
Description of Series

The microfilm edition is comprised of the following four series:

Series I: General Correspondence and Miscellaneous Documents (Reels 1–7) is arranged chronologically and contains all letters to and from TS, with enclosures where uncovered. For most of the letters that TS addressed to his constituents or the public at large, no holograph copy exists; all existing holograph copies are included with the published letters (e.g., 7/383). If a letter purported to be from TS is considered doubtful (e.g., 1/520), a question mark (?) has been placed before the number 1 in the index (see below, Index A, Sample 1). Because of TS’s exceedingly difficult handwriting, we have included printed versions, wherever uncovered, that are accurate. These, and the transcriptions we have made for illegible letters, are placed after the original document.

A few written reports coauthored by TS, such as the 1837 report on supervision of college students submitted to the Pennsylvania (now Gettysburg) College trustees (1/188), are also included in Series I. To complete the record of the impeachment process, we have included letters written and received by Benjamin F. Butler on behalf of the impeachment managers in the spring of 1868 (e.g., 6/1100, 1108), although TS’s participation in this correspondence is undetermined.

Series II: Speeches and Resolutions (Reels 8–11) contains speeches, remarks, resolutions, and bills by TS, arranged chronologically. Only resolutions and the text of bills (no speeches) were included in the proceedings of the Pennsylvania legislature in the *Pennsylvania House Journal*; wherever possible we have included verbatim versions or summaries of TS’s speeches from the *Harrisburg Chronicle* or from other newspapers (Sum is noted in the right-hand column when a speech is only a summary). In some instances (e.g., 8/023) the *Journal* contains no mention of TS’s participation, whereas the *Chronicle* does. In *Proceedings and Debates: Pennsylvania Convention, 1837*, the reporter summarized the speeches and remarks of all participants, e.g., “Mr. Stevens of Adams said he should vote in favor of the amendment, and he hoped it would prevail.” A newspaper version of only one TS speech during that session has been uncovered, his speech on the bank charters and the independence of the judiciary, 16 and 18 December 1837 (8/592, 595). For the convenience of readers, since the *Proceedings* are not widely available, the constitutions of 1790 and the revised version of 1838 are included (8/651).

Legislative reports authored or coauthored by TS are obviously written and thus, by definition, part of Series I. We deemed it appropriate, however, to include such reports in

Series II when he introduced them verbally, either in the Pennsylvania legislature or the U.S. Congress (see, e.g., Slavery Restrictions, 8/278; Army Appropriation, 10/409).

About thirty manuscript versions and notes for TS speeches also have been uncovered. A few undated and untitled one- or two-page drafts have survived, and these the editors have tried to match with the printed speech or piece of legislation TS authored (see 31 January 1866 on the Apportionment Amendment, 10/985 or 1 January 1867 on Congressional Sovereignty, 11/423). In several cases the undated draft of a speech is the exact wording that appears in the printed version (e.g., the final paragraphs of his speech on the Readmission of States, 28 July 1866, 11/361).

Series III: Legal Arguments and Legal and Business Papers (Reel 12) contains papers relating to TS's business dealings and his legal practice. No correspondence is included in Series III, although some letters in Series I (e.g., letters pertaining to the Wrightsville, York & Gettysburg Railroad) clearly reflect TS's legal and business affairs. When a letter contains a promissory note or receipt (e.g., Ramsey, Alexander, 1/448), it is included with the letter in Series I. Other such documents are arranged chronologically in Series III.

Except for the full text of TS's argument in *Specht v. Commonwealth* in 1848 on Religious Freedom (12/444) and a brief argument in Lane's Appeal (12/629), no verbatim argument from his court appearances has been uncovered. At the 1851 Christiana trial (*United States v. Hanway*), in which Stevens and three other lawyers successfully defended Caster Hanway, two other whites, and thirty-eight blacks from charges of treason for helping fugitive slaves escape, TS left the formal summation to his colleague John M. Read. However, he examined witnesses for the defense and cross-examined witnesses for the prosecution; in several instances, he laid out the strategies for the defense goals (see especially Christiana Riot Trial, 12/526, 542–43, 562, 584). Also available, and noted as Sum, are summaries from the numerous cases that he argued from 1821 to 1861 before Pennsylvania's Supreme Court. (TS argued many other cases before this court; those containing no summary of his argument, however, have not been included.)

Series IV: Congressional Committee Minutes (Reel 12) consists of four parts: Ways and Means Committee minutes (12.1 in index); Appropriations Committee minutes (12.2); Minutes of the *Journal of the Joint Committee of Fifteen on Reconstruction* (12.3); and Impeachment of Andrew Johnson, managers' minutes (12.4).

Minutes of the Ways and Means and Appropriations committees (February 1860–July 1861, Series IV, 12.1; December 1865–July 1868, 12.2), although incomplete, indicate the votes taken and which days TS attended (note his presence in the summer of 1868 when his health was failing measurably). Printed pages from Benjamin J. Kendrick's *Journal of the Joint Committee of Fifteen on Reconstruction* (New York, 1914) give the full text of resolutions and bills that the committee considered and then rejected or adopted. While minutes from the Journal of the Impeachment Managers contain no committee discussions, they describe the witnesses examined, the decisions reached, and the strategy discussed after impeachment essentially failed on 16 May 1868. Although frequently absent, TS was present on 15 July to vote that the committee be discharged from "the further consideration of the subject of alleged corruption" (12/4, 58).