Collection Summary

Title: Joseph Story Correspondence
Span Dates: 1807-1843
ID No.: MSS41657
Creator: Story, Joseph, 1779-1845
Extent: 1,400 items
Extent: 8 containers
Extent: 2 linear feet
Extent: 8 microfilm reels
Language: Collection material in English
Location: Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.
LC Catalog record: https://lccn.loc.gov/mm78041657
Summary: Lawyer, United States representative from Massachusetts, associate justice of the United States Supreme Court, and educator. Personal, legal, and professional correspondence regarding cases at law, questions before the Supreme Court, the teaching of history and law, the development of Harvard Law School, and other judicial and political topics.

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
Bacon, Ezekiel, 1776-1870--Correspondence.
Clay, Henry, 1777-1852.
Lieber, Francis, 1800-1872--Correspondence.
Pickering, Timothy, 1745-1829--Correspondence.
Prescott, William Hickling, 1796-1859--Correspondence.
Randolph, John, 1773-1833.
Robbins, Asher, 1761-1845--Correspondence.
Sparks, Jared, 1789-1866--Correspondence.
Story, Joseph, 1779-1845.
Sumner, Charles, 1811-1874--Correspondence.
Washington, Bushrod, 1762-1829--Correspondence.
Washington, George, 1732-1799.
Webster, Daniel, 1782-1852--Correspondence.

Organizations
Harvard Law School.
United States. Supreme Court.

Subjects
Constitutional law--United States.
Dueling--United States.
History--Study and teaching.
Law schools--Massachusetts--Cambridge.
Law--Study and teaching.
Law--United States.

Places
Charles River Bridge (Mass.)--Trials, litigation, etc.

Titles
Joseph Story papers

Occupations

Joseph Story Correspondence
Provenance

The correspondence of Joseph Story, lawyer, United States representative from Massachusetts, associate justice of the United States Supreme Court, and educator, was purchased by the Library of Congress in 1935 and 1937. Single item additions purchased in 1981-1982 were transferred from the Miscellaneous Manuscripts Collection in 2009.

Processing History

The Joseph Story Correspondence was prepared for microfilming in 1975. The collection was expanded and revised in 2009.

Copyright Status

The status of copyright in the unpublished writings of Joseph Story is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.).

Access and Restrictions

The correspondence of Joseph Story 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.

Microfilm

A microfilm edition of these papers is available on eight reels. Consult a reference librarian 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.

Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: Container or reel number, Joseph Story Correspondence, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Biographical Note

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1779, Sept. 18</td>
<td>Born, Marblehead, Mass.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1798</td>
<td>Graduate, Harvard University, Cambridge, Mass.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1801</td>
<td>Admitted to the bar, Salem, Mass.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>circa 1805</td>
<td>Married Mary F. L. Oliver (died 1805)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1805-1807</td>
<td>Member, Massachusetts house of representatives</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1808</td>
<td>Married Sarah Waldo Wetmore</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1808-1809</td>
<td>Member, United States Congress</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
1811 Speaker, Massachusetts house of representatives
1812-1845 Associate justice, United States Supreme Court
1829 Named Dane Professor of Law, Harvard University, Cambridge, Mass.
1832 Published *Commentaries on the Law of Bailments*. Cambridge: Hilliard and Brown
1834 Published *Commentaries on the Conflict of Laws*. Boston: Hilliard, Gray, and Co.

**Scope and Content Note**

The correspondence of Joseph Story (1779-1845) spans the years 1807-1843. The collection consists of bound volumes of personal, legal, and professional correspondence regarding cases at law, questions before the Supreme Court, the teaching of history and law, and the development of Harvard Law School. Also included are invitations, letters of introduction, and letters of Jared Sparks and Bushrod Washington relating to Sparks's edition of the writings of George Washington. Correspondents include Ezekiel Bacon, Francis Lieber, Timothy Pickering, William Hickling Prescott, Asher Robbins, Charles Sumner, and Daniel Webster. A small addition consists of a letter from Story to Daniel Webster in 1826 regarding current political and judicial issues, including Henry Clay's duel with John Randolph of Roanoke, and a letter of 1836 to John Davis relating to the Charles River Bridge case and various aspects of constitutional law.

**Arrangement of the Papers**

This collection is arranged chronologically with the addition filed at the end.
# Container List

Available on microfilm. Shelf no. 13,254 (first copy); shelf no. 16,376 (second copy).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Container</th>
<th>Contents</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BOX 1 REEL 1</td>
<td>1807, Jan. 2-1818, Oct. 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOX 2 REEL 1</td>
<td>1819, Aug. 18-1827, Jan. 31</td>
</tr>
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<td>BOX 3 REEL 2</td>
<td>1827, Feb. 4-1828, Feb. 27</td>
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<tr>
<td>BOX 4 REEL 2</td>
<td>1828, Mar. 2-1836, Dec. 30</td>
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<td>BOX 5 REEL 3</td>
<td>1837, Jan. 3-1838, Feb. 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOX 6 REEL 3</td>
<td>1838, Feb. 6-1843, Apr. 4</td>
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<tr>
<td>BOX 7 REEL 4</td>
<td>1843, Apr. 5-Oct. 7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOX 8 not filmed</td>
<td>Addition</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOX 8 not filmed</td>
<td>1826, 1836</td>
</tr>
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</table>