INDEX TO THE
Zachary Taylor Papers

MANUSCRIPT DIVISION • REFERENCE DEPARTMENT
LIBRARY OF CONGRESS
WASHINGTON : 1960
Preface

THE INDEX to the Zachary Taylor Papers is a direct result of the wish of the Congress and the President, as expressed by Public Law 85–147 of August 16, 1957, to arrange, microfilm, and index the papers of the 23 Presidents whose manuscripts are in the Library of Congress in order “to preserve their contents against destruction by war or other calamity,” to make the Taylor and other Presidential Papers more “readily available for study and research,” and to inspire informed patriotism. An appropriation to carry out the provisions of the law was approved on July 31, 1958, and actual operations began on August 25. The microfilm of the Taylor Papers became available in the spring of 1959.

The microfilm of the Taylor Papers and this index are the first film and index to be issued in this series. Positive copies of the film may be purchased from the Chief, Photoduplication Service, Library of Congress, Washington 25, D.C. A positive print is available for interlibrary loan through Chief, Loan Division, Library of Congress.

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Index to the Zachary Taylor Papers

Provenance

PRESIDENT Zachary Taylor's personal papers were largely destroyed or dispersed in 1862 when "Fashion," the plantation of his son Richard in St. Charles Parish, Louisiana, was confiscated by the United States Army. A sensitive Union soldier from Vermont who was there described the devastation dealt the property of Richard Taylor, then a major general in the service of the Confederate Army.1

"It is one of the most splendid plantations that I ever saw. There are on it 700 acres of sugar-cane, which must rot upon the ground if the Government does not harvest it. I wish you could have seen the soldiers plunder this plantation. After the stock was driven off, the boys began by ordering the slaves to bring out everything there was to eat and drink. They brought away a large camp-kettle and frying pans that belonged to old General Taylor, and many of his private papers. I have one letter of his own handwriting, and many from Secretary Marcy—some from General Scott, and some from the traitor Floyd. . . . The camp-kettle and pans I intend to send home. . . . I think I will send home the private papers by mail, if I do not let any one have them. The camp is loaded down with plunder—all kinds of clothing, rings, watches, guns, pistols, swords, and some of General Taylor's old hats and coats, belt swords—and, in fact, every old relic he had is worn about the camp."

In this fashion the trophies and artifacts as well as the manuscripts representing President Taylor's long and honorable career were destroyed and scattered. Richard Taylor had purchased "Fashion" in 1851. His mother, the President's widow, "came to Fashion Plantation to live with my Father of course bringing with her her husband's papers, belongings—trophies of the Mexican War etc." Richard Taylor's daughter wrote many years later, "... the Yankees burned the sugar house—dwelling house and contents—and I cannot imagine how the few things we have were ever rescued...."

The Library of Congress began to build its collection of Presidential papers early in the 20th century. By 1909, when Gaillard Hunt became Chief of the Manuscript Division, the George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, James Madison, James Monroe, Andrew Jackson, Martin Van Buren, James K. Polk, Franklin Pierce, and Andrew Johnson Papers had been garnered. Mr. Hunt addressed himself to the task of acquiring for the Library the Zachary Taylor Papers. Well he might, for he was born in New Orleans, and his father, William H. Hunt, had been prominent there before his appointments as Secretary of the Navy and Minister to Russia. He was unaware of the soldier's letter which had been printed in De Bow's Review for he wrote to Betty Taylor Bliss Dandridge, the President's daughter. She replied to Mr. Hunt's inquiry saying, "All his papers, both public and private, were stored at my brother General Richard Taylor's Plantation, near New Orleans, and were destroyed when the house was sacked and burned [in 1862] by the Federal troops during the War." Mr. Hunt's efforts seemed completely frustrated at this point. He wrote to friends and knowledgeable persons in Louisiana whose antecedents might have received letters from President Taylor. These efforts met no success.

Captain John R. M. Taylor had given some items in 1906 and a few other manuscripts had been purchased at intervals, beginning in 1904. These manuscripts were so small in number that they could be bound in a single volume in 1919. This was the Taylor collection for many years. To it, in 1922, Betty Taylor (Mrs. Walter R.) Stauffer, daughter of Richard Taylor, added two items as a gift and eleven others as a deposit.

In 1944 the Library purchased 64 letters written by Zachary Taylor to Thomas S. Jesup and eight related items which were incorporated in the papers. These items, while dated 1818–1840, relate largely to the Seminole Indian campaign in 1837 and 1838.

The Stauffer family of New Orleans was approached

1 Vermont Watchman and State Journal, September 26, 1862, vol. 56, no. 47; also quoted in De Bow's Review, new series, II (November, 1866), 538.
2 Betty Taylor Stauffer to Gaillard Hunt, June 30, 1922, copy in Manuscript Division files.
by the Library of Congress in 1952 about converting
the deposit made by Mrs. Stauffer to a gift. In a
most public-spirited gesture, the family not only agreed
but added nearly 500 documents of and relating to
the President and to Richard Taylor, their great-
grandfather and grandfather, respectively. These
documents added significantly to the information
available about the President's administration, to the
management of his plantations, to the settling of the
President's estate, and to Richard Taylor's planta-
tion.

Several other small, but welcome, additions have
completed the papers as they now exist. The number
of items in the Taylor Papers is 631. The whole col-
collection is now in two manuscript boxes and a large
memorial volume.

The Library began in 1940 to formulate plans which
would ensure the safety of its unique and particularly
prized materials. Following the attack on Pearl
Harbor, December 7, 1941, and the declaration of
war on the United States by Germany a few days
later, Archibald MacLeish, then Librarian, directed
the evacuation of the specially selected materials
according to plan.

The Taylor Papers, as then constituted, with other
materials, were evacuated from the Library on
December 29, 1941, under the supervision of Alvin W.
Kremer, Keeper of the Collections, to the Alderman
Library of the University of Virginia at Charlot-
tsville. On August 14, 1944, they were returned to the
Library of Congress Annex. No item was lost or
damaged in the vast evacuation program. The evacua-
tion proved unnecessary but demonstrated that
the Library of Congress in 1941 was prepared for
eventualities as it had not been prepared in 1814.6

Since 1944 the Taylor Papers have remained in the
Manuscript Division of the Library of Congress, where
they may be consulted under the usual conditions
which govern the use of manuscripts. Original
Taylor materials or copies of them continue to come
to the Manuscript Division. Those which are re-
ceived without restriction after the completion of this
film will eventually be microfilmed and indexed as a
supplement to the entire microfilm reproduction of
the Library's Presidential collections.

Inasmuch as the bulk of President Taylor's papers
were destroyed, searchers may wish to examine the
personal papers of his contemporaries in the Library
of Congress and elsewhere for information about him
and his time. The personal papers and sets of records
which follow are in the Library of Congress and con-
tain a varying number of letters written by President
Taylor, retained copies of letters written to him, and
letters or other documents referring to him.

Aztec Club of 1847 Collection
Jackson, Andrew
Clay, Henry
Clayton, John M.
Conner, David
Crittenden, J. J.
Ewing, Thomas
Fish, Hamilton
Holmes, George F.

Many libraries and autograph collectors possess one
or more Taylor documents. The Henry E. Hun-
ton Library, San Marino, California, possesses the
Bixby collection. These original letters were printed
in Letters of Zachary Taylor, from the Battle-Fields of the
Mexican War (Rochester, 1908). The Historical
Society of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, has Taylor
items in the William M. Meredith Papers. (Meredith
was Secretary of the Treasury in Taylor's Cabinet.)
Zachary Taylor materials are known to be in the
William L. Clements Library, Ann Arbor, Michigan,
the Historical Society of Delaware, Wilmington,
the Lincoln National Life Foundation, Fort Wayne,
Indiana, the Department of Archives and Manu-
scripts of the Louisiana State University, Baton
Rouge, the Minnesota Historical Society, St. Paul, and
the Southern Historical Collection of the University
of North Carolina, Chapel Hill. The National Union
Catalog of Manuscript Collections when completed
may reveal the whereabouts of other Taylor papers.

Selected Bibliography

"Annual Reports on Acquisitions," Library of
Congress Quarterly Journal of Current Acquisitions, 3
(May, 1946), 38.

Dyer, Brainerd, "Critical Essay on Authorities" in
Zachary Taylor (Baton Rouge, 1946), pp. 420-433.

Garrison, Curtis W., List of Manuscript Collections
in the Library of Congress to July, 1931 (Washington,
1932), p. 194.

Hamilton, Holman, "Manuscript Sources" in Zachary
Taylor, Soldier in the White House (Indianapolis, 1951),
pp. 458-460.

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How to Use This Index

The index to the Zachary Taylor Papers is designed primarily as a means of ascertaining what documents exist in this collection and where they may be found on the microfilm reproduction. It is essentially a name index listing names of writers and recipients of letters, alphabetically first and then chronologically when the same name appears more than once. It is not a subject index, but materials such as autobiographical notes, testamentary papers, and portraits of Zachary Taylor found in this collection are cross-indexed under these subject headings as well as under the name of the writer. Some miscellaneous items, for which no name appears, are listed under a subject title.

To find a document or furnish a reference, note first the series number, secondly the date of the document under the main entry, then turn to the date of the document in the appropriate series. Series 1 and 2 are on reel 1 and series 3, 4, and 5 are on reel 2 of the microfilm reproduction of the Taylor Papers.

This index was produced by the use of key-punched cards which were sorted and printed mechanically. This technique permitted a number of economies but imposed in return a few limitations. Some of the paraphernalia normally found in indexes and calendars had to be abandoned. Many of the peculiarities—for example, the use of columns—of this index are illustrated in the following sequence of mock entries:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Writer or Recipient</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>S.</th>
<th>P.</th>
<th>Addenda</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FILLMORE MILLARD TO ZT</td>
<td>1850 JL</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KENT &amp; PEALE TO EDWARD H MARSHALL</td>
<td>1850 AP</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
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<tr>
<td>LANDERS MARTHA M TO DELIA TAYLOR</td>
<td>1826 DE</td>
<td>31</td>
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<td>MARSHALL EDWARD H TO ZT</td>
<td>1849 JL</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>4 ADAMS 1848 MY 4</td>
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<td>1849 AG</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>2 FRAGMENT</td>
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<tr>
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<td>1856 MR</td>
<td>19</td>
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<td>SEE MARSHALL EDWARD H</td>
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<td>MORGAN GEORGE W TO ZT</td>
<td>1813 AP</td>
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<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>TROY NY CITIZENS COM TO ZT</td>
<td>1848 DE</td>
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<tr>
<td>UNKNOWN TO UNKNOWN</td>
<td>1814 DE</td>
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<td>1 MINNIE TO ELSIE</td>
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<td>WHIG NATIONAL COM TO ZT</td>
<td>1847 SE</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>WRIGHT MERCEDES FR ZT</td>
<td>1842 OC</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1844 OC 4</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

The names of correspondents—that is, writers of letters to President Taylor or persons addressed by him, including organizations and governmental agencies—are arranged alphabetically as in column one. A letter not written by or to President Taylor is indexed both by writer and recipient as in the second and sixth entries. Any correspondence on behalf of an organization, public or private, is indexed under the name of the organization rather than the name of the writer, as in the thirteenth entry; the Whig National Committee is indexed rather than the name of the secretary who would have signed the letter. Such corporate entries, if local in scope, are indexed under their geographical locations, as in the eleventh entry. Except for the largest cities, the name of the town or county is followed by the abbreviated state
name. If the writer of an unsigned letter cannot be identified, the entry is indexed under the word UN-
KNOWN in its proper alphabetical position as in the example. President Taylor's name is not listed in the
index column except in cases where he is the author of a document such as his will. The names of other
Presidents appear in full as in the first entry.

Since space is limited in the writer-recipient column, the second name appearing in this column, usually
following "to" or "from," is frequently given in a shortened or abbreviated form. In such cases the
second name (except for President Taylor's name) is also entered fully in the normal alphabetic
order. For example, in the eighth entry of the sample index, the name given as T S JESUP would appear in the
section of the complete index as JESUP THOMAS SIDNEY. When lack of space does not permit use
of the full name for an indexed item, a short form must be used as in sample entries four through eight
but the full name is given separately in a cross reference as in the ninth sample entry. All titles—civil,
military, ecclesiastical, hereditary, honorary, and others—are omitted.

The date column calls for little comment beyond emphasizing what has already been mentioned, i.e.,
when there are two or more entries for a single name in this index, they are arranged chronologically regar
dless of the person addressed or the nature of the document. Manuscripts indexed with inclusive dates
(accounts, bills, items of uncertain date) are arranged by their latest date. Abbreviations for the names of
the months have been reduced to two letters.

The particular attention of the user is invited to the fact that the number of pages for an item includes
every page which has any writing. A page by this definition includes envelopes or cover sheets, docket
entries, endorsements of one or more words, file numbers and similar writing. Only notations made by
the Library of Congress are excluded from the page count.

The final or addenda column of the index has been used as a "catch-all" for data which cannot be fitted
into the closely calculated spacing of the main entry. Documents other than letters are, in each instance,
identified in this column, occasionally by content but more often by form. When a date, or a name and
date, appear in the addenda the manuscript is for some reason not in its place in the normal chrono
logical order on the microfilm and in the manuscript collection, for instance an enclosure filed with its
covering letter rather than under its own date. In the fourth and fourteenth sample entries the addenda
furnish the cross reference for finding the manuscript.

For information concerning the series arrangement, see the description which appears on page 8 and the
reel list which follows.

Reel List

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<td>1837-1887</td>
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<td>1820-1931</td>
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<td>1850</td>
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Abbreviations

Agric: Agricultural/ Agriculture  MD: Doctor of Medicine
Amer: American  Memo: Memorandum
Assoc: Association  ND: No date
Asst: Assistant  P: Page
Bro/s: Brother/s  Pam: Pamphlet
Certif: Certificate/ Certification  Ptd: Printed
Co: Company  Pub: Published Publication
Com: Committee  Rd/Rich: Richard
Command: Commanding  RR: Railroad
En: Enclosed/ Enclosure  S/Ser: Series
Endors: Endorsement  Soc: Society
Fr: From  South: Southern
Gen: General  Sr: Senior
Govt: Government  Stbd: Steamer
Jr: Junior  U.S.: United States
Vs: Volunteers  Vol: Voluntary
ZT: Zachary Taylor

The asterisk (*) indicates information supplied, wholly or in part, or a doubtful reading of name or date.
<table>
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<tr>
<th>Writer or Recipient</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>S.</th>
<th>P.</th>
<th>Addenda</th>
<th>Writer or Recipient</th>
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Appendices

For the convenience of users of this index, a description of the Taylor Papers and a statement by the Librarian of Congress, both of which appear with the microfilm copy of the manuscripts, follow. For the same reason, the National Union Catalog of Manuscript Collections card description of these papers is reproduced below.


Papers, 1814–1931.

631 items.

In Library of Congress, Manuscript Division.

Correspondence, military papers, an autobiographical account (ca. 1826), documents relating to Taylor's estate and to the management of the plantation Fashion in Louisiana by Taylor's son Richard, and a small amount of miscellaneous material about Taylor. Includes some fifty letters (1837-40) from Taylor and others to Thomas S. Jesup. Other correspondents include John M. Clayton, George W. Crawford, Jefferson Davis, James K. Polk, Thomas W. Ringgold, and Winfield Scott.

Index by correspondents prepared for publication, 1959.

(Continued on next card)

MS 59–181


Gift of Walter J. Stauffer and Mrs. Lewis Hardie on behalf of the Stauffer family, 1952. Other items acquired by gift or purchase, 1901–58.


MS 59–181
DESCRIPTION OF THE PAPERS

The papers of Zachary Taylor (1784–1850) army officer and President of the United States, were given to his son, Richard Taylor, and were almost completely destroyed during the Civil War. The manuscripts which appear on this microfilm and represent a large part of the surviving documentation were given to the Library of Congress in 1952 by Walter J. Stauffer and his sister, Mrs. Lewis Hardie, on behalf of the Stauffer family. Other Taylor items have been acquired from other sources. A complete list of acquisitions since 1904 is appended to this statement.

The Taylor Papers are arranged in five series:

15-page account of President Taylor's life, holograph.

Series 2. General Correspondence. 1814–1850.
Two manuscript boxes. Letters and copies of letters, by or to President Taylor, and other documents. Arranged chronologically.

Letters, receipts, and other documents reflecting the settlement of Taylor's estate, the Life of Richard Taylor (1826–1879), President Taylor's son, and his management of a plantation in Louisiana.

Newspaper clippings, a map, pamphlets, and other miscellaneous material.

Series 5. Memorial Volume. 1850.
One large volume in memory of President Taylor.

The user is cautioned that the publication of the contents of this microfilm may be construed as constituting a violation of literary property rights. These rights derive from the principle of common law that the writer of an unpublished letter or other manuscript has the sole right to publish the contents thereof, unless he affirmatively parts with the right; the right descends to his legal heirs regardless of the ownership of the physical manuscript itself. It is the responsibility of an author or his publisher to secure the permission of the owner of literary property rights in unpublished writings.

In the case of the Zachary Taylor Papers, the literary property rights in manuscripts written by President Taylor have been dedicated to the public. This dedication, of course, does not apply to documents other than those written by President Taylor.

SOURCES OF ACQUISITION

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STATEMENT OF THE LIBRARIAN OF CONGRESS

The following statement on the Presidential Papers Program appears on the microfilm of each group of papers:

The personal papers of 23 Presidents of the United States are in the Library of Congress. Under an Act of Congress (Public Law 85-147) approved August 16, 1957, the Librarian of Congress was directed to arrange, microfilm, and index these papers. The purpose of the legislation was to provide greater security through the wide distribution of copies of the microfilm and to facilitate the use of the papers by scholars and others. An appropriation for this work was made in August 1958, and the project was begun the same month. Presidents whose papers are in the Library are:

George Washington  James K. Polk  Chester A. Arthur
Thomas Jefferson  Zachary Taylor  Grover Cleveland
James Madison  Franklin Pierce  Benjamin Harrison
James Monroe  Abraham Lincoln  William McKinley
Andrew Jackson  Andrew Johnson  Theodore Roosevelt
Martin Van Buren  Ulysses S. Grant  William H. Taft
William H. Harrison  James A. Garfield  Woodrow Wilson
John Tyler

The size and complexity of the groups of Presidential papers vary greatly. One group of Presidential papers contains fewer than 1,000 documents and is arranged in a simple chronological order. Another contains about 500,000 documents and will require division into a number of series with different internal arrangements. A specific statement about each group of Presidential papers follows this general statement.

The user is advised that indexes (largely of correspondents in the papers) will be prepared and published in book form. Announcements concerning the availability of the indexes as well as of microfilms of other groups of Presidential papers will be made from time to time. Inquiry may be made of the Chief of the Manuscript Division concerning future publication plans.

L. Quincy Mumford,
Librarian of Congress.

December 29, 1958