

**John Bell Papers**  
**A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress**



**Manuscript Division, Library of Congress**  
**Washington, D.C.**  
**2016**

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

Catalog Record: <https://lcn.loc.gov/mm78012336>

Additional search options available at: <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms016005>

Prepared by Manuscript Division Staff

Finding aid encoded by Library of Congress Manuscript Division, 2016

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The status of copyright in the unpublished writings of John Bell is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.).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

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

## 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

<b>Container</b>	<b>Contents</b>
BOX 1 REEL 1	Volume of correspondence, speeches, and reports to Congress, 1815-1861