

AMERICAN ANTIQUARIAN SOCIETY

Manuscript Collections

<p>Name of collection: Sumner, Charles, Papers, 1834-1874</p>	<p>Location: Misc. mss. boxes "S"</p>
<p>Size of collection: 1 folder, 44 items</p>	<p>N.U.C.M.C. number: N.A.</p>
<p>Finding aids: For biography of Sumner, see <u>DAB</u>, vol. 18, pp. 208-14. For published version of Sumner's article, see C. Sumner, <u>The Best Portraits in Engraving</u> (New York: Frederick Keppel, 1875).</p>	
<p>Source of collection: Several items the gifts of Charles H. Taylor, Jr., 1915; Mr. and Mrs. Howard S. Congdon, 1971</p>	
<p>Collection Description: Charles Sumner (1811-1874), U.S. Senator from Massachusetts, 1851-1874, leading abolitionist, civil rights activist, and orator, played a large part in the formation of the Republican Party, served with distinction as chairman of the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations, and became a leading opponent of Abraham Lincoln's Reconstruction policies. This collection contains papers and correspondence of Sumner, 1834-1874, including his Harvard Law School diploma, letters relative to speaking engagements, notes of thanks to James B. Syme () and Asa Homan Waters (1808-1887) for their support during his stand on the Fugitive Slave Law, and copies of letters concerning the opinion of Judge Joseph Story (1779-1845) on copyright laws. Also included are letters from individuals in Santa Fe, New Mexico, concerning the Mexican Emancipation Proclamation of 1829, the Unionism of New Mexicans during the Civil War, and the need for Sumner's help in investigating the sale of territorial archives to private interests by New Mexico governor William Anderson Pile (1829-1889). Other letters refer to Sumner's determination to fight slavery and the need for "expurg[ing] [sic] bad whites" during Reconstruction. The collection also contains a printed article written by Sumner in 1871 entitled "The Best Portraits in Engraving," with handwritten corrections and additions by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow (1807-1882) and Edward Lillie Pierce (1829-1897).</p>	

22 March 1977