

**The New York Public Library  
Humanities and Social Sciences Library  
Manuscripts and Archives Division**

**James Madison Papers  
1781-1839**

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## Summary

- Main entry:** Madison, James, 1749-1812
- Title:** James Madison Papers, 1781-1839
- Size:** 2 linear feet (5 boxes)
- Source:** Formerly part of the Ford Collection. Gift of J.P. Morgan, 1899.
- Abstract:** The Madison papers, 1781-1839, consist of correspondence, documents and the notes of the Federal Convention of 1787. The general correspondence, 1773-1839, contains incoming and outgoing letters to James Madison regarding the American Revolution, intelligence reports, political events, slavery, domestic and family affairs. Correspondents include Ambrose Madison, Edward Pendleton and Madison's nephews. There are a few letters to Colonel James Madison, the father of James Madison. The anonymous letters, 1801-1820, are directed to Madison and are mainly hate mail regarding Madison's political stands. Some of the letters are signed with pseudonyms. Incoming letters (1809-1841) to Dolley Payne Madison are mainly of a domestic and social nature. There is also a poem by her dated 1847.
- Access:** Apply in the Special Collections Office for admission to the Manuscripts and Archives Division.
- Preferred citation:** James Madison Papers, Manuscripts and Archives Division, The New York Public Library.

## Biographical note

James Madison, 1750-1836, fourth president of the United States, was born in Conway, Virginia, the eldest of ten children. Madison graduated from the College of New Jersey (Princeton) with a B.A. in 1771, served in Congress intermittently between 1780-1797, and was a delegate to the Annapolis Convention in 1786 and to the Philadelphia Convention in 1787. Madison favored a strong central government, a plan known in part as the "Virginia" or "Randolph Plan," at the Philadelphia Convention of 1787. Madison was the chief recorder of the proceedings from May 25 - Sept. 17, 1787. These proceedings were published as the "Journal of the Federal Convention" in 1840. Madison was one of the advocates for ratification of the Constitution, which was passed on June 25, 1788, by a vote of 89 to 79 against opposition from Patrick Henry, George Mason and other prominent figures. Madison represented Virginia in the expiring Congress and was elected to the House of Representatives. On Sept. 14, 1794, Madison married Dolley Payne Todd (1768-1849), a widow with two children. Dolley Madison was known as a Washington hostess for her excellent entertainment. When the British captured Washington and burned many of its buildings, Dolley Madison saved the Stuart portrait of George Washington and other important papers and treasures. In 1797, Madison retired from public life but returned to it when Thomas Jefferson was elected President. Jefferson chose Madison as his Secretary of State and his chief advisor. Madison was chosen as Jefferson's successor and he was inaugurated as President of the United States on March 4, 1809. After a colorful political career, Madison retired from the presidency on March 17, 1817. He died without issue at the age of 87 at his home, "Montpelier". Madison was survived by his wife Dolley Madison.

## **Arrangement note**

The James Madison Papers are organized in the following series:

Series I. Correspondence, 1781-1839, n.d.

Series II. Anonymous letters, 1801-1835, n.d.

Series III. Dolley Payne Madison

Series IV. Facsimiles, transcripts, and reproductions

Series VI. Notes of the Federal Convention, 1787

**Series descriptions and container list****Series I. Correspondence, 1781-1839, n.d.**

<u>Box</u>	<u>Fol</u>	
1	1	1773-1781
	2	1782
	3	1783-1785
	4	1786-1787
	5	1788
	6	1789
	7	1790
	8	1791
	9	1792-1793
	10	1794
	11	1795-1797
	12	1800-1801 May
	13	1801 Jun
	14	1801 Jul-Dec
	15	1802-1803
	16	1804-1805
	17	1806-1808
	18	1809
	19	1810
	20	1811
2	1	1812
	2	1813 Jan-Jun
	3	1813 Jul-Dec
	4	1814
	5	1815
	6	Contracts for building sections of the Cumberland Road, 1815 Sep 5-9 from Cumberland, Maryland to Brownsville, Pennsylvania under the Act of 1815 Feb 14
	7	1816
	8	1817
	9	1818
	10	1819-1820
	11	1821-1823
	12	1824-1826
	13	1827-1829
	14	1830-1833
	15	1834-1835
	16	1836-1839
	17	undated clipped autographs

**Series II. Anonymous letters, 1801-1835, n.d.**

<u>Box</u>	<u>Fol</u>	
2	18	Charles Hall (pseud.), 1811-1812
	19	Edmond Kelly (pseud.), 1817-1819
	20	Edmond Kelly (pseud.), 1820
3	1	1801
	2-4	1808
	5	1809
	6	1811 Apr 25
	7	1811 Jul, Sep

X-6		1811 Dec. 10 Letter from Paris exposing Aaron Burr's plan for the conquest of the United States by France and Great Britain.
3	8	1812
	9	1813
	10	1814-1815
4	1	1817
	2	1820
	3	1821
	4	1829-1835
	5-7	undated

### **Series III. Dolley Payne Madison**

<u>Box</u>	<u>Fol</u>	
4	8	1809
	9	1811-1816
	10	1834-1847

### **Series IV. Facsimiles, transcripts, and reproductions**

<u>Box</u>	<u>Fol</u>	
4	11	Bancroft transcripts handwritten transcripts of letters from Ed. Carrington to James Madison from originals in the Department of State
	12	Facsimiles and reproductions

### **Series VI. Notes of the Federal Convention, 1787**

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