

**Jefferson Davis Papers**  
**A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress**



**Manuscript Division, Library of Congress**  
**Washington, D.C.**  
**1997**

Contact information: <http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/mss.contact>

Catalog Record: <https://lcn.loc.gov/mm79017921>

Additional search options available at: <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms007040>

Prepared by Joseph Sullivan

Finding aid encoded by Library of Congress Manuscript Division, 2007  
Revised 2010 April

## Collection Summary

**Title:** Jefferson Davis Papers

**Span Dates:** 1795-1913

**Bulk Dates:** (bulk 1850-1906)

**ID No.:** MSS17921

**Creator:** Davis, Jefferson, 1808-1889

**Extent:** 625 items

**Extent:** 2 containers

**Extent:** .6 linear feet

**Extent:** 2 microfilm reels

**Language:** Collection material in English

**Location:** Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

**LC Catalog record:** <https://lccn.loc.gov/mm79017921>

**Summary:** 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 LC Catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically.

### People

Corwine, Amos B.--Correspondence.

Davis family.

Davis, Jefferson, 1808-1889.

Davis, Varina, 1826-1906--Correspondence.

Harris, Hamlet J.--Correspondence.

Maynadier, William, 1807-1871--Correspondence.

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

Stephenson, Nathaniel W. (Nathaniel Wright), 1867-1935. Nathaniel W. Stephenson papers.

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

### Organizations

Confederate States of America. Army.

### Subjects

Mexican War, 1846-1848.

Monterrey, Battle of, Monterrey, Mexico, 1846.

Plantations--Mississippi.

Railroads--Southern States.

### Places

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--Veterans.

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

### Occupations

Presidents--Confederate States of America.

## 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.).

## Access and Restrictions

The papers of Jefferson Davis are open to research. Researchers are advised to contact the Manuscript Reading Room prior to visiting. Many collections are stored off-site and advance notice is needed to retrieve these items for research use.

## 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

<b>Container</b>	<b>Contents</b>
<b>BOX 1 REEL 1-2</b>	Correspondence and related material
<b>BOX 1 REEL 1-2</b>	1835-1891 (19 folders)
<b>BOX 2 REEL 2</b>	1894-1913, undated (6 folders)
<b>BOX 2</b>	Addition, 1795-1890