

Amasa J. Parker Papers
A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress



Manuscript Division, Library of Congress
Washington, D.C.
2023

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

Catalog Record: <https://lcn.loc.gov/mm82035477>

Additional search options available at: <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms008132>

Prepared by Manuscript Division staff

Finding aid encoded by Library of Congress Manuscript Division, 2009
Revised 2023 July

Collection Summary

Title: Amasa J. Parker Papers

Inclusive Dates: 1836-1875

Bulk Dates: 1837-1839

ID No.: MSS35477

Creator: Parker, Amasa J. (Amasa Junius), 1807-1890

Extent: 170 items

Extent: 1 container plus 1 oversize

Extent: 0.2 linear feet

Language: Collection material in English

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

LC Catalog record: <https://lccn.loc.gov/mm82035477>

Summary: United States representative, lawyer, and jurist. Chiefly letters written by Parker while serving in the United States Congress in Washington, D.C. from 1837 to 1839.

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

Adams, John Quincy, 1767-1848.

Calhoun, John C. (John Caldwell), 1782-1850.

Parker, Amasa J. (Amasa Junius), 1807-1890.

Parker, Harriet Langdon Roberts--Correspondence.

Webster, Daniel, 1782-1852.

Organizations

United States Capitol (Washington, D.C.)

United States. Congress.

United States. Congress. Senate--Elections, 1876.

Subjects

Dueling--United States.

Indians of North America--Government relations.

Practice of law--New York (State)

Theater--Washington (D.C)

Places

Delhi (N.Y.)--History.

New York (State)--Politics and government--1775-1865.

United States--Politics and government--1837-1841.

Washington (D.C.)--Description and travel.

Washington (D.C.)--Social life and customs.

Titles

Amasa Junius Parker papers

Occupations

Judges.

Lawyers.

Representatives, U.S. Congress--New York (State)

Acquisition Information

The papers of Amasa J. Parker, United States representative from New York and jurist, were given to the Library of Congress by his granddaughter, Huybertie Lansing Pruyn Hamlin, in 1942.

Processing History

The papers of Amasa J. Parker were arranged and described in 1998 by T. Michael Womack. The finding aid was revised in 2009. The finding aid was updated in 2023 by Maria Farmer as part of a division-wide remediation project by the Inclusive Description Working Group.

Copyright Status

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

Access and Restrictions

The papers of Amasa J. Parker 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.

Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: Container number, Amasa J. Parker Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Scope and Content Note

The papers of Amasa Junius Parker (1807-1890) span the years 1836-1875, with the bulk of the items concentrated in the period between 1837 and 1839. Parker began his career as a lawyer in Delhi, New York, where he was elected as a Democrat to the United States House of Representatives for one term, 1837-1839. Declining candidacy for renomination in 1838, he returned to his law practice in Delhi, later became a judge, and in 1848 moved his practice to Albany, New York. He was an unsuccessful candidate for governor of New York in 1856 and 1858 and for the United States Senate in 1875. Parker died in Albany in 1890.

The collection consists almost entirely of letters from Parker to his wife Harriet in Delhi while he was a member of Congress. In his early letters, Parker describes his trip to Washington, D.C., the city itself, his living quarters, the Capitol building, choosing his seat in the House, and impressions of prominent politicians such as John Quincy Adams, John C. Calhoun, and Daniel Webster. Other subjects covered include Native American affairs, dueling, Washington society and theater, and political observations. Of particular note is a letter containing an illustration of the dining table seating arrangement of the congressional delegation at Mrs. Pittman's boarding house where Parker lodged. Among the group were two future Democratic presidents, Millard B. Fillmore and James Buchanan.

Letters written after 1839 are from Parker to his wife while on the lawyer's circuit in New York. The miscellany contains a newspaper illustration of Parker in 1875 announcing his bid as a Democratic candidate for the United States Senate.

Arrangement of the Papers

This collection is arranged alphabetically by type of material.

Container List

Container	Contents
BOX 1	Letters, 1836-1844 (4 folders)
BOX 1	Miscellany, 1875, undated <i><u>See Oversize</u></i>
BOX OV 1	Oversize
BOX OV 1	Miscellany
BOX OV 1	Newspaper illustration, 1875 (Container 1)