

# **John A. J. Creswell Papers**

## **A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress**



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

**2002**

**Revised 2010 April**

Contact information:

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

Additional search options available at:

<http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms009109>

LC Online Catalog record:

<http://lcn.loc.gov/mm78017236>

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Revised by Sherralyn McCoy

## Collection Summary

**Title:** John A. J. Creswell Papers

**Span Dates:** 1819-1885

**Bulk Dates:** (bulk 1862-1885)

**ID No.:** MSS17236

**Creator:** Creswell, John A. J. (John Angel James), 1828-1891

**Extent:** 6,000 items ; 21 containers plus one oversize ; 8 linear feet

**Language:** Collection material in English

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

**Summary:** Lawyer, congressman, senator, and postmaster general. General correspondence, letterbooks, account books, and scrapbooks concerning Creswell's law practice and political career in Maryland, his duties as adjutant general of Maryland, the military draft during the Civil War, the Maryland Constitutional Convention of 1867, and American claims regarding the *Alabama*.

## 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

Carroll, Thomas King, 1793-1873--Correspondence.

Childs, George William, 1829-1894--Correspondence.

Creswell, John A. J. (John Angel James), 1828-1891.

Davis, Henry Winter, 1817-1865--Correspondence.

Duncan, Levi--Correspondence.

Grant, Ulysses S. (Ulysses Simpson), 1822-1885--Correspondence.

Hawley, Joseph R. (Joseph Roswell), 1826-1905--Correspondence.

Hicks, Thomas Holliday, 1798-1865--Correspondence.

Johnson, Reverdy, 1796-1876--Correspondence.

Morgan, Edwin D. (Edwin Denison), 1811-1883--Correspondence.

Reid, Whitelaw, 1837-1912--Correspondence.

Townsend, George Alfred, 1841-1914--Correspondence.

Washburne, E. B. (Elihu Benjamin), 1816-1887--Correspondence.

### Organizations

Alabama (Screw sloop)

Maryland. Adjutant General.

Maryland. Constitutional Convention (1867)

### Subjects

Alabama claims.

Constitutional conventions--Maryland.

Draft--United States.

Maryland--Politics and government.

Patronage, Political.

Practice of law--Maryland.

### Places

United States--History--Civil War, 1861-1865--Claims.

United States--History--Civil War, 1861-1865.

### Occupations

Cabinet officers.

Lawyers.

Representatives, U.S. Congress--Maryland.

Senators, U.S. Congress--Maryland.

## Administrative Information

### Provenance

The papers of John A. J. Creswell, lawyer, congressman, senator, and postmaster general, were purchased by the Library of Congress in 1926 and 1939.

### Processing History

The papers of John A. J. Creswell were processed in 1968. The finding aid was revised in 2002.

### Copyright Status

The status of copyright in the unpublished writings of John A. J. Creswell is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.).

### Access and Restrictions

The John A. J. Creswell Papers 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 A. J. Creswell Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

## Biographical Note

<i>Date</i>	<i>Event</i>
1828, Nov. 18	Born, Port Deposit, Md.
1848	Graduated, Dickinson College, Carlisle, Pa.
1850	Began law practice, Elkton, Md.
1856	Delegate to the Democratic national convention
1861	Member, Maryland House of Delegates Affiliated with the Republican party
1862-1863	Adjutant general of Maryland
1863-1865	Member, United States House of Representatives
1865-1867	Member, United States Senate
1869-1874	Postmaster general
1874-1876	Counsel, Alabama Claims Commission
1876	Resumed law practice
1891, Dec. 23	Died near Elkton, Md.

## Scope and Content Note

The papers of John Angel James Creswell (1828-1891) span the years 1819-1885, with the bulk of the material dated 1862-1885. A government official, supporter of Abraham Lincoln, and abolitionist, Creswell changed his name from John Andrew Jackson Creswell to John Angel James Creswell after being elected to the House of Representatives as a Republican in 1861 in order to disassociate himself from Democrat Andrew Jackson. His papers consist of general correspondence, letterbooks, account books, and scrapbooks.

The general correspondence, chiefly 1862-1865, consists mainly of bound volumes of letters to Creswell concerning his law practice, business, Maryland politics, patronage, his duties as adjutant general of Maryland, the military draft during the Civil War, and the Maryland Constitutional Convention of 1867. The letterbooks, 1882-1885, pertain to American interests presented to the United States Court of Commissioners of *Alabama* Claims.

Correspondents include Thomas King Carroll, George William Childs, Henry Winter Davis, Levi Duncan, Ulysses S. Grant, Joseph R. Hawley, Thomas Holliday Hicks, Reverdy Johnson, Edwin D. Morgan, Whitelaw Reid, George Alfred Townsend, and E. B. Washburne.

## Arrangement of the Papers

This collection is arranged alphabetically by type of material.

# Container List

<i>Container</i>	<i>Contents</i>
BOX 1	General correspondence
BOX 1	Bound
BOX 1	1819, Aug. 1-1862, June 23
BOX 2	1862, June 27-1863, Nov. 11
BOX 3	1863, Nov. 13-Dec. 12
BOX 4	1863, Dec. 17-1864, Jan. 23
BOX 5	1864
BOX 5	Jan. 24-Feb. 16
BOX 6	Feb. 17-Mar. 10
BOX 7	Mar. 11-Apr. 9
BOX 8	Apr. 11-May 25
BOX 9	May 26-Oct. 7
BOX 10	Oct. 9-Dec. 6
BOX 11	1864, Dec. 7-1865, Jan. 15
BOX 12	1865
BOX 12	Jan. 16-Feb. 27
BOX 13	Mar. 2-June 12
BOX 14	June 13-Aug. 5
BOX 15	Aug. 7-Oct. 6
BOX 16	Oct. 7-Dec. 13
BOX 17	1865, Dec. 14-1887, Aug. 22, undated
BOX 18	Unbound, 1869-1874, 1880-1884
BOX 18	Letterbooks, <i>Alabama</i> claims
BOX 18	1882, Aug. 31-1883, July 2 (3 vols.)
BOX 19	1883, July 2-1885, Feb. 25 (4 vols.)
BOX 20	1885, Feb. 25-Nov. 25 (4 vols.)
BOX 21	Miscellany
BOX 21	Account books, 1848-1869, 1884 (2 vols.)
BOX 21	Notebook, 1884-1885
BOX 21	Scrapbooks, 1872-1885 (2 folders) ; <i>See Oversize</i>
BOX OV 1	Oversize
BOX OV 1	Scrapbooks (Container 21)
BOX OV 1	1872-1882
BOX OV 1	1882-1885