



The New York Public Library  
Manuscripts and Archives Division

Guide to the

**Records of the Select Committee to inquire into the Mississippi election of 1875**

1875-1876

MssCol 3088

## Summary

**Creator:** United States. Congress. Senate. Select Committee to inquire into the Mississippi election of 1875

**Title:** Records of the Select Committee to inquire into the Mississippi election of 1875

**Date:** 1875-1876

**Size:** 125 items (1 box)

**Source:** Gift of, James Redpath, 1880

**Abstract:** The United States Senate (44th Congress, 1st Session, 1875-1876) appointed a select committee on 31 Mar. 1876 to investigate fraud, civil rights abuses and violence surrounding the Mississippi election of 2 Nov. 1875. The scope of the inquiry was later extended to include related incidents at the Louisiana-Mississippi border. George S. Boutwell, senator from Massachusetts, was chairman of the committee. James Redpath of Massachusetts, a noted abolitionist and journalist, was clerk of the committee. The committee's report was submitted and published in 1876 as *Mississippi in 1875: Report of the Select Committee to inquire into the Mississippi election of 1875* (Report, 44th Congress, 1st Session, Senate, no. 527). The collection, dating 2 Sept. 1875 to 22 Aug. 1876, consists of correspondence, telegrams, notices of public meetings, sworn statements, witness lists, committee notes, and newspaper clippings concerning the events under investigation and the work of the Select Committee, particularly its efforts to obtain witnesses for hearings in Washington and Mississippi. The bulk of the collection, dating Apr.-July 1876, consists of letters addressed or forwarded to Senator George S. Boutwell from Mississippi residents and officials affected by the events. Other recipients include Senator Oliver P. Morton and James Redpath. Prominent correspondents include Benjamin F. Butler and Adelbert Ames. Many of the documents are of a confidential nature. Some are transcript copies provided by correspondents.

**Alternative Form Available:** Available on microfilm; New York Public Library; \*ZL-477

**Preferred citation:** Records of the Select Committee to inquire into the Mississippi election of 1875, Manuscripts and Archives Division, The New York Public Library

## Creator History

The United States Senate (44th Congress, 1st Session, 1875-1876) appointed a select committee on 31 Mar. 1876 to investigate fraud, civil rights abuses and violence surrounding the Mississippi election of 2 Nov. 1875. The scope of the inquiry was later extended to include related incidents at the Louisiana-Mississippi border. George S. Boutwell, senator from Massachusetts, was chairman of the committee. James Redpath of Massachusetts, a noted abolitionist and journalist, was clerk of the committee. The committee's report was submitted and published in 1876 as *Mississippi in 1875: Report of the Select Committee to inquire into the Mississippi election of 1875* (Report, 44th Congress, 1st Session, Senate, no. 527).

## **Custodial History**

The documents in this collection were retained by James Redpath to protect the identities of informants and other parties. He donated the papers to the Astor Library in 1880 with a ten-year restriction on access.

## **Scope and Content Note**

The collection, dating 2 Sept. 1875 to 22 Aug. 1876, consists of correspondence, telegrams, notices of public meetings, sworn statements, witness lists, committee notes, and newspaper clippings concerning the events under investigation and the work of the Select Committee, particularly its efforts to obtain witnesses for hearings in Washington and Mississippi. The bulk of the collection, dating Apr.-July 1876, consists of letters addressed or forwarded to Senator George S. Boutwell from Mississippi residents and officials affected by the events. Other recipients include Senator Oliver P. Morton and James Redpath. Prominent correspondents include Benjamin F. Butler and Adelbert Ames. Many of the documents are of a confidential nature. Some are transcript copies provided by correspondents.

**Arrangement:** In chronological arrangement

## **Key Terms**

### **Subjects**

African Americans -- Suffrage -- Mississippi  
Civil rights -- Mississippi  
Elections -- Mississippi  
Reconstruction (U.S. history, 1865-1877) -- Louisiana  
Reconstruction (U.S. history, 1865-1877) -- Mississippi

### **Geographic Names**

Mississippi -- Politics and government -- 1865-1950

### **Occupations**

Politicians

### **Titles**

Redpath manuscripts

### **Names**

United States. Congress. Senate. Select Committee to inquire into the Mississippi election of 1875

Ames, Adelbert, 1835-1933  
Boutwell, George S. (George Sewall), 1818-1905  
Morton, Oliver P. (Oliver Perry), 1823-1877  
Redpath, James, 1833-1891