FROM THE OHIO RIVER TO WASHINGTON, D.C.: 
THE LEGAL PAPERS OF ABRAHAM LINCOLN AND 
SALMON P. CHASE

by Carol Furnish and Donna Bennett

The Chase College of Law Library is more than just a resource for current legal information. The Law Library has an extensive collection of historical documents, including collections of legal papers from historically significant figures.

The Lincoln Legal Papers

A collaborative effort to document the law practice of Abraham Lincoln from 1836 to 1861. This collection is entitled The Law Practice of Abraham Lincoln, and includes the full documentation of cases and legal actions in which Lincoln participated. This collection allows researchers to study Lincoln’s development as a lawyer and trace the formation of the legal system in the Midwest. The publication includes more than 5,600 cases and nearly 100,000 documents. Users can search for cases and documents by case name, participant, date, court, legal action, and subject. The collection was originally published as a three-volume DVD-ROM. The information has been copied to a computer station and is available to the public. You will find a comprehensive description of the project at http://www.lincolnnlegalpapers.org/.

The Salmon P. Chase Papers

This extensive research collection is available in microform and reproduces 14,500 documents written by or addressed to Salmon P. Chase. This collection makes it possible to locate in one location the many documents available at the Library of Congress, the Pennsylvania Historical Society, the Ohio Historical Society in Columbus, the National Archives in Washington, D.C., the Cincinnati Historical Society, and various Chase collections located in different states. This collection includes personal and professional correspondence from 1823 until Chase’s death in 1873, his personal diaries and journals from 1829 to 1872, copies of his speeches, senate bills and resolutions which can be attributed to Chase, treasury-related papers, legal and business papers, Supreme Court opinions, and other writings, such as poetry and general articles.

The Law Library has other historical sources available on these two men. If you would like to make an appointment for assistance in using or viewing these materials please do not hesitate to call the Reference Desk at 859/572-6484.