

**The Filson Historical Society**

**Guthrie-Caperton family  
Papers, 1780-1939**

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**Size of collection  
9 cubic feet**

**LocatorNumber  
Mss.\A\G984**

## **Guthrie-Caperton family Papers, 1780-1939**

### **Scope and Content Note**

James Guthrie (1792-1869), lawyer, member of the Kentucky legislature, U.S. senator, and secretary of the treasury, and John Caperton (1837-1900), lawyer, California pioneer, businessman, landowner, and Guthrie's son-in-law, are the focal points of the collection.

Guthrie's papers consist of correspondence, 1811-1871; land papers, 1780-1867; legal papers, 1802-1870; accounts, 1812-1866; bills, receipts, and promissory notes, 1801-1871; papers of Guthrie's estate; stock certificates; commission as secretary of the treasury; and steamboat papers, 1819-1857. Small groups of the papers of John Rowan, Joseph Hamilton Daviess, John C. Fremont, William Kenton (son of Simon Kenton), William C. Buck, John and William Aull Co., 1815-1837, John and Samuel Thomas Co., 1823-1835, James Craig and William Culver, and Paschal D. Craddock and Thomas Hundley are included in Guthrie's papers.

The correspondence discusses law activities of James Guthrie and Levi Tyler, Guthrie's interest in the Louisville Hotel, the Peters Colony of Texas, politics, Congressional activity, railroads, land in Ill., operation of steamboats on the Ohio and Mississippi, duties while secretary of treasury (including John C. Fremont's account of his 1845 expedition in California and his claims against the government), news, and family matters. Guthrie's correspondents include Leven L. Shreve, Thomas Hicks, E. G. Minor, Charles J. Meng, John D. Colmesnil, Adam Guthrie, John W. Stevenson, and John C. Breckinridge.

The papers of John Caperton consist of correspondence, 1846-1892; letterbook of Caperton, 1859-1860; land papers, 1832-1893; legal papers, 1851-1892; accounts, 1847-1882; bills, receipts, and promissory notes, 1843-1894; stock certificates; two household account books, 1872-1880, of Mary E. Caperton; maps; pamphlets; and newspaper clippings. Small groups of the papers of J. Guthrie Coke (b. 1841), J. Lawrence Smith (1818-1883), Sarah Julia Smith (1827-1901), and John Hays Caperton (1857-1923) are included in Caperton's papers.

Correspondence discusses life and explorations in Texas during the 1840s, an overland trip to California in 1849, life in California in the early 1850s, work as deputy sheriff of San Francisco County, business in Louisville, lands in Texas and California, politics, railroads, mining, Louisville real estate development, and news of family and friends.

Caperton's correspondents include Colonel John C. "Jack" Hays, J. A. Freaner, W. H. Glascock about affairs in California, and Harry Thompson Hays, Allen T. Caperton, J. H. Rhorer, John H. Caperton, C. J. Benham, James Guthrie, G. R. Arbegust, Hugh Caperton, J. M. Preston, A. B. Gray, and Horatio D. Newcomb.

**Guthrie-Caperton family  
Papers, 1780-1939**

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