

**Columbus Delano Family Papers**  
**A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress**



**Manuscript Division, Library of Congress**  
**Washington, D.C.**  
**2016**

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

Catalog Record: <https://lcn.loc.gov/mm79018184>

Additional search options available at: <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc/mss/eadmss.ms016055>

Prepared by Manuscript Division Staff

Finding aid encoded by Library of Congress Manuscript Division, 2016

## Collection Summary

**Title:** Columbus Delano Family Papers

**Span Dates:** 1845-1889

**ID No.:** MSS18184

**Creator:** Delano, Columbus, 1809-1896

**Extent:** 1,500 items

**Extent:** 3 containers

**Extent:** 1.2 linear feet

**Language:** Collection material in English

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

**LC Catalog record:** <https://lcn.loc.gov/mm79018184>

**Summary:** Family members include Columbus Delano, U.S. secretary of the interior and representative from Ohio, and his son, John Sherman Delano, businessman. Correspondence, financial records, photograph album, and miscellany relating to Ohio and national politics and patronage, the Republican Party, western lands, railroad expansion, and personal and financial matters.

## 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

Beecher, Henry Ward, 1813-1887--Correspondence.  
Benjamin, J. P. (Judah Philip), 1811-1884--Correspondence.  
Cameron, Simon, 1799-1889--Correspondence.  
Chandler, William E. (William Eaton), 1835-1917--Correspondence.  
Colfax, Schuyler, 1823-1885--Correspondence.  
Conkling, Roscoe, 1829-1888--Correspondence.  
Cullom, Shelby M. (Shelby Moore), 1829-1914--Correspondence.  
Curtis, Henry B. (Henry Barnes), 1799-1885--Correspondence.  
Delano family.  
Delano, Columbus, 1809-1896.  
Delano, John Sherman, 1841-1896. John Sherman Delano papers.  
Dodge, Grenville M., 1831-1916--Correspondence.  
Fish, Hamilton, 1808-1893--Correspondence.  
Garfield, James A. (James Abram), 1831-1881--Correspondence.  
Gould, Jay, 1836-1892--Correspondence.  
Grant, Ulysses S. (Ulysses Simpson), 1822-1885--Correspondence.  
Hayes, Rutherford B., 1822-1893--Correspondence.  
Reid, Whitelaw, 1837-1912--Correspondence.  
Sherman, John, 1823-1900--Correspondence.  
Thompson, Jacob, 1810-1885--Correspondence.

### Organizations

Republican Party (U.S. : 1854- )  
Whig Party (U.S.)

### Subjects

Land speculation--Minnesota.  
Land speculation--West (U.S.)  
Mexican War, 1846-1848.  
Patronage, Political--United States.  
Railroads--United States.

## Places

Confederate States of America--Archives.  
Ohio--Politics and government.  
United States--Politics and government--19th century.

## Occupations

Cabinet officers.  
Representatives, U.S. Congress--Ohio.

## Provenance

The family papers of Columbus Delano, U.S. secretary of the interior and representative from Ohio, and his son, John Sherman Delano, businessman, were purchased by the Library of Congress in 1958. Additional material was purchased in 1993.

## Processing History

The Columbus Delano Family Papers were processed after the receipt of an addition to the collection in 1993. The finding aid was created in 2016.

## Copyright Status

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

## Access and Restrictions

The papers of Columbus Delano family 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, Columbus Delano Family Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

## Biographical Note

### Columbus Delano

Date	Event
1809, June 4	Born, Shoreham, Vt.
1817	Moved with parents to Mount Vernon, Ohio
1831	Admitted to the bar and commenced law practice, Mount Vernon, Ohio
1845-1847	U. S. representative from Ohio
1861	State commissary general of Ohio
1865-1867	U.S. representative from Ohio
1868-1869	Commissioner of internal revenue
1870-1875	Secretary of the interior
1896, Oct. 23	Died, Mount Vernon, Ohio

## Scope and Content Note

The family papers of Columbus Delano (1809-1896) span the years 1845-1889. The collection consists of correspondence, financial records, a photograph album, and miscellaneous material relating to Ohio and national politics and patronage, the Republican Party, western lands, railroad expansion, and personal and financial matters. Much of the material concerns Columbus Delano's finances and political activities before and after the Civil War, but included are files pertaining to his son, John Sherman Delano, focusing on land interests in Minnesota in the 1870s and 1880s. Also in the papers is a file regarding the purchase by the United States in 1872 of the archives of the Confederate States of America. Contained in the file is a copy of a letter of 3 December 1864 from Jacob Thompson (1810-1885) to J. P. Benjamin of the Confederacy. Additional material consists of three letters with typewritten transcripts from Columbus Delano to Henry B. Curtis relating to the Mexican War and Whig politics, 1845-1846.

Other correspondents include Henry Ward Beecher, Simon Cameron, William E. Chandler, Schuyler Colfax, Roscoe Conkling, Shelby M. Cullom, Grenville M. Dodge, Hamilton Fish (1808-1893), James A. Garfield, Jay Gould, Ulysses S. Grant, Rutherford B. Hayes, Whitelaw Reid (1873-1912), and John Sherman (1823-1900).

## Arrangement of the Papers

The collection is organized by type of material or topic.

## Container List

<b>Container</b>	<b>Contents</b>
BOX 1	Letters to Columbus Delano, 1863-1889 (8 folders)
BOX 1	Letters from Columbus Delano to John Sherman Delano, 1853-1881 (2 folders)
BOX 2	Letters to John Sherman Delano, 1873-1891 (3 folders)
BOX 2	Letterbooks of John Sherman Delano, 1878-1881 (2 vols.)
BOX 3	Financial records (6 folders)
BOX 3	Photograph album
BOX 3	Purchase by the U.S. government of Confederate State Archives, including a copy of a letter from Jacob Thompson to J. P. Judah, 1864, 1872
BOX 3	Mexican War and Whig politics, letters from Columbus Delano to Henry B. Curtis, 1845-1846