

Andrew Stevenson and J. W. Stevenson Papers
A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress



Manuscript Division, Library of Congress
Washington, D.C.
2011

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

Catalog Record: <https://lcn.loc.gov/mm74041467>

Additional search options available at: <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms012033>

Prepared by Marilyn K. Parr

Finding aid encoded by Library of Congress Manuscript Division, 2012

Collection Summary

Title: Andrew Stevenson and J. W. Stevenson Papers

Span Dates: 1756-1882

Bulk Dates: (bulk 1833-1876)

ID No.: MSS41467

Creator: Stevenson, Andrew, 1784-1857

Creator: Stevenson, J. W. (John White), 1812-1886

Extent: 12,000 items

Extent: 51 containers

Extent: 11 linear feet

Language: Collection material in English

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

LC Catalog record: <https://lccn.loc.gov/mm74041467>

Summary: Andrew Stevenson (1785-1857), U.S. representative from Virginia, speaker of the House of Representatives, and minister to Great Britain; and his son, J. W. Stevenson, governor of and U.S. senator from Kentucky. Chiefly general and diplomatic correspondence, legal papers, account book, speeches, printed matter, and other papers of Andrew Stevenson documenting his diplomatic service.

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

Breckinridge, John C. (John Cabell), 1821-1875--Correspondence.

Buchanan, James, 1791-1868--Correspondence.

Calhoun, John C. (John Caldwell), 1782-1850--Correspondence.

Cambreleng, Churchill Caldom, 1786-1862--Correspondence.

Carlisle, John Griffin, 1835-1910--Correspondence.

Cass, Lewis, 1782-1866--Correspondence.

Combs, Leslie, 1793-1881--Correspondence.

Everett, Edward, 1794-1865--Correspondence.

Forsyth, John, 1780-1841--Correspondence.

Ingersoll, C. M. (Colin Macrae), 1819-1904--Correspondence.

Kenyon, John, 1784-1856--Correspondence.

Key, Francis Scott, 1779-1843--Correspondence.

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

Moore, Thomas, 1779-1852--Poetry.

Nicholas, Philip Norborne, 1775?-1849--Correspondence.

Palmerston, Henry John Temple, Viscount, 1784-1865--Correspondence.

Poinsett, Joel Roberts, 1779-1851--Correspondence.

Polk, James K. (James Knox), 1795-1849--Correspondence.

Ritchie, Thomas, 1778-1854--Correspondence.

Rives, William C. (William Cabell), 1793-1868--Correspondence.

Rush, Benjamin, 1746-1813--Correspondence.

Rush, Richard, 1780-1859--Correspondence.

Russell, John Russell, Earl, 1792-1878--Correspondence.

Rutherford, John, 1792-1866--Correspondence.

Southey, Robert, 1774-1843--Correspondence.

Southey, Robert, 1774-1843--Poetry.

Stevenson, Andrew, 1784-1857. Andrew Stevenson and J.W. Stevenson papers. 1756-1882.

Stevenson, J. W. (John White), 1812-1886. Andrew Stevenson and J.W. Stevenson papers. 1756-1882.

Stevenson, Sarah Coles, 1789-1848--Correspondence.

Sumner, Charles, 1811-1874--Correspondence.
Taney, Roger Brooke, 1777-1864--Correspondence.
Tucker, George, 1775-1861--Correspondence.
Van Buren, Martin, 1782-1862--Correspondence.
Van Rensselaer, Alexander--Correspondence.
Vaux, Richard, 1816-1895--Correspondence.
Victoria, Queen of Great Britain, 1819-1901.
Webster, Daniel, 1782-1852--Correspondence.
Wordsworth, William, 1770-1850--Poetry.

Subjects

Actions and defenses--Virginia.
Diplomatic and consular service, American--Great Britain.
Poetry.
Slave trade.

Places

Canada--Boundaries--United States.
Great Britain--Foreign relations--United States.
Kentucky--Politics and government
United States--Boundaries--Canada.
United States--Foreign relations--Great Britain.
United States--Politics and government--19th century.

Titles

Andrew Stevenson papers
J. W. Stevenson papers
John White Stevenson papers

Occupations

Diplomats.
Governors--Kentucky.
Representatives, U.S. Congress--Virginia.
Senators, U.S. Congress--Kentucky.
Speakers of the House, U.S. Congress.

Provenance

The papers of Andrew Stevenson, U.S. representative from Virginia, speaker of the House of Representatives, and minister to Great Britain, and his son, J. W. Stevenson, governor of and U.S. senator from Kentucky, were deposited in the Library of Congress by Mary W. Stevenson Colston in 1910 and converted to a gift in 1952. Other Stevenson papers were given by Judith Braxton Colston in 1931 and 1956. An addition was purchased in 1980.

Processing History

The collection was processed in 1974. The finding aid was revised in 2011.

Additional Guides

A card index for the bulk of the Stevenson Papers is available in the Reading Room of the Manuscript Division.

Copyright Status

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

Access and Restrictions

The papers of Andrew Stevenson and J. W. Stevenson 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, Andrew Stevenson and J. W. Stevenson Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Biographical Note

Andrew Stevenson

Date	Event
1785, Mar. 23	Born, Culpeper County, Va.
1793	Attended Fredericksburg Academy, Fredericksburg, Va.
1798-1800	Attended College of William and Mary, Williamsburg, Va.
1805	Admitted to the Virginia bar 1809 Married Page White (died 1812)
1809-1821	Representative, Virginia House of Delegates
1812-1844	Elected quadrennially to "Richmond Junto"
1812-1815	Served in Virginia militia during War of 1812
1816	Married Sarah Coles (died 1848)
1821-1834	Served in U.S. House of Representatives
1827-1834	Speaker, U.S. House of Representatives
1835	Chairman, National Democratic Convention
1836-1841	U.S. minister to Great Britain
1841-1857	Active in Virginia politics and in the affairs of the University of Virginia, Charlottesville, Va.
1849	Married Mary Schaff
1857, Jan. 18	Died at "Blenheim," Albemarle County Va.

J. W. Stevenson

Date	Event
1812, Mar. 4	Born, Richmond, Va.
1828-1829	Attended Hampden-Sydney College, Hampden-Sydney, Va.
1829-1832	Attended University of Virginia, Charlottesville, Va.
1833, circa	Admitted to the bar, Vicksburg, Miss.
1841	Began law practice, Covington, Ky.
1842	Married Sibella Winston
1845-1850	Representative from Kenton County, Kentucky state legislature
1857-1861	Served in U.S. House of Representatives
1867, Aug.	Elected lieutenant governor of Kentucky
1867, Sept.-1871	Governor of Kentucky
1871-1877	U.S. senator from Kentucky

1877	Resumed law practice and accepted a position to teach criminal law and contracts at Cincinnati Law School, Cincinnati, Ohio
1880	Chairman, National Democratic Convention
1884	Elected president, American Bar Association
1886, Aug. 10	Died, Covington, Ky.

Scope and Content Note

The papers of Andrew Stevenson (1785-1857) and his son, John White Stevenson (1812-1886), span the years 1756-1882, with the bulk of the material from 1833 to 1876. The period most fully represented is Andrew Stevenson's service as American minister to Great Britain (1836-1841). Some early papers relate to lawsuits in the Virginia courts, and there is correspondence pertinent to Andrew Stevenson's service in the U.S. House of Representatives, particularly while speaker. There is no correspondence for 1826-1830. The collection is organized into four series: [General Correspondence](#), [Diplomatic Correspondence of Andrew Stevenson](#), [Account Books](#), and [Miscellany](#).

The diplomatic correspondence in the Andrew Stevenson papers is for the years 1836-1841. Subjects include the slave trade and searches by British officers of vessels displaying the American flag, the *Caroline* crisis of 1837-1838, and settlement of the northeastern boundary between the United States and Canada. Included in the diplomatic correspondence are copies of letters to and from Viscount Henry John Temple Palmerston, Daniel Webster, and John Forsyth, as well as secretarial copies of a broad range of Stevenson's outgoing correspondence.

King William IV died during Stevenson's residency in England and was succeeded by his niece, Victoria, whose coronation as queen and wedding the Stevensons attended. Social affairs occupied much of the minister's time, and his papers reflect these activities. Correspondents represented in Andrew Stevenson papers include James Buchanan, John C. Calhoun, Churchill Caldum Cambreleng, Lewis Cass, Edward Everett, John Forsyth, Francis Scott Key, William L. Marcy, Philip Norborne Nicholas, Viscount Henry John Temple Palmerston, Joel Roberts Poinsett, James K. Polk, Thomas Ritchie, William C. Rives, Benjamin Rush, Richard Rush, Earl John Russell Russell, John Rutherford, Sarah Coles Stevenson, Charles Sumner, Roger Brooke Taney, George Tucker, Martin Van Buren, Alexander Van Rensselaer, and Daniel Webster.

Among noteworthy individual items in the [General Correspondence](#) of Andrew Stevenson are a poem of William Wordsworth (1770-1850), autographed for a Stevenson family member and dated December 24, 1838, from Rydal Mount; a poem of 1834 by Thomas Moore; and a letter of Robert Southey to John Kenyon, January 29, 1827, transmitting verses 27-46 as a conclusion to his poem "The Devil's Visit."

The papers of J. W. Stevenson account for a smaller portion of the collection. They consist principally of correspondence while governor of Kentucky and United States senator from that state. Correspondents include John C. Breckinridge, John Griffin Carlisle, Leslie Combs, C. M. Ingersoll, and Richard Vaux.

Arrangement of the Papers

This collection is arranged in four series:

- [General Correspondence, 1809-1882](#)
- [Diplomatic Correspondence of Andrew Stevenson, 1836-1841](#)
- [Account Books, 1805-1841](#)
- [Miscellany, 1756-1875](#)

Description of Series

Container	Series
BOX 1-35	<p><u>General Correspondence, 1809-1882</u></p> <p>Mainly letters received by Andrew Stevenson and J. W. Stevenson. Arranged chronologically.</p>
BOX 36-44	<p><u>Diplomatic Correspondence of Andrew Stevenson, 1836-1841</u></p> <p>Letters between Andrew Stevenson and Viscount Henry John Temple Palmerston and Stevenson and John Forsyth and Daniel Webster. Arranged chronologically.</p>
BOX 45-46	<p><u>Account Books, 1805-1841</u></p> <p>A “Process Book” containing early law cases and an account book of the “Contingent Expenses of the Legation at London.”</p>
BOX 47-49	<p><u>Miscellany, 1756-1875</u></p> <p>Newspaper clippings, speeches, printed matter, and financial papers. Arranged by type of material.</p>

Container List

Container	Contents
BOX 1-35	General Correspondence, 1809-1882 Mainly letters received by Andrew Stevenson and J. W. Stevenson. Arranged chronologically.
BOX 1	Stevenson, Andrew
BOX 1	1809, Dec. 8-1833, June 21
BOX 2	1833, July 19-1894, Aug. 11
BOX 3	1834, Aug. 12-1836, Sept. 29
BOX 4	1836, Oct. 2-1837, Feb. 5
BOX 5	1837, Feb. 7-July 28
BOX 6	1837, July. 29-1838, Jan. 2
BOX 7	1838
BOX 7	Jan. 7-May 28
BOX 8	May 29-Aug. 16
BOX 9	Aug. 22-Nov. 16
BOX 10	1838, Nov. 17-1839, Jan. 3
BOX 11	1839
BOX 11	Jan. 4-Feb. 14
BOX 12	Feb. 15-Mar. 15
BOX 13	Mar. 16-Apr. 23
BOX 14	Apr. 24-May 30
BOX 15	May 31-June 28
BOX 16	June 29-Sept. 13
BOX 17	1839, Sept. 14-1840, Jan. 24
BOX 18	1840
BOX 18	Jan. 25-Mar. 16
BOX 19	Mar. 17-May 2
BOX 20	May 3-June 20
BOX 21	June 21-Aug. 2
BOX 22	Aug. 3-Oct. 5
BOX 23	Oct. 7-Dec. 10
BOX 24	1840, Dec. 12-1841, Feb. 6
BOX 25	1841, Feb. 7-Mar. 29
BOX 26	1840, Mar. 30-1853, Apr. 22
BOX 26 A	1809, Aug. 12-1837, July 30
BOX 26 B	1837, Aug. 3-1843, Oct. 22
BOX 27	Stevenson, J. W.
BOX 27	1854, Apr. 1-1860, June 2
BOX 28	1860, June 4-1869, Jan. 19
BOX 29	1869, Jan. 25-1872, Feb. 3
BOX 30	1872, Feb. 7-1873, Dec. 26
BOX 31	1873, Dec. 27-1875, Jan. 5

General Correspondence, 1809-1882

Container	Contents
BOX 32	1875, Jan. 7-1876, Feb. 2
BOX 33	1876, Feb. 3-Dec. 16
BOX 34	1876, Dec. 19-1881, Mar. 3
BOX 35	1881, Mar. 4-1882, July 14
BOX 36-44	Diplomatic Correspondence of Andrew Stevenson, 1836-1841 Letters between Andrew Stevenson and Viscount Henry John Temple Palmerston and Stevenson and John Forsyth and Daniel Webster. Arranged chronologically.
BOX 36	Letters to Viscount Henry John Temple Palmerston
BOX 36	1836, July 2-1838, May 22
BOX 37	1838, June 14-1841, Oct. 20
BOX 38	1836, July 2-1841, Oct. 20
BOX 39	Secretarial copies of letters sent while minister to Great Britain
BOX 39	1839, Apr. 5-Nov. 2
BOX 40	1840, Jan. 1-1841, Oct. 8
BOX 41	Copies of correspondence, including letters of Stevenson's secretaries, Benjamin Rush, Richard Vaux, and James McCurley, 1836, July 10-1839, Mar. 18
BOX 42	Copies of correspondence
BOX 42	With John Forsyth, 1836, July 10-1839, Mar. 18
BOX 43	With John Forsyth and Daniel Webster, 1839, Mar. 21-1841, Oct. 22
BOX 44	Copies of correspondence from John Forsyth and Daniel Webster, 1836, May 19-1841, July 28
BOX 45-46	Account Books, 1805-1841 A "Process Book" containing early law cases and an account book of the "Contingent Expenses of the Legation at London."
BOX 45	1805-1807, "Process Book"
BOX 46	1836, July 16-1841, Oct. 22, "Contingent Expenses of the Legation at London," London, England
BOX 47-49	Miscellany, 1756-1875 Newspaper clippings, speeches, printed matter, and financial papers. Arranged by type of material.
BOX 47	Newspaper clippings, 1756-1762
BOX 48	Speeches
BOX 48	1814, 1826, 1833-1836
BOX 48	1837-1839
BOX 48	1840
BOX 48	1841-1844, 1849, undated
BOX 49	Printed matter and financial papers
BOX 49	<i>Journal of Banking</i> , 1841-1842
BOX 49	Miscellaneous printed matter, 1839-1842, 1875
BOX 49	Calling cards
BOX 49	Financial papers, 1774, 1790-1810, undated