

# Guide to the Samuel B. Reed Papers

MS 409



compiled by Staff of Manuscripts and Archives

April 1980

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## Collection Overview

**REPOSITORY:** Manuscripts and Archives  
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**CALL NUMBER:** MS 409

**CREATOR:** Reed, Samuel Benedict, 1818-1891

**TITLE:** Samuel B. Reed papers

**DATES:** 1841-1921

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:** 2 linear feet

**LANGUAGE:** English

**SUMMARY:** Correspondence, financial records, diaries, papers, and miscellanea relating to Samuel B. Reed's career as an engineer and surveyor for various railroad lines in Canada and the United States. Personal correspondence with Jane Ann Earl Reed and Lucy Adeline Hurd Van Horne also discuss railroad matters.

**ONLINE FINDING AID:** To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/mssa.ms.0409>

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## Requesting Instructions

To request items from this collection for use in the Manuscripts and Archives reading room, please use the request links in the HTML version of this finding aid, available at <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/mssa.ms.0409>.

To order reproductions from this collection, please go to [http://www.library.yale.edu/mssa/ifr\\_copy\\_order.html](http://www.library.yale.edu/mssa/ifr_copy_order.html). The information you will need to submit an order includes: the collection call number, collection title, series or accession number, box number, and folder number or name.

Key to the container abbreviations used in the PDF finding aid:

b.        box

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## Administrative Information

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### Immediate Source of Acquisition

Gift of Lindley Eberstadt.

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## Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

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## Conditions Governing Use

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## Preferred Citation

Samuel B. Reed Papers (MS 409). Manuscripts and Archives, Yale University Library.

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## Biographical / Historical

Samuel B. Reed (1818-1891): engineer on the Erie Canal enlargement in the 1840s; then moved west to Ohio, Illinois, and Iowa while working on various railroads.

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## Scope and Contents

The collection consists of correspondence and papers dated 1840-1921 relating to the personal life and business affairs of Samuel B. Reed (1818-1921) and his family. Reed was a civil engineer who surveyed and supervised the construction of many important railroad lines in the western United States and Canada in the mid-nineteenth century. Letters to his wife, Mrs. Jane Ann (Earl) Reed (1827-1896), often contain lengthy descriptions of the problems involved in railway building in its pioneer stages. The railroads with which Reed was associated were the Michigan Central, Mississippi and Missouri, Chicago and Rock Island, Burlington and Missouri River, Union Pacific, Southern Railroad Association, Illinois Central, Chicago, Pekin and South-Western, and the Canadian Pacific Railway. Among Reed's business correspondence there are a number of letters with various railroad executives involved in railway building. Of particular importance is the correspondence with Henry Farnam (1803-1883) builder of the Chicago and Rock Island Railroad, which deals with Reed's part in the construction of the first bridge over the Mississippi.

Among the large amount of personal correspondence to Mrs. Reed are letters from Lucy Adeline (Hurd) Van Horne, wife of Sir William Cornelius Van Horne, builder of the Canadian Pacific Railway. Mrs. Van Horne was a daughter of Erastus Hurd, an uncle of Samuel B. Reed. Her letters give information regarding the personal life of Sir William Van Horne.

## Collection Contents

### Correspondence

b. 1	1842-1858 A copy of this material is available in digital form from Manuscripts and Archives. Contact Manuscripts and Archives at <a href="mailto:beinecke.library@yale.edu">beinecke.library@yale.edu</a> to request access to the digital copy.
b. 2	1859-1868 A copy of this material is available in digital form from Manuscripts and Archives. Contact Manuscripts and Archives at <a href="mailto:beinecke.library@yale.edu">beinecke.library@yale.edu</a> to request access to the digital copy.
b. 3	1869-1921 A copy of this material is available in digital form from Manuscripts and Archives. Contact Manuscripts and Archives at <a href="mailto:beinecke.library@yale.edu">beinecke.library@yale.edu</a> to request access to the digital copy.
b. 4	n.d.

### Other papers

b. 5	Personal account books	1841-1842, 1856-1860
b. 5	Bills, receipts, and other financial papers	1841-1867
b. 5	Notebooks on railroad construction	1843, 1851
b. 5	Diaries of S. B. Reed	1852, 1855
b. 5	Unidentified diary	1890
b. 5	Employment records	1857-1858
b. 5	Printed matter re railroads A copy of this material is available in digital form from Manuscripts and Archives. Contact Manuscripts and Archives at <a href="mailto:beinecke.library@yale.edu">beinecke.library@yale.edu</a> to request access to the digital copy.	1858-1859
b. 5	Railroad construction records	1859, undated
b. 5	Checks drawn on the First National Bank of Joliet, Illinois	1872-1875
b. 5	Souvenir of the opening of the Canadian Pacific Railway	1886
b. 5	Essays, stories, notes	undated
b. 5	Mathematical and engineering notes	undated
b. 5	Religious leaflets	undated
b. 5	Calling cards	undated
b. 5	Decorated envelope	undated

b. 5	Natural history trading card	undated
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Photographs

b. 5	<a href="#">Grading camp for the Union Pacific Railroad in the Rocky Mountains</a>	undated
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b. 5	A. C. Shields and ___ Seagram beside a plaque on 166A Hanging Bridge on the Denver & Rio Grande Western Railroad	undated
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b. 5	Wisconsin Dells	undated
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b. 5	Unidentified woman and boy	undated
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## **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.

### **Subjects**

Business  
Civil engineering  
Railroad engineering  
Railroads -- Canada  
Railroads -- Design and construction  
Railroads -- Surveying  
Railroads -- United States

### **Geographic Names**

Middle West  
United States -- History -- Civil War, 1861-1865

### **Genres / Formats**

Diaries

### **Occupations**

Engineers

### **Names**

Farnam, Henry, 1803-1883  
Reed, Jane Ann Earl  
Reed, Samuel Benedict, 1818-1891  
Van Horne, Lucy Adeline Hurd

### **Corporate Bodies**

Burlington and Missouri River Railroad  
Company  
Canadian Pacific Railway Company  
Chicago and Rock Island Railroad Company  
Detroit and Pontiac Railway Company  
Illinois Central Chicago, Pekin, and South-  
Western Railroad  
Michigan Central Railroad Company  
Mississippi and Missouri Railroad Company  
Southern Railroad Association  
Union Pacific Railroad Company