

John C. Spooner Papers
A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress



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

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Additional search options available at: <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms012178>

Prepared by Manuscript Division Staff

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Collection Summary

Title: John C. Spooner Papers

Inclusive Dates: 1855-1909

Bulk Dates: 1870-1907

ID No.: MSS40980

Creator: Spooner, John C. (John Coit), 1843-1919

Extent: 10,000 items

Extent: 203 containers

Extent: 83 linear feet

Language: Collection material in English

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

LC Catalog record: <https://lccn.loc.gov/mm81040980>

Summary: U.S. senator and railroad corporation lawyer from Wisconsin. Correspondence with constituents, Republican Party leaders, congressional colleagues, cabinet members, industrialists, and railroad executives and miscellaneous papers relating mainly to Spooner's career as a businessman and senator.

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

Spooner, John C. (John Coit), 1843-1919.

Organizations

Republican Party (U.S. : 1854-)

Subjects

Cabinet officers--United States--Correspondence.

Executives--United States--Correspondence.

Industrialists--United States--Correspondence.

Legislators--United States--Correspondence.

Politicians--United States--Correspondence.

Railroads--United States.

Places

United States--Politics and government--1865-1933.

Occupations

Lawyers.

Senators, U.S. Congress--Wisconsin.

Acquisition Information

The papers of John C. Spooner, U.S. senator and railroad corporation lawyer from Wisconsin, were given to the Library of Congress by his son, Charles P. Spooner, in 1930-1931.

Processing History

The Spooner Papers were processed in 1963. The finding aid was revised in 2012.

Copyright Status

The status of copyright in the unpublished writings of John C. Spooner is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.).

Access and Restrictions

The papers of John C. Spooner 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, John C. Spooner Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Biographical Note

| Date | Event |
|---------------|--|
| 1843, Jan. 6 | Born, Lawrenceburg, Ill. |
| 1864 | A.B., University of Wisconsin, Madison, Wis., while serving in Union Army |
| 1867 | Admitted to Wisconsin bar |
| 1868 | Married Anna E. Main |
| 1872 | Elected to Wisconsin assembly Appointed regent, University of Wisconsin, Madison, Wis. Practiced law mostly as counsel for railroads |
| 1885-1891 | Elected and served in U.S. Senate |
| 1891 | Defeated for re-election to U.S. Senate and resumed private law practice |
| 1897 | Re-elected to U.S. Senate |
| 1907 | Resigned from U.S. Senate and moved law practice to New York, N.Y. |
| 1919, June 11 | Died, New York, N.Y. |

Scope and Content Note

The papers of John Coit Spooner (1843-1919) span the years 1885-1909, with the bulk of the material concentrated in the years 1870-1907 when he was prominent in the United States Senate, in the councils of the Republican Party, and in national affairs. The papers are organized into seven series: [General Correspondence](#), [Special Correspondence](#), [Business Correspondence](#), [Letterbooks](#), [Financial Papers](#), [Legal File](#), and [Miscellany](#).

The collection contains correspondence with constituents, Republican Party leaders, congressional colleagues, cabinet members, and some of the nation's leading industrialists and railroad executives; letterbooks; legal documents; financial papers pertaining to railroads and other business activities of the Senator; photographs; and printed material.

Prominent correspondents include congressional colleagues and Republican Party leaders as well as cabinet members, industrialists, and railroad executives between 1870 and 1907.

Arrangement of the Papers

This collection is arranged in seven series:

- [General Correspondence, 1870-1909](#)
- [Special Correspondence, 1855-1889](#)

- Business Correspondence, 1893-1896
- Letterbooks, 1866-1907
- Financial Papers, 1863-1907
- Legal File, 1865-1893
- Miscellany

Description of Series

| Container | Series |
|-------------|---|
| BOX 1-94 | <p><u>General Correspondence, 1870-1909</u> Letters sent and received with attachments. Arranged chronologically.</p> |
| BOX 94 | <p><u>Special Correspondence, 1855-1889</u> Letters sent and received, including with family members, and attached material. Arranged chronologically.</p> |
| BOX 95-100 | <p><u>Business Correspondence, 1893-1896</u> Letters sent and received with attached and related matter. Arranged chronologically.</p> |
| BOX 101-191 | <p><u>Letterbooks, 1866-1907</u> Letters sent in bound volumes with indexes at the end of each volume. Arranged chronologically.</p> |
| BOX 192-200 | <p><u>Financial Papers, 1863-1907</u> Bills, receipts, vouchers, cancelled checks, and other financial records. Arranged chronologically.</p> |
| BOX 200-201 | <p><u>Legal File, 1865-1893</u> Correspondence, patent and real estate documents, and other legal material. Arranged chronologically.</p> |
| BOX 202-203 | <p><u>Miscellany</u> Military papers, photographs, printed matter, newspaper clippings, and other miscellaneous items. Arranged by type of material.</p> |

Container List

| Container | Contents |
|------------------|--|
| BOX 1-94 | General Correspondence, 1870-1909 Letters sent and received with attachments. Arranged chronologically. |
| BOX 1 | 1870-1893, June |
| BOX 2 | 1893, July-1894, Jan. |
| BOX 3 | 1894 Feb.-Sept. |
| BOX 4 | 1894, Oct.-1895, Feb. |
| BOX 5 | 1895 Mar.-Nov. |
| BOX 6 | 1895, Dec.-1896, June |
| BOX 7 | 1896 July-Nov. |
| BOX 8 | 1896, Nov.-1897, Jan. |
| BOX 9 | 1897 Jan.-Mar. |
| BOX 10 | Mar.-Apr. |
| BOX 11 | Apr. |
| BOX 12 | Apr.-May |
| BOX 13 | May-June |
| BOX 14 | June-July |
| BOX 15 | July-Sept. |
| BOX 16 | Oct.-Dec. |
| BOX 17 | 1897, Dec.-1898, Jan. |
| BOX 18 | 1898 Jan.-Feb. |
| BOX 19 | Feb.-Mar. |
| BOX 20 | Mar.-Apr. |
| BOX 21 | Apr.-May |
| BOX 22 | May-June |
| BOX 23 | June |
| BOX 24 | July-Aug. |
| BOX 25 | Sept.-Nov. |
| BOX 26 | Nov.-Dec. |
| BOX 27 | 1899 Jan. |
| BOX 28 | Jan.-Feb. |
| BOX 29 | Feb.-Mar. |
| BOX 30 | Mar.-June |
| BOX 31 | June-Oct. |
| BOX 32 | Nov.-Dec. |

General Correspondence, 1870-1909

| Container | Contents |
|-----------|-----------------------|
| BOX 33 | 1900 Jan. |
| BOX 34 | Jan.-Mar. |
| BOX 35 | Mar. |
| BOX 36 | Apr. |
| BOX 37 | May |
| BOX 38 | May-June |
| BOX 39 | July-Sept. |
| BOX 40 | Oct.-Dec. |
| BOX 41 | 1900, Dec.-1901, Jan. |
| BOX 42 | 1901 Jan.-Feb. |
| BOX 43 | Feb.-Mar. |
| BOX 44 | Mar.-Apr. |
| BOX 45 | May-June |
| BOX 46 | July-Nov. |
| BOX 47 | Nov.-Dec. |
| BOX 48 | 1901, Dec.-1902, Jan. |
| BOX 49 | 1902 Jan.-Feb. |
| BOX 50 | Feb.-Mar. |
| BOX 51 | Mar.-Apr. |
| BOX 52 | Apr.-May |
| BOX 53 | May |
| BOX 54 | June-July |
| BOX 55 | July-Aug. |
| BOX 56 | Sept.-Oct. |
| BOX 57 | Oct.-Nov. |
| BOX 58 | Dec. |
| BOX 59 | 1903 Jan. |
| BOX 60 | Jan.-Feb. |
| BOX 61 | Feb. |
| BOX 62 | Mar.-Apr. |
| BOX 63 | Apr.-June |
| BOX 64 | July-Sept. |
| BOX 65 | Oct.-Nov. |
| BOX 66 | Nov.-Dec. |
| BOX 67 | 1904 Jan.-Feb. |
| BOX 68 | Feb.-Mar. |
| BOX 69 | Mar.-Apr. |
| BOX 70 | Apr.-June |
| BOX 71 | July-Sept. |
| BOX 72 | Oct.-Dec. |
| BOX 73 | 1904, Dec.-1905, Jan. |

General Correspondence, 1870-1909

| Container | Contents |
|-------------|--|
| BOX 74 | 1905 Jan.-Feb. |
| BOX 75 | Feb.-Mar. |
| BOX 76 | Mar.-May |
| BOX 77 | June-Sept. |
| BOX 78 | Oct.-Dec. |
| BOX 79 | 1905, Dec.-1906, Jan. |
| BOX 80 | 1906 Jan.-Feb. |
| BOX 81 | Feb.-Mar. |
| BOX 82 | Mar.-Apr. |
| BOX 83 | Apr.-May |
| BOX 84 | May-June |
| BOX 85 | June-July |
| BOX 86 | Aug.-Nov. |
| BOX 87 | Nov.-Dec. |
| BOX 88 | 1906, Dec.-1907, Jan. |
| BOX 89 | 1907 Jan.-Feb. |
| BOX 90 | Feb.-Mar. |
| BOX 91 | Apr.-Dec. 1908, Feb. 1909, Mar. Undated |
| BOX 92-94 | Undated |
| BOX 94 | Special Correspondence, 1855-1889 Letters sent and received, including with family members, and attached material. Arranged chronologically. 1855-1864; 1888-1889, undated |
| BOX 95-100 | Business Correspondence, 1893-1896 Letters sent and received with attached and related matter. Arranged chronologically. |
| BOX 95 | A-B |
| BOX 96 | B-C |
| BOX 97 | C-G |
| BOX 98 | H-M |
| BOX 99 | M-R |
| BOX 100 | S-Y Notebook of city lots Record book, 1893 |
| BOX 101-191 | Letterbooks, 1866-1907 Letters sent in bound volumes with indexes at the end of each volume. |

Letterbooks, 1866-1907

Container

Contents

Arranged chronologically.

| | |
|--------------------|-----------------------------|
| BOX 101 | 1866-1874 |
| BOX 102 | 1875-1876 |
| BOX 103 | 1878-1884 |
| BOX 104 | 1882-1884 |
| BOX 105 | 1884-1887 |
| BOX 106 | 1886-1888 |
| BOX 107 | 1888-1889 |
| BOX 108 | 1889-1890 |
| BOX 109 | 1890 |
| BOX 110 | 1890-1891 |
| BOX 111 | 1891-1892 |
| BOX 112 | 1892-1893 |
| BOX 113 | 1893-1894 |
| BOX 114 | 1894 |
| BOX 115 | 1894-1895 |
| BOX 116 | 1895 |
| BOX 117 | 1895-1896 |
| BOX 118-119 | 1896 |
| BOX 120 | 1896-1897 |
| BOX 121 | 1897 Jan. 23-Feb. 17 |
| BOX 122 | Feb. 17-Mar. 25 |
| BOX 123 | Mar. 25-Apr. 9 |
| BOX 124 | May 30-July 4 |
| BOX 125 | Apr. 9-27 |
| BOX 126 | Apr. 27-May 14 |
| BOX 127 | May 14-30 |
| BOX 128 | July 4-Aug. 4 |
| BOX 129 | Aug. 4-Sept. 13 |
| BOX 130 | Sept. 13-Nov. 15 |
| BOX 131 | Nov. 15-Dec. 19 |
| BOX 132 | Dec. 19-1898, Jan. 21 |
| BOX 133 | 1898 Jan. 21-Feb. 23 |
| BOX 134 | Feb. 23-Apr. 9 |
| BOX 135 | Apr. 9-May 5 |
| BOX 136 | May 5-26 |
| BOX 137 | May 26-July 4 |
| BOX 138 | July 4-Sept. 1 |
| BOX 139 | Sept. 3-Oct. 28 |
| BOX 140 | Oct. 28-Dec. 20 |
| BOX 141 | 1898, Dec. 20-1899, Feb. 17 |
| BOX 142 | 1899 Feb. 17-24 |
| BOX 143 | Feb. 24-Mar. 18 |

Letterbooks, 1866-1907

| Container | Contents |
|-----------|-----------------------------|
| BOX 144 | Mar. 18-Apr. 28 |
| BOX 145 | Apr. 28-June 14 |
| BOX 146 | Oct. 7-Dec. 9 |
| BOX 147 | 1899, Dec. 9-1900, Jan. 17 |
| BOX 148 | 1900 Jan. 17-Feb. 22 |
| BOX 149 | Feb. 22-Mar. 19 |
| BOX 150 | Apr. 30-June 8 |
| BOX 151 | June 8-July 11 |
| BOX 152 | Oct. 7-Dec. 21 |
| BOX 153 | 1900, Dec. 21-1901, Jan. 4 |
| BOX 154 | 1901 Jan. 4-8 |
| BOX 155 | Jan. 18-Feb. 21 |
| BOX 156 | Feb. 21-Mar. 16 |
| BOX 157 | Mar. 16-May 9 |
| BOX 158 | May 11-June 25 |
| BOX 159 | Oct. 9-Nov. 22 |
| BOX 160 | 1901, Nov. 22-1902, Jan. 6 |
| BOX 161 | 1902 Jan. 6-31 |
| BOX 162 | Jan. 31-Mar. 3 |
| BOX 163 | Mar. 3-29 |
| BOX 164 | Mar. 29-Apr. 30 |
| BOX 165 | Apr. 30-June 14 |
| BOX 166 | June 14-30 |
| BOX 167 | June 30-Sept. 26 |
| BOX 168 | Sept. 26-Oct. 30 |
| BOX 169 | Nov. 1-Dec. 20 |
| BOX 170 | 1902, Dec. 20-1903, Jan. 19 |
| BOX 171 | 1903 Jan. 19-Feb. 18 |
| BOX 172 | Feb. 18-Mar. 25 |
| BOX 173 | Mar. 25-30 |
| BOX 174 | Mar. 30-June 16 |
| BOX 175 | June 16-Oct. 14 |
| BOX 176 | Oct. 14-Dec. 1 |
| BOX 177 | 1904 Feb. 2-Mar. 21 |
| BOX 178 | Mar. 21-May 3 |
| BOX 179 | May 3-July 5 |
| BOX 180 | July 5-Nov. 19 |
| BOX 181 | 1904, Nov. 19-1905, Jan. 23 |
| BOX 182 | 1905 Mar. 8-31 |
| BOX 183 | Mar. 31-Aug. 4 |

Letterbooks, 1866-1907

| Container | Contents |
|-------------|---|
| BOX 184 | Aug. 4-Nov. 16 |
| BOX 185 | 1905, Nov. 17-1906, Jan. 15 |
| BOX 186 | 1906 Jan. 15-Feb. 19 |
| BOX 187 | Feb. 19-Mar. 12 |
| BOX 188 | June 4-19 |
| BOX 189 | Sept. 17-Dec. 8 |
| BOX 190 | 1906, Dec. 8-1907, Feb. 9 |
| BOX 191 | 1907, Mar. 14-Apr. 16 |
| BOX 192-200 | Financial Papers, 1863-1907 Bills, receipts, vouchers, cancelled checks, and other financial records. Arranged chronologically. |
| BOX 192 | 1863-1892 |
| BOX 193 | 1892-1893 1894-1895 A-E |
| BOX 194 | F-Z 1896-1897 A-G |
| BOX 195 | H-Z 1897-1899 A-R |
| BOX 196 | S-Z 1899 A-T |
| BOX 197 | 1899 U-Z and European trip 1899-1902 A-Q |
| BOX 198 | R-Z 1902-1904 A-R |
| BOX 199 | S-Z 1904-1907 A-K |
| BOX 200 | L-Z, undated |
| BOX 200-201 | Legal File, 1865-1893 Correspondence, patent and real estate documents, and other legal material. Arranged chronologically. 1865-1888 |

Legal File, 1865-1893

| Container | Contents |
|------------------|---|
| BOX 201 | 1888-1893, undated |
| BOX 202-203 | Miscellany Military papers, photographs, printed matter, newspaper clippings, and other miscellaneous items. Arranged by type of material. |
| BOX 202 | Military papers, 1865-1866 General miscellany Photographs Printed matter |
| BOX 203 | Printed matter Newspaper clippings |