# Miscellaneous nineteenth century documents

**Title:** Miscellaneous nineteenth century documents

**Collection No:** MSS.220

**Extent:** 0.45 cubic feet

**Inclusive Dates:** 1804-1889

**Abstract:** The collection comprises a group of nineteenth century documents, including letters, legal documents, broadsides, publications and advertising.

**Processed by:** Louisa Bowen and John Terreo, 1980, 1984; Gerald Chaudron, 2015, 2017.

**Access:** Open to all researchers.

**Language:** English

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Scope and contents

The collection comprises a group of nineteenth century documents of varying provenance including gifts and purchases from antiquarian dealers. It consists of letters, legal documents, broadsides, publications and advertising. The collection is noteworthy because it contains letters by Governor Brandon of Mississippi and Edward Livingston, a future U.S. Secretary of State. Other letters contain opinions on the negotiations over the Oregon boundary dispute, as well as a boy’s description of his life at West Chester Academy in Pennsylvania. Also included are legal documents: a judge’s opinion on whether the Arkansas treasurer could also be a Justice of the Peace, and a power of attorney from the New Orleans Territory. A bill for work done to recover cotton for the U.S. Army in Louisiana during the Civil War is also of interest.

A placard advertises the packet steamer “Gladiator” which operated on the St. Louis-New Orleans route on the Mississippi River. A booklet of illustrations of Anniston, Alabama, was produced by the Anniston Land Company in 1889 and a program promotes development in Decatur, Alabama, in the same year. The collection includes manuscript letters to and from Dr. John P. Bethell and his family of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, while a few documents relate to Bethell’s Civil War service. Six maps are also included.

A further group was formerly part of the Thomas Winthrop Streeter collection of Americana and comprises six miscellaneous documents related to Texas, Alabama, Kentucky, South Carolina and Arkansas. Included is a copy of the 1811 resolution by the Kentucky General Assembly approving the amendment to the United States’ constitution submitted by Congress forbidding the acceptance by citizens of titles of nobility or honor from foreign rulers or governments. There is a certificate of ownership of a share in the Ross Concession lands in Texas granted to William Arnold in 1832 on the expectation of obtaining confirmation of the grant from the Mexican government, and an 1824 proposal to establish a religious and literary paper, to be known as the Western Luminary, in Lexington, Kentucky. Three broadsides are also included: one being an 1832 report by the commissioners of the Tennessee River canal in Alabama; the second being an 1832 proclamation by president Andrew Jackson denouncing the nullification ordinance passed by South Carolina as treason and expressing his determination to enforce the laws of the United States; and the third a summary of the laws related to landowning for non-residents in Arkansas in 1824 issued by the editor of the Arkansas Gazette.

Subject terms

Arkansas Territory.
Arnold, William.
Bethell, John P.
Brandon, Gerard Chittocque, 1788-1850.
Breckinridge, John.
Correspondence:

1. Gerard Chittocque Brandon, Governor of Mississippi, Jackson, Miss., to John Murphy, Governor of Alabama, Tuscaloosa, Ala., 1828 February 13. Re: settlement of unadjusted accounts between the states.

2. Evander McIver, Alexandria, Va., to Major John Michael O’Connor, Washington, D.C., 1822 May 8. McIver is preparing to move to Tennessee: “…if your wandering footsteps shall ever lead you to the fertile District of West Tennessee I shall feel most happy in offering you a resting and abiding place on the banks of the west fork of Stone’s river.” (Evander McIver (1795-1824) may have accompanied his brother John who settled in the Murfreesboro area in 1822.) Evander McIver, Philadelphia, Penn., to Major John Michael O’Connor, 54 Broadway, New York, N.Y., 1823 June 23. McIver refers to O’Connor’s interest in buying land in Tennessee and notes that he should not do so in the hope of a quick return on the investment, though the long-term prospects were good despite the policies of the state legislature. Says landowners are reluctant to mortgage their land to buy more land or slaves, describing the latter as “scarce as money is”, because of those policies. “If you wish to procure the fee of a handsome Estate & become one of us we can promise you a bargain; but if you only desire to hold our land as a security for our faithful performance of a money engagement, you will find that the day of grace must extend beyond the expectation of a punctual man.”
Balie Peyton, New Orleans, La., to Samuel Humes Porter, Washington, D.C., 1846 March 20. Refers to a matter—a lighthouse?—which also involves Flannegan and Crittenden. Refers also to the Oregon question and involvement of President James Polk and Secretary of State James Buchanan. “I do not see how Mr. Polk & his friends who ran him upon that question, who have put forth in his message the same grounds, & then again in the negotiating with England. I cannot see how he, & they can back out from it. Will Buchanan stand up to 54,40? It is believed here that he will, that he has too much mind, too much capital of his own, too much self respect to yield to the president after what has ocured. Will old Buch. stand fire?” (Peyton (1803-1878) was a Tennessee native with a horse farm in Sumner County who became a U.S. congressman, U.S. district attorney for the Eastern District, Louisiana (1841-1845), fought in the Mexican War, Minister to Chile, an influential lawyer in California, and served a term in Tennessee Senate (1869-1871). Porter worked in the Bureau of Indian Affairs.)

Edward Livingston, Red Hook, New York, to William P. Farrand, Philadelphia, Pa, 1829 May 24. Refers to purchase of land. Also a print of Livingston. (Livingston (1764-1836) was a U.S. congressman from New York, mayor of New York, U.S. congressman from Louisiana (1823-1829), U.S. senator (1829-1831), U.S. secretary of state, and minister to France. William Powell Farrand (1777-1839) was a publisher and an agent for an ironworks complex built in Clinton County, Pa.)

Legal brief: State of Arkansas vs John Hutt, 1840. Judge Lacy rules Hutt cannot hold the offices of Justice of the Peace for Pulaski County and state treasurer at the same time. (John Hutt (1798-1881), a lawyer, was Arkansas treasurer from 1838-1843. He was also a judge in Pulaski County and an alderman of Little Rock.)

Account: W.C. Wagley, Lake Providence, La., to U.S. Army, 1863 April 23. For recovering cotton bales from swamp and shipping them to Memphis and Lake Providence. Approved by Brigadier General John McArthur. (Wagley’s company was involved in gathering contraband cotton and transporting it.)


Letters:
Rachel S. Young, Ellerslie, Md., to Mrs. William W. Young, Philadelphia, Pa., 1831 November 26. Visiting her grandmother and relates news about family and neighbors.
William W. Young, Jr., West Chester, Pa., to William W. Young, Sr., Philadelphia, Pa., 1832 November 17. William writes about being a boarder at West Chester Academy.
Note: Mrs. Robert Warno’s notes on a school the Young family ran in Memphis from 1850.

Advertisement: Packet steamer “Gladiator” departing for Memphis and New Orleans on
Wednesday 17th from St. Louis, Mo. “Gladiator” was built in Pennsylvania in 1857 and started the St. Louis-New Orleans trade in 1858 under Captain John Simpson Klinefelter. He was master until around 1863, and subsequent masters were Captains Boyce, Bowen and Hawkins. During the Civil War it served in General Grant’s Tennessee campaign. It sank on August 14, 1864, at Willard, Illinois.

Program: “Celebration of the opening of a number of new and important industrial enterprises at Decatur and New Decatur, Ala. May 29th and 30th 1889”. Foldout of three pages with page 4 missing.


10 Letter (copy): General Andrew Jackson, Headquarters, Nashville, Tenn., to Brevet Major General Winfield Scott, United States Army, New York, 1817 December 3. The person who made the handwritten copy in the nineteenth century is unknown. A note on the back of the third page reads: “(see Niles Weekly Register volume 16th 1819 April 10th page 125)”. This letter was in response to one written by Scott on October 7, 1817 (see https://www.loc.gov/item/maj007487/) in which he denies writing an article in The Columbian or any other publication referring to Jackson’s orders to his officers to ignore War Department orders unless they came through him as mutinous. Jackson had sent clippings of the articles to Scott asking for his comment. Dissatisfied with Scott’s somewhat condescending reply, Jackson’s December 3rd letter is a lengthy harangue against Scott clearly with the intent of provoking a duel. When Scott declined to duel, Jackson asked President Monroe for permission to retire but Monroe sent his controversial general to another post in East Florida.

11 Bill of sale (copy): Slave boy named Paton sold for $450 by Fielding(?) Field to Burrock(?) C. Littleton, Lauderdale County, Ala., 1839 March 19.


12 “Address of the pupils of the La Fayette Female Academy to Gen’. La Fayette” by Mary McIntosh, 1825. See Appendix for transcription.

Scope and contents:
A handwritten copy of the address given to the Revolutionary War hero Marquis de Lafayette (1757-1834) on behalf of the pupils of the Lafayette Female Academy during the French general’s visit on May 16, 1825. The address was delivered by Mary McIntosh from McIntosh County, Georgia, who headed a welcoming committee of seven girls, following the welcome speech by the principal, Colonel Josiah Dunham. The program also included poetry and musical recitals by the students.
The Lafayette Academy was built in Lexington, Kentucky, between 1817 and 1820 and was called originally the Lancastrian Academy. It was later known as the Lexington Female Academy, run by Dunham, and by 1825 had 135 students, nine instructors and a governing board which included Henry Clay. General Lafayette visited the school during his American tour from August 1824 to September 1825 and, in honor of the visit, Dunham changed the school’s name to the Lafayette Female Academy. It continued as a girl’s school until 1834 when it became a school for both sexes.

13 Dr. John P. Bethell papers:

Scope and contents:
John P. Bethell was a physician from Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, who served as a U.S. Army surgeon at Fort Macomb and Port Hudson, Louisiana, during the Civil War, before returning to practice in Philadelphia after the war. The collection consists mainly of manuscript letters to and from Bethell and his family in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. A few documents relate to Bethell’s Civil War service.

1. 1859 May 9. Letter: Bethell, New York, to Ord, requesting shipment of “a few things…by Adams’s Express…”
2. 1859 May 16. Letter: Bethell, New York, to Ord, “believe me Faithfully and Forever Your Friend…PS Provided the jug is not empty all take a drink to my health and prosperous voyage.”

3. 1864 March. “Abstract Provision Return from 1st March to 31st 1864”, showing amounts and costs of rations issued.
4. 1864 September 20. Letter: Jim T. Stover, St. Louis, to Bethell, “have just had a surprise this morning & it was none other than Dr Rex who informs me of your whereabouts, something I have been anxious to obtain for a long time…”
5. 1865 July 21. Letter: A. Rex, Philadelphia, to Stover, “I have this morning received your Tel. dispatch, Stating Sickness of Dr Bethel, and that he desired to draw dft for $200—on my Bro. Dr. Geo. Rex—In the absence from the city of my Brother, I beg to say that I will accept and pay Dr Bethel’s Draft for One Hundred Dollars. Very Respyt Yours”
6. 1865 August 6. Letter: James T. Stover, St. Louis, to Bethell, “…glad to learn of your safe arrival in the good old City of ‘Brotherly Love’ (God’s own) if not exactly sound & sincerely trust before long you can safely say Bethell is himself again. Am glad you are going to try the Sea shore, for I think salt (h)air &good wholesome food…will do you good…”
7. 1865 August 27. Letter: J.T. Stover, St. Louis, to Bethell, “…Hope you have received the box & its contents all O.K.”
8. 1865 October 11. Receipt for $1.63 for “1 Copy Dunglions Dictionary”
12. 1871 November 26. Letter, S: Bailey, Philadelphia, to Bethell, “…Dr. Schooles thought there was no infection in the house, for me to carry. I told him you said it was filled with the smell of small-pox, he said it was the carbolic acid, not the disease, you smelt. I know your olfactories are too acute to make that mistake, so: I am afraid to admit any friends, until you tell me it is safe to do so. Don’t swear about me inflicting this note on you, were your opinions worth no more than the majority of physicians you would not be troubled.”
13. 1872 March 14. Letter: Bethell, Philadelphia, to Centennial Commission (?), “I would suggest the propriety of increasing the facilities for crossing the river Schuykill during the time of our Centennial Celebration. The Chestnut St bridge can be enlarged to twice its present capacity by putting brackets on either side of the parapet walls. (Say to the extent of six feet) Thereby allowing foot passengers to be free from vehicles. This would not only add twelve feet for pedestrians but would give two additional tracks between the present walls.”
15. 1878 January 25. Receipt to Bethell from Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia, thanking him for donation of plant, animal, and mineral specimens, and “Carved drinking cup, from Fiji Islands”.
16. 1880 April 3. Prescription form of Dr. Bethell, “Please give my son a small hard rubber Squirt & Oblige (Charge me)”
17. 1880 April 3. Prescription form for himself.
18. 1880 April 30. Letter: George Abrams, Washington, D.C., to Bethell, requesting an affidavit of disability based on Bethell’s treatment of Abrams while they were in the 2nd Vermont Battery Light Artillery at Port Hudson, Louisiana, in the winter of 1865. “…and in so doing you will confer a just favor upon a disabled discharged needy Soldier.”

OS 1
Maps (mounted on card):
2. “Map of the World, As known to the Ancients and Sacred Writers”, undated.
5. “Map Exhibiting the Navigable Rivers, the completed & proposed canals & railroads of Great Britain, with the coal fields, light houses &c”, Harper & Brothers, New York, 1840.
7. “Map of the Washita [Ouachita] river in Louisiana from the Hot Springs to the confluence of the Red River with the Mississippi” by Nicholas King, 1804.

OS 2
1. Resolution before Kentucky General Assembly, 1811 January 29: Approves proposed amendment to the United States’ constitution submitted by Congress forbidding the acceptance by citizens of titles of nobility or honor from foreign rulers or governments. Approved by Governor Charles Scott, 1811 January 31. Also printed cover letter to Congress? from governor and signed by Scott, 1811 February 9.
2. “Ross Concession”. Certificate of ownership of 1/400 share (No. 215) of land in the concession held by William Arnold, 1832 October 13. Includes resolution dated 1832 September 22 by members of the Ross Company, Nashville, Tennessee, authorizing General William Arnold to proceed to Mexico to secure confirmation of the grant originally made to Rueben Ross in the Mexican province of Texas or whatever property he can secure in exchange for it. Arnold is entitled to half of the property he can obtain. [Note: It may be the same William Arnold who received a land grant of 1 league (4428 acres) in Austin's Colony in Brazoria County, Texas, recorded April 15, 1833, but died later that year.]
4. “Proposals for publishing a religious & literary paper in the town of Lexington, Ky.” Proposal to establish a weekly paper called the “Western Luminary” to include religious and literary topics as well as the history of politics, Lexington, Kentucky, 1824 January. Written on the pamphlet is a letter: John Breckinridge, Lexington, Ky., to Rev. Martin Rooter, Cincinnati, Ohio, 1824 February 10, re: the need for such a publication, and a request for subscription and for Rooter to be the paper’s agent in his area.
5. Broadside: “To non-resident owners of land in the Territory of Arkansas”, William E. Woodruff, Little Rock, Arkansas Territory, 1824 May. Woodruff, the editor of the Arkansas Gazette, in answer to many inquiries, is publishing a summary of the laws of the territory relating to acknowledgement of deeds, recording deeds, paying taxes, and redeeming lands sold for non-payment of taxes, and offers himself as an agent to pay taxes for non-residents. Written on the broadside is a letter: W. E. Woodruff, Military Land Agency Office, Little Rock, Ark., to Thomas I. Holton, Salisbury, NC, 1825 July
28. Suggests Holton’s land in Phillips County is probably good land, informs him of amount of taxes and Woodruff’s commission.

**OS 3**


3. Letter: James C. Dunn, Columbus, Miss., to Amos Kendall, Fourth Auditor, Washington, D.C., 1834 December 19. Reports on the lands of the former Chickasaw Indian Nation to Kendall (1789-1869), an influential advisor to President Andrew Jackson. Dunn wrote: “I have just returned to this place from an excursion in the Chickasaw Nation, & find your esteemed favor of the 15th ultimo which had been forwarded here by the Postmaster of Springfield…The Chickasaw reserves are well worthy the attention of Capitalists. With a reasonable degree of caution, & an accurate knowledge of the country, immense profits will be realised, & if your friend from the West has not already possessed himself of the latter, I fear he will be too late, as a large number of the reservations have been already contracted for, & located on the best lands. When I conversed with Dr Brodhead I supposed that you could have an interest in the Compy. with which I am connected, & wrote to Col. [Daniel D.] Brodhead of Boston, who was about to visit Washington, to make you acquainted with the particulars of our contract & general plan of operations & suppose he has done so…”

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**Separated materials**

The following material has been separated from the collection and disposed of as follows:


Separated to Special Collections book collection.
Address of the pupils of the La Fayette Female Academy to Gen’. La Fayette. by Mary McIntosh, 1825.

Note: The text below varies in some instances from the published version in Visit of General Lafayette to the Lafayette Female Academy in Lexington, Kentucky, May 16, 1825, and the exercises in honour of the nation's guest: together with a catalogue of the instructers, visiters, and pupils, of the Academy, Lexington, Ky.: 1825. https://archive.org/details/visitofgeneralla00lafa
This may suggest it is Mary McIntosh’s draft.

[page 1]

Address of the pupils of the
La Fayette Female Academy.
To Gen’. La Fayette.

Illustrious Sir,
We, a Committee, in behalf of the pupils of the La Fayette Female Academy, gratefully acknowledge the honour done us, by your visit to this our institution. It is an honour we have dared to wish for, yet hardly dared to expect; and one too, of which we shall ever be proud. We regard this day, as the happiest of our existence. We behold the "Nation's Guest," our country's friend; we see La Fayette; and never shall time efface from our memory the recollection of this day. If the reception given you here is not so splendid, as those you have met elsewhere, think not, noble Warrior, think not, it is less sincere. If our feeble pens, or our timid accents, permit us not to express our sentiments in that glowing stile, with all those figures of rhetoric to which you have been accustomed, attribute it not to our feeling less on this interesting occasion. Believe us, as our Father we love you, as our bountiful benefactor, we honour you, and as the early [page 2] bosom friend of our immortal Washington we shall ever revere you. We are conscious, noble Sir, that it will be but useless to tell you, after your witnessing this day's rejoicings, that by all the sons and daughters of Kentucky, your visit to their state, and particularly to this town, is hailed with joy the most sincere, with gratitude the most pure, and with feelings of pleasure, which words cannot express. Here we have daily read accounts of your reception, wherever you have visited on our Atlantic and Southern borders, and our young hearts have palpitated with delight, to behold our Country so justly rewarding the Valour, the Patriotism, and the Generosity of our noble friend. Such, Sir, are our feelings; such are the feelings of all, even of the youngest bosom that throbs within the walls of our Academy. For even the youngest, gallant Warrior, know you; even the youngest have been taught to lisp your name and to tell of your glorious deeds; and they love, whilst offering up their prayers for their Country's welfare, to remember at the same time their Country's friend, the “Nation’s Guest.”
When you return Sir to your native land, when you once more join your family circle at La Grange, should your thoughts sometimes wander across the Atlantic, to retrace the scenes you have witnessed in America, may we fondly flatter ourselves, that they will be allowed to fall, for one moment, upon the La Fayette Female Academy. As for [page 3] yourself, sir, you can never be forgotten. Your name is too indelibly engraved on our hearts, and will be remembered, and repeated with pleasure, as long as our vital spark remains, or liberty sheds her beams on this
favored land. And should our Countrymen ever be inclined, (God grant they never may,) to
sacrifice at the shrine of Tyrany, Ambition, or Intrigue, that freedom, which our Fathers bought
with their blood; should they, for a moment forget our Washington and his brave companions in
arms, we will fly to them, even in the field of battle, and cry out, with our latest breath,
“Remember La Fayette”. Then shall your name have a charm to awaken their feelings, to arouse
their Patriotism, and to urge them on to deeds of glory and renown. Friend of our Country!
Veteran Warrior! we bid you welcome! In the name of our Instructors, in the name of the whole
school, we bid yow welcome! Here, let us repeat, here will you find grateful hearts, bosoms
throbbing with delight, and eyes which can never be weary, while gazing on your venerable
features. And if you must leave us, if all that your children in America can do, cannot detain you
from your native Gallia, even there our prayers shall attend you. Upon whatever spot of the earth
you may be, America will bless you. Should misfortune again visit your now peaceful Country,
fly, aged Warrior, fly again to us. Fly to this asylum of the oppressed, which your own hand has
so liberally aided to erect, and we shall always exclaim, as we now do, Welcome! Welcome! La
Fayette!

Mary McIntosh for the Committee.