

# Benjamin Tappan 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>

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<http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms010080>

LC Online Catalog record:

<http://lcn.loc.gov/mm76042309>

Prepared by Mary M. Wolfskill

## Collection Summary

**Title:** Benjamin Tappan Papers

**Span Dates:** 1795-1900

**Bulk Dates:** (bulk 1795-1866)

**ID No.:** MSS42309

**Creator:** Tappan, Benjamin, 1773-1857

**Extent:** 3,650 items ; 25 containers ; 6 linear feet ; 11 microfilm reels

**Language:** Collection material in English

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

**Summary:** Jurist and United States senator. Correspondence, speeches, legal and business records, and genealogical material relating to Ohio and national politics, antislavery movement, family matters, and Tappan's interests in mineralogy and conchology.

## 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

Allen, William, 1803-1879--Correspondence.  
Anthony, John Gould, 1804-1877--Correspondence.  
Birchard, Matthew, 1803-1876--Correspondence.  
Brown, Ethan Allen, 1776-1852--Correspondence.  
Bryan, John C.--Correspondence.  
Cabell, William H., 1772-1853--Correspondence.  
Clendenin, David--Correspondence.  
Clinton, DeWitt, 1769-1828--Correspondence.  
Disney, David T. (David Tiernan), 1803-1857--Correspondence.  
Drayton, Joseph--Correspondence.  
Edwards, Ogden, 1781-1862--Correspondence.  
Flood, George H.--Correspondence.  
Gould, Augustus A. (Augustus Addison), 1805-1866--Correspondence.  
Hammond, Charles, 1779-1840--Correspondence.  
Hastings, John, 1778-1854--Correspondence.  
Hayward, Elijah, 1786-1864--Correspondence.  
Leavitt, Joshua, 1794-1873--Correspondence.  
Medary, S. (Samuel), 1801-1864--Correspondence.  
Medill, William, 1802-1865--Correspondence.  
Morton, Marcus, 1819-1891--Correspondence.  
Neef, Joseph, 1770-1854--Correspondence.  
Say, Lucy Way Sistare, 1801-1886--Correspondence.  
Sloane, John, 1793-1871--Correspondence.  
Stanton, Edwin McMasters, 1814-1869--Correspondence.  
Tappan family--Correspondence.  
Tappan family.  
Tappan, Benjamin, 1773-1857.  
Whittlesey, Elisha, 1783-1863--Correspondence.  
Wright, John C. (John Crafts), 1783-1861--Correspondence.

### Subjects

Abolitionists.  
Antislavery movements.  
Mineralogy.  
Shells.

Slavery--United States.

### **Places**

Ohio--Politics and government--1787-1865.

Ohio--Politics and government--1865-1950.

United States--Politics and government--1783-1865.

United States--Politics and government--1829-1837.

United States--Politics and government--1865-1900.

### **Occupations**

Jurists.

Senators, U.S. Congress--Ohio.

## **Administrative Information**

### **Provenance**

The papers of Benjamin Tappan, jurist and United States senator, were purchased by the Library of Congress from William Tappan, his grandson, in 1939, after the papers had been on deposit for ten years. Additional material was given by Mrs. Benjamin Tappan in 1948.

### **Processing History**

The papers of Benjamin Tappan were arranged and described in 1976. The finding aid was revised in 2009.

### **Copyright Status**

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

### **Access and Restrictions**

The papers of Benjamin Tappan 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 a reference librarian 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 number, Benjamin Tappan Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

## **Biographical Note**

### *Date*

1773, May 23

### *Event*

Born, Northampton, Mass.

circa 1779-1799

Educated in public schools

Apprenticed to a copperplate printer and engraver

Made a voyage to the West Indies

Studied portrait painting briefly under Gilbert Stuart

Studied law under Gideon Granger

Admitted to the bar at Hartford, Conn.

1799	Became first settler of what is now Portage County, Ohio
1801	Married Nancy Wright (died 1822) Settled in Ravenna, Ohio
1803-1805	Member, Ohio state senate
1809	Moved to Steubenville, Ohio, where he continued to practice law
1812	Aide-de-camp to Major General Elijah Wadsworth during the War of 1812
1816-1823	Presided as judge, Fifth Circuit Court of Common Pleas
1823	Returned to private law practice Married Betsy Ford Frazer (died 1840)
circa 1823	Appointed as member, Ohio Canal Commission
1826-1833	Served as federal district judge
1831	Published <i>Cases Decided in the Courts of Common Pleas, in the Fifth Circuit of. . . Ohio</i> . Steubenville: Printed by J. Wilson (previously printed in parts, 1818-1819)
1832	Democratic presidential elector supporting Andrew Jackson and Martin Van Buren
1839-1845	Member, U.S. Senate from Ohio
1856	Supported John C. Frémont for president
1857, Apr. 20	Died, Steubenville, Ohio

## Scope and Content Note

The papers of Benjamin Tappan (1773-1857) span the years 1795-1900, with the bulk of the material from 1795 to 1866. The collection consists of correspondence, notes, speeches, financial and legal papers, and miscellaneous items organized in five series: [Correspondence](#), [Subject File](#), [Speeches](#), [Financial and Legal Papers](#), and [Miscellany](#).

[Correspondence](#) constitutes the largest series and relates mainly to Tappan's law practice, his activities in the antislavery movement, and to Ohio and national politics, especially during the Jacksonian period. An extensive family correspondence includes letters from his several brothers, Arthur, Charles, John, Lewis, and William, from his father, Benjamin Tappan (died 1790), first wife, Nancy Wright Tappan, and brother-in-law, John C. Wright.

Benjamin Tappan's interest in conchology and mineralogy is also well documented. A partial index to the correspondence is contained in the [Miscellany](#) series. Included among the principal correspondents are William Allen, John Gould Anthony, Mathew Birchard, Ethan Allen Brown, John C. Bryan, William H. Cabell, David Clendenin, DeWitt Cinton, James D. Dana, David T. Disney, Joseph Drayton, Ogden Edwards, George H. Flood, Augustus A. Gould, Charles Hammond, John Hastings, Elijah Hayward, Joshua Leavitt, S. Medary, William Medill, Marcus Morton, Francis Joseph Nicholas Neef, Lucy W. Say, John Sloane, Edwin McMasters Stanton, and Elisha Whittlesey.

A small [Subject File](#) consists of additional correspondence, and notes, petitions, and printed matter relating to slavery, conchology, and other matters. The remainder of the papers includes printed speeches, bills, and receipts, indentures, plats, briefs, acts, a certificate, newspaper clippings, notes, and miscellaneous items.

## Arrangement of the Papers

This collection is arranged in five series:

- Correspondence, 1795-1900
- Subject File, circa 1798-1849
- Speeches, 1828-1843
- Financial and Legal Papers, 1802-1859
- Miscellany, 1798-1866

## Description of Series

<i>Container</i>	<i>Series</i>
BOXES 1-22 REELS 1-9	<b><u>Correspondence, 1795-1900</u></b>  Principally letters received. Arranged chronologically in bound volumes. A partial index of the correspondence is contained in the <u>Miscellany</u> series.
BOX 23 REEL 10	<b><u>Subject File, circa 1798-1849</u></b>  Correspondence, memoranda, notes, petitions, printed material, and drawing. Arranged alphabetically by subject and therein chronologically.
BOX 23 REEL 10	<b><u>Speeches, 1828-1843</u></b>  Printed copies of speeches and notes relating thereto. Arranged chronologically.
BOX 24-24 REEL 10-11	<b><u>Financial and Legal Papers, 1802-1859</u></b>  Bills and receipts followed by indentures, plats, briefs, acts, notes, and a certificate. Arranged chronologically within type of material.
BOX 25 REEL 11	<b><u>Miscellany, 1798-1866</u></b>  Partial index, invitations, newspapers and clippings, notes, fragments, and other items. Arranged by type of material.

# Container List

Available on microfilm. Shelf no. 16,702

<i>Container</i>	<i>Contents</i>
<b>BOXES 1-22</b> <b>REELS 1-9</b>	<b>Correspondence, 1795-1900</b>  Principally letters received. Arranged chronologically in bound volumes. A partial index of the correspondence is contained in the <u>Miscellany</u> series.
<b>BOX 1</b> <b>REEL 1</b>	1795, Mar. 6-1806, Nov. 9
<b>BOX 2</b> <b>REEL 1</b>	1806, Nov. 13-1811, Jan. 5
<b>BOX 3</b> <b>REEL 2</b>	1811, Jan. 19-1816, Jul. 27
<b>BOX 4</b> <b>REEL 2</b>	1816, Aug. 12-1819, Jul. 29
<b>BOX 5</b> <b>REEL 2-3</b>	1819, Aug. 2-1822, Feb. 3
<b>BOX 6</b> <b>REEL 3</b>	1822, Feb. 4-1825, Jun. 25
<b>BOX 7</b> <b>REEL 3</b>	1825, Jul. 19-1827, Aug. 30
<b>BOX 8</b> <b>REEL 3-4</b>	1827, Sept. 10-1830, Aug. 2
<b>BOX 9</b> <b>REEL 4</b>	1830, Aug. 17-1833, Jul. 11
<b>BOX 10</b> <b>REEL 4</b>	1833, Jul. 12-1834, May 11
<b>BOX 11</b> <b>REEL 4-5</b>	1834, May 13-1836, Jan. 15
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<b>BOX 13</b> <b>REEL 5</b>	1838, Oct. 21-1840, Apr. 22
<b>BOX 14</b> <b>REEL 5-6</b>	1840, Apr. 24-Dec. 23
<b>BOX 15</b> <b>REEL 6</b>	1840, Dec. 24-1841, Jul. 15
<b>BOX 16</b> <b>REEL 6</b>	1841, Jul. 17-1842, Jun. 7
<b>BOX 17</b> <b>REEL 7</b>	1842, Jun. 12-1843, Apr. 25
<b>BOX 18</b> <b>REEL 7</b>	1843, Apr. 30-1844, Mar. 28
<b>BOX 19</b> <b>REEL 8</b>	1844, Apr. 2-1845, Jan. 16

## Correspondence, 1795-1900

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BOX 20 1845, Jan. 18-1846, Feb. 28  
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BOX 21 1846, Mar. 11-1853, Aug. 11  
REEL 9  
BOX 22 1853, Aug. 12-1900, Feb. 27, undated  
REEL 9

BOX 23 **Subject File, circa 1798-1849**  
REEL 10

Correspondence, memoranda, notes, petitions, printed material, and drawing.  
Arranged alphabetically by subject and therein chronologically.

BOX 23 Abolition of slavery and slave trade and the recognition of the independence of Haiti, petitions  
REEL 10 from Ohio residents, circa 1840  
BOX 23 Banking system, undated  
REEL 10  
BOX 23 Conchology and other scientific matters, 1831-1849, undated  
REEL 10

(3 folders)

BOX 23 Cumberland Road, Ohio, 1834-1835  
REEL 10

BOX 23 Hallock, Jeremiah H., papers relating to his conduct as president judge of the fifth judicial  
REEL 10 circuit, circa 1830

BOX 23 Lynde v. Patten, notes on the case circa 1798  
REEL 10

BOX 23 Tappan family, genealogy chart, undated  
REEL 10

BOX 23 Wheeling and Belmont suspension bridge, drawing showing elevation, undated  
REEL 10

BOX 23 Wilkes, Charles, U.S. Exploring expedition, letter of Joseph Drayton to the Joint Congressional  
REEL 10 Committee on the Library, undated

BOX 23 **Speeches, 1828-1843**  
REEL 10

Printed copies of speeches and notes relating thereto.  
Arranged chronologically.

BOX 23 1828  
REEL 10

BOX 23 *Address Delivered by Benj. Tappan, Esq., on the Celebration of the Eighth of January, 1828,*  
REEL 10 *at Columbus, Ohio*

BOX 23 1836  
REEL 10

BOX 23 *Proceedings of the Democratic State Convention, Held in Columbus on the Eighth of*  
REEL 10 *January, 1836; With an Address to the People of Ohio.* Columbus, Ohio: Printed at the  
Office of the Western Hemisphere, 1836

BOX 23 1840  
REEL 10

BOX 23 *Remarks of Mr. Tappan, of Ohio, on Abolition Petitions, Delivered in Senate, 1840, Feb.*  
REEL 10

## Speeches, 1828-1843

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BOX 23 REEL 10	1841
BOX 23 REEL 10	<i>Speech of Mr. B. Tappan, of Ohio, on the Permanent Prospective Pre-emption Law, Delivered in the Senate of the United States, 1841, Jan. 29.</i> Washington, D. C.: Blair and Rives, 1841
BOX 23 REEL 10	<i>Speech of Mr. Tappan of Ohio, on the Bill To Incorporate the Banks of the District of Columbia, Delivered in Senate, 1841, Feb. 23</i>
BOX 23 REEL 10	<i>Speech of the Hon. Benjamin Tappan, of Ohio on the United States Fiscal Bank Bill: Delivered in the Senate of the United States, 1841, Jul. 14.</i> Washington, D.C.: Blair and Rives, 1841
BOX 23 REEL 10	1843
BOX 23 REEL 10	<i>Speech of Mr. Tappan, of Ohio, on the Joint Resolution Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of the United States, so as To Limit the Term of Office of the Judges of the Supreme and Inferior Courts: Delivered in the Senate of the United States, 1843, Jan. 16.</i> Steubenville, Ohio: Morris & Frazer, Printers, 1843 (including handwritten summary of Tappan's remarks)
BOX 23 REEL 10	<i>Reply of Col. Abert and Mr. Markoe to the Hon. Mr. Tappan, of the United State Senate.</i> Washington, D.C.: Wm. Q. Force, Printer, 1843
BOX 23 REEL 10	Undated
BOX 23 REEL 10	Notes on Benjamin Tappan's remarks concerning the inclusion of trading corporations within a bankrupt law (handwritten)
BOX 24-24 REEL 10-11	<b>Financial and Legal Papers, 1802-1859</b>  Bills and receipts followed by indentures, plats, briefs, acts, notes, and a certificate. Arranged chronologically within type of material.
BOX 24 REEL 10-11	Bills and receipts
BOX 24 REEL 10-11	1802-1839  (8 folders)
BOX 25 REEL 11	1840-1859, undated
BOX 25 REEL 11	Indentures, plats, briefs, acts, notes, and a certificate, 1806-1855, undated  (2 folders)
BOX 25 REEL 11	<b>Miscellany, 1798-1866</b>  Partial index, invitations, newspapers and clippings, notes, fragments, and other items. Arranged by type of material.
BOX 25 REEL 11	Partial index to bound volumes and other lists of correspondence  ( 2 folders)
BOX 25 REEL 11	Invitations to speak or attend meetings, 1839-1848, undated
BOX 25	Newspaper and newspaper clippings, 1798-1843, undated

**Miscellany, 1798-1866**

*Container*

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REEL 11

BOX 25

REEL 11

Notes, fragments, and miscellaneous items, 1863, 1866, undated