

James Gordon Bennett Papers

A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress



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

2004

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.ms007004>

LC Online Catalog record:

<http://lcn.loc.gov/mm75012427>

Prepared by David Mathisen

Revised by Brian McGuire

Collection Summary

Title: James Gordon Bennett Papers

Span Dates: 1845-1934

Bulk Dates: (bulk 1861-1864)

ID No.: MSS 12427

Creator: Bennett, James Gordon, 1795-1872

Extent: 225 items ; 1 container ; .4 linear feet ; 1 microfilm reel

Language: Collection material in English

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

Summary: Newspaper publisher. Correspondence, clippings, drafts of articles, and printed material reflecting Bennett's career as publisher of the New York *Herald*.

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

Banks, Nathaniel Prentiss, 1816-1894--Correspondence.

Bennett, James Gordon, 1795-1872.

Bennett, James Gordon, 1841-1918--Correspondence.

Halpine, Charles G. (Charles Graham), 1829-1868--Correspondence.

Hudson, Frederic, 1819-1875--Correspondence.

McClellan, George Brinton, 1826-1885.

Ritchie, Thomas, 1778-1854--Correspondence.

Weed, Thurlow, 1797-1882--Correspondence.

Wood, Fernando, 1812-1881--Correspondence.

Subjects

American newspapers--New York (State)

Places

United States--History--Civil War, 1861-1865--Journalists.

United States--History--Civil War, 1861-1865.

United States--Politics and government--1861-1865.

Titles

New York herald.

Occupations

Publishers.

Administrative Information

Provenance

The papers of James Gordon Bennett, publisher, were acquired by purchase in 1919 and 1931, by gift from J. Franklin Jameson, 1934, and by transfer from the papers of Manton Marble in 1938. The collection includes photocopies made in 1931 of originals retained by Forest G. Sweet.

Processing History

The Bennett Papers were processed and prepared for microfilming in 1987. The finding aid was revised in 2004.

Copyright Status

The status of copyright in the unpublished writings of James Gordon Bennett is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.).

Access and Restrictions

The papers of James Gordon Bennett 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 1 reel. Consult a reference librarian in the Manuscript Division concerning availability for purchase or interlibrary loan.

Preferred Citation

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

Biographical Note

<i>Date</i>	<i>Event</i>
1795, Sept. 1	Born, Keith, Scotland
1819	Moved to Halifax, Nova Scotia
1822	Moved to New York, N.Y., via New England
1823	Worked for Charleston <i>Courier</i>
1827-1828	Editor, <i>New York Enquirer</i>
1829-1832	Editor, <i>Morning Courier</i> and <i>New York Enquirer</i>
1832	Issued first number of <i>New York Globe</i>
1835	Founder, <i>New York Herald</i>
1835-1867	Editor, <i>New York Herald</i>
1840	Married Henrietta Crean
1864	Declined appointment as U.S. minister to France
1867	Retired from <i>New York Herald</i>
1872, June 1	Died, New York, N.Y.

Scope and Content Note

The papers of James Gordon Bennett (1795-1872) span the years 1845-1934, with the bulk of the items concentrated in the period 1861-1864. The collection consists chiefly of correspondence to Bennett as publisher of the *New York Herald* from

staff reporters at the army headquarters of George Brinton McClellan in Washington and in the field during the Civil War. Included are letters addressed to Bennett's assistant and business manager, Frederick Hudson, and a copy of a letter from Bennett to Thomas Ritchie, 1845. Also in the papers are drafts of articles, clippings, and pamphlets.

Correspondents include Nathaniel Prentiss Banks, James Gordon Bennett (1841-1918), Charles G. Halpine, Thurlow Weed, and Fernando Wood.

Arrangement of the Papers

This collection is arranged by type of material.

Container List

Available on microfilm. Shelf no.19,765

<i>Container</i>	<i>Contents</i>
BOX 1 REEL 1	General correspondence, 1845, 1861-1864, undated (8 folders)
BOX 1 REEL 1	Articles, undated
BOX 1 REEL 1	Speech by Simon Cameron, 1861
BOX 1 REEL 1	Minutes, undated
BOX 1 REEL 1	Notes, undated
BOX 1 REEL 1	Printed matter, "Documents-Federal Generals and a Good Press," 1934
BOX 1 REEL 1	Clippings, 1862-1863, undated