

**John James Beckley Family Papers**  
**A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress**



**Manuscript Division, Library of Congress**  
**Washington, D.C.**  
**2009**

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

Catalog Record: <https://lcn.loc.gov/mm89078596>

Additional search options available at: <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms009183>

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Revised 2010 April

## Collection Summary

**Title:** John James Beckley Family Papers

**Span Dates:** 1789-1918

**ID No.:** MSS78596

**Creator:** Beckley, John James, 1757-1807

**Extent:** 205 items

**Extent:** 3 containers

**Extent:** 1.2 linear feet

**Language:** Collection material in English

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

**LC Catalog record:** <https://lccn.loc.gov/mm89078596>

**Summary:** Librarian of Congress and clerk of the United States House of Representatives. Correspondence, memorandum books, autobiography, scrapbook, newspaper clipping, and other papers relating to John James Beckley and his son Alfred Beckley.

## Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the LC Catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically.

### People

Beckley family.

Beckley, Alfred, 1802-1888. Alfred Beckley papers.

Beckley, John James, 1757-1807.

### Organizations

Library of Congress--Officials and employees.

Library of Congress.

United States. Army--Officers.

United States. Congress. House.

### Places

United States--Politics and government--1783-1865.

### Occupations

Clerks, U.S. House of Representatives.

Librarians of Congress.

## Provenance

The family papers of John James Beckley, Librarian of Congress and clerk of the United States House of Representatives, were given to the Library of Congress by his great-great-great grandson, Paxton Davis, in 1989. An addition to the papers was given to the Library in 1996 by Anne Rigby.

## Processing History

The family papers of John James Beckley were arranged and described in 1994. The collection was expanded and revised in 1997. The finding aid was revised in 2009.

## Additional Guides

The family papers of John James Beckley have been described in *Library of Congress Acquisitions: Manuscript Division*, 1989, pp. 10-13.

## Copyright Status

The status of copyright in the unpublished writings of the family papers of John James Beckley is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.).

## Access and Restrictions

The family papers of John James Beckley 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 James Beckley Family Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

## Scope and Content Note

The family papers of John James Beckley (1757-1807) span the years 1789-1918 and consist of papers of John James Beckley and his son Alfred Beckley. The material in John James Beckley's papers dates from 1789 to 1829 and that of his son from 1829 to 1918. John James Beckley was the first clerk of the House of Representatives and the first Librarian of Congress. His papers include a memorandum book containing notes on events in the House of Representatives with commentaries on the development of parliamentary procedures in the House. His correspondence discusses political issues and personal financial activities, in particular his extensive land speculation. The addition contains books signed by Beckley that were part of his library.

Alfred Beckley moved to Fayette County, Virginia (now Raleigh County, West Virginia), in 1837 with his wife Amelia Craig. His papers include family correspondence, memorandum books and journals, an autobiography, scrapbook, and a newspaper clipping relating his Civil War reminiscences.

## Arrangement of the Papers

This collection is arranged alphabetically by name of person.

# Container List

Container	Contents
BOX 1	Beckley, Alfred
BOX 1	Autobiography, 1886 (3 folders)
BOX 1	Craig, Amelia, correspondence, 1829-1849, undated (4 folders)
BOX 1	Cullum, George W., <i>Register of the Officers and Graduates of the U. S. Military Academy at West Point, N. Y., from March 16, 1802 to January 1, 1850</i>
BOX 1	Memorandum and account books
BOX 1	Volume 1, 1845-1869, 1876-1881
BOX 1	Volume 2, 1856-1865, 1918
BOX 1	Miscellaneous papers, 1823, 1836-1840, undated (2 folders)
BOX 2	Scrapbook, 1877-1887, 1912, undated
BOX 2	Beckley, John James
BOX 2	Letters, 1791-1799, 1804-1807, 1829, undated
BOX 2	Volume of memoranda and correspondence, 1791-1792, 1797-1799, undated
BOX 3	Addition
BOX 3	Beckley, Alfred, newspaper clipping, circa 1887
BOX 3	Beckley, John James, books from his library
BOX 3	<i>Debates and other proceedings of the Convention of Virginia</i> , 1789
BOX 3	<i>Journal of the House of Representatives of the United States, at the first session of the Fourth Congress</i> , 1795
BOX 3	<i>Official letters to the honorable American Congress, written, during the war between the United States and Great Britain, by his excellency, George Washington, Commander in Chief of the continental forces, now President of the United States</i> , 1795 (2 vols.)