

C Atchison, David Rice (1807-1886), Papers, 1837-1953
71 .4 linear feet, 5 volumes

MICROFILM (Volumes only)

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INTRODUCTION

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.

DONOR INFORMATION

The papers were placed on deposit with the University of Missouri by Annie Atchison on 12 May 1954 (Accession No. 3199).

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

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.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The papers have been arranged into three series: **Correspondence**, **Miscellaneous Material**, and **Volumes**.

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

FOLDER 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

Volumes Series (con'd)

- 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.

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