Collection Summary

Title: John Bell Papers
Span Dates: 1815-1861
ID No.: MSS12336
Creator: Bell, John, 1797-1861
Extent: 1 item
Extent: 1 container
Extent: .2 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/mm78012336
Summary: U.S. representative and senator from Tennessee, and U.S. secretary of war. Volume containing correspondence, speeches, and Bell's reports in Congress. Includes material on patronage in Tennessee, national politics, and Bell's candidacy for president in 1860.

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
Bell, John, 1796-1869.
Brown, Neill Smith, 1810-1886--Correspondence.
Heiskell, Frederick Steidinger, 1786-1882--Correspondence.
Hunt, Washington, 1811-1867--Correspondence.
Peyton, Balie, 1803-1878--Correspondence.

Organizations
United States. Congress.

Subjects
Patronage, Political--Tennessee.
Presidents--United States--Election--1860.

Places
Tennessee--Politics and government--To 1865.
United States--Politics and government--1815-1861.

Occupations
Cabinet officers.
Lawyers.
Senators, U.S. Congress--Tennessee.

Provenance
The papers of John Bell, U.S. representative and senator from Tennessee, and U.S. secretary of war, were obtained by the Library of Congress from Samuel Yeatman, largely by purchase, in 1907.

Processing History
The Bell Papers were processed and microfilmed in 1971. The finding aid was created in 2016.
Copyright Status

The status of copyright in the unpublished writings of John Bell is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.).

Access and Restrictions

The papers of John Bell 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 reference staff 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, John Bell Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Biographical Note

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1796, Feb. 18</td>
<td>Born near Nashville, Tenn.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1814</td>
<td>Graduated, Cumberland College, Nashville, Tenn.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1816</td>
<td>Admitted to the bar and began law practice, Franklin, Tenn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1817</td>
<td>Member, Tennessee state senate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1827-1841</td>
<td>Member of House of Representatives from Tennessee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1833-1835</td>
<td>Speaker of the House of Representatives</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1841</td>
<td>Secretary of war</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1847-1859</td>
<td>United States senator from Tennessee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1860</td>
<td>Unsuccessful candidate for president on the Constitutional Union ticket</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1869, Sept. 10</td>
<td>Died near Cumberland Furnace, Tenn.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Scope and Content Note

The papers of John Bell (1797-1869) consists of a volume of correspondence, speeches, and Bell's reports in Congress. Included is material on patronage in Tennessee, national politics, and Bell's candidacy for president in 1860. Correspondents include Neill Smith Brown, Frederick Steidinger Heiskell, Washington Hunt, and Balie Peyton.

Arrangement of the Papers

This collection is arranged within a bound volume.
## Container List

Microfilm shelf no. 14,390

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Container</th>
<th>Contents</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BOX 1 REEL 1</td>
<td>Volume of correspondence, speeches, and reports to Congress, 1815-1861</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>