

C Spencer, John C. (1788-1855), Papers, 1835-1843  
2301 2 folders (negative photostats)

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#### INTRODUCTION

Letters of J.C. Spencer to John V.S. Pruyn, lawyer in New York, concerning land, costs, and the release of Mrs. James's dower. Also a letter written by Spencer while secretary of the treasury concerning a deposit with a pension agent in Albany, New York.

#### DONOR INFORMATION

See collection folder.

#### BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

John Canfield Spencer was born January 8, 1788, in Hudson, New York, to Ambrose and Laura Canfield Spencer. He graduated from Union College, Schenectady, New York, in 1806, and married Elizabeth Scott Smith in 1809. They had three children.

He was admitted to the New York bar in 1809; was Judge Advocate General along the frontier, 1813; postmaster of Canandaigua, New York, 1814; assistant attorney general and district attorney for five western counties of New York, 1815.

Spence was a member of the U. S. House of Representatives, 1817-1819; the New York General Assembly, 1820-1822, 1833, 1838; New York Senate, 1825-1828; and New York Secretary of Treasury, resigning over opposition to annexation of Texas.

He wrote a *Portrait of Free Masonry* in 1832, and edited *Democracy in America* by De Tocqueville, 1838. He died in Albany, New York, May 18, 1855.

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