Jeremiah S. Black Papers

A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress

Manuscript Division, Library of Congress
Washington, D.C.
1996
Revised 2010 April

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

Additional search options available at:
http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms001039

LC Online Catalog record:
http://lccn.loc.gov/mm79012849

Prepared by Richard Bickel
Revised and expanded by Laura J. Kells

Collection Summary

Title: Jeremiah S. Black Papers
Span Dates: 1813-1904
Bulk Dates: (bulk 1856-1880)
ID No.: MSS12849
Creator: Black, Jeremiah S. (Jeremiah Sullivan), 1810-1883
Extent: 10,070 items ; 80 containers ; 34 linear feet ; 36 microfilm reels
Language: Collection material in English
Location: Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.
Summary: Lawyer, public official of Pennsylvania, United States attorney general, and United States secretary of state. Correspondence, legal files, speeches, writings, scrapbooks, family papers, and other papers relating primarily to various legal matters in which Black was involved.

Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

People
Bayard, Thomas F. (Thomas Francis), 1828-1898.
Black, Chauncey F. Chauncey F. Black papers.
Black, Jeremiah S. (Jeremiah Sullivan), 1810-1883.
Blair, Montgomery, 1813-1883.
Brown, John, 1800-1859.
Buchanan, James, 1791-1868.
Clay, C. C. (Clement Claiborne), 1816-1882.
Cushing, Caleb, 1800-1879.
Davis, Jefferson, 1808-1889.
Frémont, John Charles, 1813-1890.
Garfield, James A. (James Abram), 1831-1881.
Holt, Joseph, 1807-1894.
Johnson, Andrew, 1808-1875--Impeachment.
Johnson, Reverdy, 1796-1876.
Lamon, Ward Hill, 1828-1893. Life of Abraham Lincoln from his birth to his inauguration as president. 1872.
Lincoln, Abraham, 1809-1865--Assassination.
Randall, Samuel J. (Samuel Jackson), 1828-1890.
Stanton, Edwin McMasters, 1814-1869.
Thompson, Jacob, 1810-1885.

Organizations
Credit Mobilier of America.
United States. Attorney-General.

Subjects
American Confederate voluntary exiles.
Antislavery movements.
Impeachments.
Political corruption.
Reconstruction (U.S. history, 1865-1877)
Slavery--Kansas.
Slavery--Southern states.

Places
Confederate States of America--Officials and employees.

Harpers Ferry (W. Va.)--History--John Brown's Raid, 1859.
Kansas--History--1854-1861.
Pennsylvania--Politics and government.
United States--History--1849-1877.
United States--History--Civil War, 1861-1865.
United States--Politics and government--1857-1861.

Occupations
Cabinet officers.
Lawyers.
Statesmen.

Administrative Information

Provenance

The papers of Jeremiah S. Black, lawyer, judge, and statesman, were purchased from Mrs. Jeremiah Black, wife of his grandson, in March 1918. Other small gifts and purchases were made between 1935 and 1992.

Processing History

The papers of Jeremiah S. Black were arranged and described in 1966. Additional material received between 1966 and 1992 was incorporated into the collection in 1996.

Additional Guides

A description of the Black Papers appears in *Library of Congress Acquisitions: Manuscript Division, 1992*, pp.8-10.

Copyright Status

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

Access and Restrictions

The papers of Jeremiah S. Black 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 the bound portion of the general correspondence in these papers, 1813-1904, is available on thirty-six reels. 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 as available.

Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: Container or reel number, Charles S. Black Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Biographical Note

Date	***Event***
1810, Jan. 10	Born, near Stony Creek, Pa.
1830	Admitted to the bar in Pennsylvania
1836	Married Mary Forward

1842	Appointed judge of court of common pleas, sixteenth district, Pennsylvania
1851	Appointed justice of supreme court of Pennsylvania
1857-1860	United States attorney general
1860	Appointed secretary of state replacing Lewis Cass
1861	Appointed to United States Supreme Court by James Buchanan but not confirmed by Senate Appointed United States Supreme Court reporter Wrote first volume of annual publication, *Reports of Cases Argued and Determined in the Supreme Court of the United States*
1873	Helped revise Pennsylvania constitution
1876	Defended Democratic presidential candidate Samuel J. Tilden before electoral commission
1883, Aug. 19	Died, York, Pa.

Scope and Content Note

The papers of Jeremiah Sullivan Black (1810-1883) span the years 1813-1904, with the bulk of the items concentrated in the period 1856-1880. The collection includes correspondence, legal papers, articles, scrapbooks, and other papers relating to such subjects as the turmoil over slavery in Kansas before the Civil War, John Brown's raid on Harpers Ferry, Virginia, the impeachment of President Andrew Johnson, the Crédit Mobilier, the trial of Jefferson Davis, Black's efforts on behalf of Clement Claiborne Clay, and Jacob Thompson's letters from his exile in Europe following the Civil War. A large part of the material relates to various legal matters in which Black was involved.

The General Correspondence comprises the bulk of the collection and includes an important group of James Buchanan's letters relating to the closing days of his administration. Among these is Buchanan's draft of the defense of his actions with regard to Forts Sumter and Moultrie. There is also a group of letters written by Edwin M. Stanton during the years 1857-1858. Correspondence of Black's son, Chauncey, concerns Ward Hill Lamon's *Recollections of Abraham Lincoln* (1895), apparently written by Black and claimed by him to have been published with unauthorized changes. There is a large number of letters from Speaker of the House of Representatives, Samuel J. Randall, to Chauncey Black on important phases of Pennsylvania politics. Prominent among Jeremiah S. Black's correspondents are Thomas Francis Bayard, Montgomery Blair, Caleb Cushing, John C. Frémont, James Abram Garfield, Joseph Holt, and Reverdy Johnson. Among the correspondents of Chauncey Black are Charles A. Dana, William H. Herndon, Ward H. Lamon, James R. Osgood and Company, Samuel J. Randall, Don Piatt, J. M. Cooper, Wayne MacVeagh, and Daniel Sickles.. A partial card index of correspondents is available in the Manuscript Reading Room.

Included in the Writings series is Jeremiah S. Black's notes containing information on the last four months of Buchanan's administration, an account of his own resignation, and the cabinet meeting on Major Richard Anderson's removal to Fort Sumter. Chauncey Black's unpublished draft of the last chapter of Ward Hill Lamon's book on Lincoln is also filed in this series.

An addition to the collection contains family correspondence consisting primarily of letters from Black to his wife, Mary, and to his children. Other family members represented in the addition include Henry Clayton and Jeremiah S. Black Clayton.

Organization of the Papers

The collection is arranged in five series:

- General Correspondence, 1813-1904
- Legal File, 1853-1880
- Writings, undated
- Miscellany, 1859-1903
- Addition, 1837-1888

Description of Series

Container	*Series*
BOX 1-74 **REEL** 1-36	**General Correspondence, 1813-1904**
BOX 1-73 **REEL** 1-36	**Bound, 1813-1904** Letters received, copies of letters sent, memoranda, and legal and financial papers. Arranged chronologically.
BOX 74 not filmed	**Unbound, 1857-1880** Letters received and draft correspondence by Black. Arranged chronologically.
BOX 74-76	**Legal File, 1853-1880** Cases, notes, writings, and printed matter. Arranged alphabetically by type of material.
BOX 77-78	**Writings, undated** Holograph writings by Jeremiah S. Black and his son Chauncey Forward Black. Arranged alphabetically by author and by topic or type of writing therein.
BOX 78-80	**Miscellany, 1859-1903** Scrapbooks, clippings, notes, and portraits. Arranged alphabetically by type of material.
BOX 80	**Addition, 1837-1888** Family correspondence, general correspondence, and academic records. Arranged alphabetically by type of material and chronologically therein.

Container List

Container	*Contents*
BOX 1-74 **REEL** 1-36	**General Correspondence, 1813-1904**
BOX 1-73 **REEL** 1-36	**Bound, 1813-1904**
	Letters received, copies of letters sent, memoranda, and legal and financial papers. Arranged chronologically.
BOX 1 **REEL** 1	16 Jan. 1813-2 Oct. 1856
BOX 2 **REEL** 1	21 Oct. 1856-12 Mar. 1857
BOX 3 **REEL** 2	13-23 Mar. 1857
BOX 4 **REEL** 2	24 Mar.-3 Apr. 1857
BOX 5 **REEL** 3	4-20 Apr. 1857
BOX 6 **REEL** 3	21 Apr.-7 May 1857
BOX 7 **REEL** 4	8-26 May 1857
BOX 8 **REEL** 4	27 May-24 June 1857
BOX 9 **REEL** 5	25 June-22 July 1857
BOX 10 **REEL** 5	23 July-19 Aug. 1857
BOX 11 **REEL** 6	20 Aug.-14 Sept. 1857
BOX 12 **REEL** 6	15 Sept.-23 Oct. 1857
BOX 13 **REEL** 7	24 Oct.-23 Nov. 1857
BOX 14 **REEL** 7	24 Nov.-27 Dec. 1857
BOX 15 **REEL** 8	28 Dec. 1857-7 Feb. 1858
BOX 16 **REEL** 8	8 Feb.-4 Apr. 1858
BOX 17 **REEL** 9	5 Apr.-20 June 1858
BOX 18 **REEL** 9	21 June-7 Nov. 1858
BOX 19	8 Nov.-13 Dec. 1858

Container	*Contents*
REEL 10	
BOX 20	14 Dec. 1858-18 Mar. 1859
REEL 10	
BOX 21	19 Mar.-4 May 1859
REEL 11	
BOX 22	5 May-14 June 1859
REEL 11	
BOX 23	15 June-23 Sept. 1859
REEL 12	
BOX 24	24 Sept.-28 Oct. 1859
REEL 12	
BOX 25	29 Oct.-1 Dec. 1859
REEL 13	
BOX 26	2 Dec. 1859-7 Jan. 1860
REEL 13	
BOX 27	8 Jan.-1 Feb. 1860
REEL 14	
BOX 28	2 Feb.-13 Mar. 1860
REEL 14	
BOX 29	14 Mar.-5 May 1860
REEL 15	
BOX 30	6 May-17 June 1860
REEL 15	
BOX 31	18 June-25 July 1860
REEL 16	
BOX 32	26 July-22 Sept. 1860
REEL 16	
BOX 33	23 Sept.-4 Dec. 1860
REEL 17	
BOX 34	5 Dec. 1860-13 Jan. 1861
REEL 17	
BOX 35	14 Jan.-14 Mar. 1861
REEL 18	
BOX 36	15 Mar. 1861-10 Jan. 1862
REEL 18	
BOX 37	11 Jan.-6 May 1862
REEL 19	
BOX 38	7 May-7 Dec. 1862
REEL 19	
BOX 39	8 Dec. 1862-3 June 1863
REEL 20	
BOX 40	4 June-30 Dec. 1863
REEL 20	
BOX 41	31 Dec. 1863-28 Feb. 1864
REEL 21	
BOX 42	27 Feb.-20 Oct. 1864
REEL 21	
BOX 43	23 Oct. 1864-30 May 1865
REEL 22	
BOX 44	31 May 1865-19 Apr. 1866

Container	*Contents*
REEL 22	
BOX 45	20 Apr. 1866-22 May 1867
REEL 23	
BOX 46	23 May-24 Sept. 1867
REEL 23	
BOX 47	25 Sept. 1867-5 Feb. 1868
REEL 24	
BOX 48	6 Feb.-4 Sept. 1868
REEL 24	
BOX 49	6 Sept. 1868-15 Jan. 1869
REEL 25	
BOX 50	16 Jan.-27 Aug. 1869
REEL 25	
BOX 51	28 Aug. 1869-9 June 1870
REEL 26	
BOX 52	11 June-26 Dec. 1870
REEL 26	
BOX 53	27 Dec. 1870-26 Apr. 1871
REEL 27	
BOX 54	27 Apr. 1871-22 Jan. 1872
REEL 27	
BOX 55	24 Jan.-24 May 1872
REEL 28	
BOX 56	25 May-28 Aug. 1872
REEL 28	
BOX 57	29 Aug. 1872-1 Jan. 1873
REEL 29	
BOX 58	4 Jan.-24 Sept. 1873
REEL 29	
BOX 59	25 Sept. 1873-4 Jan. 1874
REEL 30	
BOX 60	5 Jan.-21 Mar. 1874
REEL 30	
BOX 61	22 Mar.-11 July 1874
REEL 31	
BOX 62	13 July-27 Nov. 1874
REEL 31	
BOX 63	28 Nov. 1874-27 Apr. 1875
REEL 32	
BOX 64	28 Apr.-20 Aug. 1875
REEL 32	
BOX 65	27 Aug. 1875-22 Jan. 1876
REEL 33	
BOX 66	24 Jan.-21 Sept. 1876
REEL 33	
BOX 67	22 Sept. 1876-10 Nov. 1877
REEL 34	
BOX 68	13 Nov. 1877-9 Jan. 1880
REEL 34	
BOX 69	10 Jan. 1880-9 Jan. 1881

Container	*Contents*
REEL 35	
BOX 70	12 Jan. 1881-7 Oct. 1904
REEL 35	
BOX 71	Undated
REEL 36	
BOX 72	Undated
REEL 36	
BOX 73	Undated
REEL 36	
BOX 74	**Unbound, 1857-1880**
not filmed	
	Letters received and draft correspondence by Black.
	Arranged chronologically.
	13 Mar. 1857-8 May 1871, 20 Dec. 1880, undated
	(2 folders)
BOX 74-76	**Legal File, 1853-1880**
	Cases, notes, writings, and printed matter.
	Arranged alphabetically by type of material.
BOX 74	Cases
	Bennett pension, opinion, undated
	Biles appeal, opinion, undated
	Book of cases, 1853
	Bryant v. Stillwell, opinion
	Clay, Clement, C., defense, undated
	Cucullu v. Mexico, opinions of commissioners Wadsworth and Palacio, undated
	Dyer v. Parkhurst, opinion, undated
	Harris v. Lyson, undated
	Hendrickson, Joseph G., appeal, undated
	Koon and Bray v. O'Neill, opinion, undated
	Land dispute, Somerset County, Pa., undated
	McArole case, undated
	(2 folders)
	McComb v. Crédit Mobilier, undated
	McGarrham, William, Judiciary Committee, Washington, D.C., 1870
BOX 75	*McKenny v. Republic of Mexico*, 1872, undated
	National Bank of Clarion v. James, Assignee of Burns, undated
	Remington v. Morris, opinion, undated
	Schooner Peggy v. United States, undated
	Sheenan v. Twigg, undated
	Stokely, Thomas, estate, opinion, undated
	Tilden, Samuel J., defense before electoral commission, undated
	Westfall v. Mapes, opinion, undated
	Wheatly v. Chusman, opinion, undated

Container	*Contents*
	Notes and writings, undated
	(13 folders)
BOX 76	Printed matter, 1859-1860, 1866-1880, undated
	(7 folders)
BOX 77-78	**Writings, undated**
	Holograph writings by Jeremiah S. Black and his son Chauncey Forward Black.
	Arranged alphabetically by author and by topic or type of writing therein.
BOX 77	Black, Chauncey Forward
	"Adam Holt," unpublished novel, undated
	(10 folders)
	Lamon, Ward Hill, *Recollections of Abraham Lincoln* (1895), suppressed chapter by Black, undated
	(3 folders)
	Black, Jeremiah S.
	On James Buchanan administration, undated
	(4 folders)
BOX 78	Various, undated
	(15 folders)
BOX 78-80	**Miscellany, 1859-1903**
	Scrapbooks, clippings, notes, and portraits.
	Arranged alphabetically by type of material.
BOX 78	Clippings, 1868-1880, 1888-1891, 1903, undated
	Scrapbooks, 1859-1900, undated
	(1 vol.)
BOX 79	(2 vols.)
BOX 80	(1 vol.)
	Various items, 1891, 1897, 1903, undated
BOX 80	**Addition, 1837-1888**
	Family correspondence, general correspondence, and academic records.
	Arranged alphabetically by type of material and chronologically therein.
BOX 80	Family correspondence, 1837, 1848-1872, 1880, undated
	(2 folders)
	General correspondence, 1861, 1871-1887
	Miscellany, 1887-1888