

# B. F. Wade Papers

A Finding Aid to the Collection in the  
Library of Congress

Prepared by Lloyd A. Dunlap



Manuscript Division, Library of  
Congress

Washington, D.C.

2009

Contact information: <http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/mss.contact>

Finding aid encoded by Glenn R.  
Gardner, 2010

Finding aid URL: <http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms009336>

# Collection Summary

Title: B. F. Wade Papers

Span Dates: 1832-1886

Bulk Dates: (bulk 1852-1869)

ID No.: MSS44263

Creator: Wade, B. F (Benjamin Franklin), 1800-1878

Extent: 3,500 items; 18 containers; 4 linear feet; 11 microfilm reels

Language: Collection material in English

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

Abstract: Lawyer, United States senator from Ohio, and Republican Party leader. Chiefly political correspondence relating to Wade's career in the Senate as well as personal letters concerning his law practice and business. Includes printed speeches, maps, family letters, business records, and other material.

## Selected Search Terms

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

### People

Briggs, James A., d. 1889--Correspondence.

Chase, Salmon P. (Salmon Portland), 1808-1873--Correspondence.

Cox, Jacob D. (Jacob Dolson), 1828-1900--Correspondence.

Davis, Henry Winter, 1817-1865--Correspondence.

De Gurowski, Adam G., count, 1805-1866--Correspondence.

Dennison, William, 1815-1882--Correspondence.

Forney, John W. (John Wien), 1817-1881--Correspondence.

Garfield, James A. (James Abram), 1831-1881--Correspondence.

Geiger, Joseph H.--Correspondence.

Goodlow, William A.

Johnson, Andrew, 1808-1875--Impeachment.

Lincoln, Abraham, 1809-1865--Correspondence.

Paine, R. F. (Robert F.)--Correspondence.

Piatt, Donn, 1819-1891--Correspondence.

Rosecrans, William S. (William Starke), 1819-1898--Correspondence.

Seward, William Henry, 1801-1872--Correspondence.

Smith, Green Clay, 1826-1895--Correspondence.

Stanton, Edwin McMasters, 1814-1869--Correspondence.

Sumner, Charles, 1811-1874--Correspondence.

Wade family.

Wade, B. F. (Benjamin Franklin), 1800-1878.

### Organizations

Republican Party (U.S. : 1854- )

United States. Congress. Joint Committee on the Conduct of the War.

### Subjects

African Americans--Suffrage.

Elections--United States--1860.

Elections--United States--1864.

Elections--United States--1868.

Impeachments.

Practice of law--Ohio.

Reconstruction (U.S. history, 1865-1877)  
Secession--Southern States.  
Slaves--Emancipation--United States.

Places  
Ohio--Commerce.  
Ohio--Politics and government.  
United States--History--Civil War, 1861-1865.  
United States--Politics and government--1849-1877.

Occupations  
Lawyers.  
Politicians.  
Senators, U.S. Congress--Ohio.

## Administrative Information

### Provenance

The papers of B. F. Wade, lawyer, United States senator from Ohio, and Republican Party leader, were given to the Library of Congress by Clara Wade Crosby, John Parsons Wade, and B. F. Wade in 1937.

### Processing History

The papers of B. F. Wade were arranged and described in 1968. The finding aid was revised in 2009.

### Copyright Status

The status of copyright in the unpublished writings of B. F. Wade is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.).

### Access and Restrictions

The papers of B. F. Wade are open to research. Researchers are advised to contact the Manuscript Reading Room prior to visiting. Many collections are stored off-site and advance notice is needed to retrieve these items for research use.

### Microfilm

A microfilm edition of these papers is available on eleven reels. Consult reference staff in the Manuscript Division concerning availability for purchase or interlibrary loan. To promote preservation of the originals, researchers are required to consult the microfilm edition.

### Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: Container or reel number, B. F. Wade Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

## Biographical Note

| <i>Date</i>   | <i>Event</i>               |
|---------------|----------------------------|
| 1800. Oct. 27 | Born, Feeding Hills, Mass. |
| 1821          | Moved to Andover, Ohio     |

|              |   |
|--------------|---|
| 1827         | Admitted to Ohio bar  |
| 1827-1837    | Practicing lawyer, Jefferson, Ohio  |
| 1835-1837    | Prosecuting attorney, Ashtabula County, Ohio  |
| 1837         | Elected to Ohio state senate  |
| 1841         | Married Caroline M. Rosekrans   |
| 1847         | Appointed judge, Third Judicial Circuit   |
| 1851-1869    | United States senator   |
| 1852         | Supported repeal of Fugitive Slave Law  |
| 1859         | Supported homestead legislation   |
| 1860         | Voted against Crittenden Compromise   |
| 1861-1865    | Chairman, Joint Committee on the Conduct of the War   |
| 1864         | Introduced Wade-Davis bill vetoed by Abraham Lincoln<br>Issued Wade-Davis Manifesto criticizing Lincoln               |
| 1865         | Introduced bill for enfranchisement of Negroes in the District of Columbia  |
| 1867         | Elected president <i>pro tempore</i> of Senate  |
| 1868         | Failed of re-election to Senate   |
| 1869         | Resumed law practice; general counsel Northern Pacific Railroad<br>Member, Board of Directors, Union Pacific Railroad |
| 1871         | Member, Santo Domingo Commission  |
| 1878, Mar. 2 | Died, Jefferson, Ohio   |

## Scope and Content Note

The papers of Benjamin Franklin Wade (1800-1878) span the years 1832-1886, but the bulk falls within the period of his services as United States senator, 1852-1869. The collection is arranged in two series: [General Correspondence](#) and [Miscellany](#) series.

A few letters concern Wade's law practice and business affairs, but most are political in nature. Many are requests for help in obtaining civil or military appointments. Subjects include Ohio and national politics, including the elections of 1860, 1864, and 1868, secession, the Civil War, the Joint Committee on the Conduct of the War, emancipation, Reconstruction, Negro suffrage, and the impeachment of Andrew Johnson.

Among the correspondents are James A. Briggs, Salmon P. Chase, Jacob D. Cox, Henry Winter Davis, Count Adam G. De Gurowski, William Dennison, John W. Forney, James A. Garfield, Joseph

H. Geiger, William A. Goodlow, Abraham Lincoln, R. F. Paine, Donn Paatt, William S. Rosescrans, William Henry Seward, Green Clay Smith, Edwin McMasters Stanton, and Charles Sumner.

## Arrangement of the Papers

This collection is arranged in two series:

- [General Correspondence, 1832-1886](#)
- [Miscellany, 1832-1881](#)

## Description of Series

| <i>Container</i>     | <i>Series</i>   |
|----------------------|---|
| BOX 1-17<br>REEL 1-9 | <u>General Correspondence, 1832-1886</u><br><br>Correspondence, letters received, and Wade's letters to his wife, Caroline M. Rosekrans.<br>Arranged chronologically.   |
| BOX 18<br>REEL 10-11 | <u>Miscellany, 1832-1881</u><br><br>Miscellaneous material includes routine requests for government documents; printed speeches; letters of his son, James F. Wade, to his parents; maps; business records; and printed matter.<br>Arranged by document type. |

# Container List

Available on microfilm. Shelf no. 14,109.

| <i>Container</i>     | <i>Contents</i>  |
|----------------------|--|
| BOX 1-17<br>REEL 1-9 | General Correspondence, 1832-1886<br><br>Correspondence, letters received, and Wade's letters to his wife, Caroline M. Rosekrans.<br>Arranged chronologically. |
| BOX 1<br>REEL 1      | 1832, May 12-1852, Mar. 15   |
| BOX 2<br>REEL 1      | 1852, Mar. 19-1857, Nov. 23  |
| BOX 3<br>REEL 2      | 1857, Dec. 8-1860, Nov. 7  |
| BOX 4<br>REEL 2      | 1860, Nov. 9-1861, Feb. 24   |
| BOX 5<br>REEL 3      | 1861, Feb. 24-1862, Jan. 4   |
| BOX 6<br>REEL 3      | 1862, Jan. 5-Mar. 5  |
| BOX 7<br>REEL 4      | 1862, Mar. 6-May 31  |
| BOX 8<br>REEL 4      | 1862, June 3-Dec. 29   |
| BOX 9<br>REEL 5      | 1862, Dec. 31-1864, Jan. 17  |
| BOX 10<br>REEL 5     | 1864, Jan. 18-1865, Feb. 21  |
| BOX 11<br>REEL 6     | 1865, Feb. 24-1866, Apr. 4   |
| BOX 12<br>REEL 6     | 1866, Apr. 16-1867, Feb. 18  |
| BOX 13<br>REEL 7     | 1867, Feb. 19-July 9   |
| BOX 14<br>REEL 7     | 1867, July 10-1868, Mar. 14  |
| BOX 15<br>REEL 8     | 1868, Mar. 15-1869, Jan. 19  |
| BOX 16<br>REEL 8     | 1869, Jan. 20-1873, Sept. 4  |

## General Correspondence, 1832-1886

### *Container*

### *Contents*

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|                      |   |
|----------------------|---|
| BOX 17<br>REEL 9     | 1874, Mar. 13-1886 Jan. 18, and undated   |
| BOX 18<br>REEL 10-11 | Miscellany, 1832-1881<br><br>Miscellaneous material includes routine requests for government documents; printed speeches; letters of his son, James F. Wade, to his parents; maps; business records; and printed matter. Arranged by document type. |
| BOX 18<br>REEL 10-11 | Letters of James F. Wade (son) to his parents, 1856-1881  |
| BOX 18<br>REEL 10-11 | Requests for government documents, 1859-1869<br><br>(5 folders)   |
| BOX 18<br>REEL 10-11 | Speeches by Wade, 1856-1862   |
| BOX 18<br>REEL 10-11 | Maps, circa 1860-circa 1870   |
| BOX 18<br>REEL 10-11 | Business records, 1833-1853   |
| BOX 18<br>REEL 10-11 | Printed matter, 1856-1870<br><br>(2 folders)  |