

Benjamin Tappan Papers
A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress



Manuscript Division, Library of Congress
Washington, D.C.
2009

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

Catalog Record: <https://lcn.loc.gov/mm76042309>

Additional search options available at: <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms010080>

Prepared by Mary M. Wolfskill

Finding aid encoded by Library of Congress Manuscript Division, 2010

Collection Summary

Title: Benjamin Tappan Papers

Span Dates: 1795-1900

Bulk Dates: (bulk 1795-1866)

ID No.: MSS42309

Creator: Tappan, Benjamin, 1773-1857

Extent: 3,650 items

Extent: 25 containers

Extent: 6 linear feet

Extent: 11 microfilm reels

Language: Collection material in English

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

LC Catalog record: <https://lcn.loc.gov/mm76042309>

Summary: Jurist and United States senator. Correspondence, speeches, legal and business records, and genealogical material relating to Ohio and national politics, antislavery movement, family matters, and Tappan's interests in mineralogy and conchology.

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

Allen, William, 1803-1879--Correspondence.

Anthony, John Gould, 1804-1877--Correspondence.

Birchard, Matthew, 1803-1876--Correspondence.

Brown, Ethan Allen, 1776-1852--Correspondence.

Bryan, John C.--Correspondence.

Cabell, William H., 1772-1853--Correspondence.

Clendenin, David, approximately 1790-approximately 1817--Correspondence.

Clinton, DeWitt, 1769-1828--Correspondence.

Disney, David T. (David Tiernan), 1803-1857--Correspondence.

Drayton, Joseph--Correspondence.

Edwards, Ogden, 1781-1862--Correspondence.

Flood, George H.--Correspondence.

Gould, Augustus A. (Augustus Addison), 1805-1866--Correspondence.

Hammond, Charles, 1779-1840--Correspondence.

Hastings, John, 1778-1854--Correspondence.

Hayward, Elijah, 1786-1864--Correspondence.

Jackson, Andrew, 1767-1845--Influence.

Leavitt, Joshua, 1794-1873--Correspondence.

Medary, S. (Samuel), 1801-1864--Correspondence.

Medill, William, 1802-1865--Correspondence.

Morton, Marcus, 1819-1891--Correspondence.

Neef, Joseph, 1770-1854--Correspondence.

Say, Lucy Way Sistare, 1801-1886--Correspondence.

Sloane, John, 1793-1871--Correspondence.

Stanton, Edwin M. (Edwin McMasters), 1814-1869--Correspondence.

Tappan family--Correspondence.

Tappan family.

Tappan, Benjamin, 1773-1857.

Whittlesey, Elisha, 1783-1863--Correspondence.

Wright, John C. (John Crafts), 1783-1861--Correspondence.

Subjects

Abolitionists.
Antislavery movements.
Mineralogy.
Shells.
Slavery--United States.

Places

Ohio--Politics and government--1787-1865.
Ohio--Politics and government--1865-1950.
United States--Politics and government--1783-1865.
United States--Politics and government--1829-1837.
United States--Politics and government--1865-1900.

Occupations

Judges.
Lawyers.
Senators, U.S. Congress--Ohio.

Provenance

The papers of Benjamin Tappan, jurist and United States senator, were purchased by the Library of Congress from William Tappan, his grandson, in 1939, after the papers had been on deposit for ten years. Additional material was given by Mrs. Benjamin Tappan in 1948.

Processing History

The papers of Benjamin Tappan were arranged and described in 1976. The finding aid was revised in 2009.

Copyright Status

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

Access and Restrictions

The papers of Benjamin Tappan 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 eleven reels. Consult a reference librarian 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.

Preferred Citation

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

Biographical Note

Date	Event
1773, May 23	Born, Northampton, Mass.
circa 1779-1799	Educated in public schools Apprenticed to a copperplate printer and engraver Made a voyage to the West Indies Studied portrait painting briefly under Gilbert Stuart Studied law under Gideon Granger Admitted to the bar at Hartford, Conn.
1799	Became first settler of what is now Portage County, Ohio
1801	Married Nancy Wright (died 1822) Settled in Ravenna, Ohio
1803-1805	Member, Ohio state senate
1809	Moved to Steubenville, Ohio, where he continued to practice law
1812	Aide-de-camp to Major General Elijah Wadsworth during the War of 1812
1816-1823	Presided as judge, Fifth Circuit Court of Common Pleas
1823	Returned to private law practice Married Betsy Ford Frazer (died 1840)
circa 1823	Appointed as member, Ohio Canal Commission
1826-1833	Served as federal district judge
1831	Published <i>Cases Decided in the Courts of Common Pleas, in the Fifth Circuit of. . . Ohio</i> . Steubenville: Printed by J. Wilson (previously printed in parts, 1818-1819)
1832	Democratic presidential elector supporting Andrew Jackson and Martin Van Buren
1839-1845	Member, U.S. Senate from Ohio
1856	Supported John C. Frémont for president
1857, Apr. 20	Died, Steubenville, Ohio

Scope and Content Note

The papers of Benjamin Tappan (1773-1857) span the years 1795-1900, with the bulk of the material from 1795 to 1866. The collection consists of correspondence, notes, speeches, financial and legal papers, and miscellaneous items organized in five series: [Correspondence](#), [Subject File](#), [Speeches](#), [Financial and Legal Papers](#), and [Miscellany](#).

[Correspondence](#) constitutes the largest series and relates mainly to Tappan's law practice, his activities in the antislavery movement, and to Ohio and national politics, especially during the Jacksonian period. An extensive family correspondence includes letters from his several brothers, Arthur, Charles, John, Lewis, and William, from his father, Benjamin Tappan (died 1790), first wife, Nancy Wright Tappan, and brother-in-law, John C. Wright.

Benjamin Tappan's interest in conchology and mineralogy is also well documented. A partial index to the correspondence is contained in the [Miscellany](#) series. Included among the principal correspondents are William Allen, John Gould Anthony, Mathew Birchard, Ethan Allen Brown, John C. Bryan, William H. Cabell, David Clendenin, DeWitt Cinton, James D. Dana, David T. Disney, Joseph Drayton, Ogden Edwards, George H. Flood, Augustus A. Gould, Charles Hammond, John Hastings, Elijah Hayward, Joshua Leavitt, S. Medary, William Medill, Marcus Morton, Francis Joseph Nicholas Neef, Lucy W. Say, John Sloane, Edwin McMasters Stanton, and Elisha Whittlesey.

A small [Subject File](#) consists of additional correspondence, and notes, petitions, and printed matter relating to slavery, conchology, and other matters. The remainder of the papers includes printed speeches, bills, and receipts, indentures, plats, briefs, acts, a certificate, newspaper clippings, notes, and miscellaneous items.

Arrangement of the Papers

This collection is arranged in five series:

- [Correspondence, 1795-1900](#)

- Subject File, circa 1798-1849
- Speeches, 1828-1843
- Financial and Legal Papers, 1802-1859
- Miscellany, 1798-1866

Description of Series

Container	Series
BOXES 1-22 REELS 1-9	<p><u>Correspondence, 1795-1900</u> Principally letters received. Arranged chronologically in bound volumes. A partial index of the correspondence is contained in the <i>Miscellany</i> series.</p>
BOX 23 REEL 10	<p><u>Subject File, circa 1798-1849</u> Correspondence, memoranda, notes, petitions, printed material, and drawing. Arranged alphabetically by subject and therein chronologically.</p>
BOX 23 REEL 10	<p><u>Speeches, 1828-1843</u> Printed copies of speeches and notes relating thereto. Arranged chronologically.</p>
BOX 24-24 REEL 10-11	<p><u>Financial and Legal Papers, 1802-1859</u> Bills and receipts followed by indentures, plats, briefs, acts, notes, and a certificate. Arranged chronologically within type of material.</p>
BOX 25 REEL 11	<p><u>Miscellany, 1798-1866</u> Partial index, invitations, newspapers and clippings, notes, fragments, and other items. Arranged by type of material.</p>

Container List

Available on microfilm. Shelf no. 16,702

Container	Contents
BOXES 1-22 REELS 1-9	Correspondence, 1795-1900 Principally letters received. Arranged chronologically in bound volumes. A partial index of the correspondence is contained in the <i>Miscellany</i> series.
BOX 1 REEL 1	1795, Mar. 6-1806, Nov. 9
BOX 2 REEL 1	1806, Nov. 13-1811, Jan. 5
BOX 3 REEL 2	1811, Jan. 19-1816, Jul. 27
BOX 4 REEL 2	1816, Aug. 12-1819, Jul. 29
BOX 5 REEL 2-3	1819, Aug. 2-1822, Feb. 3
BOX 6 REEL 3	1822, Feb. 4-1825, Jun. 25
BOX 7 REEL 3	1825, Jul. 19-1827, Aug. 30
BOX 8 REEL 3-4	1827, Sept. 10-1830, Aug. 2
BOX 9 REEL 4	1830, Aug. 17-1833, Jul. 11
BOX 10 REEL 4	1833, Jul. 12-1834, May 11
BOX 11 REEL 4-5	1834, May 13-1836, Jan. 15
BOX 12 REEL 5	1836, Jan. 20-1838, Oct. 18
BOX 13 REEL 5	1838, Oct. 21-1840, Apr. 22
BOX 14 REEL 5-6	1840, Apr. 24-Dec. 23
BOX 15 REEL 6	1840, Dec. 24-1841, Jul. 15
BOX 16 REEL 6	1841, Jul. 17-1842, Jun. 7
BOX 17 REEL 7	1842, Jun. 12-1843, Apr. 25
BOX 18 REEL 7	1843, Apr. 30-1844, Mar. 28
BOX 19 REEL 8	1844, Apr. 2-1845, Jan. 16
BOX 20 REEL 8	1845, Jan. 18-1846, Feb. 28
BOX 21 REEL 9	1846, Mar. 11-1853, Aug. 11
BOX 22 REEL 9	1853, Aug. 12-1900, Feb. 27, undated
BOX 23 REEL 10	Subject File, circa 1798-1849 Correspondence, memoranda, notes, petitions, printed material, and drawing. Arranged alphabetically by subject and therein chronologically.
BOX 23 REEL 10	Abolition of slavery and slave trade and the recognition of the independence of Haiti, petitions from Ohio residents, circa 1840
BOX 23 REEL 10	Banking system, undated
BOX 23 REEL 10	Conchology and other scientific matters, 1831-1849, undated (3 folders)
BOX 23 REEL 10	Cumberland Road, Ohio, 1834-1835
BOX 23 REEL 10	Hallock, Jeremiah H., papers relating to his conduct as president judge of the fifth judicial circuit, circa 1830
BOX 23 REEL 10	Lynde v. Patten, notes on the case circa 1798
BOX 23 REEL 10	Tappan family, genealogy chart, undated

Subject File, circa 1798-1849

Container	Contents
BOX 23 REEL 10	Wheeling and Belmont suspension bridge, drawing showing elevation, undated
BOX 23 REEL 10	Wilkes, Charles, U.S. Exploring expedition, letter of Joseph Drayton to the Joint Congressional Committee on the Library, undated
BOX 23 REEL 10	Speeches, 1828-1843 Printed copies of speeches and notes relating thereto. Arranged chronologically.
BOX 23 REEL 10	1828
BOX 23 REEL 10	<i>Address Delivered by Benj. Tappan, Esq., on the Celebration of the Eighth of January, 1828, at Columbus, Ohio</i>
BOX 23 REEL 10	1836
BOX 23 REEL 10	<i>Proceedings of the Democratic State Convention, Held in Columbus on the Eighth of January, 1836; With an Address to the People of Ohio.</i> Columbus, Ohio: Printed at the Office of the Western Hemisphere, 1836
BOX 23 REEL 10	1840
BOX 23 REEL 10	<i>Remarks of Mr. Tappan, of Ohio, on Abolition Petitions, Delivered in Senate, 1840, Feb.</i>
BOX 23 REEL 10	1841
BOX 23 REEL 10	<i>Speech of Mr. B. Tappan, of Ohio, on the Permanent Prospective Pre-emption Law, Delivered in the Senate of the United States, 1841, Jan. 29.</i> Washington, D. C.: Blair and Rives, 1841
BOX 23 REEL 10	<i>Speech of Mr. Tappan of Ohio, on the Bill To Incorporate the Banks of the District of Columbia, Delivered in Senate, 1841, Feb. 23</i>
BOX 23 REEL 10	<i>Speech of the Hon. Benjamin Tappan, of Ohio on the United States Fiscal Bank Bill: Delivered in the Senate of the United States, 1841, Jul. 14.</i> Washington, D.C.: Blair and Rives, 1841
BOX 23 REEL 10	1843
BOX 23 REEL 10	<i>Speech of Mr. Tappan, of Ohio, on the Joint Resolution Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of the United States, so as To Limit the Term of Office of the Judges of the Supreme and Inferior Courts: Delivered in the Senate of the United States, 1843, Jan. 16.</i> Steubenville, Ohio: Morris & Frazer, Printers, 1843 (including handwritten summary of Tappan's remarks)
BOX 23 REEL 10	<i>Reply of Col. Abert and Mr. Markoe to the Hon. Mr. Tappan, of the United State Senate.</i> Washington, D.C.: Wm. Q. Force, Printer, 1843
BOX 23 REEL 10	Undated
BOX 23 REEL 10	Notes on Benjamin Tappan's remarks concerning the inclusion of trading corporations within a bankrupt law (handwritten)
BOX 24-24 REEL 10-11	Financial and Legal Papers, 1802-1859 Bills and receipts followed by indentures, plats, briefs, acts, notes, and a certificate. Arranged chronologically within type of material.
BOX 24 REEL 10-11	Bills and receipts
BOX 24 REEL 10-11	1802-1839 (8 folders)
BOX 25 REEL 11	1840-1859, undated

Financial and Legal Papers, 1802-1859

Container	Contents
BOX 25 REEL 11	Indentures, plats, briefs, acts, notes, and a certificate, 1806-1855, undated (2 folders)
BOX 25 REEL 11	Miscellany, 1798-1866 Partial index, invitations, newspapers and clippings, notes, fragments, and other items. Arranged by type of material.
BOX 25 REEL 11	Partial index to bound volumes and other lists of correspondence (2 folders)
BOX 25 REEL 11	Invitations to speak or attend meetings, 1839-1848, undated
BOX 25 REEL 11	Newspaper and newspaper clippings, 1798-1843, undated
BOX 25 REEL 11	Notes, fragments, and miscellaneous items, 1863, 1866, undated