

Records of the U.S. House of Representatives
RG.233.45.House
45th Congress

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

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Describing Archives: A Content Standard

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Summary Information

Repository	Center for Legislative Archives, National Archives and Records Administration
Title	House Records of the 45th Congress
Date [inclusive]	1877-1879
Extent	264.0 Cubic feet
Language	English

Administrative Information

Publication Information

Center for Legislative Archives, National Archives and Records Administration

Conditions Governing Access note

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

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

Collection Inventory

Records of Legislative Proceedings 1877-1879

Minute Books and Journals 1877-1879 2.0 Cubic feet (6 volumes)

Scope and Contents note

The minute books and journals series include a minute book, 1st and 2d sessions (45A-A1); a legislative journal, 2d session (45A-A2); a minute book 45th Congress, 3d session, to 46th Congress, 1st session (45A-A3); and a legislative journal, 3d session (45A-A4).

Bills and Resolutions Originating in the House 1877-1879 15.0 Cubic feet

Scope and Contents note

The bills and resolutions originating in the House include thirty-three volumes of original House bills, volume 1 incorporating original committee reports for the 1st session (45A-B1); original House concurrent resolutions (45A-B2); House simple resolutions, motions, and orders (45A-B3); desk copies of House bills passed (45A-B4); desk copies of House joint resolutions passed (45A-B5); and nine volumes of engrossed House bills and resolutions (45A-B6).

Arrangement note

The records are arranged numerically within each group, except 45A-B2, which is arranged chronologically, and 45A-B3, which is arranged alphabetically by Congressman.

Bills Originating in the Senate and Considered in the House 1877-1879

Accompanying Papers File

Scope and Contents note

The bills originating in the Senate and considered in the House include Senate bills (45A-C1), arranged numerically.

Accompanying Papers File 1877-1879 74.0 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 (45A-D1).

Arrangement note

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

Committee Reports 1877-1879 9.0 Cubic feet (41 volumes)**Scope and Contents note**

Original committee reports cover the 2d session (45A-E1) and 3d session (45A-E2) of the 45th Congress. For original committee reports for the 1st session, see the series "Bills and Resolutions Originating in the House," (45A-B1).

Arrangement note

The records are arranged numerically within each group.

Committees 1877-1879

Committee on Accounts 1877-1879

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 1877-1879

Scope and Contents note

The committee papers of the Committee on Accounts document various subjects (45A-F1.1), arranged chronologically. There is also a ledger of the miscellaneous expenses of the committee, 44th Congress, 1st session, to 45th Congress, 2d session (44A-F1.2); a volume of minutes, 41st Congress, 1st session, to 47th Congress, 1st session (41A-F1.3); a docket volume, 45th Congress, 1st session, to 47th Congress, 2d session (45A-F1.2); and a statement of accounts before the committee (45A-F1.3).

Petitions and Memorials, Resolutions of State Legislatures, and Related Documents Which Were Referred to Committees 1877-1879

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 (45A-H1.1).

Arrangement note

Committees

The subjects are arranged chronologically within each group.

Committee on Agriculture 1877-1879**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 1877-1879**Scope and Contents note**

The committee papers of the Committee on Agriculture document include a docket volume (45A–F2.1).

Petitions and Memorials, Resolutions of State Legislatures, and Related Documents Which Were Referred to Committees 1877-1879**Scope and Contents note**

Committees

The petitions and memorials, resolutions of state legislatures, and related documents which were referred to the Committee on Agriculture document the adulteration of food (45A–H2.1); conservation of food fish in the Great Lakes (45A–H2.2); diseases of cattle and swine (45A–H2.3); establishment of a Department of Agriculture headed by a Secretary with Cabinet status (45A–H2.4); forestry (45A–H2.5); legislation to promote the sugar beet industry (45A–H2.6); transmission of bees through the mails (45A–H2.7); and transportation of livestock (45A–H2.8).

Arrangement note

The subjects are arranged chronologically within each group.

Committee on Appropriations 1877-1879

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 1877-1879

Scope and Contents note

The committee papers of the Committee on Appropriations document claims (45A–F3.1); Dakota Territory (45A–F3.2); papers from or about executive departments and agencies: Agriculture (45A–F3.3); Interior, general (45A–F3.4); Interior, Indian affairs (45A–F3.5); Interior, patents

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(45A–F3.6); Interior, pensions (45A–F3.7); Interior, public lands (45A–F3.8); Justice (45A–F3.9); Navy (45A–F3.10); Post Office (45A–F3.11); Smithsonian Institution (45A–F3.12); State (45A–F3.13); Treasury (45A–F3.14); U. S. Fish Commission (45A–F3.15); and War (45A–F3.16); District of Columbia (45A–F3.17); Federal courts (45A–F3.18); hearings on customs duties illegally exacted (45A–F3.19); House of Representatives (45A–F3.20); management of the Bureau of Engraving and Printing (45A–F3.21); Office of the Public Printer (45A–F3.22); papers accompanying specific bills (45A–F3.23); Wyoming Territory (45A–F3.24); and various subjects (45A–F3.25). 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, except 45A–F3.23, which is arranged numerically by bill.

Petitions and Memorials, Resolutions of State Legislatures, and Related Documents Which Were Referred to Committees 1877-1879

Scope and Contents note

The petitions and memorials, resolutions of state legislatures, and related documents which were referred to the Committee on Appropriations include claims (45A–H3.1); continuance of the U. S. Board to Test Iron and Steel (45A–H3.2); financial assistance for private organizations (45A–H3.3); improvement of the mail service (45A–H3.4); land and coast surveys (45A–H3.5); legislation for the preservation of food fish in the Great Lakes and for the payment of enforcement officers (45A–H3.6); lighthouses and automatic signal buoys (45A–H3.7); military service (45A–H3.8); monuments (45A–H3.9); public buildings (45A–H3.10); requests for payment of or increase in the salaries of Government employees (45A–H3.11); restoration of diplomatic relations with Bolivia and Colombia (45A–H3.12); and various subjects (45A–H3.13).

Arrangement note

Committees

The subjects are arranged chronologically within each group, except 45A–H3.1, which is arranged alphabetically by petitioner.

Committee on Banking and Currency 1877-1879

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 1877-1879

Scope and Contents note

The committee papers of the Committee on Banking and Currency include the argument of Edward McPherson, Chief of the Bureau of Engraving and Printing, in relation to engraving and printing the Government issues (45A–F4.1). There is also a volume of minutes, 45th Congress, 1st session, to 48th Congress, 2d session (45A–F4.2); and a docket volume (45A–F4.3).

Petitions and Memorials, Resolutions of State Legislatures, and Related Documents Which Were Referred to Committees 1877-1879

Scope and Contents note

Committees

The petitions and memorials, resolutions of state legislatures, and related documents which were referred to the Committee on Banking and Currency include the repeal of the Specie Resumption Act (45A–H4.1).

Arrangement note

The subjects are arranged chronologically within each group.

Committee on Claims 1877-1879

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 1877-1879

Scope and Contents note

The committee papers of the Committee on Claims document various subjects (45A–F5.1), arranged by subject. There is also a volume of rough minutes, 45th Congress, 1st session, to 46th

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Congress, 2d session (45A–F5.2); a docket volume (45A–F5.3); and a volume of minutes, 43d Congress, 1st session, to 46th Congress, 3d session (43A–F5.3).

Petitions and Memorials, Resolutions of State Legislatures, and Related Documents Which Were Referred to Committees 1877-1879

Scope and Contents note

The petitions and memorials, resolutions of state legislatures, and related documents which were referred to the Committee on Claims document various subjects (45A–H5.1), arranged alphabetically by petitioner.

Committee on Coinage, Weights, and Measures 1877-1879

Biographical/Historical note

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

Committees

Committee Papers 1877-1879**Scope and Contents note**

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

Committee on Commerce 1877-1879**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-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 1877-1879**Scope and Contents note**

The committee papers of the Committee on Commerce document the capitation taxes on immigrants (45A–F7.1); discriminatory rates charged by the Central Pacific Railroad in Nevada (45A–F7.2); improvement of navigation on inland waters (45A–F7.3); papers accompanying

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specific bills (45A–F7.4); purchase and registry of foreign–built ships by citizens of the United States (45A–F7.5); regulation of commerce over the Rock Island Arsenal Bridge (45A–F7.6); reports of the committee (45A–F7.7); U. S. Life–Saving Service (45A–F7.8); Woodruff Scientific Expedition (45A–F7.9); and various subjects (45A–F7.10).

Arrangement note

The records are arranged chronologically within each group, except 45A–F7.4, which is arranged numerically by bill.

Petitions and Memorials, Resolutions of State Legislatures, and Related Documents Which Were Referred to Committees 1877-1879

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 compulsory pilotage for coastal trade and fisheries (45A–H6.1); establishment of a Department of Commerce (45A–H6.2); immigration tax (45A–H6.3); licensing of shipmasters, mates, pilots, and engineers (45A–H6.4); Michigan Ship Canal (45A–H6.5); regulation and protection of fisheries on the lakes and rivers of the West (45A–H6.6); regulation of interstate commerce and the prohibition of unjust rebates and discriminations by common carriers (45A–H6.7); rivers and harbors (45A–H6.8); ships and shipping (45A–H6.9); free competition in the construction and operation of telegraphic cables (45A–H6.10); transfer of the Life–Saving Service from the Treasury Department (45A–H6.11); and various subjects (45A–H6.12).

Arrangement note

The subjects are arranged chronologically within each group.

Committee on the District of Columbia 1877-1879

Biographical/Historical note

Committees

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 1877-1879

Scope and Contents note

The committee papers of the Committee on the District of Columbia document the paving of streets and avenues (45A-F8.1); Washington Market Co. (45A-F8.2); and various subjects (45A-F8.3). There are two docket volumes: 41st Congress, 1st session, to 45th Congress, 1st session (41A-F7.5); and (45A-F8.4). Another volume of minutes (40A-F25.3) from the Committee on Roads and Canals contains minutes of the Committee on the District of Columbia for the 45th Congress.

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 1877-1879

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 include legislation to enable members of the Western Emigration Society of the District of Columbia to take advantage of the homestead law (45A–H17.1).

Arrangement note

The subjects are arranged chronologically within each group.

Committee on Education and Labor 1877-1879**Biographical/Historical note**

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

Committee Papers 1877-1879**Scope and Contents note**

The committee papers of the Committee on Education and Labor document various subjects (45A–F9.1).

Arrangement note

Committees

The records are arranged chronologically.

Petitions and Memorials, Resolutions of State Legislatures, and Related Documents Which Were Referred to Committees 1877-1879

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 aid to indigent colonizers of public land (45A–H8.1); aid to various groups for educational purposes (45A–H8.2); appointment of a commission to investigate the alcoholic liquor traffic (45A–H8.3); claims (45A–H8.4); colonization of Liberia by American Negroes (45A–H8.5); distribution of the proceeds from the sale of public lands to the States for educational purposes (45A–H8.6); incorporation of the Iron Moulders Union of North America (45A–H8.7); legislation to effect enforcement of the 8–hour law and to provide fair and equitable pay for employees of the Government (45A–H8.8); prohibition of Chinese immigration (45A–H8.9); refund of a succession tax paid by Stevens Polytechnic Institute (45A–H8.10); use of unclaimed cotton tax refunds, H.R. 1670, for educational purposes in the States in which it was paid (45A–H8.11); and various subjects (45A–H8.12).

Arrangement note

The subjects are arranged chronologically within each group, except 45A–H8.4, which is arranged alphabetically by petitioner.

Committee on Elections 1877-1879

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

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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 1877-1879

Scope and Contents note

The committee papers of the Committee on Elections include accounts of claimants for expenses in contested elections (45A–F10.1); contested election cases of Charles W. Buttz v. E. W. M. Mackey, South Carolina (45A–F10.2); T. E. Chambliss v. Joseph Jorgenson, Virginia (45A–F10.3); Jere Haralson v. Charles M. Shelley, Alabama (45A–F10.4); John R. Lynch v. James R. Chalmers, Mississippi (45A–F10.5); John S. Richardson v. Joseph H. Rainey, South Carolina (45A–F10.6); Peter D. Wigginton v. Romualdo Pacheco, California (45A–F10.7); Robert H. U. Davidson v. William J. Purman, Florida (45A–F10.8); Robert N. Baskin v. George Cannon, Utah Territory (45A–F10.9); Thomas B. Florence v. Chapman Freeman, Pennsylvania (45A–F10.10); William H. Hardy v. H. S. Stevens, Arizona Territory (45A–F10.11); and William E. Hinton v. Joseph Jorgensen, Virginia (45A–F10.12); and various subjects (45A–F10.13). The records also include a volume of minutes, 42d Congress, 1st session, to 45th Congress, 3d session (42A–F9.18).

Arrangement note

The records are arranged by subject.

Controlled Access Headings

Personal Name(s)

- Baskin, R. N. (Robert Newton), 1835-1918
- Buttz, Charles Wilson, 1837-1913
- Cannon, George Q. (George Quayle), 1827-1901
- Chalmers, James R. (James Ronald), 1831-1898

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- Davidson, Robert Hamilton McWhorta, 1832-1908
- Florence, Thomas B. (Thomas Birch), 1812-1875
- Freeman, Chapman, 1832-1904
- Haralson, Jeremiah, 1846-1916
- Jorgensen, Joseph, 1844-1888
- Lynch, John Roy, 1847-1939
- Mackey, E. W. M. (Edmund William McGregor), 1846-1884
- Pacheco, Romualdo, 1831-1899
- Purman, William James, 1840-1928
- Rainey, Joseph H., 1832-1887
- Richardson, John Smythe, 1828-1894
- Shelley, Charles Miller, 1833-1907
- Stevens, Hiram Sanford, 1832-1893
- Wigginton, Peter Dinwiddie, 1839-1890

Committee on Expenditures in the Interior Department 1877-1879

Committee Papers 1877-1879

Scope and Contents note

The committee papers of the Committee on Expenditures in the Interior Department document various subjects (45A-F11.1).

Arrangement note

The records are arranged chronologically.

Committee on Expenditures in the State Department 1877-1879

Committee Papers 1877-1879

Committees

Scope and Contents note

The committee papers of the Committee on Expenditures in the State Department document various subjects (45A–F12.1), arranged by subject. There is also a docket volume (45A–F12.2).

Committee on Expenditures in the Treasury Department 1877-1879**Committee Papers 1877-1879****Scope and Contents note**

The committee papers of the Committee on Expenditures in the Treasury Department document contingent expenses of the Treasury Department for the fiscal year ended June 30, 1878 (45A–F13.1).

Committee on Expenditures in the War Department 1877-1879**Committee Papers 1877-1879****Scope and Contents note**

The committee papers of the Committee on Expenditures in the War Department include charges against Frank S. Johnson, chief inspector of clothing at the Quartermaster's Depot in Philadelphia (45A–F14.1); inspections of money accounts of Army disbursing officers (45A–F14.2); and various subjects (45A–F14.3).

Arrangement note

The records are arranged by subject.

Committees

Committee on Foreign Affairs 1877-1879**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 1877-1879**Scope and Contents note**

The committee papers of the Committee on Foreign Affairs document the definition of the boundary between Alaska and Canada (45A-F15.1); Geneva award (45A-F15.2); International Exposition at Paris, 1878 (45A-F15.3); Japanese indemnity fund (45A-F15.4); Mexican awards under the convention of July 4, 1868, between the United States and Mexico (45A-F15.5); Venezuelan claims (45A-F15.6); and various subjects (45A-F15.7). There is also a volume of minutes, 45th Congress, 1st session, to 46th Congress, 3d session (45A-F15.8); a docket volume (45A-F15.9); and a volume recording the agenda referred to individual members, 43d Congress, 1st session, to 45th Congress, 3d session (43A-F11.16).

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 1877-1879

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 fishing articles of the Washington treaty (45A-H9.1); claims (45A-H9.2), arranged alphabetically by petitioner; diplomatic mission to Colombia (45A-H9.3); exploration and colonization of the North Polar Area (45A-H9.4); Mexico (45A-H9.5); and various subjects (45A-H9.6).

Arrangement note

The subjects are arranged chronologically within each group, except 45A-H9.2, which is arranged alphabetically by petitioner.

Committee on Indian Affairs 1877-1879

Biographical/Historical note

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

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

Committee Papers 1877-1879

Scope and Contents note

The committee papers of the Committee on Indian Affairs document the educational fund of the Cherokee Nation (45A–F16.1); Gen. J. P. C. Shanks, Special Commissioner for the Indian Territory (45A–F16.2); Osage ceded lands (45A–F16.3); lands allotted to the Mexican Potawatomi Indians under the treaty of Nov. 15, 1861 (45A–F16.4); transfer of the Indian Bureau to the War Department (45A–F16.5); and various subjects (45A–F16.6). There is also a docket volume (45A–F16.7); and a minute book 44th Congress, 1st session, to 46th Congress, 2d session (44A–F17.4).

Arrangement note

The records are arranged chronologically within each group.

Committee on Invalid Pensions 1877-1879

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.

Committees

Committee Papers 1877-1879**Scope and Contents note**

The committee papers of the Committee on Invalid Pensions include claims of soldiers or widows of soldiers of the War of 1812 (45A–F17.1); papers accompanying specific bills (45A–F17.2); pensions for veterans of the Mexican War (45A–F17.3); transfer of certain records from the Surgeon General’s Office, U. S. Army, to the Pension Office (45A–F17.4); U. S. pension agents (45A–F17.5); and various subjects (45A–F17.6). There are also three docket volumes (45A–F17.7); and a volume of minutes, 36th Congress, 1st session, to 45th Congress, 3d session (36A–D12.2).

Arrangement note

The records are arranged chronologically within each group, except 45A–F17.2, which is arranged numerically.

Petitions and Memorials, Resolutions of State Legislatures, and Related Documents Which Were Referred to Committees 1877-1879**Scope and Contents note**

The petitions and memorials, resolutions of state legislatures, and related documents which were referred to the Committee on Invalid Pensions include the amendment of the pension laws (45A–H10.1); pensions for veterans of the Mexican War and the Black Hawk War (45A–H10.2); and various subjects (45A–H10.3).

Arrangement note

The subjects are arranged chronologically within each group.

Committee on the Judiciary 1877-1879

Committees

Biographical/Historical note

The standing Committee on the Judiciary was established on June 3, 1813, to take into consideration matters touching judicial proceedings. In 1880 the rule defining its jurisdiction was revised to read "judicial proceedings, civil and criminal law," and this remained the formal definition of the jurisdiction of the committee until the reorganization of Congress in 1946. The committee's jurisdiction includes judiciary and judicial proceedings, civil and criminal; administrative practice and procedure; apportionment of Representatives; bankruptcy, mutiny, espionage, and counterfeiting; civil liberties; constitutional amendments; criminal law enforcement; Federal courts and judges, and local courts in the Territories and possessions; immigration policy and nonborder enforcement; interstate compacts generally; claims against the United States; meetings of Congress; attendance of Members, Delegates, and the Resident Commissioner; and their acceptance of incompatible offices; National penitentiaries; patents, the Patent and Trademark Office, copyrights, and trademarks; Presidential succession; protection of trade and commerce against unlawful restraints and monopolies; revision and codification of the Statutes of the United States; state and territorial boundary lines; and subversive activities affecting the internal security of the United States. The committee has oversight over the U.S. Department of Justice and the U.S. Department of Homeland Security.

Committee Papers 1877-1879

Scope and Contents note

The committee papers of the Committee on the Judiciary include awards made by the Mexican Claims Commission (45A-F18.1); civil rights legislation (45A-F18.2); condemnation by the United States of block 121 of the school section addition to Chicago (45A-F18.3); Geneva award (45A-F18.4); and various subjects (45A-F18.5). There is also a volume of minutes (45A-F18.6), and a docket volume (45A-F18.7).

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 1877-1879**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 an appointment of a commission to investigate the alcoholic liquor traffic (45A–H11.1); appointment of a special committee to investigate the official conduct of H. W. Blodgett, District Judge of the Northern District of Illinois (45A–H11.2); creation of a new Federal judicial district in Texas (45A–H11.3); enforcement of the anti-polygamy law of 1862 (45A–H11.4); repeal of the bankruptcy law (45A–H11.5); settlement of the Alabama claims (45A–H11.6); woman suffrage (45A–H11.7); and various subjects (45A–H11.8).

Arrangement note

The subjects are arranged chronologically within each group.

Committee on Levees and Improvements of the Mississippi River 1877-1879**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 purposes of the committee included 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 1877-1879

Committees

Scope and Contents note

The committee papers of the Committee on Levees and Improvements of the Mississippi include a docket volume, 45th Congress, 1st session, to 46th Congress, 1st session, and 48th Congress, 1st session (45A–F19.1).

Committee on Manufactures 1877-1879

Biographical/Historical note

The Committee on Manufactures was established in 1819 as a result of the split of the Committee on Commerce and Manufactures (1795-1819). Jurisdiction of the committee includes matters relating to the manufacturing industries, but became inactive during the later years of its existence and was eliminated in 1911. The committee's functions were absorbed by the Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce (1892-1968).

Committee Papers 1877-1879

Scope and Contents note

The committee papers of the Committee on Manufactures include bills referred to the committee (45A–F20.1), arranged numerically; and a combination minute and docket volume (45A–F20.2).

Petitions and Memorials, Resolutions of State Legislatures, and Related Documents Which Were Referred to Committees 1877-1879

Arrangement note

The subjects are arranged chronologically within each group.

Scope and Contents note

Committees

The petitions and memorials, resolutions of state legislatures, and related documents which were referred to the Committee on Manufactures document the adulteration of food (45A–H12.1), and various subjects (45A–H12.2).

Committee on Military Affairs 1877-1879

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 1877-1879

Scope and Contents note

The committee papers of the Committee on Military Affairs include abstracts of contracts made by the Quartermaster's Department in 1877 (45A–F21.1); appropriations and expenditures of the Army (45A–F21.2); briefs of Representative John H. Evins on the agenda of the committee (45A–F21.3); correspondence of Representative Henry B. Banning, chairman of the committee (45A–F21.4); sale of the Fort Yuma Military Reservation, Arizona Territory (45A–F21.5); and various subjects (45A–F21.6). There is also a volume of minutes (45A–F21.7), and a docket volume (45A–F21.8).

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 1877-1879

Arrangement note

The subjects are arranged chronologically within each group.

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 arsenals and the purchase of ordnance and armament from private manufacturers (45A–H13.1); equalization of soldiers' bounties (45A–H13.2); and transfer of the medical records from the Provost Marshal General's Office to the Pension Office (45A–H13.3).

Committee on the Militia 1877-1879

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

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1911, the House Military Affairs committee assumed the functions and powers that had formerly been in the jurisdiction of the Militia Committee.

Committee Papers 1877-1879

Scope and Contents note

The committee papers of the Committee on the Militia document the militia force of the United States (45A–F22.1). There is also a combination minute and docket volume (45A–F22.2).

Petitions and Memorials, Resolutions of State Legislatures, and Related Documents Which Were Referred to Committees 1877-1879

Scope and Contents note

The petitions and memorials, resolutions of state legislatures, and related documents which were referred to the Committee on the Militia document the reorganization of the State Militia of Virginia (45A–H14.1).

Arrangement note

The subjects are arranged chronologically within each group.

Committee on Naval Affairs 1877-1879

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

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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 1877-1879**Scope and Contents note**

The committee papers of the Committee on Naval Affairs document the expenditures of the Navy Department under the contingent appropriation, July 1, 1877, to June 30, 1878 (45A-F23.1); relief of Lt. Comdr. Horace E. Mullan (45A-F23.2); Rogers' American Code of Marine Signals (45A-F23.3); U. S. Naval Asylum, Philadelphia (45A-F23.4); U. S. Naval Observatory (45A-F23.5); and various subjects (45A-F23.6).

Arrangement note

The records are arranged by subject.

Petitions and Memorials, Resolutions of State Legislatures, and Related Documents Which Were Referred to Committees 1877-1879**Scope and Contents note**

The petitions and memorials, resolutions of state legislatures, and related documents which were referred to the Committee on Naval Affairs document various subjects (45A-H15.1).

Arrangement note

Committees

The subjects are arranged chronologically within each group.

Committee on the Pacific Railroads 1877-1879**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 1877-1879**Scope and Contents note**

The committee papers of the Committee on the Pacific Railroads document the Austin–Topolovampo Pacific Railroad route (45A–F24.1); Northern Pacific Railroad (45A–F24.2); sinking fund provided for in the act of July 2, 1864, amending an act to aid in the construction of a railroad and telegraph line from the Missouri River to the Pacific Ocean (45A–F23.3); and various subjects (45A–F24.4). There are two volumes of minutes: 44th Congress, 1st session, to 45th Congress, 2d session (44A–F24.8); 45th Congress, 2d session, to 48th Congress, 2d session (45A–F24.5); and a docket volume (45A–F24.6).

Arrangement note

The records are arranged chronologically within each group.

Petitions and Memorials, Resolutions of State Legislatures, and Related Documents Which Were Referred to Committees 1877-1879

Committees

Scope and Contents note

The petitions and memorials, resolutions of state legislatures, and related documents which were referred to the Committee on the Pacific Railroads document the completion of the Texas and Pacific Railroad (45A–H16.1); controversy between the Union Pacific and the Kansas Pacific Railroads (45A–H16.2); extension of time for completion of the Northern Pacific Railroad (45A–H16.3); and the Southern Pacific Railroad (45A–H16.4).

Arrangement note

The subjects are arranged chronologically within each group.

Committee on Patents 1877-1879

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 1877-1879

Scope and Contents note

Committees

The committee papers of the Committee on Patents document various subjects (45A–F25.1), arranged by subject. There is also a docket volume (45A–F25.2); and a volume of minutes, 44th Congress, 1st session, to 46th Congress, 3d session (44A–F25.3).

Petitions and Memorials, Resolutions of State Legislatures, and Related Documents Which Were Referred to Committees 1877-1879

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 revision of the patent laws (45A–H17.1).

Arrangement note

The subjects are arranged chronologically within each group.

Committee on the Post Office and Post Roads 1877-1879

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

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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 1877-1879**Scope and Contents note**

The committee papers of the Committee on the Post Office and Post Roads document the increase of the revenues of the Post Office Department (45A–F26.1); return post cards (45A–F26.2); and various subjects (45A–F26.3).

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 1877-1879**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 exclusion of articles of glass from the mails (45A–H18.1); improvement of mail service in California (45A–H18.2); mail routes (45A–H18.3); postal rates (45A–H18.4); postal savings banks (45A–H18.5); salaries of postal employees (45A–H18.6); subsidization of mail–carrying steamship lines (45A–1118.7); telegraphic communications (45A–H18.8); and various subjects (45A–H18.9).

Arrangement note

The subjects are arranged chronologically within each group.

Committees

Committee on Private Land Claims 1877-1879

Biographical/Historical note

The Committee on Private Land Claims was established on April 29, 1816. The committee reported general as well as special legislation relating to the settlement of individual claims to public lands. It has reported bills to establish a land court to provide for the judicial investigation and settlement of private land claims in certain states and territories. The committee was abolished in 1911 along with several other committees that had suffered from diminished legislative activity. Jurisdiction was later transferred to the Judiciary Committee.

Committee Papers 1877-1879

Scope and Contents note

The committee papers of the Committee on Private Land Claims include papers accompanying specific bills (45A–F27.1), arranged numerically; and various subjects (45A–F27.2), arranged chronologically. There is also a docket volume (45A–F27.3); 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).

Committee on Public Buildings and Grounds 1877-1879

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

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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 1877-1879

Scope and Contents note

The committee papers of the Committee on Public Buildings and Grounds document the Capitol Building and Grounds (45A–F28.1); construction of public buildings (45A–F28.2) charges against Edward Clark, Architect of the Capitol (45A–F28.3); charges against Samuel McCullough, Superintendent of Public Construction at San Francisco (45A–F28.4); papers accompanying specific bills (45A–F28.5); public property in Alaska transferred to the United States by Russia (45A–F28.6); Washington Market Co. (45A–F28.7); and various subjects (45A–F28.8). There is also a docket volume (45A–F28.9); and a volume of minutes, 42d Congress, 1st session, to 46th Congress, 3d session (42A–F22.10).

Arrangement note

The records are arranged chronologically within each group, except 45A–F28.5, which is arranged numerically by bill.

Petitions and Memorials, Resolutions of State Legislatures, and Related Documents Which Were Referred to Committees 1877-1879

Scope and Contents note

The petitions and memorials, resolutions of state legislatures, and related documents which were referred to the Committee on Public Buildings and Grounds document the extension of the Capitol Grounds (45A–H19.1); relocation of the U.S. Naval Observatory (45A–H19.2); removal of the National Capital to the Mississippi Valley (45A–H19.3); construction of public buildings in various localities (45A–H19.4); and various subjects (45A–H19.5).

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Arrangement note

The subjects are arranged chronologically within each group.

Committee on Public Expenditures 1877-1879**Committee Papers 1877-1879****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); and a docket volume (45A–F29.2).

Committee on Public Lands 1877-1879**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 1877-1879

Committees

Scope and Contents note

The committee papers of the Committee on Public Lands document the Fort Smith Military Reservation, Arkansas (45A–F30.1); homestead legislation (45A–F30.2); papers accompanying specific bills (45A–F30.3); restoration of certain Michigan lands to market (45A–F30.4); and various subjects (45A–F30.5). There is also a rough docket 45th Congress, 1st session, to 47th Congress, 2d session (45A–F30.5); and a docket volume (45A–F30.7).

Arrangement note

The records are arranged chronologically within each group, except 45A–F30.3, which is arranged numerically by bill.

Petitions and Memorials, Resolutions of State Legislatures, and Related Documents Which Were Referred to Committees 1877-1879

Scope and Contents note

The petitions and memorials, resolutions of state legislatures, and related documents which were referred to the Committee on Public Lands document aid to settlers on public lands (45A–H20.1); pensions to soldiers of the War of 1812 (45A–H20.2); and the Timber Culture Act (45A–H20.3).

Arrangement note

The subjects are arranged chronologically within each group.

Committee on Railways and Canals 1877-1879

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

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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 1877-1879

Scope and Contents note

The committee papers of the Committee on Railways and Canals document Corpus Christi, San Diego and Rio Grande Railroad (45A-F31.1); Dismal Swamp Canal (45A-F31.2); Galveston and Camargo Railroad (45A-F31.3); papers accompanying specific bills (45A-F31.4); various subjects (45A-F31.5); and include a volume of minutes, 44th Congress, 1st session, to 46th Congress, 3d session (44A-F32.1).

Arrangement note

The records are arranged chronologically within each group, except 45A-F31.4, which is arranged numerically by bill.

Petitions and Memorials, Resolutions of State Legislatures, and Related Documents Which Were Referred to Committees 1877-1879

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 railroad along the Rio Grande River (45A-H21.1); construction of a canal from Hennepin on the Illinois River,

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to Rock Island on the Mississippi (45A–H21.2). freight rates and the regulation of interstate commerce (45A–H21.3); and various subjects (45A–H21.4).

Arrangement note

The subjects are arranged chronologically within each group.

Committee on Revision of Laws 1877-1879**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.

Committee Papers 1877-1879**Scope and Contents note**

The committee papers of the Committee on Revision of Laws include a docket volume (45A–F32.1).

Committee on Revolutionary Pensions 1877-1879**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

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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 1877-1879**Scope and Contents note**

The committee papers of the Committee on Revolutionary Pensions include papers accompanying specific bills (45A–F33.1), arranged numerically by bill; a volume of minutes 45th Congress, 1st session, to 46th Congress, 2d session (45A–F33.2), which also contains the minutes of the Committee on Pensions, 47th Congress, 1st session, to 48th Congress, 2d session; a docket volume (45A–F33.3), which also contains the docket of the Committee on Pensions for the 47th Congress; and an alphabetical register of case files requested by the committee, principally from the Commissioner of Pensions (45A–F33.4).

Petitions and Memorials, Resolutions of State Legislatures, and Related Documents Which Were Referred to Committees 1877-1879**Scope and Contents note**

The petitions and memorials, resolutions of state legislatures, and related documents which were referred to the Committee on Revolutionary Pensions document pensions for soldiers of the War of 1812 (45A–H22.1).

Arrangement note

The subjects are arranged chronologically within each group.

Committee on the Territories 1877-1879

Committees

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 1877-1879

Scope and Contents note

The committee papers of the Committee on the Territories include administrative records (45A–F34.1) and various subjects (45A–F34.2). There is also a volume of minutes, 44th Congress, 1st session, to 46th Congress, 3d session (44A–F36.10).

Arrangement note

The records are arranged by subject.

Petitions and Memorials, Resolutions of State Legislatures, and Related Documents Which Were Referred to Committees 1877-1879

Scope and Contents note

The petitions and memorials, resolutions of state legislatures, and related documents which were referred to the Committee on the Territories document the creation of a new Territory by the division of Dakota along the 100th meridian (45A–H23.1); creation of new Territories by division of existing Territories (45A–H23.2); enforcement of anti-polygamy law of 1862 (45A–H23.3); election of Territorial officials and administration of the Territories (45A–H23.4);

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opening Indian Territory to white settlement and certain changes in the legal status of the Indian (45A–H23.5); and woman suffrage in Utah (45A–H23.6).

Arrangement note

The subjects are arranged chronologically within each group.

Committee on War Claims 1877-1879**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 1877-1879**Scope and Contents note**

The committee papers of the Committee on War Claims include claims rejected by the Commissioners of Claims, i.e., the Southern Claims Commission, Report No. 7 (45A–F35.1) and Report No. 8 (45A–F35.2); court-martial trial of Capt. G. W. Smith (45A–F35.3); and various subjects (45A–F35.4). There is also a docket volume (45A–F35.5); the "Consolidated Index of

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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).

Arrangement note

The records are arranged by subject except 45A–F35.1 and 45A–F35.2, which are arranged numerically within each group.

Petitions and Memorials, Resolutions of State Legislatures, and Related Documents Which Were Referred to Committees 1877-1879

Scope and Contents note

The petitions and memorials, resolutions of state legislatures, and related documents which were referred to the Committee on War Claims document various subjects (45A–H24.1).

Arrangement note

The records are arranged alphabetically by petitioner.

Committee on Ways and Means 1877-1879

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

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health care and facilities programs that are supported from general revenues as opposed to payroll deductions and except work incentive programs).

Committee Papers 1877-1879**Scope and Contents note**

The committee papers of the Committee on Ways and Means document ad valorem duties (45A-F36.1); currency (45A-F36.2); distilled spirits (45A-F36.3); New York Customhouse investigation (45A-F36.4); papers accompanying specific bills (45A-F36.5); refunding the national debt and the promotion of safety deposits (45A-F36.6); scrapbook containing newspaper clippings of interest to the committee (45A-F36.7); tariff on bags and bagging (45A-F36.8), chloroform (45A-F36.9), dry goods (45A-F36.10), French wines (45A-F36.11), gloves (45A-F36.12), licorice paste (45A-F36.13), paper (45A-F36.14), saltpeter (45A-F36.15), sugar (45A-F36.16), sulphate of quinia (45A-F36.17), type (45A-F36.18), wire rope (45A-F36.19), and wool (45A-F36.20); taxes on alcohol and tobacco (45A-F36.21); vaporization of spirits for vinegar (45A-F36.22); and various subjects. Arranged chronologically within each group, except 45A-F36.5, which is arranged numerically. There are also a volume of minutes (45A-F36.23), a docket volume (45A-F36.24), and a record of petitions referred to the committee (45A-F36.25).

Petitions and Memorials, Resolutions of State Legislatures, and Related Documents Which Were Referred to Committees 1877-1879**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 include the amendment of the law relating to internal revenue taxation (45A-H25.1); appointment of a commission to investigate the alcoholic liquor traffic (45A-H25.2); barley and malt (45A-H25.3); books (45A-H25.4); castor beans and castor oil (45A-H25.5); chemicals and chemical products (45A-H25.6); chinaware and earthenware (45A-A25.7); cork (45A-H25.8); correction of errors in the assessment of duties on imports (45A-H25.9); cotton goods (45A-H25.10); distilled spirits (45A-H25.11); finance

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and currency (45A–H25.12); flaxseed, linseed, and linen (45A–H25.13); food adulteration (45A–H25.14); glass (45A–H25.15); hatter’s silk plush (45A–H25.16); income tax (45A–H25.17); iron and steel, and products fabricated from iron and steel (45A–H25.18); jute (45A–H25.19); licorice (45A–H25.20); livestock and animal products (45A–H25.21); lumber and lumber products (45A–H25.22); patents (45A–H25.23); quinine (45A–H25.24); railroads (45A–H25.25); recommendations relating to shipping and foreign trade (45A–H25.26); refund of the tax paid on cotton during 1865–68 (45A–H25.27); regulation of foreign insurance companies (45A–H25.28); repeal of the Specie Resumption Act (45A–H25.29); refund of income taxes (45A–H25.30); revision of the tariff law (45A–H25.31); salt (45A–H25.32); stamp tax on friction matches (45A–H25.33); stamp tax on proprietary medicines (45A–H25.34); stone building materials (45A–H25.35); sugar (45A–H25.36); tax on bank capital and deposits (45A–H25.37); tinsplate (45A–H25.38); tobacco (45A–H25.39); type (45A–H25.40); varnish (45A–H25.41); vinegar (45A–H25.42); wine (45A–H25.43); wool (45A–H25.44); wrought iron (45A–H25.45); and various subjects (45A–H25.46).

Arrangement note

The records are arranged alphabetically by petitioner.

Committee on the Whole House 1877-1879

Biographical/Historical note

The Committee of the Whole consists of the entire membership of the House and stems from a practice in the House of Commons, when the Speaker of the House of Commons was regarded as an agent of the King. The procedure allows the Speaker to remove himself/herself from the chairmanship in order for the body to elect its own chairman and debate matters without the normal restrictions of a House of Commons session.

Scope and Contents note

The records of the Committee on the Whole House document the tariff (45A-H28.1).

Committees

Select Committees 1877-1879

Committee Papers 1877-1879

Scope and Contents note

The committee papers of select committees document the following select committees: on Alleged Frauds in the Late Presidential Election (1876), a volume of minutes, (45A–F37.1); on the Census, a docket volume, 45th Congress, 3d session, to 46th Congress, 3d session (45A–F37.2); on the Origin, Introduction, and Prevention of Epidemic Diseases in the United States, a volume of minutes, 45th Congress, 3d session, to 46th Congress, 3d session (45A–F37.3); on Reform in the Civil Service, a combination minute and docket book (45A–F37.4); and to Inquire Into the Manner of Ventilating the Hall of the House of Representatives, a volume of minutes (45A–F37.5).

Select Committee on the Origin, Introduction, and Prevention of Epidemic Diseases in the United States 1877-1879

Committee Records 1877-1879

Scope and Contents note

The committee papers of the Select Committee on the Origin, Introduction, and Prevention of Epidemic Diseases in the United States include a volume of minutes, 45th Congress, 3d session, to 46th Congress, 3d session (45A–F37.3).

Petitions and Memorials, Resolutions of State Legislatures, and Related Documents Which Were Referred to Committees 1877-1879

Originals of Printed House Documents

Scope and Contents note

The petitions and memorials, resolutions of state legislatures, and related documents which were referred to the Select Committee on the Origin, Introduction, and Prevention of Epidemic Diseases in the United States document various subjects (45A-H27.1).

Select Committee on Reform in the Civil Service 1877-1879

Committee Records 1877-1879

Scope and Contents note

The committee papers of the Select Committee on Reform in the Civil Service include a combination minute and docket book (45A-F37.4).

Petitions and Memorials, Resolutions of State Legislatures, and Related Documents Which Were Referred to Committees 1877-1879

Scope and Contents note

The petitions and memorials, resolutions of state legislatures, and related documents which were referred to the Select Committee on Reform in the Civil Service document various subjects (45A-H26.1).

Originals of Printed House Documents 1877-1879 51.0 Cubic feet (203 volumes)**Scope and Contents note**

The originals of printed House documents include original executive documents, 1st session (45A-G1), 2d session (45A-G2), and 3d session (45A-G3); and original miscellaneous documents, 1st session (45A-G4), 2d session (45A-G5), and 3d session (45A-G6).

Election Records

Arrangement note

The records are arranged numerically within each group.

Election Records 1877-1879 2.0 Cubic feet**Scope and Contents note**

The election records include credentials of Representatives and Delegates (45A–J1).

Arrangement note

The records are arranged alphabetically by state or territory.

Other Records 1877-1879 2.0 Cubic feet**Scope and Contents note**

Other records include copies of telegrams sent by departmental telegraph lines (45A–K1), arranged chronologically; and various papers (45A–K2), arranged by subject.

Records of Impeachment Proceedings 1877-1879**Impeachment of Henry W. Blodgett 1877-1879 0.5 Cubic feet****Scope and Contents note**

The records pertain to impeachment proceedings against Henry W. Blodgett, U.S. Judge for the Northern District of Illinois (45B–A1).

Impeachment of George F. Seward 1877-1879 0.25 Cubic feet

Records of the Office of the Clerk

Scope and Contents note

The records pertain to impeachment proceedings against George F. Seward, late consul general at Shanghai (45B–B1); and records from the 46th Congress, (46B–A1).

Records of the Office of the Clerk 1877-1879**Index 1877-1879****Scope and Contents note**

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

Record Books 1877-1879 2.0 Cubic feet (12 volumes)**Scope and Contents note**

The record books include a bill book of House bills and resolutions together with index (45C–A1); bill book of Senate bills and resolutions (45C–A2); individual ledger (45C–A3); petition book (45C–A4); register of enrolled bills and resolutions (45C–A5); daily order of business and calendars (45C–A6); register of committee reports (45C–A7); register of executive documents (45C–A8); and register of miscellaneous documents (45C–A9).

Other Records 1877-1879 0.25 Cubic feet**Scope and Contents note**

Other records include various papers (45C–B1), arranged by subject.