

# Guide to the Charles H. Mason Correspondence

WA MSS 332



by Beinecke staff

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## Table of Contents

Collection Overview .....	3
Requesting Instructions .....	3
Administrative Information .....	3
Conditions Governing Access .....	3
Conditions Governing Use .....	4
Preferred Citation .....	4
Processing Information .....	4
Charles H. Mason, 1830-1859 .....	4
Scope and Contents .....	4
Collection Contents .....	5
WA MSS 332: Papers .....	5
Selected Search Terms .....	7

## Collection Overview

**REPOSITORY:** Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library  
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**CALL NUMBER:** WA MSS 332

**CREATOR:** Mason, Charles H., 1830-1859

**TITLE:** Charles H. Mason Correspondence

**DATES:** 1855-1858

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:** 34 Items (77 pages)

**LANGUAGE:** English

**SUMMARY:** The papers consist of thirty-four letters, seventy-seven pages in all, written to and by Charles H. Mason. The majority of the letters relate to the beginnings of Indian hostilities in 1855. Other letters concern Fayette McMullin's attack on Mason's character in 1858.

**ONLINE FINDING AID:** To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/beinecke.chmason>

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## Requesting Instructions

To request items from this collection for use in the Beinecke Library reading room, please use the request links in the HTML version of this finding aid, available at <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/beinecke.chmason>.

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Key to the container abbreviations used in the PDF finding aid:

b.      box  
f.      folder

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## Administrative Information

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### Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

## Conditions Governing Use

The Charles H. Mason Correspondence collection is the physical property of the Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University. Literary rights, including copyright, belong to the authors or their legal heirs and assigns. For further information, consult the appropriate curator.

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## Preferred Citation

Charles H. Mason Correspondence. Yale Collection of Western Americana, Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University.

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## Processing Information

Collections are processed to a variety of levels, depending on the work necessary to make them usable, their perceived research value, the availability of staff, competing priorities, and whether or not further accruals are expected. The library attempts to provide a basic level of preservation and access for all collections [as they are acquired], and does more extensive processing of higher priority collections as time and resources permit.

This finding aid, created before the advent of computer-generated files, has been converted into a ASCII data file by means of scanning and Optical Character Recognition software. While attempts have been made to retain the complete information from the original document a number of format changes have been made to present the structure of this archive in accordance with current practice.

This finding aid may be updated periodically to account for new acquisitions to the collection and/or revisions in arrangement and description.

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## Charles H. Mason, 1830-1859

Charles H. Mason was appointed at the age of twenty-three the first secretary of Washington Territory, and served under Governors Stevens and McMullin until his death in 1859. He served as acting governor while Stevens was in the Indian country and after McMullin returned to the East in 1858 until Governor Gholson arrived in 1859.

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## Scope and Contents

The papers consist of thirty-four letters, seventy-seven pages in all, written to and by Charles H. Mason. The majority of the letters relate to the beginnings of Indian hostilities in 1855. Other letters concern Fayette McMullin's attack on Mason's character in 1858.

## Collection Contents

### WA MSS 332: Papers

The following are included in the collection:

- MASON, CHARLES H. Letter to G. Blanchet. December 14, 1855. Signed copy. 1 p.  
 MASON, CHARLES H. Letter to Lewis Cass, Secretary of State. June 21, 1858. Signed copy. 10 pp.  
 MASON, CHARLES H. Letter to Governor Curry. October 20, 1855. Signed copy. 3 pp.  
 MASON, CHARLES H. Three letters to James Douglas. November 10-23, 1855. Signed copies. 5 pp.  
 MASON, CHARLES H. Six letters to George Gibbs. September 14 [1855]-January 30, 1856. 15 pp.  
 MASON, CHARLES H. Letter to Father Ricard. December 4, 1855. Copy. 1 p.  
 MASON, CHARLES H. Two letters to General Wool. August 30, October 20, 1855. Copies. 3 pp.  
 BLANCHET, GEORGES. Letter to Governor Mason. December 7, 1855, and a copy by Blanchet of the "Commission officielle donnée au P. Pandosy pour être transmise aux soldats." 4 pp.  
 CROSBIE, HENRY R. Letter to Acting Governor Mason, resigning as aide to the Governor. November 1, 1855. 1 p.  
 CURRY, GEORGE LAW, Governor of Oregon Territory. Three letters to Acting Governor Mason. April 1, 1854-October 25, 1855. Signature only of the second and third in his hand. 7 pp. The letter of October 22, 1855 is endorsed in Elwood Evans' hand: "Advising as to movements &c. of the Oregon Mounted Volunteers."  
 GIBBS, GEORGE. Letter to Governor Mason. November 14, 1855. 7 pp.  
 MCMULLIN, FAYETTE. Letter about Mason to Lewis Cass, Secretary of State. April 16, 1858. Copy. With a brief note in Evans' hand. 3 pp.  
 MCMULLIN, FAYETTE. Letter to U. E. Hicks. April 27, 1858. Copy. 1 p.  
 MCMULLIN, FAYETTE. Letter to W. W. Miller. April 29, 1858. Copy. 1 p.  
 MCMULLIN, FAYETTE. Two letters to R. M. Walker. April 3, 29, 1858. 2 pp.  
 OLYMPIA, W. T. CITIZENS. Petition to R. M. Walker, Acting Secretary of the Territory of Washington, for the use of the Capitol for musical concerts and a ball, dated, Olympia, April 26, 1858, and signed by 31 citizens of Olympia. 1 p.  
 RAINS, GABRIEL JONES. Letter to Acting Governor Mason. October 9, 1855. Signature only. 2 pp.  
 RICARD, PASCAL. Three letters to Acting Governor Mason. October 12-December 1, 1855. 7 pp. With English translations in an unidentified hand; and a copy of Mason's letter to Ricard, December 4, 1855. 1 p.  
 TOLMIE, WILLIAM FRASER. Letter to C. H. Mason. October 23, 1855. 2 pp.  
 WALKER, RUDOLPH M. Letter to Fayette McMullin, Governor of Washington Territory. April 29, 1858. Copy. 1 p.

Governor Curry's letter of October 22, 1855, is printed in Evans, *History of the Pacific Northwest* [1889], I, 551-552; Mason's letters to Douglas, November 23, 1855 and Wool, October 20, 1855, and Rains to Mason, October 9, 1855, are printed in *Message of the Governor of Washington Territory* [I. I. Stevens], Olympia, 1857, pp. 103, 130, 160. Mason's letter to Douglas, November 23, 1855, is also printed in C. B. Bagley, "Attitude of the Hudson's Bay Company during the Indian War of 1855-1856," *Washington Historical Quarterly*, 1917, VIII, 299-300. An extract from Ricard's letter of December 1, 1855, is quoted in English by Denys Nelson in "Yakima Days," *idem*, 1928, XIX, 128.

b. 1, f. 1	Correspondence with Georges Blanchet	December 7-14, 1855
b. 1, f. 2	Correspondence with Governor George Law Curry.	April 1, 1854-October 25, 1855
b. 1, f. 3	Signed copies of three letters to James Douglas, Governor of Vancouver Island.	November 10-23, 1855

b. 1, f. 4	Correspondence with George Gibbs.	September 14, 1855-January 30,1856
b. 1, f. 5	Copies of two letters to General James E. Wool.	August 30, October 20, 1855
b. 1, f. 6	Letter from Henry R. Crosbie, resigning as aide to the Governor.	November 1, 1855
b. 1, f. 7	Letters concerning the dispute between Mason and Fayette McMullin.	April 3-29, 1858
b. 1, f. 8	Petition to R.M. Walker, Acting Secretary of the Territory of Washington, from the citizens of Olympia, for the use of the Capitol for musical concerts and a ball.	April 26, 1858
b. 1, f. 9	Letter to Mason from Gabriel Jones Rains.	October 9, 1855
b. 1, f. 10	Letters to Mason from Pascal Ricard. With English translations in an unidentified hand; and a copy of Mason's letter to Ricard.	October 12- December 4, 1855
b. 1, f. 11	Letter to Mason from William Fraser Tolmie.	October 23, 1855

## **Selected Search Terms**

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

### **Geographic Names**

Washington Territory -- Politics and government

### **Subjects**

Indians of North America -- Washington (State)  
Pacific Coast Indians, Wars with, 1847-1865

### **Occupations**

Politicians -- Washington (State)

### **Names**

Curry, Geo. L. (George Law), 1820-1878  
Gibbs, George, 1815-1873  
Mason, Charles H., 1830-1859  
McMullin, Fayette, 1805-1880