

**John J. Crittenden Papers**  
**A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress**



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

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

Catalog Record: <https://lcn.loc.gov/mm79017251>

Additional search options available at: <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms010181>

Prepared by Tom Wenner

Finding aid encoded by Glenn R. Gardner, 2010  
Revised 2021 Decenber

## Collection Summary

**Title:** John J. Crittenden Papers

**Inclusive Dates:** 1782-1913

**Bulk Dates:** 1841-1888

**ID No.:** MSS17251

**Creator:** Crittenden, John J. (John Jordan), 1787-1863

**Extent:** 2,600 items

**Extent:** 30 containers

**Extent:** 5.2 linear feet

**Extent:** 14 microfilm reels

**Language:** Collection material in English

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

**LC Catalog record:** <https://lccn.loc.gov/mm79017251>

**Summary:** United States attorney general, United States senator, and governor of Kentucky. Chiefly correspondence and some legal papers, speeches, and state papers relating to Crittenden's career in politics and government.

## 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

Badger, George E., 1795-1866--Correspondence.  
Blair, Francis Preston, 1791-1876--Correspondence.  
Brown, Orlando, 1801-1867--Correspondence.  
Burnley, Albert T. (Albert Triplett), 1800-1861--Correspondence.  
Clay, Henry, 1777-1852--Correspondence.  
Clay, Henry, 1777-1852.  
Clayton, John M. (John Middleton), 1796-1856--Correspondence.  
Crittenden, John J. (John Jordan), 1787-1863.  
Davis, Charles Augustus, 1795-1867--Correspondence.  
Johnson, Reverdy, 1796-1876--Correspondence.  
Johnson, Richard M. (Richard Mentor), 1780-1850--Correspondence.  
Lawrence, Amos Adams, 1814-1886--Correspondence.  
Letcher, Robert Perkins, 1788-1861--Correspondence.  
Morehead, C. S. (Charles Slaughter), 1802-1868--Correspondence.  
Nicholas, S. S. (Samuel Smith), 1796-1869--Correspondence.  
Pendleton, John S. (John Strother), 1802-1868--Correspondence.  
Scott, Winfield, 1786-1866--Correspondence.  
Taylor, Zachary, 1784-1850--Correspondence.  
Toombs, Robert Augustus, 1810-1885--Correspondence.  
Winthrop, Robert C. (Robert Charles), 1809-1894--Correspondence.

### Organizations

United States. Department of Justice. Office of the Attorney General.  
Whig Party (U.S.)

### Subjects

Banks and banking--United States.  
Secession--Southern States.  
Slavery--United States.  
Tariff--United States.

### Places

Kentucky--Politics and government--1792-1865.  
Kentucky--Politics and government--1865-1950.  
Mexico--History.  
Texas--History.  
United States--History--Civil War, 1861-1865.  
United States--Politics and government--19th century.

### **Occupations**

Cabinet officers.  
Governors--Kentucky.  
Senators, U.S. Congress--Kentucky.

## **Acquisition Information**

The papers of John J. Crittenden, United States attorney general, United States senator, and governor of Kentucky, were purchased by the Library of Congress in 1905. Additions were purchased in 1922 and 1983.

## **Processing History**

The collection was processed prior to 1960, and bound volumes of correspondence and related material were prepared for microfilming in 1967. An addition of one item was processed after the collection's receipt in 1983, and the finding aid was revised in 2009.

## **Additional Description**

The papers of John J. Crittenden are described in *Calendar of the papers of John Jordan Crittenden*, prepared from the original manuscripts in the Library of Congress, by C. N. Feamster, Division of Manuscripts <https://lccn.loc.gov/12035010>.

## **Copyright Status**

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

## **Access and Restrictions**

The papers of John J. Crittenden 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 fourteen 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, John J. Crittenden Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

## Biographical Note

Date	Event
1778, Sept. 10	Born near Versailles, Ky.
1803	Moved to Kentucky to study law
1807	Graduated in law, College of William and Mary, Williamsburg, Va.
1809	Became territorial attorney general in Illinois
1811	Married Sarah Lee (died 1824)
1811-1817	Represented Logan County in Kentucky legislature
1812-1813	Served in Kentucky militia in War of 1812
1826	Married Maria Knox Todd
1827	Appointed United States district attorney
1840	Attorney general
1848-1850	Governor of Kentucky
1850-1853	Attorney general
1853	Married Elizabeth Moss
1856	Joined the Know-Nothing Party
1859	Constitutional Union Party
1860	Introduced resolution in Congress proposing compromises on slavery issue
1861	Chairman, Frankfort, Ky., convention of border-state leaders Returned to Congress in special election as United States representative from Kentucky; introduced Crittenden-Johnson Resolution defining Union war aims
1863, July 26	Died, Frankfort, Ky

## Scope and Content Note

The papers of John Jordan Crittenden (1778-1863) span the years 1782-1913, with the bulk dating from 1841 to 1888. The collection consists chiefly of correspondence relating to Crittenden's career as United States attorney general and senator and as governor of Kentucky, but includes legal papers, speeches, and state papers. Among the topics covered are national politics, particularly tariff and banking matters; Texas, Mexico, and slavery; the southern Whigs; Crittenden's relations with Henry Clay; reaction to Crittenden's efforts to resolve the secession crisis prior to the Civil War; and Kentucky politics and law.

Correspondents include George Edmund Badger, Francis Preston Blair, Albert T. Burnley, Orlando Brown, Henry Clay, John M. Clayton, Charles Augustus Davis, Reverdy Johnson, Richard M. Johnson, Amos Adams Lawrence, Robert Perkins Letcher, Charles Slaughter Morehead, Samuel S. Nicholas, John S. Pendleton, Winfield Scott, Zachary Taylor, Robert Augustus Toombs, and Robert C. Winthrop.

## Arrangement of the Papers

The collection is arranged in bound volumes organized chronologically and unbound files arranged by type of material.

# Container List

Available on microfilm, Shelf no. 13,714

<b>Container</b>	<b>Contents</b>
BOX 1 REEL 1	Bound correspondence and related matter
BOX 1 REEL 1	14 Dec. 1782- 15 Jan. 1817
BOX 2 REEL 1	22 Feb. 1817-30 May 1821
BOX 3 REEL 2	7 June 1821-27 Nov. 1826
BOX 4 REEL 2	12 Dec. 1826-29 Apr. 1834
BOX 5 REEL 3	17 May 1834-31 Dec. 1837
BOX 6 REEL 3	7 Jan. 1838-30 Dec. 1839
BOX 7 REEL 4	2 Jan. 1840-June 1841
BOX 8 REEL 4	7 July 1841-25 Apr. 1843
BOX 9 REEL 5	7 May 1843-Dec. 1845
BOX 10 REEL 5	8 Jan. 1846-25 Dec. 1847
BOX 11 REEL 6	Jan.-30 Sept. 1848
BOX 12 REEL 6	1 Oct.-Dec. 1848
BOX 13 REEL 7	2 Jan.-9 July 1849
BOX 14 REEL 7	10 July-25 Jul 1850
BOX 15 REEL 8	26 Jul 1850-3 Dec. 1851
BOX 16 REEL 8	4 Dec. 1851-17 Mar. 1854
BOX 17 REEL 9	18 Mar. 1854-7 Jan. 1856
BOX 18 REEL 9	8 Jan.-3 Jul. 1856
BOX 19 REEL 10	4 Jul 1856-23 Mar. 1858
BOX 20 REEL 10	24 Mar.-16 May 1858
BOX 21 REEL 11	17 May 1858-3 June 1859
BOX 22 REEL 11	4 June 1859-5 May 1860
BOX 23 REEL 12	6 May-7 Dec. 1860
BOX 24 REEL 12	28 Dec. 1860-24 Jan. 1861
BOX 25 REEL 13	25 Jan.-24 June 1861
BOX 26 REEL 13	25 June 1861-26 Mar. 1862
BOX 27 REEL 14	27 Mar. 1862-9 Feb. 1863
BOX 28 REEL 14	1863-1868, undated
BOX 29 not filmed	Unbound files
BOX 29	Letter to John S. Richards, 1843
BOX 29	Account of cases . . . employed in court, 1819
BOX 29	Report of the Committee of Detail . . . elections and powers of the president, undated List of residents of Kentucky, undated
BOX 29	Notebooks and financial jottings, 1808-1820
BOX 29	Printed matter, 1824-1863
BOX 30	Autographs, undated
BOX 30	Printed matter, 1820-1913
BOX 30	Financial matter, checks, and notes, 1832-1863 (4 folders)