James Wadsworth Family Papers
A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress

Manuscript Division, Library of Congress
Washington, D.C.
1997

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

Catalog Record: https://lccn.loc.gov/mm78044297

Additional search options available at: https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms997014

Prepared by Russell Smith and David Mathisen
Revised by Connie Cartledge

Finding aid encoded by Library of Congress Manuscript Division, 1997
Revised 2018 November
Collection Summary
Title: James Wadsworth Family Papers
Span Dates: 1730-1959
ID No.: MSS44297
Creator: Wadsworth, James, 1768-1844
Extent: 7,000 items
Extent: 39 containers plus 12 oversize
Extent: 22 linear feet
Language: Collection material in English
Location: Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.
LC Catalog record: https://lccn.loc.gov/mm78044297
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 LC Catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically.

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. Department of State.

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

Places
Geneseo (N.Y.)--History.
London (England)--Social life and customs--19th century.
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.
Virginia--History--Civil War, 1861-1865--Campaigns.

**Titles**
*Wadsworth family papers*

**Occupations**
Landowners.
Philanthropists.
Reformers.

**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.

**Online Content**

**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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1768, Apr. 20</td>
<td>Born, Durham, Conn.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1787</td>
<td>Graduated, Yale University, New Haven, Conn.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1796-1798</td>
<td>Acquired property with William Wadsworth on the bank of the Genesee River, New York state</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Traveled to Europe with the help of Robert Morris, Aaron Burr, and DeWitt Clinton to interest foreign capitalists in American investments</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>circa 1800-circa 1844</td>
<td>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.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1804</td>
<td>Married Naomi Wolcott</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1844, June 7</td>
<td>Died, Geneseo, N.Y.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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### James S. Wadsworth

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

### James Wolcott Wadsworth, Sr.

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

### James Wolcott Wadsworth, Jr.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1877, Aug. 12</td>
<td>Born, Geneseo, N.Y., son of James Wolcott Wadsworth, Sr.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1898</td>
<td>B.A., Yale University, New Haven, Conn.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1899</td>
<td>Entered stock and farming business</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1902, Sept. 30</td>
<td>Married Alice Hay, daughter of John Hay</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1905-1910</td>
<td>Director, Genesee Valley National Bank and Trust Co.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Member, New York general assembly; speaker, 1906-10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1908-1928</td>
<td>Delegate, Republican national conventions</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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

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

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
### Description of Series

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Container</th>
<th>Series</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BOX 1-8</td>
<td><strong>Family Papers, 1730-1959</strong></td>
<td>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></td>
<td>Arranged chronologically.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOX 10</td>
<td><strong>Family Miscellany, 1730-1952</strong></td>
<td>Correspondence, photographs, clippings, pamphlets and maps, genealogical information, writings, and other material. Arranged alphabetically by name of person, topic, or type of material.</td>
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<tr>
<td>BOX 11-14</td>
<td><strong>John Hay Papers, 1861-1959</strong></td>
<td>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-OV 50</td>
<td><strong>James Wolcott Wadsworth, Jr., Papers, 1723-1957</strong></td>
<td>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>
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<tr>
<td>BOX OV 1</td>
<td><strong>Oversize, 1884-1952</strong></td>
<td>Oversize certificates, degrees, and recognitions. Arranged chronologically.</td>
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# Container List

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Container</th>
<th>Contents</th>
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</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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Container</th>
<th>Contents</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wadsworth, Jeremiah, typescript volume of his letters</td>
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<tr>
<td>World War I narrative</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box 11-14</th>
<th>John Hay Papers, 1861-1959</th>
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<tr>
<td>Correspondence, pamphlets and programs, poetry, writings, memorabilia, photograph album, will, and other material pertaining to John Hay and his family.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>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>
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<tr>
<th>Box 11</th>
<th>Family correspondence</th>
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<td>1861-1896</td>
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<td>1897</td>
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<td>Jan.-Aug.</td>
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<td>1898-1906, 1919, 1959, undated</td>
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<tr>
<td>Index to letters and diaries</td>
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<td>Last will and testament, 1905</td>
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<td>Lincoln, Abraham, and Mary Todd Lincoln, letters, 1861-1864</td>
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<td>Memorabilia and Lincolniana</td>
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<td>Miscellany and autographs</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pamphlets and programs</td>
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<tr>
<td>Poems</td>
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<tr>
<td>Writings</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hay, Clara Stone (wife)</td>
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<td>Hay, John</td>
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<td>Index note cards</td>
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<td>&quot;The Money Makers&quot;</td>
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<td>School writing book</td>
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<th>Box 14</th>
<th>Civil War photograph album</th>
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<th>Box 15-OV 50</th>
<th>James Wolcott Wadsworth, Jr., Papers, 1723-1957</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Diaries, correspondence, memoranda, speeches, writings, clippings, printed matter, scrapbooks, and other material.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>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>
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<tr>
<th>Box 15</th>
<th>Diaries and autobiography</th>
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<tr>
<td>Autobiography, undated</td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box 16</th>
<th>Diaries and summary of engagements, 1915-1952</th>
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<th>Box 17</th>
<th>Senate papers</th>
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<td>Antilynching bill (Dyer), 1923-1926</td>
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James Wadsworth Family Papers
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<th>Container</th>
<th>Contents</th>
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<tr>
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<td>Bonus, 1923-1926</td>
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<td>Civil Service, 1824-1926</td>
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<td>Congress of the United States, bills, committees, and workings, 1919-1927</td>
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<td>Constitution, amendments to, 1923-1925</td>
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<td>Crowell, Benjamin, 1923-1925</td>
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<td>Farm policy, 1924-1925</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Foreign policy, 1922-1926</td>
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<td>BOX 18</td>
<td>Harding, Warren G., nomination as president, correspondence, 1935</td>
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<td>Immigration Service, 1923-1926</td>
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<td>Labor, 1924-1926</td>
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<td>Local self-government versus federal power, 1924-1926</td>
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<td>Mexico, 1926-1927</td>
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<td>Military (Troop M), 1916</td>
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<td>Military policy, 1921-1927</td>
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<td>New York state politics, 1908-1927</td>
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<td>BOX 19</td>
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<td>Prohibition, 1923-1927</td>
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<tr>
<td>BOX 20</td>
<td>Public works, 1921-1926</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Retirement, 1927</td>
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<td>Senatorial campaign, 1925-1926</td>
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<td>Social legislation, 1925-1926</td>
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<td>Teapot Dome scandal, 1924</td>
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<td>World War I, 1916-1925</td>
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<td>BOX 21</td>
<td>House of Representatives</td>
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<td>Antilynching bill, 1937-1950</td>
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<td>Austin-Wadsworth bill, 1942-1945</td>
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<td>Burke-Wadsworth draft bill, 1940-1945</td>
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<td>Conduct of World War II</td>
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</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  
<pre><code>       | (7 folders) |
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Container</th>
<th>Contents</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>Prohibition, 1933-1944 (6 folders)</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Public housing, rent control, 1946-1950 (2 folders)</td>
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<td>Reorganization of House committees, 1946</td>
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<td>Retirement from Congress, 1950-1951 (22 folders)</td>
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<td>BOX 30</td>
<td>Retirement, Rochester, N.Y., dinner, 1950 (8 folders)</td>
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<td>Supreme Court, 1937 (3 folders)</td>
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<td>Taxation, 1935-1950 (17 folders)</td>
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<td>Un-American activities, radicals, 1934-1947 (3 folders)</td>
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<td>Unification of armed forces, 1946-1949 (5 folders)</td>
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<td>BOX 31</td>
<td>Universal military training, 1935-1952 (43 folders)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>Veterans bonus, pensions, 1934-1952 (4 folders)</td>
</tr>
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<td>BOX 32</td>
<td>Personal</td>
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<td>American Military Mission to Armenia, 1919</td>
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<td>Atlantic Union, 1950-1952 (4 folders)</td>
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<td>Bank matters, 1916-1944 (3 folders)</td>
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<td>Campaign contributions, 1926-1952</td>
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<td>Degrees and other honors, 1942-1952 (3 folders)</td>
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<td>Family history, 1813-1952 (9 folders)</td>
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<td>Farm business matters, 1915-1951 (8 folders)</td>
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<td>Federal Security Agency, 1951</td>
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<td>Freedom on the March, 1950-1951 (4 folders)</td>
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<td>Friends, letters 1914-1950 (13 folders)</td>
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<td>BOX 33</td>
<td>1951, undated (3 folders)</td>
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<td>Frontier Mortgage Co., 1916-1952 (2 folders)</td>
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<td>Geneseo, N.Y., and environs, 1916-1952 (4 folders)</td>
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<td>Hay, Clarence, 1938-1950 (2 folders)</td>
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| BOX 34    | Roosevelt, Nicholas, 1950-1951  
<pre><code>       | Roosevelt, Theodore, 1906       |
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<p>|           | (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 OV 39 | Scrapbooks                         |
|           | 1723-1864                           |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Container</th>
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<tr>
<td>BOX 40</td>
<td>1878-1881&lt;br&gt;1902-1914, letterbook of James W. Wadsworth, Jr.</td>
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<tr>
<td>BOX OV 41</td>
<td>1817-1940</td>
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<tr>
<td>BOX OV 42</td>
<td>1898-1935</td>
</tr>
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<td>BOX OV 43</td>
<td>1899-1943</td>
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<tr>
<td>BOX OV 44</td>
<td>1922-1927, 1952</td>
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<tr>
<td>BOX OV 45</td>
<td>1926</td>
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<td>BOX OV 46</td>
<td>1933-1950</td>
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<td>1943-1947</td>
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<td>1947-1949</td>
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<td>BOX OV 49</td>
<td>1950</td>
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<td>BOX OV 50</td>
<td>1952</td>
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<td><strong>Oversize, 1884-1952</strong>&lt;br&gt;Oversize certificates, degrees, and recognitions.&lt;br&gt;Arranged chronologically.</td>
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<tr>
<td>BOX OV 1</td>
<td>Certificates, degrees, and recognitions, 1884-1952</td>
</tr>
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