

# Amos Kendall Papers

A Finding Aid to the Collection in the  
Library of Congress

Prepared by Manuscript Division Staff



Manuscript Division, Library of  
Congress

Washington, D.C.

2009

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## Collection Summary

Title: Amos Kendall Papers

Span Dates: 1835-1909

Bulk Dates: (bulk 1835-1880)

ID No.: MSS28449

Creator: Kendall, Amos, 1789-1869

Extent: 400 items; 3 containers; 1 linear foot; 1 microfilm reel

Language: Collection material in English

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

Abstract: Journalist and United States postmaster general. Correspondence and other papers relating primarily to Kendall's work on behalf of Cherokee claims and treaties and to the Magnetic Telegraph Co., of which he was president.

## 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

Jackson, Andrew, 1767-1845--Correspondence.

Jackson, Andrew, 1767-1845.

Kendall, Amos, 1789-1869.

Marcy, William L. (William Learned), 1786-1857--Correspondence.

McLaughlin, James, 1842-1923--Correspondence.

Morse, Samuel Finley Breese, 1791-1872--Correspondence.

Wilkins, William, 1779-1865--Correspondence.

### Organizations

Magnetic Telegraph Company.

### Subjects

Cherokee Indians--Claims.

Cherokee Indians--Treaties.

Telegraph.

### Occupations

Cabinet officers.

Journalists.

## Administrative Information

### Provenance

The papers of Amos Kendall, journalist and United States postmaster general, were obtained by the Library of Congress through gift, purchase, and transfer, 1944-1966.

### Copyright Status

The status of copyright in the unpublished writings of Amos Kendall is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.).

## Access and Restrictions

The Amos Kendall Papers 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 part of these papers is available on one reel. 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, Amos Kendall Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

## Biographical Note

| <i>Date</i>   | <i>Event</i>  |
|---------------|---|
| 1789, Aug. 16 | Born, Dunstable, Mass.  |
| 1807          | Completed secondary studies, Lawrence Academy, Groton, Mass.  |
| 1811          | Graduated, Dartmouth College, Hanover, N.Y.   |
| 1812-1814     | Studied law, Groton, Mass.  |
| 1814          | Moved to Kentucky; served as tutor in the household of Henry Clay   |
| 1816          | Took charge of <i>Argus of Western America</i> , Frankfurt, Ky.   |
| 1818          | Married Mary B. Woolfolk (died 1823)  |
| 1826          | Changed political support from Henry Clay to Andrew Jackson<br>Married Jane Kyle.   |
| 1829-1837     | Member of President Andrew Jackson's inner circle of advisors, known informally as the "Kitchen Cabinet"  |
| circa 1830s   | Edited and wrote for the <i>Globe</i> , a Jacksonian and Democratic organ published in Washington, D.C., and founded <i>Kendall's Expositor</i> |
| 1835-1840     | Postmaster general  |
| 1843          | Became agent for collection of claims against the government, including on behalf of Cherokee Indians   |
| 1845          | Entered business partnership with Samuel Finley Breese Morse  |
| 1857          | Helped found Columbia Institution for the Deaf and Dumb, which later became Gallaudet University, Washington, D.C.                              |
| 1862          | Helped found Calvary Baptist Church, Washington, D.C.   |

1869, Nov. 12      Died, Washington, D.C.

## Scope and Content Note

The papers of Amos Kendall (1789-1869) span the years 1835-1909, with the bulk from 1835 to 1880. The collection consists of correspondence and other papers relating primarily to Kendall's work on behalf of Cherokee claims and treaties and to the Magnetic Telegraph Company, of which he was president. Correspondents include Andrew Jackson, James McLaughlin, William L. Marcy, Samuel Finley Breese Morse, and William Wilkins. Includes biographical material relating to Andrew Jackson.

## Arrangement of the Papers

This collection is arranged in bound volumes of correspondence organized chronologically and unbound files organized by type of material.

# Container List

Available on microfilm. Shelf no. 17,664

| <i>Container</i>    | <i>Contents</i>   |
|---------------------|---|
| BOX 1<br>REEL 1     | Bound correspondence  |
| BOX 1<br>REEL 1     | 1835, May 13-1845, Sept.  |
| BOX 2<br>REEL 1     | 1845, Sept.-1880, June 1  |
| BOX 3<br>not filmed | Unbound material  |
| BOX 3<br>not filmed | Correspondence, 1846-1866   |
| BOX 3<br>not filmed | Photocopies of correspondence and a newspaper, the <i>Nashville Tennessean</i> , from the Tennessee State Library and Archives, 1842-1843, 1909 |
| BOX 3<br>not filmed | Treaties between the U.S. and the Chickasaw Nation of Indians and the Cherokee Nation of Indians, 1834, 1866                                    |