

Schuyler Colfax Correspondence and Speeches
A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress



Manuscript Division, Library of Congress
Washington, D.C.
2007

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

Catalog Record: <https://lcn.loc.gov/mm79016394>

Additional search options available at: <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms007073>

Prepared by Anita Nolen

Revised by Tracey Barton and Margaret McAleer

Finding aid encoded by Library of Congress Manuscript Division, 2007

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Collection Summary

Title: Schuyler Colfax Correspondence and Speeches

Span Dates: 1837-1882

ID No.: MSS16394

Creator: Colfax, Schuyler, 1823-1885

Extent: 160 items

Extent: 1 container

Extent: 0.4 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/mm79016394>

Summary: Vice president of the United States, congressman, and newspaper editor. Correspondence and speeches documenting Colfax's activities as a newspaper editor, his involvement in the Whig and Republican parties, and his tenure as United States representative from Indiana and vice president under Ulysses S. Grant.

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

Anthony, Henry B. (Henry Bowen), 1815-1884--Correspondence.

Colfax, Schuyler, 1823-1885.

Conkling, Roscoe, 1829-1888--Correspondence.

Cooke, Jay, 1821-1905--Correspondence.

Dawes, Henry L. (Henry Laurens), 1816-1903--Correspondence.

Sherman, John, 1823-1900--Correspondence.

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

Wheeler, Alfred, 1825-1903--Correspondence.

Organizations

Republican Party (U.S. : 1854-)

Whig Party (U.S.)

Subjects

American newspapers--Indiana--South Bend.

Places

Indiana--Politics and government--19th century.

United States--Politics and government--19th century.

Washington (D.C.)--History.

Titles

Schuyler Colfax papers

St. Joseph Valley register.

Occupations

Newspaper editors.

Representatives, U.S. Congress--Indiana.

Vice-Presidents--United States.

Provenance

The correspondence and speeches of Schuyler Colfax, vice president of the United States, congressman from Indiana, and newspaper editor, were purchased by the Library of Congress between 1918 and 1936. Additional items were given by Emanuel Hertz in 1932, Thomas Groom in 1956, and Paul A. Willis in 1982.

Processing History

The collection was arranged and described in 1968. The finding aid was revised in 2007.

Copyright Status

The status of copyright in the unpublished writings of Schuyler Colfax is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.).

Access and Restrictions

The papers of Schuyler Colfax 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 this collection 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, Schuyler Colfax Correspondence and Speeches, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Biographical Note

Date	Event
1823, Mar. 23	Born, New York, N.Y.
1836	Moved with family to Indiana
1844	Married Evelyn Clark (died 1863) Purchased an interest in the South Bend, Ind., <i>Free Press</i> , changed its name to the <i>St. Joseph Valley Register</i> , and made it the Whig organ of northern Indiana
1855-1869	Member, House of Representatives
1868	Married Ellen W. Wade
1869-1873	Vice president of the United States
1873	Implicated in the Credit Mobilier of American scandal
1873-1885	Public lecturer
1855, Jan. 13	Died, Mankato, Minn.

Scope and Content Note

The correspondence and speeches of Schuyler Colfax (1823-1885) span the years 1837-1882. The collection documents Colfax's ownership and editorship of the *St. Joseph Valley Register*, a Whig newspaper in South Bend, Indiana; his involvement in Whig and Republican party politics; and his tenure as United States representative from Indiana and vice president under Ulysses S. Grant (1822-1885).

The correspondence file dates from 1837 to 1882 and includes letters to and from Colfax. A large part of the correspondence consists of letters written by Colfax to Alfred Wheeler who assumed editorship of the *St. Joseph Valley Register* when Colfax was elected to Congress in 1855. Colfax's letters discuss the running of his newspaper, events in Washington, D.C., and national and state politics. Other correspondents include Henry B. Anthony, Jay Cooke (1821-1905), Roscoe Conkling (1829-1888), and Henry L. Dawes. The correspondence is arranged chronologically.

The speech file contains drafts of speeches and lectures given by Colfax, largely from 1873 to 1882, when he had retired from politics and was touring the country giving public lectures. The speeches and lectures are arranged alphabetically by title or topic. Several folders contain compilations of partial drafts, reflecting Colfax's practice of reusing portions of earlier speeches. A facsimile letter from Colfax to John Sherman (1823-1900) concerning Sherman's brother William T. Sherman was added as an addition to the collection in 1982.

Arrangement of the Papers

This collection is arranged by type of material as correspondence and speeches.

Container List

Available on microfilm. Shelf no. 14,083

Container	Contents
BOX 1 REEL 1	Correspondence, 1837-1882, undated
BOX 1 REEL 1	Speeches
BOX 1 REEL 1	"Across the Continent," undated
BOX 1 REEL 1	Commencement address, undated
BOX 1 REEL 1	Fourth of July addresses, 1871, undated
BOX 1 REEL 1	"Friendship, Love, and Truth," 1843
BOX 1 REEL 1	"Green Castle," undated
BOX 1 REEL 1	"Hard Times, Their Causes and Cure," undated
BOX 1 REEL 1	Independent Order of Odd Fellows
BOX 1 REEL 1	Extract from a speech, undated
BOX 1 REEL 1	Fifty-second anniversary, undated
BOX 1 REEL 1	"On the Independent Order of Odd Fellows," undated <i>See same container, same heading</i>
BOX 1 REEL 1	"Landmarks of Life," undated
BOX 1 REEL 1	Mormons, taken from "Across the Continent," undated
BOX 1 REEL 1	Oliver Chilled Plow Co., undated
BOX 1 REEL 1	"On the Independent Order of Odd Fellows," undated
BOX 1 REEL 1	Temperance, two speeches, undated
BOX 1 REEL 1	To the farmers of Pennsylvania, undated
BOX 1 REEL 1	Various drafts, undated
BOX 1 not filmed	Addition, letter from Colfax to John Sherman (1823-1900), 1868