Dolley Madison Papers

A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress

Manuscript Division, Library of Congress
Washington, D.C.
2005

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

Catalog Record: https://lccn.loc.gov/mm80031005

Additional search options available at: https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms007075

Prepared by Mary Wolfskill
Revised and expanded by Dan Oleksiw

Finding aid encoded by Library of Congress Manuscript Division, 2007
Revised 2010 April
Collection Summary
Title: Dolley Madison Papers
Span Dates: 1794-1852
Bulk Dates: (bulk 1836-1849)
ID No.: MSS31005
Creator: Madison, Dolley, 1768-1849
Extent: 1,700 items
Extent: 5 containers
Extent: 2 linear feet
Extent: 4 microfilm reels
Language: Collection material in English
Location: Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.
LC Catalog record: https://lccn.loc.gov/mm80031005
Summary: Wife of President James Madison and prominent Washington, D.C., hostess. Correspondence, financial papers, invitations, calling cards, and other papers relating primarily to personal and family matters including settlement of the Dolley Madison, James Madison, and William Madison estates.

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
Causten, Anna Payne, 1819-1852--Correspondence.
Clay, Henry, 1777-1852--Correspondence.
Cutts, R. D. (Richard Dominicus), 1817-1883--Correspondence.
Laurie, James--Correspondence.
Lee, Elizabeth Collins, -1858--Correspondence.
Madison, Dolley, 1768-1849--Estate.
Madison, Dolley, 1768-1849.
Madison, James, 1751-1836--Estate.
Madison, William, 1762-1843--Estate.
Mason, John Y. (John Young), 1799-1859--Correspondence.
Moncure, Henry W. (Henry Wood), 1800-1866--Correspondence.
Morris, Anthony, 1766-1860--Correspondence.
Morris, Phoebe--Correspondence.
Smith, Richard--Correspondence.
Todd, John Payne, 1792-1858--Correspondence.
Todd, Rebecca--Correspondence.
Todd, Samuel Poultney--Correspondence.

Places
Montpelier (Va. : Estate)
Virginia--Social life and customs.
Washington (D.C.)--Social life and customs.

Occupations
Presidents' spouses--United States.
Provenance
The papers of Dolley Madison, wife of President James Madison and prominent Washington, D.C., hostess, were transferred to the Library of Congress from the Smithsonian Institution in 1866. Additions to the papers were received by gift, purchase, and transfer, 1909-2004.

Processing History
The papers of Dolley Madison were arranged and described in 1981. The collection was expanded and revised in 2005.

Additional Guides
A partial index to the original material is available in the Manuscript Division Reading Room.

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

Access and Restrictions
The papers of Dolley Madison 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 four reels. Consult reference staff in the Manuscript Division concerning availability for purchase or interlibrary loan. To promote preservation of the originals, researchers are required to consult the microfilm edition as available.

Preferred Citation
Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: Container number, Dolley Madison Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Biographical Note

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1768, May 20</td>
<td>Born, Guilford County, N.C.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1790</td>
<td>Married John Todd (died 1793)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1794</td>
<td>Married James Madison (died 1836)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1801-1809</td>
<td>Acted as hostess for President Thomas Jefferson while her husband, James Madison, served as secretary of state</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1809-1817</td>
<td>First Lady during James Madison's presidency</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1817-1836</td>
<td>Resided with James Madison at their plantation, Montpelier, Va., until his death</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1837</td>
<td>Returned to Washington, D.C., and resumed her position as a prominent hostess</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1849, July 12</td>
<td>Died, Washington, D.C.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Scope and Content Note

The papers of Dolley Payne Todd Madison (1768-1849) date from 1794 to 1852, although the bulk of the material falls in the period after the death of her husband, James Madison, in 1836. The papers consist primarily of correspondence but also include financial papers, invitations, visiting cards, and miscellaneous material. The collection is organized in two segments of original and reproduced items, with a chronological arrangement for each segment.

The correspondence is concerned mainly with family matters including the settlement of Dolley Madison’s estate as well as those of William Madison and James Madison. The disposition of her estate dominates the correspondence after 1849, particularly in letters between trustees John Young Mason and Richard Smith. Family members who figure prominently as correspondents include John Payne Todd, surviving son of Dolley Payne and John Todd (1763-1793), her nieces Anna Payne Causten and Rebecca Todd, and her nephews R. D. Cutts and Samuel Poulney Todd.

Other correspondence reflects the extent of Dolley Madison's personal friendships and the use of her influence and contacts to benefit others. Correspondents include Anthony Morris (1766-1860), a Philadelphia merchant and unofficial United States representative to Spain from 1810 to 1814, and his daughter, Phoebe; James Laurie of the American Colonization Society; Henry W. Moncure, a Richmond merchant who eventually bought Montpelier from Madison to ease her financial crisis; and Elizabeth Collins Lee, close friend and confidante.

Also in the collection are such items as inventories of household furnishings at Montpelier and in Washington, accounts with a grocer, and lists of visitors and visits returned by Mrs. Madison. Additional material, including a holograph letter to Dolley Madison from Henry Clay, 1836, regarding the manuscript of James Madison’s Notes of Debates on the Federal Convention of 1787, and a page from her diary or notebook, 1845, was added to the collection after the microfilm edition was completed.

Arrangement of the Papers

This collection is arranged alphabetically by type of material.
## Container List

Available on microfilm. Shelf no. 18,940

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Container</th>
<th>Contents</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BOX 1 REEL 1</td>
<td>Originals</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOX 1 REEL 1</td>
<td>Correspondence</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOX 1 REEL 1</td>
<td>1794-1842 (9 folders)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOX 2 REEL 1-2</td>
<td>1843-1845 (5 folders)</td>
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<tr>
<td>BOX 3 REEL 2-3</td>
<td>1846-1849 (6 folders)</td>
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<tr>
<td>BOX 4 REEL 3-4</td>
<td>1850-1852 (2 folders)</td>
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<tr>
<td>BOX 4 REEL 3-4</td>
<td>Undated (5 folders)</td>
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<tr>
<td>BOX 5 REEL 4</td>
<td>Invitations, 1838-1848</td>
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<tr>
<td>BOX 5 REEL 4</td>
<td>Visiting cards, undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOX 5 not filmed</td>
<td>Reproductions, 1809-1849</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOX 5</td>
<td>Addition</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOX 5</td>
<td>Correspondence</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOX 5</td>
<td>Letter from Henry Clay, original and transcript, 1836</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOX 5</td>
<td>Letter to Mrs. Roosevelt, 1843</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOX 5</td>
<td>Engraving of Madison, undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOX 5</td>
<td>Page from diary or notebook entitled “Extract from the Revd. Dr. Bethune’s Discourse on the death of Genl. Jackson,” original and transcript, 1845</td>
</tr>
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</table>