Oct.-Dec.
BOX 41	1900, Dec.-1901, Jan.
BOX 42	1901 Jan.-Feb.
BOX 43	Feb.-Mar.
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BOX 45	May-June
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BOX 47	Nov.-Dec.
BOX 48	1901, Dec.-1902, Jan.
BOX 49	1902 Jan.-Feb.
BOX 50	Feb.-Mar.
BOX 51	Mar.-Apr.
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BOX 54	June-July
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BOX 58	Dec.
BOX 59	1903 Jan.
BOX 60	Jan.-Feb.
BOX 61	Feb.
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BOX 63	Apr.-June
BOX 64	July-Sept.
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BOX 67	1904 Jan.-Feb.
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BOX 73	1904, Dec.-1905, Jan.

General Correspondence, 1870-1909

<i>Container</i>	<i>Contents</i>
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BOX 79	1905, Dec.-1906, Jan.
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BOX 81	Feb.-Mar.
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BOX 84	May-June
BOX 85	June-July
BOX 86	Aug.-Nov.
BOX 87	Nov.-Dec.
BOX 88	1906, Dec.-1907, Jan.
BOX 89	1907 Jan.-Feb.
BOX 90	Feb.-Mar.
BOX 91	Apr.-Dec. 1908, Feb. 1909, Mar. Undated
BOX 92-94	Undated
BOX 94	Special Correspondence, 1855-1889 Letters sent and received, including with family members, and attached material. Arranged chronologically. 1855-1864; 1888-1889, undated
BOX 95-100	Business Correspondence, 1893-1896 Letters sent and received with attached and related matter. . Arranged chronologically
BOX 95	A-B
BOX 96	B-C
BOX 97	C-G
BOX 98	H-M
BOX 99	M-R
BOX 100	S-Y Notebook of city lots Record book, 1893
BOX 101-191	Letterbooks, 1866-1907 Letters sent in bound volumes with indexes at the end of each volume.

Letterbooks, 1866-1907*Container**Contents*

Arranged chronologically.

BOX 101	1866-1874
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BOX 104	1882-1884
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BOX 116	1895
BOX 117	1895-1896
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BOX 120	1896-1897
BOX 121	1897 Jan. 23-Feb. 17
BOX 122	Feb. 17-Mar. 25
BOX 123	Mar. 25-Apr. 9
BOX 124	May 30-July 4
BOX 125	Apr. 9-27
BOX 126	Apr. 27-May 14
BOX 127	May 14-30
BOX 128	July 4-Aug. 4
BOX 129	Aug. 4-Sept. 13
BOX 130	Sept. 13-Nov. 15
BOX 131	Nov. 15-Dec. 19
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BOX 133	1898 Jan. 21-Feb. 23
BOX 134	Feb. 23-Apr. 9
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BOX 136	May 5-26
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BOX 138	July 4-Sept. 1
BOX 139	Sept. 3-Oct. 28
BOX 140	Oct. 28-Dec. 20
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Letterbooks, 1866-1907**Container****Contents**

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BOX 147	1899, Dec. 9-1900, Jan. 17
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BOX 149	Feb. 22-Mar. 19
BOX 150	Apr. 30-June 8
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BOX 152	Oct. 7-Dec. 21
BOX 153	1900, Dec. 21-1901, Jan. 4
BOX 154	1901 Jan. 4-8
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BOX 156	Feb. 21-Mar. 16
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BOX 161	1902 Jan. 6-31
BOX 162	Jan. 31-Mar. 3
BOX 163	Mar. 3-29
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BOX 165	Apr. 30-June 14
BOX 166	June 14-30
BOX 167	June 30-Sept. 26
BOX 168	Sept. 26-Oct. 30
BOX 169	Nov. 1-Dec. 20
BOX 170	1902, Dec. 20-1903, Jan. 19
BOX 171	1903 Jan. 19-Feb. 18
BOX 172	Feb. 18-Mar. 25
BOX 173	Mar. 25-30
BOX 174	Mar. 30-June 16
BOX 175	June 16-Oct. 14
BOX 176	Oct. 14-Dec. 1
BOX 177	1904 Feb. 2-Mar. 21
BOX 178	Mar. 21-May 3
BOX 179	May 3-July 5
BOX 180	July 5-Nov. 19
BOX 181	1904, Nov. 19-1905, Jan. 23
BOX 182	1905 Mar. 8-31
BOX 183	Mar. 31-Aug. 4

Letterbooks, 1866-1907

Container

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BOX 184	Aug. 4-Nov. 16
BOX 185	1905, Nov. 17-1906, Jan. 15
BOX 186	1906 Jan. 15-Feb. 19
BOX 187	Feb. 19-Mar. 12
BOX 188	June 4-19
BOX 189	Sept. 17-Dec. 8
BOX 190	1906, Dec. 8-1907, Feb. 9
BOX 191	1907, Mar. 14-Apr. 16
BOX 192-200	Financial Papers, 1863-1907 Bills, receipts, vouchers, cancelled checks, and other financial records. Arranged chronologically.
BOX 192	1863-1892
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BOX 194	F-Z 1896-1897 A-G
BOX 195	H-Z 1897-1899 A-R
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BOX 197	1899 U-Z and European trip 1899-1902 A-Q
BOX 198	R-Z 1902-1904 A-R
BOX 199	S-Z 1904-1907 A-K
BOX 200	L-Z, undated
BOX 200-201	Legal File, 1865-1893 Correspondence, patent and real estate documents, and other legal material. Arranged chronologically. 1865-1888

Legal File, 1865-1893

Container

Contents

BOX 201	1888-1893, undated
BOX 202-203	Miscellany Military papers, photographs, printed matter, newspaper clippings, and other miscellaneous items. Arranged by type of material.
BOX 202	Military papers, 1865-1866 General miscellany Photographs Printed matter
BOX 203	Printed matter Newspaper clippings