

Edward Bates Papers
A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress



Manuscript Division, Library of Congress
Washington, D.C.
2004

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

Catalog Record: <https://lcn.loc.gov/mm78012039>

Additional search options available at: <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms006047>

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Revised by Brian McGuire

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Collection Summary

Title: Edward Bates Papers

Span Dates: 1818-1904

Bulk Dates: (bulk 1861-1864)

ID No.: MSS12039

Creator: Bates, Edward, 1793-1869

Extent: 311 items

Extent: 2 containers

Extent: .6 linear feet

Extent: 2 microfilm reels

Language: Collection material in English

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

LC Catalog record: <https://lccn.loc.gov/mm78012039>

Summary: 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 LC Catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically.

People

Bates, Edward, 1793-1869.

Fritsch, C. R.--Correspondence.

Lincoln, Abraham, 1809-1865--Correspondence.

Lincoln, Abraham, 1809-1865.

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

Subjects

Secession--Southern States.

Statehood (American politics)

Places

Missouri--Politics and government.

United States--History--Civil War, 1861-1865.

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.

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The status of copyright in the unpublished writings of Edward Bates is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.).

Access and Restrictions

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

Biographical Note

Date	Event
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.” Subjects also include the secession crisis and progress of the American Civil War.

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

Container	Contents
BOX 1 REEL 1	Correspondence, 1861-1864, 1904
BOX 1 REEL 1	Opinions, memoranda, and notes, 1861-1863, undated
BOX 1 REEL 1	Envelopes, 1861-1864, undated
BOX 1 REEL 1	Printed matter, 1818, 1861-1865, undated
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