



David Rice Atchison Papers (C0071)

Collection Number: C0071

Collection Title: David Rice Atchison Papers

Dates: 1837-1953

Creator: Atchison, David Rice, 1807-1886

Abstract: Correspondence, miscellaneous papers and clippings and diaries of D.R. Atchison. Includes letters from A.E. Hannegan, C.F. Jackson, James H. Birch, Jeff Davis, Stephen W. Kearney, and J.W. Denver. Material on politics, particularly the slavery issue and Thomas Hart Benton, as well as personal and family correspondence. Diaries primarily contain daily accounts of weather and farming.

Collection Size: 0.4 cubic feet
(18 folders, 5 volumes on microfilm)

Language: Collection materials are in English.

Repository: The State Historical Society of Missouri

Restrictions on Access: Collection is open for research. This collection is available at [The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-Columbia](http://www.shsmo.org). If you would like more information, please contact us at columbia@shsmo.org. Collections may be viewed at any research center.

Restrictions on Use: The donor has given and assigned to the University all rights of copyright, which the donor has in the Materials and in such of the Donor's works as may be found among any collections of Materials received by the University from others.

Preferred Citation: [Specific item; box number; folder number] *David Rice Atchison Papers* (C0071); The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-Columbia [after first mention may be abbreviated to SHSMO-Columbia].

Donor Information: The papers were donated to the University of Missouri by Annie Atchison on May 12, 1954 (Accession No. CA3199).

Processed by: Processed by The State Historical Society of Missouri-Columbia staff, date unknown. Finding Aid revised by John C. Konzal, April 23, 2020

Historical Note:

David Rice Atchison was a lawyer, judge, and U.S. Senator from Missouri for two terms. He was particularly known for his pro-slavery stand against Benton and his active role in the Kansas-Nebraska controversy.

Arrangement:

The collection has been arranged into the following three series:

Correspondence,
Miscellaneous Material
Volumes

Scope and Content Note:

More complete descriptions of the series are in the container list.

Container List:

Correspondence Series

- f. 1-5 1844-1856. Personal letters; requests for political appointments; letters concerning the slavery issue, T.H. Benton, Kansas, Oregon, politics, military affairs; and a few miscellaneous letters. Correspondents include: S.W. Kearney, J.W. Denver, A.E. Hannegan, C.F. Jackson, William Walker, James M. Hughes, N. Lyon.
- f. 4 Letter from D.R. Atchison to Jeff Davis, September 24, 1854.
 Material on Benton, politics, and abolitionism.
- f. 6-15 1861-1944. Personal correspondence; letters from D.R. Atchison in Texas; correspondence concerning Missouri property and taxes; requests to speak and attend various functions; requests for political assistance; family correspondence. Covers material on the Civil War, politics, slavery, and Texas. Correspondents: J. Headly, W.R. Hall, John Hockaday, B.H. Brewster, Chas. P. Hyde, and J.L. Detchemendy.

Miscellaneous Material Series

- f. 16-19 1837-1953. Includes newspaper clippings concerning 1884 Democratic Platform; 1880 Census; whether Atchison was president for one day; election returns 1876 and 1912; articles about several books, and short biographies of Atchison.
- f. 16 Commission as captain in Kentucky Militia for Alexander Atchison, March 1, 1837 and will of D.R. Atchison, January 24, 1882.
- f. 17 Two speeches of Senator D.W. Voorheis of Indiana: "American Citizens imprisoned in Great Britain" and "Civil Service Reform," 1882.
- f. 18 "David R. Atchison" by T.C. Atchison, *Missouri Historical Review* article.

Volumes Series [Microfilm]

Volumes 1-4 are diaries of D.R. Atchison primarily containing daily accounts of weather, family, farming, and visits.

- v. 1 1856-1872: accounts for A.H. Atchison, and Building house; diary from Jan. 5, 1870-Dec. 31, 1870.
- v. 2 1861-1869: notes; diary from March 22, 1868-December 31, 1869.
- v. 3 1872-1875: diary Nov. 1872-Jan. 1875, summary at the end of each month beginning in 1873.
- v. 4 1875-1880: diary Jan. 1875-Dec. 1880, summary at the end of each month. Spring of 1875 describes grasshopper infestation; Sept. 10, 1875, visit with Jeff Davis and comments; July 4, 1876, reflections on U.S. Centennial; Nov. 1876, election; July 1877, railroad strike; news clipping from *Globe-Democrat*, Dec. 26, 1884, of interview with D.R. Atchison, contains reminiscences and anecdotes.
- v. 5 Dissertation on life of D.R. Atchison by Ida Isabel Roberts, University of Chicago, 1920.

Index Terms:

Index Term	folders	other
Abolitionists	4	
Agriculture, 1870s		roll 1, v. 1-4
Allen, Charles H.	2	
Allen, Madison		reel 1
Atchison, Alexander	16	roll 1, v. 1
Atchison, David Rice (1807-1886)	1-19	roll 1, v. 1-5
Atchison, Rebecca	5	roll 1, v. 1
Atchison, William		roll 1, v. 1

Index Term	folders	other
Benton Party, 1854	4	
Benton, Thomas Hart (1782-1858)	1,3-5	roll 1, v. 4
Birch, James H.	9,14,16	
Blacks	8	
Brewster, Benjamin Harris	11	
Brown, Aaron Venable	1	
Burnes, James N.	11	
Burnett, Peter Hardeman (1807-1895)	12	
Butler, A. P.	5	
Census--Missouri, 1880	17	
Civil War	6,12	
Clark, James	16	
Clark, John B.	4	
Clark, John Bullock (1802-1885)	4	
Clark, Robert		roll 1, v. 1
Corby, Eben	4	
Croghan, George	1	
Davis, Jefferson (1808-1889)	3,4	roll 1, v. 4
Democratic Party Platform, 1884	17	
Denver, J. W.	3	
Detchemendy, John C.	12	
Dodge, Henry (1782-1867)	1	
Election, 1876	16	
Election, 1912--Missouri, Clinton County	18	
Everett, Edward (1794-1865)	4	reel 1, v. 4
Felder, Alfred	5	
Felder, Samuel	5	
Finch, Atlas	71	
Frederick, Alfred	5	
Frederick, Frank	5	
Free Soil Party	4	
Gentry, William E.		reel 1, v. 1
Grant, Ulysses Simpson (1822-1885)	5, 7	reel 1, v. 1
Grasshoppers, 1875		reel 1, v. 4
Hamey, William S.	2	
Hannegan, E. A.	3	reel 1, v. 4
Hannibal and St. Joseph Railway	10	
Headly, James	6, 12	

Index Term	folders	other
Hough, Knob	6	
Hughes, James M.	4	
Hyde, Charles P.	12	
Jackson, Claiborne Fox (1806-1862)	4	
Jamison, D. F.	5	
Jesup, Th. S.	2	
Johnson, Richard M. (1781-1850)	1	
Kansas, 1856	4, 5	
Kearny, Stephen Watts (1794-1848)	1	
King, William R.	3	
LaSere, Emile (1802-1882)	3	
Linn, Elizabeth A. R.	1	
Lowry, John J.	4	
Lyon, Nathaniel (1818-1861)	5	
Magnun, Willie Person	4	
Mason, James M.	5	
McClelland, Robert	3	
McMichael, Thomas		reel 1, v. 1
Metcalfe, Thomas	2	
Middleton, R.		reel 1, vol. 1
Missouri Compromise	4	
Mitchell, Moses		vol. 1 reel 1
Napton, William Barclay (1808-1883)	9	
Pendergrast, John		reel 1, vol. 1
Peyton, Jesse E.	2	
Peyton, John	2	
Peyton, William		reel 1, vol. 1
Political parties		
Politics, Missouri	4, 5, 9, 11	
Reconstruction (1865-1876)	7	
Reeder, Andrew Horatio (1807-1864)	4	
Robertson, William		reel 1, vol. 1
Saussure, Wm. De	5	
Slavery	4, 5, 7, 12	reel 1, vol. 4
Snead, Thomas L. (1827-1890)	10	
Stout, Dave		reel 1, vol. 1
Turner, Winslow	7, 8	reel 1, vol. 1
U.S. Congress, Senate, 1843-1855		Vol. 4, Reel 1

Index Term	folders	other
Vest, George Graham (1830-1904)	1	
Voorhees, Don W.	17	
Walker, Robert J.	1	
Walker, William	4	
Weekly, John		reel 1, vol. 1
Whig Party, 1854	4	
Wilson, John	1	
Wright, Silas	1	
Younger Brothers	14	