

James Brown Papers
A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress



Manuscript Division, Library of Congress
Washington, D.C.
2010

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

Catalog Record: <https://lcn.loc.gov/mm79014076>

Additional search options available at: <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms010113>

Prepared by Thomas J. Bigley

Finding aid encoded by Library of Congress Manuscript Division, 2009

Collection Summary

Title: James Brown Papers

Span Dates: 1765-1867

Bulk Dates: (bulk 1800-1810)

ID No.: MSS14076

Creator: Brown, James, 1766-1835

Extent: 500 items

Extent: 5 containers

Extent: 1 linear foot

Language: Collection material in English and Spanish

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

LC Catalog record: <https://lccn.loc.gov/mm79014076>

Summary: United States senator, diplomat, and lawyer. Correspondence and legal and commercial records pertaining to Brown's Louisiana law practice and his service as a United States senator. Papers primarily concern legal practices and social conditions in Louisiana.

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

Brown, James, 1766-1835.

Brown, John, 1757-1837--Correspondence.

Brown, Samuel, 1769-1837--Correspondence.

Butler, Thomas, 1748-1805.

Organizations

United States. Army--Officers.

United States. Congress. Senate.

Subjects

Courts-martial and courts of inquiry.

Procedure (Law)--Louisiana.

Places

Louisiana--Politics and government.

Louisiana--Social conditions.

Occupations

Diplomats.

Lawyers.

Senators, U.S.

Provenance

The papers of James Brown, lawyer, United States senator, diplomat, and lawyer, were given to the Library of Congress by H. P. Scratchley between 1906 and 1907.

Processing History

The Brown Papers were processed prior to 1950, and a finding aid was created in 2010.

Copyright Status

The status of copyright in the unpublished writings of James Brown is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.).

Access and Restrictions

The papers of James Brown 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, James Brown Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Biographical Note

James Brown was a lawyer, United States senator from Louisiana, United States minister to France, and brother-in-law of Henry Clay. He was born near Staunton, Virginia, on September 11, 1766. After attending Washington College (now known as Washington and Lee University) in Lexington, Virginia, and William and Mary College in Williamsburg, Virginia, he was admitted to the bar and began a law practice in Frankfort, Kentucky. He moved to New Orleans in 1804 and served as secretary and then United States district attorney for the Territory of Orleans. In 1812 he was elected to represent the state of Louisiana as a United States senator. He lost his initial bid for reelection in 1817 but was reelected in 1819 and served until 1823, when he resigned following his appointment as United States minister to France. He served in that capacity until 1829. When he returned to the United States he settled in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, where he died on April 7, 1835.

Scope and Content Note

The papers of James Brown (1766-1835) span the years 1765-1867, with the bulk of the material dating from 1800 to 1810. The papers are in English and Spanish and contain correspondence and legal and commercial records pertaining to Brown's Louisiana law practice and his service as United States senator. The papers primarily concern legal practices and social conditions in Louisiana. Included are records relating to the court-martial of army officer Thomas Butler in 1804-1805. Correspondents include James's brother, Senator John Brown, and a second brother, Samuel.

Arrangement of the Papers

This collection is arranged chronologically in bound volumes.

Container List

Container	Contents
BOX 1	Correspondence and legal and commercial records 1765, Nov.-1804, Sept. 22
BOX 2	1804, Sept. 30-1806, Apr. 15
BOX 3	1806, Apr. 22-1808, May 31
BOX 4	1808, June 2-1867, Apr., undated
BOX 5	Undated