

George P. Fisher Papers
A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress



Manuscript Division, Library of Congress
Washington, D.C.
2012

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

Catalog Record: <https://lcn.loc.gov/mm75020636>

Additional search options available at: <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms012072>

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Revised by Karen Linn Femia

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Collection Summary

Title: George P. Fisher Papers

Span Dates: 1772-1905

ID No.: MSS20636

Creator: Fisher, George P. (George Purnell), 1817-1899

Extent: 200 items

Extent: 2 containers plus 1 oversize

Extent: 1 linear foot

Language: Collection material in English

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

LC Catalog record: <https://lcn.loc.gov/mm75020636>

Summary: Public official and judge of the supreme court of the District of Columbia. Correspondence, legal papers, commissions, biographical sketches, essays, speeches, and other material relating to Fisher's legal career and other topics.

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

Buchanan, James, 1791-1868--Correspondence.
Clay, Henry, 1777-1852--Correspondence.
Clayton, John M. (John Middleton), 1796-1856--Correspondence.
Clayton, John M. (John Middleton), 1796-1856.
Crittenden, John J. (John Jordan), 1787-1863--Correspondence.
Du Pont, Ann Ridgely, 1815-1898--Correspondence.
Fisher, George P. (George Purnell), 1817-1899.
Hamlin, Hannibal, 1809-1891--Correspondence.
Lincoln, Abraham, 1809-1865--Assassination.
Morris, Edward Joy, 1815-1881--Correspondence.
Ridgely, Nicholas, 1762-1830.
Seward, Frederick William, 1830-1915--Correspondence.
Surratt, John H. (John Harrison), 1844-1916--Trials, litigation, etc.
Webster, Daniel, 1782-1852--Correspondence.
Weed, Thurlow, 1797-1882--Correspondence.

Organizations

District of Columbia. Supreme Court (1863-1936)

Subjects

Courts--Washington (D.C.)
Lincoln Assassination Conspiracy Trial, Washington, D.C., 1865.
Mexican War, 1846-1848.
Practice of law--Delaware.
Practice of law--Washington (D.C.)
Trials (Conspiracy)

Places

Delaware--Politics and government.
Oregon--Boundaries.

Titles

George Purnell Fisher papers

Occupations

Judges.
Public officials.

Provenance

The papers of George P. Fisher, public official and judge of the supreme court of the District of Columbia, were given to the Library of Congress by Ann Fisher Cahoon in 1907.

Processing History

The papers of George P. Fisher were arranged and described in 1974 and a finding aid created in 1979. The collection was revised in 2012.

Additional Guides

An index of the general correspondence and special correspondence of others is available as a [PDF](#) document.

Copyright Status

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

Access and Restrictions

The papers of George P. Fisher 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.

Preferred Citation

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

Biographical Note

Date	Event
1817, Oct. 13	Born, Milford, Del.
1838	Graduated, Dickinson College, Carlisle, Pa.
1841	Admitted to the bar and commenced legal practice, Dover, Del.
1843-1844	Member, Delaware house of representatives
1846	Secretary of state of Delaware
1849	Confidential clerk to Secretary John M. Clayton, State Department
1850-1852	Commissioner to adjudicate claims against Brazil
1857-1860	Attorney general of Delaware
1861-1863	Representative to U. S. Congress, Unionist Party
1863-1870	Judge, supreme court of the District of Columbia
1870-1875	District attorney for the District of Columbia
1889-1893	First auditor of the Treasury Department
1899, Feb. 10	Died, Washington, D. C.

Scope and Content Note

The papers of George P. Fisher (1817-1899) span the years 1772-1905. The collection consists of correspondence, legal papers, commissions, biographical sketches, essays, speeches, and other material relating chiefly to Fisher's legal career. Letters to Fisher from John M. Clayton concern Delaware politics, the Oregon boundary question, Mexican War, and opposition to Clayton as secretary of state. Other letters include information on the legal practice of Nicholas Ridgely of Delaware. Included is an essay by Fisher on the trial of John H. Surratt for plotting to assassinate Abraham Lincoln. Correspondents include James Buchanan, Henry Clay, John J. Crittenden, Ann Ridgely Du Pont, Hannibal Hamlin, Edward Joy Morris, Frederick William Seward, Daniel Webster, and Thurlow Weed.

Arrangement of the Papers

This collection is arranged into correspondence files, legal files, commissions, writings, and miscellany. Folders are arranged alphabetically therein.

Container List

Container	Contents
BOX 1	General correspondence, 1845-1896 <i>See Index</i>
BOX 1	Special correspondence, not by or to Fisher, 1793-1897, undated
BOX 1	Legal case file
BOX 1	Ambler v. Whipple, circa 1885
BOX 1	Ambler v. Whipple and Dickerson, 1871
BOX 1	The "Brothers," 1871
BOX 1	Eckler v. Bentz, 1875
BOX 1	Fast v. Fast, 1866
BOX 1	Leefe v. Washington and Georgetown Railroad Co., circa 1865
BOX 1	United States v. Harpers Ferry Water Power and Manufacturing Co. of West Virginia, 1873
BOX 1	United States v. Baltimore & Ohio Railroad Co., undated
BOX 1	United States ex rel. Spear and Hine v. Breck, undated
BOX 1	Van Antwerp v. Hulburd and Spinner, 1870
BOX 1	Washington, Alexandria and Georgetown Railroad Co. v. Mayor . . . of Washington, 1863
BOX 1	Watertown Steam Engine Co. v. James B. Davis, 1875
BOX 1	Unknown case, opinion on question of recall by defense of witnesses for the prosecution, undated
BOX 1	Commissions, 1841-1886 <i>See also Oversize</i>
BOX 2	Legal papers of others
BOX 2	Bonds, 1787-1798
BOX 2	Deeds, 1772, 1821
BOX 2	Indentures, 1819, 1823
BOX 2	Miscellaneous, 1792-1799, 1830, 1849, 1862
BOX 2	Writings
BOX 2	Biographical, undated
BOX 2	"John Middleton Clayton"
BOX 2	"John Vining"
BOX 2	Essays
BOX 2	"The Monroe Doctrine and the Clayton-Bulwer Treaty," circa 1898
BOX 2	"The Moors of Delaware," circa 1895
BOX 2	"The Senatorial Imbroglio," 1897
BOX 2	"The Trial of John H. Surratt," undated
BOX 2	Speeches
BOX 2	"The Monroe Doctrine," 1898
BOX 2	Miscellaneous
BOX 2	Reconstruction, 1866
BOX 2	Republican ticket in Delaware, 1896
BOX 2	Miscellany
BOX 2	Comegys, Joseph P., "The Clayton-Bulwer Treaty," circa 1860
BOX 2	Facsimile of Delaware's ratification of the Constitution, undated
BOX 2	"George P. Fisher of Delaware," by unknown author, circa 1894
BOX 2	Invitations, 1873-1905

Container List

Container	Contents
BOX 2	Newspaper clipping, 1844
BOX 2	Vining, John, "Eulogism," undated
BOX OV 1	Oversize
BOX OV 1	Commissions, 1841-1886 (Container 1)