Contributing Institution: The Huntington Library
Title: James Madison correspondence with Alexander James Dallas
Creator: Madison, James, 1751-1836
Creator: Dallas, Alexander James, 1759-1817
Identifier/Call Number: mssMD
Physical Description: 4.68 Linear Feet(4 flat boxes)
Date (inclusive): 1815-1816
Abstract: This collection primarily contains political correspondence between James Madison and Alexander James Dallas, 1815-1816.
Language of Material: Materials are in English.
Conditions Governing Access
Open to qualified researchers by prior application through the Reader Services Department. For more information, contact Reader Services.
Conditions Governing Use
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Preferred Citation
Immediate Source of Acquisition
Purchased from A.S.W. Rosenbach, 1916.
Biographical / Historical
James Madison Jr. (March 5, 1751-June 28, 1836), the fourth president of the United States, was born in Port Conway, Virginia, the son of tobacco planter and enslaver James Madison Sr. and Nelly Conway Madison. Madison served as a member of the Executive Council of the State of Virginia from 1777 to 1779. He was a delegate to Congress from 1780 to 1783 and 1786 to 1787 and was a member of the U.S. House of Representatives from 1789 to 1797. Madison helped to organize the Constitutional Convention and was a framer of the United States Constitution, co-authoring the Federalist Papers in 1787 and 1788, and drafting the Bill of Rights in 1789. He served as secretary of state from 1801 to 1809 in the administration of President Thomas Jefferson.

Madison was elected president in November 1808, serving two terms from 1809 to 1817. Major events of his administration included the War of 1812 with Great Britain and the creation of the Second Bank of the United States. Madison's tenure was marked by treaties and conflicts with Native Americans as the government promoted settlements in and colonized its frontiers.

Madison married Dolley Todd in 1794. The couple did not have children, and Madison adopted her son by a previous marriage, John Payne Todd. At age 50, Madison inherited his family estate in Virginia, Montpelier; the family enslaved approximately 100 laborers on the property. Madison died at Montpelier at age 85.

Alexander James Dallas (June 21, 1759-January 16, 1817) was born on Jamaica and raised in Edinburgh and London. He emigrated to the United States in June 1783, settling in Philadelphia, where he began practicing law in 1785. Dallas was a U.S. Supreme Court reporter and was Secretary of the Commonwealth from 1791 to 1801. In 1801, he was named U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania, a position he held until 1814. Under President James Madison, Dallas served as Secretary of the Treasury from October 1814 to October 1816, Acting Secretary of War from March to August 1815, and Acting Secretary of State in 1815. He died in Philadelphia at age 57.

Scope and Contents
This collection primarily contains political correspondence between James Madison and Alexander James Dallas, 1815-1816. Letters concern the organization of a peacetime military establishment; economic and financial affairs, including the Second Bank of the United States; U.S. relations with Great Britain, France, Russia, Algeria; and an astronomical observatory. Correspondence also pertains to relationships with Native Americans following the War of 1812, especially in Michigan territory (see letters from May 1815).
Persons mentioned in correspondence include Jacob Jennings Brown, Andrew Jackson, Winfield Scott, Thomas Sidney Jessup, Joseph Bonaparte, William Jones, James Monroe, and Albert Gallatin.

This collection also contains a small number of letters from Alexander James Dallas to other recipients, including Andrew Jackson.

Processing Information

This collection was reprocessed in 2020-2021 by Melissa Haley as part of the American Presidential Papers Project. The items had been assembled physically and arranged chronologically by Huntington Library former staff in early- or mid-20th century; material was rehoused during reprocessing. Previously assigned item-level call numbers have been retained. The number of pages for each item is noted in parentheses in item-level Scope and Contents notes.

Previously assigned legacy terminology regarding autograph, endorsement, and franking status of items was retained. Items marked autograph indicate the item is in the handwriting of the author of the letter or document. Endorsement usually refers to a signature of the addressee or individual authorized to read and respond to a letter and indicates that they have done so. Franking indicates the presence of an authorized signature for mailing purposes.

Arrangement

Items are arranged chronologically.

Publication Note

Most items are published in Founders Online, National Archives, except where noted. (https://founders.archives.gov/)

All items are published in George Mifflin Dallas, Life and writings of Alexander James Dallas (Philadelphia : J.B. Lippincott & Co., 1871): 397-482.

Subjects and Indexing Terms

Indians of North America -- History -- 19th century
United States -- Foreign relations -- 1783-1865
United States -- History -- 1809-1817
United States -- Politics and Government -- 1809-1817
Letters (correspondence) -- United States -- 19th century
Dallas, Alexander James, 1759-1817 -- Correspondence
Madison, James, 1751-1836 -- Correspondence

<p>| Box, Folder 1 | Alexander James Dallas letter to James Madison MD 75 1815 April 11 |
| Scope and Contents |
| Autograph letter signed. (1 page) |
| Box, Folder 2 | Alexander James Dallas letter to James Madison MD 76 1815 April 13 |
| Scope and Contents |
| Autograph letter signed. (1 page) |
| Box, Folder 3 | James Madison, Montpelier, Virginia, letter to Alexander James Dallas MD 50 1815 April 14 |
| Scope and Contents |
| Autograph letter signed. Endorsed by Dallas. (4 pages) |
| Box, Folder 4 | James Madison, Montpelier, Virginia, letter to Alexander James Dallas MD 51 1815 April 16 |
| Scope and Contents |
| Autograph letter signed. Endorsed by Dallas. (1 page) |
| Box, Folder 5 | James Madison, Montpelier, Virginia, letter to Alexander James Dallas MD 52 1815 April 18 |
| Scope and Contents |
| Autograph letter signed. Endorsed by Dallas. (1 page) |</p>
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<td>James Madison, Montpelier, Virginia, letter to Alexander James Dallas</td>
<td>MD 1 1815 April 19</td>
<td>Scope and Contents; Autograph letter signed. Endorsed by Dallas. (1 page)</td>
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<td>1, Folder 7</td>
<td>Alexander James Dallas letter to James Madison</td>
<td>MD 77 1815 April 19</td>
<td>Scope and Contents; Autograph letter signed. (1 page)</td>
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<td>1, Folder 8</td>
<td>James Madison, Montpelier, Virginia, letter to Alexander James Dallas</td>
<td>MD 53 1815 April 20</td>
<td>Scope and Contents; Physical Description: Lower portion of cover page torn away (no text appears to be lost). Autograph letter signed. Endorsed by Dallas. (1 page)</td>
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<td>1, Folder 9</td>
<td>Alexander James Dallas letter to James Madison</td>
<td>MD 78 1815 April 20</td>
<td>Scope and Contents; Autograph letter signed. (1 page)</td>
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<td>1, Folder 10</td>
<td>James Madison, Montpelier, Virginia, letter to Alexander James Dallas</td>
<td>MD 54 1815 April 23</td>
<td>Scope and Contents; Autograph letter signed. Endorsed by Dallas. (1 page)</td>
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<td>1, Folder 11</td>
<td>James Madison, Montpelier, Virginia, letter to Alexander James Dallas</td>
<td>MD 52 1815 April 25</td>
<td>Scope and Contents; Autograph letter signed. (2 pages)</td>
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<td>1, Folder 12</td>
<td>Alexander James Dallas letter to James Madison</td>
<td>MD 79 1815 April 25</td>
<td>Scope and Contents; Autograph letter signed. (1 page)</td>
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<td>James Madison, Monticello, Virginia, letter to Alexander James Dallas, Washington, D.C.</td>
<td>MD 3 1815 April 28</td>
<td>Scope and Contents; Autograph letter signed; with addressed cover. Endorsed by Dallas. (1 page)</td>
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<td>1, Folder 14</td>
<td>James Madison, Monticello, Virginia, letter to Alexander James Dallas, Washington, D.C.</td>
<td>MD 4 1815 April 29</td>
<td>Scope and Contents; Autograph letter signed; with addressed cover. Endorsed by Dallas. (1 page)</td>
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<td>1, Folder 15</td>
<td>Alexander James Dallas letter to James Madison</td>
<td>MD 57 1815 April 29</td>
<td>Scope and Contents; Autograph letter signed. (1 page)</td>
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<td>1, Folder 16</td>
<td>Alexander James Dallas letter to James Madison</td>
<td>MD 58 1815 May 2</td>
<td>Scope and Contents; Autograph letter signed. (1 page)</td>
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**Alexander James Dallas letter to James Madison, Montpelier, Virginia** MD 59 1815 May 3  
*Scope and Contents*  
Autograph letter signed; with addressed cover. (1 page)

Box 1, Folder 18  
**James Madison, Montpelier, Virginia, letter to Alexander James Dallas, Washington, D.C.** MD 5 1815 May 4  
*Scope and Contents*  
Autograph letter signed; with addressed cover. Endorsed by Dallas. (1 page)

Box 1, Folder 19  
**James Madison, Montpelier, Virginia, letter to Alexander James Dallas** MD 6 1815 May 4  
*Scope and Contents*  
Autograph letter signed. Endorsed by Dallas. (2 pages)

Box 1, Folder 20  
**James Madison, Montpelier, Virginia, letter to Alexander James Dallas** MD 7 1815 May 7  
*Scope and Contents*  
Autograph letter signed. (4 pages)

Box 1, Folder 21  
**Alexander James Dallas letter to James Madison** MD 60 1815 May 8  
*Scope and Contents*  
Autograph letter signed. (1 page)

Box 1, Folder 22  
**Alexander James Dallas letter to James Madison** MD 81 1815 May 8 or 9?  
*Scope and Contents*  
Autograph letter signed. (2 pages)

Box 1, Folder 23  
**James Madison, Montpelier, Virginia, letter to Alexander James Dallas** MD 8 1815 May 10  
*Scope and Contents*  
Autograph letter signed. (4 pages)

Box 1, Folder 24  
**James Madison, Montpelier, Virginia, letter to Alexander James Dallas, Washington, D.C.** MD 9 1815 May 11  
*Scope and Contents*  
Autograph letter signed; with addressed cover. Endorsed by Dallas. Madison's location not listed on letter. (1 page)

Box 1, Folder 25  
**Alexander James Dallas letter to James Madison** MD 61 1815 May 13  
*Scope and Contents*  
Autograph letter signed. (1 page)

Box 1, Folder 26  
**James Madison, Montpelier, Virginia, letter to Alexander James Dallas** MD 10 1815 May 14  
*Scope and Contents*  
Autograph letter signed. Endorsed by Dallas. (1 page)

Box 2, Folder 1  
**Alexander James Dallas, Treasury Department, letter to James Madison, Montpelier** MD 62 1815 May 14  
*Scope and Contents*  
Autograph letter signed; with addressed cover, franked. (1 page)

Box 2, Folder 2  
**Alexander James Dallas, Treasury Department, letter to James Madison, Montpelier** MD 63 1815 May 14  
*Scope and Contents*  
Autograph letter signed; with addressed cover, franked. (1 page)
Box 2, Folder 14  
James Madison, Montpelier, Virginia, letter to Alexander James Dallas MD 18 1815 May 30  
Scope and Contents  
Autograph letter signed. Endorsed by Dallas. (2 pages)

Box 2, Folder 15  
Alexander James Dallas letter to Andrew Jackson MD 80 1815 May  
Scope and Contents  
Draft. Corrections and endorsement in hand of Dallas. (4 pages)  
Publication Note  
Not in Founders Online.

Box 2, Folder 16  
James Madison, Montpelier, Virginia, letter to Alexander James Dallas MD 19 1815 June 1  
Scope and Contents  
Autograph letter signed. Endorsed by Dallas. (2 pages)

Box 2, Folder 17  
James Madison, Washington, D.C., letter to Alexander James Dallas MD 20 1815 July 11  
Scope and Contents  
Autograph letter signed. Endorsed by Dallas. (2 pages)

Box 2, Folder 18  
Scope and Contents  
Autograph letter signed. Endorsed by Dallas. (2 pages)

Box 2, Folder 19  
James Madison, Washington, D.C., letter to Alexander James Dallas MD 22 1815 July 19  
Scope and Contents  
Autograph letter signed. Endorsed by Dallas. (2 pages)

Box 2, Folder 20  
James Madison, Montpelier, Virginia, letter to Alexander James Dallas MD 23 1815 July 24  
Scope and Contents  
Autograph letter signed. Endorsed by Dallas. (2 pages)

Box 2, Folder 21  
Alexander James Dallas letter to James Madison MD 68 1815 July 31  
Scope and Contents  
Autograph letter signed. (1 page)

Box 2, Folder 22  
Alexander James Dallas letter to James Madison MD 69 1815 August 3  
Scope and Contents  
Autograph letter signed. (2 pages)

Box 2, Folder 23  
Alexander James Dallas letter to James Madison MD 70 1815 August 6  
Scope and Contents  
Autograph letter signed. (1 page)

Box 2, Folder 24  
Alexander James Dallas letter to James Madison MD 71 1815 August 7  
Scope and Contents  
Autograph letter signed. (1 page)

Box 2, Folder 25  
James Madison, Montpelier, Virginia, letter to Alexander James Dallas MD 24 1815 August 10  
Scope and Contents  
Autograph letter signed. Endorsed by Dallas. (5 pages)
Scope and Contents
Autograph letter signed. With addressed cover; franked by Madison. Endorsed by Dallas. (1 page)

Scope and Contents
Autograph letter signed. Endorsed by Dallas. (4 pages)

Scope and Contents
Autograph letter signed. With addressed cover. Endorsed by Dallas. (2 pages)

Scope and Contents
Autograph letter signed. (2 pages)

Scope and Contents
Autograph letter signed. (3 pages)

Scope and Contents
Autograph letter signed. (2 pages)

Scope and Contents
Autograph letter signed. (1 page)

Scope and Contents
Autograph letter signed. Endorsed by Dallas. (1 page)

Scope and Contents
Autograph letter signed (initialed). (1 page)
Box 3, Folder 11  
**James Madison letter to Alexander James Dallas** MD 55 1816 April 9  
Scope and Contents  
Autograph letter signed. (1 page)

Box 3, Folder 12  
**James Madison, Montpelier, Virginia, letter to Alexander James Dallas, Washington, D.C.** MD 31 1816 June 8  
Scope and Contents  
Autograph letter signed. With addressed cover. Endorsed by Dallas. (1 page)

Box 3, Folder 13  
**James Madison, Montpelier, Virginia, letter to Alexander James Dallas** MD 32 1816 June 16  
Scope and Contents  
Autograph letter signed. Endorsed by Dallas. (3 pages)

Box 3, Folder 14  
**Alexander James Dallas letter to James Madison** MD 82 1816 June 18  
Scope and Contents  
Autograph letter signed. (2 pages)

Box 3, Folder 15  
**Alexander James Dallas, Treasury Department, Washington, D.C., letter to James Monroe, William Harris Crawford, Benjamin Williams Crowninshield, Richard Rush** MD 83 1816 June 24  
Scope and Contents  
Autograph letter signed. (1 page)  
Publication Note  
Not in Founders Online.

Box 3, Folder 16  
**Alexander James Dallas, Washington, D.C., letter to James Madison** MD 84 1816 June 29?  
Scope and Contents  
Autograph letter signed. Dallas' location not listed on letter. (1 page)  
Separated Materials  
Report of June 29 (MD 85) originally enclosed.

Box 3, Folder 17  
**Alexander James Dallas, Washington, D.C., report to James Madison** MD 85 1816 June 29  
Scope and Contents  
Autograph document signed. Report regarding collection of the revenue in the legal currency of the U.S. Dallas' location not listed on letter. (3 pages)  
Separated Materials  
Originally enclosed in letter (MD 84).  
Publication Note  
Not in Founders Online.

Box 3, Folder 18  
**James Madison, Montpelier, Virginia, letter to Alexander James Dallas** MD 33 1816 June 30  
Scope and Contents  
Autograph letter signed. Endorsed by Dallas. (2 pages)

Box 3, Folder 19  
**Alexander James Dallas letter to James Madison** MD 86 1816 July 1  
Scope and Contents  
Autograph letter signed. (1 page)
Box 3, Folder 20  James Madison, Montpelier, Virginia, letter to Alexander James Dallas MD 34 1816 July 4
Scope and Contents
Letter signed. Endorsed by Dallas. (3 pages)

Box 3, Folder 21  Alexander James Dallas, Treasury Department, Washington, D.C., letter to James Madison, Montpelier MD 87 1816 July 5
Scope and Contents
Autograph letter signed. With addressed cover. (1 page)

Box 3, Folder 22  Alexander James Dallas letter to James Madison MD 88 1816 July 7
Scope and Contents
Autograph letter signed. (2 pages)

Box 3, Folder 23  Alexander James Dallas letter to James Madison MD 89 1816 July 8
Scope and Contents
Autograph letter signed. (1 page)

Box 3, Folder 24  Alexander James Dallas letter to James Madison MD 90 1816 July 11
Scope and Contents
Autograph letter signed. (1 page)

Box 3, Folder 25  James Madison, Montpelier, Virginia, letter to Alexander James Dallas MD 35 1816 July 15
Scope and Contents
Autograph letter signed. Endorsed by Dallas. (1 page)

Box 3, Folder 26  Alexander James Dallas letter to James Madison MD 91 1816 July 16
Scope and Contents
Autograph letter signed. (1 page) Submitting report from the Collector of the port of Philadelphia -- report not enclosed.

Box 4, Folder 1  Alexander James Dallas letter to James Madison MD 104 1816 July 17?
Scope and Contents
Autograph letter signed. (1 page)

Box 4, Folder 2  James Madison, Montpelier, Virginia, letter to Alexander James Dallas MD 36 1816 July 18
Scope and Contents
Autograph letter signed. Endorsed by Dallas. (2 pages)

Box 4, Folder 3  James Madison, Montpelier, Virginia, letter to Alexander James Dallas MD 37 1816 July 21
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Box 4, Folder 4  Alexander James Dallas letter to James Madison MD 92 1816 July 23
Scope and Contents
Autograph letter signed. (2 pages)

Box 4, Folder 5  Alexander James Dallas letter to James Madison MD 103 1816 July 24 or 25?
Scope and Contents
Autograph letter signed. (1 page)
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<td>Scope and Contents</td>
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<td>James Madison, Montpelier, Virginia, letter to Alexander James Dallas MD 39 1816 July 27</td>
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<td>Autograph letter signed. Endorsed by Dallas. (1 page)</td>
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<td>Alexander James Dallas letter to James Madison MD 93 1816 August 3</td>
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<td>Alexander James Dallas letter to James Madison MD 94 1816 August 6</td>
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<td>James Madison, Montpelier, Virginia, letter to Alexander James Dallas MD 40 1816 August 7</td>
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<td>James Madison, Montpelier, Virginia, letter to Alexander James Dallas MD 41 1816 August 10</td>
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<td>Alexander James Dallas, Treasury Department, Washington, D.C., report to James Madison MD 95 1816 August 24</td>
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<td>Autograph document signed. Statement regarding treasury notes issued under acts prior to act of 1815 February 26. (2 pages)</td>
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<td>James Madison, Montpelier, Virginia, letter to Alexander James Dallas MD 42 1816 August 25</td>
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<td>Alexander James Dallas letter to James Madison MD 96 1816 August 27</td>
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<td>James Madison letter to Alexander James Dallas? MD 43 1816 August?</td>
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<td>James Madison, Montpelier, Virginia, letter to Alexander James Dallas MD 44 1816 September 6</td>
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<td>Scope and Contents</td>
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