

Albert J. Beveridge Collection of John Marshall Papers

A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress



Manuscript Division, Library of Congress

Washington, D.C.

2008

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

Catalog Record: <https://lcn.loc.gov/mm79031450>

Additional search options available at: <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms008001>

Prepared by Manuscript Division staff

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Revised 2023 March

Collection Summary

Title: Albert J. Beveridge collection of John Marshall papers

Inclusive Dates: 1776-1884

Bulk Dates: 1795-1835

ID No.: MSS31450

Collector: Beveridge, Albert J. (Albert Jeremiah), 1862-1927

Creator: Marshall, John, 1755-1835

Extent: 300 items

Extent: 7 containers

Extent: 2.8 linear feet

Language: Collection material in English

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

LC Catalog record: <https://lccn.loc.gov/mm79031450>

Summary: Lawyer and chief justice of the Supreme Court. Correspondence, a journal, account books, and other papers primarily gathered by Albert J. Beveridge for his research on John Marshall.

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

Beveridge, Albert J. (Albert Jeremiah), 1862-1927.

Carrington, Elizabeth Jaquelin Ambler Brent, 1765-1847--Correspondence.

Fairfax, Thomas Fairfax, Lord, 1692-1782

Hite, Jost, -1760

Hopkinson, Joseph, 1770-1842--Correspondence.

Lee, Henry, 1787-1837--Correspondence.

Marshall, James Markham, 1764-1848--Correspondence.

Marshall, John, 1755-1835. Albert J. Beveridge collection of John Marshall papers. 1776-1844.

Pickering, Timothy, 1745-1829--Correspondence.

Story, Joseph, 1779-1845--Correspondence.

Washington, Bushrod, 1762-1829--Correspondence.

Washington, George, 1732-1799--Correspondence.

Washington, George, 1732-1799.

Wayne, Caleb Parry, 1776-1849--Correspondence.

Organizations

United States. Supreme Court.

Subjects

Constitutional law--United States.

Courts.

Law--United States.

Plantations--Virginia.

XYZ Affair, 1797-1798.

Places

France--Foreign relations--United States.

United States--Foreign relations--France.

United States--Politics and government--1783-1865.

Titles

John Marshall papers

Occupations

Biographers.

Historians.

Judges.

Justices, U.S. Supreme Court.

Lawyers.

Senators, U.S. Congress--Indiana.

Statesmen.

Acquisition Information

Most of the items in this collection of the papers of John Marshall, lawyer and Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, were donated to the Library of Congress by Catherine Eddy Beveridge in 1932 or copied by the Library in that year from papers that she retained. Other items have come to the Library by gift, exchange, and purchase, 1908-1982.

Processing History

The Albert J. Beveridge Collection of John Marshall Papers was arranged and described in 1979. The finding aid was revised in 1996 and by Joseph Burns in 2008. The finding aid was updated in 2023 by Maria Farmer as part of a division-wide remediation project by the Inclusive Description Working Group.

Related Materials

Other material relating to John Marshall is in the Manuscript Division's collections of papers of his contemporaries. Other collections of his papers are available at the Earl Gregg Swem Library, College of William and Mary, and the American Philosophical Society Library, Philadelphia, Pa.

Copyright Status

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

Access and Restrictions

The Albert J. Beveridge Collection of John Marshall Papers is 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.

Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: Container number, Albert J. Beveridge Collection of John Marshall Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Biographical Note

Date	Event
1755, Sept. 24	Born near Germantown, Va.
1755-1781	Military service

1780	Attended law and philosophy lectures at the College of William and Mary, Williamsburg, Va. Admitted to the bar, Fauquier County, Va.
1782-1784	Member, Virginia Executive Council
1782-1785	Member, Virginia House of Delegates
1783	Married Mary Willis Ambler
1785-1788	Recorder, city of Richmond, Va.
1787-1788	Member, Virginia House of Delegates
1796	Argued case before the Supreme Court
1797-1798	One of three American envoys to France (XYZ Affair)
1798	Elected to the House of Representatives
1800-1801	Secretary of state
1801-1835	Chief justice of the Supreme Court
1804-1807	Published <i>The Life of George Washington</i> . London: Printed for R. Phillips
1829	Member, Virginia Constitutional Convention
1835, July 6	Died, Philadelphia, Pa.

Scope and Content Note

The John Marshall collection spans the years 1776-1844, with the bulk of the papers covering the years 1795-1835. The papers consist primarily of photocopies and transcripts of material relating to John Marshall that were accumulated by Albert J. Beveridge during his research for his four-volume biography of Marshall. They were given to the Library by his wife, Catherine Eddy Beveridge, (chiefly vols. 1-3) or photocopied by the Library from material retained by her (chiefly vols. 4-6). The collection also contains some original manuscripts (circa 35 items) dated 1787-1835.

The material in the papers covers most aspects of Marshall's public life except his military service. A number of documents, both originals and copies, relate to the XYZ Affair, including a photocopy of Marshall's journal concerning the mission to France. Correspondence in the collection includes letters of advice from Marshall to his fellow Supreme Court justices. Letters to his brother James concern the operation and legal problems of the family plantation. Letters to various notables of the period relate to political activity, and those to Bushrod Washington concern Marshall's *The Life of George Washington*. Also among the papers are copies of Marshall's account books for the period September 1783-December 1795 and some law notes from his stay at the College of William and Mary in 1780. There is also a series of letters from Marshall's sister-in-law, Elizabeth Jacquelin Ambler Brent Carrington, to various individuals.

Among Marshall's prominent correspondents were Joseph Hopkinson, Henry Lee, James M. Marshall, Timothy Pickering, Joseph Story, Bushrod Washington, George Washington, and Caleb P. Wayne.

Arrangement of the Papers

This collection is arranged alphabetically by type of material.

Container List

Container	Contents
BOX 1	Bound volumes
BOX 1	Correspondence, legal papers, and notes
BOX 1	1776, July 3-1804, Sept. 3
BOX 2	1804, Sept. 8-1827, Aug. 7
BOX 3	1827, Oct. 6-1844, Nov. 18, undated
BOX 4	Accounts, 1783, Sept.-1792, Dec.
BOX 5	Accounts, legal accounts (Fairfax v. Hite), and law school notes, 1780-1795
BOX 6	Letters of Elizabeth Jacquelin Amber Brent Carrington, 1780-1823
BOX 7	Unbound material
BOX 7	Originals
BOX 7	General correspondence, 1787-1834
BOX 7	Legal material, 1835, undated
BOX 7	Notes, undated
BOX 7	Copies
BOX 7	Journal, XYZ Affair, 1797-1798
BOX 7	General correspondence, 1797-1835
BOX 7	Legal material, indenture-deed, 1811, Sept. 23