

# Guide to the Tocqueville Family Papers

GEN MSS 2100



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## Collection Overview

**REPOSITORY:** Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library  
P. O. Box 208330  
New Haven, CT 06520-8330  
(203) 432-2977  
beinecke.library@yale.edu  
<http://beinecke.library.yale.edu/>

**CALL NUMBER:** GEN MSS 2100

**CREATOR:** Tocqueville, Alexis de, 1805-1859

**TITLE:** Tocqueville family papers

**DATES:** 1723-1973

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:** 3.38 linear feet (8 boxes)

**LANGUAGE:** In French, with a small amount of material in English.

**SUMMARY:** The collection consists of correspondence, writings, notes, ledgers, government documents, and other papers relating to Alexis de Tocqueville, his friend and collaborator Gustave de Beaumont, and his father Hervé Clérel de Tocqueville.

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

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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.tocquevillefamily>.

To order reproductions from this collection, please send an email with the call number, box number(s), and folder number(s) to [beinecke.images@yale.edu](mailto:beinecke.images@yale.edu).

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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### Immediate Source of Acquisition

Purchased from Bernard Quaritch on the Edwin J. Beinecke Book Fund, 2015.

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### Conditions Governing Access

This collection is open for research

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## Conditions Governing Use

The Tocqueville Family Papers 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

Tocqueville Family Papers. General Collection, 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, and does more extensive processing of higher priority collections as time and resources permit.

Information included in the Description of Papers note and Collection Contents section is drawn from information supplied with the collection and from an initial survey of the contents. Most folder titles appearing in the contents list below were transcribed from the recto or verso of the artwork. Otherwise, folder titles were supplied by staff during processing.

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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## Alexis de Tocqueville (1805-1859)

Alexis de Tocqueville was a French politician and author best known for *De la Démocratie en Amérique* (1835, 1840). He traveled to the United States with his friend Gustave de Beaumont in 1831 after receiving a commission from King Louis-Phillipe to study the American penitentiary system. After nine months, they returned to France and published *Du Système Pénitentiare aux Etats-Unis, et de son Application en France* (two volumes, 1833). Tocqueville married Mary Mottley (1799-1864) in 1835.

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## Hervé de Tocqueville (1772-1856)

Hervé Clérel de Tocqueville was a French politician and the father of Alexis de Tocqueville. He served as prefect for the departments of Maine-et-Loire (1814-1815), Oise (1815-1816), Côte-d'Or (1816-1817), Moselle (1817-1824), the Somme (1823-1826), and Seine-et-Oise (1826-1828). He was also the author of *Coup d'œil sur le règne de Louis XVI*, first published in 1850.

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## Scope and Contents

The collection consists of correspondence, writings, notes, ledgers, government documents, and other papers relating to Alexis de Tocqueville, his friend and collaborator Gustave de Beaumont, and his father Hervé Clérel de Tocqueville. Correspondence includes a draft letter from Alexis de Tocqueville to John Stuart Mill, and letters to Tocqueville from Louis de Loménie, Richard Monckton Milnes, and Nassau William Senior. Also present are materials concerning the Tocqueville chateau and estate, including correspondence of Alexis de Tocqueville with lawyers and tradespeople, notes, and drawings of fences and gates. Writings contain an autograph manuscript copy of several volumes from Beaumont's edition of *Œuvres complètes d'Alexis de Tocqueville* (9 volumes, 1864-1867), including Tocqueville's works on travels in the United States, England, and Ireland; Beaumont's notes on reviews of *De la Démocratie en Amérique*

in the French and foreign press; and Mary Mottley Tocqueville's notes on a manuscript relating to Thomas Robert Bugeaud. Papers of Hervé Clérel de Tocqueville consist of volumes of reports, speeches, bills, and other papers relating to his work as a prefect and member of the Chambre des Pairs, and drafts of writings such as *Coup d'œil sur le règne de Louis XVI* and "Des causes de la révolution du 20 mars et du retour de Bonaparte." The collection further contains 20th century materials concerning publication of Tocqueville's works by editor J. P. Mayer and photographs of the Tocqueville family estate.

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## Arrangement

Organized into three series: I. Alexis de Tocqueville Papers, 1835-1864, undated. II. Hervé Clérel de Tocqueville Papers, 1782-1842, undated. III. Other Papers, 1723-1973.

## Collection Contents

### Series I: Alexis de Tocqueville Papers, 1835-1864, undated

0.42 linear feet (1 box)

This series contains papers and correspondence of Alexis de Tocqueville and his writing partner Gustave de Beaumont. Included are letters to Tocqueville from Louis de Loménie, Richard Monckton Milnes, and Nassau William Senior, and a draft letter from Tocqueville to John Stuart Mill. The series contains autograph manuscript drafts from several volumes of *Œuvres complètes d'Alexis de Tocqueville*, Beaumont's edition of posthumously published Tocqueville works, as well as his collection of reviews of *Democracy in America*. Also included are a small amount of notes by Mary Mottley, Tocqueville's wife, and correspondence, notes, drawings, and other papers concerning the Tocqueville family chateau and estate.

Arranged alphabetically by folder title.

b. 1, f. 1	Beaumont, Clementine de. Notes de Clementine [on <i>De la démocratie en Amérique?</i> ]	undated
	Beaumont, Gustave de	
b. 1, f. 2	"Beaumont Bibliographie des articles et revues sur <i>La démocratie en Amérique</i> "	1835-1840
b. 1, f. 3-7	"Notes - Voyage aux Etats-Unis," autograph manuscript	undated
b. 1, f. 8-11	"Voyage en Angleterre, 1833," autograph manuscript	undated
b. 1, f. 12	"Voyage en Irland, 1835," autograph manuscript	undated
b. 1, f. 13-22	"Château de Tocqueville," letters and papers related to the Tocqueville chateau and estate	1837-1853
	Correspondence	
b. 1, f. 23	Loménie, Louis de to Alexis de Tocqueville	1857-1858
b. 1, f. 24	Milnes, Richard Monckton to Alexis de Tocqueville	1846 September 26
b. 1, f. 25	Rozoy [first name unknown] to Alexis de Tocqueville	1842
b. 1, f. 26	Senior, Minnie to Gustave Beaumont	1864 November 15
b. 1, f. 27	Senior, Nassau William to Alexis de Tocqueville	1847 July 30
b. 1, f. 28	Tocqueville, Alexis de to John Stuart Mill [draft]	[1843 October 27]
b. 1, f. 29	Tocqueville, Alexis de to Mme. Romilly	undated
b. 1, f. 30	Unidentified [H. Receur?]	undated
b. 1, f. 31	Mottley, Mary. "Manuscript de Mr. Senior," autograph manuscript notes in English	

b. 1, f. 32-33	<p>"Notes de M. Alexis de Tocqueville relativement de à l'aménagement de Tocqueville [estate] spécialement à la bibliothèque -- adresses et prospectus de fournisseurs"</p> <p>Notes, lists, letters, drawings, plans, printed material, and other papers related to the Tocqueville chateau and estate.</p>	1852-1858
b. 1, f. 34	"Various letters" wrapper and notes regarding Tocqueville correspondence	undated

**Series II: Hervé Clérel de Tocqueville Papers, 1782-1842, undated***2.54 linear feet (6 boxes)*

This series consists of materials relating to Hervé Clérel de Tocqueville's career as a government official in France, writings by Tocqueville, several volumes recording rents collected on the family's estate, and a small amount of correspondence.

Arranged alphabetically by folder title.

b. 2, f. 35	<i>Coup d'œil sur le règne de Louis XVI</i>	undated
b. 2, f. 36-39	"De la charte provinciale"	1829
b. 2, f. 40	"Des causes de la révolution du 20 mars et du retour de Bonaparte"	undated
b. 2, f. 41	Letter to Monsiuer Peuillet, librarian of the Institute	1842 March 11
b. 2, f. 42	"Lettres de Monsieur de Tocqueville année 1817" [to Noël Dumarais] Includes an engraving of Alexis de Tocqueville.	1817
b. 2, f. 43-54	Parliamentary and administrative papers	1817-1829
b. 3, f. 55-57	Parliamentary and administrative papers	1817-1829
b. 4, f. 60	Pièces diverses, relatives à l'administration de M. le Comte de Tocqueville dans le département de la Côte d'Or	1816-1817
b. 4, f. 61	Pièces relatives à l'administration de M. le Comte de Tocqueville, comme préfet du département de la Moselle	1817-1819
b. 3, f. 58-59	Prefecture nominations	1816-1829
b. 4, f. 62	Recueil de discours, proclamations et mémoires, rédigés par le comte de Tocqueville pendant son administration dans les départements de Maine et Loire, de l'Oise et de la Côte d'Or	1814-1816
b. 4, f. 63	Recueil de mémoires, rapports, discours, etc. sur des objets politiques et d'administration... Départements de la Moselle, de la Somme et de Seine et Vise	1817-1828
b. 5	Rent book	1782-1806
b. 6	Rent book	1808-1834
b. 7, f. 64	"Tableau Comparatif des divers systèmes d'Administration Communale avant et depuis 1789"	undated
b. 7, f. 65	"Tableau Comparatif des divers systèmes d'Administration Provinciale et Departmentale avant et depuis 1789"	undated



**Series III: Other Papers, 1723–1973***0.42 linear feet (1 box)*

This series consists of correspondence, agreements, notes, and other materials concerning Jacob-Peter Mayer's publication of Tocqueville's *Oeuvres Complètes* (27 volumes, 1951-1983), printed material, and photographs of the Tocqueville family chateau. Correspondents include Count Jean de Tocqueville. The series additionally contains an 18th century document that may relate to the family or its property.

Arranged alphabetically by folder title.

b. 8, f. 66	Bibliothèque nationale (France). <i>Hommage à Alexis de Tocqueville : 1805-1859 : manuscrits, portraits, souvenirs</i>	1959
b. 8, f. 67	Document signed by Clarendon and Robert Perrott	1723
b. 8, f. 68	Hermann [first name unknown]. Letters to Antoine Revier and unknown recipients Mayer, J. P.	1903 October 19
b. 8, f. 69	"Alexis de Tocqueville and John Stuart Mill"	undated
b. 8, f. 70	Letters from Count Jean de Tocqueville Includes clippings, notes, and a few letters from others.	1939–1973
b. 8, f. 71	Papers relating to Mayer's project to edit and publish Tocqueville's works	1948–1951
b. 8, f. 72-77	Photographs Images of artwork, unidentified people, and the family estate. Simon, G. A.	1950-1962, undated
b. 8, f. 78	<i>Les Clérel à l'époque de la conquête d'Angleterre : et leur descendance dans la famille Clérel de Tocqueville</i>	1936
b. 8, f. 79	<i>Histoire généalogique des Clérel, seigneurs de Rampan Tocqueville, Clouay, Lignerolles, Scey, Montfiquet, Sortosville, Montfarville, etc., barons de Boishnormand et des Bottereaux, comtes de Tocqueville, Normandie, 1066-1954</i>	1954
b. 8, f. 80	<i>Yale University Library Gazette</i>	1955 January

## 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.

### Occupations

Authors -- France -- 19th century  
Statesmen

### Subjects

Politicians -- France -- 19th century

### Geographic Names

France -- History -- 19th century  
France -- History -- Louis XVI, 1774-1793  
France -- Politics and government -- 19th century  
Great Britain -- Description and travel  
United States -- Description and travel  
United States -- Politics and government -- 1783-1865

### Genres / Formats

Photographs -- France -- 20th Century

### Names

Beaumont, Gustave de, 1802-1866  
Bugeaud, Thomas Robert, duc d'Isly, 1784-1849  
Loménie, Louis de, 1815-1878  
Mayer, J. P. (Jacob Peter), 1903-1992  
Mill, John Stuart, 1806-1873  
Milnes, Richard Monckton, Baron Houghton, 1809-1885  
Senior, Nassau William, 1790-1864  
Tocqueville, Alexis de, 1805-1859  
Tocqueville, Alexis de, 1805-1859 (De la démocratie en Amérique)  
Tocqueville, Herve de, d. 1856  
Tocqueville, Mary Mottley

### Contributors

Tocqueville, Alexis de, 1805-1859  
Tocqueville (Family)