

**Joseph Story Correspondence**  
**A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress**



**Manuscript Division, Library of Congress**  
**Washington, D.C.**  
**2009**

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

Catalog Record: <https://lcn.loc.gov/mm78041657>

Additional search options available at: <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc/mss/eadmss.ms009335>

Prepared by Manuscript Division Staff

Finding aid encoded by Glenn R. Gardner, 2010

## 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

Educators.  
Judges.  
Justices, U.S. Supreme Court.  
Lawyers.  
Representatives, U.S. Congress--Massachusetts.

## 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

<b>Date</b>	<b>Event</b>
1779, Sept. 18	Born, Marblehead, Mass.
1798	Graduate, Harvard University, Cambridge, Mass.
1801	Admitted to the bar, Salem, Mass.
circa 1805	Married Mary F. L. Oliver (died 1805)
1805-1807	Member, Massachusetts house of representatives
1808	Married Sarah Waldo Wetmore
1808-1809	Member, United States Congress

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 <i>Commentaries on the Law of Bailments</i> . Cambridge: Hilliard and Brown
1833	Published <i>Commentaries on the Constitution of the United States</i> . Boston: Hilliard, Gray, and Co. 3 vols.
1834	Published <i>Commentaries on the Conflict of Laws</i> . Boston: Hilliard, Gray, and Co.
1836	Published <i>Commentaries on Equity Jurisprudence</i> . Boston: Hilliard, Gray & Co. 2 vols.
1845, Sept. 10	Died, Cambridge, Mass.

## 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).

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