

Salmon P. Chase

A Register of His Papers in the Library of Congress

Prepared by Audrey Walker

Revised and expanded by Patrick Kerwin and Lia Apodaca



Manuscript Division, Library of Congress

Washington, D.C.

2005

Contact information: <http://lcweb.loc.gov/rr/mss/address.html>

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Manuscript Division, 2006**

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Collection Summary

Title: Papers of Salmon P. Chase

Span Dates: 1775-1898

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

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

Abstract: Abolitionist, lawyer, U.S. senator, governor of Ohio, U.S. secretary of the treasury, and chief justice of the U.S. 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 U.S. 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 U.S. secretary of the treasury on problems of national finance and the development of a national banking system, his service as chief justice of the U.S. 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.

Names:

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

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, Edward I.--Correspondence.

Chase, Philander, 1775-1852--Correspondence

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)--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
Chase family
United States. Kansas-Nebraska Act
United States. Dept. of the Treasury. Office of the Secretary
United States. Supreme Court
Liberty Party (U.S.)

Subjects:

Antislavery movements--United State.
Banks and banking--United States
Currency question--United States
Finance, Public--United States
National banks (United States)
Practice of law--Ohio--Cincinnati
Reconstruction (U.S. history, 1865-1877)
Slavery--United States
Ohio--Politics and government--1787-1865
United States--Appropriations and expenditures
United States--Economic policy--To 1933
United States--History--Civil War, 1861-1865
United States--History--Civil War, 1861-1865--Campaigns
United States--History--1865-1898
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, U.S. senator, governor of Ohio, U.S. secretary of the treasury, and chief justice of the U.S. Supreme Court, were purchased by the Library of Congress, 1902-1981.

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.

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.).

Microfilm:

A microfilm edition of part of these papers is available on thirty-eight reels. 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, 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.
1826	Graduated, Dartmouth College, Hanover, N.H. Studied law under supervision of William Wirt
1830	Began law practice in Cincinnati, Ohio
1833-1835	Compiled <i>Statutes of Ohio</i>
1834	Married Katherine 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, n.d.](#)
- [General Correspondence, 1810-1898, n.d.](#)
- [Letterbooks and Letterpress Copybooks, 1833-1873](#)
- [Speeches and Writings, 1849-1866, n.d.](#)

- Financial Papers, 1774-1873, n.d.
- Legal File, 1755-1872, n.d.
- Miscellany, 1840-1896, n.d.
- Special Indexes
- Addition, 1850
- Oversize, 1840.

Description of Series

Container

BOX 1-2
REEL 1-2

Series

Diaries, 1829-1870

Diaries kept by Chase.
Arranged chronologically.

BOX 3-4
REEL 3

Family Correspondence, 1821-1872, n.d.

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, n.d.

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, 1849-1866, n.d.

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, n.d.

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, n.d.

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, n.d.

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

Addition, 1850

A single item of correspondence.

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

<i>Container</i>	<i>Contents</i>
BOX 1-2 REEL 1-2	Diaries, 1829-1870 Diaries kept by Chase. Arranged chronologically.
BOX 1 REEL 1	1829, Jan. 1-1854, Mar. 1
	1845, Mar. 1-1859, Sept. 30
	1861, Dec. 9-1863, Sept. 30
BOX 2 REEL 1	1862, July 21-Oct. 12
	1864, June 24-July 6
	1870, Jan.-Dec.
BOX 3-4 REEL 3	Family Correspondence, 1821-1872, n.d. Letters written between members of the Chase family, including the families of Chase's wives. Arranged alphabetically by name of author.
BOX 3 REEL 1	Auld, Jane Chase, Alexander Ralston Chase, Alice Jane Chase, Edward I. Chase, Eliza Smith Chase, Mary E. Chase, Philander Chase, Salmon P., 1823-1836, 1847-1872 (5 folders)
BOX 3 REEL 2	Chase, Sarah Bella D. Ludlow Chase, William F.
BOX 4 REEL 2	Colby, Isaac Hoyt, Janet Ralston Chase Jones, Charlotte L. Jones, Emily Ludlow, Ben Ludlow, Dunlop Ludlow, Israel Ludlow, James D. Skinner, James R.

Family Correspondence, 1821-1872, n.d.

Container

Contents

Skinner, Ralston
Skinner, R. D. W.
Smith, Amelia Wallace
Smith, Caroline
Smith, Edward Curtis
Sprague, Kate Chase
Sprague, William

BOX 4
REEL 3

Walbridge, Helen M.
Walbridge, Henry B.
Walbridge, W. Hunt
Whipple, Edward C.
Whipple, Eliza C.
Whipple, Ithamar C.
Whipple, John W.
Whiteman, Mrs. C. L.
Other family members

BOX 5-27
REEL 3-27

General Correspondence, 1810-1898, n.d.

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

BOX 5
REEL 3

1810-1838

(4 folders)

BOX 5
REEL 4

1841

(3 folders)

BOX 6
REEL 4

1842-1844

(4 folders)

BOX 6
REEL 5

1845

(2 folders)

BOX 7
REEL 5

1846-1847

(4 folders)

BOX 7
REEL 6

1848

(3 folders)

BOX 8
REEL 6

1849

Jan.-June

(3 folders)

BOX 8
REEL 7

July-Dec.

(3 folders)

BOX 8

1850

General Correspondence, 1810-1898, n.d.

Container

Contents

REEL 8	Jan.-June (2 folders)
BOX 9 REEL 8	July-Dec. 1851-1854 (4 folders)
BOX 9 REEL 9	1855 Jan.-June July-Dec.
BOX 10 REEL 9	1856 (3 folders)
BOX 10 REEL 10	1857-1858 (5 folders)
BOX 11 REEL 11	1859 (4 folders)
BOX 11 REEL 12	1860 Jan.-May (2 folders) June-Oct.
BOX 12 REEL 12	Nov.-Dec. (2 folders)
BOX 13 REEL 13	1861 Jan.-Mar. (3 folders) Apr. 1-June 19
BOX 13 REEL 14	(5 folders) June 20-30
BOX 14 REEL 14	July-Sept. (5 folders)
BOX 14 REEL 15	Oct. 1-17
BOX 15 REEL 15	Oct. 18-Dec. 15 (folders)
BOX 15 REEL 16	Dec. 16-31 1862 Jan. 1-15 Jan. 15-31

General Correspondence, 1810-1898, n.d.

<i>Container</i>	<i>Contents</i>
BOX 16 REEL 16	Feb. -May (6 folders)
BOX 17 REEL 17	June-Aug. (6 folders)
BOX 17 REEL 18	Sept. 1-15
BOX 18 REEL 18	Sept. 16-Nov. 30 (6 folders)
BOX 18 REEL 19	Dec. 1-15
BOX 19 REEL 19	Dec. 16-31
	1863
	Jan. 1-Mar. 19 (5 folders)
BOX 19 REEL 20	Mar. 20-31
BOX 20 REEL 20	Apr.-June (6 folders)
BOX 20 REEL 21	July (2 folders)
BOX 21 REEL 21	Aug.-Sept. (4 folders)
BOX 21 REEL 22	Oct. (2 folders)
BOX 22 REEL 22	Nov.-Dec. (4 folders)
	1864
	Jan. 1-17
BOX 22 REEL 23	Jan. 18-31
BOX 23 REEL 23	Feb.-May (6 folders)
BOX 23 REEL 24	June
BOX 24 REEL 24	July-Dec. (6 folders)
	1865
	Jan.-Apr.

General Correspondence, 1810-1898, n.d.

<i>Container</i>	<i>Contents</i>
BOX 24 REEL 25	June-Sept.
BOX 25 REEL 25	Oct.-Dec.
	1866-1867 (5 folders)
	1868 Jan. 1-June 13 (2 folders)
BOX 26 REEL 25	June 15-29
BOX 26 REEL 26	July-Dec.
	1869-1871, n.d. (5 folders)
BOX 27 REEL 26	1872 Jan.-Aug. (2 folders)
BOX 27 REEL 27	Sept.-Dec.
	1873-1898, n.d. (2 folders)
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 27 REEL 27	1833, Nov. 19-1837, Aug. 2
	1845, Nov. 7-1851, Apr. 7
BOX 28 REEL 27	1857, Feb. 16-1861, Jan. 20
	1867, Feb. 17-1868, Apr. 6
BOX 29 REEL 28	1868, Apr. 8-1869, Dec. 14
	1869, Dec. 27-1872, May 10
BOX 30 REEL 28	1870, Sept. 22-1871, June 7
	1871, Aug. 4-Sept. 9
	1872, May 20-1873, Mar. 3
BOX 31 REEL 28	Speeches and Writings, 1849-1866, n.d. Speeches, published letters, draft article, and a poem. Arranged by type of material and chronologically therein.
BOX 31	Speeches

Speeches and Writings, 1849-1866, n.d.

Container

Contents

REEL 28

1849, Aug. 27, Charleston, S.C.
1851, May 30, Toledo, Ohio
1853, Apr. 9, debate in United States Senate
1854
 Jan. 19, *Appeal of the Independent Democrats in Congress to the People of the United States*
 Feb. 3, "Maintain Plighted Faith," speech in United States Senate against repeal of the Missouri Compromise
1856, Jan. 14, inaugural address before the Ohio Senate and House of Representatives
1860, "Galileo," speech delivered before various groups
1864, Nov. 12, Mozart Hall, Cincinnati, Ohio
1866, "Going Home to Vote," *Authentic Speeches of S.P. Chase...During His Visit to Ohio...*, Washington, D.C.
Writings
 1852, July 15, "The Radical Democracy of New York and Independent Democracy," letter to Benjamin F. Butler
 1853, Nov. 14, "Politics in Ohio," letter to A. P. Edgerton
 1858, May 18, refutation of article, "The Chase Conspiracy," in *Washington Chronicle*, draft
 Undated, poem

BOX 31-33

Financial Papers, 1774-1873, n.d.

REEL 28-31

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 31

1774-1836

REEL 28

(2 folders)

BOX 31

1837-1852

REEL 29

(4 folders)

BOX 32

1853-1859

REEL 29

(3 folders)

BOX 32

1860-1869

REEL 30

(5 folders)

BOX 33

1870-1873, n.d.

REEL 30

(3 folders)

Checkbook and canceled checks, 1858-1873

Church papers and receipts, 1827-1839, 1853-1873

Guardian and trustee accounts, 1832-1852

Household account books, 1869-1870, n.d.

BOX 33

REEL 31

Insurance policies, 1865, 1867

Law partnership accounts, 1849-1853

Financial Papers, 1774-1873, n.d.

Container

Contents

Personal account books, 1849, 1864-1873
Reform School of the District of Columbia, 1865-1872

BOX 34
REEL 31-32

Legal File, 1755-1872, n.d.

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

1755-1851
(2 folders)

BOX 34
REEL 32

1852-1869, n.d.

(2 folders)
Clients and cases, 1829-1872, n.d.
(5 folders)
Chase's charge to jury in "Whiskey Frauds" case
Chase's notes on Supreme Court cases (notebook)
Miscellany
Papers relating to Chase's law partnerships
Printed matter
Supreme Court

BOX 35-38
REEL 32-34

Miscellany, 1840-1896, n.d.

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
Awards, certificates
Biographical and genealogical data
Biography by Edward L. Pierce
Commemorations
Farm diary, 1872, Mar. 4-May 13; calling list, 1873
Notebooks, 1843-1867
Notes and memoranda

BOX 36
REEL 32

Notes on antislavery. family notes, and memoranda

Ohio election of 1857
Papers relating to the construction and furnishings of Chase's residence
Wills
General

Miscellany, 1840-1896, n.d.

Container

Contents

BOX 36 REEL 33	Architectural drawings Calling list, Jan. 1868 Clippings
BOX 37 REEL 33	Commonplace book Manuscripts relating to Ohio Memoranda Miscellaneous writings An account of Francis P. Blair's offer to Robert E. Lee of the command of the United States Army Balch, Benjamin, inaugural proclamation for a national organization of the Patriotic Union Club...National Union Party Bannister, R. J., "The Cabinet Trouble" "Condition of the Agriculturist" Murray, John D., "Lecture on the Rise, Progress and Present Extent of Slavery in the United States," 1842, Feb. 2 Notes and fragments Papers relating to the United States Treasury and national finance Printed matter Poetry Schuckers, J. W., newspaper articles about Chase, 1889-1896 Statistics of congressional districts Survey plats and maps Votes by counties, German voters, 1848-1851 Woodward College, Cincinnati, Ohio, 1845-1848
BOX 38 REEL 34	Scrapbook of newspaper clippings
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	Addition, 1850 A single item of correspondence.
BOX 39	Correspondence, 1850
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)