

American Antiquarian Society

Manuscript Collections

Name of collection:	Location:
Banks, Nathaniel Prentice, Correspondence, c. 1852-1885	Mss. boxes "B"

Size of collection:	N.U.C.M.C. number:
1 mss. box (261 items)	75-1891

RLIN id:

Sources of information on collection:

For a biography of Banks, see Fred Harvey Harrington, *Fighting Politicians: Major General N. P. Banks*, (Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 1948).

Source of collection:

Gift of Charles H. Taylor?

Collection description:

Nathaniel Prentice Banks (1816-1894) was a Massachusetts politician and Union general, whose career in public life spanned the period 1849 to 1891. He served several terms in the Massachusetts General Court (1849-1853; 1874), in the U.S. House of Representatives (1853-1857; 1865-1873; 1875-1879; 1889-1891), and as Governor of Massachusetts (1858-1861). His tempestuous career as a Union general was highlighted by his capture of Port Hudson in 1863. Banks also served as a U.S. Marshall in Massachusetts from 1879 to 1888. He had attended the common schools in his hometown of Waltham, Mass., was trained as a machinist and lawyer, and was proprietor of the Middlesex Reporter. He also served as an inspector in the Boston customhouse and was a candidate seven times before his election to the Massachusetts House and the national House, and was regarded as a politician of tact and integrity.

The Banks correspondence covers almost the entire period of his public life, though there appear to be concentrations in the late 1850s and the 1870s. The items touch on political issues both nationally and statewide, including the concerns of constituents, of newspaper editors (especially regarding the Republican Party press), of job-seekers, and writers on the Civil War period. There are a few items relating to Banks' service as an Union general in the Civil War.

7 December 1973
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Contents List

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Folder 2	1858 - 1859
Folder 3	1860 - 1867
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