

John Sherman Papers

A Finding Aid to the Collection in the
Library of Congress

Prepared by Manuscript Division Staff



Manuscript Division, Library of
Congress

Washington, D.C.

2010

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

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Congress Manuscript Division, 2010

Finding aid URL: <http://hdl.loc.gov/loc/mss/eadmss.ms010267>

Collection Summary

Title: John Sherman Papers

Span Dates: 1836-1900

Bulk Dates: (bulk 1857-1894)

ID No.: MSS39784

Creator: Sherman, John, 1823-1900

Extent: 130,000 items; 618 containers plus 1 oversize; 132 linear feet; 2 microfilm reels

Language: Collection material in English

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

Abstract: Secretary of state, secretary of the treasury, and United States senator and representative from Ohio. Correspondence, scrapbooks, printed matter, and other papers chiefly relating to Sherman's role in Ohio politics after 1850. Includes family correspondence during Sherman's school years, general correspondence during his years in Congress and the cabinet, and papers relating to Kansas in the 1850s when he was a member of the House of Representatives committee investigating conditions in the territory.

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

Anthony, Susan B. (Susan Brownell), 1820-1906--Correspondence.

Aultman, Cornelius, 1827-1884--Correspondence.

Bateman, Warner M. (Warner Mifflin), 1827-1897--Correspondence.

Blair, Montgomery, 1813-1883--Correspondence.

Cameron, Simon, 1799-1889--Correspondence.

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

Cleveland, Grover, 1837-1908--Correspondence.

Creswell, John A. J. (John Angel James), 1828-1891--Correspondence.

Curtis, Samuel Ryan, 1805-1866--Correspondence.

Delano, Columbus, 1809-1896--Correspondence.

Dwyer, Joe W.--Correspondence.

Field, Cyrus W. (Cyrus West), 1819-1892--Correspondence.

Fish, Hamilton, 1808-1893--Correspondence.

Garfield, James A. (James Abram), 1831-1881--Correspondence.

Grant, Ulysses S. (Ulysses Simpson), 1822-1885--Correspondence.

Gresham, Walter Quintin, 1832-1895--Correspondence.

Hadley, J.--Correspondence.

Hayes, Rutherford Birchard, 1822-1893--Correspondence.

Hayes, Rutherford Birchard, 1822-1893.

Hays, E. Z. (Ebenezer Z.)--Correspondence.

Hickenlooper, Andrew, 1837-1904--Correspondence.

Lieber, Francis, 1800-1872--Correspondence.

Manning, Daniel, 1831-1887--Correspondence.

Markland, Absalom H., d. 1888--Correspondence.

McKinley, William, 1843-1901--Correspondence.

McKinley, William, 1843-1901.

Metcalf, E. W. (Eliab Wight), 1827-1899--Correspondence.

Morton, Levi P. (Levi Parsons), 1824-1920--Correspondence.

Porter, Fitz-John, 1822-1901--Correspondence.

Quay, Matthew Stanley, 1833-1904--Correspondence.

Reamy, T. A.--Correspondence.
Reed, Thomas B. (Thomas Brackett), 1839-1902--Correspondence.
Reynolds, L. D.--Correspondence.
Sherman, Frances Beecher, 1829-1889--Correspondence.
Sherman, John, 1796-1841--Correspondence.
Sherman, John, 1823-1900.
Sherman, Mary Hoyt, 1787-1852--Correspondence.
Sherman, Susan Denman, 1825-1876--Correspondence.
Sherman, William T. (William Tecumseh), 1820-1891--Correspondence.
Skinner, St. John B. L., 1797 or 8-1873--Correspondence.
Stanton, Edwin McMasters, 1814-1869--Correspondence.
Stevens, Thaddeus, 1792-1868--Correspondence.
Stewart, James, judge--Correspondence.
Stoddard, J. W. (John Williams), 1837-1917--Correspondence.
Upson, W. H. (William Hanford), 1823-1910--Correspondence.
Weed, Thurlow, 1797-1882--Correspondence.
Williams, John E. (John Earl), 1804-1877--Correspondence.

Organizations

United States. Congress.
United States. Dept. of State.
United States. Dept. of the Treasury . Office of the Secretary.

Places

Kansas--History--1854-1861.
Ohio--Politics and government.
United States--Politics and government--19th century.

Occupations

Cabinet officers.
Representatives, U.S. Congress--Ohio.
Senators, U.S. Congress--Ohio.

Administrative Information

Provenance

The papers of John Sherman, secretary of state, secretary of the treasury, and U.S. senator and representative from Ohio, were given to the Library of Congress by his nephews, Hoyt Sherman and Philemon Tecumseh Sherman, in 1911. Mary McCallum, the daughter of John Sherman, deposited additional material in 1918 with the stipulation that selected photocopies be made and most of the original manuscripts returned to her. The resultant photocopies were incorporated into the collection. During the 1930s, other photocopies of original material in private hands were added to the collection, the most noteworthy being two reels of microfilm of letters received by Sherman in the years 1848 to 1893. Small additions of original manuscripts were also incorporated into the collection prior to 1948.

Processing History

The John Sherman Papers were processed circa 1970. The finding aid was revised in 2010.

Copyright Status

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

Access and Restrictions

The papers of John Sherman 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

Microfilm on two reels was received as part of these papers and is listed and described in this finding aid. Consult reference staff 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, John Sherman Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Biographical Note

<i>Date</i>	<i>Event</i>
1823, May 10	Born, Lancaster, Ohio
1835-1837	Attended Howe's Academy, Lancaster, Ohio
1840	Studied law under Judge Jacob Parker (an uncle) and Charles T. Sherman (eldest brother)
1844	Admitted to the bar in Ohio
1848	Married Margaret Sarah Cecilia Stewart
1854	Elected to the House of Representatives as a Republican from Ohio; served on Committee of Inquiry to Kansas
1855	President of first Republican convention in Ohio
1861	Elected to Senate from Ohio
1868	Voted to convict President Andrew Johnson
1877	Appointed secretary of the treasury
1881	Re-elected to the Senate from Ohio
1880	Unsuccessfully sought Republican Party nomination for president
1884	Unsuccessfully sought Republican Party nomination for president
1885-1887	President pro tempore of the Senate
1886	Chairman, Senate Foreign Relations Committee
1888	Unsuccessfully sought Republican Party nomination for president

1890	Led action for successful passage of antitrust and silver purchase acts.
1897	Resigned from the Senate to become secretary of state
1898	Resigned as secretary of state
1900, Oct. 22	Died, Washington, D.C.

Scope and Content Note

The papers of John Sherman (1823-1900) span the years 1836 to 1900, with most of the material originating between 1857 and 1894. The collection includes correspondence, scrapbooks, commissions and awards, a small number of speeches, material on fiscal matters and an investigation into the affairs of Kansas in 1854, and biographical data. The collection is arranged in six series: [General Correspondence](#), [Letterpress Copybooks](#), [Scrapbooks](#), [Miscellany](#), [Oversize](#), and [Microfilm](#).

The papers contain Sherman's correspondence with his family while he attended school in Pennsylvania, and his correspondence as a United States Representative from Ohio, as a United States senator, as secretary of the treasury under President Rutherford Birchard Hayes and later as secretary of state under President William McKinley. Throughout the collection there is material relating to his role as a leader in Ohio politics from the 1850s to his death.

Correspondents include Susan B. Anthony, Cornelius Aultman, Warner M. Bateman, Montgomery Blair, Simon Cameron, Salmon P. Chase, Grover Cleveland, John A. J. Creswell, Samuel Ryan Curtis, Columbus Delano, Joe W. Dwyer, Cyrus W. Field, Hamilton Fish (1808-1893), James A. Garfield, Ulysses S. Grant, Walter Quintin Gresham, J. Hadley, Rutherford Birchard Hayes, E. Z. Hays, Andrew Hickenlooper, Francis Lieber, Daniel Manning, Absalom H. Markland, William McKinley, E. W. Metcalf, Levi P. Morton, Fitz-John Porter, Matthew Stanley Quay, T. A. Reamy, Thomas B. Reed, L. D. Reynolds, Joan B. Senter, Mary Hoyt Sherman (mother), John Sherman I, Frances (Fanny) Beecher Sherman and Susan Denman Sherman (sisters), William T. Sherman (brother), St. John B. L. Skinner, Edwin McMasters Stanton, Thaddeus Stevens, James Stewart (father-in-law), J. W. Stoddard (cousin), W. H. Upson, Thurlow Weed, and John E. Williams.

Arrangement of the Papers

The collection is arranged in six series:

- [General Correspondence, 1836-1900](#)
- [Letterpress Copybooks, 1874-1893](#)
- [Scrapbooks, 1897-1900](#)
- [Miscellany](#)
- [Oversize](#)
- [Microfilm, 1848-1893](#)

Description of Series

<i>Container</i>	<i>Series</i>
BOX 1-604	<u>General Correspondence, 1836-1900</u>
BOX 1-596A	<u>Chronological File, 1836-1900</u> Bound volumes of letters received. Arranged chronologically.
BOX 597-604	<u>Alphabetical File</u> Bound volumes of letters received. Arranged alphabetically
BOX 605-612	<u>Letterpress Copybooks, 1874-1893</u> Bound volumes of copies of letters sent. Arranged chronologically within volumes. Indexed.
BOX 613-615	<u>Scrapbooks, 1897-1900</u> Scrapbooks. Arranged chronologically by volume.
BOX 616	<u>Miscellany</u> Commissions, awards, speeches, notebooks, biographical data, and material on conditions in Kansas. Arranged by subject.
BOX 617	<u>Oversize</u> Commissions, awards, and certificates
REELS 1-2	<u>Microfilm, 1843-1848</u> Microfilm reproduction of original letters received. <i>Available only on microfilm. Shelf no. 5,892.</i>

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BOX 7	1858, Dec. 21-1859, Feb. 3
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BOX 446	May 27-June 3
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BOX 451	June 25-29
BOX 452	June 30-July 10
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BOX 458	Sept. 17-30
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BOX 507	Feb. 9-17
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BOX 509	Feb. 25-Mar. 4
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BOX 568	Jan. 15-19
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BOX 570	Jan. 27-Feb. 3
BOX 571	Feb. 4-10
BOX 572	Feb. 11-18
BOX 573	Feb. 19-29
BOX 574	Mar. 1-10
BOX 575	Mar. 11-20
BOX 576	Mar. 21-31
BOX 577	Apr. 1-11
BOX 578	Apr. 12-22
BOX 579	Apr. 23-May 6
BOX 580	May 7-15
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BOX 582	May 28-June 4
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BOX 590	Dec. 1-17
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BOX 595	Feb. 21-Mar. 17
BOX 596	1893, Mar. 18-1894, June 1
BOX 596A	1894, Dec. 24-1900, June 5
BOX 597-604	Alphabetical File Bound volumes of letters received. Arranged alphabetically
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BOX 598	C-D
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BOX 602	S
BOX 603	T-Y
BOX 604	Undated notes, accounts, speech and article drafts
BOX 605-612	Letterpress Copybooks, 1874-1893 Bound volumes of copies of letters sent. Arranged chronologically within volumes. Indexed.
BOX 605	1874, Mar. 1-1877, Oct. 1
BOX 606	1877, Oct. 4-1878, Apr. 22
BOX 607	1878, Apr. 26-1879, Apr. 12
BOX 608	1879, Apr. 15-1880, Feb. 25
BOX 609	1880 Feb. 26-Nov. 15
BOX 610	Nov. 15-1881, June 25
BOX 611	1881, Oct. 17-1888, May 23
BOX 612	1888, May 23-1893, Jan. 24
BOX 613-615	Scrapbooks, 1897-1900 Scrapbooks. Arranged chronologically by volume.
BOX 613	1897-1898, secretary of state
BOX 614	1898-1900, retirement
BOX 615	1900, obituary notices
BOX 616	Miscellany Commissions, awards, speeches, notebooks, biographical data, and material on conditions in Kansas. Arranged by subject.
BOX 616	Speeches; material on Committee of Inquiry to Kansas, 1854-1856; fiscal data; notebooks; biographical data
BOX 617	Oversize Commissions, awards, and certificates
REELS 1-2	Microfilm, 1843-1848 Microfilm reproduction of original letters received. <i>Available only on microfilm. Shelf no. 5,892.</i>
REELS 1-2	Letters received, 1848-1898