

# George Watterston Papers

## A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress



LIBRARY OF  
CONGRESS

Manuscript Division, Library of Congress  
Washington, D.C.  
2009

Contact information:

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

Additional search options available at:

<http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms009337>

LC Online Catalog record:

<http://lcn.loc.gov/mm81044842>

Prepared by Paul D. Ledvina

## Collection Summary

**Title:** George Watterston Papers

**Span Dates:** 1809-1866

**Bulk Dates:** (bulk 1820-1845)

**ID No.:** MSS44842

**Creator:** Watterston, George, 1783-1854

**Extent:** 300 items ; 2 containers ; .8 linear feet ; 2 microfilm reels

**Language:** Collection material in English

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

**Summary:** Lawyer, editor, and Librarian of Congress. Correspondence, memorandum books, miscellaneous writings, and legal documents pertaining mainly to Watterston's duties as Librarian of Congress and his life and activities in Washington, D.C.

## 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

Adams, John Quincy, 1767-1848--Correspondence.

Bradley, William Czar, 1782-1867--Correspondence.

Buchanan, James, 1791-1868--Correspondence.

Clay, Henry, 1777-1852--Correspondence.

Davis, Jefferson, 1808-1889--Correspondence.

Everett, Edward, 1794-1865--Correspondence.

Jefferson, Thomas, 1743-1826--Correspondence.

Payne, John Howard, 1791-1852--Correspondence.

Tyler, Robert, 1816-1877--Correspondence.

Van Buren, Martin, 1782-1862--Correspondence.

Watterston family--Correspondence.

Watterston family.

Watterston, Eliza H.--Correspondence.

Watterston, George, 1783-1854.

### Organizations

Library of Congress--Officials and employees.

Library of Congress.

Washington National Monument Society. Washington National Monument Society records. 1838-1842.

### Subjects

Publishers and publishing--Washington (D.C.)

### Places

Jamaica--Description and travel.

Washington (D.C.)--History.

Washington (D.C.)--Politics and government--To 1878.

### Occupations

Editors.

Lawyers.

Librarians of Congress.

## **Administrative Information**

### **Provenance**

The papers of George Watterston, lawyer, editor, and Librarian of Congress, were given to the Library of Congress by David Watterson between 1901 and 1904. Additions were given by various donors between 1930 and 1953, and other material was purchased between 1902 and 1969.

### **Processing History**

The papers of George Watterston were arranged and described for microfilming in 1982. The finding aid was revised in 2009.

### **Copyright Status**

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

### **Access and Restrictions**

The papers of George Watterston 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 two reels. Consult a reference librarian 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, George Watterston Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

## **Scope and Content Note**

The papers of George Watterston (1783-1854) span the years 1809-1866, with the bulk from 1820 to 1845. The collection consists of correspondence, memorandum books, miscellaneous writings, and legal documents pertaining to Watterston's duties as Librarian of Congress, his removal as librarian, his political and publishing activities in Washington, D.C., the Washington National Monument Society, Washington, D.C., history, and travels in Jamaica. Also in the collection are some papers of his daughter, Eliza H. Watterston. Correspondents include John Quincy Adams, William Czar Bradley, James Buchanan, Henry Clay, Jefferson Davis, Edward Everett, Thomas Jefferson, John Howard Payne, Robert Tyler, and Martin Van Buren.

## **Arrangement of the Papers**

This collection is arranged by type of material.

## Container List

Available on microfilm. Shelf no. 18,730

<i>Container</i>	<i>Contents</i>
<b>BOX 2</b> <b>REEL 1</b>	Memoranda, 1809-1849  (2 vols.)
<b>BOX 2</b> <b>REEL 1</b>	Correspondence, 1815-1852, undated  (2 folders)
<b>BOX 2</b> <b>REEL 1-2</b>	Correspondence of Eliza H. Watterston and other family members, 1841-1866  (3 folders)
<b>BOX 2</b> <b>REEL 1-2</b>	Memoranda and miscellaneous writings, circa 1830-1850  (2 folders)
<b>BOX 2</b> <b>REEL 1-2</b>	Receipts, legal papers, and printed matter, 1816-1851
<b>BOX 2</b> <b>REEL 1-2</b>	Washington National Monument Society records, 1838-1842, undated