

Jefferson Davis

A Register of His Papers in the Library of Congress

Prepared by Joseph Sullivan



Manuscript Division, Library of Congress

Washington, D.C.

1997

Contact information: <http://lcweb.loc.gov/rr/mss/address.html>

**Finding aid encoded by Library of Congress
Manuscript Division, 2007**

Finding aid URL: <http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms007040>

Collection Summary

Title: Papers of Jefferson Davis

Span Dates: 1795-1913

Bulk Dates: (bulk 1850-1906)

ID No.: MSS17921

Creator: Davis, Jefferson, 1808-1889

Extent: 625 items; 2 containers; .6 linear feet; 2 microfilm reels

Language: Collection material in English

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

Abstract: President of the Confederate States of America. Correspondence and related articles, speeches, clippings, reports and notes documenting Davis's political career and his family.

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:

Davis, Jefferson, 1808-1889

Corwine, Amos B.--Correspondence

Davis, Varina, 1826-1906--Correspondence

Harris, Hamlet J.--Correspondence

Maynadier, William, 1807-1871--Correspondence

Roach, Philip A. (Philip Augustine), 1820-1889--Correspondence

Wright, Crafts J. (Crafts James), 1808-1883--Correspondence

Davis family

Confederate States of America. Army

Stephenson, Nathaniel W. (Nathaniel Wright), 1867-1935 Papers of Nathaniel W. Stephenson

Subjects:

Mexican War, 1846-1848

Monterrey, Battle of, Monterrey, Mexico, 1846

Plantations--Mississippi

Railroads--Southern States

Beauvoir (Biloxi, Miss.)--History

California--Politics and government--1846-1850

Confederate States of America--History

Mississippi--Politics and government

Southern States--Politics and government

United States--History--1815-1861

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

United States--History--Civil War, 1861-1865--Veterans

Occupations:

Presidents--Confederate States of America

Administrative Information

Provenance:

The papers of Jefferson Davis (1808-1889), President of the Confederate States of America, were acquired by the Library of Congress by transfer, gift, and purchase from 1895 to 1985.

Transfers:

A photograph has been transferred to the Prints and Photographs Division where it is identified as part of the Jefferson Davis Papers.

Copyright Status:

The status of copyright in the unpublished writings of Jefferson Davis is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.).

Microfilm:

A microfilm edition of part of these papers is available on two 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, Jefferson Davis Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Scope and Content Note

The papers of Jefferson Davis span the years 1795-1913, but are concentrated in the periods 1850-1859 and 1870-1906. The papers consist of correspondence to and from Davis and his wife Varina Howell Davis and others, supplemented by newspaper clippings, articles, speeches and highlights of speeches, notes of historian Nathaniel Wright Stephenson summarizing Davis's letters and writings which were printed in the *Official Records of the War of the Rebellion*, and drafts of military reports concerning the Battle of Monterrey, 1846, in the Mexican War. Subjects include admission of California as a state, Davis's capture at the end of the Civil War, Mississippi state politics, a southern transcontinental railroad, and other pre-Civil War issues. Varina Davis's correspondence, 1889-1906, relates chiefly to her husband's capture, to family and personal matters, and to the conversion of Beauvoir, Davis's home in Biloxi, Mississippi, to a home for Confederate veterans. Correspondents include Amos B. Corwine, Hamlet J. Harris, William Maynadier, Philip A. Roach, and Crafts J. Wright. A small addition dated 1795-1888, not filmed, consists of photocopies of land grants, speeches, and correspondence of Davis and his wife.

Arrangement of the Papers

This collection is arranged chronologically.

Container List

Available on microfilm. Shelf no. 14,931

<i>Container</i>	<i>Contents</i>
BOX 1	Correspondence and related material
REEL 1-2	
BOX 1	1835-1891
REEL 1-2	(19 folders)
BOX 2	1894-1913, n.d.
REEL 2	(6 folders)
BOX 2	Addition, 1795-1890
Not filmed	