

**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://lcn.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://lcn.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.

**Online Content:** A Civil War photograph album is available on the Library of Congress Web site at <http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms000051>.

## 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.

Hay, John, 1838-1905. John Hay papers. 1861-1959.

Lincoln, Abraham, 1809-1865. Abraham Lincoln correspondence. 1864 July 9.

Roosevelt, Theodore, 1858-1919--Correspondence.

Wadsworth family.

Wadsworth, James S. (James Samuel), 1807-1864. James S. Wadsworth papers.

Wadsworth, James Wolcott, 1846-1926. James Wolcott Wadsworth papers.

Wadsworth, James Wolcott, 1877-1952. James Wolcott Wadsworth papers.

Wadsworth, James, 1768-1844.

Wadsworth, William, 1761-1833. William Wadsworth papers.

### Organizations

United States. Army--Officers.

United States. Congress.

United States. Department of State.

United States. National Security Training Commission.

### 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.

New York (State)--Politics and government--1865-1950.

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.  
Washington (D.C.)--Social life and customs--19th century.

### **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**

A description of the papers appears in the Library of Congress Quarterly Journal of Current Acquisitions, vol. 18, no. 3 (May 1961), pp. 129-130.

## **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**

A Civil War photograph album is available on the Library of Congress Web site at <http://hdl.loc.gov/loc/mss/eadmss.msmcc051>.

## **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 Traveled to Europe with the help of Robert Morris, Aaron Burr, and DeWitt Clinton to interest foreign capitalists in American investments
circa 1800-circa 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

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

<b>Container</b>	<b>Series</b>
BOX 1-8	<p><b><u>Family Papers, 1730-1959</u></b></p> <p>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.</p>
BOX 9	<p><b><u>Family Financial Papers, 1835-1851</u></b></p> <p>Arranged chronologically.</p>
BOX 10	<p><b><u>Family Miscellany, 1730-1952</u></b></p> <p>Correspondence, photographs, clippings, pamphlets and maps, genealogical information, writings, and other material. Arranged alphabetically by name of person, topic, or type of material.</p>
BOX 11-14	<p><b><u>John Hay Papers, 1861-1959</u></b></p> <p>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.</p>
BOX 15-OV 50	<p><b><u>James Wolcott Wadsworth, Jr., Papers, 1723-1957</u></b></p> <p>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.</p>
BOX OV 1	<p><b><u>Oversize, 1884-1952</u></b></p> <p>Oversize certificates, degrees, and recognitions. Arranged chronologically.</p>

# Container List

Container	Contents
<b>BOX 1-8</b>	<b>Family Papers, 1730-1959</b> 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.
<b>BOX 1</b>	1730, 1755, 1764-1825 (28 folders)
<b>BOX 2</b>	1826-1829 (26 folders)
<b>BOX 3</b>	1830-1831 (27 folders)
<b>BOX 4</b>	1832-1839 (24 folders)
<b>BOX 5</b>	1840-1862 (29 folders)
<b>BOX 6</b>	1863-1870 (19 folders)
<b>BOX 7</b>	1871-1882, 1894-1941 (24 folders)
<b>BOX 8</b>	1942-1959, undated (15 folders) Index of James S. Wadsworth's Papers, University of Rochester, Rochester, N.Y., typescript volume
<b>BOX 9</b>	<b>Family Financial Papers, 1835-1851</b> Arranged chronologically.
<b>BOX 9</b>	1835-1851 (48 folders)
<b>BOX 10</b>	<b>Family Miscellany, 1730-1952</b> Correspondence, photographs, clippings, pamphlets and maps, genealogical information, writings, and other material. Arranged alphabetically by name of person, topic, or type of material.
<b>BOX 10</b>	Clippings (2 folders) Genealogy Memorial books Pamphlets and maps Photographs (5 folders) Suffrage letters



## Family Miscellany, 1730-1952

### Container

### Contents

---

Wadsworth, Jeremiah, typescript volume of his letters  
World War I narrative

BOX 11-14

#### **John Hay Papers, 1861-1959**

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.

BOX 11

Family correspondence

1861-1896

(24 folders)

1897

Jan.-Aug.

(4 folders)

BOX 12

Sept.-Dec.

(4 folders)

1898-1906, 1919, 1959, undated

(19 folders)

BOX 13

Fink, Joseph L., address, "A Tribute to a Great American," 1938

Index to letters and diaries

Last will and testament, 1905

Lincoln, Abraham, and Mary Todd Lincoln, letters, 1861-1864

Memorabilia and Lincolniana

Miscellany and autographs

Pamphlets and programs

Poems

Writings

Hay, Clara Stone (wife)

Hay, John

Index note cards

"The Money Makers"

School writing book

BOX 14

Civil War photograph album

[Digital content available](#)

BOX 15-OV 50

#### **James Wolcott Wadsworth, Jr., Papers, 1723-1957**

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.

BOX 15

Diaries and autobiography

Autobiography, undated

BOX 16

Diaries and summary of engagements, 1915-1952

BOX 17

Senate papers

Antilynching bill (Dyer), 1923-1926

## James Wolcott Wadsworth, Jr., Papers, 1723-1957

### Container

### Contents

---

	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)
<b>BOX 18</b>	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)
<b>BOX 19</b>	Politics, 1916-1927 (17 folders)
	Prohibition, 1923-1927 (23 folders)
<b>BOX 20</b>	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)
<b>BOX 21</b>	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)

## James Wolcott Wadsworth, Jr., Papers, 1723-1957

Container	Contents
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)

## James Wolcott Wadsworth, Jr., Papers, 1723-1957

### Container

### Contents

---

	Prohibition, 1933-1944 (6 folders)
	Public housing, rent control, 1946-1950 (2 folders)
	Reorganization of House committees, 1946
	Retirement from Congress, 1950-1951 (22 folders)
<b>BOX 30</b>	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)
<b>BOX 31</b>	Universal military training, 1935-1952 (43 folders)
	Veterans bonus, pensions, 1934-1952 (4 folders)
<b>BOX 32</b>	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)
<b>BOX 33</b>	1951, undated (3 folders)
	Frontier Mortgage Co., 1916-1952 (2 folders)
	Geneseo, N.Y., and environs, 1916-1952 (4 folders)
	Hay, Clarence, 1938-1950 (2 folders)

## James Wolcott Wadsworth, Jr., Papers, 1723-1957

### Container

### Contents

---

	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)
	Ranch, J. A., and Richie family, 1915-1951 (13 folders)
	Requests for information, assistance, 1926-1951 (5 folders)
	Requests to speak, attend meetings, 1923-1951 (10 folders)
<b>BOX 34</b>	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
<b>BOX 35</b>	Miscellaneous
	Speeches and articles 1900-1939 (27 folders)
<b>BOX 36</b>	1940-1951, undated (19 folders)
<b>BOX 37</b>	Clippings and political photos, 1910-1952 (12 folders)
<b>BOX 38</b>	Printed matter, 1900-1952 (11 folders)
<b>BOX OV 39</b>	Scrapbooks 1723-1864

## James Wolcott Wadsworth, Jr., Papers, 1723-1957

Container	Contents
BOX 40	1878-1881 1902-1914, letterbook of James W. Wadsworth, Jr.
BOX OV 41	1817-1940
BOX OV 42	1898-1935
BOX OV 43	1899-1943
BOX OV 44	1922-1927, 1952
BOX OV 45	1926
BOX OV 46	1933-1950
BOX OV 47	1943-1947
BOX OV 48	1947-1949
BOX OV 49	1950
BOX OV 50	1952
BOX OV 1	<b>Oversize, 1884-1952</b> Oversize certificates, degrees, and recognitions. Arranged chronologically.
BOX OV 1	Certificates, degrees, and recognitions, 1884-1952