

Records of the U.S. House of Representatives
RG.233.29.House
29th Congress

**Finding aid prepared by Office of Art and Archives,
Office of the Clerk, U.S. House of Representatives**

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Summary Information

Repository	Center for Legislative Archives, National Archives and Records Administration
Title	House Records of the 29th Congress
Date [inclusive]	1845-1847
Extent	55.58 Cubic feet
Language	English

Administrative Information

Publication Information

Center for Legislative Archives, National Archives and Records Administration

Conditions Governing Access note

The records are governed by Rule VII(3)b of the House Rules:

(b) (1) A record shall immediately be made available if it was previously made available for public use by the House or a committee or a subcommittee. (2) An investigative record that contains personal data relating to a specific living person (the disclosure of which would be an unwarranted invasion of personal privacy), an administrative record relating to personnel, or a record relating to a hearing that was closed under clause 2(g)(2) of rule XI shall be made available if it has been in existence for 50 years. (3) A record for which a time, schedule, or condition for availability is specified by order of the House shall be made available in accordance with that order. Except as otherwise provided by order of the House, a record of a committee for which a time, schedule, or condition for availability is specified by order of the committee (entered during the Congress in which the record is made or acquired by the committee) shall be made available in accordance with the order of the committee. (4) A record (other than a record referred to in subparagraph (1), (2), or (3)) shall be made available if it has been in existence for 30 years.

Records of Legislative Proceedings

Collection Inventory

Records of Legislative Proceedings 1845-1847**Minute Book and Journals 1845-1847 1.0 Cubic feet (5 volumes)****Scope and Contents note**

The minute book and journals series includes a minute book, 1st and 2d sessions (29A–A1); and legislative journal, 1st session (29A–A2) and 2d session (29A–A3).

Bills and Resolutions Originating in the House 1845-1847 7.0 Cubic feet**Scope and Contents note**

The bills and resolutions originating in the House include original House bills and bills upon which further action was taken (29A–B1); original House joint resolutions and joint resolutions upon which further action was taken (29A–B2); House simple resolutions, motions, and orders (29A–B3); and two volumes of engrossed House bills and resolutions (29A–B4).

Arrangement note

The records are arranged numerically within each group, except 29A–B3, which is arranged chronologically.

Bills Originating in the Senate and Considered in the House 1845-1847 0.25 Cubic feet**Scope and Contents note**

Committees

The bills originating in the Senate and considered in the House include Senate bills, 1st and 2d sessions (29A–C1).

Arrangement note

The records are arranged by session, thereunder numerically.

Committees 1845-1847

Committee on Accounts 1845-1847

Biographical/Historical note

The Committee on Accounts was created on December 27, 1803, and was made a standing committee in 1805. Its jurisdiction covered all subjects "touching the expenditure of the contingent fund of the House, [and] the auditing and settling of all accounts which may be charged therein to the House." In addition, the committee was responsible for the accountability of officers of the House, the procurement of rooms for the use of House committees and for the Speaker, and for recommending and authorizing the employment of such persons as stenographers, reporters of debates, janitors, and clerks and staff assistants for committees, members and senators. The Committee on Accounts existed from 1803-1946, and later was incorporated into the Committee on House Administration.

Committee Reports and Papers 1845-1847

Scope and Contents note

The committee reports and papers of the Committee on Accounts include a volume of minutes, 27th Congress, 1st session, to 30th Congress, 2d session (27A–D1.2).

Committee on Claims 1845-1847

Committees

Biographical/Historical note

The Committee on Claims is one of the oldest standing committees in the House of Representatives. It was established on November 13, 1794, having been preceded by Select Committees on Claims. The committee was to consider all petitions and matters or things touching on claims and demands on the United States and report appropriations of money for payment of claims it had authorized. Originally the Committee on Claims had jurisdiction over Revolutionary War and land claims as well as pensions. In the years that followed, other committees were created to handle special types of claims such as war claims, pensions, and private land claims. Under the 1880 revised House Rules, subjects relating to "private and domestic claims and demands other than war claims against the United States" were to be referred to the Claims Committee. At the end of the 79th Congress the committee was abolished under the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946, and jurisdiction over the subjects that had formerly been referred to it was transferred either to the Judiciary Committee or the executive departments.

Committee Reports and Papers 1845-1847

Scope and Contents note

The committee reports and papers of the Committee on Claims include claims (29A–D2.1), arranged alphabetically; and a copy of a communication from the Secretary of State concerning “making out and authenticating copies of records” (29A–D2.2). There is also a volume of minutes, 29th Congress, 1st session, to 33d Congress, 2d session (29A–D2.3); an index to petitions referred to the committee (29A–D2.4); a letter book, 25th Congress, 2d session, to 35th Congress, 1st session (25A–D3.6); and an index to an outgoing letter book, 24th Congress, 2d session, to 29th Congress, 1st session (24A–D2.3).

Petitions and Memorials, Resolutions of State Legislatures, and Related Documents Which Were Referred to Committees 1845-1847

Scope and Contents note

Committees

The petitions and memorials, resolutions of state legislatures, and related documents which were referred to the Committee on Claims include claims (29A–G1.1).

Arrangement note

The claims are arranged alphabetically by petitioner.

Committee on Commerce 1845-1847

Biographical/Historical note

The Committee on Commerce was established in 1819 as a result of the split of the Committee on Commerce and Manufactures (1795-1819). The jurisdiction of the Committee on Commerce was regulation of both interstate and foreign commerce; customs collection districts, ports of entry, and ports of delivery; compensation of customhouse officials; regulations and appropriations regarding navigable waters and works affecting them, such as bridges, locks, dams, tunnels, pipes, and cribs; obstructions to navigation, such as sunken vessels; lighthouses and other aids to navigation; interoceanic canals; ocean cables; lifesaving stations; public health and the prevention of infectious diseases; purity of food and drugs; regulations regarding the exportation of livestock and foodstuffs; transportation of livestock; and the regulation of railroads. Besides the Lifesaving Service, the committee exercised jurisdiction over matters relating to such Federal agencies as the Revenue-Cutter Service; the Marine Hospital Service; and the Interstate Commerce Commission. In 1892, the Committee on Commerce became part of the Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce.

Committee Reports and Papers 1845-1847

Scope and Contents note

The committee reports and papers of the Committee on Commerce document claims (29A–D3.1); joining Albemarle Sound and the Atlantic Ocean (29A–D3.2); lighthouses and other aids to navigation (29A–D3.3); and various subjects (29A–D3.4). There is also a docket volume

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covering part of the 1st session (29A–D3.5); and a docket volume, 28th Congress, 2d session, to 29th Congress, 2d session (28A–D4.6).

Arrangement note

The records are arranged chronologically within each group, except 29A–D3.1, which is arranged alphabetically.

Petitions and Memorials, Resolutions of State Legislatures, and Related Documents Which Were Referred to Committees 1845-1847

Scope and Contents note

The petitions and memorials, resolutions of state legislatures, and related documents which were referred to the Committee on Commerce document beacons, bells, and buoys (29A–G2.1); claims (29A–G2.2), arranged alphabetically by petitioner; collection districts and ports of entry (29A–G2.3); lighthouses, piers, and wharves (29A–G2.4); marine hospitals (29A–G2.5); rivers, creeks, harbors, and inlets (29A–G2.6); and various subjects (29A–G2.7).

Arrangement note

The subjects are arranged chronologically within each group, unless otherwise indicated.

Committee on the District of Columbia 1845-1847

Biographical/Historical note

The Committee on the District of Columbia was established on January 27, 1808. The committee's duty was to consider all petitions and memorials relating to the affairs of the District of Columbia referred to them by the House. Jurisdiction consisted of various municipal concerns of the District of Columbia including those involving streets, schools and teachers, railroads, police and fire departments, claims against the District Government, insurance, taxes, health and safety, liquor sales, incorporation of organizations and societies, and other matters that were the normal concerns

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of city and State governments. Since its creation the committee has shared jurisdiction on District concerns with other committees, and in particular with the Committees on Education and Labor, Interior, Banking and Currency, Judiciary, and Public Works. The committee was known as the Committee on the District of Columbia from 1801-1995. The committee was split and absorbed by subcommittees of the Committee on Appropriations and by the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight.

Committee Reports and Papers 1845-1847

Scope and Contents note

The committee reports and papers of the Committee on the District of Columbia document the Alexandria retrocession to Virginia and other subjects (29A–D4.1); claims (29A–D4.2); and various subjects (29A–D4.3). There is also a volume of minutes, 27th Congress, 1st session, to 29th Congress, 2d session (27A–D5.2).

Arrangement note

The records are arranged chronologically within each group, except 29A–D4.2, which is arranged alphabetically.

Petitions and Memorials, Resolutions of State Legislatures, and Related Documents Which Were Referred to Committees 1845-1847

Scope and Contents note

The petitions and memorials, resolutions of state legislatures, and related documents which were referred to the Committee on the District of Columbia document the retrocession of Alexandria to the State of Virginia (29A–G3.1); schools and educational system of the District (29A–G3.2); slavery and slave trade in the District (29A–G3.3); and various subjects (29A–G3.4).

Arrangement note

Committees

The subjects are arranged chronologically within each group, unless otherwise indicated.

Committee on Elections 1845-1847

Biographical/Historical note

The Committee on Elections was established as the first standing committee of the U.S. House of Representatives to perform this function on April 13, 1789. The jurisdiction of the committee was to examine and report on the certificates of election and other election credentials, as well as election returns and proceedings for elections of House Members, and to contest elections of Members where these credentials and election proceedings were not deemed valid. The committee was known as the Committee on Elections from 1789 until 1895, when it was split into three separate election committees.

Controlled Access Headings

Personal Name(s)

- Baker, Edward Dickinson, 1811-1861
- Brockenbrough, William Henry, 1812-1850
- Cabell, Edward Carrington, 1816-1896
- Farlee, Isaac Gray, 1787-1855
- Runk, John, 1791-1872
- Yell, Archibald, 1797-1847

Committee Reports and Papers 1845-1847

Scope and Contents note

The committee reports and papers of the Committee on Elections document the contested election cases of W. H. Brockenbrough v. Edward C. Cabell, Florida (29A–D5.1), and Isaac G. Farlee

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v. John Runk, New Jersey (29A–D5.2); and a report on the rights of E. D. Baker of Illinois and Archibald Yell of Arkansas to their seats in the House (29A–D5.3). There is also a volume of minutes, 29th Congress, 1st session, to 31st Congress, 1st session (29A–D5.4).

Arrangement note

The records are arranged by subject.

Petitions and Memorials, Resolutions of State Legislatures, and Related Documents Which Were Referred to Committees 1845-1847

Scope and Contents note

The petitions and memorials, resolutions of state legislatures, and related documents which were referred to the Committee on Elections document various subjects (29A–G4.1).

Arrangement note

The subjects are arranged chronologically within each group, unless otherwise indicated.

Committee on Expenditures on the Public Buildings 1845-1847

Biographical/Historical note

The Committee on Expenditures on the Public Buildings existed from 1816-1927, and looked into expenditures on public buildings, primarily in Washington, DC. The committee was later absorbed into the Committee on Expenditures in the Executive Department (1927-52), and in 1952, into the Committee on Government Operations.

Committee Reports and Papers 1845-1847

Scope and Contents note

Committees

The committee reports and papers of the Committee on Expenditures on the Public Buildings document various subjects (29A–D6.1).

Arrangement note

The records are arranged chronologically.

Committee on Foreign Affairs 1845-1847

Biographical/Historical note

The Committee on Foreign Affairs gained status as a standing committee of the House of Representatives in 1822, however, its antecedents date as far back as 1775 when the Continental Congress established a committee to correspond with friends abroad. The jurisdiction of the committee includes relations of the United States with foreign nations generally; acquisition of land and buildings for embassies and legations in foreign countries; establishment of boundary lines between the United States and foreign nations; export controls, including nonproliferation of nuclear technology and nuclear hardware; foreign loans; international commodity agreements (other than those involving sugar), including all agreements for cooperation in the export of nuclear technology and nuclear hardware; international conferences and congresses; international education; intervention abroad and declarations of war; diplomatic service; measures to foster commercial intercourse with foreign nations and to safeguard American business interests abroad; international economic policy; neutrality; protection of American citizens abroad and expatriation; the American National Red Cross; trading with the enemy; and United Nations organizations. The committee has oversight over the U.S. Department of State.

Committee Reports and Papers 1845-1847

Scope and Contents note

The committee reports and papers of the Committee on Foreign Affairs document claims (29A–D7.1); Great Britain (29A–D7.2); Mexico (29A–D7.3); Portugal (29A–D7.4); Spain (29A–D7.5); and various subjects (29A–D7.6). There is also a docket volume covering part of the 2d session

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(29A–D7.7); and a combination docket and minute book, 28th Congress, 1st session, to 29th Congress, 2d session (23A–D12.3).

Arrangement note

The records are arranged chronologically within each group, except 29A–D7.1, which is arranged alphabetically.

Petitions and Memorials, Resolutions of State Legislatures, and Related Documents Which Were Referred to Committees 1845-1847

Scope and Contents note

The petitions and memorials, resolutions of state legislatures, and related documents which were referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs document claims (29A–G5.1), arranged alphabetically by petitioner; congress of nations for the settlement of international disputes (29A–G5.2); Mexican War (29A–G5.3); and various subjects (29A–G5.4).

Arrangement note

The subjects are arranged chronologically within each group, unless otherwise indicated.

Committee on Indian Affairs 1845-1847

Biographical/Historical note

The Committee on Indian Affairs was established on December 17, 1821, with jurisdiction over subjects pertaining to Native Americans. Select committees to consider matters of Native Americans existed for several years before the creation of the standing committee. Among the matters referred to the committee were subjects relating to the care, education, and management of Native Americans and of their lands; the adjudication and payment of Indian depredation claims; bonds and stocks that had been part of Indian trust funds; adjudication of claims of Indians against the United States; the use and management of Native American funds; and the business and government of the Native

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American tribes. From 1885 until 1920, the committee exercised jurisdiction over appropriations relating to Native Americans. The Committee on Indian Affairs was abolished under the provisions of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946. Its jurisdiction and responsibilities were transferred to the Committee on Public Lands.

Committee Reports and Papers 1845-1847

Scope and Contents note

The committee reports and papers of the Committee on Indian Affairs document claims (29A–D8.1), arranged alphabetically; and various subjects (29A–D8.2), arranged by subject. There is also a docket volume, 28th Congress, 1st session, to 29th Congress, 1st session (28A–D13.4).

Petitions and Memorials, Resolutions of State Legislatures, and Related Documents Which Were Referred to Committees 1845-1847

Scope and Contents note

The petitions and memorials, resolutions of state legislatures, and related documents which were referred to the Committee on Indian Affairs document claims (29A–G6.1), arranged alphabetically by petitioner; and various subjects (29A–G6.2).

Arrangement note

The subjects are arranged chronologically within each group, unless otherwise indicated.

Committee on Invalid Pensions 1845-1847

Biographical/Historical note

The Committee on Invalid Pensions was created on January 10, 1831, with jurisdiction over matters relating to pensions for disabled veterans. Originally, the jurisdiction of the committee included

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pensions from the War of 1812. The committee had become so overburdened with pensions from the Civil War, that on March 26, 1867, jurisdiction for pensions from the War of 1812 was transferred to the Committee on Revolutionary Pensions. Subsequently, jurisdiction of the Committee on Invalid Pensions included only matters relating to pensions of the Civil War, with the committee reporting general and special bills authorizing payments of pensions and bills for relief of soldiers of that war.

Committee Reports and Papers 1845-1847

Scope and Contents note

The committee reports and papers of the Committee on Invalid Pensions document claims (29A–D9.1), arranged alphabetically; and various subjects (29A–D9.2), arranged chronologically. There is also a docket volume (29A–D9.3).

Petitions and Memorials, Resolutions of State Legislatures, and Related Documents Which Were Referred to Committees 1845-1847

Scope and Contents note

The petitions and memorials, resolutions of state legislatures, and related documents which were referred to the Committee on Invalid Pensions document various subjects (29A–G7.1).

Arrangement note

The records are arranged alphabetically by petitioner.

Committee on the Judiciary 1845-1847

Biographical/Historical note

Committees

The standing Committee on the Judiciary was established on June 3, 1813, to take into consideration matters touching judicial proceedings. In 1880 the rule defining its jurisdiction was revised to read "judicial proceedings, civil and criminal law," and this remained the formal definition of the jurisdiction of the committee until the reorganization of Congress in 1946. The committee's jurisdiction includes judiciary and judicial proceedings, civil and criminal; administrative practice and procedure; apportionment of Representatives; bankruptcy, mutiny, espionage, and counterfeiting; civil liberties; constitutional amendments; criminal law enforcement; Federal courts and judges, and local courts in the Territories and possessions; immigration policy and nonborder enforcement; interstate compacts generally; claims against the United States; meetings of Congress; attendance of Members, Delegates, and the Resident Commissioner; and their acceptance of incompatible offices; National penitentiaries; patents, the Patent and Trademark Office, copyrights, and trademarks; Presidential succession; protection of trade and commerce against unlawful restraints and monopolies; revision and codification of the Statutes of the United States; state and territorial boundary lines; and subversive activities affecting the internal security of the United States. The committee has oversight over the U.S. Department of Justice and the U.S. Department of Homeland Security.

Committee Reports and Papers 1845-1847

Scope and Contents note

The committee reports and papers of the Committee on the Judiciary document claims (29A–D10.1); lottery tickets in the District of Columbia (29A–D10.2); creation of the office of Assistant Secretary of State (29A–D10.3); and various subjects (29A–D10.4). There is also a docket volume for the 2d session (29A–D10.5); and a docket volume, 28th Congress, 1st session, to 29th Congress, 1st session (28A–D15.2).

Arrangement note

The records are arranged chronologically within each group, except 29A–D10.1, which is arranged alphabetically, and 29A–D10.4, which is arranged by subject.

Committees

Petitions and Memorials, Resolutions of State Legislatures, and Related Documents Which Were Referred to Committees 1845-1847

Scope and Contents note

The petitions and memorials, resolutions of state legislatures, and related documents which were referred to the Committee on the Judiciary document capital punishment (29A–G8.1); chaplains in Congress and in the armed services (29A–G8.2); circuit and district courts (29A–G8.3); claims (29A–G8.4), arranged alphabetically by petitioner; court sessions (29A–G8.5); judicial districts (29A–G8.6); naturalization laws (29A–G8.7); reception of Senators and Representatives from Texas (29A–G8.8); slavery and the slave trade (29A–G8.9); and various subjects (29A–G8.10).

Arrangement note

The subjects are arranged chronologically within each group, unless otherwise indicated.

Committee on Manufactures 1845-1847

Biographical/Historical note

The Committee on Manufactures was established in 1819 as a result of the split of the Committee on Commerce and Manufactures (1795-1819). Jurisdiction of the committee includes matters relating to the manufacturing industries, but became inactive during the later years of its existence and was eliminated in 1911. The committee's functions were absorbed by the Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce (1892-1968).

Petitions and Memorials, Resolutions of State Legislatures, and Related Documents Which Were Referred to Committees 1845-1847

Scope and Contents note

Committees

The petitions and memorials, resolutions of state legislatures, and related documents which were referred to the Committee on Manufactures document various subjects (29A–G9.1).

Arrangement note

The subjects are arranged chronologically within each group, unless otherwise indicated.

Committee on Military Affairs 1845-1847

Biographical/Historical note

A succession of House select committees considered legislation on military affairs from 1811 until 1822, when the House established a standing Committee on Military Affairs. The jurisdiction of the committee included appropriation bills covering the military establishment, the public defense, and the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, New York. The committee reported the military appropriation bills until 1920, when that power was transferred to the Appropriations Committee. Jurisdiction of the committee also included the establishment and care of national cemeteries and battlefields; acquisition and conveyance of lands for military reservations and improvements upon such grounds; disposition of war trophies and distribution of obsolete weapons and armament; conduct of joint operations of the Army, Navy, and Marine Corps; and promotion of military aviation and Army aeronautics. The Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946 abolished the Committee on Military Affairs and transferred its jurisdiction to the newly-created Armed Services Committee.

Committee Reports and Papers 1845-1847

Scope and Contents note

The committee reports and papers of the Committee on Military Affairs document claims (29A–D11.1), arranged alphabetically; fortifications (29A–D11.2), arranged chronologically; and various subjects (29A–D11.3), arranged by subject. There is also a docket volume, 28th Congress, 1st session, to 29th Congress, 2d session (28A–D17.3).

Committees

Petitions and Memorials, Resolutions of State Legislatures, and Related Documents Which Were Referred to Committees 1845-1847

Scope and Contents note

The petitions and memorials, resolutions of state legislatures, and related documents which were referred to the Committee on Military Affairs document armories and foundries (29A–G10.1); claims (29A–G10.2), arranged alphabetically by petitioner; forts, fortifications, and military posts (29A–G10.3); Mexican War (29A–G10.4); military roads (29A–G10.5); ordnance inventions and improvements (29A–G10.6); schools and churches on military posts (29A–G10.7); and various subjects (29A–G10. 8).

Arrangement note

The subjects are arranged chronologically within each group, unless otherwise indicated.

Committee on the Militia 1845-1847

Biographical/Historical note

The standing Committee on the Militia was created on December 10, 1815, with jurisdiction over miscellaneous aspects of the militia organization and operation in the several states and the District of Columbia. The committee's jurisdiction included fostering greater efficiency in the militia units, encouraging rifle practice, reorganizing the militia, and issuing armaments to the militia units and later to the National Guard or voluntary militia units that replaced them. The committee was not terminated until 1911 although it had exercised little influence after the passage of the Dick Military Act of January 31, 1903. That law, combined with other concurrent military reforms, integrated the National Guard organizations in the states with the Regular Army, largely eliminating the need for direct congressional supervision of the implementation of the now obsolete 1792 militia law. After 1911, the House Military Affairs committee assumed the functions and powers that had formerly been in the jurisdiction of the Militia Committee.

Committees

Committee Reports and Papers 1845-1857**Scope and Contents note**

The committee reports and papers of the Committee on the Militia document various subjects (29A–D12.1).

Arrangement note

The records are arranged by subject.

Petitions and Memorials, Resolutions of State Legislatures, and Related Documents Which Were Referred to Committees 1845-1847**Scope and Contents note**

The petitions and memorials, resolutions of state legislatures, and related documents which were referred to the Committee on the Militia document various subjects (29A–G11.1).

Arrangement note

The subjects are arranged chronologically within each group, unless otherwise indicated.

Committee on Naval Affairs 1845-1847**Biographical/Historical note**

In 1822, the standing Committee on Naval Affairs was created. The jurisdiction of the committee included consideration of all matters which concerned the naval establishment, the increase or reduction of commissioned officers and enlisted men, and their pay and allowances and the increase of ships or vessels of all classes of the Navy. Other subjects under the committee's expanded jurisdiction pertained to naval and marine aeronautics; the construction of aircraft carriers for the Navy; the acquisition of sites for naval facilities; the establishment, construction, improvement, and

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maintenance of such facilities; the authorization of special decorations, orders, medals, and other insignia for naval personnel; the acceptance of offices and emoluments from foreign governments; claims of personnel and civilian employees of the Navy; and legislation relating to the Coast Guard, the Marine Corps, the Marine Band, the Fleet Marine Corps Reserve, the Naval Observatory, and the Coast and Geodetic Survey. The committee was abolished under the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946 and its jurisdiction transferred to the Armed Services Committee.

Committee Reports and Papers 1845-1847

Scope and Contents note

The committee reports and papers of the Committee on Naval Affairs document the Bureau of Medicine and Surgery (29A–D13.1); claims (29A–D13.2); marine inventions and improvements (29A–D13.3); spirit rations in the Navy (29A–D13.4); “war steamers” (29A–D13.5); and various subjects (29A–D13.6).

Arrangement note

The records are arranged chronologically within each group, except 29A–D13.2, which is arranged alphabetically and 29A–D13.6, which is arranged by subject.

Petitions and Memorials, Resolutions of State Legislatures, and Related Documents Which Were Referred to Committees 1845-1847

Scope and Contents note

The petitions and memorials, resolutions of state legislatures, and related documents which were referred to the Committee on Naval Affairs document claims (29A–G12.1), arranged alphabetically by petitioner; construction of drydocks (29A–G12.2); naval depots (29A–G12.3); transportation of food for Irish relief by vessels of the United States (29A–G12.4); Navy officers “holding commissions under the Government which are disconnected and irrelevant to the nature of the Commission held by them” (29A–G12.5); and various subjects (29A–G12.6).

Committees

Arrangement note

The subjects are arranged chronologically within each group, unless otherwise indicated.

Committee on Patents 1845-1847

Biographical/Historical note

The standing Committee on Patents was established in 1837. Jurisdiction of the committee included patent, copyright, and trademark laws and revision of such laws; the jurisdiction of courts in patent cases; the counterfeiting of trademarks; and the Patent Office and its affairs. Private legislation, usually initiated in response to petition, was an important part of the work of the committee, especially between 1840 and 1890. Relief was sought by inventors for whom protection was not provided in the existing patent law (such as aliens and government employees) and by patentees who requested extensions on patents because they had not profited sufficiently during the period provided by the original patent. Under the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946, the Judiciary Committee absorbed the jurisdiction of the Committee on Patents.

Committee Reports and Papers 1845-1847

Scope and Contents note

The committee reports and papers of the Committee on Patents document claims (29A–D14.1), arranged alphabetically; and various subjects (29A–D14.2), arranged by subject. There is also a docket volume, 28th Congress, 1st session, to 29th Congress, 2d session (28A–D20.2).

Petitions and Memorials, Resolutions of State Legislatures, and Related Documents Which Were Referred to Committees 1845-1847

Scope and Contents note

Committees

The petitions and memorials, resolutions of state legislatures, and related documents which were referred to the Committee on Patents document claims (29A–G13.1), arranged alphabetically by petitioner; extension of Jethro Wood’s patent for cast iron plow (29A–G13.2); and various subjects (29A–G13.3).

Arrangement note

The subjects are arranged chronologically within each group, unless otherwise indicated.

Committee on the Post Office and Post Roads 1845-1847

Biographical/Historical note

A Select Committee on the Post Office and Post Roads was established in 1806 and made a standing committee in 1808. The jurisdiction of the committee extended to all proposed legislation relating to the carrying of the mails, both foreign and domestic. It included the determination of the location, construction, and maintenance of post offices and post roads; the acquisition, lease, or transfer of realty or facilities for postal purposes; and certain aspects of the employment and management of postal employees, such as the pay and leave of letter carriers, and the settlement of claims brought by employees or contractors. Also included was the regulation of the Postal Service, including postal rates, the franking privilege, and the printing of stamped envelopes. At various times, the Railway Mail Service, ocean mail service, pneumatic tube service, postal savings banks, postal telegraphy, the Air Mail Service, and Rural Free Delivery were included in its jurisdiction. As part of its responsibility, the committee investigated the management of postal facilities, contracts for carrying the mail, and other subjects such as the forgery of postal money orders. In 1885 the jurisdiction of the committee was expanded to include appropriation authority and prepared Post Office appropriations bills from that time until 1920 when the authority was revoked under a rule change. The committee functioned until 1946 when its jurisdiction was included in that of the new Committee on Post Office and Civil Service.

Committee Reports and Papers 1845-1847

Committees

Scope and Contents note

The committee reports and papers of the Post Office and Post Roads document claims (29A–D15.1), arranged alphabetically; and various subjects (29A–D15.2), arranged by subject.

Petitions and Memorials, Resolutions of State Legislatures, and Related Documents Which Were Referred to Committees 1845-1847

Scope and Contents note

The petitions and memorials, resolutions of state legislatures, and related documents which were referred to the Committee on the Post Office and Post Roads document claims (29A–G14.1), arranged alphabetically by petitioner; post offices (29A–G14.2); post roads (29A–G14.3); postal rates (29A–G14.4); and various subjects (29A–G14.5).

Arrangement note

The subjects are arranged chronologically within each group, unless otherwise indicated.

Committee on Private Land Claims 1845-1847

Biographical/Historical note

The Committee on Private Land Claims was established on April 29, 1816. The committee reported general as well as special legislation relating to the settlement of individual claims to public lands. It has reported bills to establish a land court to provide for the judicial investigation and settlement of private land claims in certain states and territories. The committee was abolished in 1911 along with several other committees that had suffered from diminished legislative activity. Jurisdiction was later transferred to the Judiciary Committee.

Committee Reports and Papers 1845-1847

Committees

Scope and Contents note

The committee reports and papers of the Committee on Private Land Claims document various subjects (29A–D16.1).

Arrangement note

The records are arranged alphabetically.

Petitions and Memorials, Resolutions of State Legislatures, and Related Documents Which Were Referred to Committees 1845-1847

Scope and Contents note

The petitions and memorials, resolutions of state legislatures, and related documents which were referred to the Committee on Private Land Claims include claims (29A–G15.1).

Arrangement note

The records are arranged alphabetically by petitioner.

Committee on Public Buildings and Grounds 1845-1847

Biographical/Historical note

The standing Committee on Public Buildings and Grounds was established in 1837, replacing the Select Committee on Public Buildings which was created in 1819. The committee's jurisdiction included the construction throughout the country of public buildings, documenting customs houses, post offices, and federal court houses; the erection of monuments and memorials; the purchase of property for public use; improvements to public property; and compensation for workers erecting public buildings. During the early years of the committee, much of the legislation reported had to do with constructing and improving public buildings in Washington, D.C., and commissioning

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artists to create art work for those buildings. Under the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946, the Committee on Public Buildings and Grounds became part of the Committee on Public Works.

Committee Reports and Papers 1845-1847

Scope and Contents note

The committee reports and papers of the Committee on Public Buildings and Grounds document various subjects (29A–D17.1), arranged chronologically. There is also a docket volume, 26th Congress, 1st session, to 27th Congress, 3d session, and 29th Congress, 1st session (26A–D21.3); and another docket volume, 28th Congress, 1st session, to 29th Congress, 2d session (28A–D23.2).

Petitions and Memorials, Resolutions of State Legislatures, and Related Documents Which Were Referred to Committees 1845-1847

Scope and Contents note

The petitions and memorials, resolutions of state legislatures, and related documents which were referred to the Committee on Public Buildings and Grounds document various subjects (29A–G16.1).

Arrangement note

The subjects are arranged chronologically within each group, unless otherwise indicated.

Committee on Public Lands 1845-1847

Biographical/Historical note

The Committee on Public Lands was established in 1805 and given jurisdiction over matters relating to the lands of the United States. Jurisdiction of the committee included the sale and settlement

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of public lands, land claims, minerals and waters on public lands, irrigation, forest reserves and game living in them, national parks, conservation, land grants, foreign ownership of land, and administration of the lands of the public domain. The establishment of a land court and to provide for the judicial investigation and settlement of private land claims in certain states and territories was also part of the committee's jurisdiction. Under the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946, the committees on Indian Affairs; Territories, Mines and Mining; Irrigation and Reclamation; and Insular Affairs were abolished and their jurisdictions were combined with those of the Committee on Public Lands. On February 2, 1951, the name of the committee was changed to the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs to more accurately reflect the full scope of its jurisdiction.

Committee Reports and Papers 1845-1847

Scope and Contents note

The committee reports and papers of the Committee on Public Lands document claims (29A–D18.1); land grants for river and harbor improvements (29A–D18.2); sale of mineral lands of the United States (29A–D18.3); and various subjects (29A–D18.4). There is also a docket volume (29A–D18.5).

Arrangement note

The records are arranged chronologically within each group, except 29A–D18.1, which is arranged alphabetically, and 29A–D18.4, which is arranged by subject.

Petitions and Memorials, Resolutions of State Legislatures, and Related Documents Which Were Referred to Committees 1845-1847

Scope and Contents note

The petitions and memorials, resolutions of state legislatures, and related documents which were referred to the Committee on Public Lands document claims (29A–G17. 1), arranged alphabetically by petitioner; free land to actual settlers (29A–G17.2); land grants for the construction and improvement of rivers, harbors, and canals (29A–G17.3); land grants for the

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construction of roads and railroads (29A–G17.4); land grants for schools and other institutions (29A–G17.5); land offices and land districts (29A–G17.6); and various subjects (29A–G17.7).

Arrangement note

The subjects are arranged chronologically within each group, unless otherwise indicated.

Committee on Revolutionary Claims 1845-1847

Biographical/Historical note

The Committee on Revolutionary Claims was created in 1825 to handle part of the jurisdiction of the Pensions and Revolutionary War Claims Committee (1813-1825) which had been abolished. The committee had jurisdiction over all such petitions and matters on claims or demands originating in the Revolutionary War or arising therefrom, as shall be presented, or shall or may come in question and be referred to them by the House; and to report their opinion thereupon, together with such propositions for relief as to them shall seem expedient. The jurisdiction of the committee remained unchanged until the committee was abolished in 1873 and the jurisdiction assigned to the Committee on War Claims.

Committee Reports and Papers 1845-1847

Scope and Contents note

The committee reports and papers of the Committee on Revolutionary Claims document claims (29A–D19.1), arranged alphabetically; Virginia military bounty land warrants (29A–D19.2), arranged chronologically; and various subjects (29A–D19.3), arranged by subject.

Petitions and Memorials, Resolutions of State Legislatures, and Related Documents Which Were Referred to Committees 1845-1847

Scope and Contents note

Committees

The petitions and memorials, resolutions of state legislatures, and related documents which were referred to the Committee on Revolutionary Claims document various subjects (29A–G18.1).

Arrangement note

The records are arranged alphabetically by petitioner.

Committee on Revolutionary Pensions 1845-1847

Biographical/Historical note

The Committee on Revolutionary Pensions was created in 1831 to administer the part of the jurisdiction of the defunct Committee on Military Pensions (1825-1831) that included all matters respecting pensions for services in the Revolutionary War, other than invalid pensions. In 1867, in order to reduce the workload of the Invalid Pensions Committee, the committee's jurisdiction was expanded to include the pension matters of soldiers who fought in the War of 1812. The committee was abolished in 1880 and jurisdiction was referred to the Committee on Pensions.

Committee Reports and Papers 1845-1847

Scope and Contents note

The committee reports and papers of the Committee on Revolutionary Pensions include claims (29A–D20.1), arranged alphabetically. There is also a docket volume for the 1st session (29A–D20.2).

Petitions and Memorials, Resolutions of State Legislatures, and Related Documents Which Were Referred to Committees 1845-1847

Scope and Contents note

Committees

The petitions and memorials, resolutions of state legislatures, and related documents which were referred to the Committee on Revolutionary Pensions document various subjects (29A–G19.1).

Arrangement note

The records are arranged alphabetically by petitioner.

Committee on Roads and Canals 1845-1847

Biographical/Historical note

The Committee on Roads and Canals originated as a Select Committee on Roads and Canals in 1815. In 1831, the House established it as a standing committee. Jurisdiction of the committee included legislation on the survey, construction, and improvement of canals within the United States, as well as a canal across the Isthmus of Panama. The committee's jurisdiction also included improvements in river navigation, construction of bridges over rivers, maintenance of breakwaters and harbors associated with water routes, and the subscription of the United States to capital stock in canal companies. The committee reported proposals for the construction of roads, such as the Cumberland Road and a Columbus and Sandusky Turnpike, and methods of financing them, primarily through land-grants. The committee also reported legislation to aid the construction of railroads including the granting of charters to railroad companies. In 1869 the House approved a motion to change the name of the committee to the Committee on Railways and Canals.

Committee Reports and Papers 1845-1847

Scope and Contents note

The committee reports and papers of the Committee on Roads and Canals document various subjects (29A–D21.1).

Arrangement note

Committees

The records are arranged by subject.

Petitions and Memorials, Resolutions of State Legislatures, and Related Documents Which Were Referred to Committees 1845-1847

Scope and Contents note

The petitions and memorials, resolutions of state legislatures, and related documents which were referred to the Committee on Roads and Canals document bridges (29A–G20.1); canals (29A–G20.2); railroads (29A–G20.3); river and harbor surveys and improvements (29A–G20.4); and roads (29A–G20.5).

Arrangement note

The subjects are arranged chronologically within each group, unless otherwise indicated.

Committee on the Territories 1845-1847

Biographical/Historical note

The Committee on the Territories was established in 1825 to examine the legislative, civil, and criminal proceedings of the territories, and to devise and report to the House opinions necessary to secure the rights and privileges of residents and non-residents. The committee also reported legislation concerning the structure, status, and power of the territorial governments; statehood; powers of municipalities; boundary disputes; and on matters relating to public lands and homesteading, railroads, public works, public buildings, highways, taxation, bond issues, education, Indians, prohibition, and wildlife. The jurisdiction of the committee was later absorbed by the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs.

Petitions and Memorials, Resolutions of State Legislatures, and Related Documents Which Were Referred to Committees 1845-1847

Committees

Scope and Contents note

The petitions and memorials, resolutions of state legislatures, and related documents which were referred to the Committee on the Territories document the admission of Texas into the Union (29A–G21.1); amendment of the Constitution to remove involuntary servitude (29A–G21.2); Oregon Territory (29A–G21.3); and various subjects (29A–G21.4).

Arrangement note

The subjects are arranged chronologically within each group, unless otherwise indicated.

Committee on Ways and Means 1845-1847

Biographical/Historical note

The Committee on Ways and Means is the oldest standing committee in Congress. In 1795 another Select Committee on Ways and Means was formed, and was regularly reappointed in each session until it was defined as a standing committee in 1802. The jurisdiction of the committee includes customs revenue, collection districts, and ports of entry and delivery; reciprocal trade agreements; revenue measures generally; revenue measures relating to insular possessions; bonded debt of the United States, subject to the last sentence of clause 4(f); deposit of public monies; transportation of dutiable goods; tax exempt foundations and charitable trusts; and national social security (except health care and facilities programs that are supported from general revenues as opposed to payroll deductions and except work incentive programs).

Committee Reports and Papers 1845-1847

Scope and Contents note

The committee reports and papers of the Committee on Ways and Means document claims (29A–D22.1); foreign money (29A–D22.2); Attorney General's Office (29A–D22.3); House of Representatives (29A–D22.4); the Senate (29A–D22.5); papers from or about the Navy Department (29A–D22.6), the Post Office (29A–D22.7), the State Department (29A–D22.8),

Committees

the Treasury Department (29A–D22.9), and the War Department (29A–D22.10); tariff and tariff policy (29A–D22.11); and various subjects (29A–D22.12).

Arrangement note

The records are arranged chronologically within each group, except 29A–D22.1, which is arranged alphabetically, and 29A–D22.12, which is arranged by subject.

Petitions and Memorials, Resolutions of State Legislatures, and Related Documents Which Were Referred to Committees 1845-1847

Scope and Contents note

The petitions and memorials, resolutions of state legislatures, and related documents which were referred to the Committee on Ways and Means include claims (29A–G22.1), arranged alphabetically by petitioner; duties on various commodities (29A–G22.2), arranged alphabetically by commodity; Tariff Acts of 1842 and 1846 (29A–G22.3); and various subjects (29A–G22.4).

Arrangement note

The subjects are arranged chronologically within each group, unless otherwise indicated.

Select Committees 1845-1847

Committee Reports and Papers 1845-1847

Scope and Contents note

The committee reports and papers of select committees document various subjects (29A–D24.1).

Arrangement note

Committees

The records are arranged by subject.

Petitions and Memorials, Resolutions of State Legislatures, and Related Documents Which Were Referred to Committees 1845-1847

Scope and Contents note

The petitions and memorials, resolutions of state legislatures, and related documents which were referred to the select committees include a claim of Alvin C. Goell for improvement in a rocket machine (29A–G23.1).

Arrangement note

The subjects are arranged chronologically within each group, unless otherwise indicated.

Committee of the Whole House 1845-1847

Biographical/Historical note

The Committee of the Whole consists of the entire membership of the House and stems from a practice in the House of Commons, when the Speaker of the House of Commons was regarded as an agent of the King. The procedure allows the Speaker to remove himself/herself from the chairmanship in order for the body to elect its own chairman and debate matters without the normal restrictions of a House of Commons session.

Committee Reports and Papers 1845-1847

Scope and Contents note

The committee reports and papers of the Committee of the Whole House document various subjects (29A–D23.1), arranged by subject. There is also a volume of minutes, 29th Congress, 1st

President's Messages

session, to 32d Congress, 2d session (29A–D23.2); and a minute book, 26th Congress, 2d session, to 29th Congress, 1st session (26A–D31.1).

Petitions and Memorials, Resolutions of State Legislatures, and Related Documents Which Were Referred to Committees 1845-1847

Scope and Contents note

The petitions and memorials, resolutions of state legislatures, and related documents which were referred to the Committee of the Whole House document the abolition of slavery (29A–G24.1); aids to navigation (29A–G24.2); Mexican War (29A–G24.3); Tariff Acts of 1842 and 1846 (29A–G24.4); and various subjects (29A–G24.5).

Arrangement note

The subjects are arranged chronologically within each group, unless otherwise indicated.

President's Messages 1845-1847 3.0 Cubic feet (11 volumes)

Scope and Contents note

The president's messages include annual messages, with pertinent documents, 1845 and 1846; messages suggesting legislation or submitting specific information or documents; and messages transmitting reports and communications from executive departments (29A–E1).

Arrangement note

The records are arranged chronologically.

Reports and Communications Submitted to the House 1845-1847 10.0 Cubic feet (33 volumes)

Scope and Contents note

Petitions and Memorials, Resolutions of State Legislatures, and Related Do...

The reports and communications submitted to the House are from the Secretary of State (29A–F1), the Secretary of the Treasury (29A–F2), the Treasurer of the United States (29A–F3), the Secretary of War (29A–F4), the Secretary of the Navy (29A–F5), the Postmaster General (29A–F6), and others (29A–F7).

Arrangement note

The records are arranged chronologically within each group.

Petitions and Memorials, Resolutions of State Legislatures, and Related Documents Which Were Tabled or "Not Presented" 1845-1847 4.0 Cubic feet

Arrangement note

The records are arranged chronologically within each group.

Scope and Contents note

The petitions and memorials, resolutions of state legislatures, and related documents which were tabled or "not presented" are grouped by subject as follows: admission of Texas into the Union (29A–H1.1); chaplains in Congress (29A–H1.2); Mexican War (29A–H1.3); slavery (29A–H1.4); and various subjects (29A–H1.5).

Election Records 1845-1847

Scope and Contents note

The election records include the credentials of Representatives and Delegates (29A–J1).

Arrangement note

The records are arranged alphabetically by state or territory.

Other Records 1845-1847 1.0 Cubic feet

Records of the Office of the Clerk

Scope and Contents note

Other records include two volumes of roll calls (29A–K1); a volume containing “statements and correction of votes taken in yeas and nays” (29A–K2); two volumes of miscellaneous papers (29A–K3); and other papers (29A–K4).

Arrangement note

The records are arranged chronologically within each group.

Records of the Office of the Clerk 1845-1847**Index 1845-1847****Scope and Contents note**

The index is to documents ordered printed by the House, 28th Congress, 1st session, to 29th Congress, 1st session (28C–D1).

Record Books 1845-1847 0.83 Cubic feet**Scope and Contents note**

The record books include a bill book of House and Senate bills and resolutions (29C–A1); petitions book (29C–A2); record of orders of the day (29C–A3); register of committee reports (29C–A4); register of printed documents and reports (29C–A5); record of reports, by origin, made to the House (29C–A6); membership of House committees, 29th Congress, 1st session, to 31st Congress, 2d session (29C–A7); and abstracts of appropriations, 29th Congress, 1st session, to 30th Congress, 2d session (29C–A8). Also included is a record of “petitions and other papers delivered from the Office of the Clerk,” 27th Congress, 1st session, to 29th Congress, 1st session (27C–A3).

Records of Committee Reports

Records of Committee Reports 1845-1847 0.75 Cubic feet (3 volumes)

Scope and Contents note

Records of committee reports include transcribed reports of the Committee on Claims, 29th Congress, 1st session, to 33d Congress, 1st session (29C-B1); and printed reports of the Committee on Elections, 29th Congress, 1st session, to 32d Congress, 1st session (29C-B2); and the Committee on Revolutionary Claims, 29th Congress, 1st session, to 30th Congress, 2d session (29C-B3). Arranged chronologically within each group. For reports of the Committee on the Territories, see 19th Congress, 1st session, to 32d Congress, 2d session (19C-B4); the Committee on Naval Affairs, see 23d Congress, 1st session, to 29th Congress, 2d session (23C-B3); the Committee on Military Affairs, see 24th Congress, 1st session, to 32d Congress, 1st session (24C-B3); the Committee on Indian Affairs, see 25th Congress, 1st session, to 31st Congress, 2d session (25C-B2); the Committee on Ways and Means, see 25th Congress, 3d session, to 32d Congress, 2d session (25C-B3); the Committee on Invalid Pensions, see 26th Congress, 1st session, to 29th Congress, 1st session (26C-B3); the Committee on Private Land Claims, see 26th Congress, 2d session, to 32d Congress, 1st session (26C-B4); the Committee on Public Buildings and Grounds, see 28th Congress, 1st session, to 32d Congress, 1st session (26C-B2); the Committee on Revolutionary Pensions, see 26th Congress, 1st session, to 29th Congress, 2d session (26C-B5); the Committee on the Post Office and Post Roads, see 28th Congress, 1st session, to 32d Congress, 1st session (28C-B1); the Committee on Public Lands, see 28th Congress, 1st session, to 32d Congress, 1st session (28C-B2); and the Committee on Roads and Canals, see 28th Congress, 1st session, to 32d Congress, 1st session (28C-B3).

Other Records 1845-1847 0.6 Cubic feet

Scope and Contents note

Other records include a letter book of the Clerk's outgoing correspondence, 29th Congress, 1st session, to 32d Congress, 2d session (29C-C1), arranged chronologically; receipts for records withdrawn (29C-C2); and contracts and agreements for furnishing the House with coal, wood, envelopes, and other items (29C-C3), arranged by subject.