

**Records of the U.S. House of Representatives**  
**RG.233.31.House**  
**31st Congress**

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

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This finding aid was produced using the Archivists' Toolkit  
September 05, 2012  
Describing Archives: A Content Standard

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## Summary Information

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<b>Repository</b>	Center for Legislative Archives, National Archives and Records Administration
<b>Title</b>	House Records of the 31st Congress
<b>Date [inclusive]</b>	1849-1851
<b>Extent</b>	61.0 Linear feet
<b>Language</b>	English

## Administrative Information

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### 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

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## Collection Inventory

### **Records of Legislative Proceedings 1849-1851**

#### **Minute Book and Journals 1849-1851 2.0 Linear feet (7 volumes)**

##### **Scope and Contents note**

The minute book and journals series consists of a minute book, 1st and 2d sessions (31A–A1); legislative journal, 1st session (31A–A2) and 2d session (31A–A3); and a longhand index to the printed journal, 1st session (31A–A4).

##### **Arrangement note**

Each of the volumes is arranged chronologically.

#### **Bills and Resolutions Originating in the House 1849-1851 1.0 Linear feet**

##### **Scope and Contents note**

The bills and resolutions originating in the House consist of original House bills and bills upon which further action was taken (31A– B1); original House joint resolutions and joint resolutions upon which further action was taken (31A–B2); and 2 volumes of engrossed House bills and resolutions (31A–B3).

##### **Arrangement note**

The bills and resolutions are arranged numerically within each group.

#### **Bills Originating in the Senate and Considered in the House 1849-1851 0.167 Linear feet**

## Committees

**Scope and Contents note**

The bills (31A–C1) originated in the Senate and were considered in the House .

**Arrangement note**

The Senate bills are arranged numerically.

**Committees 1849-1851 44.0 Linear feet**

Committee on Accounts 1849-1851

**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 1849-1851

**Scope and Contents note**

The committee reports and papers of the Committee on Accounts include a volume of minutes, 31st Congress, 1st session, to 33d Congress, 1st session (31A–D1.1); and a volume containing a compilation of administrative authorizations for the Clerk's Office and other House officials, 1796–1841 (31A–D1.2).

**Committees**

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**Arrangement note**

The committee reports and papers are arranged alphabetically by subject, thereafter chronologically.

Committee on Agriculture 1849-1851

**Biographical/Historical note**

The Committee on Agriculture was created on May 3, 1820, to provide a forum for the interests of the large agricultural population of the country. The committee's jurisdiction includes adulteration of seeds, insect pests, and protection of birds and animals in forest reserves; agriculture generally; agricultural and industrial chemistry; agricultural colleges and experiment stations; agricultural economics and research; agricultural education extension services; agricultural production and marketing and stabilization of prices of agricultural products, and commodities (not including distribution outside of the United States); animal industry and diseases of animals; commodity exchanges; crop insurance and soil conservation; dairy industry; entomology and plant quarantine; extension of farm credit and farm security; inspection of livestock, poultry, meat products, and seafood and seafood products; and forestry in general and forest reserves other than those created from the public domain. The committee has oversight over the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA).

Committee reports and papers 1849-1851

**Scope and Contents note**

The committee reports and papers of the Committee on Agriculture include a report on the establishment of an Agricultural Bureau (31A–D2.1) and a docket volume (31A–D2.2).

**Arrangement note**

## Committees

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The committee reports and papers are arranged alphabetically by subject, thereafter chronologically.

Petitions and memorials, resolutions of state legislatures, and related documents 1849-1851

### **Scope and Contents note**

The petitions and memorials, resolutions of state legislatures, and related documents cover the establishment of a Bureau of Agriculture (31A–G1.1) and various subjects (31A–G1.2).

### **Arrangement note**

The petitions and memorials, resolutions of state legislatures, and related documents are arranged by subject, thereafter chronologically.

Committee on Claims 1849-1851

### **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.



## Committees

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### Committee reports and papers 1849-1851

#### **Scope and Contents note**

The committee reports and papers of the Committee on Claims include claims (31A–D3.1), arranged alphabetically; and a docket volume (31A–D3.2). Also included is a letter book, 25th Congress, 2d session, to 35th Congress, 1st session (25A–D3.6); and a volume of minutes, 29th Congress, 1st session, to 33d Congress, 2d session (29A–D2.3).

#### **Arrangement note**

The committee reports and papers are arranged alphabetically by subject, thereafter chronologically.

### Petitions and memorials, resolutions of state legislatures, and related documents 1849-1851

#### **Scope and Contents note**

The petitions and memorials and various documents consist of various subjects (31A–G2.1), arranged alphabetically by petitioner.

#### **Arrangement note**

The petitions and memorials, resolutions of state legislatures, and related documents are arranged alphabetically by petitioner.

### Committee on Commerce 1849-1851

#### **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

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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 1849-1851

#### **Scope and Contents note**

The committee reports and papers of the Committee on Commerce document beacons, lighthouses, and other aids to navigation (31A–D4.1); claims (31A–D4.2); and various subjects (31A–D4.3).

#### **Arrangement note**

The committee reports and papers are arranged chronologically within each group, except 31A–D4.2, which is arranged alphabetically.

### Petitions and memorials, resolutions of state legislatures, and related documents 1849-1851

#### **Scope and Contents note**

The petitions, memorials, and other documents of the Committee on Commerce document beacons, buoys, and other aids to navigation (31A–G3.1); breakwaters, piers, and other harbor improvements (31A–G3.2); claims (31A–G3.3), arranged alphabetically by petitioner; customhouses (31A–G3.4); marine hospitals (31A–G3.5); ports of entry and collection districts

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(31A–G3.6); rivers and harbors (31A–G3.7); security of life on board steam vessels (31A–G3.8); and various subjects (31A–G3.9).

### **Arrangement note**

The petitions and memorials, resolutions of state legislatures, and related documents are arranged alphabetically by subject, thereafter chronologically. Claims are arranged alphabetically by petitioner.

## Committee on the District of Columbia 1849-1851

### **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 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 1849-1851

### **Scope and Contents note**

The committee reports and papers of the Committee on the District of Columbia include various subjects (31A–D5.1).

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### **Arrangement note**

The committee reports and papers are arranged alphabetically by subject, thereafter chronologically.

Petitions and memorials, resolutions of state legislatures, and related documents 1849-1851

### **Scope and Contents note**

The petitions, memorials, and related documents of the Committee on the District of Columbia document slavery (31A–G4.1) and various subjects (31A–G4.2).

### **Arrangement note**

The petitions and memorials, resolutions of state legislatures, and related documents are arranged alphabetically by subject, thereafter chronologically.

Committee on Elections 1849-1851

### **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)**

## Committees

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- Miller, Daniel Fry, 1814-1895
- Morrison, George Washington, 1809-1888
- Perkins, Jared, 1793-1854
- Robbins, John, 1808-1880
- Thompson, William, 1813-1897

Committee reports and papers 1849-1851

### **Scope and Contents note**

The committee reports and papers of the Committee on Elections include the election case of Almon W. Babbitt, claiming a seat as Delegate from the so-called State of Deseret (31A–D6.1); admission of either W. S. Messervy or Hugh N. Smith as Delegate from New Mexico Territory (31A–D6.2); and the contested election cases of John S. Littel v. John Robbins, Jr., Pennsylvania (31A–D6.3), Daniel F. Miller v. William Thompson, Iowa (31A–D6.4), and Jared Perkins v. George W. Morrison, New Hampshire (31A–D6.5). Also included is a volume of minutes, 29th Congress, 1st session, to 31st Congress, 1st session (29A–D5.4).

### **Arrangement note**

The committee reports and papers are arranged alphabetically by subject.

Petitions and memorials, resolutions of state legislatures, and related documents 1849-1851

### **Scope and Contents note**

The petitions, memorials, and related documents of the Committee on Elections document various subjects (31A–G5.1).

### **Arrangement note**

The petitions, memorials, and related documents are arranged alphabetically by subject.

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### Committee on Foreign Affairs 1849-1851

#### **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 1849-1851

#### **Scope and Contents note**

The records of the Committee on Foreign Affairs Contain claims (31A–D7.1); duties levied on wine imported from Portugal (31A–D7.2); navigation of the St. Lawrence River (31A–D7.3); and various subjects (31A–D7.4).

#### **Arrangement note**

The committee reports and papers are arranged chronologically within each group, except 31A–D7.1, which is arranged alphabetically.

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Petitions and memorials, resolutions of state legislatures, and related documents 1849-1851

### **Scope and Contents note**

The petitions, memorials, and related documents of the Committee on Foreign Affairs consist of claims (31A–G6.1), arranged alphabetically by petitioner; peaceful settlement of international disputes (31A–G6.2); recognition of Liberia (31A–G6.3); and various subjects (31A–G6.4).

### **Arrangement note**

The petitions, memorials, and related documents of the Committee on Foreign Affairs are arranged alphabetically by subject.

Committee on Indian Affairs 1849-1851

### **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 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 1849-1851

**Committees**

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**Scope and Contents note**

The committee reports and papers of the Committee on Indian Affairs contain claims (31A–D8.1); contract with H. M. Rice for removing Winnebago Indians to Minnesota (31A–D8.2); regulating intercourse with Indian tribes (31A–D8.3); and various subjects (31A–D8.4). Arranged chronologically within each group, except 31A–D8.1, which is arranged alphabetically.

**Arrangement note**

The committee reports and papers are arranged alphabetically by subject, thereafter chronologically.

Petitions and memorials, resolutions of state legislatures, and related documents 1849-1851

**Scope and Contents note**

The petitions, memorials, and related documents of the Committee on Indian Affairs consist of claims (31A–G7.1), arranged alphabetically by petitioner; and various subjects (31A–G7.2).

**Arrangement note**

The petitions, memorials, and related documents are arranged alphabetically by subject.

Committee on Invalid Pensions 1849-1851

**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 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



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reporting general and special bills authorizing payments of pensions and bills for relief of soldiers of that war.

Committee reports and papers 1849-1851

### **Scope and Contents note**

The committee reports and papers of the Committee on Invalid Pensions consist of claims (31A–D9.1), arranged alphabetically. There is also a docket volume (31A–D9.2).

### **Arrangement note**

The committee reports and papers are arranged alphabetically by subject.

Petitions and memorials, resolutions of state legislatures, and related documents 1849-1851

### **Scope and Contents note**

The petitions, memorials, and related documents of the Committee on Invalid Pensions consist of various subjects (31A–G8.1).

### **Arrangement note**

The petitions, memorials, and related documents are arranged alphabetically by petitioner.

Committee on the Judiciary 1849-1851

### **Biographical/Historical note**

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

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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 1849-1851

### **Scope and Contents note**

The committee reports and papers of the Committee on the Judiciary consist of various subjects (31A–D10.1), arranged chronologically. There is also a docket volume (31A–D10.2).

### **Arrangement note**

The committee reports and papers are arranged alphabetically by subject, thereafter chronologically.

Petitions and memorials, resolutions of state legislatures, and related documents 1849-1851

### **Scope and Contents note**

The petitions, memorials, and related documents of the Committee on the Judiciary document additional compensation for the deputy and assistant marshals for taking the 7th Census (31A–G9.1); claims (31A–G9.2), arranged alphabetically by petitioner; district courts and judicial

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districts (31A–G9.3); office of chaplains in Congress and the armed forces (31A–G9.4); slavery (31A–G9.5); and various subjects (31A–G9.6).

### **Arrangement note**

The petitions, memorials, and related documents are arranged by subject, thereafter chronologically.

Committee on Manufactures 1849-1851

### **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).

Committee reports and papers 1849-1851

### **Scope and Contents note**

The committee reports and papers of the Committee on Manufactures consist of a docket volume, 31st Congress, 1st session, to 32d Congress, 1st session (31A–D11.1).

### **Arrangement note**

The committee reports and papers are arranged chronologically.

Petitions and memorials, resolutions of state legislatures, and related documents 1849-1851

### **Scope and Contents note**

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The petitions, memorials, and related documents of the Committee on Manufactures contain an amendment of the tariff laws (31A–G10.1) and duty on iron (31A–G10.2).

### **Arrangement note**

The petitions, memorials, and related documents are arranged by subject, thereafter chronologically.

## Committee on Military Affairs 1849-1851

### **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 1849-1851

### **Scope and Contents note**

The committee reports and papers of the Committee on Military Affairs contain claims (31A–D12.1); connecting Fort Mifflin with the mainland by means of dykes (31A–D12.2); fortifications at Dauphin Island and New Bedford (31A–D12.3); proposed site for an ordnance

## Committees

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depot in Oregon (31A–D12.4); and various subjects (31A–D12.5). There is also a docket volume (31A–D12.6).

### **Arrangement note**

The committee reports and papers are arranged chronologically within each group, except 31A–D12.1, which is arranged alphabetically.

Petitions and memorials, resolutions of state legislatures, and related documents 1849-1851

### **Scope and Contents note**

The petitions, memorials, and related documents of the Committee on Military Affairs contain an amendment of the bounty–land law (31A–G11.1); claims (31A–G11.2), arranged alphabetically by petitioner; and various subjects (31A–G11.3).

### **Arrangement note**

The petitions, memorials, and related documents are arranged by subject, thereafter chronologically.

Committee on Naval Affairs 1849-1851

### **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 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;

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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 1849-1851

### **Scope and Contents note**

The committee reports and papers of the Committee on Naval Affairs contain: claims (31A–D13.1); establishment of an American prime meridian (31A–D13.2); removal of the wreck of the frigate Missouri (31A–D13.3); surveys for railroad route from the Mississippi Valley to the Pacific Ocean (31A–D13.4); and various subjects (31A–D13.5).

### **Arrangement note**

The committee reports and papers are arranged chronologically within each group, except 31A–D13.1, which is arranged alphabetically.

Petitions and memorials, resolutions of state legislatures, and related documents 1849-1851

### **Scope and Contents note**

The petitions, memorials, and related documents of the Committee on Naval Affairs document changing the prime meridian (31A–G12.1); claims (31A–G12.2), arranged alphabetically by petitioner; flogging (31A–G12.3); inventions and experiments for the Navy (31A–G12.4); liquor ration (31A–G12.5); medical officers of the Navy (31A–G12.6); steamship lines (31A–G12.7); and various subjects (31A–G12.8).

### **Arrangement note**

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The petitions, memorials, and related documents are arranged chronologically within each group, except 31A–D13.1, which is arranged alphabetically.

### Committee on Patents 1849-1851

#### **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 1849-1851

##### **Scope and Contents note**

The committee reports and papers of the Committee on Patents contain extension and renewal of patents (31A–D14.1) and various subjects (31A–D14. 2).

##### **Arrangement note**

The committee reports and papers are arranged alphabetically, thereafter chronologically.

#### Petitions and memorials, resolutions of state legislatures, and related documents 1849-1851

##### **Scope and Contents note**

## Committees

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The petitions, memorials, and related documents of the Committee on Patents include an amendment of the patent laws (31A–G13.1); Blanchard’s self-directing machine (31A–G13.2); Parker’s water wheels (31A–G13.3); Woodworth’s planing machine (31A–G13.4); and various subjects (31A–G13.5).

### **Arrangement note**

The petitions, memorials, and related documents of the Committee on Patents are arranged alphabetically.

## Committee on the Post Office and Post Roads 1849-1851

### **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 1849-1851



**Committees**

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**Scope and Contents note**

The committee reports and papers of the Committee on Post Office and Post Roads contain claims (31A–D15.1), arranged alphabetically; and various subjects (31A–D15.2), arranged chronologically. There are also two docket volumes (31A–D15.3).

**Arrangement note**

The committee reports and papers are arranged alphabetically, thereafter chronologically.

Petitions and memorials, resolutions of state legislatures, and related documents 1849-1851

**Scope and Contents note**

The petitions, memorials, and related documents of the Committee on Post Office and Post Roads include claims (31A–G14.1), arranged alphabetically by petitioner; mail routes (31A–G14.2); postage and franking privileges (31A–G14.3); and various subjects (31A–G14.4).

**Arrangement note**

The petitions, memorials, and related documents are arranged alphabetically, thereafter chronologically.

Committee on Printing 1849-1851

**Biographical/Historical note**

The Committee on Printing was established in 1846 and its jurisdiction included all proposed legislation or orders involving printing. In practice this included the general supervision of the printing, management, and policies of the Government Printing Office (GPO). Jurisdiction also occasionally included the pay of its employees; the letting of contracts; procurement of suitable paper; control of the arrangement, style, bulk, and indexing of the "Congressional Record"; and supervision of the printing of the "Congressional Directory." The committee reported bills and resolutions regarding the printing, binding, and distribution of public documents, including the

## Committees

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annual reports of executive agencies, bureaus, and commissions; messages of the President; special scientific studies and reports; public health reports and statements; historical documentary publications such as the “Territorial Papers of the United States”; and hearings of congressional committees. The Committee on Printing acted as a standing committee of the House until 1947 when it was incorporated into the House Administration Committee.

Petitions and memorials, resolutions of state legislatures, and related documents 1849-1851

### **Scope and Contents note**

The petitions, memorials, and related documents of the Committee on Printing document various subjects (31A–G15.1).

### **Arrangement note**

The petitions, memorials, and related documents are arranged alphabetically, thereafter chronologically.

Committee on Private Land Claims 1849-1851

### **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 1849-1851

### **Scope and Contents note**

## Committees

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The committee reports and papers of the Committee on Private Land Claims document various subjects (31A–D16.1).

**Arrangement note**

The committee reports and papers are arranged alphabetically.

Petitions and memorials, resolutions of state legislatures, and related documents 1849-1851

**Scope and Contents note**

The petitions, memorials, and related documents of the Committee on Private Land Claims consist of claims (31A–G16.1).

**Arrangement note**

The petitions, memorials, and related documents are arranged alphabetically.

Committee on Public Buildings and Grounds 1849-1851

**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 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.

## Committees

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Committee reports and papers 1849-1951

### **Scope and Contents note**

The committee reports and papers of the Committee on Public Buildings and Grounds document various subjects (31A–D17.1).

### **Arrangement note**

The committee reports and papers are arranged chronologically.

Petitions and memorials, resolutions of state legislatures, and related documents 1849-1851

### **Scope and Contents note**

The petitions, memorials, and related documents of the Committee on Public Buildings and Grounds document various subjects (31A–G17.1).

### **Arrangement note**

The petitions, memorials, and related documents are arranged chronologically.

Committee on Public Lands 1849-1851

### **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 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,

## Committees

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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 1849-1851

### **Scope and Contents note**

The committee reports and papers of the Committee on Public Lands document various subjects (31A–D18.1); and include a docket volume (31A–D18.2).

### **Arrangement note**

The committee reports and papers are arranged chronologically.

Petitions and memorials, resolutions of state legislatures, and related documents 1849-1851

### **Scope and Contents note**

The petitions, memorials, and related documents of the Committee on Public Lands document bounty lands (31A–G18.1); claims (31A–G18.2), arranged alphabetically by petitioner; compensation of receivers and registers of land offices (31A–G18.3 grants of public lands to actual settlers (31A–G18.4); and offices (31A–G18.5); railroad lands (31A–G18.6); school lands (31A–G18.7); and various subjects (31A–G18.8).

### **Arrangement note**

The petitions, memorials, and related documents are arranged alphabetically.

Committee on Revolutionary Claims 1849-1851

**Committees**

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**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 1849-1851

**Scope and Contents note**

The committee reports and papers of the Committee on Revolutionary Claims contain claims (31A–D19.1) and a docket volume (31A–D19.2).

**Arrangement note**

The committee reports and papers are arranged alphabetically.

Petitions and memorials, resolutions of state legislatures, and related documents 1849-1851

**Scope and Contents note**

The petitions, memorials, and related documents of the Committee on Revolutionary Claims consist of various subjects (31A–G19.1).

**Arrangement note**

The petitions, memorials, and related documents are arranged alphabetically by petitioner.

## Committees

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### Committee on Revolutionary Pensions 1849-1851

#### **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 1849-1851

#### **Scope and Contents note**

The committee reports and papers of the Committee on Revolutionary Pensions consist of claims (31A–D20.1) and a docket volume (31A–D20.2).

#### **Arrangement note**

The committee reports and papers are arranged alphabetically.

### Petitions and memorials, resolutions of state legislatures, and related documents 1849-1851

#### **Scope and Contents note**

The petitions, memorials, and related documents of the Committee on Revolutionary Pensions include various subjects (31A–G20.1).

#### **Arrangement note**

The petitions, memorials, and related documents are arranged alphabetically by petitioner.

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### Committee on Roads and Canals 1849-1851

#### **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 1849-1851

##### **Scope and Contents note**

The committee reports and papers of the Committee on Roads and Canals document various subjects (31A–D21.1); and include a docket volume (31A–D21.2).

##### **Arrangement note**

The committee reports and papers are arranged chronologically.

#### Petitions and memorials, resolutions of state legislatures, and related documents 1849-1851

##### **Scope and Contents note**



## Committees

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The petitions, memorials, and related documents of the Committee on Roads and Canals document railroads (31A–G21.1) and various subjects (31A–G21.2).

### **Arrangement note**

The petitions, memorials, and related documents are arranged alphabetically, thereafter chronologically.

## Committee on Rules 1849-1851

### **Biographical/Historical note**

The Rules Committee was established as a select committee until 1880 when it was made a standing committee. Jurisdiction included the original establishment and revision of the rules of the House, an activity that required little attention after the first Congress because the rules of the previous Congress were usually adopted with few changes at the beginning of each new Congress. Further jurisdiction consisted of all proposed action on the rules and joint rules, control over the order of business on the floor of the House through the issuance of special orders or rules, and recesses and final adjournments of Congress.

## Committee reports and papers 1849-1851

### **Scope and Contents note**

The committee reports and papers of the Committee on Rules contain a report on the rules of the House (31A–D22.1).

### **Arrangement note**

The committee reports and papers only consist of one report.

## Petitions and memorials, resolutions of state legislatures, and related documents 1849-1851

## Committees

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### **Scope and Contents note**

The petitions, memorials, and related documents of the Committee on Rules document various subjects (31A–G22.1).

### **Arrangement note**

The petitions, memorials, and related documents are arranged alphabetically, thereafter chronologically.

Committee on the Territories 1849-1851

### **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.

Committee reports and papers 1849-1851

### **Scope and Contents note**

The committee reports and papers of the Committee on Territories document various subjects (31A–D23); and a docket volume (31A–D23.2).

### **Arrangement note**

The committee reports and papers are arranged chronologically.

## Committees

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Petitions and memorials, resolutions of state legislatures, and related documents 1849-1851

### **Scope and Contents note**

The petitions, memorials, and related documents of the Committee on Territories document slavery (31A–G23.1) and various subjects (31A–G23.2).

### **Arrangement note**

The petitions, memorials, and related documents are arranged alphabetically, thereafter chronologically.

Committee on Ways and Means 1849-1851

### **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 1849-1851

### **Scope and Contents note**

The committee reports and papers of the Committee on Ways and Means consist of documentation of the creation of the office of Assistant Secretary of State (31A–D24.1);

## Committees

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estimates from the Interior Department (31A–D24.2), the Navy Department (31A–D24.3), the Post Office (31A–D24.4), the State Department (31A–D24.5), the Treasury Department (31A–D24.6), and the War Department (31A–D24.7); and various subjects (31A–D24.8).

### **Arrangement note**

The committee reports and papers are arranged alphabetically, thereafter chronologically.

Petitions and memorials, resolutions on state legislatures, and related documents 1849-1851

### **Scope and Contents note**

The petitions, memorials, and related documents of the Committee on Ways and Means include an amendment of the tariff law of 1846 (31A–G24.1); claims (31A–G24.2), arranged alphabetically by petitioner; and various subjects (31A–G24.3).

### **Arrangement note**

The petitions, memorials, and related documents are arranged alphabetically, thereafter chronologically.

Select Committees 1849-1851

### **Arrangement note**

The select committees are arranged alphabetically.

Committee Reports and Papers 1849-1851

### **Scope and Contents note**

The committee reports and papers of select committees include: to Investigate the Charges Against the Hon. Joshua R. Giddings of Abstracting Papers From the Post Office (31A–D25.1);

## Committees

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to Investigate the Charges Against R. B. Harner, Doorkeeper of the House of Representatives (31A–D25.2); to Investigate the Conduct of Thomas Ewing, Secretary of the Interior, in Paying Certain Claims (31A–D25.3); to Investigate the Connection of the Hon. C. W. Crawford, Secretary of War, to the Galphin Claim (31A–D25.4); and various select committees (31A–D25.5), which are arranged by committee.

### Committee of the Whole House 1849-1851

#### **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 1849-1851

#### **Scope and Contents note**

The committee reports and papers for the Committee of the Whole House contains a volume of minutes, 29th Congress, 1st session, to 32d Congress, 2d session (29A–D23.2).

### Petitions and memorials, resolutions of state legislatures, and related documents 1849-1851

#### **Scope and Contents note**

The petitions, memorials, and related documents of the Committee of the Whole House document various subjects (31A–G25.1).

#### **Arrangement note**

## President's Messages

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The petitions, memorials, and related documents are arranged alphabetically, thereafter chronologically.

### **President's Messages 1849-1851 4.0 Linear feet (15 volumes)**

#### **Scope and Contents note**

The President's Messages consist of annual messages, with pertinent documents, 1849 and 1850; messages suggesting legislation or submitting specific information or documents; and messages transmitting reports and communications from executive departments (31A–E1).

#### **Arrangement note**

The President's Messages are arranged chronologically.

### **Reports and Communications Submitted to the House 1849-1851 6.0 Linear feet (28 volumes)**

#### **Scope and Contents note**

Reports and communications are from the Secretary of State (31A–F1), the Secretary of the Treasury (31A–F2), the Treasurer of the United States (31A–F3), the Secretary of War (31A–F4), the Secretary of the Navy (31A–F5), the Postmaster General (31A–F6), and the Secretary of the Interior (31A–F7).

#### **Arrangement note**

The reports and communications are arranged numerically within each group.

### **Originals of Printed House Miscellaneous Documents 1849-1851**

#### **Scope and Contents note**

Original miscellaneous documents, 1st session (31A–K1) and 2d session (31A–K2).

## Other Records

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### Arrangement note

The originals of printed House miscellaneous documents are arranged numerically within each group.

### Other Records 1849-1851 1.0 Linear feet

#### Scope and Contents note

The other records of the House consist of two volumes of roll calls (31A–L1), arranged chronologically; roll calls in the election of House officers (31A–L2), arranged by office, thereunder numerically; and various papers (31A–L3), arranged by subject.

### Office of the Clerk Records 1849-1851

#### Scope and Contents note

For transcribed or printed reports of the Committee on the Territories, see 19th Congress, 1st session, to 32d Congress, 2d session (19C–B4); 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 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 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); the Committee on Roads and Canals, see 28th Congress, 1st session, to 32d Congress, 1st session (28C–B3); the Committee on Claims, see 29th Congress, 1st session, to 33d Congress, 1st session (29C–B1); and the Committee on Elections, see 29th Congress, 1st session, to 32d Congress, 1st session (29C–B2).

### Record Books 1849-1851 1.0 Linear feet (12 volumes)

#### Scope and Contents note

## Other Records

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The record books contain a bill book of House and Senate bills and resolutions (31C–A1); petitions book (31C–A2); record of orders of the day (31C–A3); register of resolutions sent to the President, heads of departments, and committees (31C–A4); register of printed documents (31C–A5); record of books purchased under H. Res. of Sept. 28, 1850 (31C–A6); compilation of laws and resolutions authorizing the employment of clerks, messengers, and laborers in the Clerk’s Office together with a statement of the amount of compensation for each (31C–A7); record of the delivery of stationery and office supplies (31C–A8); newspaper book (31C–A9); and a record of referrals to the Committees on Engraving, Rules, Printing, and the Library (31C–A10). Also included is membership of House committees, 29th Congress, 1st session, to 31st Congress, 2d session (29C–A7).

### **Other Records 1849-1851 10 inches**

#### **Scope and Contents note**

Other records relate to the distribution of House documents and other publications (31C–B1), arranged alphabetically by recipient; and various papers (31C–B2), arranged by subject. For a letter book of outgoing correspondence, see 29th Congress, 1st session, to 32d Congress, 2d session (29C–C1), arranged chronologically.