

Collection #
SC 2790

JOHN WESLEY DAVIS LETTER, 2 JUNE 1845

[Collection Information](#)

[Biographical Sketch](#)

[Scope and Content Note](#)

[Cataloging Information](#)

Processed by

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August 2006

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COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF
COLLECTION: 1 folder

COLLECTION
DATES: 2 June 1845

PROVENANCE: Rare Books and Autographs, Ivy, VA, May 2003

RESTRICTIONS: None

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ALTERNATE FORMATS:

RELATED HOLDINGS:

ACCESSION NUMBER: 2003.0384

NOTES:

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

John Wesley Davis was born in New Holland, Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, on 16 April 1799. He moved to Cumberland County, Pennsylvania with his parents, who settled near Shippensburg. Here he completed preparatory studies, studied medicine, and graduated from Baltimore Medical College in 1821. He moved to Carlisle, Indiana in 1823 to practice medicine.

He was elected to one term of the State House of Representative in 1831, and served as speaker. In 1834 he was a commissioner to negotiate an Indian treaty, and was elected to Congress in 1835. He declined re-nomination in 1836 because of ill health, but ran in 1838 and was elected as a Democrat in March 1839. He did not win re-election to the next term, so returned to the State House of Representatives in 1841, where he served as speaker. He went back to Congress from 1843 to 1847. He served as the chairman for the Committee on Public Lands in his first term.

In 1848 he was appointed by President Polk as the United States Commission to China and served until 1851, when his successor was appointed. He returned to the State House of Representatives from 1851 to 1854, and again from 1857 to 1859. During that time he was also a delegate to the Democratic National Convention in 1852, and was appointed by President Pierce as Governor of the Oregon Territory from 1853 to 1854. In 1858, when his political career was winding down, he became a member of the Board of Visitors to the United States Military Academy at West Point. He died in Carlisle, Sullivan County, Indiana, on 22 August 1859.

Sources:

The Political Graveyard, 2005 [cited 4 August 2006]. (<http://politicalgraveyard.com/>)

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

Collection consists of a one page letter from Davis to Dr. Cohen. The letter reads, "Washington City, June 2^d, 45. My Dear Sir, I have your favor of the 31st procure some documents and forward them by to days mail to our friend Dr. Wood. ___.— Yours very truly, J. W. Davis."

CATALOGING INFORMATION

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1. Go to the Indiana Historical Society's online catalog: <http://opac.indianahistory.org/>
2. Click on the "Basic Search" icon.
3. Select "Call Number" from the "Search In:" box.
4. Search for the collection by its basic call number Search for the collection by its basic call number (in this case, SC 2790).
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