

J. L. M. Curry Papers
A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress



Manuscript Division, Library of Congress
Washington, D.C.
2024

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

Catalog Record: <https://lcn.loc.gov/mm78017418>

Additional search options available at: <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms013120>

Prepared by Manuscript Division Staff

Finding aid encoded by Library of Congress Manuscript Division, 2013
Revised 2024 January

Collection Summary

Title: J. L. M. Curry Papers

Inclusive Dates: 1637-1939

Bulk Dates: 1866-1903

ID No.: MSS17418

Creator: Curry, J. L. M. (Jabez Lamar Monroe), 1825-1903

Extent: 3,900 items

Extent: 30 containers

Extent: 6.6 linear feet

Language: Collection material in English

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

LC Catalog record: <https://lccn.loc.gov/mm78017418>

Summary: Statesman, author, clergyman, diplomat, and educator. Diaries, correspondence, printed matter, clippings, memorabilia, notes and memoranda, legal papers, accounts, lectures and sermons, essays, scrapbook, manuscript of autobiography, speeches, and articles, and catalog of Curry's library. Includes autographs of presidents, Confederate leaders, Spanish noblemen, royalty, and writers, jurists, diplomats, educators, historians, scientists, reformers, artists, statesmen, literary figures, clergymen, and military men of the United States and Europe.

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

Adams, John Quincy, 1767-1848--Autographs.
Aiken, William, 1806-1887--Correspondence.
Angell, James Burrill, 1829-1916--Correspondence.
Bayard, Thomas F. (Thomas Francis), 1828-1898--Correspondence.
Clay, Henry, 1777-1852--Autographs.
Courtenay, William Ashmead, 1831-1908--Correspondence.
Curry, J. L. M. (Jabez Lamar Monroe), 1825-1903.
Evarts, William Maxwell, 1818-1901--Correspondence.
Fish, Hamilton, 1808-1893--Correspondence.
Franklin, Benjamin, 1706-1790--Autographs.
Fuller, Melville Weston, 1833-1910--Correspondence.
Gallatin, Albert, 1761-1849--Autographs.
Gilman, Moses Coit--Correspondence.
Green, Samuel A. (Samuel Abbott), 1830-1918--Correspondence.
Hayes, Rutherford B., 1822-1893--Correspondence.
Irving, Washington, 1783-1859--Autographs.
Jackson, Henry R. (Henry Rootes), 1820-1898--Correspondence.
Jefferson, Thomas, 1743-1826--Autographs.
Johnson, Andrew, 1808-1875--Autographs.
Lyman, Theodore, 1833-1897--Correspondence.
Madison, James, 1751-1836--Autographs.
Onís, Luis de, 1762-1827--Autographs.
Polk, James K. (James Knox), 1795-1849--Autographs.
Porter, James D. (James Davis), 1828-1912--Correspondence.
Rush, Richard, 1780-1859--Autographs.
Stearns, Eben S. (Eben Sperry), 1819-1887--Correspondence.
Stuart, Alexander H. H. (Alexander Hugh Holmes), 1807-1891--Correspondence.
Waddel, Moses, 1770-1840--Correspondence.
Webster, Daniel, 1782-1852--Autographs.

Wellington, Arthur Wellesley, Duke of, 1769-1852--Autographs.
Williams, Roger, 1604?-1683--Autographs.
Winthrop, Robert C. (Robert Charles), 1809-1894--Correspondence.

Organizations

John F. Slater Fund for the Education of Freedmen.
Peabody Education Fund.
Southern Education Board.

Subjects

African Americans--Education.
Artists--Autographs.
Authors, Spanish--Autographs.
Autographs--Collections.
Baptists--Southern States.
Clergy--Autographs.
Diplomatic and consular service, American--Spain.
Diplomats--Autographs.
Diplomats--Confederate States of America--Autographs.
Education--Southern States.
Educators--Autographs.
Historians--Autographs.
Lawyers--Autographs.
Nobility--Spain--Autographs.
Presidents--United States--Autographs.
Reformers--Autographs.
Scientists--Autographs.
Soldiers--Autographs.
Statesmen--Autographs.

Places

Confederate States of America--Politics and government.
Spain--Foreign relations--United States.
Spain--Kings and rulers--Autographs.
United States--Foreign relations--Spain.
United States--History--Civil War, 1861-1865.

Occupations

Authors.
Clergy.
Diplomats.
Educators.
Statesmen.

Acquisition Information

The papers of J. L. M. Curry, statesman, author, clergyman, diplomat, and educator, were given to the Library of Congress by his sister, Alice T. Connally, in 1911, and by his nieces, Alice Connally Cheeseborough and Curry Connally Posfay, in 1940. Additional material was purchased.

Processing History

The Curry Papers were processed in 1949. The finding aid was revised in 2012. The finding aid was updated in 2024 by Maria Farmer as part of a division-wide remediation project by the Inclusive Description Working Group.

Additional Guides

A brief description of Part I of the collection appears in the *Library of Congress Handbook of Manuscripts* (1918): 95, 306. A list of autographs in the collection is available as a [PDF](#) document.

Related Material

Related collections in the Manuscript Division include microfilm of originals in the Alabama Department of Archives and History, Montgomery, Ala.

Copyright Status

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

Access and Restrictions

The papers of J. L. M. Curry 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, J. L. M. Curry Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Biographical Note

Date	Event
1825, June 5	Born, Lincoln County, Georgia
1843	Graduated, University of Georgia, Athens, Ga.
1846	Received law degree, Dane Law School, Harvard University, Cambridge, Mass.
1857-1861	Member of Congress, resigned at outbreak of Civil War
1861-1865	Member, Confederate congresses; served in Confederate Cavalry
1865-1868	President, Howard College, Homewood, Ala.
1868-1881	Professor, Richmond College, Richmond, Va. (president of trustees, 1882-1886, 1890-1897)
1881	Became general agent of Peabody Education Fund
1885-1888	Declined cabinet post to become minister to Spain
1890	Became agent and director of John F. Slater Fund for the Education of Freedman
1899	Head, Southern Education Board
1902	Returned to Spain as ambassador extraordinary
1903, Feb. 12	Died, Asheville, N.C.

Scope and Content Note

The papers of Jabez Lamar Munroe Curry (1825-1903) consist of diaries, correspondence, an autograph collection, printed matter, clippings, memorabilia, notes and memoranda, legal papers, accounts, lectures and sermons, essays, scrapbooks, a manuscript of an autobiography, speeches and articles, and miscellaneous material. The collection spans the years 1637-1939, with the bulk of the material concentrated in the period 1866-1903. The papers are organized into two parts.

Part I is composed of a [Correspondence and General File](#). Part II consists of four series: [Correspondence](#), [Autographs](#), [Diaries](#), and [Miscellany](#).

Included in the [Autographs](#) series are correspondence and letters (many to Curry himself) from United States presidents; Confederate statesmen; Spanish noblemen, royalty, and writers; and American and European artists, clergyman, diplomats, educators, historians, jurists, literary figures, military men, reformers, scientists, and statesmen. Among the signatories are John Quincy Adams, Henry Clay, Benjamin Franklin, Albert Gallatin, Washington Irving, Thomas Jefferson, Andrew Johnson, James Madison, Luis de Onís, James K. Polk, Richard Rush, Daniel Webster, Arthur Wellesley, Duke of Wellington, and Roger Williams.

Reports, journals, writings, printed matter, and other material in the Miscellany series are organized mainly in bound volumes designated as Record Books A to G compiled by Curry. Subjects in the collection concern topics such as the Peabody Education Fund, the John F. Slater Fund for the Education of Freedmen, the Southern Education Board, Curry's studies on Civil War history and the civil government of the Confederacy, and diplomatic matters in Spain.

The [Diaries](#) and much of the [correspondence](#) relate to Curry's career as an educator, diplomat, and Baptist minister. Correspondents include William Aiken, James Burrill Angel, Thomas F. Bayard, William Ashmead Courtenay, William Maxwell Evarts, Hamilton Fish (1808-1893), Melville Weston Fuller, Moses Coit Gilman, Rutherford Birchard Hayes, Samuel A. Green, Henry R Jackson, Theodore Lyman, James D. Porter, Eben S. Stearns, Alexander H. H. Stuart, Moses Waddel, and Robert C. Winthrop.

Arrangement of the Papers

This collection is arranged in five series in two parts:

Part I:

- [Correspondence and General File, 1809-1903](#)

Part II:

- [Correspondence, 1824-1939](#)
- [Autographs, 1637-1895](#)
- [Diaries, 1866-1902](#)
- [Miscellany, 1886-1902](#)

Description of Series

Container	Series
BOX I:1-I:18	<p><u>Part I: Correspondence and General File, 1809-1903</u></p> <p>Bound volumes of letters received by Curry and his second wife, Mary Wortham Thomas Curry. Includes reports, writings, and printed matter. Arranged chronologically.</p>
BOX II:1-II:6	<p><u>Part II: Correspondence, 1824-1939</u></p> <p>Bound volumes of letters received by Curry and by others after his death. Arranged chronologically.</p>
BOX II:7	<p><u>Part II: Autographs, 1637-1895</u></p> <p>Letters of prominent Americans and Europeans, many to Curry, but also predating him, compiled as an autograph collection. Arranged alphabetically.</p>
BOX II:7-II:9	<p><u>Part II: Diaries, 1866-1902</u></p> <p>Pocket diaries. Arranged chronologically.</p>
BOX II:10-II:12	<p><u>Part II: Miscellany, 1886-1902</u></p>

Container List

Container	Contents
BOX I:1-I:18	Part I: Correspondence and General File, 1809-1903 Bound volumes of letters received by Curry and his second wife, Mary Wortham Thomas Curry. Includes reports, writings, and printed matter. Arranged chronologically.
BOX I:1	1809-1876
BOX I:2	1877, May 5-1881, Aug. 18
BOX I:3	1881, Aug. 19-1882, Nov. 12
BOX I:4	1882, Nov. 13-1884, Dec. 25
BOX I:5	1884, Dec. 26-1886, Oct. 30
BOX I:6	1886, Nov. 9-1888, Nov. 8
BOX I:7	1888, Nov. 9-1890, Feb. 11
BOX I:8	1890, Feb. 12-1891, May 12
BOX I:9	1891, May 13-1892, Apr. 11
BOX I:10	1892, Apr. 12-1893, Dec. 27
BOX I:11	1893, Dec. 28-1896, Jan. 29
BOX I:12	1896, Jan. 30-1899, Oct. 30
BOX I:13	1899, Oct. 31-1901, Dec. 30
BOX I:14	1901, Dec. 31-1903, Feb. 9
BOX I:15	1903, Feb. 10-1908, June 8
BOX I:16-18	Undated
BOX II:1-II:6	Part II: Correspondence, 1824-1939 Bound volumes of letters received by Curry and by others after his death. Arranged chronologically.
BOX II:1	1824, July 14-1875, Feb. 27
BOX II:2	1875, Mar. 7-1878, July 1
BOX II:3	1878, Aug. 3-1888, Apr. 2
BOX II:4	1888, May 2-1892, Nov. 4
BOX II:5	1892, Nov. 7-1907, Nov. 4
BOX II:6	1901, Sept. 30-1939, Dec. 3
BOX II:7	Part II: Autographs, 1637-1895 Letters of prominent Americans and Europeans, many to Curry, but also predating him, compiled as an autograph collection. Arranged alphabetically.
BOX II:7	A-Z, 1637-1895 (4 folders)
BOX II:7-II:9	Part II: Diaries, 1866-1902 Pocket diaries.

Part II: Diaries, 1866-1902

Container	Contents
	Arranged chronologically.
BOX II:7	1866-1876 (3 folders)
BOX II:8	1880-1894 (4 folders)
BOX II:9	1895-1902 (3 folders)
BOX II:10-II:12	Part II: Miscellany, 1886-1902
BOX II:10	Record Books A-C (3 folders)
BOX II:11	Record Books D-G (3 folders)
BOX II:12	Printed matter
BOX II:12	<i>Congressional Directory</i> , 1902