

# John M. Clayton Papers

A Finding Aid to the Collection in the  
Library of Congress

Prepared by Patrick Kerwin



Manuscript Division, Library of  
Congress

Washington, D.C.

2001

Contact information: <http://lcweb.loc.gov/rr/mss/address.html>

Finding aid encoded by Glenn R.  
Gardner, 2009

Finding aid URL: <http://hdl.loc.gov/loc/mss/eadmss.ms009168>

# Collection Summary

Title: John M. Clayton Papers

Span Dates: 1798-1868

Bulk Dates: (bulk 1819-1850)

Creator: Clayton, John M. (John Middleton), 1796-1856

Extent: 1,300 items; 13 containers; 2.4 linear feet

Language: Collection material in English

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

Abstract: Farmer, lawyer, and statesman. Correspondence, legal papers, memoirs including a memoir of Clayton by Robert Montgomery Bird, and newspaper clippings pertaining chiefly to Clayton's service as United States secretary of state (1849-1850).

## 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.

### Personal Names

Bayard, James A. (James Asheton), 1799-1880--Correspondence.

Benton, Thomas Hart, 1782-1858--Correspondence.

Bird, Robert Montgomery, 1806-1854--Correspondence.

Clay, Henry, 1777-1852--Correspondence.

Clayton, John M. (John Middleton), 1796-1856.

Crittenden, John J. (John Jordan), 1787-1863--Correspondence.

Davis, Charles Augustus, 1795-1867--Correspondence.

Du Pont family--Correspondence.

Fillmore, Millard, 1800-1874--Correspondence.

Harrington, Samuel M. (Samuel Maxwell), 1803-1865--Correspondence.

Johnson, Reverdy, 1796-1876--Correspondence.

Lawrence, Abbott, 1792-1855--Correspondence.

Mangum, Willie Person, 1792-1861--Correspondence.

McMichael, Morton, 1807-1879--Correspondence.

Rives, William C. (William Cabell), 1793-1868--Correspondence.

Seward, William Henry, 1801-1872--Correspondence.

Squier, E. G. (Ephraim George), 1821-1888--Correspondence.

Taylor, Zachary, 1784-1850--Correspondence.

Webb, J. Watson (James Watson), 1802-1884--Correspondence.

Webster, Daniel, 1782-1852--Correspondence.

Whittlesey, Elisha, 1783-1863--Correspondence.

Winthrop, Robert C. (Robert Charles), 1809-1894--Correspondence.

### Organizations

Great Britain. Treaties, etc. United States, 1850 Apr. 19.

United States. Dept. of State.

Whig Party (U.S.)

### Locations

Delaware--Boundaries--New Jersey.

Great Britain--Foreign relations--United States.

New Jersey--Boundaries--Delaware.

Pea Patch Island (Del.)--History.

United States--Foreign relations--Great Britain.

United States--Politics and government--1849-1853.

Occupations  
Cabinet officers.  
Farmers.  
Lawyers.  
Statesmen.

## Administrative Information

### Provenance:

The papers of John M. Clayton, farmer, lawyer, and statesman, were purchased by the Library of Congress in 1904. Additional purchases were made in 1906-1918 and 1990.

### Copyright Status:

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

### Access and Restrictions:

The papers of John M. Clayton 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.

### Preferred Citation:

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: Container number, John M. Clayton Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

## Biographical Note

<i>Date</i>	<i>Event</i>
1796	Born, Sussex County, Del.
1815	Graduate, Yale University, New Haven, Conn.
1819	Admitted to the bar
1822	Married Sarah Ann Fisher
1829-1836	United States senator
1837-1839	Chief justice of Delaware
1845-1849	United States senator
1849-1850	Secretary of state
1850	Signed Clayton-Bulwer Treaty
1853-1856	United States senator
1856, Nov. 9	Died, Dover, Del.

## Scope and Content Note

The papers of John Middleton Clayton (1796-1856) span the years 1798-1868, with the bulk of the items concentrated in the period 1819-1850. The collection consists mainly of correspondence, legal papers, memoirs of Clayton by Robert Montgomery Bird, and newspaper clippings pertaining chiefly to Clayton's service as secretary of state, 1849-1850.

Topics include negotiations for the Clayton-Bulwer Treaty, 1850, and Whig politics. A group of earlier papers relates to the Pea Patch Island controversy, 1819-1847, between Delaware and New Jersey. The main correspondents are Henry Clay and John J. Crittenden. Other correspondents include James A. Bayard, Thomas Hart Benton, Robert Montgomery Bird, Henry Lytton Bulwer, Charles Augustus Davis, members of the Du Pont family, Millard Fillmore, Samuel M. Harrington, Reverdy Johnson, Abbott Lawrence, Willie Person Mangum, Morton McMichael, William C. Rives, William Henry Seward, E. G. Squier, Zachary Taylor, J. Watson Webb, Daniel Webster, Elisha Whittlesey, and Robert C. Winthrop.

## Arrangement of the Papers

This collection is arranged alphabetically by type of material and therein chronologically.

# Container List

<i>Container</i>	<i>Contents</i>
BOX 1	Bound vols.
BOX 1	Correspondence
BOX 1	1798, June 22-1848, Jan. 21
BOX 2	1848, Jan. 24-1849, Jan. 14
BOX 3	1849
BOX 3	Jan. 15-Mar. 29
BOX 4	Mar. 30-May 11
BOX 5	May 12-Aug. 14
BOX 6	Aug. 15-Oct. 20
BOX 7	Oct. 21-Dec. 31
BOX 8	1850
BOX 8	Jan. 1-Apr. 9
BOX 9	Apr. 10-Dec. 23, undated
BOX 10	1851, Jan. 1-1853, Aug. 1
BOX 11	1853, Sept. 4-1856, May 30
BOX 12	1856, June 10-1868, Nov. 13, undated
BOX 12	Pea Patch Island papers, 1819-1847
BOX 12	Memoirs of Clayton by Robert M. Bird, undated
BOX 13	Unbound material
BOX 13	Correspondence, 1838
BOX 13	Newspaper clippings, 1847-1856