

# **Edward Bates**

## **An Register of His Papers in the Library of Congress**

**Prepared by David Mathisen  
Revised by Brian McGuire**



**Manuscript Division, Library of Congress**

**Washington, D.C.**

**2004**

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

**Finding aid encoded by Library of Congress  
Manuscript Division, 2006**

Finding aid URL: <http://hdl.loc.gov/loc/mss/eadmss.ms006047>

## Collection Summary

**Title:** Papers of Edward Bates

**Span Dates:** 1818-1904

**Bulk Dates:** (1861-1864)

**ID No.:** MSS12039

**Creator:** Bates, Edward, 1793-1869

**Extent:** 311 items; 2 containers; .6 linear feet; 2 microfilm reels

**Language:** Collection material in English

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

**Abstract:** Lawyer, politician, and United States attorney general. Correspondence, diary, newspaper clippings, printed matter, and other material reflecting Bates's career in Missouri state politics and the United States House of Representatives and as United States attorney general.

## 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:

Bates, Edward, 1793-1869

Fritsch, C. R.--Correspondence

Lincoln, Abraham, 1809-1865

Lincoln, Abraham, 1809-1865--Correspondence

Sherman, William T. (William Tecumseh), 1820-1891--Correspondence

### Subjects:

Statehood (American politics)

Missouri--Politics and government

United States--Politics and government--1815-1861

United States--Politics and government--1861-1865

West Virginia--Politics and government--1861-1865

### Occupations:

Cabinet officers

Lawyers

Politicians

## Administrative Information

### Provenance:

The papers of Edward Bates, attorney general and representative from Missouri, were deposited in the Library of Congress by Helen Nicolay in 1925 and converted to a gift in 1947. Additional gifts were received from Edward T. Stuart in 1931 and Duane Mowry in 1932.

### Processing History:

The papers of Edward Bates were processed and prepared for microfilming in 1987. The finding aid was revised in 2004.

### Copyright Status:

The status of copyright in the unpublished writings of Edward Bates is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.).

**Microfilm:**

A microfilm edition of these papers is available on two 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, Edward Bates Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

**Biographical Note**

<i>Date</i>	<i>Event</i>
1793, Sept. 4	Born, Belmont, Va.
1814	Moved to St. Louis, Mo.
1816	Admitted to Missouri bar
1820	Member, Missouri Constitutional Convention
1820-1822	Missouri attorney general
1822	Member, Missouri house of representatives
1823	Married Julia Davenport Coalter
1827-1829	Member, U.S. House of Representatives
1830-1834	Member, Missouri senate
1847	President, River and Harbor Improvement Convention, Chicago, Ill.
1850	Declined appointment as secretary of war
1860	Candidate for nomination for president, Republican Party national convention
1861-1864	U.S. attorney general
1869, Mar.25	Died, St. Louis, Mo.

**Scope and Content Note**

The papers of Edward Bates (1793-1869) span the years 1818-1904, with the bulk of the material dating from 1861 to 1864. The papers consist primarily of correspondence, a diary, and newspaper clippings. Of particular interest are memoranda read to President Abraham Lincoln's cabinet, Bates's opinion on the admission of West Virginia into the Union, and his statement entitled "The Present Condition of the Country."

The correspondence includes a handwritten copy of a letter from Abraham Lincoln and letters from C. R. Fritsch and William T. Sherman.

## **Arrangement of the Papers**

This collection is arranged by type of material and therein chronologically .

# Container List

Available on microfilm. Shelf no. 19,769

<i>Container</i>	<i>Contents</i>
BOX 1 REEL 1	Correspondence, 1861-1864, 1904
BOX 1 REEL 1	Opinions, memoranda, and notes, 1861-1863, n.d.
BOX 1 REEL 1	Envelopes, 1861-1864, n.d.
BOX 1 REEL 1	Printed matter, 1818, 1861-1865, n.d.
BOX 1 REEL 1	Clippings, 1859-1864
BOX 2 REEL 1-2	Diary
BOX 2 REEL 1-2	1859, Apr.-1861, Feb. 19
BOX 2 REEL 1-2	1861, Feb. 26-1862, Nov. 5
BOX 2 REEL 1-2	1861, Nov. 1-1862, June 4
BOX 2 REEL 1-2	1862, Nov. 7-1863, Sept. 30
BOX 2 REEL 1-2	1863, Oct. 15-1866, July 31