

The Filson Historical Society

**The Papers of the
Speed Family**

The papers of the Speed family, a prominent Kentucky family.

For information regarding literary and copyright interests for these papers, see the Curator of Manuscripts, James J. Holmberg.

Size of Collection

0.33 cubic feet

Locator Number Mss.\A\S742b

Scope and Content Note

Collection includes correspondence, 1786-1915; legal papers, 1751-1887; some Abraham Lincoln information, mostly concerning his acquaintance with Joshua Fry Speed and his family, 1841-1921; material on Dr. Thomas Walker; and genealogical material on the Speed, Fry, and allied families. Most of the material consists of typed copies.

Biographical Note

Joshua Fry Speed

- 1814 Born in Louisville, Kentucky.
- 1832-
1833 Attended St. Joseph's Academy in Bardstown.
- 1835 Moved to Springfield, Illinois where he worked in merchandising, assisted in the editing of a local newspaper, and befriended Abraham Lincoln.
- 1842 Moved back to Louisville and married Fannie Henning.
- 1853-
1855 President of the Louisville, Cincinnati, & Lexington Railroad.
- Civil War Advised President Lincoln on western affairs.
- 1882 Died and was buried in Cave Hill Cemetery.

For more information consult the [Kentucky Encyclopedia](#).

Mss.

A Speed Family
S742b Papers. 1751-1921.

Box 1

fl. 1 Correspondence, 1786-1839.
fl. 2 Correspondence, 1796-1915. (Typed copies).
fl. 3 Legal papers, 1751-1887.
fl. 4 Lincoln, 1841-1921.
fl. 5 Dr. Thomas Walker memorial, 1909-.
fl. 6 Genealogical material, 1892-1917.
fl. 8 Miscellaneous.

There is no folder #7.