



Guide to the Henry James Seibert Papers, 1779-1912 and undated

This collection guide was produced in .

This PDF version was created on **April 3, 2026**.

David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library

103 Perkins Library, Duke University

Durham 27708-0185

919-660-5822

askRL@duke.edu

URL: <http://library.duke.edu/rubenstein/>

Table of Contents

Summary	3
Background	4
Administrative Information	5
Names and Subjects	6
Collection Inventory	6
Correspondence Series, 1819-1912 and undated	6
Miscellaneous Papers Series, 1879-1889 and undated	7
Financial Papers Series, 1779-1900s and undated	7
Mercantile Manuscript Volumes Series	7

Summary

Collection Title:

Henry James Seibert papers, 1779-1912 and undated

Creator:

Seibert, Henry James

Abstract:

Lawyer, election clerk, and Virginia legislator, of Martinsburg and Hedgesville, Virginia (now West Virginia). Correspondence, account books, ledgers, and other professional, business, and family correspondence (chiefly 1820-1885), of Seibert and of his family. The collection relates to family matters, Virginia and national politics before the Civil War, migration into the Old Northwest, social life and customs, and slavery in Virginia.

Extent:

15 Linear Feet
16,658 Items

Physical Location:

For current information on the location of these materials, please consult the Library's online catalog.

Language:

English

Language:

Material in English

Collection ID:

RL.01165

Permalink:

<http://library.duke.edu/rubenstein/findingaids/seiberthentryjames/>

Preferred Citation

[Identification of item], Henry James Seibert Papers, David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library, Duke University

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Background

Scope and Content

Spanning the years 1779-1912, the collection contains correspondence, legal and financial papers, and printed material of Henry James Seibert, Sr., Virginia state legislator, executor for numerous estates, and financial agent for emigrants to the Mid-West.

The correspondence discusses personal and family matters; internal improvements in Pennsylvania during the 1820s; salt mining in Pennsylvania; commodity and land prices in Ohio during the 1820s and 1830s; Ohio politics during the 1830s and the attitude of politicians towards the Second Bank of the United States; commodity prices in Illinois during 1838 and 1840; bank failures in Ohio, 1841; wages in Ohio, 1845; care of a ward of Henry James Seibert, Sr., in an insane asylum; the National Road in Ohio; presidential elections of 1840, 1844, 1848, 1852, and 1856; the National Democratic Convention of 1844; Henry Clay and the Whig Party; the slavery question in relation to the California Territory; improvement and construction of public buildings in Washington, D.C.; coal mining in Maryland; the Compromise of 1850; cholera in New Orleans, 1850s; internal improvements in Virginia, 1850s; control and sale of liquor and distillation of whiskey; slave trade in the United States; Civil War bounty; pension claims; and other matters.

Also included are bills and receipts; indentures; court summonses; account sheets; applications for pensions; prospectus, 1865, of *The New Era*, a newspaper to be published in Martinsburg, West Virginia; bulletin of Wellesley College, Wellesley, Massachusetts, for 1879; pamphlets containing West Virginia laws in 1887 relating to public schools; advertisements for the Maryland Lottery Company, the Kentucky State Lottery, cooking and heating stoves, women's fashions for 1884-1885, and patent medicines; *Reformed Missionary Herald*, 1889; almanacs; price current sheets for Baltimore, Maryland, in 1867 and 1869; premium list of the annual fair of the Ogle County (Illinois) Agricultural Board in 1881; ballots for the Greenback Party, the Democratic Party in Berkeley County (West Virginia) in 1880 and 1888, and the National Prohibition Party in 1884; pamphlet of the National Prohibition Party; form letter, 1849, explaining the stand of the Society of Friends of Great Britain and Ireland on slavery; broadsides of a U.S. pension agency; and announcement and program of the 29th annual session of the Farmers' National Congress, Raleigh, 1909.

There are also many 19th century manuscript volumes - daybooks, ledgers, and account books - containing financial records of the general mercantile

establishments of John W. Boyd and Benjamin R. Boyd; Hezekiah Hedges; Henry J. Seibert; and of William L. Seibert.

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Administrative Information

Publication Statement

David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library

103 Perkins Library, Duke University

Durham 27708-0185

919-660-5822

askRL@duke.edu

URL: <http://library.duke.edu/rubenstein/>

Access Restrictions

Collection is open for research.

Researchers must register and agree to copyright and privacy laws before using this collection.

All or portions of this collection may be housed off-site in Duke University's Library Service Center. The library may require up to 48 hours to retrieve these materials for research use.

Please contact Research Services staff before visiting the David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library to use this collection.

Use Restrictions

The copyright interests in this collection have not been transferred to Duke University. For more information, consult the copyright section of the Regulations and Procedures of the David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library.

Acquisition Information

The Henry James Seibert Papers were received by the David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library from 1948-1952.

Processing Information

Processed by Rubenstein Library staff

Encoded by Ted Holt and Paula Jeannet Mangiafico, September 2008

Accessions 48-747 and 48-1334 were merged into one collection, described in this finding aid.

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Names and Subjects

- Land settlement -- Northwest, Old
- Migration, Internal -- United States
- Slavery -- Virginia
- Merchants -- Virginia
- Northwest, Old -- Emigration and immigration
- United States -- Politics and government -- 1783-1865
- Virginia -- Economic conditions
- Virginia -- Politics and government -- 1775-1865
- Virginia -- Social life and customs
- Seibert, Henry James

Collection Inventory

Correspondence Series, 1819-1912 and undated

Physical Description: 7 boxes

1819-1844	Box 1
1845-1849	Box 2
1850-1853	Box 3
1854-1865	Box 4
1866-1872	Box 5
1873-1880	Box 6

1881-1912 and undated	Box 7
-----------------------	-------

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Miscellaneous Papers Series, 1879-1889 and undated

Physical Description: 3 boxes

1852-1875	Box 8
-----------	-------

1879-1889	Box 9
-----------	-------

undated	Box 10
---------	--------

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Financial Papers Series, 1779-1900s and undated

Physical Description: 23 boxes

Bills and Receipts	Box 11
--------------------	--------

1779-1819	Box 11
-----------	--------

1820s	Box 12
-------	--------

1820s	Box 13-15
-------	-----------

1830s	Box 16-22
-------	-----------

1840s	Box 23-27
-------	-----------

1850s	Box 28-30
-------	-----------

1850s, 1870s-1890s	Box 31
--------------------	--------

1900s and undated	Box 32
-------------------	--------

undated	Box 33
---------	--------

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Mercantile Manuscript Volumes Series

Scope and Contents note

Dozens of manuscript volumes are included in this collection. For location see the online catalog record.

[Return to Table of Contents](#)