

**Reverdy Johnson Papers**  
**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/mm78027938>

Additional search options available at: <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms010218>

Prepared by David Mathisen

Finding aid encoded by Library of Congress Manuscript Division, 2010

## Collection Summary

**Title:** Reverdy Johnson Papers

**Span Dates:** 1830-1876

**ID No.:** MSS27938

**Creator:** Johnson, Reverdy, 1796-1876

**Extent:** 185 items

**Extent:** 1 container

**Extent:** .3 linear feet

**Extent:** 1 microfilm reel

**Language:** Collection material in English

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

**LC Catalog record:** <https://lccn.loc.gov/mm78027938>

**Summary:** Lawyer, United States senator from Maryland, and diplomat. Mainly correspondence relating to Johnson's early law practice and political and diplomatic career.

## 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

Argyll, George Douglas Campbell, Duke of, 1823-1900--Correspondence.

Bryant, William Cullen, 1794-1878--Correspondence.

Butler, Benjamin F. (Benjamin Franklin), 1818-1893.

Disraeli, Benjamin, 1804-1881--Correspondence.

Douglas, Stephen A. (Stephen Arnold), 1813-1861--Correspondence.

Gladstone, W. E. (William Ewart), 1809-1898--Correspondence.

Johnson, Reverdy, 1796-1876.

Lee, Robert E. (Robert Edward), 1807-1870--Correspondence.

Leeds, Louisa Catherine D'Arcy-Osborne, Duchess of, approximately 1792-1874--Correspondence.

Meredith, Jonathan D., 1783-1872--Correspondence.

Reade, Charles, 1814-1884--Correspondence.

Sargent, John Osborne, 1811-1891--Correspondence.

Sherman, William T. (William Tecumseh), 1820-1891--Correspondence.

Tennent, James Emerson, Sir, 1804-1869--Correspondence.

Van Buren, Martin, 1782-1862--Correspondence.

### Subjects

Diplomatic and consular service, American--Great Britain.

Practice of law--Maryland--Baltimore.

### Places

Great Britain--Foreign relations--United States.

Louisiana--History--Civil War, 1861-1865.

New Orleans (La.)--History--Civil War, 1861-1865.

United States--Foreign relations--Great Britain.

United States--History--Civil War, 1861-1865.

United States--Politics and government--19th century.

### Occupations

Diplomats.

Lawyers.

Senators, U.S. Congress--Maryland.

## Provenance

The papers of Reverdy Johnson, lawyer, United States senator from Maryland, and diplomat, were purchased by the Library of Congress between 1914 and 1921.

## Processing History

The correspondence in the Reverdy Johnson Papers was prepared for microfilming in 1988. The finding aid was revised in 2009.

## Copyright Status

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

## Access and Restrictions

The papers of Reverdy Johnson 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 these papers is available on one reel. 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, Reverdy Johnson Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

## Biographical Note

<b>Date</b>	<b>Event</b>
1796, May 21	Born, Annapolis, Md.
1811	Graduated, St. John's College, Annapolis, Md.
1815	Read law with his father; admitted to Maryland bar
1816-1817	Deputy attorney general of Maryland
1817	Established himself in Baltimore, Md.
1819	Married Mary Mackall Bowie
1821-1829	Member, Maryland senate
1845-1849	Member, U.S. Senate from Maryland
1849-1850	Attorney general
1860-1861	Member, Maryland senate
1861	Member, peace conference, Washington, D.C.
1863-1868	Member, U.S. Senate from Maryland
1868-1869	Minister to Court of St. James, London, England
1876, Feb. 10	Died, Annapolis, Md.

## **Scope and Content Note**

The papers of Reverdy Johnson (1796-1876) span the years 1830-1876 and consist mainly of correspondence relating to Johnson's early law practice, his service as United States senator from Maryland, as a special inquirer in the 1862 case of General Benjamin Franklin Butler at New Orleans, and as minister to the Court of St. James.

Correspondents include George Douglas Campbell, the Duke of Argyll; Benjamin F. Butler; William Cullen Bryant; Benjamin Disraeli, the Earl of Beaconsfield; Louisa Catherine D'Arcy-Osborne, the Seventh Duchess of Leeds; Stephen A. Douglas; W. E. Gladstone; Robert E. Lee; Jonathan D. Meredith; Charles Reade; John Osborne Sargent; William T. Sherman; Sir James Emerson Tennent, and Martin Van Buren.

## **Arrangement of the Papers**

This collection is arranged type of material and therein chronologically.

## Container List

Available on microfilm. Shelf no. 19,797

<b>Container</b>	<b>Contents</b>
BOX 1 REEL 1	Correspondence
BOX 1 REEL 1	1830-1848
BOX 1 REEL 1	1852-1859
BOX 1 REEL 1	1860-1865
BOX 1 REEL 1	1866-1867
BOX 1 REEL 1	1868
BOX 1 REEL 1	1869
BOX 1 REEL 1	1871-1876, undated
BOX 1 REEL 1	Appointment as minister to Great Britain, 1868, June 12
BOX 1 REEL 1	Biographical file, undated
BOX 1 REEL 1	Last will and testament of Elizabeth Stafford and account of estate, 1860, 1865
BOX 1 REEL 1	Miscellany, 1864-1869