Collection Summary

Title: Horace Greeley Papers
Span Dates: 1812-1928
Bulk Dates: (bulk 1860-1872)
ID No.: MSS23937
Creator: Greeley, Horace, 1811-1872
Extent: 2,000 items
Extent: 7 containers
Extent: 2.4 linear feet
Language: Collection material in English
Location: Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.
LC Catalog record: https://lccn.loc.gov/mm79023937
Summary: Journalist. Correspondence, autobiography, writings by and about Greeley, newspaper clippings, scrapbooks, a notebook, printed matter, and other papers pertaining to his life and career as a journalist.

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
Cameron, Simon, 1799-1889--Correspondence.
Chandler, William E. (William Eaton), 1835-1917--Correspondence.
Colfax, Schuyler, 1823-1885--Correspondence.
Dana, Charles A. (Charles Anderson), 1819-1897--Correspondence.
Davis, Jefferson, 1808-1889.
Evarts, William Maxwell, 1818-1901--Correspondence.
Fish, Hamilton, 1808-1893--Correspondence.
Frémont, Jessie Benton, 1824-1902--Correspondence.
Greeley family.
Greeley, Horace, 1811-1872.
Griswold, Rufus W. (Rufus Wilmot), 1815-1857--Correspondence.
Nicolay, John G. (John George), 1832-1901--Correspondence.
Ransom, B. F.--Correspondence.
Sherman, John, 1823-1900--Correspondence.
Smith, Gerrit, 1797-1874--Correspondence.
Wade, B. F. (Benjamin Franklin), 1800-1878--Correspondence.

Organizations
Liberal Republican Party.
Whig Party (U.S.)

Subjects
American newspapers--New York (State)--New York.
Presidents--United States--Election--1872.
Printers--New York (State)--New York.
Publishers and publishing--New York (State)--New York.
Slavery--United States.

Places
New York (State)--Politics and government.
United States--Politics and government--19th century.
Titles
Horace Greeley Papers at the Library of Congress
New York Tribune.

Occupations
Journalists.

Provenance
The papers of Horace Greeley, journalist, were given to the Library of Congress by Worthington C. Ford in 1903. Additional papers were purchased in 1928, and several small additions were subsequently acquired between 1928 and 1983. A large addition was given by Elizabeth Mills Reid as part of the papers of Whitelaw Reid, Greeley’s successor at the New York Tribune, in 1956.

Processing History
The papers of Horace Greeley were arranged and described in 1965. Additional material was processed in 1985. The collection was rearranged in 2006 and the finding aid revised in 2007.

Copyright Status
Copyright in the unpublished writings of Horace Greeley in these papers and in other collections of papers in the custody of the Library of Congress has been dedicated to the public.

Access and Restrictions
The papers of Horace Greeley 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

Preferred Citation
Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: Container number, Horace Greeley Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Biographical Note

Date       Event
1811, Feb. 3  Born, Amherst, N. H.
1826         Apprentice, Northern Spectator, East Poultney, Vt.
1833         Formed a partnership with Francis V. Story and published the Morning Post, New York, N.Y.; the paper soon failed but the partners brought out a tri-weekly called the Constitutionalist
1834         Issued the first copy of the New Yorker
1836         Married Mary Youngs Cheney
1838 In partnership with Thurlow Weed and William Seward issued a Whig paper, the Jeffersonian, Albany, N.Y.
1840 Began publication of another Whig paper, the Log Cabin
1848-1849 Served a three-month term in Congress
1860 Active at the Republican national convention, Chicago, Ill.
1861 Candidate for the United States Senate from New York
1864 Sent by President Abraham Lincoln to Canada to meet with Confederate peace commission
1867 One of the signers of the bail bond for Jefferson Davis
1872 Nominated for president by the Liberal Republican Party and the Democratic Party
1872, Nov. 29 Died, New York, N.Y.

Scope and Content Note

The papers of Horace Greeley (1811-1872) span the years 1812-1928, with most of the collection encompassing the years 1860-1872. The papers include correspondence, typescripts and transcripts of Greeley’s letters and writings; articles, notes, lectures, and speeches by and about Greeley; scrapbooks of newspaper clippings and other printed matter; and miscellaneous material.

Incidents of Greeley’s boyhood, his early struggle in New York to maintain himself in the printing and publishing business, and the growth and success of the New York Tribune that he owned and edited are related in letters from Greeley to Charles A. Dana, B. F. Ransom, Rufus W. Griswold, and others. Other subjects are Whig politics and the slavery issue prior to the Civil War. There is little material relating to Greeley’s three-month term in Congress, 1848-1849, or his senatorial aspirations in 1861 and 1867.

Lecture requests, business and editorial matters concerning the New York Tribune, New York politics, family illness, the bail bond for Jefferson Davis, the Liberal Republican Party, and the presidential campaign of 1872 are also subjects in the collection.


Arrangement of the Papers

This collection is arranged alphabetically by type of material.

Catalog Record: https://lccn.loc.gov/mm79023937
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