

Simon Cameron 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

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

Finding aid encoded by Glenn R.
Gardner, 2010

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Collection Summary

Title: Simon Cameron Papers

Span Dates: 1738-1919

Bulk Dates: (bulk 1860-1880)

ID No.: MSS14845

Creator: Cameron, Simon, 1799-1889

Extent: 8,000 items; 28 containers plus 1 oversize; 12 linear feet; 22 microfilm reels

Language: Collection material in English

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

Abstract: Financier, United States secretary of war, United States senator from Pennsylvania, and diplomat. Correspondence, diary, account books, notebooks, speeches, business and legal records, and printed material primarily relating to Pennsylvania and national politics and to Cameron's business enterprises.

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

Cameron, J. D. (James Donald), 1833-1918--Correspondence.

Cameron, Simon, 1799-1889.

Dana, Charles A. (Charles Anderson), 1819-1897--Correspondence.

Grant, Ulysses S. (Ulysses Simpson), 1822-1885--Correspondence.

Lincoln, Abraham, 1809-1865--Correspondence.

Organizations

United States. Congress (29th, 1st session : 1845-1846)

United States. Congress (29th, 2nd session : 1846-1847)

United States. Congress. Senate.

United States. War Dept.

Subjects

Business enterprises--Pennsylvania.

Diplomatic and consular service, American.

Legislators--United States--Autographs.

Places

Pennsylvania--Politics and government--1861-1865.

Pennsylvania--Politics and government--1865-1950.

Russia--Foreign relations--United States.

United States--Foreign relations--Russia.

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

United States--Politics and government--19th century.

Occupations

Cabinet officers.

Capitalists and financiers.

Diplomats.

Senators, U.S. Congress--Pennsylvania.

Administrative Information

Provenance

The papers of Simon Cameron, financier, United States secretary of war, United States senator from Pennsylvania, and diplomat, were deposited in the Library of Congress by his grandson, James M. Cameron, in 1936. Other material was acquired by gift and purchase, 1919-1984.

Processing History

The Cameron Papers were processed in 1964. Additional material was added in 1978 and 2005. Changes were made to the housing and numbering of a few containers at the end of the collection in 2006, but this revision did not affect the microfilm edition. The finding aid was revised in 2009.

Related Material

Related material in the Manuscript Division includes microfilm reproducing the Simon Cameron Papers in the Historical Society of Dauphin County, Harrisburg, Pa.

Copyright Status

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

Access and Restrictions

The papers of Simon Cameron 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 twenty-two 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, Simon Cameron Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Biographical Note

<i>Date</i>	<i>Event</i>
1799, Mar. 8	Born, Donegal, Pa.
1820	Editor, <i>Bucks County Messenger</i> , Harrisburg, Pa.
1822	Editor, <i>Pennsylvania Intelligencer</i> , Harrisburg, Pa.
1824	Purchased the <i>Republican</i> , Harrisburg, Pa.
1825 (?)	Appointed state printer, Pennsylvania
1826	Adjutant general, Pennsylvania
1838	Appointed commissioner to settle accounts of Winnebago Indians

1845-1849	Elected as a Democrat and served in seat vacated by James Buchanan in United States Senate; failed to win reelection
1855	Unsuccessful candidate for United States Senate
1856	Joined Republican Party on its formation and elected to the United States Senate from Pennsylvania
1860	Unsuccessful candidate for presidential and vice-presidential nominations
1861	Appointed secretary of war
1862	Resigned from cabinet; appointed and resigned as minister to Russia
1866	Elected to the United States Senate from Pennsylvania
1872	Chairman, Senate Committee on Foreign Relations
1877	Retired from United States Senate and relinquished control of the Republican Party in Pennsylvania in favor of his son, J. D. Cameron
1889, June 26	Died, Donegal, Pa.

Scope and Content Note

The papers of Simon Cameron (1799-1889) span the years 1738-1919, with the bulk of the material concentrated in the period 1860-1880. The collection contains correspondence, a diary, account books, notebooks, speeches, business and legal papers, and miscellaneous printed matter and other material primarily relating to Pennsylvania and national politics, including his term as secretary of war, the Civil War, his role as minister to Russia and career in the Senate, and to Cameron's business enterprises. Included in an addition is an autograph album containing autographs of members of Congress, 1845-1847. Among the correspondents are his son, J. D. Cameron, Charles A. Dana, Ulysses S. Grant, and Abraham Lincoln.

Arrangement of the Papers

This collection is arranged in five series:

- [General Correspondence, 1738-1889](#)
- [Subject File, 1830-1889](#)
- [Miscellany, circa 1845-circa 1900](#)
- [Addition, 1830-1871](#)
- [Oversize, 1861-1883](#)

Description of Series

<i>Container</i>	<i>Series</i>
BOX 1-18 REEL 1-17	<u>General Correspondence, 1738-1889</u> Mostly letters received, with some letters sent. Arranged chronologically.
BOX 19-24 REEL 17-21	<u>Subject File, 1830-1889</u> Speeches, congressional bills, memoranda, resolutions, petitions, maps, a journal, accounts books, bills, receipts, miscellaneous printed matter, and correspondence. Arranged by type of material.
BOX 25-27 REEL 22	<u>Miscellany, circa 1845-circa 1900</u> Printed matter, clippings and newspapers, envelopes, and ephemera. Arranged by type of material.
BOX 28 not filmed	<u>Addition, 1830-1871</u> Correspondence.
BOX OV 1 REEL 22	<u>Oversize, 1861-1883</u> Commissions and passports.

Container List

Available on microfilm. Shelf no. 13,930

<i>Container</i>	<i>Contents</i>
BOX 1-18 REEL 1-17	General Correspondence, 1738-1889 Mostly letters received, with some letters sent. Arranged chronologically.
BOX 1 REEL 1	1738-1831 (10 folders)
BOX 2 REEL 1	1832-1853, Apr. (20 folders)
BOX 3 REEL 2	1853, May-1854, Dec. (20 folders)
BOX 4 REEL 3	1855-1857, May (20 folders)
BOX 5 REEL 4	1857, June-1859, Feb. (21 folders)
BOX 6 REEL 5	1859, Mar.-1860, Dec. (22 folders)
BOX 7-8 REEL 6-7	1861 Jan.-June
BOX 7 REEL 6	 (11 folders)
BOX 8 REEL 7	July-Sept. (9 folders)
BOX 9 REEL 8	1861, Oct.-1862, Jan. (14 folders)
BOX 10 REEL 9	1862, Feb.-1863, Mar. (16 folders)
BOX 11 REEL 10	1863, Spr.-1865, Jan. (21 folders)
BOX 12 REEL 11	1865, Feb.-1868, Dec. (19 folders)
BOX 13	1869, Jan.-1872, Dec.

General Correspondence, 1738-1889

Container

Contents

REEL 12	(17 folders)
BOX 14 REEL 13	1873, Jan.-1877, Dec.
BOX 15 REEL 14	(14 folders) 1878, Jan.-1881, Dec.
BOX 16 REEL 15	(17 folders) 1882, Jan.-1884, July
BOX 17 REEL 16	(17 folders) 1884, Aug.-1888, Feb.
BOX 18 REEL 17	(18 folders) 1888, Mar.-1889, Dec., undated
BOX 19-24 REEL 17-21	(11 folders) Subject File, 1830-1889 Speeches, congressional bills, memoranda, resolutions, petitions, maps, a journal, accounts books, bills, receipts, miscellaneous printed matter, and correspondence. Arranged by type of material.
BOX 19 REEL 17	Speeches, congressional bills, memoranda, and resolutions (23 folders)
BOX 20 REEL 18	Printed matter, petitions, and maps (15 folders)
BOX 21 REEL 18	Printed matter (7 folders)
BOX 22 REEL 18	Printed matter, journal, and miscellany (13 folders)
BOX 23 REEL 19	Account books, bills, and receipts, 1832-1875 (14 folders)
BOX 24 REEL 20-21	Bills and receipts, 1876-1889, undated (13 folders)
BOX 24 REEL 21	Additional correspondence, 1830-1888, undated
BOX 25-27 REEL 22	Miscellany, circa 1845-circa 1900 Printed matter, clippings and newspapers, envelopes, and ephemera. Arranged by type of material.

Miscellany, circa 1845-circa 1900

Container

Contents

BOX 25-27 REEL 22	Miscellany and ephemera <i><u>See also Oversize</u></i>
BOX 25 REEL 22	Clippings, newspapers, and envelopes (10 folders)
BOX 26 REEL 22	Envelopes
BOX 27 REEL 22	Clippings and newspapers (9 folders)
BOX 28 not filmed	Addition, 1830-1871 Correspondence.
BOX 28 not filmed	Correspondence, 1830, 1871
BOX 28 not filmed	Autograph album, 1845-1847
BOX OV 1 REEL 22	Oversize, 1861-1883 Commissions and passports.
BOX OV 1 REEL 22	Miscellany and ephemera
BOX OV 1 REEL 22	Commissions and passports, 1861-1883 (Container 22)