

**Records of the U.S. House of Representatives**  
**RG.233.44.House**  
**44th 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

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<b>Repository</b>	Center for Legislative Archives, National Archives and Records Administration
<b>Title</b>	House Records of the 44th Congress
<b>Date [inclusive]</b>	1875-1877
<b>Extent</b>	205.91 Cubic feet
<b>Language</b>	English

## **Administrative Information**

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### **Publication Information**

Center for Legislative Archives, National Archives and Records Administration

### **Conditions Governing Access note**

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

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

## Collection Inventory

### **Records of Legislative Proceedings 1875-1877**

#### **Minute Books and Journals 1875-1877 2.0 Cubic feet (5 volumes)**

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

The minute books and journals series contains the following: a minute book, 1st session (44A-A1); a legislative journal, 1st session (44A-A2); a minute book, 2d session (44A-A3); and a legislative journal, 2d session (44A-A4).

#### **Bills and Resolutions Originating in the House 1875-1877 13.0 Cubic feet**

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

The bills and resolutions originating in the House consist of twenty volumes of original House bills (44A-B1); one volume of original House joint resolutions (44A-B2); original House concurrent resolutions (44A-B3); House simple resolutions, motions, and orders (44A-B4); desk copies of House bills passed (44A-B5); desk copies of House joint resolutions passed (44A-B6); and eight volumes of engrossed House bills and resolutions (44A-B7).

##### **Arrangement note**

The records are arranged numerically within each group, except 44A-B3, which is arranged chronologically, and 44A-B4, which is arranged alphabetically by Congressman.

#### **Bills Originating in the Senate and Considered in the House 1875-1877 0.16 Cubic feet**

**Accompanying Papers File**

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**Scope and Contents note**

The bills originating in the Senate and considered in the House include Senate bills (44A–C1), arranged numerically.

**Accompanying Papers File 1875-1877 54.0 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 (44A–D1).

**Arrangement note**

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

**Committee Reports 1875-1877****Scope and Contents note**

The original committee reports cover the 1st session (44A–E1) and 2d session (44A–E2) of the 44th Congress.

**Arrangement note**

The records are arranged numerically within each group.

**Committees 1875-1877**

Committee on Accounts 1875-1877

**Biographical/Historical note**

## Committees

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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 1875-1877

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

The committee papers of the Committee on Accounts include documents from the Folding Room investigation (44A–F1.1); a ledger of the miscellaneous expenses of the committee, 44th Congress, 1st session, to 45th Congress, 2d session (44A–F1.2); and a volume of minutes, 41st Congress, 1st session, to 47th Congress, 1st session (41A–F1.3).

### Committee on Agriculture 1875-1877

#### **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

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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 1875-1877****Scope and Contents note**

The committee papers of the Committee on Agriculture document various subjects (44A–F2.1) and are arranged chronologically.

**Committee on Appropriations 1875-1877****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 1875-1877****Scope and Contents note**

The committee papers of the Committee on Appropriations include claims (44A–F3.1); papers from or about the Court of Claims (44A–F3.2), the District of Columbia (44A–F3.3), the

## Committees

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Government Printing Office (44A–F3.4), the House of Representatives and the Senate (44A–F3.5), the Smithsonian Institution (44A–F3.6), the Supreme Court (44A–F3.7), the U.S. Board Appointed to Test Iron and Steel (44A–F3.8), the U. S. Commission on Fish and Fisheries (44A–F3.9), and the Washington Monument (44A–F3.10); papers from or about executive departments: Agriculture (44A–F3.11), Interior (44A–F3.12), Justice (44A–F3.13), Navy (44A–F3.14), Post Office (44A–F3.15), State (44A–F3.16), Treasury (44A–F3.17), and War (44A–F3.18); and various subjects (44A–F3.19). There is also a volume of letterpress copies of outgoing correspondence, 1867–1880, 40th Congress, 2d session, to 46th Congress, 2d session (40A–F2.21).

### **Arrangement note**

The records are arranged chronologically within each group.

Petitions and Memorials, Resolutions of State Legislatures, and Related Documents That Were Referred to Committees 1875-1877

### **Scope and Contents note**

The petitions and memorials, resolutions of state legislatures, and related documents that were referred to the Committee on Appropriations document claims (44A–H1.1); erection of public buildings and other public works (44A–H1.2); free distribution of seeds by the Government (44A–H1.3); Government employees and salaries (44A–H1.4); National Medical Library in Washington (44A–H1.5); scientific testing of iron and steel (44A–H1.6); Signal Service (44A–H1.7); signal station on Block Island (44A–H1.8); and various subjects (44A–H1.9).

### **Arrangement note**

The subjects are arranged chronologically within each group.

Committee on Banking and Currency 1875-1877

### **Biographical/Historical note**

**Committees**

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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 1875-1877****Scope and Contents note**

The committee papers of the Committee on Banking and Currency document various subjects (44A-F4.1), arranged by subject. There is also a docket volume (44A-F4.2).

**Petitions and Memorials, Resolutions of State Legislatures, and Related Documents That Were Referred to Committees 1875-1877****Scope and Contents note**

The petitions and memorials, resolutions of state legislatures, and related documents that were referred to the Committee on Banking and Currency document the resumption of specie payment (44A-H2.1); tax on bank deposits, circulation, and capital (44A-H2.2); and various subjects (44A-H2.3).

**Arrangement note**

The subjects are arranged chronologically within each group.

**Committee on Claims 1875-1877****Biographical/Historical note**

## Committees

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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 1875-1877

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

The committee papers of the Committee on Claims include complaints and affidavits against C. F. Benjamin, Clerk of the Southern Claims Commission (44A–F5.1). There are also a volume of rough minutes, 43d Congress, 2d session, to 44th Congress, 1st session (43A–F5.2); and a volume of minutes, 43d Congress, 1st session, to 46th Congress, 3d session (43A–F5.3).

### Committee on Commerce 1875-1877

#### **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;

## Committees

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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 1875-1877

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

The committee papers of the Committee on Commerce document bridge construction (44A–F6.1); investigation of combinations among railroads to control commerce (44A–F6.2); passage of small craft under bridges spanning navigable streams (44A–F6.3); river and harbor improvements (44A–F6.4); and various subjects (44A–F6.5).

#### **Arrangement note**

The records are arranged chronologically within each group.

### Petitions and Memorials, Resolutions of State Legislatures, and Related Documents That Were Referred to Committees 1875-1877

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

The petitions and memorials, resolutions of state legislatures, and related documents that were referred to the Committee on Commerce document cheap telegraphy (44A–H3.1); improvement of Harlem River and Spuyten Duyvil Creek, New York (44A–H3.2); laws to regulate commerce and prevent unjust discrimination by common carriers (44A–H3.3); and various subjects (44A–H3.4).

#### **Arrangement note**

**Committees**

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The subjects are arranged chronologically within each group.

**Committee on the District of Columbia 1875-1877****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 1875-1877****Scope and Contents note**

The committee papers of the Committee on the District of Columbia document the investigation of the Board of Audit (44A-F7.1) and various subjects (44A-F7.2). There are also two docket volumes: 42d Congress, 2d session, to 44th Congress, 2d session (42A-F7.10); and 41st Congress, 1st session, to 45th Congress, 1st session (41A-F7.5); as well as a volume of minutes, 41st Congress, 1st session, to 44th Congress, 2d session (41A-F7.6).

**Arrangement note**

The records are arranged by subject.

## Committees

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### Committee on Elections 1875-1877

#### **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 1875-1877

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

The committee papers of the Committee on Elections document claims (44A–F8.1); contested election cases of J.G. Abbott v. Rufus S. Frost, Massachusetts (44A–F8.2); Joseph A. Breaux v. C. B. Darrall, Louisiana (44A–F8.3); Frederick G. Bromberg v. Jeremiah Haralson, Alabama (44A–F8.4); C. W. Butts v. E. M. Mackey, South Carolina (44A–F8.5); E. St. Julien Cox v. Horace B. Strait, Minnesota (44A–F8.6); Jesse J. Finley v. Josiah T. Walls, Florida (44A–F8.7); Thomas B. Florence v. Chapman Freeman, Pennsylvania (44A–F8.8); Samuel Lee v. Joseph H. Rainey, South Carolina (44A–F8.9); John V. Le Moyne v. Charles B. Farwell, Illinois (44A–F8.10); Augustus N. Lowry v. Nelson J. Norton, New York (44A–F8.11); James H. Platt, Jr. v. John Goode, Virginia (44A–F8.12); James T. Rapier v. Jeremiah N. Williams, Alabama (44A–F8.13); Roderick Seal v. John R. Lynch, Mississippi (44A–F8.14); William B. Spencer v. Frank Morey, Louisiana (44A–F8.15); Pedro Valdez v. Stephen B. Elkins, New Mexico Territory (44A–F8.16); and G. H. White v. John A. Hyman, North Carolina (44A–F8.17); and various subjects (44A–F8.18). The records also include a volume of minutes, 42d Congress, 1st session, to 45th Congress, 3d session (42A–F9.18).

#### **Arrangement note**

**Committees**

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The records are arranged by subject, except 44A–F8.1, which is arranged alphabetically by claimant.

**Controlled Access Headings****Personal Name(s)**

- Abbott, Josiah Gardner, 1814-1891
- Breaux, Joseph Arsenne, 1838-1926
- Bromberg, Frederick George, 1837-1930
- Darrall, Chester Bidwell, 1842-1908
- Elkins, Stephen B. (Stephen Benton), 1841-1911
- Farwell, Charles Benjamin, 1823-1903
- Finley, Jesse Johnson, 1812-1904
- Florence, Thomas B. (Thomas Birch), 1812-1875
- Freeman, Chapman, 1832-1904
- Frost, Rufus Smith, 1826-1894
- Goode, John, 1829-1909
- Haralson, Jeremiah, 1846-1916
- Hyman, John Adams, 1840-1891
- Le Moyne, John Valcoulon, 1828-1918
- Lynch, John Roy, 1847-1939
- Mackey, E. W. M. (Edmund William McGregor), 1846-1884
- Morey, Frank, 1840-1890
- Norton, Nelson Ira, 1820-1887
- Platt, James H., 1837-1894
- Rainey, Joseph H., 1832-1887
- Rapier, James Thomas, 1837-1883
- Spencer, William Brainerd, 1835-1882
- Strait, Horace Burton, 1835-1894
- Walls, Josiah T., 1842-1905
- Williams, Jeremiah Norman, 1829-1915

**Committees**

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Petitions and Memorials, Resolutions of State Legislatures, and Related Documents That Were Referred to Committees 1875-1877

**Scope and Contents note**

The petitions and memorials, resolutions of state legislatures, and related documents that were referred to the Committee on Elections document various subjects (44A–H4.1).

**Arrangement note**

The subjects are arranged chronologically within each group.

Committee on Expenditures in the Interior Department 1875-1877

Committee Papers 1875-1877

**Scope and Contents note**

The committee papers of the Committee on Expenditures in the Interior Department include subpoenas issued for the appearance of various persons before the committee (44A–F9.1), arranged alphabetically; and a volume of minutes (44A–F9.2).

Committee on Expenditures in the Department of Justice 1875-1877

Committee Papers 1875-1877

**Scope and Contents note**

**Committees**

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The committee papers of the Committee on Expenditures in the Department of Justice include a docket volume (44A–F10.1).

**Committee on Expenditures in the Navy Department 1875-1877****Committee Papers 1875-1877****Scope and Contents note**

The committee papers of the Committee on Expenditures in the Navy Department document the transfer of the Naval Fiscal Agency at London (44A–F11.1), and various subjects (44A–F11.2).

**Arrangement note**

The records are arranged chronologically within each group.

**Committee on Expenditures on the Public Buildings 1875-1877****Biographical/Historical note**

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

**Committee Papers 1875-1877****Scope and Contents note**

The committee papers of the Committee on Expenditures on the Public Buildings document the construction of the New York Post Office (44A–F12.1), and various subjects (44A–F12.2).

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**Arrangement note**

The records are arranged chronologically within each group.

## Committee on Expenditures in the State Department 1875-1877

## Committee Papers 1875-1877

**Scope and Contents note**

The committee papers of the Committee on Expenditures in the State Department include papers relative to the conduct of John A. Bridgeland, United States consul at Le Havre, France (44A–F13.1); consulates (44A–F13.2); and various subjects (44A–F13.3).

**Arrangement note**

The records are arranged chronologically within each group.

## Committee on Expenditures in the Treasury Department 1875-1877

## Committee Papers 1875-1877

**Scope and Contents note**

The committee papers of the Committee on Expenditures in the Treasury Department document captured and abandoned property (44A–F14.1); the waterproofing process employed in the manufacture of fractional currency (44A–F14.2); and various subjects (44A–F14.3).

**Arrangement note**

The records are arranged chronologically within each group.

**Committees**

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**Committee on Expenditures in the War Department 1875-1877**

Committee Papers 1875-1877

**Scope and Contents note**

The committee papers of the Committee on Expenditures in the War Department document various subjects (44A–F15.1).

**Arrangement note**

The records are arranged chronologically.

**Committee on Foreign Affairs 1875-1877****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.

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**Committee Papers 1875-1877****Scope and Contents note**

The committee papers of the Committee on Foreign Affairs include the case of the brig "Surprise," whose papers were retained by the U. S. consul at Trinidad (44A-F16.1); conduct of George F. Seward, U. S. Minister to China (44A-F16.2); Cuban affairs (44A-F16.3); German Empire (44A-F16.4); Great Britain (44A-F16.5); Ireland (44A-F16.6); Mexico (44A-F16.75); South Africa (44A-F16.8); relationship of Robert Schenck, U. S. Minister to the Court of St. James with the Emma Mine (44A-F16.9); Tunis (44A-F16.10); Turkey (44A-F16.11); Venezuela (44A-F16.12); and various subjects (44A-F16.13). There is also a docket volume (44A-F16.14); a volume of minutes, 43d Congress, 1st session, to 44th Congress, 2d session (43A-F11.14); and a volume recording the agenda referred to individual members, 43d Congress, 1st session, to 45th Congress, 3d session (43A-F11.16).

**Arrangement note**

The records are arranged chronologically within each group.

**Petitions and Memorials, Resolutions of State Legislatures, and Related Documents That Were Referred to Committees 1875-1877****Scope and Contents note**

The petitions and memorials, resolutions of state legislatures, and related documents that were referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs include E. O. M. Condon's release from an English prison (44A-H5.1); international arbitration (44A-H5.2); and various subjects (44A-H5.3).

**Arrangement note**

The subjects are arranged chronologically within each group.

**Committees**

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## Committee on Indian Affairs 1875-1877

**Biographical/Historical note**

The Committee on Indian Affairs was established on December 17, 1821, with jurisdiction over subjects pertaining to Native Americans. Select committees to consider matters of Native Americans existed for several years before the creation of the standing committee. Among the matters referred to the committee were subjects relating to the care, education, and management of Native Americans and of their lands; the adjudication and payment of Indian depredation claims; bonds and stocks that had been part of Indian trust funds; adjudication of claims of Indians against the United States; the use and management of Native American funds; and the business and government of the Native American tribes. From 1885 until 1920, the committee exercised jurisdiction over appropriations relating to Native Americans. The Committee on Indian Affairs was abolished under the provisions of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946. Its jurisdiction and responsibilities were transferred to the Committee on Public Lands.

## Committee Papers 1875-1877

**Scope and Contents note**

The committee papers of the Committee on Indian Affairs document conduct of Indian offices (44A-F17.1); proposed transfer of the management of Indian affairs from the Interior Department to the War Department (44A-F17.2); and various subjects (44A-F17.3). There is also a minute book 44th Congress, 1st session, to 46th Congress, 2d session (44A-F17.4); and a docket volume (44A-F17.5).

**Arrangement note**

The records are arranged chronologically within each group.

**Committees**

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**Petitions and Memorials, Resolutions of State Legislatures, and Related Documents That Were Referred to Committees 1875-1877****Scope and Contents note**

The petitions and memorials, resolutions of state legislatures, and related documents that were referred to the Committee on Indian Affairs document various subjects (44A–H6.1).

**Arrangement note**

The subjects are arranged chronologically within each group.

**Committee on Invalid Pensions 1875-1877****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 1875-1877****Scope and Contents note**

## Committees

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The committee papers of the Committee on Invalid Pensions document various subjects (41A–F18.1), arranged by subject. There are also two docket volumes (44A–F18.2); and a volume of minutes, 36th Congress, 1st session, to 45th Congress, 3d session (36A–D12.2).

Petitions and Memorials, Resolutions of State Legislatures, and Related Documents That Were Referred to Committees 1875-1877

### **Scope and Contents note**

The petitions and memorials, resolutions of state legislatures, and related documents that were referred to the Committee on Invalid Pensions document various subjects (44A–H7.1).

### **Arrangement note**

The subjects are arranged chronologically within each group.

Committee on the Judiciary 1875-1877

### **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

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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 1875-1877****Scope and Contents note**

The committee papers of the Committee on the Judiciary document the investigation of Pacific railroads (44A-F19.1); conduct of Judges J. B. Belford and A. W. Stone of Colorado Territory (44A-F19.2); and various subjects (44A-F19.3). There is also a volume of minutes (44A-F19.4), and two docket volumes (44A-F19.5)

**Arrangement note**

The records are arranged chronologically within each group.

**Petitions and Memorials, Resolutions of State Legislatures, and Related Documents That Were Referred to Committees 1875-1877****Scope and Contents note**

The petitions and memorials, resolutions of state legislatures, and related documents that were referred to the Committee on the Judiciary document the appointment of a commission to investigate the alcoholic liquor traffic (44A-H8.1); constitutional amendment to acknowledge God as the source of all authority and power in civil government (44A-H8.2); distribution of the Geneva award (44A-H8.3); woman suffrage (44A-H8.4); and various subjects (44A-H8.5).

**Arrangement note**

The subjects are arranged chronologically within each group.

**Committees**

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**Committee on Military Affairs 1875-1877****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 1875-1877****Scope and Contents note**

The committee papers of the Committee on Military Affairs include reports of inspection of money accounts of disbursing officers of the Army (44A–F20.1); testimony relating to the operation of the Soldiers' Home and the National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers (44A–F20.2); and various subjects (44A–F20.3). There are also two docket volumes (44A–F20.4); and a volume of minutes from the 43d Congress, 1st session, to 44th Congress, 2d session (43A–F17.10).

**Arrangement note**

The records are arranged chronologically within each group.

**Committees**

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**Petitions and Memorials, Resolutions of State Legislatures, and Related Documents That Were Referred to Committees 1875-1877****Scope and Contents note**

The petitions and memorials, resolutions of state legislatures, and related documents that were referred to the Committee on Military Affairs document bounties (44A–H9.1), and various subjects (44A–H9.2).

**Arrangement note**

The subjects are arranged chronologically within each group.

**Committee on the Militia 1875-1877****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.

**Committee Papers 1875-1877**

**Committees**

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**Scope and Contents note**

The committee papers of the Committee on the Militia document equipping the Militia of the United States (44A–F21.1), arranged chronologically. Also included is a docket volume, 39th Congress, 1st session, to 41st Congress, 1st session, and 44th Congress, 1st and 2d sessions (39A–F16.3).

## Committee on the Mississippi Levees 1875-1877

**Biographical/Historical note**

The Committee on the Mississippi Levees was established during the 44th Congress on December 10, 1875, at the prompting of Representative Randall Gibson of Louisiana, to inquire into building and repairing levees on the Mississippi River. On November 7, 1877, the committee's name was changed to the Committee on Levees and Improvements of the Mississippi River.

## Committee Papers 1875-1877

**Scope and Contents note**

The committee papers of the Committee on the Mississippi Levees document various subjects (44A–F22.1), arranged chronologically. There is also a docket volume (44A–F22.2).

## Committee on Naval Affairs 1875-1877

**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

**Committees**

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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 1875-1877****Scope and Contents note**

The committee papers of the Committee on Naval Affairs document various subjects (44A–F23.1).

**Arrangement note**

The records are arranged chronologically.

**Petitions and Memorials, Resolutions of State Legislatures, and Related Documents That Were Referred to Committees 1875-1877****Scope and Contents note**

The petitions and memorials, resolutions of state legislatures, and related documents that were referred to the Committee on Naval Affairs document various subjects (44A–H10.1).

**Arrangement note**

The subjects are arranged chronologically within each group.

**Committee on the Pacific Railroads 1875-1877**

**Committees**

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**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 1875-1877

**Scope and Contents note**

The committee papers of the Committee on the Pacific Railroads document the Central Pacific Railroad (44A-F24.1); Northern Pacific Railroad (44A-F24.2); Oregon Branch of the Pacific Railroad (44A-F24.3); Southern Pacific Railroad (44A-F24.4); Texas Pacific Railroad (44A-F24.5); Union Pacific Railroad (44A-F24.6); and various subjects (44A-F24.7). There is also a volume of minutes, 44th Congress, 1st session, to 45th Congress, 2d session (44A-F24.8); and a docket volume (44A-F24.9).

**Arrangement note**

The records are arranged chronologically within each group.

Petitions and Memorials, Resolutions of State Legislatures, and Related Documents That Were Referred to Committees 1875-1877

**Scope and Contents note**

The petitions and memorials, resolutions of state legislatures, and related documents that were referred to the Committee on the Pacific Railroads document Government aid to promote the construction of a Southern-Pacific railroad, i.e., the Texas Pacific Railroad (44A-H11.1); and various subjects (44A-H11.2).

**Committees**

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**Arrangement note**

The subjects are arranged chronologically within each group.

**Committee on Patents 1875-1877****Biographical/Historical note**

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

**Committee Papers 1875-1877****Scope and Contents note**

The committee papers of the Committee on Patents include J. W. Rexford's patent for "improvement in rectifying and oxygenating apparatus" (44A-F25.1), and various subjects (44A-F25.2). There is also a volume of minutes, 44th Congress, 1st session, to 46th Congress, 3d session (44A-F25.3); and a docket volume (44A-F25.4).

**Arrangement note**

The records are arranged by subject.

**Committee on the Post Office and Post Roads 1875-1877**

**Committees**

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**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 1875-1877

**Scope and Contents note**

The committee papers of the Committee on the Post Office and Post Roads document the establishment of mail routes in states and territories (44A-F26.1); report of fines and reductions from the pay of mail contractors, July 4, 1874, to June 24, 1876 (44A-F26.2); and various subjects (44A-F26.3).

**Arrangement note**

The records are arranged chronologically within each group, except 44A-F26.1, which is arranged alphabetically by state or territory.

## Committees

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### Petitions and Memorials, Resolutions of State Legislatures, and Related Documents That Were Referred to Committees 1875-1877

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

The petitions and memorials, resolutions of state legislatures, and related documents that were referred to the Committee on the Post Office and Post Roads document cheap telegraphy (44A–H12.1); mail routes (44A–H12.2); postage on merchandise (44A–H12.3); postage on third-class matter (44A–H12.4); and various subjects (44A–H12.5).

#### **Arrangement note**

The subjects are arranged chronologically within each group.

### Committee on Printing 1875-1877

#### **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**

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**Committee Papers 1875-1877****Scope and Contents note**

The committee papers of the Committee on Printing include memorial addresses on the life and character of M. C. Kerr, Speaker of the House (44A–F27.1); general inquiry into the Government Printing Office as to cost of work (44A–F27.2); and various subjects (44A–F27.3).

**Arrangement note**

The records are arranged by subject.

**Petitions and Memorials, Resolutions of State Legislatures, and Related Documents That Were Referred to Committees 1875-1877****Scope and Contents note**

The petitions and memorials, resolutions of state legislatures, and related documents that were referred to the Committee on Printing document various subjects (44A–H13.1).

**Arrangement note**

The subjects are arranged chronologically within each group.

**Committee on Private Land Claims 1875-1877****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

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

### Committee Papers 1875-1877

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

The committee papers of the Committee on Private Land Claims document various subjects (44A–F28.1). There is also a volume of minutes, 42d Congress, 2d session, to 44th Congress, 1st session (42A–F21.1); a docket volume, 42d Congress, 1st session, to 44th Congress, 1st session (42A–F21.2); a minute book, 44th Congress, 1st session, to 45th Congress, 3d session (44A–F28.2); and three docket volumes, 44th Congress, 1st session, to 45th Congress, 2d session (44A–F28.3).

#### **Arrangement note**

The records are arranged chronologically.

### Committee on Public Buildings and Grounds 1875-1877

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

The standing Committee on Public Buildings and Grounds was established in 1837, replacing the Select Committee on Public Buildings which was created in 1819. The committee's jurisdiction included the construction throughout the country of public buildings, documenting customs houses, post offices, and federal court houses; the erection of monuments and memorials; the purchase of property for public use; improvements to public property; and compensation for workers erecting public buildings. During the early years of the committee, much of the legislation reported had to do with constructing and improving public buildings in Washington, D.C., and commissioning artists to create art work for those buildings. Under the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946, the Committee on Public Buildings and Grounds became part of the Committee on Public Works.

**Committees**

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**Committee Papers 1875-1877****Scope and Contents note**

The committee papers of the Committee on Public Buildings and Grounds document the Chicago Customhouse investigation (44A–F29.1); expenditures for the use and improvement of public grounds in the city of Washington from July 1, 1871, to December 31, 1875 (44A–F29.2); public buildings erected or rented for the use of various Government agencies (44A–F29.3); ventilation of the Hall of the House of Representatives (44A–F29.4); and various subjects (44A–F29.5). There is also a volume of minutes, 42d Congress, 1st session, to 46th Congress, 3d session (42A–F22.10); and a docket volume (44A–F29.6).

**Arrangement note**

The records are arranged chronologically within each group, except 44A–F29.3, which is arranged alphabetically by state or territory.

**Petitions and Memorials, Resolutions of State Legislatures, and Related Documents That Were Referred to Committees 1875-1877****Scope and Contents note**

The petitions and memorials, resolutions of state legislatures, and related documents that were referred to the Committee on Public Buildings and Grounds document the construction of public buildings (44A–H14.1); monuments and other memorials (44A–H14.2); and various subjects (44A–H14.3).

**Arrangement note**

The subjects are arranged chronologically within each group.

**Committee on Public Expenditures 1875-1877**

**Committees**

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**Committee Papers 1875-1877****Scope and Contents note**

The committee papers of the Committee on Public Expenditures document various subjects (44A–F30.1), arranged chronologically; and a volume of sporadic minutes and docket entries: 40th Congress, 1st session; 41st Congress, 2d and 3d sessions; and 44th Congress, 1st session (40A–F22.1).

**Committee on Public Lands 1875-1877****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 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 1875-1877****Scope and Contents note**

The committee papers of the Committee on Public Lands document the Louisiana swamplands selected by Surveyor General's office at New Orleans (44A–F31.1); suspended entries of public

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land for 1876 (44A–F31.2); and various subjects (44A–F31.3). There is also a volume of minutes, 43d Congress, 1st session, to 44th Congress, 2d session (43A–F24.8).

**Arrangement note**

The records are arranged chronologically within each group.

Petitions and Memorials, Resolutions of State Legislatures, and Related Documents That Were Referred to Committees 1875-1877

**Scope and Contents note**

The petitions and memorials, resolutions of state legislatures, and related documents that were referred to the Committee on Public Lands document various subjects (44A–H15.1).

**Arrangement note**

The subjects are arranged chronologically within each group.

Committee on Railways and Canals 1875-1877

**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

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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 1875-1877

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

The committee papers of the Committee on Railways and Canals include a volume of minutes, 44th Congress, 1st session, to 46th Congress, 3d session (44A–F32.1); and a docket volume (44A–F32. 2).

### Petitions and Memorials, Resolutions of State Legislatures, and Related Documents That Were Referred to Committees 1875-1877

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

The petitions and memorials, resolutions of state legislatures, and related documents that were referred to the Committee on Railways and Canals document various subjects (44A–H16.1).

#### **Arrangement note**

The subjects are arranged chronologically within each group.

### Committee on Reform in the Civil Service 1875-1877

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

The Committee on Reform in the Civil Service became a standing committee August 18, 1893, having been a select committee prior to that date. The committee's jurisdiction covered matters relating to "reform in the civil service," including the status, classification, and salaries of officers, clerks, and employees in the civil branches of Government; provisions for preference to sailors, soldiers, and marines seeking civil service employment; and the apportionment of civil service

## Committees

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appointments among the States. The committee had jurisdiction over matters relating to the Civil Service Commission, the Bureau of Efficiency, and alleged violations of civil service law, and it reported legislation relating to the repeal of the tenure of office act. In 1924 the name of the committee was shortened to Committee on the Civil Service, but the jurisdiction was not changed.

### Committee Papers 1875-1877

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

The committee papers of the Committee on Reform in the Civil Service document the investigation of the conduct of M. D. Leggett, ex-Commissioner of Patents (44A-F33.1); investigation of charges against W. J. Purman, Representative from Florida (44A-F33.2); investigation of the Secret Service Department (44A-F33.3); investigation of charges against John W. Wright and Alexander Clapperton, indicted for defrauding the Government (44A-F33.4); and various subjects (44A-F33.5).

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

The records are arranged chronologically within each group.

### Committee on the Revision of the Laws 1875-1877

#### **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**

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**Committee Papers 1875-1877****Scope and Contents note**

The committee papers of the Committee on Revision of the Laws include the correction of errors and omissions in the Revised Statutes (44A–F34.1), and various subjects (44A–F34.2).

**Arrangement note**

The records are arranged chronologically within each group.

**Committee on Revolutionary Pensions 1875-1877****Biographical/Historical note**

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

**Committee Papers 1875-1877****Scope and Contents note**

The committee papers of the Committee on Revolutionary Pensions include a a combination minute and docket book (44A–F35.1).

**Petitions and Memorials, Resolutions of State Legislatures, and Related Documents That Were Referred to Committees 1875-1877**

**Committees**

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**Scope and Contents note**

The petitions and memorials, resolutions of state legislatures, and related documents that were referred to the Committee on Revolutionary Pensions document various subjects (44A–H17.1).

**Arrangement note**

The subjects are arranged chronologically within each group.

## Committee on the Territories 1875-1877

**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 1875-1877

**Scope and Contents note**

The committee papers of the Committee on the Territories document the election of Territorial and local officers (44A–F36.1); papers relating to Colorado (44A–F36.2), Dakota (44A–F36.3), Idaho (44A–F36.4), New Mexico (44A–F36.5), Oklahoma (44A–F36.6), Utah (44A–F36.7), and Washington (44A–F36.8); and various subjects (44A–F36.9). There is also a volume of minutes, 44th Congress, 1st session, to 46th Congress, 3d session (44A–F36.10).

**Arrangement note**

## Committees

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The records are arranged chronologically within each group.

Petitions and Memorials, Resolutions of State Legislatures, and Related Documents That Were Referred to Committees 1875-1877

### **Scope and Contents note**

The petitions and memorials, resolutions of state legislatures, and related documents that were referred to the Committee on the Territories document various subjects (44A–H18.1).

### **Arrangement note**

The subjects are arranged chronologically within each group.

Committee on War Claims 1875-1877

### **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.

**Committees**

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**Committee Papers 1875-1877****Scope and Contents note**

The committee papers of the Committee on War Claims include claims rejected by the Commissioners of Claims, i.e., Southern Claims Commission, Report No. 5 (44A-F37.1) and Report No. 6 (44A-F37.2). There are also three docket volumes (44A-F37.3); the "Consolidated Index of Claims Reported by the Commissioners of Claims to the House of Representatives from 1871 to 1880" (42A-F29.5); and a numerical list of claims disallowed by the Commissioners 1871-1878 (42A-F29.4). A separate finding aid for the committee's records is available.

**Arrangement note**

The records are arranged numerically within each group.

**Petitions and Memorials, Resolutions of State Legislatures, and Related Documents That Were Referred to Committees 1875-1877****Scope and Contents note**

The petitions and memorials, resolutions of state legislatures, and related documents that were referred to the Committee on War Claims document various subjects (44A-H19.1). A separate finding aid for the committee's records is available.

**Arrangement note**

The subjects are arranged chronologically within each group.

**Committee on Ways and Means 1875-1877****Biographical/Historical note**

## Committees

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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 1875-1877

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

The committee papers of the Committee on Ways and Means document the commodity tariff (44A–F38.1); commodity taxation (44A–F38.2); financial affairs (44A–F38.3); papers from or about the Interior Department (44A–F38.4); papers from or about the Treasury Department (44A–F38.5); tariff policy (44A–F38.6); tax policy (44A–F38.7); papers relating to the Treasury’s payment of \$18,938.79 to the Buffalo Bayou, Brazos, and Colorado Railroad Co. (44A–F38.8); and various subjects (44A–F38 .9). There is also a volume of minutes (44A–F38.10), and two docket volumes (44A–F38.11).

#### **Arrangement note**

The records are arranged chronologically within each group.

### Petitions and Memorials, Resolutions of State Legislatures, and Related Documents That Were Referred to Committees 1875-1877

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

The petitions and memorials, resolutions of state legislatures, and related documents that were referred to the Committee on Ways and Means include the appointment of a commission to

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study the liquor traffic (44A–H20.1); bank deposits and capital (44A–H20.2); bologna sausage (44A–H20.3); books and periodicals (44A–H20.4); cigars, tobacco, and licorice (44A–H20.5); coal (44A–H20.6); cork (44A–H20.7); definition of the powers and duties of officers of Internal Revenue (44A–H20.8); distilled spirits and malt beverages (44A–H20.9); earthenware, crockery, glassware, and china (44A–H20.10); English lastings and serges (44A–H20.11); flaxseed end, flaxseed oil (44A–H20.12); fruit (44A–H20.13); Government operation of telegraph lines (44A–H20.14); grain sacks (44A–H20.15); iron and steel (44A–H20.16); lead and zinc (44A–H20.17); linseed oil (44A–H20.18); matches (44A–H20.19); methods of packing tobacco (44A–H20.20); quinine (44A–H20.21); reciprocity treaty with the Hawaiian Islands (44A–H20.22); refunding of cotton tax paid during 1865–1868 (44A–H20.23); repeal of stamp tax on medicinal preparations, with such tax to be continued on patent or proprietary medicines (44A–H20.24); revenue frauds (44A–H20.25); silk (44A–H20.26); sodium bicarbonate, red soda, caustic soda, and alum (44A–H20.27); general tariff (44A–H20.28); tea and coffee (44A–H20.29); tax on bank checks (44A–H20.30); tariff reduction (44A–H20.31); wine and brandy (44A–H20.32); and various subjects (44A–H20.33).

### Arrangement note

The subjects are arranged chronologically within each group.

#### Select Committees 1875-1877

#### Committee Papers 1875-1877

### Scope and Contents note

The committee papers of select committees document the following select committees: on Federal Offices in Louisiana (44A–F39.1); on the Privileges, Powers, and Duties of the House of Representatives in Counting the Electoral Votes for President and Vice President of the United States, including a volume of minutes (44A–F39.2); on the Real Estate Pool and Jay Cooke's Indebtedness (44A–F39.3); on the Recent Election in Florida (44A–F39.4); on the Recent Election in New York and Philadelphia (44A–F39.5); on the Use of Troops in the Southern States

**Originals of Printed House Documents**

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(44A–F39.6); on Whiskey Trials in St. Louis (44A–F39.7); and to Investigate the Affairs of the Freedman’s Savings and Trust Co., a docket book (44A–F39.8).

Petitions and Memorials, Resolutions of State Legislatures, and Related Documents That Were Referred to Committees 1875-1877

**Scope and Contents note**

The petitions and memorials, resolutions of state legislatures, and related documents that were referred to the select committee document the following select committees: on the Centennial Exhibition at Philadelphia (44A–H21.1); on Counting the Electoral Votes (44A–H21.2); and on the Recent Election in Louisiana (44A–H21.3).

**Originals of Printed House Documents 1875-1877 54.0 Cubic feet (227 volumes)****Scope and Contents note**

The originals of printed House documents include original executive documents, 1st session (44A–G1) and 2d session (44A–G2); and original miscellaneous documents, 1st session (44A–G3) and 2d session (44A–G4).

**Arrangement note**

The records are arranged numerically within each group.

**Election Records 1875-1877 1.0 Cubic feet****Scope and Contents note**

The election records include credentials of Representatives and Delegates (44A–J1).

**Arrangement note**

**Other Records**

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The records are arranged alphabetically by state or territory.

**Other Records 1875-1877 1.0 Cubic feet****Scope and Contents note**

Other records include copies of telegrams sent and received by the departmental telegraph lines which connected the House of Representatives with the executive departments and the Government Printing Office (44A–K1), and roll calls (44A–K2).

**Arrangement note**

The records are arranged chronologically within each group.

**Records of Impeachment Proceedings 1875-1877 0.16 Cubic feet****Impeachment of William W. Belknap 1875-1877****Scope and Contents note**

The papers pertain to the impeachment proceedings against William W. Belknap, late Secretary of War (44B-A1).

**Records of the Office of the Clerk 1875-1877****Index 1875-1877 0.083 Cubic feet (1 volume)****Scope and Contents note**

**Record Books**

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The geographical index to petitions covers the 44th Congress, 1st session, to 46th Congress, 2d session (44C-C1).

**Record Books 1875-1877 2.0 Cubic feet (16 volumes)****Scope and Contents note**

The record books include a bill book of House bills and resolutions together with index (44C-A1); bill book of Senate bills and resolutions (44C-A2); individual ledger (44C-A3); register of enrolled bills and resolutions (44C-A4); daily order of business and calendars (44C-A5); register of committee reports (44C-A6); register of executive documents (44C-A7); register of miscellaneous documents (44C-A8); an inventory of books and a list of employees in the Folding Room (44C-A9); and five account books recording expenditures of the Clerk's Office (44C-A10). Also included is a register of enrolled bills and resolutions, 43d Congress, 1st session, to 44th Congress, 1st session (43C-A4).

**Other Records 1875-1877 0.5 Cubic feet****Scope and Contents note**

Other records include check stubs showing expenditures from the contingent fund (44C-B1), arranged numerically; and various papers (44C-B2), arranged by subject.