

**Amos Kendall Papers**  
**A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress**



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

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

Catalog Record: <https://lcn.loc.gov/mm79028449>

Additional search options available at: <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms010220>

Prepared by Manuscript Division Staff

Finding aid encoded by Library of Congress Manuscript Division, 2010  
Revised 2022 November

## Collection Summary

**Title:** Amos Kendall Papers

**Inclusive Dates:** 1835-1909

**Bulk Dates:** 1835-1880

**ID No.:** MSS28449

**Creator:** Kendall, Amos, 1789-1869

**Extent:** 400 items

**Extent:** 3 containers

**Extent:** 1 linear foot

**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/mm79028449>

**Summary:** Journalist and United States postmaster general. Correspondence and other papers relating primarily to Kendall's work on behalf of Cherokee claims and treaties and to the Magnetic Telegraph Co., of which he was president.

## 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

Jackson, Andrew, 1767-1845--Correspondence.

Jackson, Andrew, 1767-1845.

Kendall, Amos, 1789-1869.

Marcy, William L. (William Learned), 1786-1857--Correspondence.

McLaughlin, James, 1842-1923--Correspondence.

Morse, Samuel Finley Breese, 1791-1872--Correspondence.

Wilkins, William, 1779-1865--Correspondence.

### Organizations

Magnetic Telegraph Company.

### Subjects

Cherokee Indians--Claims.

Cherokee Indians--Treaties.

Telegraph.

### Occupations

Cabinet officers.

Journalists.

## Acquisition Information

The papers of Amos Kendall, journalist and United States postmaster general, were obtained by the Library of Congress through gift, purchase, and transfer, 1944-1966.

## Processing History

The papers of Amos Kendall were arranged and described in 2009.

## Copyright Status

The status of copyright in the unpublished writings of Amos Kendall is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.).

## Access and Restrictions

The Amos Kendall Papers 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 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 as available.

## Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: Container or reel number, Amos Kendall Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

## Biographical Note

Date	Event
1789, Aug. 16	Born, Dunstable, Mass.
1807	Completed secondary studies, Lawrence Academy, Groton, Mass.
1811	Graduated, Dartmouth College, Hanover, N.Y.
1812-1814	Studied law, Groton, Mass.
1814	Moved to Kentucky; served as tutor in the household of Henry Clay
1816	Took charge of <i>Argus of Western America</i> , Frankfurt, Ky.
1818	Married Mary B. Woolfolk (died 1823)
1826	Changed political support from Henry Clay to Andrew Jackson Married Jane Kyle.
1829-1837	Member of President Andrew Jackson's inner circle of advisors, known informally as the "Kitchen Cabinet"
circa 1830s	Edited and wrote for the <i>Globe</i> , a Jacksonian and Democratic organ published in Washington, D.C., and founded <i>Kendall's Expositor</i>
1835-1840	Postmaster general
1843	Became agent for collection of claims against the government, including on behalf of Cherokee Indians
1845	Entered business partnership with Samuel Finley Breese Morse
1857	Helped found Columbia Institution for the Deaf and Dumb, which later became Gallaudet University, Washington, D.C.
1862	Helped found Calvary Baptist Church, Washington, D.C.
1869, Nov. 12	Died, Washington, D.C.

## **Scope and Content Note**

The papers of Amos Kendall (1789-1869) span the years 1835-1909, with the bulk from 1835 to 1880. The collection consists of correspondence and other papers relating primarily to Kendall's work on behalf of Cherokee claims and treaties and to the Magnetic Telegraph Company, of which he was president. Correspondents include Andrew Jackson, James McLaughlin, William L. Marcy, Samuel Finley Breese Morse, and William Wilkins. Includes biographical material relating to Andrew Jackson.

## **Arrangement of the Papers**

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

## Container List

Available on microfilm. Shelf no. 17,664

Container	Contents
BOX 1 REEL 1	Bound correspondence
BOX 1 REEL 1	1835, May 13-1845, Sept.
BOX 2 REEL 1	1845, Sept.-1880, June 1
BOX 3 REEL 1	Unbound material
BOX 3 REEL 1	Correspondence, 1846-1866
BOX 3 not filmed	Photocopies of correspondence and a newspaper, the <i>Nashville Tennessean</i> , from the Tennessee State Library and Archives, 1842-1843, 1909
BOX 3 REEL 1	Treaties between the U.S. and the Chickasaw Nation of Indians and the Cherokee Nation of Indians, 1834, 1866