

James William Denver Papers

A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress

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Manuscript Division, Library of
Congress

Washington, D.C.

2000

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

Finding aid encoded by Glenn R.
Gardner, 2009

Finding aid URL: <http://hdl.loc.gov/loc/mss/eadmss.ms009227>

Collection Summary

Title: James William Denver Papers

Span Dates: 1868-1884

Creator: Denver, James William, 1817-1892

Extent: 1500 items; 5 volumes; 1 linear foot

Language: Collection material in English

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

Abstract: Lawyer, army officer, United States representative from California, United States commissioner of Indian affairs, and governor of Kansas. Letterpress books containing correspondence relating to Denver's law practice in Washington, D.C., which was concerned with Choctaw Indian claims and land disputes in California and elsewhere in the West, and to his campaign for the Democratic presidential nomination, 1884.

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

Denver, James William, 1817-1892.

Knut, Sargeant Prentiss, 1855-1939--Correspondence.

Organizations

Democratic Party (U.S.)

Subjects

Choctaw Indians--Claims.

Land tenure--California.

Land tenure--West (U.S.)

Practice of law--Washington (D.C.)

Presidential candidates--United States.

Presidents--United States--Election--1884.

Places

United States--Politics and government--1865-1900.

Occupations

Army officers.

Governors--Kansas.

Lawyers.

Public officials.

Representatives, U.S. Congress--California.

Administrative Information

Provenance

The papers of James William Denver were acquired by the Library of Congress in 1954 via an exchange of items with Paul H. North, Jr., book dealer.

Transfers

A photostatic copy of a letter from James Buchanan to Denver, 27 March 1858, was once part of these papers but was later transferred to the Buchanan Papers.

Related Material

Related collections of James William Denver papers may also be found in the California State Library, the Colorado Historical Society, and the Western History Collections of the University of Oklahoma Libraries.

Copyright Status

The status of copyright in the unpublished writings of James William Denver is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.).

Access and Restrictions

The papers of James William Denver 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, James William Denver Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Biographical Note

<i>Date</i>	<i>Event</i>
1817, Oct. 23	Born, Winchester, Va.
1830	Moved to Ohio
1841	Moved to Missouri in search of surveying work Taught school
1844	Graduated from Cincinnati Law School, Cincinnati, Ohio Practiced law, Xenia, Ohio Published <i>The Thomas Jefferson</i> , Xenia, Ohio
1845	Moved to Platte City, Mo., to practice law
1847	Captain, Twelfth Regiment, United States Infantry, during war with Mexico
1848	Resumed law practice in Platte City, Mo. Purchased and edited <i>Platte Argus</i>
1850	Moved to Sacramento, Calif.
1852	Appointed secretary of state for California Duelled and killed Edward Gilbert, editor, <i>Daily Alta California</i>
1852-1853	Served in California state senate
1855-1857	United States representative from California
1857	United States Commissioner of Indian Affairs Appointed secretary of the Territory of Kansas

1858	Appointed governor of the Territory of Kansas
1858	Reappointed United States Commissioner of Indian Affairs
1859	Returned to California Unsuccessful candidate for United States Senate
1861-1863	General, United States Army
1876	Delegate and presidential nominee, Democratic National Convention
1880	Delegate, Democratic National Convention
1884	Delegate and presidential nominee, Democratic National Convention
1892, Aug. 9	Died, Washington, D.C.

Scope and Content Note

The papers of James William Denver (1817-1892) span the years 1868-1884 and consist of letterpress books containing correspondence relating to Denver's law practice in Washington, D.C. Denver and his law firm were concerned with Choctaw Indian claims and land disputes in California and elsewhere in the West. His papers also document his campaign for the Democratic presidential nomination in 1884. Four volumes contain Denver's correspondence; the fifth contains the correspondence of Sargeant Prentiss Nutt of Denver's law firm.

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	Letterpress books
BOX 1	Denver, James William
BOX 1	Mar. 2, 1868-Mar. 8, 1871
BOX 2	Mar. 12, 1871-Dec. 4, 1873
BOX 3	Feb. 25, 1873-Feb. 14, 1875
BOX 4	Jan. 14, 1875-Apr. 22, 1883
BOX 5	Nutt, Sargeant Prentiss
BOX 5	Mar. 24-June 28, 1884