

**Carl Brent Swisher Collection of Research Material Relating to Roger
Brooke Taney**

A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress



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

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

Catalog Record: <https://lcn.loc.gov/mm73051110>

Additional search options available at: <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms012136>

Prepared by Manuscript Division staff

Finding aid encoded by Library of Congress Manuscript Division, 2012
Revised 2023 August

Collection Summary

Title: Carl Brent Swisher Collection of Research Material Relating to Roger Brooke Taney

Inclusive Dates: 1836-1962

ID No.: MSS51110

Collector: Swisher, Carl Brent, 1897-1968

Extent: 12,250 items

Extent: 35 containers plus 1 oversize

Extent: 15.2 linear feet

Language: Collection material in English

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

LC Catalog record: <https://lcn.loc.gov/mm73051110>

Summary: Historian. Chiefly reproductions of correspondence, reports, records, and newspapers gathered by Swisher for a history of Roger Brooke Taney's tenure as chief justice of the U.S. Supreme Court.

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

Black, Jeremiah S. (Jeremiah Sullivan), 1810-1883.
Blickensderfer, Joseph P. (Joseph Patrick), 1894-1960--Correspondence.
Buchanan, James, 1791-1868.
Catron, John, approximately 1786-1865.
Chase, Salmon P. (Salmon Portland), 1808-1873.
Clifford, Nathan, 1803-1881.
Davis, David, 1815-1886.
Dunlap, Lloyd A.--Correspondence.
Freund, Paul A. (Paul Abraham), 1908-1992--Correspondence.
McLean, John, 1785-1861.
Peters, Richard, 1743-1828.
Story, Joseph, 1779-1845.
Swisher, Carl Brent, 1897-1968.
Taney, Roger Brooke, 1777-1864.
Van Buren, Martin, 1782-1862.
Webster, Daniel, 1782-1852.
Welles, Gideon, 1802-1878.

Organizations

Bank of the United States (1816-1836)
United States. Permanent Committee for the Oliver Wendell Holmes Devise.
United States. Supreme Court.

Subjects

African Americans.
Banks and banking--United States.
Censorship.
Courts--United States.
Enslaved persons--Emancipation--United States.
Enslaved persons.
Indians of North America.
International relations.
Money.
Slave trade.

Slavery.

Places

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

Titles

Carl Brent Swisher papers

Occupations

Historians.

Acquisition Information

The Carl Brent Swisher collection of research material relating to Roger Brooke Taney was given to the Library of Congress by Swisher in 1966 in accordance with an agreement with the Oliver Wendell Homes Devise. The Holmes Devise was established to write a multivolume history of the Supreme Court of the United States.

Processing History

The collection were arranged and described in 1973 by Mary M. Wolfskill. The finding aid was revised in 2012.

Copyright Status

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

Access and Restrictions

The Swisher collection of research material relating to Roger Brooke Taney is 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, Carl Brent Swisher Collection of Research Material relating to Roger Brooke Taney, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Biographical Note

Carl Brent Swisher

Date	Event
1897, Apr. 28	Born, Weston, W. Va.
1918-1919	Student, West Virginia Wesleyan College, Buckhannon, W. Va.
1926	A.B., Pomona College, Claremont, Calif.
1927	M.A., Pomona College, Claremont, Calif.
1929	Ph. D., Robert Brookings Graduate School of Economics and Government, Brookings Institution, Washington, D.C.
1930-1935	Instructor in government, Columbia University, New York, N.Y.
1935-1937	Special assistant to attorney general

1937-1938	Associate professor of political science, Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, Md.
1938-1968	Professor of political science, Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, Md.
1947	Commonwealth lecturer, University College, London, England
1957	Lecturer, Salzburg Seminar in American Studies
1968, June 16	Died, Baltimore, Md.

Roger Brooke Taney

Date	Event
1777, Mar. 17	Born, Calvert County, Md.
1795	Graduated, Dickinson College
1799	Admitted to Maryland bar
1799-1800	Member, Maryland legislature
1806	Married Anne P. C. Kay
1812	Leader of dissenting Federalist faction, "Coodies," supporting the War of 1812
1816-1821	Member, Maryland senate
1827-1831	Attorney general for Maryland
1828	Chairman, Maryland committee for Andrew Jackson's presidential candidacy
1831	Acting secretary of war
1831-1833	Attorney general
1833-1834	Secretary of the treasury
1835	Nominated for associate justice, Supreme Court
1836	Appointed chief justice, Supreme Court
1864, Oct. 12	Died, Washington, D.C.

Scope and Content Note

The collection of Carl Brent Swisher (1897-1968) spans the years 1836-1962 and consists mostly of research material used for the writing of a history of Roger Brooke Taney's period on the Supreme Court of the United States. Included are reproductions of letters, reports, records, and newspapers, 1836-1864, gathered from repositories such as the Manuscript Division of the Library of Congress, Historical Society of Pennsylvania, University of Virginia, Chicago Historical Society, Clements Library of the University of Michigan, Maryland Hall of Records, Duke University, Maine Historical Society, and the National Archives and Records Administration.

Correspondence and other papers in the collection relate to Jeremiah S. Black, James Buchanan, Richard Peters, Martin Van Buren, Daniel Webster, and Gideon Welles, as well as to Taney's contemporaries on the court—Justices John Catron, Salmon P. Chase, Nathan Clifford, David Davis, John McLean, and Joseph Story. Subjects include the Bank of the United States, censorship, the Civil War, currency, Indians, international relations, slavery, the slave trade, emancipation, the Supreme Court, and various court cases.

Swisher's correspondence and notes, dated 1958-1962, chiefly contain administrative files pertaining to the Permanent Committee for the Oliver Wendell Holmes Devise and efforts to uncover original source material. Correspondents include editor-in-chief and administrative editors Paul A. Freund, Joseph P. Blickensderfer, and Lloyd Dunlap; representatives of private and public repositories; and individuals with expertise in the Taney period.

Arrangement of the Papers

This collection is arranged by name of person, topic, or type of material with miscellaneous notes and reproductions of newspapers filed at the end.

Container List

Container	Contents
BOX 1	*Administrative matters * Indicates the presence of Swisher correspondence
BOX 1	Permanent Committee for the Oliver Wendell Holmes Devise, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress
BOX 1	Photoduplication
BOX 1	*Admiralty
BOX 1	Baldwin, Henry
BOX 2	Bank of the United States
BOX 2	*Bankruptcy
BOX 2	Bar Barbour, Philip P.
BOX 2	Bates, Edward
BOX 2	Berrien, John M.
BOX 2	Betts, Samuel R.
BOX 2	Biggs, Asa
BOX 2	Black, Jeremiah S. (1 folder)
BOX 3	(3 folder)
BOX 3	Boteler, Alexander R.
BOX 3	Buchanan, James
BOX 4	Cadwalader, John
BOX 4	Caldwell, Henry Clay
BOX 4	*Campbell, John A.
BOX 4	Carmichael, Richard B.
BOX 4	*Catron, John (2 folders)
BOX 5	(1 folder)
BOX 5	Censorship
BOX 5	Chase, Salmon P.
BOX 5	*Circuit court
BOX 5	*Circuit work
BOX 35	Civil War
BOX 35	Clifford, Nathan (3 folders)
BOX 6	*Codification
BOX 6	*Commerce power
BOX 6	Concentration of power
BOX 6	Confiscation
BOX 6	*Conkling, Alfred
BOX 6	Conscription
BOX 6	Contracts
BOX 6	*Corporation
BOX 6	Court cases

Container List

Container	Contents
BOX 6	Amistad case
BOX 6	*Bank of Augusta v. Earl
BOX 6	*Booth case
BOX 7	Briscoe v. Bank of Kentucky
BOX 7	Bridge case
BOX 7	California land cases
BOX 7	General (4 folders)
BOX 7	Frémont, John Charles.
BOX 8	*Charles River Bridge
BOX 8	*Gaines case
BOX 8	Girard will case
BOX 8	Groves v. Slaughter
BOX 8	Jones v. Van Zandt
BOX 8	Kendall v. United States
BOX 8	*Kentucky v. Dennison
BOX 8	*Land claims cases
BOX 8	*License cases
BOX 8	Methodist Church case
BOX 8	*Moore v. Illinois
BOX 8	New York v. Bank of Commerce
BOX 8	Ohio tax cases
BOX 8	*Passenger cases
BOX 8	*Patent cases
BOX 8	Prigg v. Pennsylvania
BOX 8	Prize cases (1 folder)
BOX 9	(1 folder)
BOX 9	Rhode Island v. Massachusetts
BOX 9	*Scott, Dred (2 folders)
BOX 9	Strader v. Graham
BOX 9	*Swift v. Tyson
BOX 10	*Court fees
BOX 10	Currency
BOX 10	Curtis, Benjamin R.
BOX 10	Daniel, Peter V.
BOX 10	Davis, David (3 folders)
BOX 11	(4 folders)
BOX 12	(3 folders)
BOX 13	(1 folder)
BOX 13	Davis, John
BOX 13	Deady, Matthew P.
BOX 13	Drummond, Thomas
BOX 13	Durell, Edward H.
BOX 13	Emancipation

Container List

Container	Contents
BOX 13	Field, Richard S.
BOX 13	Field, Stephen J.
BOX 13	Gaston, William
BOX 13	Gayle, John
BOX 13	Gholson, Samuel J.
BOX 13	Gibson, John B.
BOX 13	Giles, William F.
BOX 14	Grier, Robert C.
BOX 14	Habeas corpus
BOX 14	Hall, Nathan Kelsey
BOX 14	Hall, Willard
BOX 14	Historical Society of Pennsylvania
BOX 14	Hitchcock, Peter
BOX 14	Hoffman, Ogden
BOX 15	*Holt, Joseph
BOX 15	Humphreys, West H.
BOX 15	Indians
BOX 15	International relations
BOX 15	Interstate renditions
BOX 15	Jackson era
BOX 15	Jones, William J.
BOX 15	Judges
BOX 15	Judicial tenure, salaries, etc.
BOX 16	Kane, John K.
BOX 16	Kent, James
BOX 16	Kentucky
BOX 16	<i>Law Magazine and Law Review</i> (2 folders)
BOX 16	Leavitt, Humphrey H.
BOX 16	Legal education
BOX 16	Lumpkin, Joseph H.
BOX 16	McAllister, M. Hall
BOX 16	McCaleb, Theodore H.
BOX 16	*McKinley, John
BOX 16	McLean, John (2 folders)
BOX 17	(1 folder)
BOX 17	Magrath, A. Gordon
BOX 17	Maryland
BOX 17	Maryland Hall of Records (2 folders)
BOX 18	Miller, Daniel F.
BOX 18	Miscellaneous
BOX 18	Missouri
BOX 18	*Monroe, Thomas B.
BOX 18	National Archives record groups
BOX 18	RG 46

Container List

Container	Contents
BOX 18	RG 59
BOX 19	RG 233
BOX 19	RG 267
	(2 folders)
BOX 20	(5 folders)
BOX 21	(1 folder)
BOX 21	Federal Records Center, Atlanta, Ga.
BOX 21	Negroes–slavery
	(1 folder)
BOX 22	Negroes–slavery
	(2 folders)
BOX 22	Nelson, Rensselaer R.
BOX 22	*Nelson, Samuel
BOX 22	Newspapers <i>See Oversize</i>
BOX 22	Peters, Richard
BOX 22	*Political questions
BOX 22	Pope, Nathaniel
BOX 23	Property
BOX 23	Reporter
BOX 23	Secession and war
BOX 23	Slave trade and prewar filibusters
BOX 24	Smith, William
BOX 24	Sprague, Peleg
BOX 24	Story, Joseph
	(3 folders)
BOX 25	*(1 folder)
BOX 25	*Supreme Court and Washington, D.C.
	(3 folders)
BOX 26	Supreme Court
BOX 26	Dockets, justices
BOX 26	*Swayne, Noah H.
BOX 26	*Taney, Roger Brooke
BOX 26	1825-1855
	(22 folders)
BOX 27	1856-1857
	(8 folders)
BOX 27	1871-1874, 1883
BOX 27	1936, 1957-1959, undated
	(2 folders)
BOX 27	Tennessee
BOX 27	Thompson, Smith
BOX 27	Treason
BOX 27	Treat, Samuel
BOX 27	Treat, Samuel Hubbet
BOX 28	Tyler, John
BOX 28	Underwood, John C.
BOX 28	*Vallandigham, Clement L.

Container List

Container	Contents
BOX 28	Van Buren, Martin
BOX 28	Virginia
BOX 28	Ware, Ashur
BOX 28	Washburne, Elihu B.
BOX 29	*Wayne, James M.
BOX 29	Webster, Daniel
BOX 29	Welles, Gideon (2 folders)
BOX 29	Wells, Robert W.
BOX 29	White, Albert S.
BOX 29	Wilkins, Ross
BOX 29	Woodbury, Levi
BOX 30-34	Notes
BOX OV 1	Oversize newspapers (mostly reproductions) (Container 22)