

Morrison R. Waite Papers

A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress

Prepared by Manuscript Division Staff



Manuscript Division, Library of
Congress

Washington, D.C.

2011

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Collection Summary

Title: Morrison R. Waite Papers

Span Dates: 1818-1933

Bulk Dates: (bulk 1874-1888)

ID No.: MSS44321

Creator: Waite, Morrison R. (Morrison Remick), 1816-1888

Extent: 20,000 items; 51 containers; 20.4 linear feet

Language: Collection material in English

Repository: Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Abstract: Chief justice of the United States Supreme Court, jurist, and lawyer. Official papers relating to Waite's Supreme Court service, including correspondence and letterbooks, docket books, court assignments, manuscripts and proofs of circuit court and Supreme Court opinions, and miscellaneous family and personal material.

Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

People

Brewster, Benjamin Harris, 1816-1888--Correspondence.

Chandler, Zachariah, 1813-1879--Correspondence.

Clifford, Nathan, 1803-1881--Correspondence.

Conkling, Roscoe, 1829-1888--Correspondence.

Davis, J. C. Bancroft (John Chandler Bancroft), 1822-1907--Correspondence.

Devens, Charles, 1820-1891--Correspondence.

Fish, Hamilton, 1808-1893--Correspondence.

Frelinghuysen, Frederick T. (Frederick Theodore), 1817-1885--Correspondence.

Greene, William--Correspondence.

Harlan, John Marshall, 1833-1911--Correspondence.

Hayes, Rutherford Birchard, 1822-1893--Correspondence.

Lincoln, Robert Todd, 1843-1926--Correspondence.

Matthews, Stanley, 1824-1889--Correspondence.

Nicolay, John G. (John George), 1832-1901--Correspondence.

Ramsey, Alexander, 1815-1903--Correspondence.

Sherman, William T. (William Tecumseh), 1820-1891--Correspondence.

Waite family.

Waite, Morrison R. (Morrison Remick), 1816-1888.

Organizations

United States. Supreme Court.

Subjects

Circuit courts--United States.

Constitutional law--United States.

Courts--United States.

Judges--United States.

Judicial opinions--United States.

Law--United States.

Occupations

Jurists.

Lawyers.

Administrative Information

Provenance

The papers of Morrison R. Waite, chief justice of the United States Supreme Court, jurist, and lawyer, were given to the Library of Congress by his grandson, Morrison Waite, in 1959.

Processing History

The papers of Morrison R. Waite were arranged and described in 1959. The finding aid was revised in 2011.

Copyright Status

Copyright in the unpublished writings of Morrison R. Waite in these papers and in other collections of papers in the custody of the Library of Congress has been dedicated to the public.

Access and Restrictions

Restrictions apply governing the use, photoduplication, or publication of items in this collection. Consult reference staff in the Manuscript Division for information concerning these restrictions. In addition, many collections are stored off-site and advance notice is needed to retrieve these items for research use.

Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: Container number, Morrison R. Waite Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Biographical Note

<i>Date</i>	<i>Event</i>
1816, Nov. 29	Born, Lyme, Conn.
1837	Graduated, Yale College, New Haven, Conn.
1839	Admitted to the bar and set up law practice, Maumee City, Ohio
1840	Married Amelia C. Warner
1849	Representative, Ohio state legislature
1850-1870	Practiced law, Toledo, Ohio
1871	Appointed by President Ulysses S. Grant to serve as American consul in the Geneva Arbitration
1874-1888	Chief justice of the United States
1888, Mar. 23	Died, Washington, DC

Scope and Content Note

The papers of Morrison Remick Waite (1816-1888) span the period 1818-1933, with the bulk of the material relating to his position as chief justice of the United States between 1874 and 1888. The

collection contains letterbooks, correspondence, docket books, Supreme Court assignment sheets from 1877 to 1888, and manuscripts and proofs of Supreme Court and circuit court opinions. The papers are organized in five series: General Correspondence, Legal File, Material Relating to the Death of Waite, Financial File, and Miscellany.

Of biographical interest is a file containing correspondence, newspaper clippings, and publications relating to Waite's death. Also in the collection are photographs, family legal papers, speeches and remarks by Waite, newspaper clippings, bills and receipts, cancelled checks, bank books, and expense accounts.

Correspondents include Benjamin Harris Brewster, Zachariah Chandler, Nathan Clifford, Roscoe Conkling, J. C. Bancroft Davis, Charles Devens, Frederick T. Freylinghusen, William Greene, Hamilton Fish (1808-1893), John Marshall Harlan, Rutherford Birchard Hayes, Robert Todd Lincoln, Stanley Matthews, John C. Nicolay, Alexander Ramsey, and William T. Sherman.

Arrangement of the Papers

This collection is arranged in five series:

- General Correspondence, 1856-1888
- Legal File, 1873-1888
- Material Relating to Death of Waite, 1888
- Financial File, 1844-1888
- Miscellany, 1818-1933

Description of Series

<i>Container</i>	<i>Series</i>
BOX 1-29	<u>General Correspondence, 1856-1888</u> Letters sent and received. Arranged chronologically in letters sent and received file and a letterbooks file.
BOX 30-40	<u>Legal File, 1873-1888</u> Chief justice's docket books, manuscripts and proofs of Supreme Court and circuit court opinions, and Supreme Court assignments. Grouped by type of material and arranged by term of court within each group
BOX 41-43	<u>Material Relating to Death of Waite, 1888</u> Correspondence, newspaper clippings, obituaries, memorial resolutions, and miscellaneous publications. The correspondence is arranged by month, and the remainder is grouped by type of material.
BOX 44-47	<u>Financial File, 1844-1888</u> Bills and receipts, bank books, cancelled checks and check stubs, and expense accounts. Grouped by type of material and rough chronological arrangement within each group.
BOX 48-51	<u>Miscellany, 1818-1933</u> Calling cards and invitations, speeches and remarks, photographs, family legal papers, newspaper clippings, printed matter, and memorabilia. Grouped by type of material.

Container List

<i>Container</i>	<i>Contents</i>
BOX 1-29	General Correspondence, 1856-1888 Letters sent and received. Arranged chronologically in letters sent and received file and a letterbooks file.
BOX 1	Letters sent and received
BOX 1	1856-1874, Feb. (10 folders)
BOX 2	1874, Mar.-July (16 folders)
BOX 3	1874, Aug.-Dec (14 folders)
BOX 4	1875, Jan.-July (7 folders)
BOX 5	1875, Aug.-Dec. (9 folders)
BOX 6	1876, Jan.-June (12 folders)
BOX 7	1876, July.-Dec. (12 folders)
BOX 8	1877, Jan.-July (9 folders)
BOX 9	1877, Aug.-1878, Feb. (9 folders)
BOX 10	1878, Mar.-July (9 folders)
BOX 11	1878, Aug.-1879, Feb. (10 folders)
BOX 12	1879, Mar.-Aug. 15 (11 folders)
BOX 13	1879, Aug.-Dec. (10 folders)
BOX 14	1880, Jan.-Aug. (12 folders)
BOX 15	1880, Sept.-1881, Mar. (14 folders)
BOX 16	1881, Apr.-Oct. (13 folders)
BOX 17	1881, Nov.-1882, Mar. (11 folders)
BOX 18	1882, Apr.-Oct. (12 folders)

General Correspondence, 1856-1888

<i>Container</i>	<i>Contents</i>
BOX 19	1882, Nov.-1883, Mar. (11 folders)
BOX 20	1883, Apr.-Sept. (9 folders)
BOX 21	1883, Oct.-1884, Feb. (11 folders)
BOX 22	1884, Mar.-Nov. (13 folders)
BOX 23	1884, Dec.-1885, June (13 folders)
BOX 24	1885, July-1886, Apr. (16 folders)
BOX 25	1886, May-Nov. (12 folders)
BOX 26	1886, Dec.-1887, July (13 folders)
BOX 27	1887, Aug.-1888, Mar. 18, undated
BOX 28	Letterbooks
BOX 28	1874 (2 vols.)
BOX 29	1875-1881 (3 vols.)
BOX 30-40	Legal File, 1873-1888 Chief justice's docket books, manuscripts and proofs of Supreme Court and circuit court opinions, and Supreme Court assignments. Grouped by type of material and arranged by term of court within each group
BOX 30	Chief justice docket books, October terms
BOX 30	1874-1876 (5 vols.)
BOX 31	1876-1878 (4 vols.)
BOX 32	1878-1881 (4 vols.)
BOX 33	1881-1884 (4 vols.)
BOX 34	1884-1887 (4 vols.)
BOX 35	Manuscripts and proofs
BOX 35	Circuit court opinions
BOX 35	1873-1881
BOX 35	Miscellaneous opinions and related material, 1872-1883
BOX 36	Supreme Court opinions, October terms
BOX 36	1874-1885
BOX 37	1885
BOX 38	1886

Legal File, 1873-1888

<i>Container</i>	<i>Contents</i>
BOX 39	1886-1887
BOX 40	Supreme Court assignments, 1877, Oct. 29-1888, Feb. 11 (11 folders)
BOX 40	Miscellaneous material relating to Supreme Court, 1874-1883, undated (2 folders)
BOX 41-43	Material Relating to Death of Waite, 1888 Correspondence, newspaper clippings, obituaries, memorial resolutions, and miscellaneous publications. The correspondence is arranged by month, and the remainder is grouped by type of material.
BOX 41	Correspondence (8 folders)
BOX 42	Newspaper clippings
BOX 43	Miscellaneous publications (2 folders)
BOX 43	Obituary resolutions (2 folders)
BOX 44-47	Financial File, 1844-1888 Bills and receipts, bank books, cancelled checks and check stubs, and expense accounts. Grouped by type of material and rough chronological arrangement within each group.
BOX 44	Cancelled checks and check stubs, 1875-1887
BOX 45	Bills and receipts
BOX 45	1874-1880
BOX 46	1880-1887
BOX 47	1863-1888 (2 folders)
BOX 47	Bank books and personal expense accounts, 1844-1888
BOX 48-51	Miscellany, 1818-1933 Calling cards and invitations, speeches and remarks, photographs, family legal papers, newspaper clippings, printed matter, and memorabilia. Grouped by type of material.
BOX 48	Announcement, calling cards and invitations, 1880-1888 (2 folders)
BOX 48	Family legal papers, 1818-1885 (2 folders)
BOX 48	Fragmentary notes, undated
BOX 49	General, 1862-1883, 1933, undated (2 folders)
BOX 49	Photographs, undated (2 folders)
BOX 49	Speeches and remarks, 1872-1887

Miscellany, 1818-1933

<i>Container</i>	<i>Contents</i>
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BOX 50	Memorabilia, undated (2 folders)
BOX 50	Newspaper clippings, 1873-1888
BOX 51	Printed matter, 1872-1888 (3 folders)