

James R. Doolittle 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/mm79018762>

Additional search options available at: <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms007062>

Prepared by Manuscript Division staff

Finding aid encoded by Library of Congress Manuscript Division, 2007
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Collection Summary

Title: James R. Doolittle Papers

Inclusive Dates: 1859-1927

Bulk Dates: 1859-1896

ID No.: MSS18762

Creator: Doolittle, James R. (James Rood), 1815-1897

Extent: 130 items

Extent: 1 container

Extent: .4 linear feet

Extent: 1 microfilm reel

Language: Collection material in English

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

LC Catalog record: <https://lccn.loc.gov/mm79018762>

Summary: United States senator and jurist. Correspondence, speeches, newspaper clippings, and miscellaneous material relating mostly to Doolittle's Senate career and touching on the issues of the Civil War and Reconstruction.

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

Doolittle, James R. (James Rood), 1815-1897.

Hendricks, Thomas A. (Thomas Andrews), 1819-1885--Correspondence.

Johnson, Andrew, 1808-1875.

Lee, Samuel Phillips, 1812-1897--Correspondence.

Paulding, Hiram, 1797-1878--Correspondence.

Reed, Amos -approximately 1889--Correspondence.

Seward, William H. (William Henry), 1801-1872--Correspondence.

Organizations

Republican Party (U.S. : 1854-)

United States. Bureau of Indian Affairs.

Subjects

African Americans--Africa.

Bimetallism--United States.

Indians of North America--Government relations.

Indians of North America--Utah.

Radicalism--United States.

Reconstruction (U.S. history, 1865-1877)

Slavery--United States.

Tariff--United States.

Places

Denmark--Foreign relations--United States.

Middle West--Politics and government--19th century.

United States Virgin Islands--History--19th century.

United States--Foreign relations--Denmark.

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

United States--Politics and government--1849-1877.

Titles

James Rood Doolittle papers

Occupations

Judges.

Lawyers.

Senators, U.S. Congress--Wisconsin.

Acquisition Information

The papers of James R. Doolittle, United States senator and jurist, were given to the Library of Congress by Duane Mowry between 1913 and 1932.

Processing History

The papers of James R. Doolittle were arranged and described in 1968 by Joseph Sullivan. The collection and the finding aid were revised in 2007 by Joseph K. Brooks. 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 James R. Doolittle is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.).

Access and Restrictions

The papers of James R. Doolittle 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 one reel. Consult a reference librarian 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, James R. Doolittle Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Biographical Note

Date	Event
1815, Jan. 15	Born, Hampton Township, Washington County, N.Y.
1834	Graduated from Geneva (now Hobart) College, Geneva, N.Y.
1837	Admitted to the bar, Rochester, N.Y. Married Mary L. Cutting
1847-1850	District attorney, Wyoming County, N.Y.
1851	Settled in Racine, Wisconsin
1853	Elected judge of the First Circuit Court, Wisconsin
1857-1869	United States senator from Wisconsin
1869	Returned to private practice in Racine, Wis., and Chicago, Ill.

1871
1897, July 27

Unsuccessful Democratic candidate for governor of Wisconsin
Died, Providence, R.I.

Scope and Content Note

The papers of James Rood Doolittle (1815-1897) consist of letters received and a few letters sent, typed transcripts of letters sent and received, copies of speeches, and newspaper clippings. The transcripts, in part, are annotated by Duane Mowry, the donor of the collection. The papers span 1859-1927, with the bulk of the collection concentrated in 1859-1896.

The collection relates primarily to Doolittle's interests while he served in the United States Senate, and later, as a lawyer in private practice. There is no documentation for his career prior to his election to the Senate.

Correspondence for the years Doolittle spent in the Senate (1857-1869) touches on the issue of slavery and its aftermath, in particular the resettlement of African Americans in Africa and political reaction in Ohio and other Midwestern states to President Andrew Johnson's veto of congressional measures in 1866. Correspondence with Amos Reed, a federal official in the Utah Territory, discusses hostility toward the United States by Native Americans living in the territory and includes an appraisal of the Indian Bureau. Correspondence with Secretary of State William Henry Seward relates to negotiations between the United States and Denmark regarding the purchase of the Danish West Indies (present-day Saint Thomas, Saint John, and Saint Croix). Other correspondents include Thomas A. Hendricks, Samuel Phillips Lee, and Hiram Paulding.

Among subjects discussed in Doolittle's post-Senate period are Radicalism and the Republican Party, tariff issues, and bimetallism.

Arrangement of the Papers

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

Container List

Available on microfilm. Shelf no.14,110

Container	Contents
BOX 1 REEL 1	General correspondence, 1859-1896, undated (13 folders)
BOX 1 REEL 1	Mowry, Duane, 1913, 1927, undated
BOX 1 REEL 1	Newspaper clippings, 1859, 1864, 1875, 1903-1904, 1913, undated (2 folders)
BOX 1 REEL 1	Speech file, 1870, 1884-1886, undated (8 folders)