**Collection Summary**

**Title:** James Wadsworth Family Papers  
**Span Dates:** 1730-1959  
**ID No.:** MSS44297  
**Creator:** Wadsworth, James, 1768-1844  
**Extent:** 7,000 items ; 50 containers plus 1 oversize ; 22 linear feet  
**Language:** Collection material in English  
**Location:** Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.  
**Summary:** Correspondence, diaries, financial papers, scrapbooks, clippings, photographs, and other papers of the family of James Wadsworth (1768-1844) and his brother, William Wadsworth (1761-1833), who settled in Geneseo, N.Y., in 1790 and endowed schools and libraries there.

**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**
- Davis, Jefferson, 1808-1889.
- Greeley, Horace, 1811-1872--Correspondence.
- Roosevelt, Theodore, 1858-1919--Correspondence.
- Wadsworth family.
- Wadsworth, James, 1768-1844.

**Organizations**
- United States. Army--Officers.
- United States. Congress.
- United States. Dept. of State.

**Subjects**
- Diplomatic and consular service, American--Great Britain.
- Gettysburg, Battle of, Gettysburg, Pa., 1863.
- Schools--New York (State)--Geneseo--Endowments.
- Slavery--Southern States.
- Wilderness, Battle of the, Va., 1864.

**Places**
- Geneseo (N.Y.)--History.
- Pennsylvania--History--Civil War, 1861-1865--Campaigns.
- United States--History--Civil War, 1861-1865--Autographs.
- United States--History--Civil War, 1861-1865--Campaigns.
- United States--History--Civil War, 1861-1865--Casualties.
- United States--History--Civil War, 1861-1865--Peace.
- United States--Politics and government--1865-1933.
Administrative Information

Provenance
The papers of the James Wadsworth Family were given to the Library of Congress by James W. Symington, Evelyn W. Symington, James J. Wadsworth, and Reverdy Wadsworth between 1960 and 1983.

Processing History
The Wadsworth Family Papers were arranged and described in 1961. The description was revised in 1997.

Additional Guides

Copyright Status
Copyright in the unpublished writings of the James Wadsworth Family in this collection and in other collections of papers in the custody of the Library has been dedicated to the public.

Access and Restrictions
The papers of the James Wadsworth Family 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, James Wadsworth Family Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Biographical Notes

James Wadsworth

Date Event
1768, Apr. 20 Born, Durham, Conn.
1787 Graduated, Yale University, New Haven, Conn.
1796-1798 Acquired property with William Wadsworth on the bank of the Genesee River, New York state
1800-1844 Traveled to Europe with the help of Robert Morris, Aaron Burr, and DeWitt Clinton to interest foreign capitalists in American investments
1800-1844 Urged establishment of county academies; instrumental in securing the enactment of legislation authorizing sending the public Lectures on School-Keeping to each school district; responsible for establishment of school district library system in New York; and built and endowed a public library in Geneseo, N.Y.
1804 Married Naomi Wolcott

1844, June 7 Died, Geneseo, N.Y.

James S. Wadsworth
Date Event
1807, Oct. 30 Born, Geneseo, N.Y.
1834 Married Mary Craig Wharton
1861 Commissioned brigadier general, U.S. Army
1864 Commissioned brevet major general in the field for gallantry at the battles of Gettysburg, Pa., and The Wilderness, Va.
1864, May 8 Died of wounds received at The Wilderness, Va.

James Wolcott Wadsworth, Sr.
Date Event
1846, Oct. 12 Born, Philadelphia, Pa., son of James S. Wadsworth
1864-1865 Volunteer aide on staff of Major General G. K. Warren, U.S. Army
1865, Jan. 24 Commissioned and appointed captain, aide-de-camp
1865, May 25 Brevetted major for gallant and meritorious service at Five Forks and Petersburg, Va.
1865, June 26 Mustered out of U.S. Army
1875-1877 Supervisor, Geneseo, N.Y.
1876 Married Louise Travers
1878-1879 Member, New York general assembly
1880-1881 Comptroller of New York
1881-1885 United States representative from New York
1898 Honorary A.M., Yale University, New Haven, Conn.
1901-1907 United States representative from New York
1926, Dec. 24 Died, Geneseo, N.Y.

James Wolcott Wadsworth, Jr.
Date Event
1877, Aug. 12 Born, Geneseo, N.Y., son of James Wolcott Wadsworth, Sr.
1898 B.A., Yale University, New Haven, Conn.
1899 Entered stock and farming business
1902, Sept. 30 Married Alice Hay, daughter of John Hay
1905-1910 Director, Genesee Valley National Bank and Trust Co.
Member, New York general assembly; speaker, 1906-10
1908-1928 Delegate, Republican national conventions
1911-1915 Managed large ranch, Paloduro, Tex.
1915-1927 United States senator from New York
1933-1951 United States representative from New York
1951-1952 Chairman, National Security Training Commission
1952, June 21 Died, Geneseo, N.Y.

**John Hay**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1838, Oct. 8</td>
<td>Born, Salem, Ind.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1858</td>
<td>A.M., LL.D., Brown University, Providence, R.I.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>LL.D., Princeton University, Princeton, N.J.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>LL.D., Yale University, New Haven, Conn.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>LL.D., Harvard University, Cambridge, Mass.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>LL.D., Western Reserve University, Cleveland, Ohio</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1861-1865</td>
<td>Private secretary, with John George Nicolay, to Abraham Lincoln</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Brevet colonel, United States volunteers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1865-1870</td>
<td>Secretary of legation, Paris, France; Madrid, Spain; Vienna, Austria</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Chargé d'affaires, Vienna, Austria</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1874</td>
<td>Married Clara Stone</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1879-1881</td>
<td>President, International Sanitary Conference</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1890</td>
<td>Published with John George Nicolay <em>Abraham Lincoln, a History</em> (New York: Century Co. 10 vols.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1897-1898</td>
<td>Ambassador to England</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1898-1905</td>
<td>Secretary of state</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1905, July 1</td>
<td>Died, Washington, D.C.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Scope and Content Note

The papers of the James Wadsworth Family of Geneseo, New York, span the period 1730-1959 and describe the activities of four generations of the family in both regional and national affairs. The collection consists chiefly of the correspondence of James and William Wadsworth, who founded the Geneseo branch of the family and occupied land there in 1790; James S. Wadsworth, Civil War general who commanded the First Division, I Corps, at Gettysburg and was later killed in the Battle of the Wilderness; James Wolcott Wadsworth, United States representative from 1881 to 1885 and 1891 to 1906; and James Wolcott Wadsworth, Jr., who represented New York in the United States Senate from 1915 to 1927 and in the House of Representatives from 1933 to 1951. Consisting primarily of personal correspondence, the papers reflect the changing problems of the nation in the careers of succeeding generations.

Included in the collection is correspondence of John Hay, whose daughter Alice married James Wolcott Wadsworth, Jr., and whose letters, chiefly in the years 1882-1903, comment on life in London and Washington, D.C., in the late nineteenth century.

Also in the collection are a letter from Abraham Lincoln to Horace Greeley, 9 July 1864, in which he promises safe conduct for any person or persons “professing to have any proposition of Jefferson Davis in writing for peace embracing the restoration of the Union and abandonment of slavery,” and an album containing autographed photographs of scores of the nation's leaders during the Lincoln administrations. Letters of Theodore Roosevelt are also among the correspondence.

Organization of the Papers

The collection is arranged in six series:

- Family Papers, 1730-1959
- Family Financial Papers, 1835-1851
- Family Miscellany, 1730-1952
- John Hay Papers, 1861-1959
- James Wolcott Wadsworth, Jr., Papers, 1723-1957
- Oversize, 1884-1952
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Container</th>
<th>Series</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BOX 1-8</td>
<td><strong>Family Papers, 1730-1959</strong>&lt;br&gt;Correspondence, primarily incoming, of various members of the Wadsworth family. Also included in the papers are a diary, legal papers, and other miscellaneous papers. Arranged chronologically with an index of James S. Wadsworth's Papers filed at the end of the papers.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOX 9</td>
<td><strong>Family Financial Papers, 1835-1851</strong>&lt;br&gt;Arranged chronologically.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOX 10</td>
<td><strong>Family Miscellany, 1730-1952</strong>&lt;br&gt;Correspondence, photographs, clippings, pamphlets and maps, genealogical information, writings, and other material. Arranged alphabetically by name of person, topic, or type of material.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOX 11-14</td>
<td><strong>John Hay Papers, 1861-1959</strong>&lt;br&gt;Correspondence, pamphlets and programs, poetry, writings, memorabilia, photograph album, will, and other material pertaining to John Hay and his family. Arranged alphabetically by name of person, topic, or type of material, except for the photograph album which is filed at the end of the series.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOX 15-50</td>
<td><strong>James Wolcott Wadsworth, Jr., Papers, 1723-1957</strong>&lt;br&gt;Diaries, correspondence, memoranda, speeches, writings, clippings, printed matter, scrapbooks, and other material. Arranged in subseries designated Diaries, Senate Papers, House of Representatives, Personal, Miscellaneous, and Scrapbooks and therein alphabetically by name of person or organization, topic, or type of material.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOX OV 1</td>
<td><strong>Oversize, 1884-1952</strong>&lt;br&gt;Oversize certificates, degrees, and recognitions. Arranged chronologically.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
# Container List

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Container</th>
<th>Contents</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| BOX 1-8  | **Family Papers, 1730-1959**  
Correspondence, primarily incoming, of various members of the Wadsworth family. Also included in the papers are a diary, legal papers, and other miscellaneous papers.  
Arranged chronologically with an index of James S. Wadsworth's Papers filed at the end of the papers. |
| BOX 1  | 1730, 1755, 1764-1825  
(28 folders) |
| BOX 2  | 1826-1829  
(26 folders) |
| BOX 3  | 1830-1831  
(27 folders) |
| BOX 4  | 1832-1839  
(24 folders) |
| BOX 5  | 1840-1862  
(29 folders) |
| BOX 6  | 1863-1870  
(19 folders) |
| BOX 7  | 1871-1882, 1894-1941  
(24 folders) |
| BOX 8  | 1942-1959, undated  
(15 folders)  
*Index of James S. Wadsworth's Papers, University of Rochester, Rochester, N.Y., typescript volume* |
| BOX 9  | **Family Financial Papers, 1835-1851**  
Arranged chronologically. |
| BOX 9  | 1835-1851  
(48 folders) |
| BOX 10 | **Family Miscellany, 1730-1952**  
Correspondence, photographs, clippings, pamphlets and maps, genealogical information, writings, and other material.  
Arranged alphabetically by name of person, topic, or type of material. |
| BOX 10 | Clippings  
(2 folders)  
Genealogy  
Memorial books  
Pamphlets and maps  
Photographs  
(5 folders)  
Suffrage letters |
## Family Miscellany, 1730-1952

**Container**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box</th>
<th>Contents</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>11-14</td>
<td><strong>John Hay Papers, 1861-1959</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Correspondence, pamphlets and programs, poetry, writings, memorabilia,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>photograph album, will, and other material pertaining to John Hay and</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>his family. Arranged alphabetically by name of person, topic, or type</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>of material, except for the photograph album which is filed at the end</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>of the series.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td><strong>Family correspondence</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1861-1896</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(24 folders)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1897</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Jan.-Aug.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(4 folders)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td><strong>Sept.-Dec.</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(4 folders)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1898-1906, 1919, 1959, undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(19 folders)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td><strong>Fink, Joseph L., address, &quot;A Tribute to a Great American,&quot; 1938</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Index to letters and diaries</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Last will and testament, 1905</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Lincoln, Abraham, and Mary Todd Lincoln, letters, 1861-1864</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Memorabilia and Lincolniana</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Miscellany and autographs</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Pamphlets and programs</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Poems</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Writings</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Hay, Clara Stone (wife)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Hay, John</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Index note cards</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>&quot;The Money Makers&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>School writing book</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td><strong>Photograph album</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Items available online.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15-50</td>
<td><strong>James Wolcott Wadsworth, Jr., Papers, 1723-1957</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Diaries, correspondence, memoranda, speeches, writings, clippings,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>printed matter, scrapbooks, and other material.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Arranged in subseries designated Diaries, Senate Papers, House of</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Representatives, Personal, Miscellaneous, and Scrapbooks and therein</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>alphabetically by name of person or organization, topic, or type of</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>material.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td><strong>Diaries and autobiography</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Autobiography, undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td><strong>Diaries and summary of engagements, 1915-1952</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td><strong>Senate papers</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Antilynching bill (Dyer), 1923-1926</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Bonus, 1923-1926
Civil Service, 1824-1926
(4 folders)
Congress of the United States, bills, committees, and workings, 1919-1927
(5 folders)
Constitution, amendments to, 1923-1925
Crowell, Benjamin, 1923-1925
(2 folders)
Farm policy, 1924-1925
Foreign policy, 1922-1926
(6 folders)
Harding, Warren G., nomination as president, correspondence, 1935
Immigration Service, 1923-1926
(18 folders)
BOX 18
Labor, 1924-1926
(2 folders)
Local self-government versus federal power, 1924-1926
(2 folders)
Mexico, 1926-1927
Military (Troop M), 1916
Military policy, 1921-1927
(20 folders)
New York state politics, 1908-1927
(11 folders)
BOX 19
Politics, 1916-1927
(17 folders)
Prohibition, 1923-1927
(23 folders)
BOX 20
Public works, 1921-1926
Retirement, 1927
Senatorial campaign, 1925-1926
(4 folders)
Social legislation, 1925-1926
(2 folders)
Teapot Dome scandal, 1924
World War I, 1916-1925
(3 folders)
BOX 21
House of Representatives
Antilynching bill, 1937-1950
(5 folders)
Austin-Wadsworth bill, 1942-1945
(9 folders)
Burke-Wadsworth draft bill, 1940-1945
(7 folders)
Conduct of World War II
1935-1941
(13 folders)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Container</th>
<th>Contents</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| BOX 22    | 1942-1948  
(28 folders)  
Congressional reorganization, 1946  
Constitutional amendment, 1935-1950  
(6 folders) |
| BOX 23    | Demobilization, 1943-1946  
(11 folders)  
Draft in operation, extension, 1940-1946  
(27 folders) |
| BOX 24    | Economy in government, 1937-1950  
(12 folders)  
Equal rights amendment, 1944-1950  
(3 folders)  
Farm policy, 1933-1950  
(24 folders)  
Federal aid, 1939-1950  
(2 folders)  
Federal power, 1934-1949  
(12 folders) |
| BOX 25    | Foreign policy, 1937-1950  
(23 folders)  
Immigration, 1939-1948  
Labor, 1934-1950  
(17 folders)  
Lend Lease, 1941-1951  
(5 folders) |
| BOX 26    | Liberty League, 1935-1938  
(3 folders)  
Library of Congress, 1951-1953  
(3 folders)  
Miscellaneous, 1927-1950  
(43 folders) |
| BOX 27    | National Security Training Commission, 1951  
Neutrality embargoes, 1933-1950  
(17 folders)  
New Deal, 1933-1950  
(11 folders)  
Office of the Clerk, 1941  
Office of Price Administration, 1941-1946  
(6 folders)  
Peacetime draft, 1946-1950  
(2 folders) |
| BOX 28    | Politics, 1924-1950  
(63 folders) |
| BOX 29    | Postwar military policy, Woodrum Committee, 1942-1950  
(14 folders)  
Prewar military policy, 1920-1947  
(7 folders) |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Container</th>
<th>Contents</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| BOX 30    | Retirement, Rochester, N.Y., dinner, 1950 (8 folders)  
Supreme Court, 1937 (3 folders)  
Taxation, 1935-1950 (17 folders)  
Un-American activities, radicals, 1934-1947 (3 folders)  
Unification of armed forces, 1946-1949 (5 folders) |
| BOX 31    | Universal military training, 1935-1952 (43 folders)  
Veterans bonus, pensions, 1934-1952 (4 folders) |
| BOX 32    | Personal  
American Military Mission to Armenia, 1919  
Atlantic Union, 1950-1952 (4 folders)  
Bank matters, 1916-1944 (3 folders)  
Campaign contributions, 1926-1952  
Degrees and other honors, 1942-1952 (3 folders)  
Family history, 1813-1952 (9 folders)  
Farm business matters, 1915-1951 (8 folders)  
Federal Security Agency, 1951  
Freedom on the March, 1950-1951 (4 folders)  
Friends, letters  
1914-1950 (13 folders)  
BOX 33    | 1951, undated (3 folders)  
Frontier Mortgage Co., 1916-1952 (2 folders)  
Genesee, N.Y., and environs, 1916-1952 (4 folders)  
Hay, Clarence, 1938-1950 (2 folders) |
Historical documents and books, 1862, 1925-1940
International Stock Yards, 1936-1952
  (5 folders)
Land, 1920-1949
Letters received during illness, 1950-1957
  (9 folders)
Miscellaneous, 1951
Ostertag, Harold, 1951
  (2 folders)
Press, relations with, 1924-1950
  (3 folders)
  (13 folders)
Requests for information, assistance, 1926-1951
  (5 folders)
Requests to speak, attend meetings, 1923-1951
  (10 folders)
BOX 34
Roosevelt, Nicholas, 1950-1951
Roosevelt, Theodore, 1906
  (3 folders)
Senate friends, 1950
  (3 folders)
Sons of the American Revolution, 1950-1951
  (3 folders)
Summary of James W. Wadsworth Papers, 1953
Symington, Tim and James, 1942-1951
  (2 folders)
Symington, W. Stuart, 1923-1951
  (5 folders)
Wadsworth, Craig, 1927-1943
Wadsworth, James J. ("Jerry"), correspondence, 1917-1950
  (16 folders)
Wadsworth, James W., Sr., 1898-1926
Wadsworth, Reverdy, and family, 1951
Whitney, John Hay, 1951
Yale University, New Haven, Conn., 1951-1952
BOX 35
Miscellaneous
  Speeches and articles
    1900-1939
    (27 folders)
BOX 36
  1940-1951, undated
    (19 folders)
BOX 37
  Clippings and political photos, 1910-1952
    (12 folders)
BOX 38
  Printed matter, 1900-1952
    (11 folders)
BOX 39
Scrapbooks
  1723-1864
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Container</th>
<th>Contents</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| BOX 40    | 1878-1881  
           | 1902-1914, letterbook of James W. Wadsworth, Jr. |
| BOX 41    | 1817-1940 |
| BOX 42    | 1898-1935 |
| BOX 43    | 1899-1943 |
| BOX 44    | 1922-1927, 1952 |
| BOX 45    | 1926 |
| BOX 46    | 1933-1950 |
| BOX 47    | 1943-1947 |
| BOX 48    | 1947-1949 |
| BOX 49    | 1950 |
| BOX 50    | 1952 |

**BOX OV 1**  
**Oversize, 1884-1952**  
Oversize certificates, degrees, and recognitions.  
Arranged chronologically.

**BOX OV 1**  
Certificates, degrees, and recognitions, 1884-1952