

**Robert Garrett Family Papers**  
**A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress**



**Manuscript Division, Library of Congress**  
**Washington, D.C.**  
**2012**

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

Catalog Record: <https://lcn.loc.gov/mm81021980>

Additional search options available at: <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms013021>

Prepared by Manuscript Division Staff

Finding aid encoded by Library of Congress Manuscript Division, 2013

## Collection Summary

**Title:** Robert Garrett Family Papers

**Span Dates:** 1778-1925

**Bulk Dates:** (bulk 1830-1863)

**ID No.:** MSS21980

**Creator:** Garrett, Robert, 1783-1857

**Extent:** 29,000 items

**Extent:** 88 containers

**Extent:** 38 linear feet

**Language:** Collection material in English

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

**LC Catalog record:** <https://lccn.loc.gov/mm81021980>

**Summary:** Garrett family of Baltimore, Md. Family members represented include Robert Garrett, railroad official, financier, and merchant, and his son John W. Garrett, railroad official and financier. Correspondence, business documents, and other papers relating to mercantile affairs in Baltimore, Maryland, and to Robert Garrett & Sons and the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad Company.

## 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

Atkinson, J. J. (Joshua J.)--Correspondence.

Davis, Jefferson, 1808-1889.

Davis, Varina, 1826-1906--Correspondence.

Garrett family.

Garrett, Henry S. (Henry Stouffer), 1818-1867. Henry S. Garrett papers.

Garrett, John W. (John Work), 1820-1884. John W. Garrett papers.

Garrett, Robert, 1783-1857.

Latrobe, John H. B. (John Hazlehurst Boneval), 1803-1891--Correspondence.

McHenry, James, 1817-1891--Correspondence.

Morgan, J. Pierpont (John Pierpont), 1837-1913--Correspondence.

Parker, William, 1807-1868--Correspondence.

Peabody, George, 1795-1869--Correspondence.

Peto, S. Morton (Samuel Morton), Sir, 1809-1889--Correspondence.

Thomas, Philip E. (Philip Evan), 1776-1861--Correspondence.

### Organizations

Baltimore and Ohio Employes Relief Association.

Baltimore and Ohio Railroad Company.

George Peabody & Co.

Johns Hopkins Hospital.

Johns Hopkins University.

Lafayette College (Easton, Northampton County, Pa.)

Mount Holyoke Female Seminary.

Peabody Institute (Baltimore, Md.)

Princeton University.

Robert Benson and Company--Correspondence.

Robert Garrett & Sons.

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

Young Men's Christian Associations of North America.

### Subjects

Art museums.  
Banks and banking--Maryland--Baltimore.  
Brokers--Maryland--Baltimore.  
Charities--Maryland--Baltimore.  
Commission merchants--Maryland--Baltimore.  
Farm produce--Maryland.  
Financial crises--United States--19th century.  
Grocery trade--Maryland--Baltimore.  
Harbors--Maryland--Baltimore.  
Martial law--United States.  
Merchants--Maryland--Baltimore.  
Mexican War, 1846-1848.  
Railroads--United States.  
Summer resorts--Maryland--Garrett County.  
Telecommunication--United States.  
Telegraph--United States.  
Transportation--United States.  
Wagon trains--Maryland.  
Wagon trains--Pennsylvania.

### **Places**

Baltimore (Md.)--Commerce--California--San Francisco.  
Baltimore (Md.)--Commerce--England--London.  
Baltimore (Md.)--Commerce--Europe.  
Baltimore (Md.)--Commerce--Louisiana--New Orleans.  
Baltimore (Md.)--Commerce--South America.  
Baltimore (Md.)--Commerce.  
Europe--Commerce--Maryland--Baltimore.  
London (England)--Commerce--South America.  
Maryland--History--Civil War, 1861-1865.  
New Orleans (La.)--Commerce--Maryland--Baltimore.  
San Francisco (Calif.)--Commerce--Maryland--Baltimore.  
South America--Commerce--Maryland--Baltimore.  
United States--Economic conditions--To 1865.  
United States--Economic policy--To 1933.  
United States--History--Civil War, 1861-1865--Finance.  
United States--History--Civil War, 1861-1865.  
United States--Politics and government--19th century.

### **Occupations**

Financiers.  
Merchants.  
Railroad officials.

## **Provenance**

The papers of the Robert Garrett family were deposited in the Library of Congress by Robert Garrett from 1922 to 1953 and by John W. Garrett in 1943.

## **Processing History**

The Garrett family papers were arranged and described in 1953. The collection was reprocessed in 2001 and the finding aid revised in 2008.

## Copyright Status

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

## Access and Restrictions

Restrictions apply governing the use, photoduplication, or publication of items in this collection. Consult a reference librarian in the Manuscript Division for information concerning these restrictions.

## Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: Container number, Robert Garrett Family Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

## Scope and Content Note

The papers of the family of Robert Garrett (1783-1857) span the years 1778-1925, with the bulk of the material concentrated in the period 1830-1863. The collection documents the business policies of Robert Garrett & Sons in connection with its mercantile trade, banking house founded in 1839, and ventures in transportation and communication that won for it the position of the leading firm in Baltimore for the period. Reflected are the competition and contributions made by the company in the development of its wholesale grocery, produce, forwarding, and commission business in Baltimore. Robert Garrett's vision to channel the western trade of farmers through the port of Baltimore is richly documented. The papers provide glimpses of the establishment of wagon trains moving over the turnpikes across the Allegheny Mountains connecting with Pennsylvania canals and rivers, as well as the penetration of the area by the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad Company, chartered in 1827. To meet rapidly developing demands made on trade by the increasing population of the Ohio Valley, Robert Garrett established commercial communications with New Orleans, San Francisco, South America, and Europe. Robert Garrett & Sons not only promoted improved overland transportation, but helped to establish shipping lines from Baltimore to other ports. The entrance of Robert Garrett's sons, John W. and Henry S. Garrett, into his business brought added vigor to the organization; they pursued the policies formulated by their father. To facilitate business operations, they established their own banking house and became the American correspondent of George Peabody and Company of London and of other well-known firms. These operations gradually overshadowed their mercantile and shipping interests.

Documented in the collection are the major changes that resulted in the administration of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad with the election of John W. Garrett as president in 1858. During the Civil War, the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad was a large factor in the movement of Union troops and supplies. Under John W. Garrett's administration, summer resorts were established at Deer Park and Oakland in Garrett County, Maryland. By 1871, the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad had entered the Pittsburgh area and three years later established through service between Baltimore and Chicago. Under the administration of Robert Garrett as president from 1884 to 1887, the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad experienced greater expansion and activities.

Before the Civil War, John W. Garrett emerged as a national figure, and in 1872 he was prominently mentioned as a candidate for president. His correspondence with Robert Benson and Company, George Peabody, J. Pierpont Morgan, James McHenry (1817-1891), Sir S. Morton Peto, and others relates to the financing of the Civil War and the construction afterward of railroads. There is material on the establishment of cable and telegraph lines. Among the correspondents connected with railroads were Philip E. Thomas, Wm. G. Harrison, William Parker, J. J. Atkinson, and John H. B. Latrobe.

Other business correspondence relates to the financial panics of 1837 and 1857, subtreasury measures, stay laws, and the Mexican War. Civil War topics include John W. Garrett's support of Lincoln and interaction with cabinet members, as well as his influence in procuring the release of citizens of Maryland who were under military arrest. Correspondence with Varina Davis, wife of Jefferson Davis, documents his role in her efforts to free the Confederate president from Fortress Monroe after his capture.

The papers also contain data on the education of members of the family, including at Mt. Holyoke and Lafayette colleges, Princeton and Johns Hopkins universities, and other institutions. Among the philanthropic interests represented are the Baltimore and Ohio Employes Relief Association, the YMCA, Johns Hopkins Hospital, the Peabody Institute, art galleries, and other local charities.

## **Arrangement of the Papers**

The collection is organized by type of material with the largest portion arranged in a chronological file. An [appendix](#) to this finding aid lists additional correspondents according to their profession, association, or office.

## Container List

<b>Container</b>	<b>Contents</b>
BOX 1	Chronological file
BOX 1	Oct. 27, 1778-Oct. 1830
BOX 2	Nov. 1830-Dec. 1831
BOX 3	Jan. 1832-Dec. 1831
BOX 4	Oct. 1832-Apr. 1832
BOX 5	May 1833-Oct. 1833
BOX 6	Nov. 1833-Feb. 1834
BOX 7	Mar. 1834-Sept. 1834
BOX 8	Oct. 1834-Mar. 1835
BOX 9	Apr. 1835-Dec. 1835
BOX 10	Jan. 1836-July 1836
BOX 11	Aug. 1836-Dec. 1836
BOX 12	Jan. 1837-May 1837
BOX 13	June 1837-Oct. 1837
BOX 14	Nov. 1837-Feb. 1838
BOX 15	Mar. 1838-July 1838
BOX 16	Aug. 1838-Nov. 1838
BOX 17	Dec. 1838-Mar. 1838
BOX 18	Apr. 1839-June 1839
BOX 19	July 1839-Nov. 1839
BOX 20	Dec. 1839-Apr. 1840
BOX 21	May 1840-Sept. 1840
BOX 22	Oct. 1840-Feb. 1841
BOX 23	Mar. 1841-May 1841
BOX 24	June 1841-Sept. 1841
BOX 25	Oct. 1841-Dec. 1841
BOX 26	Jan. 1842-Apr. 1842
BOX 27	May 1842-Aug. 1842
BOX 28	Sept. 1842-Dec. 1842
BOX 29	Jan. 1843-Apr. 1843
BOX 30	May 1843-July 1843
BOX 31	Aug. 1843-Oct. 1843
BOX 32	Nov. 1843-Mar. 1844
BOX 33	Apr. 1844-Sept. 1844
BOX 34	Oct. 1844-Feb. 1845
BOX 35	Mar. 1845-July 1845
BOX 36	Aug. 1845-Nov. 1845
BOX 37	Dec. 1845-Mar. 1846
BOX 38	Apr. 1846-July 1846
BOX 39	Aug. 1846-Nov. 1846
BOX 40	Dec. 1846-Feb. 1847

## Container List

Container	Contents
BOX 41	Mar. 1847-May 1847
BOX 42	June 1847-Sept. 1847
BOX 43	Oct. 1846-Dec. 1847
BOX 44	Jan. 1848-Mar. 1848
BOX 45	Apr. 1848-July 1848
BOX 46	Aug. 1848-Nov. 1848
BOX 47	Dec. 1848-Mar. 1849
BOX 48	Apr. 1849-July 1849
BOX 49	Aug. 1849-Dec. 1849
BOX 50	Jan. 1850-Apr. 1850
BOX 51	May 1850-Sept. 1850
BOX 52	Oct. 1850-Mar. 1850
BOX 53	Apr. 1850-Aug. 1851
BOX 54	Sept. 1851-Feb. 1852
BOX 55	Mar. 1852-July 1852
BOX 56	Aug. 1852-Dec. 1852
BOX 57	Jan. 1853-June 1853
BOX 58	July 1853-Mar. 1854
BOX 59	Apr. 1854-Sept. 1854
BOX 60	Oct. 1854-Mar. 1855
BOX 61	Apr. 1855-Oct. 1855
BOX 62	Nov. 1855-Mar. 1856
BOX 63	Apr. 1856-Sept. 1856
BOX 64	Oct. 1856-Feb. 1857
BOX 65	Mar. 1857-July 1857
BOX 66	Aug. 1858-Dec. 1857
BOX 67	Jan. 1858-June 1858
BOX 68	July 1858-Nov. 1858
BOX 69	Dec. 1858-June 1859
BOX 70	July 1859-Feb. 1860
BOX 71	Mar. 1860-Dec. 1860
BOX 72	Jan. 1861-Oct. 1861
BOX 73	Nov. 1861-Sept. 1862
BOX 74	Oct. 1862-June 1863
BOX 75	July 1863-Dec. 1864
BOX 76	Jan. 1865-Dec. 1867
BOX 77	Jan. 1868-Dec. 1871
BOX 78	Jan. 1872-Dec. 1874
BOX 79	Jan. 1875-Feb. 1877
BOX 80	Mar. 1877-Dec. 1879
BOX 81	Jan. 1880-Dec. 1881
BOX 82	Jan. 1882-Dec. 1882
BOX 83	Jan. 1883-Oct. 1884
BOX 84	1885-1894, 1900-1925, undated
BOX 84	Miscellany
BOX 84	Addresses and speeches

## Container List

### Container

### Contents

---

BOX 84	Baltimore and Ohio Railroad
BOX 85	Bills and receipts, 1895-1899
BOX 85	Broadsides
BOX 85	Concert
BOX 85	Menus
BOX 85	Soups
BOX 85	Cards and invitations
BOX 85	Correspondence, 1897
BOX 85	Genealogical and family history, 1893-1894
BOX 85	Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, Md.
BOX 85	1864-1882
BOX 86	1883, undated
BOX 86	Life of John W. Garrett and Robert Garrett
BOX 86	Maps and diagrams
BOX 86	Peabody Donation Fund
BOX 86	Poetry
BOX 86	<i>Prices Current of American Products</i> , 1831-1884
BOX 87	Printed matter
BOX 87	Maryland and Baltimore
BOX 87	Miscellaneous
BOX 87	Miscellany
BOX 87	Newspapers and clippings
BOX 87	Reports, bulletins, sermons, and miscellaneous periodicals
BOX 88	Reports and periodicals, including
BOX 88	<i>Godey's Lady Book</i> , 1841-1854
BOX 88	<i>Christian World</i> , 1843-1844



## Appendix: Selected Correspondents

### Members of Congress:

- Oakes Ames
- Thomas Hart Benton
- William E. Chandler
- John G. Chapman
- Samuel S. Cox
- Garrett Davis
- John L. Dawson
- Stephen A. Douglas
- Stephen B. Elkins
- Edward Everett
- Charles J. Faulkner
- William P. Fessenden
- Meredith P. Gentry
- Nathan Goff
- William Gwinn
- Benjamin C. Howard
- Charles J. Ingersoll
- Robert M. McLane
- Thomas M. T. McKenna
- Charles M. Reed
- Robert R. Reed
- William Schley
- Thaddeus Stevens
- Thomas Swann
- Benjamin Tappan
- Allen G. Thurman
- Lyman Trumbull
- Robert C. Winthrop, Jr.
- Henry Wise

### Cabinet Officers

- George Bancroft
- Montgomery Blair
- George S. Boutwell
- Salmon P. Chase
- Henry Clay
- John M. Clayton
- Simon Cameron
- Howell Cobb
- John A. J. Creswell
- William M. Evarts
- Hamilton Fish
- Nathan Goff, Jr.
- James Guthrie
- Joseph Holt
- John P. Kennedy
- Robert Todd Lincoln
- Louis McLane
- George M. Robeson
- William H. Seward
- John Sherman

- Edwin M. Stanton
- Roger B. Taney
- Daniel Webster
- Gideon Welles

**Diplomats:**

- Reverdy Johnson
- Robert C. Schenck

**Vice Presidents:**

- Schuyler Colfax
- Thomas A. Hendricks
- Levi P. Morton

**Presidents:**

- James A. Garfield
- Ulysses S. Grant
- Rutherford B. Hayes
- Andrew Johnson
- Abraham Lincoln (copy)

**Army and Navy Officers:**

- Leslie Combs
- John A. Dix
- Robert E. Lee
- Alfred Mordecai
- David D. Porter
- John M. Schofield
- William T. Sherman
- Lew Wallace
- William H. Wiegel
- John E. Wool

**Journalists:**

- Francis P. Blair
- Charles A. Dana
- J. D. B. DeBow
- Horace Greeley
- Horace Porter
- Henry J. Raymond
- William W. Seaton
- J. Watson Sebb

**Teachers and Ministers:**

- William C. Cattell
- James, Cardinal Gibbons
- Daniel Coit Gilman
- G. K. Kane

**Scientists:**

- Spencer F. Baird
- James C. Booth
- Cyrus W. Fields
- Matthew F. Maury

**Artists:**

- Albert Bierstadt

- William W. Story

**Railroad Executives:**

- J. T. A. Atkinson
- Erastus Corning
- William G. Harrison
- John H. B. Latrobe
- William Parker
- Philip E. Thomas

**Philanthropists and Capitalists:**

- August Belmont
- George W. Child
- William W. Corcoran
- J. Pierpont Morgan
- George Peabody
- Enoch Pratt

**Business Firms: Brazil Merchants:**

- Maxwell & Wright
- Kuster Myers & Co.
- Rostron Dutton & Co.
- Z. Le Brenton & Co.

**Business Firms: San Francisco:**

- Hussy Bond & Hale
- Cassard & Lamb
- Ogden & Haynes
- Dickenson Buckler & Co.

**Business Firms: British Merchants and Bankers:**

- George Peabody and Company
- Hugh Cassement & Son
- Boyd & Brown
- Allen & Anderson
- James McHenry
- Richardson Bros. & Co.
- Anson Hardy
- Overend Gurney & Co.
- J. & E. Cordevry