
Guide to the James William Denver Letters, 1851-1863

California State Library
Sacramento, California

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Correspondence

Biography

James William Denver was a lawyer and a soldier. In the spring of 1850, attracted by the gold discoveries in California, he traveled to Sacramento by way of Salt Lake and engaged in trading. He was elected state senator and served during 1852-53. In 1852 Gov. Bigler placed him in command of the supply trains which had been provided for the assistance of overland immigrants who were pouring over the mountains and meeting with great hardships. Bitter criticism of the project by Edward Gilbert, editor in chief of the Daily Alta California, resulted in a duel between Gilbert and Denver on Aug. 2, 1852, in which Gilbert was killed.

Early in 1853 Denver became Secretary of State for California and was later elected as a Democrat to the 34th Congress.

The city of Denver was named in his honor.

- Ashley, S. J.
- Bell, Edwin
- Bequette, P.
- Bradford, Abram Clarke
- Brown, H. M. C.
- Burson, Lewis M.
- Clark, S. M.
- Dameron, W. B.
- Denver, Arthur St. Clair
- Denver, Eliza
- Denver, Frank
- Dosh, Samuel H.
- Ely, James F.
- Estill, James Madison
- Ferguson, John
- French, William T.
- Fry, J. D.
- Hanscom, Isaiah
- Heintzman, H. P.
- Hickman, Harbeson
- Hoburg, William Helmer
- Hoehnner, A. H.
- House, F.
- Hubbard, Lorenzo
- Hyam, Benjamin
- Johnston, George Pen
- La Reintrie, Henry
- Letton, Tho[ma]s
- Lindley, Charles
- McDaniel, William
- McKibbin, Joseph Chambers

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- Massey, Thomas E.
 - Matthewson, R. C.
 - Ogier, Isaac S. K.
 - O'Meara, James, 1825-1903.
 - P. Pfeiffer & Co.
 - Proudfit, James Kerr
 - Robinson, H. E.
 - Roche, James
 - Roman, Richard
 - Romback, M.
 - Selby, Henry
 - Sewell, Newton
 - Smith, H. P. A.
 - Smith, Sam B.
 - Stocker, James T.
 - Taliaferro, T. M.
 - Theller, Samuel L.
 - Van Voorheis, William
 - Vaughn, J. P.
 - Walsh, Hugh S.
 - Washington, Benjamin Franklin
 - Weller, John B., 1812-1875
 - Welsh, C.
 - Whiting, George C.
 - Wozencraft, Oliver Meredith

Box Box 1992 **1851-March 1858**

Box Box 1993 **May 1858-1863**