Finding Aid to the John James Abert Papers MS.675

Finding aid prepared by Holly Rose Larson
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2012 November 7
**Title:** John James Abert Papers

**Identifier/Call Number:** MS.675

**Contributing Institution:** Autry National Center, Braun Research Library

**Language of Material:** English

**Physical Description:** 0.1 linear feet (1 folder)

**Date:** 1836

**Abstract:** This collection contains a letter from John James Abert to C.F. Mercer, written 1836 January 5; and an undated, unsigned biographic note on John James Abert.

**creator:** Abert, John James, 1788-1863

**creator:** Mercer, C. F.

**Scope and Contents**
This collection contains a letter from John James Abert to C.F. Mercer, written 1836 January 5; and an undated, unsigned biographic note on John James Abert.

**Biographical note**
John James Abert (1788, 17 September – 1863, 27 January) was a United States soldier. He headed the Corps of Topographical Engineers for 32 years, during which time he organized the mapping of the American West. Abert was born in Shepherdstown, Virginia (now West Virginia). He graduated from West Point in 1811, but declined a commission. After leaving West Point, he married Ellen Matlack Stretch. He enlisted in the D.C. Militia during the War of 1812, and rejoined the army as a topographical engineer with the rank of brevet Major in October 1814. In March 1829 John Abert was appointed to the leadership of the corps, and promoted to Colonel in July 1838. Officers working under him were responsible for the exploration and mapping of the lands west of the Mississippi River.

**Preferred citation**
*John James Abert Papers, 1836, Braun Research Library Collection, Autry National Center, Los Angeles; MS.675.*

**Processing history**
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