

Records of the U.S. House of Representatives
RG.233.48.House
48th Congress

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

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Describing Archives: A Content Standard

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Summary Information

Repository	Center for Legislative Archives, National Archives and Records Administration
Title	House Records of the 48th Congress
Date [inclusive]	1883-1885
Extent	277.58 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 1883-1885

Minute Books and Journals 1883-1885 3.0 Cubic feet (10 volumes)

Scope and Contents note

The minute books and journals series includes a minute book, 1st session (48A-A1); legislative journal, 1st session (48A-A2); minute book, 2d session (48A-A3); and legislative journal, 2d session (48A-A4).

Bills and Resolutions Originating in the House 1883-1885

Scope and Contents note

The bills and resolutions originating in the House consist of thirty-three volumes of original House bills (48A-B1); one volume of original House Joint resolutions (48A-B2); original House concurrent resolutions (48A-B3); House simple resolutions, motions, and orders (48A-B4); desk copies of House bills passed (48A-B5); desk copies of House joint resolutions passed (48A-B6); and twelve volumes of engrossed House bills and resolutions (48A-B7).

Arrangement note

The records are arranged numerically within each group, except 48A-B3, which is arranged chronologically, and 48A-B4, which is arranged alphabetically by Congressman.

Bills and Resolutions Originating in the Senate and Considered in the House 1883-1885 0.41 Cubic feet

Accompanying Papers File

Scope and Contents note

The bills and resolutions originating in the Senate and considered in the House include Senate bills (48A–C1); and Senate joint resolutions (48A–C2).

Arrangement note

The records are arranged numerically within each group.

Accompanying Papers File 1883-1885 80.0 Cubic feet**Scope and Contents note**

The accompanying papers file includes papers relating to claims, pensions, and other forms of private relief together with papers relating to public matters (48A–D1).

Arrangement note

The records are arranged alphabetically by person, state, territory, or subject.

Committee Reports 1883-1885**Scope and Contents note**

The committee papers from the 48th Congress cover the 1st session (48A–E1); and 2d session (48A–E2).

Arrangement note

The records are arranged numerically within each group.

Committees 1883-1885

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Committee on Accounts 1883-1885

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 Papers 1883-1885

Scope and Contents note

The committee papers of the Committee on Accounts include administrative papers (48A–F1.1), arranged chronologically; and a report on the preparation of the alphabetical list of private claims (48A–F1.2). There is also a volume of minutes (48A–F2.3); a docket volume (48A–F1.4); and a statement of accounts before the committee, 47th Congress, 2d session, to 50th Congress, 2d session (47A–F1.2).

Petitions and Memorials, Resolutions of State Legislatures, and Related Documents Which Were Referred to Committees 1883-1885

Scope and Contents note

The petitions and memorials, resolutions of state legislatures, and related documents which were referred to the Committee on Accounts document various subjects (48A–H1.1).

Committees

Arrangement note

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

Committee on Agriculture 1883-1885

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 Papers 1883-1885

Scope and Contents note

The committee papers of the Committee on Agriculture include administrative papers (48A–F2.1); establishment of agricultural experimental stations (48A–F2.2); forestation (48A–F2.3); International Agricultural Exposition at Amsterdam (48A–F2.4); livestock diseases (48A–F2.5); Louisville Exposition (48A–F2.6); publication of agricultural reports (48A–F2.7); Signal Office of the War Department (48A–F2.8); silk culture (48A–F2.9); sugar production (48A–F2.10); and various subjects (48A–F2.11). There is also a docket volume, 48th Congress, 1st session, to 49th Congress, 1st session (48A–F2.12); a volume of minutes, 47th Congress, 1st session, to 49th

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Congress, 2d session (47A–F2.1); and another docket volume, 47th Congress and 49th Congress (47A–F2.2).

Arrangement note

The records are arranged chronologically within each group.

Petitions and Memorials, Resolutions of State Legislatures, and Related Documents Which Were Referred to Committees 1883-1885

Scope and Contents note

The petitions and memorials, resolutions of state legislatures, and related documents which were referred to the Committee on Agriculture document agricultural experiment stations (48A–H2.1); benefits to agriculture of the Signal Service weather reports (48A–H2.2); creation of a Department of Agriculture (48A–H2.3); diseases of livestock (48A–H2.4); sugar (48A–H2.5); World's Industrial and Cotton Centennial Exposition (48A–H2.6); and various subjects (48A–H12.7).

Arrangement note

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

Committee on Appropriations 1883-1885

Biographical/Historical note

The Committee on Appropriations was created in 1865. The Constitution of the United States specifies that "All bills for raising revenue shall originate in the House of Representatives, but the Senate may propose or concur with amendments as on other bills." The earliest appropriations bills were written by select committees on instruction from the Committee of the Whole House, and later ones by the standing Committee on Ways and Means. Increased demands for revenue and appropriations as a result of the Civil War combined to produce a tremendous workload for the

Committees

Ways and Means Committee. Today, the committee is tasked with the appropriation of revenue for the support of the Government; rescissions of appropriations contained in appropriation Acts; transfers of unexpended balances; and bills and joint resolutions reported by other committees that provide new entitlement authority as defined in the Congressional Budget Act of 1974.

Committee Papers 1883-1885

Scope and Contents note

The committee papers of the Committee on Appropriations include papers from or about executive departments or agencies: Civil Service Commission (48A–F3.1); Interior Department, general (48A–F3.2); Interior Department, census (48A–F3.3); Interior Department, Indian affairs (48A–F3.4); Interior Department, patents (48A–F3.5); Interior Department, pensions (48A–F3.6); Interior Department, public lands (48A–F3.7); Joint Commission for the Completion of the Washington Monument (48A–F3.8); Justice Department (48A–F3.9); National Board of Health (48A–F3.10); Navy Department (48A–F3.11); Post Office Department (48A–F3.12); Smithsonian Institution (48A–F3.13); State Department (48A–F3.14); Treasury Department (48A–F3.15); U.S. Fish Commission (48A–F3.16); and War Department (48A–F3.17); other papers document the Capitol (48A–F3.18); claims (48A–F3.19); District of Columbia (48A–F3.20); expenditures for the care, repair, and refurnishing of the Executive Mansion, 1883–84 (48A–F3.21); Federal courts (48A–F3.22); Greely relief expedition (48A–F3.23); House of Representatives (48A–F3.24); inquiry into use of carriages, wagons, and horses, and employees connected therewith in the departments (48A–F3.25); International Electrical Exhibition at Philadelphia (48A–F3.26); Office of the Public Printer (48A–F3.27); public buildings (48A–F3.28); Southern Exposition at Louisville (48A–F3.29); World’s Industrial and Cotton Centennial Exposition at New Orleans (48A–F3.30); and various subjects (48A–F3.31). There is also a volume of letterpress copies of outgoing correspondence, 1880–1889, 46th Congress, 2d session, to 51st Congress, 1st session (46A–F3.23).

Arrangement note

The records are arranged chronologically within each group.

Committees

Petitions and Memorials, Resolutions of State Legislatures, and Related Documents Which Were Referred to Committees 1883-1885

Scope and Contents note

The petitions and memorials, resolutions of state legislatures, and related documents which were referred to the Committee on Appropriations document education in Alaska (48A-H3.1); education of the Indian (48A-H3.2); harbor and coast defense (48A-H3.3); hospitals (48A-H3.4); improvement of United States Government property (48A-H3.5); increased pay for bailiffs of U. S. courts in New York (48A-H3.6); lighthouses and marine signals (48A-H3.7); orphanages and reformatories for children (48A-H3.8); public roads (48A-H3.9); Rand and Ordway collection of photographic negatives of the Civil War (48A-H3.10); rebate of tax on tobacco (48A-H3.11); relief for sufferers from floods and tornadoes (48A-H3.12); scientific and technical activities of the Government (48A-H3.13); transfer of functions of pension agencies to the Treasury Department (48A-H3.14); and various subjects (48A-H3.15).

Arrangement note

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

Committee on Banking and Currency 1883-1885

Biographical/Historical note

The Banking and Currency Committee was created in 1865 to relieve the Ways and Means Committee of part of its workload. Its jurisdiction included the chartering and oversight of national banks; the issue of national bank loans; the issue, taxation, and redemption of national bank notes; and the authorization of bond issues. It was responsible for legislation involving the deposit of public moneys, strengthening the public credit, monetary parity, and the issuance of silver certificates as currency. The investigation of the failure of state banks and the affairs of the Freedman's Savings and Trust Company were also part of its jurisdiction.

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Committee Papers 1883-1885

Scope and Contents note

The committee papers of the Committee on Banking and Currency include a volume of minutes, 45th Congress, 1st session, to 48th Congress, 2d session (45A–F4.2).

Committee on Claims 1883-1885

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 Papers 1883-1885

Scope and Contents note

The committee papers of the Committee on Claims include a volume of minutes (48A–F8.1); two docket volumes (48A–F8.2); and a volume of minutes, 47th Congress, 1st session, to 48th Congress, 1st session (47A–F5.1).

Committees

Petitions and Memorials, Resolutions of State Legislatures, and Related Documents Which Were Referred to Committees 1883-1885

Scope and Contents note

The petitions and memorials, resolutions of state legislatures, and related documents which were referred to the Committee on Claims document various subjects (48A–H4.1).

Arrangement note

The records are arranged alphabetically by petitioner.

Committee on Coinage, Weights, and Measures 1883-1885

Biographical/Historical note

In 1864 the Committee on a Uniform System of Coinage, Weights, and Measures was established, and in 1867, the name was shortened to the Committee on Coinage, Weights, and Measures. Its jurisdiction included the subjects listed in its name: coinage, weights, and measures. The coinage part of the jurisdiction referred to defining and fixing of standards of value and the regulation of coinage and exchange, including the coinage of silver and the purchase of bullion, the exchange of gold coins for gold bars, the subject of mutilated coins, and the coinage of souvenir and commemorative coins. The committee's jurisdiction also encompassed legislation related to mints and assay offices and the establishment of legal standards of value in the insular possessions. The weights and measures part of the jurisdiction included legislation to establish a national standardization bureau and the standardization of various weights, measures, packing, and grading techniques used in interstate commerce. The part of the jurisdiction of the Committee on Coinage, Weights, and Measures relating to stabilization of the currency was transferred to the Banking and Currency Committee in 1921. Under the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946, the coinage part of its jurisdiction was transferred to the Committee on Banking and Currency and the weights and measures jurisdiction was transferred to the Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce.

Committees

Committee Papers 1883-1885

Scope and Contents note

The committee papers of the Committee on Coinage, Weights, and Measures include a docket volume (48A–F5.1); and a volume of minutes, 45th Congress, 1st session, to 48th Congress, 2d session (45A–F6.1).

Petitions and Memorials, Resolutions of State Legislatures, and Related Documents Which Were Referred to Committees 1883-1885

Scope and Contents note

The petitions and memorials, resolutions of state legislatures, and related documents which were referred to the Committee on Coinage, Weights, and Measures include legislation to establish a metric system of weights and measures (48A–H5.1); redemption of the trade dollar and the suspension of the coinage of the silver dollar (48A–H5.2); and various subjects (48A–H5.3).

Arrangement note

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

Committee on Commerce 1883-1885

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;

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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 Papers 1883-1885

Scope and Contents note

The committee papers of the Committee on Commerce document the establishment of free commercial intercourse among nations of the Western Hemisphere and of an American customs union (48A–F6.1); importation of American hog products into Germany and France (48A–F6.2); interstate commerce bill (48A–F6.3); papers accompanying bills relating to aids to navigation (48A–F6.4); construction of bridges (48A–F6.5), and other subjects (48A–F6.6); peril of collisions at sea (48A–F6.7); Steamboat–Inspection Service (48A–F6.8); and various subjects (48A–F6.9).

Arrangement note

The records are arranged chronologically within each group, except 48A–F6, 48A–F6.5, and 48A–F6.6, which are arranged numerically by bill number.

Petitions and Memorials, Resolutions of State Legislatures, and Related Documents Which Were Referred to Committees 1883-1885

Scope and Contents note

The petitions and memorials, resolutions of state legislatures, and related documents which were referred to the Committee on Commerce document bridges (48A–H6.1); canal construction and river and harbor improvement (48A–H6.2); efficiency of the Revenue–Marine Service (48A–H6.3); legislation affecting shipping (48A–H6.4); legislation providing for “Snug Harbors” for

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disabled officers and seamen of the merchant marine (48A–H6.5); lighthouses, lightships, and buoys (48A–H6.6); ports (48A–H6.7); regulation of interstate commerce (48A–H6.8); relief of commercial travelers from taxes and licenses imposed by the states (48A–H6.9); retaliatory legislation against France and Germany for their embargo against American pork (48A–H6.10); transportation of livestock by rail (48A–H6.11); and various subjects (48A–H6.12).

Arrangement note

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

Committee on the District of Columbia 1883-1885

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 Papers 1883-1885

Scope and Contents note

Committees

The committee papers of the Committee on the District of Columbia document school affairs (48A–F7.1), arranged chronologically. There is also a docket volume (48A–F7.2).

Petitions and Memorials, Resolutions of State Legislatures, and Related Documents Which Were Referred to Committees 1883-1885

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 various subjects (48A–H7.1).

Arrangement note

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

Committee on Education 1883-1885

Biographical/Historical note

The first standing Committee on Education and Labor was established just after the Civil War on March 21, 1867. The committee's jurisdiction included all legislation concerning education and labor, such as agricultural colleges; the education of certain classes of citizens, such as freedmen and orphans; special educational needs in regions and areas of the country; other educational issues at the national level; the conditions of labor in the United States; labor organizations; competition in the labor market; and other labor-related topics. Many activities of the Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands (Freedmen's Bureau) fell under its jurisdiction. The committee functioned until 1883, when its jurisdiction was split between a committee on education and a committee on labor.

Petitions and Memorials, Resolutions of State Legislatures, and Related Documents Which Were Referred to Committees 1883-1885

Committees

Scope and Contents note

The petitions and memorials, resolutions of state legislatures, and related documents which were referred to the Committee on Education document aid to education (48A–H8.1).

Arrangement note

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

Committee on Elections 1883-1885

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.

Committee Papers 1883-1885

Scope and Contents note

The committee papers of the Committee on Elections include claims (48A–F9.1); contested election cases of Albert C. Janin v. Carleton Hunt, Louisiana (48A–F9.2); Alexander Botkin v. Martin Maginnis, Montana Territory (48A–F9.3); Benjamin T. Frederick v. James Wilson, Iowa (48A–F9.4); Charles T. O’Ferrall v. John Paul, Virginia (48A–F9.5); Francisco A. Manzanares v. Tranquilino Luna, New Mexico Territory (48A–F9.6); George A. Craig v. Charles M. Shelley, Alabama (48A–F9.7); George T. Garrison v. Robert M. Mayo, Virginia (48A–F9.8); James E. Campbell v. Henry L. Morey, Ohio (48A–F9.9); James H. Chalmers v. Van H. Manning, Mississippi (48A–F9.10); James H. McLean v. James O. Broadhead, Missouri (48A–F9.11); John

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E. Massey v. John S. Wise, Virginia (48A–F9.12); Jonathan H. Wallace v. William McKinley, Ohio (48A–F9.13); S. N. Wood v. S. R. Peters, Kansas (48A–F9.14); Walter R. Pool v. Thomas G. Skinner, North Carolina (48A–F9.15); and William E. English v. Stanton J. Peelle, Indiana (48A–F9.16); postponed election in the 6th Congressional District of Louisiana (48A–F9.17); and various subjects (48A–F9.18).

Arrangement note

The records are arranged by subject.

Controlled Access Headings

Personal Name(s)

- Botkin, Alexander Campbell, 1842-1905
- Broadhead, James O. (James Overton), 1819-1898
- Campbell, James E. (James Edwin), 1843-1924
- Chalmers, James R. (James Ronald), 1831-1898
- Craig, George Henry, 1845-1923
- English, William E. (William Eastin), 1850-1926
- Frederick, Benjamin Todd, 1834-1903
- Garrison, George Tankard, 1835-1889
- Hunt, Carleton, 1836-1921
- LUNA, Tranquilino, 1849-1892
- Maginnis, Martin, 1841-1919
- Manning, Vannoy Hartrog, 1861-1932
- Manzanares, Francisco Antonio, 1843-1904
- Mayo, Robert Murphy, 1836-1896
- McKinley, William, 1843-1901
- McLean, James Henry, 1829-1886
- Morey, Henry Lee, 1841-1902
- O’Ferrall, Charles T. (Charles Triplett), 1840-1905
- Paul, John, 1839-1901

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- Peelle, Stanton J. (Stanton Judkins), 1843-1928
- Peters, Samuel Ritter, 1842-1910
- Pool, Walter Freshwater, 1850-1883
- Shelley, Charles Miller, 1833-1907
- Skinner, Thomas Gregory, 1842-1907
- Wallace, Jonathan Hasson, 1824-1892
- Wilson, James, 1835-1920
- Wise, John S. (John Sergeant), 1846-1913

Committee on Enrolled Bills 1883-1885

Biographical/Historical note

The House standing Committee on Enrolled Bills was a result of the dissolution of the old Joint Committee on Enrolled Bills. The Joint Committee on Enrolled Bills was established on July 27, 1789, with the responsibility for the enrollment of engrossed bills. In 1876 the joint rules of Congress were allowed to lapse, and although the committee continued to be referred to as a "joint committee," it consisted thereafter of a separate committee in each house, each supervising the enrolling of bills originated in its own house. Under the Reorganization Act of 1946, the functions of the Committee on Enrolled Bills were incorporated into those of the House Administration Committee.

Committee Papers 1883-1885

Scope and Contents note

The committee papers of the Committee on Enrolled Bills include a list of committee members (48A–F10.1); and a volume relating to the enrollment of bills and resolutions (48A–F10.2).

Committee on Expenditures in the Department of Justice 1883-1885

Committees

Committee Papers 1883-1885

Scope and Contents note

The committee papers of the Committee on Expenditures in the Department of Justice include correspondence of James Longstreet, U.S. Marshal (48A-F11.1); investigation of the Department of Justice (48A-F11.2); hearings (48A-F11.3); and star route cases (48A-F11.4). There is also a volume of rough minutes (48A-F11.5); and a volume of minutes (48A-F11.6).

Arrangement note

The records are arranged chronologically within each group, except 48A-F11.3, which is arranged by subject.

Committee on Expenditures in the War Department 1883-1885

Committee Papers 1883-1885

Scope and Contents note

The committee papers of the Committee on Expenditures in the War Department document various subjects (48A-F12.1).

Arrangement note

The records are arranged chronologically.

Committee on Foreign Affairs 1883-1885

Biographical/Historical note

Committees

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 Papers 1883-1885

Scope and Contents note

The committee papers of the Committee on Foreign Affairs include administrative papers (48A-F13.1); charges against Philip Figyelmesy, U. S. consul at Demerara (48A-F13.2); Chinese immigration (48A-F13.3); claim of Helen M. Fiedler against the Government of Brazil (48A-F13.4); claim of W. J. Hale against the Argentine Republic (48A-F13.5); diplomatic representation at Belgrade and Bucharest (48A-F13.6); exposition at Budapest, 1885 (48A-F13.7); French and American Claims Commission (48A-F13.8); gift of land for Legation at Tokyo (48A-F13.9); General Casimir Pulaski (48A-F13.10); International Committee of the Red Cross (48A-F13.11); Nicaraguan canal (48A-F13.12); publication of papers relating to the Revolutionary War (48A-F13.13); publication in the United Irishman of New York, of a reward of \$10,000 for the body of the Prince of Wales, dead or alive (48A-F13.14); relations with Spain (48A-F13.15); suppression of the opium traffic (48A-F13.16); and various subjects (48A-F13.17). There is also a volume of minutes (48A-F13.18); and a docket volume (48A-F13.19).

Committees

Arrangement note

The records are arranged chronologically within each group.

Petitions and Memorials, Resolutions of State Legislatures, and Related Documents Which Were Referred to Committees 1883-1885

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 bridges to span boundary rivers between Maine and Canada (48A-H9.1); French spoliation claims (48A-H9.2); restriction of Chinese immigration (48A-H9.3); retaliatory legislation against France and Germany for embargo against American pork (48A-H9.4); and various subjects (48A-H9.5).

Arrangement note

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

Committee on Indian Affairs 1883-1885

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

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of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946. Its jurisdiction and responsibilities were transferred to the Committee on Public Lands.

Committee Papers 1883-1885

Scope and Contents note

The committee papers of the Committee on Indian Affairs include agreements with the Sioux Indians to grant a right-of-way to the Chicago, Milwaukee, and St. Paul Railroad through the Sioux Reservation in Dakota (48A-F14.1); Cheyenne and Arapaho Indian lands (48A-F14.2); claims (48A-F14.3); copies of executive communications (48A-F14.4); eastern band of North Carolina Cherokees (48A-F14.5); issue of land patents for the Kickapoo and Iowa Indians (48A-F14.6); Nez Percé Indians in Idaho Territory (48A-F14.7); Round Valley Indian Reservation in California (48A-F14.8); and various subjects (48A-F14.9). There is also a docket volume (48A-F14.10); and a volume of minutes, 46th Congress, 2d session, to 48th Congress, 2d session (46A-F16.5).

Arrangement note

The records are arranged chronologically within each group, except 48A-F14.3, which is arranged alphabetically by claimant.

Petitions and Memorials, Resolutions of State Legislatures, and Related Documents Which Were Referred to Committees 1883-1885

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 the Cherokee Indians of North Carolina (48A-H10.1); and various subjects (48A-H10.2).

Arrangement note

Committees

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

Committee on Invalid Pensions 1883-1885

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

Committee Papers 1883-1885

Scope and Contents note

The committee papers of the Committee on Invalid Pensions include a volume of minutes (48A–F15.1); six docket volumes, one of which contains entries for the 49th Congress, 1st session (48A–F15.2); and another volume of minutes, 47th Congress, 1st session, to 48th Congress, 1st session (47A–F14.2).

Petitions and Memorials, Resolutions of State Legislatures, and Related Documents Which Were Referred to Committees 1883-1885

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 the equalization of bounties and extension of “Arrearage of Pension Act” (48A–H11.1); increase of pensions for widows and

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dependent relatives (48A–H11.2); legislation to provide a minimum pension of \$8 a month to all honorably discharged Union veterans (48A–H11.3); legislation to provide pensions for ex-prisoners of war (48A–H11.4); liberalization of pensions for various disabilities (48A–H11.5); recommendations for general liberalization of the pension laws (48A–H11.6); transfer of the functions of the pension agencies to the Treasury Department (48A–H11.7); and various subjects (48A–H11.8).

Arrangement note

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

Committee on the Judiciary 1883-1885

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 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.

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Committee Papers 1883-1885**Scope and Contents note**

The committee papers of the Committee on the Judiciary include an amendment of the Constitution in regard to the issue of legal tender paper money (48A–F16.1); a report on the claims of the states of Maryland and Virginia for services furnished in the erection of the first–national public buildings in Washington (48A–F16.2); power of Congress to regulate interstate commerce (48A–F16.3); and various subjects (48A–F16.4). There is also a volume of minutes (48A–F16.5); and two docket volumes (48A–F16.6).

Arrangement note

The records are arranged chronologically within each group.

Petitions and Memorials, Resolutions of State Legislatures, and Related Documents Which Were Referred to Committees 1883-1885**Scope and Contents note**

The petitions and memorials, resolutions of state legislatures, and related documents which were referred to the Committee on the Judiciary include anti-Mormon legislation (48A–H12.1); compensation of U. S. circuit and district court judges (48A–H12.2); constitutional amendment to limit power of Congress (48A–H12.3); divorce laws (48A–H12.4); international copyright law (48A–H12.5); jurisdiction of U. S. circuit courts (48A–H12.6); liens obtained in federal courts (48A–H12.7); national bankruptcy law (48A–H12. 8); woman suffrage (48A–H12.9); and various subjects (48A–H12.10).

Arrangement note

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

Committees

Committee on Labor 1883-1885

Biographical/Historical note

The Committee on Labor was created in 1883, when its jurisdiction was removed from the old Education and Labor Committee and two separate committees were created. Despite the establishment of a committee devoted entirely to labor issues, little significant labor legislation was passed before the depression of the 1930s. The committee's jurisdiction included the wages and hours of labor; the arbitration of labor difficulties; the use of convict labor, alien labor, contract labor, and military labor in competition with "honest labor"; and the conditions of laborers employed in government service. The committee considered methods of directing the work of federal employees, including the use of the Taylor System of shop management and problems relating to child and woman labor; it also investigated such labor-related subjects as conditions in city slums and conditions of blacks in America and of saleswomen in the District of Columbia.

Committee Papers 1883-1885

Scope and Contents note

The committee papers of the Committee on Labor include administrative papers (48A-F17.1); 8-hour law (48A-F17.2); and migration and importation of aliens into the United States as laborers (48A-F17.3). There is also a combination minute and docket book (48A-F17.4).

Arrangement note

The records are arranged chronologically within each group.

Petitions and Memorials, Resolutions of State Legislatures, and Related Documents Which Were Referred to Committees 1883-1885

Scope and Contents note

Committees

The petitions and memorials, resolutions of state legislatures, and related documents which were referred to the Committee on Labor document the enforcement of the 8-hour law (48A-H13.1); prohibition of the importation of foreign contract laborers (48A-H13.2); and various subjects (48A-H13.3).

Arrangement note

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

Committee on Levees and Improvements of the Mississippi River 1883-1885

Committee Papers 1883-1885

Scope and Contents note

The committee papers of the Committee on Levees and Improvements of the Mississippi River include administrative papers (48A-F18.1); communications addressed to the chairman of the committee (48A-F18.2); and a docket volume, 45th Congress, 1st session, to 46th Congress, 1st session, and 48th Congress, 1st session (45A-F19.1).

Arrangement note

The records are arranged chronologically within each group.

Petitions and Memorials, Resolutions of State Legislatures, and Related Documents Which Were Referred to Committees 1883-1885

Scope and Contents note

The petitions and memorials, resolutions of state legislatures, and related documents which were referred to the Committee on Levees and Improvements of the Mississippi River document the improvement of the Mississippi and its tributaries (48A-H14.1).

Committees

Arrangement note

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

Committee on the Library 1883-1885

Biographical/Historical note

The standing Committee on the Library (1806-1946) was composed of the House members of the Joint Committee on the Library of Congress. Its jurisdiction included all legislation or matters touching on the Library of Congress; and statuary, pictures or works of art on the Capitol grounds. The records of the Joint Committee for recent Congresses have been in the custody of the Committee on House Administration.

Committee Papers 1883-1885

Scope and Contents note

The committee papers of the Committee on the Library include administrative papers (48A–F19.1); erection of a monument over the grave of Richard Henry Lee (48A–F19.2); interchange of public documents among various nations (48A–F19.3); Official Records of the War of the Rebellion (48A–F19.4); and Yorktown Centennial Commission (48A–F19.5). There is also a docket volume (48A–F19.6).

Arrangement note

The records are arranged chronologically within each group.

Petitions and Memorials, Resolutions of State Legislatures, and Related Documents Which Were Referred to Committees 1883-1885

Scope and Contents note

Committees

The petitions and memorials, resolutions of state legislatures, and related documents which were referred to the Committee on the Library document the purchase of a portrait of Major General George H. Thomas (48A–H15.1); and various subjects (48A–H15.2).

Arrangement note

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

Committee on Manufactures 1883-1885

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 Papers 1883-1885

Scope and Contents note

The committee papers of the Committee on Manufactures document the appointment of a commission to conduct tests and experiments on iron, steel, and other materials (48A–F20.1), arranged chronologically. There is also a docket volume (48A–F20. 2).

Petitions and Memorials, Resolutions of State Legislatures, and Related Documents Which Were Referred to Committees 1883-1885

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 (48A–H16.1).

Arrangement note

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

Committee on Military Affairs 1883-1885

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 Papers 1883-1885

Scope and Contents note

The committee papers of the Committee on Military Affairs document abandoned military reservations (48A–F21.1); American military instructors for Korea (48A–F21.2); attempted settlement of parts of the Oklahoma District, Indian Territory, by D. L. Payne and others (48A–F21.3); copies of executive communications (48A–F21.4); erection at the Presidio, San Francisco, of a headquarters building and quarters for the Military Division of the Pacific (48A–

Committees

F21.5); Haskell's multicharge gun (48A-F21.6); heavy ordnance for the Army (48A-F21.7); Marine hospital at Erie, Pennsylvania (48A-F21.8); transfer of officers of the Army to the list of supernumeraries (48A-F21.9); Military Reservation at Fort Sullivan, Maine (48A-F21.10); and various subjects (48A-F21.11). There are also two docket volumes (48A-F21.12); and a volume of minutes, 46th Congress, 1st session, to 48th Congress, 2d session (46A-F21.5).

Arrangement note

The records are arranged chronologically within each group.

Petitions and Memorials, Resolutions of State Legislatures, and Related Documents Which Were Referred to Committees 1883-1885

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 various subjects (48A-H17.1).

Arrangement note

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

Committee on the Militia 1883-1885

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

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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.

Committee Papers 1883-1885

Scope and Contents note

The committee papers of the Committee on the Militia include administrative papers (48A–F22.1); and legislation for the benefit of the National Guard (48A–F22.2).

Arrangement note

The records are arranged chronologically within each group.

Petitions and Memorials, Resolutions of State Legislatures, and Related Documents Which Were Referred to Committees 1883-1885

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 (48A–H18.1).

Arrangement note

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

Committee on Naval Affairs 1883-1885

Biographical/Historical note

Committees

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; 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 Papers 1883-1885

Scope and Contents note

The committee papers of the Committee on Naval Affairs document the Bureau of Equipment and Recruiting (48A-F23.1); case of Cadet-Midshipman H. L. Sturdivant (48A-F23.2); civilian employees in the Navy Department (48A-F23.3); correspondence of the chairman of the committee (48A-F23.4); establishment of an experimental model basin for testing ships (48A-F23.5); Greely relief expedition (48A-F23.6); investigation of the Jeannette Arctic expedition (48A-F23.7); John Ericsson's plans for the defense of harbors (48A-F23.8); life-saving apparatus (48A-F23.9); papers accompanying bills referred to the committee (48A-F23.10); proceedings of the general court-martial in the case of Capt. Alfred Hopkins, U. S. N. (48A-F23.11); purchase of the journals and papers of the Confederate vessel Shenandoah (48A-F23.12); relief of the officers and crew of the Monitor (48A-F23.13); and various subjects (48A-F23.14).

Arrangement note

The records are arranged chronologically within each group, except 48A-F23.10, which is arranged numerically by bill.

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Petitions and Memorials, Resolutions of State Legislatures, and Related Documents Which Were Referred to Committees 1883-1885

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 the adjudication of cases involving prize money (48A–H19.1); increase of naval strength (48A–H19.2); naval personnel policies (48A–H19.3); and various subjects (48A–H19.4).

Arrangement note

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

Committee on the Pacific Railroads 1883-1885

Biographical/Historical note

On March 2, 1865, the standing Committee on the Pacific Railroads was established and assigned jurisdiction over subjects relating railroads and telegraph lines that were being constructed from the Mississippi River and the coast of the Pacific Ocean. This was in response to a bill signed by President Abraham Lincoln on July 1, 1862, authorizing the construction of a transcontinental railroad between the Missouri River and California. By 1911, the committee had become largely inactive and it was terminated.

Committee Papers 1883-1885

Scope and Contents note

The committee papers of the Committee on the Pacific Railroads include administrative papers (48A–F24.1); Atchison, Topeka, and Santa Fe Railroad (48A–F24.2); mileage operated by the railroad companies to which the United States loaned funds to aid construction (48A–F24.3);

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transportation furnished for the government by various Pacific railroads (48A–F24.4); and various subjects (48A–F24.5). There is also a docket volume (48A–F24.6); and a volume of minutes, 45th Congress, 2d session, to 48th Congress, 2d session (45A–F24.5).

Arrangement note

The records are arranged by subject.

Petitions and Memorials, Resolutions of State Legislatures, and Related Documents Which Were Referred to Committees 1883-1885

Scope and Contents note

The petitions and memorials, resolutions of state legislatures, and related documents which were referred to the Committee on the Pacific Railroads document various subjects (48A–H20.1).

Arrangement note

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

Committee on Patents 1883-1885

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

Committees

by the original patent. Under the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946, the Judiciary Committee absorbed the jurisdiction of the Committee on Patents.

Committee Papers 1883-1885

Scope and Contents note

The committee papers of the Committee on Patents include a docket volume (48A-F25.1).

Petitions and Memorials, Resolutions of State Legislatures, and Related Documents Which Were Referred to Committees 1883-1885

Scope and Contents note

The petitions and memorials, resolutions of state legislatures, and related documents which were referred to the Committee on Patents include the amendment of the patent laws (48A-H21.1); extension of the patent on the steam-driven grain shovel (48A-H21.2); international copyright law (48A-H21.3); organization of the Patent Office into a separate and independent department (48A-H21.4); and reduction of patent fees (48A-H21.5).

Arrangement note

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

Committee on Pensions 1883-1885

Biographical/Historical note

The Committee on Pensions was created in 1880, replacing the Committee on Revolutionary Pensions with jurisdiction over subjects relating to the pensions of all the wars of the United States except the Civil War. On January 3, 1939 the jurisdiction of the committee was rewritten to include, the pensions of the Spanish-American War, Philippine Insurrection, and Boxer Rebellion, while all

Committees

other pension legislation was referred to the Committee on Invalid Pensions. The committee was abolished under the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946 and its jurisdiction transferred, for the most part, to the executive agencies.

Committee Papers 1883-1885

Scope and Contents note

The committee papers of the Committee on Pensions include three docket volumes (48A-F26.1); as well as minutes, 47th Congress, 1st session, to 48th Congress, 2d session (45A-F33.2 - see Committee on Revolutionary Pensions).

Petitions and Memorials, Resolutions of State Legislatures, and Related Documents Which Were Referred to Committees 1883-1885

Scope and Contents note

The petitions and memorials, resolutions of state legislatures, and related documents which were referred to the Committee on Pensions include the Mexican War pension bill (48A-H22.1), arranged alphabetically by state, and thereunder by county; and various subjects (48A-H22.2).

Arrangement note

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

Committee on the Post Office and Post Roads 1883-1885

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,

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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 Papers 1883-1885

Scope and Contents note

The committee papers of the Committee on the Post Office and Post Roads include envelope frauds in the Stamp Division of the Post Office Department (48A–F27.1).

Arrangement note

The records are arranged chronologically.

Committee on Printing 1883-1885

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

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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 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.

Committee Papers 1883-1885

Scope and Contents note

The committee papers of the Committee on Printing document the printing and distribution of public documents (48A–F28.1).

Arrangement note

The records are arranged chronologically.

Petitions and Memorials, Resolutions of State Legislatures, and Related Documents Which Were Referred to Committees 1883-1885

Scope and Contents note

The petitions and memorials, resolutions of state legislatures, and related documents which were referred to the Committee on Printing document various subjects (48A–H23.1).

Arrangement note

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

Committees

Committee on Private Land Claims 1883-1885

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 Papers 1883-1885

Scope and Contents note

The committee papers of the Committee on Private Land Claims include a docket volume (48A–F29.1); and a volume of minutes, 47th Congress, 1st session, to 48th Congress, 2d session (47A–F23.2).

Committee on Public Buildings and Grounds 1883-1885

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 Papers 1883-1885

Scope and Contents note

The committee papers of the Committee on Public Buildings and Grounds document the construction of various buildings for the use of the government (48A–F30.1), arranged by subject. There is also a volume of minutes (48A–F30.2); and a docket volume (48A–F30.3).

Petitions and Memorials, Resolutions of State Legislatures, and Related Documents Which Were Referred to Committees 1883-1885

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 (46A–H24.1).

Arrangement note

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

Committee on Public Lands 1883-1885

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

Committees

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 Papers 1883-1885

Scope and Contents note

The committee papers of the Committee on Public Lands include administrative papers (48A–F31.1); forfeiture of certain lands assigned to the New Orleans Pacific Railway Co. (48A–F31.2); forfeiture of certain lands granted to the Northern Pacific Railroad Co. (48A–F31.3); laws of the United States relating to the Union and Central Pacific Railroads (48A–F31.4); relief of certain preemption and homestead settlers in California (48A–F31.5); and various subjects (48A–F31.6). There is also a volume of minutes (48A–F31.7); and a docket volume (48A–F31.8).

Arrangement note

The records are arranged chronologically within each group.

Petitions and Memorials, Resolutions of State Legislatures, and Related Documents Which Were Referred to Committees 1883-1885

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 the disposal of government swamplands and shoal water lands (48A–H25.1); disposal of lands in the U. S. reservation at Hot Springs, Arkansas (48A–H25.2); forfeiture of the land grant of the Oregon Central Railroad Co. (48A–H25.3); grants of land to various railroads (48A–H25.4); homestead legislation (48A–H25.5);

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land settlement in Oklahoma (48A–H25.6); and land granted in aid for building a railroad from Marquette to Ontonagon in northern Michigan (48A–H25.7). Also included are lands purchased from the Leavenworth, Lawrence, and Galveston Railroad and from the Missouri, Kansas, and Texas Railway Co. (48A–H25.8); legislation to provide 160 acres of land for each honorably discharged Union veteran or his heirs (48A–H25.9); retention by the Northern Pacific Railroad Co. of land granted for a railroad from Lake Superior to Puget Sound (48A–H25.10); return of railroad indemnity land to the public domain for settlement (48A–H25.11); timber culture legislation (48A–H25.12); and various subjects (48A–H25.13).

Arrangement note

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

Committee on Railways and Canals 1883-1885

Biographical/Historical note

On April 9, 1869, the name of the Committee on Roads and Canals (1831-1869) was changed to the Committee on Railways and Canals. Its jurisdiction over matters relating to roads and canals, and the improvement of navigation of rivers remained the same. Over the years the committee's jurisdiction changed significantly. Responsibility for the improvement of navigation of rivers was removed in 1880 and given to the Committee on Commerce, because most bills relating to that subject were already being sent to that committee. The 1880 House rule also stated that the Committee on Railways and Canals had jurisdiction over "railways and canals other than Pacific railroads"; beginning in the 1880s, however, jurisdiction on most matters relating to railroads was taken over by the Committee on Commerce, renamed in 1892 the Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce. In 1927 the Committee on Railways and Canals was dissolved and its jurisdiction added to that of the Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce.

Committee Papers 1883-1885

Scope and Contents note

Committees

The committee papers of the Committee on Railways and Canals include a communication from the President of the United States regarding the cession of the Illinois and Michigan Canal to the United States by the State of Illinois (48A–F32.1). There is also a docket volume (48A–F32.2); and a volume of minutes, 47th Congress 1st session, to 48th Congress, 2d session (47A–F27.2).

Petitions and Memorials, Resolutions of State Legislatures, and Related Documents Which Were Referred to Committees 1883-1885

Scope and Contents note

The petitions and memorials, resolutions of state legislatures, and related documents which were referred to the Committee on Railways and Canals document the connecting Lake Michigan and the navigable waters of the Illinois River with Lake Erie (48A–H26.1); construction of the Hennepin Canal connecting the Illinois and Mississippi Rivers (48A–H26. 2); right-of-way through the Indian Territory for the Texas, Oklahoma, and Kansas Railway (48A–H26.3); and various subjects (48A–H26.4).

Arrangement note

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

Committee on Revision of the Laws 1883-1885

Biographical/Historical note

The Committee on Revision of Laws was established in 1868 after having been a select committee for several years and replaced the old Committee on Revisal and Unfinished Business (1795-1868). Jurisdiction of the committee included the revision and codification of the statutes of the United States. The committee reported bills providing for the revision and codification of the general and permanent laws of the United States. Occasionally, bills concerning changes in law rather than revision and codification were referred to the committee, such as the transfer of certain bureaus from one executive department to another.

Committees

Committee Papers 1883-1885

Scope and Contents note

The committee papers of the Committee on Revision of Laws document various subjects (48A–F33.1), arranged numerically by bill. There is also a docket volume (48A–F33.2).

Petitions and Memorials, Resolutions of State Legislatures, and Related Documents Which Were Referred to Committees 1883-1885

Scope and Contents note

The petitions and memorials, resolutions of state legislatures, and related documents which were referred to the Committee on Revision of Laws document various subjects (48A–H27.1).

Arrangement note

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

Committee on Rivers and Harbors 1883-1885

Biographical/Historical note

The Committee on Rivers and Harbors was authorized early in the 48th Congress in December 1883. The committee was given jurisdiction over subjects relating to the improvements of rivers and harbors and had the responsibility of reporting the river and harbor bill, which previously had been handled by the Committee on Commerce. The committee's jurisdiction changed over time. When the Committee on Levees and Improvements of the Mississippi River was terminated in 1911, its responsibilities were transferred to the Committee on Rivers and Harbors. The subject of flood control was removed from the committee's authority in 1916 and assigned to the new Committee on Flood Control. After 1920 the committee could no longer report appropriation bills for rivers and harbors and its legislative authority was limited to reporting only bills that authorized improvements

Committees

to rivers and harbors. These shifts in authority still left many subjects within the jurisdiction of the committee. These included improvement of watersheds and dams thereon, construction of locks on navigable streams, construction and maintenance of equipment for river improvements, erosion of banks on navigable streams, pollution of navigable waters, intrastate inland waterways, and navigation of international boundary streams. The committee was terminated early in the 80th Congress on January 3, 1947. Its successor was the Committee on Public Works.

Committee Papers 1883-1885

Scope and Contents note

The committee papers of the Committee on Rivers and Harbors include a hearing relating to the improvement of the Galveston Harbor (48A–F34.1). There is also a volume of minutes, 48th Congress, 1st session, to 49th Congress, 2d session (48A–F34.2); and two docket volumes (48A–F34.3).

Petitions and Memorials, Resolutions of State Legislatures, and Related Documents Which Were Referred to Committees 1883-1885

Arrangement note

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

Scope and Contents note

The petitions and memorials, resolutions of state legislatures, and related documents which were referred to the Committee on Rivers and Harbors document the improvement of the Harlem River (48A–H28.1); and improvement of the Mississippi River (48A–H28.2).

Committee on Rules 1883-1885

Biographical/Historical note

Committees

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 Papers 1883-1885

Scope and Contents note

The committee papers of the Committee on Rules document various subjects (48A–E35.1), arranged chronologically. There is also a docket volume, 48th Congress, 1st session, to 49th Congress, 2d session (48A–F35.2).

Committee on the Territories 1883-1885

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 Papers 1883-1885

Committees

Scope and Contents note

The committee papers of the Committee on the Territories include a docket volume (48A–F48.1).

Committee on War Claims 1883-1885

Biographical/Historical note

The Committee on War Claims was created in 1873 to replace the Committee on Revolutionary Claims (1825-1873). Jurisdiction of the committee was defined to include claims arising from Indian hostilities and included claims for property seized for use by the U.S. Army and Navy from citizens in the Southern States who remained loyal to the Union during the Civil War. Jurisdiction was expanded to include "claims arising from any war in which the United States has been engaged." The records include those of the Southern Claims Commission. Although most of the work of the committee involved reporting private legislation for the settlement of claims of individuals and corporations, on occasion it reported on the war claims of states and territories against the United States, as well as general legislation that provided for the adjudication of certain classes of claims. This committee, like the Claims Committee, had authority to report bills making appropriations for the payment of the obligations within its jurisdiction. Under the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946 the committee was abolished and its jurisdiction transferred to the Judiciary Committee and the executive agencies.

Petitions and Memorials, Resolutions of State Legislatures, and Related Documents Which Were Referred to Committees 1883-1885

Scope and Contents note

The petitions and memorials, resolutions of state legislatures, and related documents which were referred to the Committee on War Claims document various subjects (48A–H29.1).

Arrangement note

Committees

The records are arranged alphabetically by petitioner.

Committee on Ways and Means 1883-1885**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 Papers 1883-1885**Scope and Contents note**

The committee papers of the Committee on Ways and Means include administrative papers (48A-F36.1); Alaska Commercial Co. (48A-F36.2); claims (48A-F36.3); duty on currants (48A-F36.4), wool (48A-F36.5), and works of art (48A-F36.6); papers relating to bills (48A-F36.7); refund of excessive duties levied by overvaluation of Austrian paper florins (48A-F36.8); Stewart College, Clarksville, Tennessee (48A-F36.9); hearings (48A-F36.10); treaty of commerce with Mexico (48A-F36.11); Western Union Railroad Co. (48A-F36.12); and various subjects (48A-F36.13). There is also a volume of minutes (48A-F36. 14); and two docket volumes (48A-F36.15).

Arrangement note

Committees

The records are arranged chronologically within each group, except 48A–F36.3, which is arranged alphabetically, and 48A–F36.7 and 48A–F36.10, which are arranged numerically by bill.

Petitions and Memorials, Resolutions of State Legislatures, and Related Documents Which Were Referred to Committees 1883-1885

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 document beer (48A–H30.1); books, periodicals, newspapers, and scientific apparatus (48A–H30.2); flax and linseed oil (48A–H30.3); general recommendations concerning the tariff (48A–H30.4); glass and glass products, and earthenware and china (48A–H30.5); grapes and grape products (48A–H30.6); internal revenue taxes (48A–H30.7); legislation to refund the bonded debt of the United States (48A–H30.8); lumber (48A–H30.9); medicinal alcohol (48A–H30.10); metals and metal products (48A–H30.11); reciprocity treaties (48A–H30.12); rice (48A–H30.13); sugar (48A–H30.14); tobacco and cigars (48A–H30.15); vinegar (48A–H30.16); whiskey in bond (48A–H30.17); wool (48A–H30.18); works of art (48A–H30.19); and various subjects (48A–H30.20).

Arrangement note

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

Select Committees 1883-1885

Select Committee on the Alcoholic Liquor Traffic 1883-1885

Biographical/Historical note

The Select Committee on Alcoholic Liquor Traffic was made a standing committee in 1893 (53d Congress) after having been a select committee since 1879 (46th Congress). Its jurisdiction

Committees

covered subjects relating to alcoholic liquor traffic, including the manufacture, distribution, and sale of intoxicating beverages in the states, territories, and government-owned buildings as well as land such as the District of Columbia, Indian reservations, and military bases.

Committee Papers 1883-1885

Scope and Contents note

The committee papers of the Select Committee on the Alcoholic Liquor Traffic document various subjects (48A–F37.1), arranged chronologically. There is also a docket volume, 48th Congress, 1st session, to 50th Congress, 1st session (48A–F37.2).

Petitions and Memorials, Resolutions of State Legislatures, and Related Documents Which Were Referred to Committees 1883-1885

Scope and Contents note

The petitions and memorials, resolutions of state legislatures, and related documents which were referred to the Select Committee on the Alcoholic Liquor Traffic document a commission of inquiry concerning the liquor traffic (48A–H31.1); and prohibition of the manufacture and sale of alcoholic beverages (48A–H31.2).

Arrangement note

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

Select Committee on American Shipbuilding and Shipowning Interests 1883-1885

Biographical/Historical note

Committees

The Select Committee on American Shipbuilding and Shipowning Interests was established on December 19, 1883. On December 21, 1887, the select committee was replaced with the Committee on Merchant Marine and Fisheries.

Committee Papers 1883-1885

Scope and Contents note

The committee papers of the Select Committee on American Shipbuilding and Shipowning Interests document various subjects (48A–F38.1).

Arrangement note

The records are arranged chronologically.

Petitions and Memorials, Resolutions of State Legislatures, and Related Documents Which Were Referred to Committees 1883-1885

Scope and Contents note

The petitions and memorials, resolutions of state legislatures, and related documents which were referred to the Select Committee on American Shipbuilding and Shipowning Interests document various subjects (48A–H32.1).

Arrangement note

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

Select Committee to Investigate Charges Against H. V. Boynton, Washington Correspondent of the Cincinnati "Commercial-Gazette" 1883-1885

Scope and Contents note

Committees

The committee papers of the Select Committee to Investigate Charges Against H. V. Boynton, Washington Correspondent of the Cincinnati "Commercial-Gazette" include hearings (48A–F39.1).

Arrangement note

The records are arranged chronologically.

Select Committee on the Census 1883-1885

Scope and Contents note

The committee papers of the Select Committee on the Census document various subjects (48A–H33.1).

Select Committee to Investigate Charges of Violating the Privileges of the House by Honorable W. H. English 1883-1885

Scope and Contents note

The committee papers of the Select Committee to Investigate Charges of Violating the Privileges of the House by Honorable W. H. English include hearings (48A–F41.1).

Arrangement note

The records are arranged chronologically.

Select Committee on Ordnance and Gunnery 1883-1885

Scope and Contents note

Committees

The committee papers of the Select Committee on Ordnance and Gunnery document various subjects (48A–F42.1), arranged by subject. There is also a volume of minutes (48A–F42.2).

Select Committee on Payment of Pensions, Bounty, and Back Pay 1883-1885

Committee Papers 1883-1885

Scope and Contents note

The committee papers of the Select Committee on Payment of Pensions, Bounty, and Back Pay document various subjects (48A–F43.1).

Arrangement note

The records are arranged by subject.

Petitions and Memorials, Resolutions of State Legislatures, and Related Documents Which Were Referred to Committees 1883-1885

Scope and Contents note

The petitions and memorials, resolutions of state legislatures, and related documents which were referred to the Select Committee on Payment of Pensions, Bounty, and Back Pay document compensation of Civil War veterans for loss of income resulting from wartime inflation (48A–H34.1); equalization of bounties (48A–H34.2); land grants for Union veterans (48A–H34.3); legislation for the benefit of Union veterans who were prisoners of war (48A–H34.4); pensions for all honorably discharged Union veterans (48A–H34.5); pensions for disabled veterans (48A–H34. 6); recommendations for passage of bills affecting veterans' welfare (48A–H34.7); revision of pension rates for commissioned officers of volunteers (48A–H34.8); widows' pensions (48A–H34.9); and various subjects (48A–H34.10).

Arrangement note

Committees

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

Select Committee on Law Respecting the Election of President and Vice President 1883-1885

Committee Papers 1883-1885

Scope and Contents note

The committee papers of the Select Committee on Law Respecting the Election of President and Vice President document various subjects (48A–F44.1).

Arrangement note

The records are arranged by subject.

Select Committee on Public Health 1883-1885

Committee Papers 1883-1885

Scope and Contents note

The committee papers of the Select Committee on Public Health document various subjects (48A–F45.1).

Arrangement note

The records are arranged chronologically.

Petitions and Memorials, Resolutions of State Legislatures, and Related Documents Which Were Referred to Committees 1883-1885

Originals of Printed House Documents

Scope and Contents note

The petitions and memorials, resolutions of state legislatures, and related documents which were referred to the Select Committee on Public Health document various subjects (48A–H35.1).

Arrangement note

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

Originals of Printed House Documents 70.0 Cubic feet (251 volumes)**Scope and Contents note**

The originals of printed House documents include original executive documents, 1st session (48A–G1) and 2d session (48A–G2); and original miscellaneous documents, 1st session (48A–G3) and 2d session (48A–G4).

Arrangement note

The records are arranged numerically within each group.

Election Records 1883-1885 2.0 Cubic feet**Scope and Contents note**

The election records include credentials of Representatives and Delegates (48A–J1).

Arrangement note

The records are arranged alphabetically by state or territory.

Other Records 1883-1885 1.0 Cubic feet

Records of Impeachment Proceedings

Scope and Contents note

Other records include various papers (48A-K1).

Arrangement note

The records are arranged by subject.

Records of Impeachment Proceedings 1883-1885**Impeachment of Samuel B. Axtell 1883-1885 0.16 Cubic feet****Scope and Contents note**

The papers pertain to impeachment proceedings against Samuel B. Axtell, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of the Territory of New Mexico (48B-A1).

Records of the Office of the Clerk 1883-1885**Record Books 1883-1885 2.0 Cubic feet (13 volumes)****Scope and Contents note**

The record books include a House bill book with index (48C-A1); House resolution book (48C-A2); Senate bill and resolution book (48C-A3); individual ledger (48C-A4); register of papers from committees, 48th Congress, to 51st Congress (48C-A5); register of papers referred to committees, 48th Congress, to 52d Congress (48C-A6); register of papers sent to the Senate, 48th Congress to 51st Congress (48C-A7); register of papers received from the Senate, 48th Congress, to 51st Congress (48C-A8); register of committee reports (48C-A9); register of executive documents (48C-A10); and a register of miscellaneous documents (48C-A11). Also included is a record of leaves of absence granted House Members, 47th Congress, 1st session, to 49th Congress, 2d session (47C-A8).

Other Records

Other Records 1883-1885 0.02 Cubic feet

Scope and Contents note

Other records include various papers (48C-B1).

Arrangement note

The records are arranged by subject.