

# **Edwin McMasters Stanton Papers**

## **A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress**



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**Manuscript Division, Library of Congress  
Washington, D.C.**

**2004**

**Revised 2015 September**

Contact information:

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

Additional search options available at:

<http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms010150>

LC Online Catalog record:

<http://lcn.loc.gov/mm79041202>

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Revised and expanded by Patrick Kerwin

## Collection Summary

**Title:** Edwin McMasters Stanton Papers

**Span Dates:** 1818-1921

**Bulk Dates:** (bulk 1862-1870)

**ID No.:** MSS41202

**Creator:** Stanton, Edwin McMasters, 1814-1869

**Extent:** 7,650 items ; 46 containers plus 1 oversize ; 8.4 linear feet ; 14 microfilm reels

**Language:** Collection material in English

**Location:** Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

**Summary:** Lawyer, United States attorney general, and United States secretary of war. Correspondence, letterbooks, reports, maps, printed material, and memorabilia relating chiefly to Stanton's role as secretary of war under Abraham Lincoln and Andrew Johnson and to his role in the politics of Reconstruction. Other topics include the Civil War, the radical wing of the Republican Party, and Lincoln's assassination.

## 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

Bancroft, George, 1800-1891--Correspondence.  
Beecher, Henry Ward, 1813-1887--Correspondence.  
Buchanan, James, 1791-1868--Correspondence.  
Butler, Benjamin F. (Benjamin Franklin), 1818-1893--Correspondence.  
Cameron, Simon, 1799-1889--Correspondence.  
Chase, Salmon P. (Salmon Portland), 1808-1873--Correspondence.  
Conkling, Roscoe, 1829-1888--Correspondence.  
Dana, Charles A. (Charles Anderson), 1819-1897--Correspondence.  
Ewing, Thomas, 1789-1871--Correspondence.  
Fessenden, William Pitt, 1806-1869--Correspondence.  
Garrison, William Lloyd, 1805-1879--Correspondence.  
Grant, Ulysses S. (Ulysses Simpson), 1822-1885--Correspondence.  
Hay, John, 1838-1905--Correspondence.  
Johnson, Andrew, 1808-1875--Correspondence.  
Johnson, Andrew, 1808-1875.  
Johnson, Reverdy, 1796-1876--Correspondence.  
Lieber, Francis, 1800-1872--Correspondence.  
Lincoln, Abraham, 1809-1865--Assassination.  
Lincoln, Abraham, 1809-1865--Correspondence.  
Lincoln, Abraham, 1809-1865.  
McClellan, George B. (George Brinton), 1826-1885--Correspondence.  
Scott, Winfield, 1786-1866--Correspondence.  
Seward, William Henry, 1801-1872--Correspondence.  
Sheridan, Philip Henry, 1831-1888--Correspondence.  
Sherman, William T. (William Tecumseh), 1820-1891--Correspondence.  
Stanton family--Correspondence.  
Stanton, Edwin McMasters, 1814-1869.  
Stevens, Thaddeus, 1792-1868--Correspondence.  
Stowe, Harriet Beecher, 1811-1896--Correspondence.  
Sumner, Charles, 1811-1874--Correspondence.  
Tappan, Benjamin, 1773-1857--Correspondence.  
Trumbull, Lyman, 1813-1896--Correspondence.  
Welles, Gideon, 1802-1878--Correspondence.

**Organizations**

Republican Party (U.S. : 1854- )  
United States. War Department.

**Subjects**

Generals--United States.  
Reconstruction (U.S. history, 1865-1877)

**Places**

United States--Armed Forces--Officers.  
United States--History--Civil War, 1861-1865.  
United States--Politics and government--1861-1865.  
United States--Politics and government--1865-1877.

**Occupations**

Cabinet officers.  
Lawyers.

## Administrative Information

**Provenance**

The papers of Edwin McMasters Stanton, lawyer, United States attorney general, and United States secretary of war, were given to the Library by Lewis H. Stanton in 1911. Other items were acquired by gift and purchase, 1910-1983.

**Processing History**

The papers of Edwin McMasters Stanton were arranged and described in 1979. The finding aid was revised and materials that had previously been cataloged separately were added to the collection in 2003.

**Additional Guides**

A partial index to the papers is available in the Manuscript Division reading room.

**Copyright Status**

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

**Access and Restrictions**

The papers of Edwin McMasters Stanton 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 fourteen 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

**Online Content**

The papers of Edward McMasters Stanton are available on the Library of Congress Web site at <http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/collmss.ms000033>.

**Preferred Citation**

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

## Biographical Note

<i>Date</i>	<i>Event</i>
1814, Dec. 19	Born, Steubenville, Ohio
1831-1834	Attended Kenyon College, Gambier, Ohio
1836	Admitted to the bar, Cadiz, Ohio Married Mary Ann Lamson (died 1844)
1837-1839	Prosecuting attorney, Harrison County, Ohio
1839	Moved to Steubenville, Ohio; became law partner of Benjamin Tappan
1847	Moved to Pittsburgh, Pa.
1849-1856	Counsel for the state of Pennsylvania
1856	Married Ellen M. Hutchison Moved to Washington, D.C.
1858	Special counsel to United States in California land grant cases
1860-1861	United States attorney general
1861	Confidential adviser to General George B. McClellan; legal adviser to Secretary of War Simon Cameron
1862-1868	United States secretary of war
1869	Nomination confirmed to the United States Supreme Court; never served
1869, Dec. 24	Died, Washington, D.C.

## Scope and Content Note

The papers of Edwin McMasters Stanton (1814-1869) span the years 1818-1921, with the bulk of the material originating between 1862 and 1870. The collections consists of [correspondence](#), [letterbooks](#), a draft of the annual report of the secretary of war for 1863, and the March 1862 proceedings of the War Board. Interspersed among the bound [correspondence](#), which makes up most of the collection, are battle maps, reports, charts, and printed matter. There is also a [miscellany](#) file and a few [oversize](#) items.

The papers focus chiefly on Stanton's tenure as secretary of war under presidents Abraham Lincoln and Andrew Johnson and stress his role in the Union victory over the Confederacy and the first phase of Reconstruction. As revealed by his extensive [correspondence](#), both the small and large tasks of winning the war came frequently within Stanton's purview. In addition to information on the reorganization of the [War Department](#) immediately after his arrival, there are logistic reports from various state and departmental command posts, communications about army morale and discipline, and orders concerning the exchange of prisoners, the use of former slaves as soldiers, and the policies to be employed in occupied territories. The papers also shed light on Stanton's relationship with Lincoln, Johnson, and the radical wing of the Republican Party. Other topics include Lincoln's assassination and Stanton's evaluation of the various generals under the national government's command. The major portion of the collection ends with letters of condolence to Stanton's wife on his death in 1869.

The [Addition](#) consists of correspondence, chiefly with Stanton's mother and sister, and a diary of Stanton's niece, Nancy Tappan.

Correspondents in these papers include George Bancroft, Henry Ward Beecher, James Buchanan, Benjamin F. Butler, Simon Cameron, Salmon P. Chase, Roscoe Conkling, Charles A. Dana, Thomas Ewing, William Pitt Fessenden, William Lloyd Garrison, Ulysses S. Grant, John Hay, Andrew Johnson, Reverdy Johnson, Francis Lieber, Abraham Lincoln, George Brinton McClellan, Winfield Scott, William Henry Seward, Philip Henry Sheridan, William T. Sherman, Thaddeus Stevens, Harriet Beecher Stowe, Charles Sumner, Benjamin Tappan, Lyman Trumbull, and Gideon Welles.

## Arrangement of the Papers

This collection is arranged in six series:

- [Correspondence, 1831-1870](#)
- [War Department, 1862-1863](#)
- [Letterbooks, 1863-1865](#)
- [Miscellany, 1818-1921](#)
- [Addition, 1856-1869](#)
- [Oversize, 1818-1869](#)

## Description of Series

### *Container*

BOX 1-36  
REEL 1-13

### *Series*

#### **Correspondence, 1831-1870**

Letters received and copies of letters sent with enclosed material including maps, reports, and printed matter.  
Arranged chronologically in bound volumes.

BOX 37-38  
REEL 13

#### **War Department, 1862-1863**

Proceedings of the War Board for March 1862 and a draft of the annual report of the War Department for 1863.  
In bound volumes.

BOX 39-45  
REEL 13-14

#### **Letterbooks, 1863-1865**

Copies of letters sent.  
Arranged chronologically in bound volumes.

BOX 46  
REEL 14

#### **Miscellany, 1818-1921**

Biographical material.

BOX 46  
not filmed

#### **Addition, 1856-1869**

Correspondence and a diary of Stanton's niece, Nancy Tappan.  
Arranged alphabetically by type of material and chronologically therein.

BOX OV 1  
REEL 14

#### **Oversize, 1818-1869**

Oversize commissions, certificates, and other materials of David and Edwin M. Stanton.  
Arranged and described according to the series, containers, and folders from which the items were removed.

# Container List

Microfilm available. Shelf no. 17,814

<i>Container</i>	<i>Contents</i>
<b>BOX 1-36</b> <b>REEL 1-13</b>	<b>Correspondence, 1831-1870</b>  Letters received and copies of letters sent with enclosed material including maps, reports, and printed matter. Arranged chronologically in bound volumes.
<b>BOX 1</b> <b>REEL 1</b>	1831, July 19-1862, Jan. 13  <u>Digital content available</u>
<b>BOX 2</b> <b>REEL 1</b>	1862
<b>BOX 2</b> <b>REEL 1</b>	1862, Jan. 14-Feb. 2  <u>Digital content available</u>
<b>BOX 3</b> <b>REEL 2</b>	1862, Feb. 3-17  <u>Digital content available</u>
<b>BOX 4</b> <b>REEL 2</b>	1862, Feb. 19-Mar. 29  <u>Digital content available</u>
<b>BOX 5</b> <b>REEL 2</b>	1862, Mar. 30-May 4  <u>Digital content available</u>
<b>BOX 6</b> <b>REEL 3</b>	1862, May 5-20  <u>Digital content available</u>
<b>BOX 7</b> <b>REEL 3</b>	1862, May 21-June 18  <u>Digital content available</u>
<b>BOX 8</b> <b>REEL 3</b>	1862, June 19-Aug. 28  <u>Digital content available</u>
<b>BOX 9</b> <b>REEL 4</b>	1862, Aug. 29-Dec. 19  <u>Digital content available</u>
<b>BOX 10</b> <b>REEL 4</b>	1862, Dec. 20-1863, Feb. 11  <u>Digital content available</u>
<b>BOX 11</b> <b>REEL 4</b>	1863
<b>BOX 11</b> <b>REEL 4</b>	1863, Feb. 12-May 4  <u>Digital content available</u>
<b>BOX 12</b>	1863, May 5-June 15

## Correspondence, 1831-1870

### *Container*

### *Contents*

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REEL 5	
	<a href="#"><u>Digital content available</u></a>
BOX 13 REEL 5	1863, June 16-Aug. 6
	<a href="#"><u>Digital content available</u></a>
BOX 14 REEL 5	1863, Aug. 7-Sept. 19
	<a href="#"><u>Digital content available</u></a>
BOX 15 REEL 6	1863, Sept. 20-25
	<a href="#"><u>Digital content available</u></a>
BOX 16 REEL 6	1863, Sept. 26-Oct. 2
	<a href="#"><u>Digital content available</u></a>
BOX 17 REEL 6	1863, Oct. 3-11
	<a href="#"><u>Digital content available</u></a>
BOX 18 REEL 6	1863, Oct. 12-30
	<a href="#"><u>Digital content available</u></a>
BOX 19 REEL 7	1863, Oct. 31-Nov. 27
	<a href="#"><u>Digital content available</u></a>
BOX 20 REEL 7	1863, Nov. 28-1864, Feb. 27
	<a href="#"><u>Digital content available</u></a>
BOX 21 REEL 7	1864
BOX 21 REEL 7	1864, Feb. 28-June 20
	<a href="#"><u>Digital content available</u></a>
BOX 22 REEL 8	1864, June 21-Aug. 25
	<a href="#"><u>Digital content available</u></a>
BOX 23 REEL 8	1864, Aug. 26-Oct. 31
	<a href="#"><u>Digital content available</u></a>
BOX 24 REEL 8	1864, Nov. 1-1865, Feb. 21
	<a href="#"><u>Digital content available</u></a>
BOX 25 REEL 9	1865
BOX 25 REEL 9	1865, Feb. 22-Apr. 17
	<a href="#"><u>Digital content available</u></a>
BOX 26 REEL 9	1865, Apr. 18-May 8
	<a href="#"><u>Digital content available</u></a>

## Correspondence, 1831-1870

### *Container*

### *Contents*

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BOX 27 REEL 10	1865, May 9-July 3  <a href="#">Digital content available</a>
BOX 28 REEL 10	1865, July 5-Sept. 25  <a href="#">Digital content available</a>
BOX 29 REEL 10	1865, Sept. 27-1866, Mar. 9  <a href="#">Digital content available</a>
BOX 30 REEL 11	1866, Mar. 10-Sept. 16  <a href="#">Digital content available</a>
BOX 30 REEL 11	1866, Mar. 10-Sept. 16  <a href="#">Digital content available</a>
BOX 31 REEL 11	1866, Sept. 17-1867, Feb. 14  <a href="#">Digital content available</a>
BOX 32 REEL 11	1867, Feb. 15-June 8  <a href="#">Digital content available</a>
BOX 32 REEL 11	1867, Feb. 15-June 8  <a href="#">Digital content available</a>
BOX 33 REEL 12	1867, June 10-Aug. 9  <a href="#">Digital content available</a>
BOX 34 REEL 12	1867, Aug. 10-1868, Feb. 25  <a href="#">Digital content available</a>
BOX 35 REEL 12	1868, Feb. 25-1869, Dec. 20  <a href="#">Digital content available</a>
BOX 36 REEL 13	1869, Dec. 21-1870, July 14, undated  <a href="#">Digital content available</a>
BOX 37-38 REEL 13	<b>War Department, 1862-1863</b>  Proceedings of the War Board for March 1862 and a draft of the annual report of the War Department for 1863. In bound volumes.
BOX 37 REEL 13	Proceedings of the War Board, 1862, Mar. 13-27  <a href="#">Digital content available</a>

## War Department, 1862-1863

### Container

### Contents

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BOX 38  
REEL 13

Annual report, 1863, Dec. 5

[Digital content available](#)

BOX 39-45  
REEL 13-14

#### Letterbooks, 1863-1865

Copies of letters sent.  
Arranged chronologically in bound volumes.

BOX 39  
REEL 13

1863

BOX 39  
REEL 13

1863, Mar. 19-June 4

[Digital content available](#)

BOX 40  
REEL 14

1863, June 4-Sept. 9

[Digital content available](#)

BOX 41  
REEL 14

1863, Sept. 10-1864, June 30

[Digital content available](#)

BOX 42  
REEL 14

1863, Nov. 13-1864, June 17

[Digital content available](#)

BOX 43  
REEL 14

1864, July 1-1865, June 30

[Digital content available](#)

BOX 44  
REEL 14

1865, July 1-Dec. 1

[Digital content available](#)

BOX 45  
REEL 14

1862-1865

[Digital content available](#)

BOX 46  
REEL 14

#### Miscellany, 1818-1921

Biographical material.

BOX 46  
REEL 14

"Facts and Opinions about Edwin M. Stanton, Secretary of War," by Willis Weaver, 1921

[Digital content available](#)

BOX 46  
REEL 14

Memorabilia of David and Edwin M. Stanton, 1818-1869 [See Oversize](#)

[Digital content available](#)

BOX 46  
not filmed

#### Addition, 1856-1869

Correspondence and a diary of Stanton's niece, Nancy Tappan.  
Arranged alphabetically by type of material and chronologically therein.

BOX 46

Correspondence

## Addition, 1856-1869

### *Container*

### *Contents*

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not filmed

**BOX 46**

1856-1859

[Digital content available](#)

**BOX 46**

1860-1861

[Digital content available](#)

**BOX 46**

1862-1869

[Digital content available](#)

**BOX 46**

Diary of Nancy Tappan (niece), 1861, Jan. 1-June 25, and typed transcript

[Digital content available](#)

**BOX OV 1**

### **Oversize, 1818-1869**

**REEL 14**

Oversize commissions, certificates, and other materials of David and Edwin M. Stanton. Arranged and described according to the series, containers, and folders from which the items were removed.

**BOX OV 1**

Memorabilia of David and Edwin M. Stanton, 1818-1869 (Container 46)

**REEL 14**