

**Records of the U.S. House of Representatives**  
**RG.233.47.House**  
**47th Congress**

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

---

This finding aid was produced using the Archivists' Toolkit  
September 07, 2012  
Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Center for Legislative Archives, National Archives and Records Administration  
700 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Washington, DC, 20408  
202-357-5350  
[legislative.archives@nara.gov](mailto:legislative.archives@nara.gov)

## Table of Contents

---

<u>Summary Information</u> .....	3
<u>Administrative Information</u> .....	4
<u>Collection Inventory</u> .....	5
<u>Records of Legislative Proceedings</u> .....	5
<u>Records of the Office of the Clerk</u> .....	46

## Summary Information

---

<b>Repository</b>	Center for Legislative Archives, National Archives and Records Administration
<b>Title</b>	House Records of the 47th Congress
<b>Date [inclusive]</b>	1881-1883
<b>Extent</b>	234.83 Cubic feet
<b>Language</b>	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.

## Collection Inventory

### **Records of Legislative Proceedings 1881-1883**

#### **Minute Books and Journals 1881-1883 3.0 Cubic feet (13 volumes)**

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

The minute books and journals series includes a minute book, 1st session (47A-A1); legislative journal, 1st session (47A-A2); minute book, 2d session (47A-A3); and legislative journal, 2d session (47A-A4).

#### **Bills and Resolutions Originating in the House 1881-1883 17.0 Cubic feet**

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

The bills and resolutions originating in the House include thirty-one volumes of original House bills and joint resolutions (47A-B1); original House concurrent resolutions (47A-B2); House simple resolutions, motions, and orders (47A-B3); desk copies of House bills passed (47A-B4); desk copies of House joint resolutions passed (47A-B5); and eight volumes of engrossed House bills and resolutions (47A-B6).

##### **Arrangement note**

The records are arranged numerically within each group, except 47A-B2, which is arranged chronologically, and 47A-B3, which is arranged alphabetically by Congressman.

#### **Bills and Resolutions Originating in the Senate and Considered in the House 1881-1883 0.33 Cubic feet**

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

## Accompanying Papers File

---

The bills and resolutions originating in the Senate and considered in the House include Senate bills (47A–C1); and House amendments to Senate joint resolutions (47A–C2).

### Arrangement note

The records are arranged numerically within each group.

## Accompanying Papers File 1881-1883 77.0 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 (47A–D1).

### Arrangement note

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

## Committee Reports 1881-1883 5.0 Cubic feet (23 volumes)

### Scope and Contents note

The committee reports for the 47th Congress cover the 1st session (47A–E1); and 2d session (47A–E2).

### Arrangement note

The records are arranged numerically within each group.

## Committees 1881-1883

Committee on Accounts 1881-1883

**Committees**

---

**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 1881-1883

**Scope and Contents note**

The committee papers of the Committee on Accounts document various subjects (47A-F1.1), arranged by subject; a statement of accounts before the committee, 47th Congress, 2d session, to 50th Congress, 2d session (47A-F1.2); additional statements of accounts before the committee, 46th Congress, 1st session, to 47th Congress, 2d session (46A-F1.2); a volume of minutes, 41st Congress, 1st session, to 47th Congress, 1st session (41A-F1.3); and a docket volume, 45th Congress, 1st session, to 47th Congress, 2d session (45A-F1.2).

Petitions and Memorials, Resolutions of State Legislatures, and Related Documents Which Were Referred to Committees 1881-1883

**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 (47A-H1.1).

**Arrangement note**

## Committees

---

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

### Committee on Agriculture 1881-1883

#### **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 1881-1883

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

The committee papers of the Committee on Agriculture include a volume of minutes, 47th Congress, 1st session, to 49th Congress, 2d session (47A–F2.1); and a docket volume, 47th Congress and 49th Congress (47A–F2.2).

Petitions and Memorials, Resolutions of State Legislatures, and Related Documents Which Were Referred to Committees 1881-1883

#### **Arrangement note**

**Committees**

---

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 Agriculture document various subjects (47A–H2.1).

**Committee on Appropriations 1881-1883****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 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 1881-1883****Scope and Contents note**

The committee papers of the Committee on Appropriations document claims (47A–F3.1); Clerk of the House of Representatives (47A–F3.2); Court of Claims (47A–F3.3); District of Columbia (47A–F3.4); Library of Congress (47A–F3.5); papers from or about executive departments: Agriculture (47A–F3.6), Interior (47A–F3.7), Justice (47A–F3.8), Navy (47A–F3.9), Post Office (47A–F3.10), State (47A–F3.11), Treasury (47A–F3.12), and War (47A–F3.13); Public Printer (47A–F3.14); Smithsonian Institution (47A–F3.15); Supreme Court (47A–F3.16); Territories (47A–F3.17); U.S. Fish Commission (47A–F3.18); Washington Monument (47A–F3.19);

**Committees**

---

yellow fever epidemic in Florida and Texas (47A–F3.20); Yorktown Centennial (47A–F3.21); and various subjects (47A–F3.22). 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, except 47A–F3.1, which is arranged alphabetically.

Petitions and Memorials, Resolutions of State Legislatures, and Related Documents Which Were Referred to Committees 1881-1883

**Scope and Contents note**

The petitions and memorials, resolutions of state legislatures, and related documents which were referred to the Committee on Appropriations include an appointment of a commission to test structural materials (47A–H3.1); awards made under the Creek Indian Treaty of August 11, 1866 (47A–H3.2); erection of government buildings and other public works (47A–H3.3); government employees and salaries (47A–H3.4); government expenses in Montana and Wyoming Territories (47A–H3.5); increased appropriation for the Hydrographic Office (47A–H3.6); National Board of Health and control of contagious diseases (47A–H3.7); refund of money contributed to finance the Centennial International Exhibition of 1876 (47A–H3.8); relief of people made destitute by floods and crop failures (47A–H3.9); roads (47A–H3.10); salmon fishing and packing (47A–H3.11); signal lights, buoys, and harbor improvements (47A–H3.12); telegraphic communications between Martha's Vineyard and Nantucket (47A–H3.13); U.S. Coast and Geodetic Survey (47A–H3.14); and various subjects (47A–H3.15).

**Arrangement note**

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

Committee on Banking and Currency 1881-1883

**Committees**

---

**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.

Committee Papers 1881-1883

**Scope and Contents note**

The committee papers of the Committee on Banking and Currency include a docket volume (47A–F4.1); and a volume of minutes, 45th Congress, 1st session, to 48th Congress, 2d session (45A–F4.2).

Petitions and Memorials, Resolutions of State Legislatures, and Related Documents Which Were Referred to Committees 1881-1883

**Scope and Contents note**

The petitions and memorials, resolutions of state legislatures, and related documents which were referred to the Committee on Banking and Currency document various subjects (47A–H4.1).

**Arrangement note**

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

Committee on Claims 1881-1883

**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 1881-1883

**Scope and Contents note**

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

Committee on Coinage, Weights, and Measures 1881-1883

**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

## Committees

---

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.

### Committee Papers 1881-1883

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

The committee papers of the Committee on Coinage, Weights, and Measures include a docket volume 46th Congress, 1st session, to 47th Congress, 2d session (46A–F6.1); and a volume of minutes, 45th Congress, 1st session, to 48th Congress, 2d session (45A–F6.1).

### Committee on Commerce 1881-1883

#### **Biographical/Historical note**

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

**Committees**

---

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 1881-1883

**Scope and Contents note**

The committee papers of the Committee on Commerce document the regulation of interstate commerce and prohibition of unjust discriminations by common carriers (47A–F7.1); and various subjects (47A–F7.2).

**Arrangement note**

The records are arranged by subject.

Petitions and Memorials, Resolutions of State Legislatures, and Related Documents Which Were Referred to Committees 1881-1883

**Scope and Contents note**

The petitions and memorials, resolutions of state legislatures, and related documents which were referred to the Committee on Commerce document the establishment of a Commission on Interstate Commerce (47A–H5.1); improvement of the Harlem River (47A–H5.2); international conference to establish a common meridian of reference (47A–H5.3); legislation to prohibit the monopoly pricing of oil (47A–H5.4); legislation for testing anchors and chains (47A–H5.5); proposed transfer of the U. S. Revenue-Marine, the Life-Saving Service, and the Marine Hospital Service to the Navy and the establishment of a Bureau of Mercantile Marine in the Navy Department (47A–H5.6); regulation of railroads engaged in interstate commerce and prevention of unjust rate discrimination (47A–H5.7); and various subjects (47A–H5.8).

**Arrangement note**

**Committees**

---

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

**Committee on the District of Columbia 1881-1883****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 1881-1883****Scope and Contents note**

The committee papers of the Committee on the District of Columbia include a docket volume, 46th Congress, 1st session, to 47th Congress, 2d session (46A-F8.3).

**Petitions and Memorials, Resolutions of State Legislatures, and Related Documents Which Were Referred to Committees 1881-1883****Scope and Contents note**

**Committees**

---

The petitions and memorials, resolutions of state legislatures, and related documents which were referred to the Committee on the District of Columbia document the incorporation of the United States Gas and Fuel Co. in the District (47A–H6.1); and various subjects (47A–H6.2).

**Arrangement note**

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

**Committee on Education and Labor 1881-1883**

Petitions and Memorials, Resolutions of State Legislatures, and Related Documents Which Were Referred to Committees 1881-1883

**Scope and Contents note**

The petitions and memorials, resolutions of state legislatures, and related documents which were referred to the Committee on Education and Labor document federal aid to education in states and territories on the basis of illiteracy (47A–H7.1).

**Arrangement note**

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

**Committee on Elections 1881-1883****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

## Committees

---

the Committee on Elections from 1789 until 1895, when it was split into three separate election committees.

### Committee Papers 1881-1883

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

The committee papers of the Committee on Elections document the contested election cases of Samuel J. Anderson v. Thomas B. Reed, Maine (47A–F9.1); S. P. Bayley v. John S. Barbour, Virginia (47A–F9.2); Horatio Bisbee, Jr., v. Jesse J. Finley, Florida (47A–F9.3); George M. Buchanan v. Vanney H. Manning, Mississippi (47A–F9.4); George Q. Cannon v. Allen G. Campbell, Utah Territory (47A–F9.5); John C. Cook v. Marsena E. Cutts, Iowa (47A–F9.6), James Gillette v. Thomas H. Herndon, Alabama (47A–F9.7), John W. Jones v. Charles M. Shelley, Alabama (47A–F9.8); B. H. Lanier v. J. Floyd King, Louisiana (47A–F9.9); William M. Lowe v. Joseph Wheeler, Alabama (47A–F9.10); John R. Lynch v. James R. Chalmers, Mississippi (47A–F9.11); A. A. Mabson v. William C. Oates, Alabama (47A–F9.12); Edmund W. M. Mackey v. Michael P. O’Connor, South Carolina (47A–F9.13); Samuel W. McDowell v. Melvin C. George, Oregon at large (47A–F9.14); Gustavus Sessinghaus v. Richard Graham Frost, Missouri (47A–F9.15); Robert Smalls v. George D. Tillman, South Carolina (47A–F9.16); Alexander Smith v. Edward W. Robertson, Louisiana (47A–F9.17); James Q. Smith v. Charles M. Shelley, Alabama (47A–F9.18); Carlos J. Stolbrand v. D. Wyatt Aiken, South Carolina (47A–F9.19); John T. Stovall v. George Cabell, Virginia (47A–F9.20); Paul Strobach v. Hilary A. Herbert, Alabama (47A–F9.21); and George W. Witherspoon v. Robert H. M. Davidson, Florida (47A–F9.22); and various subjects (47A–F9.23). There is also a volume of minutes (47A–F9.24); and a docket volume (47A–F9.25).

#### **Arrangement note**

The records are arranged by subject.

#### **Controlled Access Headings**

#### **Personal Name(s)**

**Committees**

---

- Aiken, David Wyatt, 1828-1887
- Barbour, John Strode, 1820-1892
- Bisbee, Horatio, 1839-1916
- Cabell, George C. (George Craighead), 1836-1906
- Cannon, George Q. (George Quayle), 1827-1901
- Chalmers, James R. (James Ronald), 1831-1898
- Cook, John Calhoun, 1846-1920
- Cutts, Marsena Edgar, 1833-1883
- Davidson, Robert Hamilton McWhorta, 1832-1908
- Finley, Jesse Johnson, 1812-1904
- Frost, Richard Graham, 1851-1900
- George, M. C. (Melvin Clark), 1849-1933
- Herbert, Hilary A. (Hilary Abner), 1834-1919
- Herndon, Thomas H. (Thomas Hood), 1828-1883
- King, John Floyd, 1842-1915
- Lowe, William M. (William Manning), 1842-1882
- Lynch, John Roy, 1847-1939
- Mackey, E. W. M. (Edmund William McGregor), 1846-1884
- Manning, Vannoy Hartrog, 1861-1932
- Oates, William C. (William Calvin), 1835-1910
- O'Connor, Michael Patrick, 1831-1881
- Reed, Thomas B. (Thomas Brackett), 1839-1902
- Robertson, Edward White, 1823-1887
- Sessinghaus, Gustavus, 1838-1887
- Shelley, Charles Miller, 1833-1907
- Smalls, Robert, 1839-1915
- Tillman, George Dionysius, 1826-1902
- Wheeler, Joseph, 1836-1906

Petitions and Memorials, Resolutions of State Legislatures, and Related Documents Which Were Referred to Committees 1881-1883

**Committees**

---

**Scope and Contents note**

The petitions and memorials, resolutions of state legislatures, and related documents which were referred to the Committee on Elections document various subjects (47A–H8.1).

**Arrangement note**

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

**Committee on Expenditures in the Treasury Department 1881-1883**

Committee Papers 1881-1883

**Scope and Contents note**

The committee papers of the Committee on Expenditures in the Treasury Department include a list of officers and employees of the Treasury Department during the calendar year 1880 (47A–F10.1).

**Committee on Expenditures in the War Department 1881-1883**

Committee Papers 1881-1883

**Scope and Contents note**

The committee papers of the Committee on Expenditures in the War Department document the inspection of money accounts of U.S. Army disbursing officers (47A–F11.1) and various subjects (47A–F11.2). There are also fragmentary minutes, February 1 to June 26, 1882 (47A–F11.3).

**Arrangement note**

**Committees**

---

The records are arranged by subject.

**Committee on Foreign Affairs 1881-1883****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 Papers 1881-1883****Scope and Contents note**

The committee papers of the Committee on Foreign Affairs document the administration of justice in Tunis (47A-F12.1); Chile-Peruvian investigation (47A-F12.2); consular fees collected by U. S. consuls from ships sailing under the American flag, 1876-1881 (47A-F12.3); Hawaiian treaty (47A-F12.4); interoceanic canal (47A-F22.5); prevention and punishment of counterfeiting the securities of foreign governments within the United States (47A-F12.6); proposed peace congress in Washington (47A-F12.7); and various subjects (47A-F12.8). There is also a volume of minutes (47A-F12.9); and a docket volume (47A-F12.10).

**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 1881-1883

**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 the abrogation of the Hawaiian reciprocity treaty (47A–H9.1); imprisonment of American citizens by the British Government (47A–H9.2); incorporation of the Maritime Canal Co. of Nicaragua (47A–H9.3); proposed peace conference to be held in Washington in November 1882 (47A–H9.4); treatment of Jews in Russia (47A–H9.5); and various subjects (47A–H9.6).

**Arrangement note**

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

Committee on Indian Affairs 1881-1883

**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

**Committees**

---

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

Committee Papers 1881-1883

**Scope and Contents note**

The committee papers of the Committee on Indian Affairs document the sale of the Kansas lands of the Miami Indians (47A–F13.1); the New York Indians (47A–F13.2); and various subjects (47A–F13.3). There is also a docket volume (47A–F13.4); 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.

Committee on Invalid Pensions 1881-1883

**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 1881-1883

**Scope and Contents note**

## Committees

---

The committee papers of the Committee on Invalid Pensions document various subjects (47A–F14.1), arranged by subject. There is also a volume of minutes, 47th Congress, 1st session, to 48th Congress, 1st session (47A–F14.2); five docket volumes (47A–F14.3); and letterpress copies of outgoing correspondence, 46th Congress, 2d session, to 47th Congress, 1st session (46A–F17.3).

Petitions and Memorials, Resolutions of State Legislatures, and Related Documents Which Were Referred to Committees 1881-1883

### **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 extension of the time for filing under the Arrears of Pension Act (47A–H10.1); pension for Union soldiers who were prisoners of war (47A–H10.2); pension increase for veterans who lost a leg or an arm in the military service (47A–H10.3); and various subjects (47A–H10.4).

### **Arrangement note**

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

Committee on the Judiciary 1881-1883

### **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

## Committees

---

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 Papers 1881-1883

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

The committee papers of the Committee on the Judiciary document the power or right of the Senate to originate bills for the appropriation of money (47A–F15.1); and various subjects (47A–F15.2). There is also a volume of minutes (47A–F15.3); and two docket volumes (47A–F15.4).

#### **Arrangement note**

The records are arranged by subject.

### Petitions and Memorials, Resolutions of State Legislatures, and Related Documents Which Were Referred to Committees 1881-1883

#### **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 legislation to establish a uniform system of bankruptcy (47A–H11.1); polygamy (47A–H11.2); and various subjects (47A–H11.3).

#### **Arrangement note**

## Committees

---

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

### Committee on Levees and Improvements of the Mississippi River 1881-1883

#### **Biographical/Historical note**

The Committee on Levees and Improvements of the Mississippi River was established on November 7, 1877, in the 45th Congress. This was done by changing the name of its predecessor, the Committee on the Mississippi Levees. The committee oversaw the building and repairing levees as well as making other improvements on the Mississippi River. The committee was terminated in the 62d Congress on April 5, 1911. Its successor was the Committee on Rivers and Harbors.

### Committee Papers 1881-1883

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

The committee papers of the Committee on Levees and Improvements of the Mississippi River document various subjects (47A–H12.1).

#### **Arrangement note**

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

### Committee on Military Affairs 1881-1883

#### **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

## Committees

---

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 1881-1883

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

The committee papers of the Committee on Military Affairs include an abstract of purchases for the Signal Service, U. S. Army, 1875–1881 (47A–F16.1); and two docket volumes (47A–F16.2). There is also a volume of minutes, 46th Congress, 1st session, to 48th Congress, 2d session (46A–F21.5); and two docket volumes, 46th Congress, 1st session, to 47th Congress, 1st session (46A–F21.6).

### Petitions and Memorials, Resolutions of State Legislatures, and Related Documents Which Were Referred to Committees 1881-1883

#### **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 brevet commissions to officers for conspicuous gallantry and meritorious service in Indian campaigns (47A–H13.1); compensation of paymasters who served during the Civil War (47A–H13.2); enactment of a compulsory retirement law for Army officers (47A–H13.3); and the soldiers' home at Erie, Pennsylvania (47A–H13.4).

#### **Arrangement note**

**Committees**

---

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

**Committee on the Militia 1881-1883****Biographical/Historical note**

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

**Petitions and Memorials, Resolutions of State Legislatures, and Related Documents Which Were Referred to Committees 1881-1883****Scope and Contents note**

The petitions and memorials, resolutions of state legislatures, and related documents which were referred to the Committee on the Militia include the amendment of the laws relating to the militia (47A-H14.1).

**Arrangement note**

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

**Committee on Naval Affairs 1881-1883**

**Committees**

---

**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; 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 1881-1883

**Scope and Contents note**

The committee papers of the Committee on Naval Affairs document the establishment of the Office of Assistant Secretary of the Navy (47A-F17.1); prize money (47A-F17.2); and various subjects (47A-F17.3).

**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 1881-1883

**Scope and Contents note**

## Committees

---

The petitions and memorials, resolutions of state legislatures, and related documents which were referred to the Committee on Naval Affairs document various subjects (47A–H15.1).

### **Arrangement note**

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

## Committee on Pacific Railroads 1881-1883

### **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 1881-1883

### **Scope and Contents note**

The committee papers of the Committee on Pacific Railroads include a docket volume, 46th Congress, 1st session, to 47th Congress, 2d session (46A–F24.6); and a volume of minutes, 45th Congress, 2d session, to 48th Congress, 2d session (45A–F24.5).

## Committee on Patents 1881-1883

### **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

**Committees**

---

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 Papers 1881-1883****Scope and Contents note**

The committee papers of the Committee on Patents include extending and renewing letters patent for manufacture of ice issued to Alexander C. Twinning (47A–F19.1). There is also a volume of minutes (47A–F19.2); and a docket volume, 46th Congress, 1st session, to 47th Congress, 2d session (46A–F25.3).

**Petitions and Memorials, Resolutions of State Legislatures, and Related Documents Which Were Referred to Committees 1881-1883****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 extension of the patent on the steam-driven grain shovel (47A–H16.1); and various subjects (47A–H16.2).

**Arrangement note**

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

**Committee on Pensions 1881-1883**

**Committees**

---

**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 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 1881-1883

**Scope and Contents note**

The committee papers of the Committee on Pensions include a volume regarding the material withdrawn from the files of the committee (47A-F20.1). There are also minutes, 47th Congress, 1st session, to 48th Congress, 2d session (45A-F33.2 - see Committee on Revolutionary Pensions); and a docket volume (45A-F33.3), which also contains the docket of the Committee on Pensions for the 47th Congress.

Petitions and Memorials, Resolutions of State Legislatures, and Related Documents Which Were Referred to Committees 1881-1883

**Scope and Contents note**

The petitions and memorials, resolutions of state legislatures, and related documents which were referred to the Committee on Pensions document various subjects (47A-H17.1).

**Arrangement note**

The records are arranged alphabetically by petitioner.

**Committees**

---

**Committee on the Post Office and Post Roads 1881-1883****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 Papers 1881-1883****Scope and Contents note**

The committee papers of the Committee on the Post Office and Post Roads document the reduction of postage rates and money order fees (47A–F21.1); and various subjects (47A–F21.2).

**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 1881-1883

### **Scope and Contents note**

The petitions and memorials, resolutions of state legislatures, and related documents which were referred to the Committee on the Post Office and Post Roads document the postal savings bank (47A–H18.1); postal telegraph system (47A–H18.2); salary increases for employees of the Post Office Department (47A–H18.3); and various subjects (47A–H18.4).

### **Arrangement note**

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

Committee on Printing 1881-1883

### **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 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.

**Committees**

---

**Committee Papers 1881-1883****Scope and Contents note**

The committee papers of the Committee on Printing include estimates for printing (47A-F22.1); report of the National Academy of Sciences on the sorghum sugar industry (47A-F22.2); and various subjects (47A-F22.3).

**Arrangement note**

The records are arranged by subject.

**Petitions and Memorials, Resolutions of State Legislatures, and Related Documents Which Were Referred to Committees 1881-1883****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 (47A-H19.1).

**Arrangement note**

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

**Committee on Private Land Claims 1881-1883****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

## Committees

---

with several other committees that had suffered from diminished legislative activity. Jurisdiction was later transferred to the Judiciary Committee.

### Committee Papers 1881-1883

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

The committee papers of the Committee on Private Land Claims document various subjects (47A–F23.1), arranged chronologically. There is also a volume of minutes, 47th Congress, 1st session, to 48th Congress, 2d session (47A–F23.2); and a docket volume (47A–F23.3).

### Committee on Public Buildings and Grounds 1881-1883

#### **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.

### Committee Papers 1881-1883

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

The committee papers of the Committee on Public Buildings and Grounds document the Army Medical Museum and Library (47A–F24.1); Freedman's Bank Building (47A–F24.2); Hall of Records, Washington, District of Columbia (47A–F24.3); House restaurant (47A–F24.4); rents

## Committees

---

paid by the Government in cities where public buildings had been recommended (47A–F24.5); and various subjects (47A–F24.6). There is also a volume of minutes (47A–F24.7); and a docket volume (47A–F24.8).

### **Arrangement note**

The records are arranged chronologically within each group.

## Committee on Public Expenditures 1881-1883

### Committee Papers 1881-1883

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

The committee papers of the Committee on Public Expenditures include a volume of minutes, 45th Congress, 1st session, to 47th Congress, 1st session (45A–F29.1).

## Committee on Public Lands 1881-1883

#### **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, 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

**Committees**

---

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 1881-1883

**Scope and Contents note**

The committee papers for the Committee on Public Lands include various subjects (47A–F26.1), arranged by subject. There is also a volume of minutes (47A–F26.2); a docket volume (47A–F26.3); and a rough docket, 45th Congress, 1st session, to 47th Congress, 2d session (45A–F30.5).

Committee on Railways and Canals 1881-1883

**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. Also, the 1880 House rule 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 1881-1883

**Scope and Contents note**

## Committees

---

The committee papers of the Committee on Railways and Canals document various subjects (47A–F27.1), arranged by subject. There is also a volume of minutes, 47th Congress 1st session, to 48th Congress, 2d session (47A–F27.2); a docket volume (47A–F27.3); and another docket volume, 46th Congress, 1st session, to 47th Congress, 1st session (46A–F32.9).

Petitions and Memorials, Resolutions of State Legislatures, and Related Documents Which Were Referred to Committees 1881-1883

### **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 construction of a free ship canal connecting Chesapeake and Delaware Bays (47A–H20.1); construction of a ship-railway across the Isthmus of Tehuantepec (47A–H20.2); regulation of railroads engaged in interstate commerce and the prevention of unjust rate discrimination (47A–H20.3); and various subjects (47A–H20.4).

### **Arrangement note**

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

Committee on the Territories 1881-1883

### **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.

**Committees**

---

**Committee Papers****Scope and Contents note**

The committee papers of the Committee on the Territories include a docket volume (47A–F28.1).

**Committee on War Claims 1881-1883****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.

**Committee Papers 1881-1883****Scope and Contents note**

The committee papers of the Committee on War Claims include two docket volumes (47A–F29.1).

**Committees**

---

Petitions and Memorials, Resolutions of State Legislatures, and Related Documents Which Were Referred to Committees 1881-1883

**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 the payment of female nurses of the Civil War (47A–H21.1); and various subjects (47A–H21.2).

**Arrangement note**

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

Committee on Ways and Means 1881-1883

**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 1881-1883

**Scope and Contents note**

## Committees

The committee papers of the Committee on Ways and Means document the adulteration of butter and cheese with foreign fats (47A–F30.1); claims (47A–F30.2); commodity tariff (47A–F30.3); commodity taxation (47A–F30.4); papers from or about executive departments: Agriculture (47A–F30.5), Post Office (47A–F30.6), State (47A–F30.7), and Treasury (47A–F30.8); refund of excessive duties levied by overvaluation of Austrian paper florins (47A–F30.9); tariff policy (47A–F30.10); tax policy (47A–F30.11); use of alcoholic spirits in the manufacture of vinegar (47A–F30.12); and various subjects (47A–F30.13). There are also two volumes of minutes (47A–F30.14); and two docket volumes (47A–F30.15).

**Arrangement note**

The records are arranged chronologically within each group, except 47A–F30.2, which is arranged alphabetically by claimant, and 47A–F30.3 and 47A–F30.4, which are arranged alphabetically by commodity.

Petitions and Memorials, Resolutions of State Legislatures, and Related Documents Which Were Referred to Committees 1881-1883

**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 books (47A–H22.1); chemicals, medicinal, patent medicines, perfumes, and cosmetics (47A–H22.2); clothing (47A–H22.3); coal (47A–H22.4); distilled spirits (47A–H22.5); earthenware and china (47A–H22.6); foods (47A–H22.7); foreign newspapers, magazines, and periodicals (47A–H22.8); general recommendations concerning the tariff (47A–H22.9); glass (47A–H22.10); glucose (47A–H22.11); income tax (47A–H22.12); tanned goat and sheep skins from India (47A–H22.13); internal revenue taxation (47A–H22.14); iron and steel (47A–H22.15); iron ties for bailing cotton (47A–H22.16); legislation to establish a Tariff Commission (47A–H22.17); lumber (47A–H22.18); malt (47A–H22.19); matches (47A–H22.20); metals (47A–H22.21); passage of the McKinley bill fixing the rates of duty on various products (47A–H22.22); pay increases for internal revenue gagers (47A–H22.23); steam plows and engines (47A–H22.24); sugar (47A–H22.25); tax on bank checks, circulation, and deposits (47A–H22.26); tea (47A–H22.27); tinsplate (47A–H22.28); tobacco, cigars, cigarettes, and sniff (47A–H22.29); treaty of reciprocity with the Hawaiian Islands (47A–

**Committees**

---

H22.30); use of alcoholic spirits in the manufacture of vinegar (47A–H22.31); wine (47A–H22.32); wool (47A–H22.33); works of art (47A–H22.34); and various subjects (47A–H22.35).

**Arrangement note**

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

**Select Committees 1881-1883****Select Committee on the Alcoholic Liquor Traffic 1881-1883****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 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 1881-1883****Scope and Contents note**

The committee papers of the Select Committee on the Alcoholic Liquor Traffic include bills referred to the committee (47A–F31.1), arranged numerically; and a docket volume (47A–F31.2).

**Petitions and Memorials, Resolutions of State Legislatures, and Related Documents Which Were Referred to Committees 1881-1883****Scope and Contents note**

**Committees**

---

The petitions and memorials, resolutions of state legislatures, and related documents which were referred to the Select Committee on Alcoholic Liquor Traffic includes the appointment of a commission on the alcoholic liquor traffic (47A–H23.1).

**Arrangement note**

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

**Select Committee on the Census 1881-1883****Committee Papers 1881-1883****Scope and Contents note**

The committee papers of the Select Committee on the Census include bills referred to the committee (47A–F32.1), arranged numerically; a volume of minutes (47A–F32.2); and a docket volume (47A–F32.3).

**Petitions and Memorials, Resolutions of State Legislatures, and Related Documents Which Were Referred to Committees 1881-1883****Scope and Contents note**

The petitions and memorials, resolutions of state legislatures, and related documents which were referred to the Select Committee on the Census document additional compensation for supervisors of the 10th Census (47A–H24.1).

**Arrangement note**

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

**Committees**

---

**Select Committee on the Payment of Pensions, Bounty, and Back Pay 1881-1883**

Committee Papers 1881-1883

**Scope and Contents note**

The committee papers of the Select Committee on the Payment of Pensions, Bounty, and Back Pay document various subjects (47A–F33.1), arranged by subject.

Petitions and Memorials, Resolutions of State Legislatures, and Related Documents Which Were Referred to Committees 1881-1883

**Scope and Contents note**

The petitions and memorials, resolutions of state legislatures, and related documents which were referred to the Select Committee on the Payment of Pensions, Bounty, and Back Pay include bounty payments to Union veterans of the Civil War (47A–H25.1); legislation to increase pensions to veteran amputees (47A–H25.2); pensions for Union soldiers who were confined to Confederate prisons (47A–H25.3); repeal of the limitations clause of the “Arrears of Pension Act” (47A–H25.4); and various subjects (47A–H25.5).

**Arrangement note**

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

**Select Committee on Public Health 1881-1883****Scope and Contents note**

The committee papers of the Select Committee on Public Health document various subjects (47A–F34.1).

**Originals of Printed House Documents**

---

**Arrangement note**

The records are arranged by subject.

Select Committee Relative to Appropriations for the Improvement of the Mississippi River 1881-1883

**Scope and Contents note**

The committee papers of the Select Committee Relative to Appropriations for the Improvement of the Mississippi River document various subjects (47A-F35.1).

**Arrangement note**

The records are arranged by subject.

Select Committee on Reform in the Civil Service 1881-1883

**Scope and Contents note**

The committee papers of the Select Committee on Reform in the Civil Service include a volume of minutes (47A-F36.1); and a docket volume (47A-F36.2).

**Originals of Printed House Documents 1881-1883 45.0 Cubic feet (193 volumes)**

**Scope and Contents note**

Originals of printed House documents include original executive documents, 1st session (47A-G1) and 2d session 47A-G2); and original miscellaneous documents, 1st session (47A-G3); and 2d session (47A-G4).

**Arrangement note**

**Election Records**

---

The records are arranged numerically within each group.

**Election Records 1881-1883 2.0 Cubic feet****Scope and Contents note**

The election records include the credentials of Representatives and Delegates (47A–J1).

**Arrangement note**

The records are arranged alphabetically by state or territory.

**Other Records 1881-1883 0.5 Cubic feet****Scope and Contents note**

Other records include various papers (47A–K1).

**Arrangement note**

The records are arranged by subject.

**Records of the Office of the Clerk 1881-1883****Record Books 1881-1883 3.0 Cubic feet (17 volumes)****Scope and Contents note**

The record books include a House bill book together with index (47C–A1); House resolution book (47C–A2); bill book of Senate bills and resolutions (47C–A3); individual ledger (47C–A4); daily order of business and calendars (47C–A5); petition book (47C–A6); register of committee reports (47C–A7);

**Record Books**

---

and record of leaves of absence granted House Members, 47th Congress, 1st session, to 49th Congress, 2d session (47C–A8).