

**Zachariah Chandler Papers**  
**A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress**



**Manuscript Division, Library of Congress**  
**Washington, D.C.**  
**2023**

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

Catalog Record: <https://lcn.loc.gov/mm78015552>

Additional search options available at: <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms006046>

Prepared by Manuscript Division staff

Finding aid encoded by Library of Congress Manuscript Division, 2006  
Revised 2023 March

## Collection Summary

**Title:** Zachariah Chandler Papers

**Inclusive Dates:** 1854-1899

**Bulk Dates:** 1854-1879

**ID No.:** MSS15552

**Creator:** Chandler, Zachariah, 1813-1879

**Extent:** 1,100 items

**Extent:** 9 containers

**Extent:** 1.8 linear feet

**Extent:** 4 microfilm reels

**Language:** Collection material in English

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

**LC Catalog record:** <https://lccn.loc.gov/mm78015552>

**Summary:** Secretary of the interior and senator from Michigan. Correspondence, principally letters received, only a few dating after 1879, relating chiefly to the politics of the Civil War and Reconstruction. Reflects the views of the antislavery element of the Republican Party when Chandler was serving on the Republican Congressional Committee and the Joint Committee on the Conduct of War and as chairman of the Committee on Commerce. Also includes material pertaining to the early political history of Michigan.

## 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

Banks, Nathaniel Prentiss, 1816-1894--Correspondence.  
Blaine, James Gillespie, 1830-1893--Correspondence.  
Cameron, Simon, 1799-1889--Correspondence.  
Chandler, Zachariah, 1813-1879.  
Creswell, John A. J., 1828-1891--Correspondence.  
Custer, George A. (George Armstrong), 1839-1876--Correspondence.  
Forbes, John Murray, 1813-1898--Correspondence.  
Giddings, Marsh, 1816-1875--Correspondence.  
Grant, Ulysses S. (Ulysses Simpson), 1822-1885--Correspondence.  
Greeley, Horace, 1811-1872--Correspondence.  
Lincoln, Abraham, 1809-1865--Correspondence.  
Morton, Levi P. (Levi Parsons), 1824-1920--Correspondence.  
Stanton, Edwin M. (Edwin McMasters), 1814-1869--Correspondence.  
Trumbull, Lyman, 1813-1896--Correspondence.  
Wade, B. F. (Benjamin Franklin), 1800-1878--Correspondence.

### Organizations

Republican Congressional Committee.  
Republican Party (U.S. : 1854- )  
United States. Congress. Joint Committee on the Conduct of the War.  
United States. Congress. Senate. Committee on Commerce.  
United States. Department of the Interior--Officials and employees.

### Subjects

Antislavery movements--United States.  
Reconstruction (U.S. history, 1865-1877)  
Slavery--United States.

### Places

Michigan--Politics and government--1837-1950.  
United States--Politics and government--1861-1865.  
United States--Politics and government--1865-1877.

### **Occupations**

Cabinet officers.  
Senators, U.S. Congress--Michigan.

## **Acquisition Information**

The papers of Zachariah Chandler, senator and secretary of the interior, were deposited in the Library of Congress in 1928 by his daughter and son-in-law, Mary Douglas Chandler Hale and Eugene Hale, and their son, Frederick Hale, and were converted to a gift in 1932. An addition was purchased in 1977.

## **Processing History**

The Zachariah Chandler papers were arranged and described by Patrick Kerwin in 2005. The finding aid was updated in 2023 by Maria Farmer as part of a division-wide remediation project by the Inclusive Description Working Group.

## **Copyright Status**

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

## **Access and Restrictions**

The papers of Zachariah Chandler 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**

A microfilm edition of part of these papers is available on four reels. Consult reference staff in the Manuscript Division concerning availability for purchase or interlibrary loan. To promote preservation of the originals, researchers are required to consult the microfilm edition as available.

## **Preferred Citation**

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: Container or reel number, Zachariah Chandler, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

## **Biographical Note**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Event</b>
1813, Dec. 10	Born, Bedford, N.H.
1833	Moved to Detroit, Mich., and later opened a general store
1844	Married Letitia Grace Douglas
1851-1852	Mayor, Detroit, Mich.
1852	Unsuccessful Whig candidate for governor of Michigan

1854	One of the signers of the call for the meeting at Jackson, Mich., which founded the Republican Party
1856	Delegate and member of the national committee, Republican national convention, Pittsburgh, Pa.
1857	Elected to the United States Senate succeeding Lewis Cass
1861-1875	Chairman, Senate Committee on Commerce
1868	Chairman, Republican Congressional Committee for duration of campaign
1875-1877	Secretary of the interior
1876	Chairman, Republican Congressional Committee for duration of campaign
1879	Elected to the United States Senate
1879, Nov. 1	Died, Chicago, Ill

## Scope and Content Note

The papers of Zachariah Chandler (1813-1879) span the years 1854-1899, with the bulk of the items dating from 1854 to 1879. The greater part of the collection consists of letters received by Chandler. The papers include bound volumes of correspondence, an autograph book, and a letterbook.

The Chandler Papers are concerned mainly with the early political history of Michigan and the politics of the Civil War and Reconstruction. They reflect the views of the antislavery element of the Republican Party when Chandler was serving in the United States Senate on the Republican Congressional Committee and the Joint Committee on the Conduct of the War and while he was chairman of the Senate Committee on Commerce.

Prominent correspondents include Nathaniel Prentiss Banks, James Gillespie Blaine, Simon Cameron, John A. J. Creswell, George Armstrong Custer, John Murray Forbes, Marsh Giddings, Horace Greeley, Abraham Lincoln, Levi P. Morton, Edwin McMasters Stanton, Lyman Trumbull, and B. F. Wade.

## Arrangement of the Papers

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

## Container List

Available on microfilm. Shelf no. 13, 731

<b>Container</b>	<b>Contents</b>
<b>BOX 1 REEL 1</b>	Correspondence
<b>BOX 1 REEL 1</b>	1854, Oct. 12-1862, Jan. 7
<b>BOX 2 REEL 1</b>	1862, Jan. 9-1864, Jan. 4
<b>BOX 3 REEL 2</b>	1864, Jan. 11-1866, Feb. 12
<b>REEL 4 REEL 2</b>	1866, Mar. 15-1870, Jan. 24
<b>BOX 5 REEL 3</b>	1870, Feb. 10-1874, May 26
<b>BOX 6 REEL 3</b>	1874, June 1-1876, Nov. 30
<b>BOX 7 REEL 4</b>	1876, Dec. 1-1899, Mar. 4
<b>BOX 8 REEL 4</b>	Autograph book, 1857-1875
<b>BOX 9 not filmed</b>	Letterbook, 1874, May 11-1875, Mar. 6