

Jeremiah S. Black

A Register of His Papers in the Library of Congress

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Revised and expanded by Laura J. Kells**



Manuscript Division, Library of Congress

Washington, D.C.

1996

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Latest revision: 2004-10-28

Collection Summary

Title: Papers of Jeremiah S. Black

Span Dates: 1813-1904

Bulk Dates: (bulk 1856-1880)

ID No.: MSS12849

Creator: Black, Jeremiah S. (Jeremiah Sullivan), 1810-1883

Extent: 10,070 items; 80 containers; 34 linear feet; 36 microfilm reels

Language: Collection material in English

Repository: Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Abstract: Lawyer, public official of Pennsylvania, U.S. attorney general, and U.S. secretary of state. Correspondence, legal files, speeches, writings, scrapbooks, family papers, and other papers relating primarily to various legal matters in which Black was involved.

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.

Names:

Black, Jeremiah S. (Jeremiah Sullivan), 1810-1883

Bayard, Thomas F. (Thomas Francis), 1828-1898

Black, Mary Forward

Blair, Montgomery, 1813-1883

Brown, John, 1800-1859

Buchanan, James, 1791-1868

Clay, C. C. (Clement Claiborne), 1816-1882

Cushing, Caleb, 1800-1879

Davis, Jefferson, 1808-1889

Frémont, John Charles, 1813-1890

Garfield, James A. (James Abram), 1831-1881

Holt, Joseph, 1807-1894

Johnson, Andrew, 1808-1875--Impeachment

Johnson, Reverdy, 1796-1876

Lincoln, Abraham, 1809-1865--Assassination

Randall, Samuel J. (Samuel Jackson), 1828-1890

Stanton, Edwin McMasters, 1814-1869

Thompson, Jacob, 1810-1885

United States. Attorney-General

Credit Mobilier of America

Black, Chauncey F. Papers of Chauncey F. Black

Lamon, Ward Hill, 1828-1893. The life of Abraham Lincoln from his birth to his inauguration as president (1872)

Subjects:

American Confederate voluntary exiles

Antislavery movements

Impeachments

Political corruption

Reconstruction

Slavery--Kansas

Slavery--Southern states

Confederate States of America--Officials and employees

Harpers Ferry (W. Va.)--History--John Brown's Raid, 1859

Kansas--History--1854-1861

Pennsylvania--Politics and government

United States--History--1849-1877
United States--History--Civil War, 1861-1865
United States--Politics and government--1857-1861

Occupations:

Cabinet officers
Lawyers
Statesmen

Administrative Information

Provenance:

The papers of Jeremiah S. Black, lawyer, judge, and statesman, were purchased from Mrs. Jeremiah Black, wife of his grandson, in March 1918. Other small gifts and purchases were made between 1935 and 1992.

Processing History:

The papers of Jeremiah S. Black were arranged and described in 1966. Additional material received between 1966 and 1992 was incorporated into the collection in 1996. A description of the Black Papers appears in *Library of Congress Acquisitions: Manuscript Division, 1992*, pp.8-10.

Copyright Status:

The status of copyright in the unpublished writings of Jeremiah S. Black is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.).

Microfilm:

A microfilm edition of the bound portion of the general correspondence in these papers, 1813-1904, is available on thirty-six reels. Consult a reference librarian in the Manuscript Division concerning availability for purchase or interlibrary loan.

Preferred Citation:

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: Container or reel number, Charles S. Black Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Biographical Note

<i>Date</i>	<i>Event</i>
1810, Jan. 10	Born, near Stony Creek, Pa.
1830	Admitted to the bar in Pennsylvania
1836	Married Mary Forward
1842	Appointed judge of court of common pleas, sixteenth district, Pennsylvania
1851	Appointed justice of supreme court of Pennsylvania
1857-1860	United States attorney general
1860	Appointed secretary of state replacing Lewis Cass

1861	Appointed to United States Supreme Court by James Buchanan but not confirmed by Senate Appointed United States Supreme Court reporter Wrote first volume of annual publication, <i>Reports of Cases Argued and Determined in the Supreme Court of the United States</i>
1873	Helped revise Pennsylvania constitution
1876	Defended Democratic presidential candidate Samuel J. Tilden before electoral commission
1883, Aug. 19	Died, York, Pa.

Scope and Content Note

The papers of Jeremiah Sullivan Black (1810-1883) span the years 1813-1904, with the bulk of the items concentrated in the period 1856-1880. The collection includes correspondence, legal papers, articles, scrapbooks, and other papers relating to such subjects as the turmoil over slavery in Kansas before the Civil War, John Brown's raid on Harpers Ferry, Virginia, the impeachment of President Andrew Johnson, the *Crédit Mobilier*, the trial of Jefferson Davis, Black's efforts on behalf of Clement Claiborne Clay, and Jacob Thompson's letters from his exile in Europe following the Civil War. A large part of the material relates to various legal matters in which Black was involved.

The [General Correspondence](#) comprises the bulk of the collection and includes an important group of James Buchanan's letters relating to the closing days of his administration. Among these is Buchanan's draft of the defense of his actions with regard to Forts Sumter and Moultrie. There is also a group of letters written by Edwin M. Stanton during the years 1857-1858. Correspondence of Black's son, Chauncey, concerns Ward Hill Lamon's *Recollections of Abraham Lincoln* (1895), apparently written by Black and claimed by him to have been published with unauthorized changes. There is a large number of letters from Speaker of the House of Representatives, Samuel J. Randall, to Chauncey Black on important phases of Pennsylvania politics. Prominent among Jeremiah S. Black's correspondents are Thomas Francis Bayard, Montgomery Blair, Caleb Cushing, John C. Frémont, James Abram Garfield, Joseph Holt, and Reverdy Johnson. Among the correspondents of Chauncey Black are Charles A. Dana, William H. Herndon, Ward H. Lamon, James R. Osgood and Company, Samuel J. Randall, Don Piatt, J. M. Cooper, Wayne MacVeagh, and Daniel Sickles.. A partial card index of correspondents is available in the Manuscript Reading Room.

Included in the [Writings](#) series is Jeremiah S. Black's notes containing information on the last four months of Buchanan's administration, an account of his own resignation, and the cabinet meeting on Major Richard Anderson's removal to Fort Sumter. Chauncey Black's unpublished draft of the last chapter of Ward Hill Lamon's book on Lincoln is also filed in this series.

An [addition](#) to the collection contains family correspondence consisting primarily of letters from Black to his wife, Mary, and to his children. Other family members represented in the addition include Henry Clayton and Jeremiah S. Black Clayton.

Organization of the Papers

The collection is arranged in five series:

- [General Correspondence, 1813-1904, n.d.](#)
- [Legal File, 1853-1880, n.d.](#)
- [Writings, n.d.](#)
- [Miscellany, 1859-1903, n.d.](#)
- [Addition, 1837-1888, n.d.](#)

Description of Series

<i>Container</i>	<i>Series</i>
BOX 1-74 REEL 1-36	<u>General Correspondence, 1813-1904, n.d.</u>
BOX 1-73 REEL 1-36	<u>Bound, 1813-1904, n.d.</u> Letters received, copies of letters sent, memoranda, and legal and financial papers. Arranged chronologically.
BOX 74 not filmed	<u>Unbound, 1857-1880, n.d.</u> Letters received and draft correspondence by Black. Arranged chronologically.
BOX 74-76	<u>Legal File, 1853-1880, n.d.</u> Cases, notes, writings, and printed matter. Arranged alphabetically by type of material.
BOX 77-78	<u>Writings, n.d.</u> Holograph writings by Jeremiah S. Black and his son Chauncey Forward Black. Arranged alphabetically by author and by topic or type of writing therein.
BOX 78-80	<u>Miscellany, 1859-1903, n.d.</u> Scrapbooks, clippings, notes, and portraits. Arranged alphabetically by type of material.
BOX 80	<u>Addition, 1837-1888, n.d.</u> Family correspondence, general correspondence, and academic records. Arranged alphabetically by type of material and chronologically therein.

Container List

<i>Container</i>	<i>Contents</i>
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BOX 2 REEL 1	21 Oct. 1856-12 Mar. 1857
BOX 3 REEL 2	13-23 Mar. 1857
BOX 4 REEL 2	24 Mar.-3 Apr. 1857
BOX 5 REEL 3	4-20 Apr. 1857
BOX 6 REEL 3	21 Apr.-7 May 1857
BOX 7 REEL 4	8-26 May 1857
BOX 8 REEL 4	27 May-24 June 1857
BOX 9 REEL 5	25 June-22 July 1857
BOX 10 REEL 5	23 July-19 Aug. 1857
BOX 11 REEL 6	20 Aug.-14 Sept. 1857
BOX 12 REEL 6	15 Sept.-23 Oct. 1857
BOX 13 REEL 7	24 Oct.-23 Nov. 1857
BOX 14 REEL 7	24 Nov.-27 Dec. 1857
BOX 15 REEL 8	28 Dec. 1857-7 Feb. 1858
BOX 16 REEL 8	8 Feb.-4 Apr. 1858
BOX 17 REEL 9	5 Apr.-20 June 1858
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General Correspondence, 1813-1904, n.d.

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General Correspondence, 1813-1904, n.d.

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General Correspondence, 1813-1904, n.d.

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BOX 73 Undated

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BOX 74

not filmed

Unbound, 1857-1880, n.d.

Letters received and draft correspondence by Black.
Arranged chronologically.

13 Mar. 1857-8 May 1871, 20 Dec. 1880, n.d.
(2 folders)

BOX 74-76

Legal File, 1853-1880, n.d.

Cases, notes, writings, and printed matter.
Arranged alphabetically by type of material.

BOX 74

Cases

Bennett pension, opinion, n.d.

Biles appeal, opinion, n.d.

Book of cases, 1853

Bryant v. Stillwell, opinion

Clay, Clement, C., defense, n.d.

Cucullu v. Mexico, opinions of commissioners Wadsworth and Palacio, n.d.

Dyer v. Parkhurst, opinion, n.d.

Harris v. Lyson, n.d.

Hendrickson, Joseph G., appeal, n.d.

Koon and Bray v. O'Neill, opinion, n.d.

Land dispute, Somerset County, Pa., n.d.

McArole case, n.d.

(2 folders)

McComb v. Crédit Mobilier, n.d.

McGarrham, William, Judiciary Committee, Washington, D.C., 1870

BOX 75

McKenny v. Republic of Mexico, 1872, n.d.

National Bank of Clarion v. James, Assignee of Burns, n.d.

Remington v. Morris, opinion, n.d.

Schooner Peggy v. United States, n.d.

Sheenan v. Twigg, n.d.

Stokely, Thomas, estate, opinion, n.d.

Tilden, Samuel J., defense before electoral commission, n.d.

Westfall v. Mapes, opinion, n.d.

Wheatly v. Chusman, opinion, n.d.

Legal File, 1853-1880, n.d.

Container

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BOX 77-78	Writings, n.d. Holograph writings by Jeremiah S. Black and his son Chauncey Forward Black. Arranged alphabetically by author and by topic or type of writing therein.
BOX 77	Black, Chauncey Forward "Adam Holt," unpublished novel, n.d. (10 folders) Lamon, Ward Hill, <i>Recollections of Abraham Lincoln</i> (1895), suppressed chapter by Black, n.d. (3 folders) Black, Jeremiah S. On James Buchanan administration, n.d. (4 folders)
BOX 78	Various, n.d. (15 folders)
BOX 78-80	Miscellany, 1859-1903, n.d. Scrapbooks, clippings, notes, and portraits. Arranged alphabetically by type of material.
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BOX 80	(1 vol.) Various items, 1891, 1897, 1903, n.d.
BOX 80	Addition, 1837-1888, n.d. Family correspondence, general correspondence, and academic records. Arranged alphabetically by type of material and chronologically therein.
BOX 80	Family correspondence, 1837, 1848-1872, 1880, n.d. (2 folders) General correspondence, 1861, 1871-1887 Miscellany, 1887-1888