Collection Summary

Title: Simon Cameron Papers
Span Dates: 1738-1919
Bulk Dates: (bulk 1860-1880)
ID No.: MSS14845
Creator: Cameron, Simon, 1799-1889
Extent: 8,000 items
Extent: 28 containers plus 1 oversize
Extent: 12 linear feet
Extent: 22 microfilm reels
Language: Collection material in English
Location: Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.
LC Catalog record: https://lccn.loc.gov/mss14845
Summary: Financier, United States secretary of war, United States senator from Pennsylvania, and diplomat. Correspondence, diary, account books, notebooks, speeches, business and legal records, and printed material primarily relating to Pennsylvania and national politics and to Cameron's business enterprises.

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
Cameron, J. D. (James Donald), 1833-1918--Correspondence.
Cameron, Simon, 1799-1889.
Dana, Charles A. (Charles Anderson), 1819-1897--Correspondence.
Grant, Ulysses S. (Ulysses Simpson), 1822-1885--Correspondence.
Lincoln, Abraham, 1809-1865--Correspondence.

Organizations
United States. Congress (29th, 1st session : 1845-1846)
United States. Congress (29th, 2nd session : 1846-1847)
United States. Congress. Senate.
United States. War Department.

Subjects
Business enterprises--Pennsylvania.
Diplomatic and consular service, American.
Legislators--United States--Autographs.

Places
Pennsylvania--Politics and government--1861-1865.
Russia--Foreign relations--United States.
United States--Foreign relations--Russia.
United States--History--Civil War, 1861-1865.
United States--Politics and government--19th century.

Occupations
Cabinet officers.
Diplomats.
Financiers.
Provenance
The papers of Simon Cameron, financier, United States secretary of war, United States senator from Pennsylvania, and diplomat, were deposited in the Library of Congress by his grandson, James M. Cameron, in 1936. Other material was acquired by gift and purchase, 1919-1984.

Processing History
The Cameron Papers were processed in 1964. Additional material was added in 1978 and 2005. Changes were made to the housing and numbering of a few containers at the end of the collection in 2006, but this revision did not affect the microfilm edition. The finding aid was revised in 2009.

Related Material
Related material in the Manuscript Division includes microfilm reproducing the Simon Cameron Papers in the Historical Society of Dauphin County, Harrisburg, Pa.

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The status of copyright in the unpublished writings of Simon Cameron is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.).

Access and Restrictions
The papers of Simon Cameron 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 twenty-two 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 or reel number, Simon Cameron 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>1799, Mar. 8</td>
<td>Born, Donegal, Pa.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1820</td>
<td>Editor, <em>Bucks County Messenger</em>, Harrisburg, Pa.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1824</td>
<td>Purchased the <em>Republican</em>, Harrisburg, Pa.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1825 (?)</td>
<td>Appointed state printer, Pennsylvania</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1826</td>
<td>Adjutant general, Pennsylvania</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1838</td>
<td>Appointed commissioner to settle accounts of Winnebago Indians</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
1845-1849  Elected as a Democrat and served in seat vacated by James Buchanan in United States Senate; failed to win reelection
1855  Unsuccessful candidate for United States Senate
1856  Joined Republican Party on its formation and elected to the United States Senate from Pennsylvania
1860  Unsuccessful candidate for presidential and vice-presidential nominations
1861  Appointed secretary of war
1862  Resigned from cabinet; appointed and resigned as minister to Russia
1866  Elected to the United States Senate from Pennsylvania
1872  Chairman, Senate Committee on Foreign Relations
1877  Retired from United States Senate and relinquished control of the Republican Party in Pennsylvania in favor of his son, J. D. Cameron
1889, June 26  Died, Donegal, Pa.

Scope and Content Note

The papers of Simon Cameron (1799-1889) span the years 1738-1919, with the bulk of the material concentrated in the period 1860-1880. The collection contains correspondence, a diary, account books, notebooks, speeches, business and legal papers, and miscellaneous printed matter and other material primarily relating to Pennsylvania and national politics, including his term as secretary of war, the Civil War, his role as minister to Russia and career in the Senate, and to Cameron's business enterprises. Included in an addition is an autograph album containing autographs of members of Congress, 1845-1847. Among the correspondents are his son, J. D. Cameron, Charles A. Dana, Ulysses S. Grant, and Abraham Lincoln.

Arrangement of the Papers

This collection is arranged in five series:
- General Correspondence, 1738-1889
- Subject File, 1830-1889
- Miscellany, circa 1845-circa 1900
- Addition, 1830-1871
- Oversize, 1861-1883
## Description of Series

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Container</th>
<th>Series</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BOX 1-18</td>
<td><strong>General Correspondence, 1738-1889</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>REEL 1-17</td>
<td>Mostly letters received, with some letters sent.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Arranged chronologically.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOX 19-25</td>
<td><strong>Subject File, 1830-1889</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>REEL 17-21</td>
<td>Speeches, congressional bills, memoranda, resolutions,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>petitions, maps, a journal, accounts books, bills,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>receipts, miscellaneous printed matter, and correspondence.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Arranged by type of material.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOX 25-27</td>
<td><strong>Miscellany, circa 1845-circa 1900</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>REEL 22</td>
<td>Printed matter, clippings and newspapers, envelopes, and</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>ephemera.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Arranged by type of material.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOX 28</td>
<td><strong>Addition, 1830-1871</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>not filmed</td>
<td>Correspondence.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOX OV 1</td>
<td><strong>Oversize, 1861-1883</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>REEL 22</td>
<td>Commissions and passports.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
# Container List

Available on microfilm. Shelf no. 13,930

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Container</th>
<th>Contents</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| BOX 1-18  REEL 1-17 | **General Correspondence, 1738-1889**  
Mostly letters received, with some letters sent.  
Arranged chronologically. |
| BOX 1 REEL 1 | 1738-1831  
(10 folders) |
| BOX 2 REEL 1 | 1832-1853, Apr.  
(20 folders) |
| BOX 3 REEL 2 | 1853, May-1854, Dec.  
(20 folders) |
| BOX 4 REEL 3 | 1855-1857, May  
(20 folders) |
| BOX 5 REEL 4 | 1857, June-1859, Feb.  
(21 folders) |
| BOX 6 REEL 5 | 1859, Mar.-1860, Dec.  
(22 folders) |
| BOX 7-8 REEL 6-7 | 1861 |
| BOX 7 REEL 6 | Jan.-June  
(11 folders) |
| BOX 8 REEL 7 | July-Sept.  
(9 folders) |
| BOX 9 REEL 8 | 1861, Oct.-1862, Jan.  
(14 folders) |
| BOX 10 REEL 9 | 1862, Feb.-1863, Mar.  
(16 folders) |
| BOX 11 REEL 10 | 1863, Spr.-1865, Jan.  
(21 folders) |
| BOX 12 REEL 11 | 1865, Feb.-1868, Dec.  
(19 folders) |
(17 folders) |
| BOX 14 REEL 13 | 1873, Jan.-1877, Dec.  
(14 folders) |
| BOX 15 REEL 14 | 1878, Jan.-1881, Dec.  
(17 folders) |
| BOX 16 REEL 15 | 1882, Jan.-1884, July  
(17 folders) |
| BOX 17 REEL 16 | 1884, Aug.-1888, Feb.  
(18 folders) |
General Correspondence, 1738-1889

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Container</th>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BOX 18 REEL 17</td>
<td>1888, Mar.-1889, Dec., undated (11 folders)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| BOX 19-25 REEL 17-21 | **Subject File, 1830-1889**  
Speeches, congressional bills, memoranda, resolutions, petitions, maps, a journal, accounts, books, bills, receipts, miscellaneous printed matter, and correspondence.  
Arranged by type of material. |
| BOX 19 REEL 17 | Speeches, congressional bills, memoranda, and resolutions (23 folders) |
| BOX 20 REEL 18 | Printed matter, petitions, and maps (15 folders) |
| BOX 21 REEL 18 | Printed matter (7 folders) |
| BOX 22 REEL 18 | Printed matter, journal, and miscellany (13 folders) |
| BOX 23 REEL 19 | Account books, bills, and receipts, 1832-1875 (14 folders) |
| BOX 24 REEL 20-21 | Bills and receipts, 1876-1889, undated (13 folders) |
| BOX 25 REEL 21 | Additional correspondence, 1830-1888, undated |
| BOX 25-27 REEL 22 | **Miscellany, circa 1845-circa 1900**  
Printed matter, clippings and newspapers, envelopes, and ephemera.  
Arranged by type of material. |
| BOX 25-27 REEL 22 | Miscellany and ephemera *See also Oversize* |
| BOX 25 REEL 22 | Clippings, newspapers, and envelopes (10 folders) |
| BOX 26 REEL 22 | Envelopes |
| BOX 27 REEL 22 | Clippings and newspapers (9 folders) |
| BOX 28 not filmed | **Addition, 1830-1871**  
Correspondence. |
| BOX 28 not filmed | Correspondence, 1830, 1871 |
| BOX 28 not filmed | Autograph album, 1845-1847 |
| BOX OV 1 REEL 22 | **Oversize, 1861-1883**  
Commissions and passports. |
| BOX OV 1 REEL 22 | Miscellany and ephemera |
| BOX OV 1 REEL 22 | Commissions and passports, 1861-1883 (Container 22) |