

B. F. Wade Papers

A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress



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**Manuscript Division, Library of Congress
Washington, D.C.
2009**

Contact information:

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

Additional search options available at:

<http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms009336>

LC Online Catalog record:

<http://lcn.loc.gov/mm78044263>

Prepared by Lloyd A. Dunlap

Collection Summary

Title: B. F. Wade Papers

Span Dates: 1832-1886

Bulk Dates: (bulk 1852-1869)

ID No.: MSS44263

Creator: Wade, B. F (Benjamin Franklin), 1800-1878

Extent: 3,500 items ; 18 containers ; 4 linear feet ; 11 microfilm reels

Language: Collection material in English

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

Summary: Lawyer, United States senator from Ohio, and Republican Party leader. Chiefly political correspondence relating to Wade's career in the Senate as well as personal letters concerning his law practice and business. Includes printed speeches, maps, family letters, business records, and other material.

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

Briggs, James A., -1889--Correspondence.
Chase, Salmon P. (Salmon Portland), 1808-1873--Correspondence.
Cox, Jacob D. (Jacob Dolson), 1828-1900--Correspondence.
Davis, Henry Winter, 1817-1865--Correspondence.
Dennison, William, 1815-1882--Correspondence.
Forney, John W. (John Wien), 1817-1881--Correspondence.
Garfield, James A. (James Abram), 1831-1881--Correspondence.
Geiger, Joseph H.--Correspondence.
Goodlow, William A.
Gurowski, Adam, 1805-1866--Correspondence.
Johnson, Andrew, 1808-1875--Impeachment.
Lincoln, Abraham, 1809-1865--Correspondence.
Paine, R. F. (Robert F.)--Correspondence.
Piatt, Donn, 1819-1891--Correspondence.
Rosecrans, William S. (William Starke), 1819-1898--Correspondence.
Seward, William Henry, 1801-1872--Correspondence.
Smith, Green Clay, 1826-1895--Correspondence.
Stanton, Edwin McMasters, 1814-1869--Correspondence.
Sumner, Charles, 1811-1874--Correspondence.
Wade family.
Wade, B. F. (Benjamin Franklin), 1800-1878.

Organizations

Republican Party (U.S. : 1854-)
United States. Congress. Joint Committee on the Conduct of the War.

Subjects

African Americans--Suffrage.
Elections--United States--1860.
Elections--United States--1864.
Elections--United States--1868.
Impeachments.
Practice of law--Ohio.
Reconstruction (U.S. history, 1865-1877)
Secession--Southern States.

Slaves--Emancipation--United States.

Places

Ohio--Commerce.

Ohio--Politics and government.

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

United States--Politics and government--1849-1877.

Occupations

Lawyers.

Politicians.

Senators, U.S. Congress--Ohio.

Administrative Information

Provenance

The papers of B. F. Wade, lawyer, United States senator from Ohio, and Republican Party leader, were given to the Library of Congress by Clara Wade Crosby, John Parsons Wade, and B. F. Wade in 1937.

Processing History

The papers of B. F. Wade were arranged and described in 1968. The finding aid was revised in 2009.

Copyright Status

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

Access and Restrictions

The papers of B. F. Wade 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 eleven 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.

Preferred Citation

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

Biographical Note

<i>Date</i>	<i>Event</i>
1800. Oct. 27	Born, Feeding Hills, Mass.
1821	Moved to Andover, Ohio
1827	Admitted to Ohio bar
1827-1837	Practicing lawyer, Jefferson, Ohio
1835-1837	Prosecuting attorney, Ashtabula County, Ohio

1837	Elected to Ohio state senate
1841	Married Caroline M. Rosekrans
1847	Appointed judge, Third Judicial Circuit
1851-1869	United States senator
1852	Supported repeal of Fugitive Slave Law
1859	Supported homestead legislation
1860	Voted against Crittenden Compromise
1861-1865	Chairman, Joint Committee on the Conduct of the War
1864	Introduced Wade-Davis bill vetoed by Abraham Lincoln Issued Wade-Davis Manifesto criticizing Lincoln
1865	Introduced bill for enfranchisement of Negroes in the District of Columbia
1867	Elected president <i>pro tempore</i> of Senate
1868	Failed of re-election to Senate
1869	Resumed law practice; general counsel Northern Pacific Railroad Member, Board of Directors, Union Pacific Railroad
1871	Member, Santo Domingo Commission
1878, Mar. 2	Died, Jefferson, Ohio

Scope and Content Note

The papers of Benjamin Franklin Wade (1800-1878) span the years 1832-1886, but the bulk falls within the period of his services as United States senator, 1852-1869. The collection is arranged in two series: [General Correspondence](#) and [Miscellany](#) series.

A few letters concern Wade's law practice and business affairs, but most are political in nature. Many are requests for help in obtaining civil or military appointments. Subjects include Ohio and national politics, including the elections of 1860, 1864, and 1868, secession, the Civil War, the Joint Committee on the Conduct of the War, emancipation, Reconstruction, Negro suffrage, and the impeachment of Andrew Johnson.

Among the correspondents are James A. Briggs, Salmon P. Chase, Jacob D. Cox, Henry Winter Davis, Count Adam G. De Gurowski, William Dennison, John W. Forney, James A. Garfield, Joseph H. Geiger, William A. Goodlow, Abraham Lincoln, R. F. Paine, Donn Paitt, William S. Rosekrans, William Henry Seward, Green Clay Smith, Edwin McMasters Stanton, and Charles Sumner.

Arrangement of the Papers

This collection is arranged in two series:

- General Correspondence, 1832-1886
- Miscellany, 1832-1881

Description of Series

Container

BOX 1-17

REEL 1-9

Series

General Correspondence, 1832-1886

Correspondence, letters received, and Wade's letters to his wife, Caroline M. Rosekrans.
Arranged chronologically.

BOX 18

REEL 10-11

Miscellany, 1832-1881

Miscellaneous material includes routine requests for government documents; printed speeches; letters of his son, James F. Wade, to his parents; maps; business records; and printed matter.
Arranged by document type.

Container List

Available on microfilm. Shelf no. 14,109.

<i>Container</i>	<i>Contents</i>
BOX 1-17 REEL 1-9	General Correspondence, 1832-1886 Correspondence, letters received, and Wade's letters to his wife, Caroline M. Rosekrans. Arranged chronologically.
BOX 1 REEL 1	1832, May 12-1852, Mar. 15
BOX 2 REEL 1	1852, Mar. 19-1857, Nov. 23
BOX 3 REEL 2	1857, Dec. 8-1860, Nov. 7
BOX 4 REEL 2	1860, Nov. 9-1861, Feb. 24
BOX 5 REEL 3	1861, Feb. 24-1862, Jan. 4
BOX 6 REEL 3	1862, Jan. 5-Mar. 5
BOX 7 REEL 4	1862, Mar. 6-May 31
BOX 8 REEL 4	1862, June 3-Dec. 29
BOX 9 REEL 5	1862, Dec. 31-1864, Jan. 17
BOX 10 REEL 5	1864, Jan. 18-1865, Feb. 21
BOX 11 REEL 6	1865, Feb. 24-1866, Apr. 4
BOX 12 REEL 6	1866, Apr. 16-1867, Feb. 18
BOX 13 REEL 7	1867, Feb. 19-July 9
BOX 14 REEL 7	1867, July 10-1868, Mar. 14
BOX 15 REEL 8	1868, Mar. 15-1869, Jan. 19
BOX 16 REEL 8	1869, Jan. 20-1873, Sept. 4
BOX 17 REEL 9	1874, Mar. 13-1886 Jan. 18, and undated
BOX 18	Miscellany, 1832-1881

Miscellany, 1832-1881

Container

Contents

REEL 10-11

Miscellaneous material includes routine requests for government documents; printed speeches; letters of his son, James F. Wade, to his parents; maps; business records; and printed matter.

Arranged by document type.

BOX 18

Letters of James F. Wade (son) to his parents, 1856-1881

REEL 10-11

BOX 18

Requests for government documents, 1859-1869

REEL 10-11

(5 folders)

BOX 18

Speeches by Wade, 1856-1862

REEL 10-11

BOX 18

Maps, circa 1860-circa 1870

REEL 10-11

BOX 18

Business records, 1833-1853

REEL 10-11

BOX 18

Printed matter, 1856-1870

REEL 10-11

(2 folders)