

A Guide to the James Madison Memorabilia, 1796-1951 SC 0119

James Madison Memorabilia
1796-1951



Title Statement

A Guide to the James Madison Memorabilia, 1796-1951 SC 0119

Author: Chris Bolgiano

Publication Statement

Publisher: James Madison University Libraries Special Collections

880 Madison Drive
MSC 1704
Harrisonburg, Virginia 22807
Telephone: (540) 568-3612
library-special@jmu.edu
URL: <https://www.lib.jmu.edu/special/>



April 1983, February 1984, July 2008, October 2010

Profile Description

Creation: This finding aid was produced using ArchivesSpace on 2023-08-07 13:34:12 -0400.

Language Usage: Description is written in: English, Latin script.

Descriptive Rules: Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Revision Description

Feb 19, 2004	PUBLIC "-//James Madison University::Carrier Library::Special Collections//TEXT (US::ViHarT::vihart00023::The James Madison Memorabilia)//EN" "vihart00023.xml" converted from EAD 1.0 to 2002 by v1to02.xsl (sy2003-10-15).
Feb 25, 2004	converted to conform to eadVIVA.dtd by vivastrict.xsl
2013-11-21	Converted to schema conforming EAD by dtd2schema.vh.xsl.
February 1994	Revised
Updated	July 2008
October 2010	Revised
2017	Collection renumbered.

Descriptive Summary

Unit ID

SC 0119

Unit Date

1796-1951

Language

English .

Abstract

James Madison Memorabilia, 1796-1951, contains correspondence, official documents, engravings, photographs, and artifacts related to James Madison, the Madison family, and descendents.

Extent

1.77 cubic feet 3 boxes

Repository

James Madison University Libraries Special Collections

Administrative Information

Access Restrictions

Collection is open for research. Researchers must register and agree to copyright and privacy laws before using this collection. Please contact Research Services staff before visiting the James Madison University Special Collections Library to use this collection.

Use Restrictions

The copyright interests in this collection have been transferred to the James Madison University Special Collection Library. For more information, contact the Special Collections Library Reference Desk (library-special@jmu.edu).

Acquisition Information

This collection was created in 1983 from miscellaneous items housed in library storage when Special Collections was first developed and initiated in 1982.

Processing Information

In 1983, the items were boxed together as a collection and moved to Special Collections. In 1994, the collection was re-boxed and reorganized to be consistent with the standards developed for manuscript collections. In July 2008, the preservationist removed images from frames to prevent further acidic damage. Frames were retained and moved to storage until April 2023 when they were discarded. A photograph found behind the previously framed Montpelier photo was removed and added to Folder Six, Photographs Donated by Corrie B. Macon Hill. In October 2010, the finding aid was updated into a new formatting template and some folder names were changed for greater clarity of contents and organization. The collection itself was not reorganized. In August 2011, two albumen prints were discovered in a storage room in Carrier Library along with a gift acknowledgement letter dated 21 May 1970 from President G. Tyler Miller to Mrs. R. Harris Kesler indicating that the pictures would be added to the Madison Memorial Library's Madison Collection.

In order to streamline the process of applying collection numbers, Special Collections staff completed a large-scale renumbering campaign in the spring of 2017. **This collection was previously cataloged as SC 2099.**

Preferred Citation

[identification of item], [box #, folder #], James Madison Memorabilia, 1796-1951, SC 0119, Special Collections, Carrier Library, James Madison University, Harrisonburg, Va.

Scope and Content

James Madison Memorabilia, 1796-1951, contains correspondence, official documents, engravings, photographs, and artifacts related to James Madison, the Madison family, and descendents. It is arranged topically into five series and described at the item level.

Series 1, Miscellaneous Materials, 1795, 1938, 1951, consists of a letter written by J. Madison Sr., genealogical papers, and stamps bearing James Madison's likeness.

Series 2, Illustrative Materials, undated, consists of a postcard, photographs, and portrait reproductions of James and Dolley Madison, descendents, and Montpelier. Two nineteenth century albumen prints of paintings by P. Polk in Philadelphia in 1777, of James Madison's parents: Col. James Madison Sr. and Nelly Rose Conway.

Series 3, Documents Signed by James Madison, 1801-1815, includes several letters of commission signed by Madison, a check written by Madison, a letter of patent signed by Madison and Jefferson, and a document signed by James Madison and James Monroe.

Series 4, Newspaper Items, 1812-1821, is composed of two articles related to James Madison from 1812 and 1836.

Series 5, Artifacts, 1809, undated, includes several three-dimensional items related to James Madison, his family, and descendants.

Separated material:

In 2008, frames were removed from photographs and engravings and moved to storage.

Keywords

Presidents -- United States -- 19th century
Patents -- United States -- 19th century
Niles' weekly register
Realia
Steel engravings (visual works)
Genealogies (histories)
Letters (correspondence)
Signatures (names)
Newspapers
Madison, James, 1751-1836 -- Sources
Madison, James, 1751-1836 -- Autographs -- Sources
Madison, James, 1751-1836 -- Chronology
Madison, James, 1751-1836 -- Relics -- Sources
Jefferson, Thomas, 1743-1826 -- Sources
Jefferson, Thomas, 1743-1826 -- Autographs -- Sources
Madison family -- Sources
Gragg, Samuel S., 1772-1855 -- Sources
Macon, Thomas, 1765-1838 -- Sources
Macon, Sarah Catlett Madison, 1764-1843 -- Sources
Hill, Corrie B. M. -- Sources
Kean, Joseph -- Sources
McFarland, A. -- Sources

Provenance

Many of the items in this collection were donated to James Madison University, then called Madison College, in the 1930s and 1940s from a variety of sources. An undated, unsigned typescript inventory was found in storage with the items in 1982. This inventory, currently stored in the collection's control file, gives provenance information for some items, while handwritten tags accompanying some items and further research provided provenance for others. Provenance for individual items is given, when known, in the "Contents" list.

Arrangement

The collection is arranged topically into five series:

- Miscellaneous Materials, 1796, 1938, 1951
- Illustrative Materials, undated
- Documents Signed by Madison, 1801-1815
- Newspaper Items, 1812-1821
- Artifacts, 1809, undated

Description of Subordinate Components

Miscellaneous Materials

Unit ID 1

Unit Date 1796, 1938, 1951

Letter from James Madison Sr. to Thomas Macon

Unit Date 1796

Mixed Materials [1000886567] 1 (box)

Container 1 (folder)

Scope and Content

Letter given by Mrs. Annie James Yowell Jeffries, who obtained it from Corrie B. Macon Hill, James Madison's great-great neice.

Letter concerns a fire at the house of Montpelier overseer James Coleman on the night of January 2, 1796. Madison Sr. mentions losing a large quantity of spun wool that had not yet been woven into cloth due to Reuben having "been laid up with the Rheumatism, which has confined him from weaving for the last three months." Reuben was enslaved by James Madison Sr.

Keywords

Reuben

Madison Family Genealogy

Unit Date 1951

Mixed Materials [1000886567] 1 (box)

Container 2 (folder)

Scope and Content

Copies of John P. Madison's 35 page working genealogical papers, with a 1951 cover letter from Mildred Madison, who provided the copies.

James Madison Stamps

Unit Date 1938

Mixed Materials [1000886567] 1 (box)

Container 3 (folder)

Scope and Content

The Madison stamps were issued July 1, 1938. They are affixed to five envelopes addressed to S.P. Duke, Madison College President, and cancelled on or near the day of issue at five different post offices significant to the life of James Madison. They were presented to the school by Conrad T. Logan, professor of English at Madison College.

Illustrative Materials

Unit ID 2

Unit Date undated

Miscellaneous Images

Unit Date undated

Mixed Materials [1000886567] 1 (box)

Container 4 (folder)

Scope and Content

Postcard, Photographic and depicts a young girl and boy in early American dress. According to writing on the back, the dress worn by the girl once belonged to Sally Catlett Madison Macon, James Madison's sister. The postcard was donated by Corrie B. Macon Hill, descendent of Sally Catlett Macon and James Madison's great-great neice.

Two Photos of Corrie B. Macon Hill, These two 8x10 photographs are identical shots of C. Hill at her home in Culpepper, Virginia. One is black and white, the other is tinted. They were donated by the Madison College Alumnae Association of Culpepper in 1940.

Engravings from books

Unit Date undated

Mixed Materials [1000886567] 1 (box)

Container 5 (folder)

Scope and Content

Of James Madison, engraved by W.A. Wilmer; Of Dolley Madison, engraved by J. Prudhomme

Photographs Donated by Corrie B. Macon Hill

Unit Date undated

Mixed Materials [1000886567] 1 (box)

Container 6 (folder)

Scope and Content

Photograph of Montpelier, 10.5"x12.5" silver gelatin print of James Madison's home, Montpelier, before it was remodeled. Date unknown.

Photograph of unknown gentleman, An albumen photograph of an unknown gentleman from the mid to late nineteenth century, which was found behind the photo of Montpelier.

Engravings Purchased by the library

Unit Date undated

Mixed Materials [1000886567] 1 (box)

Container 7 (folder)

Scope and Content

Of James Madison, engraving from original by Chappel, Purchased for Madison College in 1940 from H.H. Diers of Washington , DC; Of James Madison, engraving by W.Wellstood from G. Stuart original, Purchased for Madison College in 1940 from H.H. Diers of Washington, DC; Of James Madison, etching by A. Rosenthal from G. Stuart original, Purchased for Madison College in 1940 from H.H. Diers of Washington, DC; Of Dolley Madison, engraving by J. Prudhomme from J. Woods original, Purchased for Madison College in 1940 from H.H. Diers of Washington, DC; Of James Madison, engraving by H.B.Hall from G. Stuart original, Purchased for Madison College in 1940 from H.H. Diers of Washington, DC

Albumen Prints

Unit Date 19th century

Mixed Materials [1000898372] OV 1 (box)

Container 4 (folder)

Scope and Content

These two albumen prints are of paintings by P. Polk of Philadelphia in 1777 of James Madison's parents: Col. James Madison Sr. and Nelly Rose Conway. Extensive genealogical information is written on the back of each; possibly in the hand of a Madison descendant.

Documents Signed by Madison

Unit ID 3

Unit Date 1801-1815

Correspondence, Commissions, Check

Unit Date 1801-1815

Mixed Materials [1000898372] OV 1 (box)

Container 1 (folder)

Scope and Content

Letter to F.H. Dillingham, 1801, Donated by Eleanor Bird Cook, 1935; Letter of Commission, Joseph Kean to second lieutenant, 1810; Letter from Robert Brent, 1810, Brent was the Paymaster for the U.S. Army at the time. Item was obtained from the estate of J.A. Sawhill; Check to "A.B. or bearer," 1813, Check written by James Madison for \$200. Obtained from the estate of J.A. Sawhill; Letter of Commission, Joseph Kean to captain, 1815; Letter of Commission, A. McFarland to third lieutenant, 1815, Donated by Kappa Delta Phi, August 1942

Patent

Unit Date 1808

Mixed Materials [1000898372] OV 1 (box)

Container 2 (folder)

Scope and Content

Patent is signed by James Madison and Thomas Jefferson. It was issued to Samuel Gragg for his chair design. Gragg's trade card is also affixed to the back. The patent was given to Madison College July 27, 1938 by Kappa Delta Pi.

Madison, Monroe signed document and images

Unit Date 1813 March 27

Mixed Materials [1000898372] OV 1 (box)

Container 3 (folder)

Newspaper Items

Unit ID 4

Unit Date 1812-1821

Liberty Hall 8, no 400 (July 21, 1812); National Intelligencer 37, no 5382 (Dec. 3, 1836)

Unit Date 1812 July 21

Unit Date 1836 December 3

Mixed Materials [1000898372] OV 1 (box)

Container 3 (folder)

Scope and Content

Liberty Hall 8, no 400 (July 21, 1812), Refers to an act approved by James Madison; *National Intelligencer* 37, no 5382 (Dec. 3, 1836), An eulogy written by John Q. Adams for James Madison

Niles' Weekly Register issues

Unit Date 1813-1821

Mixed Materials [1000886567] 1 (box)

Container 8 (folder)

Scope and Content

The Weekly Register no. 22 vol. IV (July 31, 1813), *Niles' Weekly Register* no. 15 vol. IX (December 9, 1815), *Niles' Weekly Register* no. 4 vol. XII (March 22, 1817), *Niles' Weekly Register* no. 5 vol. XII (March 28, 1817), *Niles' Weekly Register* no. 8 vol. VIII (April 21, 1821), *Niles' Weekly Register* no. 9 vol. VIII (April 28, 1821)

Artifacts

Unit ID 5

Unit Date 1809, undated

Mixed Materials [1000897721] OV 2 (box)

Spyglass

Unit Date undated

Scope and Content

Believed to have belonged to James Madison and may be the same spyglass referred to in several letters between Madison and Jefferson, who obtained a spyglass for Madison from abroad. Item was obtained for Madison College from descendents of James Madison.

Indian Peace Medal

Unit Date 1809

Scope and Content

A rare, silver medal presented by James Madison, in 1809, to an unknown Native American chief for his

A rare, silver medal presented by James Madison, in 1809, to an unknown Native American chief for his efforts towards peace. The medal was donated to Madison College by the Cotillion Club on May 4, 1938. The Cotillion Club acquired the medal from the previous owner, Charles H. Fisher, of Cleveland, OH, who in turn obtained the medal in Buffalo, NY from an unknown source.

Presidential Medal

Unit Date undated

Scope and Content

A bronze presidential medal, of unknown provenance, bearing an image of a bust of James Madison.

Pocket Knife

Unit Date undated

Scope and Content

A pearl-handled pocket knife said to have belonged to James Madison was gifted on December 8, 1939 by the Madison College Granddaughters Club, who purchased it from S.P. Hill, a descendent of Madison. The knife originally had 14 blades, most of which are broken or missing. An "M" has been scratched into each side of the handle.

Lancet

Unit Date undated

Scope and Content

Belonged to the Madison family and was obtained for the school through descendents of Madison.

Scales

Unit Date undated

Scope and Content

Scales date to the period after James Madison's death, but are believed to be connected with the Madison family. Provenance unknown.

Pistol

Unit Date undated

Scope and Content

Said to have belonged to James Madison. Research indicates that the pistol is actually an 1863 Remington New Model Army .44. It may have belonged to descendents of Madison during this period. It was originally loaned to the school by Robert E. Mattox, date unknown, who reported that his great-great grandfather received the pistol as a gift from the Madison family.

Saltcellar

Unit Date undated

Scope and Content

Believed to have belonged to Dolley Madison, the saltcellar is made of glass and roughly 5" high. Saltcellar was donated by Mrs. Rose MacDonald Skoggs, who obtained it from Corrie B. Macon Hill.