

Preston Family (Charles Peale Didier Collection) Papers

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1747-1897



Title Statement

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specref@vt.edu

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Descriptive Summary

Unit ID

Ms.1985.020

Unit Date

1747-1897

Language

The materials in the collection are in English.

Abstract

The Didier Collection of Preston Family Papers includes papers of James Patton, Patton's grandson William Preston, and Preston's eldest son, John Preston, all of Montgomery County, Virginia. The papers consist of business and legal documents, surveys, and correspondence.

Creator

Preston, William, 1729-1783

Creator

Patton, James, 1692-1755 (Preston family, Montgomery County, Va.)

Creator

Preston, John, 1764-1827

Extent

1.5 Cubic Feet 3 boxes, 1 folder

Repository

Special Collections and University Archives, Virginia Tech

Administrative Information

Conditions Governing Access

The collection is open to research.

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Source of Acquisition

The Preston Family (Charles Peale Didier Collection) Papers were donated to Special Collections in 1985. Additional materials were donated in March and April 1990. Later additions are denoted by folder numbers containing the letter "a."

Processing Information

The processing, arrangement, and description of the Preston Family (Charles Peale Didier Collection) Papers commenced and was completed in 1985. Additional materials were processed, arranged, and described in 1990. Some addition description and arrangement was completed in November 2014.

Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: [identification of item], [box], [folder], Preston Family (Charles Peale Didier Collection) Papers, Ms1985-020, Special Collections and University Archives, Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, Va.

Administrative History

Founded in 1889, the Association for the Preservation of Virginia Antiquities (APVA) has twenty branches which own and maintain historic properties. In November 1958 the APVA authorized the organization of the Montgomery County branch for the specific purpose of acquiring and restoring Smithfield Plantation, the historic home near Blacksburg in Montgomery County, Virginia, built by William Preston in 1773. In 1959 Mrs. Janie Preston Brockenbrough Lamb, a descendant of Preston, donated Smithfield and 4.5 acres of land to the APVA. Restoration of the building was begun in 1962 when the APVA's Montgomery County Branch raised the funds for renovation and contracted with architects and contractors. Since its foundation, and in more recent years, the organization has had some changes, including the dissolution of branches and the combination of the Montgomery County Branch with the Smithfield Preston Foundation. In 2009, the name was changed to Preservation Virginia.

Scope and Content

The Didier Collection of Preston Family Papers includes papers of James Patton, Patton's grandson William Preston, and Preston's eldest son, John Preston, all of Montgomery County, Virginia. The Preston family was important in the surveying, settlement, military affairs, and government of Southwest Virginia in the 18th and 19th centuries. Their papers consist of business and legal documents, surveys, and correspondence. Much of the collection relates to John Preston (1764-1827), treasurer of the Commonwealth of Virginia from 1810 to 1819. For further information on the Preston family, see John F. Dorman, *The Prestons of Smithfield and Greenfield in Virginia* (1982).

Related Archival Material

VT Special Collections and University Archives has a number of other collections related to the Preston

family:

- Association for the Preservation of Virginia Antiquities, Montgomery County Branch Papers, Ms1962-001
- Preston Family (Alice Preston Moore Collection) Papers, Ms1962-004
- George Green Shackelford Papers, Ms1983-008
- Robert Taylor Preston Papers, Ms1992-003
- William Preston Land Grant, Ms1994-027
- John Preston Papers, Ms1994-034
- Smithfield Preston Foundation Papers, Ms1997-002
- John Preston Deed, Ms2005-014
- Willard Preston Genealogy, Ms2009-121

Keywords

Local/Regional History and Appalachian South

Women -- History

Montgomery County (Va.)

Blacksburg (Va.)

Preston family (Montgomery County, Va.)

Preston, Susanna Smith, 1740-1823

Existence and Location of Copies

Some of this collection has been digitized and is available online.

Rights Statement for Archival Description

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Arrangement

The collection is arranged in series by individual or family name. Within each series, materials are arranged chronologically with undated materials at the end.

Materials relating to James Patton are in Box 1, Folders 1-4. Those relating to William Preston (1729-83) are in Box 1, Folders 5-13. John Preston materials are in Box 2, Folders 1-39, and materials relating to members of his family in Box 2, Folders 40-41. Box 3 contains miscellaneous and unidentified papers. Wherever possible, materials are arranged chronologically.

Description of Subordinate Components

James Patton Papers

Unit Date 1747-1770

Survey of a property [belonging to Robert Norris?] for Col. James Patton and Company

Unit Date March 2, 1747

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 1 (folder)

Promissory note of William Pepper to James Patton; Augusta County

Unit Date February 18, 1753

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 2 (folder)

Promissory note of John M. Colley to James Patton et al.

Unit Date [August 24?] 1753

box-folder 1 (box)
Container 2 (folder)

Land indenture between James Patton and William Leppard for 75 acres in Augusta County

box-folder 1 (box)
Container 3 (folder)

Land indenture between James Patton and John Cal-breath for 61 acres in Augusta County

box-folder 1 (box)
Container 3 (folder)

Land indenture of James Patton for 193 acres in Augusta County; Augusta County

Unit Date November 3, 17??

box-folder 1 (box)
Container 3 (folder)

Judgments on James Patton's estate; Signed John Madison; Augusta County

Unit Date November 1770

box-folder 1 (box)
Container 4 (folder)

Papers Relating to William Preston (1729-1783) and Family

Unit Date 1755-1806

Received of Wm. Carravan, whiskey for the use of a company of patrollers; Signed Wm. Preston

Unit Date July 23, 1755

box-folder 1 (box)
Container 5 (folder)

Bill for goods bought by Wm. Preston; Signed Felix Gilbert

Unit Date October 20, 1758

box-folder 1 (box)
Container 5 (folder)

List of quit rents of the Middle District of Augusta. Shows accounts insolvent and paid, 1759-1760; Also includes arrears received by William Preston, 1755, 1756, 1757, and 1758; new patents, 1759; and new patents, 1760

box-folder 1 (box)
Container 6 (folder)

Bond of John McNully and Andrew Greer to Wm. Preston, Sheriff of Augusta; Augusta County

Unit Date January 31, 1760

box-folder 1 (box)
Container 7 (folder)

Received of Wm. Preston, payment for itemized goods; Signed David Cloyd

Unit Date May 1760

box-folder 1 (box)
Container 7 (folder)

**Land indenture between Tobias Smith and Wm. Preston for 330 acres in Augusta County
"included in the Greenfield Tract;" Augusta County**

Unit Date May 12, 1760

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 7 (folder)

Promissory note for a sum to be paid to Messrs. Cranford and Simpson; Signed Wm. Preston

Unit Date December 17, 1761

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 8 (folder)

Robt. Breckinridge to William Preston, a bill to be paid to James Lockart

Unit Date May 25, 1762

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 8 (folder)

**Promissory note for a sum to be paid to Robert McClenachan by Wm. Preston and Robert
Breckinridge; Signed by Preston and Breckinridge; Augusta County**

Unit Date June 26, 1763

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 9 (folder)

**Andrew Boyd [to William Preston?], requesting the transport of goods which arrived for Boyd
from Scot-land; Fort Lewis**

Unit Date June 17, 1766

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 9 (folder)

**Account of William Preston with Arch[ibald?] Buchanan containing itemized list of household
goods**

Unit Date October 30, 1766

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 9 (folder)

Gabriel Jones to [William Preston?], reply to a letter; Concerns land sale accounts

Unit Date November 30, 1767

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 10 (folder)

**John Todd to John Brown in Augusta, concerning a runaway wench Todd now wants to sell to
Col. [William] Preston**

Unit Date July 5, 1768

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 10 (folder)

**Received of Alexander Ingram a payment by Wm. Lush; Witnessed and signed by Wm.
Preston**

Unit Date April 9, 1770

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 10 (folder)

Bill to Joseph McMurtry on behalf of Thos. Eakins for survey of 120 acres land; Signed by McMurtry and Wm. Preston

Unit Date September 24, 1770

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 10 (folder)

Promissory note for a sum to be paid to David Cloyd by William Preston and W. John Armstrong; Signed by Preston and Armstrong. Botetourt County

Unit Date February 11, 1772

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 11 (folder)

Christiana Davies and Benjamin Coxley to Col. William Preston in Botetourt County; Refers to Andrew Lewis being appointed to executor of William Davies' estate; Philadelphia

Unit Date July 17, 1772

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 11 (folder)

Letter from G. Washington to William Preston (typescript transcript copy)

Unit Date February 24, 1774

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 11a (folder)

Survey for Lazarus Benton of 116 acres in Fincastle County; Signed Robert Preston and Wm. Preston

Unit Date December 12, 1774

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 12 (folder)

Received of William Preston a debt paid as executor of the estate of Col. John Buchanan; Signed James Crockett

Unit Date August 1, 1774

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 12 (folder)

Account of William Madison with Jeremiah Pate, the balance to be paid to Wm. Preston as executor of James Patton. Signed Jeremiah Pate

Unit Date October 25, 1781

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 12 (folder)

William Preston to Henry Coleman, referring to ten dollars sent for "old Mr. Stapleton" and Preston's efforts to acquire a plough horse

Unit Date March 1, 1783

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 12 (folder)

Promissory note, James P. Preston to Christian Martin

Unit Date October 26, 1798

box-folder 3 (box)

Container 4 (folder)

Susanna Preston to Mr. Champ, requesting hemp, wheat, and corn

Unit Date September 5, 1790

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 13 (folder)

Received from E. Madison, two plots of land surveyed by William Preston; Signed Jeremiah Patrick

Unit Date July 22, 1792

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 13 (folder)

Note regarding hemp belonging to Capt. James Preston; Signed Robert Graham. Manchester

Unit Date December 23, 1800

box-folder 3 (box)

Container 4 (folder)

Accounts for taxes paid by Nathaniel Hart for William Preston (deceased); Signed by Hart

Unit Date 1802-1806

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 13 (folder)

John Preston (1764-1827) Papers

Unit Date 1780-1830, n.d.

Account for claims in Montgomery County to be paid by John Preston in surveyors' fees

Unit Date March 20, 1780

box-folder 2 (box)

Container 1 (folder)

Memorandum of a land contract between John Smith and John Preston

Unit Date April 11, 1784

box-folder 2 (box)

Container 1 (folder)

Joseph Cloyd to Capt. John Preston; Concerns a loan

Unit Date September 3, 1784

box-folder 2 (box)

Container 1 (folder)

Request "to Mr. Preston" for registration of 129 acres of land for John Lawrence; Signed Richard Whitt

Unit Date February 1786

box-folder 2 (box)

Container 2 (folder)

Record of land warrants recorded by Mary Smith for Henry Smith, received from John Preston by the hand of Robt. Preston; Russell County

Unit Date November 16, 1786

box-folder 2 (box)

Container 2 (folder)

James Beacon to John Preston in Montgomery County; Fragment; Williamsburg

Unit Date March 16, 1787

box-folder 2 (box)

Container 2 (folder)

Col. Harvie to John Preston in Montgomery County; Requests information on a tract of land on the Kentucky River surveyed in William Preston's time

Unit Date August 12, 1788

box-folder 2 (box)

Container 3 (folder)

Surveys of 8 pieces of property (on one sheet) in Montgomery County for various persons; Each signed J. Preston

Unit Date 1780s

box-folder 2 (box)

Container 3 (folder)

Christley Pickle [to Capt. John Preston?]; Note withdrawing a land entry claim

Unit Date April 23, 1790

box-folder 2 (box)

Container 4 (folder)

Deposition regarding land dealings of John and Francis Preston; Kanhawa County

Unit Date May 14, 1790

box-folder 2 (box)

Container 4 (folder)

Alexander Breckenridge to John Preston at Smithfield, Montgomery County; Concerns a request for a loan; Beargrass

Unit Date June 12, 1790

box-folder 2 (box)

Container 4 (folder)

Reuben Slaughter to John Preston in Montgomery County; Requests information on entries and rights of settlement for various properties; Greenbrier

Unit Date September 9, 1790

box-folder 2 (box)

Container 4 (folder)

Certification that Wilson Ivy, a soldier in John Preston's company, is owed back pay; Signed J. Preston

Unit Date September 27, 1792

box-folder 2 (box)

Container 5 (folder)

William Preston to "Dear Brother," Captain John Preston, in Richmond; Refers to Gen. Wayne's march from Pittsburg, William's planned trip to Richmond; Prince Edward Courthouse

Unit Date October 18, 1792

box-folder 2 (box)

Container 5 (folder)

Francis Preston to "Dear Brother," John Preston, in Montgomery County; Concerns land warrants and their proper registration; Saltworks

Unit Date August 1, 1795

box-folder 2 (box)

Container 6 (folder)

Received of John Preston, taxes paid on James Patton's land in Montgomery County; Signed David Cloyd

Unit Date November 2, 1795

box-folder 2 (box)

Container 6 (folder)

J. McDowell to Col. John Preston in Richmond; Concerns a land survey by Preston; Mr. Miller has conditionally sold Preston's survey to Mr. Wolcott; Rockbridge

Unit Date November 11, 1796

box-folder 2 (box)

Container 6 (folder)

Wm. Preston to "Dear Brother," Col. John Preston, in Montgomery County; Refers to orders requiring William to march his troops to Staunton, his planned trip to Rockbridge; Fincastle

Unit Date September 25, 1797

box-folder 2 (box)

Container 7 (folder)

John Breckenridge to Col. John Preston in Montgomery County; Concerns the collection of a debt owed to Breckenridge by a third party

Unit Date October 23, 1798

box-folder 2 (box)

Container 7 (folder)

Wm. Radford to [his son-in-law] Gen. John Preston in Montgomery County; Refers to Radford's planned trip to Kentucky, the Napoleonic Wars in Europe; Richmond

Unit Date June 6, 1799

box-folder 2 (box)

Container 7 (folder)

Gordon Cloyd to Gen. John Preston at Smithfield; Concerns land surveys at Horseshoe; Springfield

Unit Date August 3, 1799

box-folder 2 (box)

Container 7 (folder)

Nathaniel Hart to Gen. John Preston in Montgomery County; Concerns a delay in Mr. Radford's law suit; Franklin

Unit Date March 5, 1800

box-folder 2 (box)

Container 8 (folder)

Francis Preston to "Dear Brother," Gen. John Preston, in Montgomery County; Inquires about arrangements made regarding the Loyal Company's holdings after George Taylor's death

Unit Date April 25, 1801

box-folder 2 (box)

Container 8 (folder)

Thos. L. Preston to "Dear Brother," Gen. John Preston, at Horseshoe Bottom, Montgomery County; Refers to Thomas's journey to [William and Mary] College; Richmond

Unit Date December 8, 1801

box-folder 2 (box)

Container 8 (folder)

Wm. Radford to [his son-in-law] Gen. John Preston at Horseshoe Bottom, in Montgomery County; Concerns family matters

Unit Date April 12, 1802

box-folder 2 (box)

Container 9 (folder)

Henry L. Shore [to John Preston?]; Refers to Col. Vandewall executing a deed; the recovery of Martha and Carleton Radford; Richmond

Unit Date July 27, 1802

box-folder 2 (box)

Container 9 (folder)

Charles Taylor to Gen. Preston at Horseshoe; Concerns the prospective marriage of Taylor's son to Preston's daughter

Unit Date September 3, 1803

box-folder 2 (box)

Container 10 (folder)

Eliza Madison to "My Dear Brother," Gen. John Preston, in Montgomery County; Concerns her two horses being stolen and her efforts to recover them; farm matters; Dumfries

Unit Date November 9, 1803

box-folder 2 (box)

Container 10 (folder)

Francis Preston to "Dear Brother," Gen. John Preston, in Richmond; Refers to Negroes going to Horseshoe and the possibility of hiring additional ones in Richmond; Talks of Kentucky's advantages and disadvantages, and a planned trip to the springs

Unit Date December 28, 1803

box-folder 2 (box)

Container 10 (folder)

Wm. Preston to "Dear Brother," Gen. John Preston, at Horseshoe; Refers to breeding one of William's mares, plans for traveling to Smithfield

Unit Date June 1, 1804

box-folder 2 (box)

Container 11 (folder)

William Munford to Gen. John Preston at Horseshoe Bottom, Montgomery County; Refers to Napoleon Bonaparte's victories; family matters; land in Ohio; Richland

Unit Date June 12, 1804

box-folder 2 (box)

Container 11 (folder)

James McDowell to [his brother-in-law] Gen. John Preston in Montgomery County; Concerns land purchases from Mr. Brown, McDowell's travel plans to Ohio; Rockbridge

Unit Date February 17, 1805

box-folder 2 (box)

Container 12 (folder)

Bowker Preston to Gen. John Preston in Montgomery County; Concerns brandy purchased from Preston by John Hook; Montgomery Court House

Unit Date June 4, 1805

box-folder 2 (box)

Container 12 (folder)

Wm. Radford to [his brother-in-law] Gen. John Preston; Concerns Radford's course of study at Washington Academy and planned attendance at William and Mary; Washington Academy

Unit Date August 1, 1805

box-folder 2 (box)

Container 12 (folder)

Thomas Preston to "Dear Brother," Gen. John Preston, at Horseshoe, Montgomery County; Concerns goods that Thomas was to purchase for his mother in Lexington and Richmond; Lexington

Unit Date December 8, 1805

box-folder 2 (box)

Container 13 (folder)

John Radford to [his brother-in-law] Gen. John at Horseshoe Bottom, Montgomery County; Concerns land dealings in Chesmont County [Kentucky?]; Washington Township, Chesmont County

Unit Date September 25, 1805

box-folder 2 (box)

Container 13 (folder)

John Smith to Col. John Preston in Montgomery City; Requests Smith's wife's part of the estate of her late grandfather; Fayette County, Kentucky

Unit Date December 21, 1805

box-folder 2 (box)

Container 13 (folder)

John Lewis to Gen. John Preston at Horseshoe; Introduces Mr. Piersh[?], a Russian botanist on a botanical expedition

Unit Date August 4, 1806

box-folder 2 (box)

Container 14 (folder)

List of taxable property owned by John Preston in Botetourt County; Signed by William Walker

Unit Date March 10, 1807

box-folder 2 (box)

Container 14 (folder)

Thomas Preston to "Dear Brother," Gen. John Preston, in Montgomery County; Concerns John Preston's support for Thomas's schooling at Washington Academy, includes a request for additional funds; Washington Academy

Unit Date April 11, 1807

box-folder 2 (box)

Container 14 (folder)

John Preston to Lt. Col. Henry Bowyer; Contains division orders, second regiment of Virginia Cavalry

Unit Date July 30, 1807

box-folder 2 (box)

Container 15 (folder)

Samuel Coleman to Maj. Gen. John Preston; Order concerning state's quota of militia; Adjutant General's Office, Richmond

Unit Date August 18, 1807

box-folder 2 (box)

Container 15 (folder)

George Pury to Gen. John Preston in Montgomery City; Concerns Pury's receipt of a subpoena from Preston and a business deal between Pury and Major Shiffy; Wythe County

Unit Date October 14, 1807

box-folder 2 (box)

Container 15 (folder)

Francis Preston to "Dear Brother," Gen. John Preston, in Montgomery County; Refers to Mr. King hiring Gen. Preston's Negroes; a trip to Smithfield; recent elections; Abingdon

Unit Date February 26, 1808.

box-folder 2 (box)

Container 15 (folder)

John Radford to [his brother-in-law Gen. John Preston at Horseshoe Bottom, Montgomery County; Concerns his move to Ohio and acquisition of land there; Refers to bringing an enslaved woman with him and paying his mother \$300 for her; Frankfort

Unit Date July 14, 1808

box-folder 2 (box)

Container 16 (folder)

Nathaniel Hart to Gen. John Preston in Richmond; Refers to a debt to be paid in horses; Spring Hill [Kentucky]

Unit Date August 18, 1809

box-folder 2 (box)

Container 16 (folder)

Gen. John Preston to John Champ at Horseshoe Bottom' Includes instructions for Champ as overseer at Horseshoe Bottom; Richmond

Unit Date January 9, 1810

box-folder 2 (box)

Container 16 (folder)

Godfrey Brooks to "Master," Gen. John Preston, in Richmond; Reports on affairs at Greenfield; Greenfield

Unit Date April 20, 1810

box-folder 2 (box)

Container 17 (folder)

James Breckenridge to [his cousin] Gen. John Preston in Richmond; Refers to Col. [Nicholas?] visiting the springs in the summer; includes a list of accounts as a postscript; Fincastle

Unit Date May 19, 1810

box-folder 2 (box)

Container 17 (folder)

Carlton Radford to [his brother-in-law] Gen. John Preston in Richmond; Asks for money for college expenses; Washington Academy

Unit Date May 27, 1810

box-folder 2 (box)

Container 17 (folder)

Promissory note for a sum to be paid for an enslaved individual; Signed Charles Taylor and J. Preston

Unit Date June 9, 1810

box-folder 2 (box)

Container 18 (folder)

Francis Preston to [his brother] Gen. John Preston in Richmond; Encloses a power of attorney from William Trigg, executor of William King; concerns various law suits against Trigg and King; Abington

Unit Date November 10, 1810

box-folder 2 (box)

Container 18 (folder)

Carlton T. Radford to [his brother-in-law] Gen. John Preston in Richmond; Reports on problems with the hemp harvest at Horseshoe; Abington

Unit Date November 27, 1810

box-folder 2 (box)

Container 18 (folder)

William Temple to Gen. J. Preston; Requests the return of a promissory note for the sum of \$250

Unit Date December 28, 1810

box-folder 2 (box)

Container 18 (folder)

Francis Preston to "Dear Brother," Gen. John Preston; Tells of a trip to Horseshoe to check on John Preston's farm; Mr. Champ's difficulties with the enslaved; hiring a new person to help Champ; Wythe Courthouse

Unit Date Janaury 17, 1811

box-folder 2 (box)

Container 19 (folder)

Moses Jackson to Gen. J. Preston; Requests that Preston intercede on his behalf with the authorities, gaining his freedom from jail; Richmond

Unit Date April 2, 1811

box-folder 2 (box)

Container 19 (folder)

Susan McDowell to [her uncle], Gen. John Preston in Richmond; Congratulates him on his marriage to Mrs. Mayo; refers to Susan's visit to Staunton; Cherry Grove

Unit Date May 14, 1811

box-folder 2 (box)

Container 19 (folder)

Gen. John Preston to "My dear Son," William R. Preston in Rockbridge; Requests that William return home, taking leave of his aunt, uncle, and cousins on the best of terms to begin attending Mr. Crutchfield's school in Bath County; Richmond

Unit Date May 16, 1811

box-folder 2 (box)

Container 20 (folder)

Thomas Preston to "Dear Sir" [W. Preston Smith?] at the Treasury Office in Richmond; Concerns a note due at the bank, Lexington; On the same sheet: J. Preston to "Dear Preston" [W. Preston Smith]; Concerns a coming trip to Hot Springs because of rheumatic pain

Unit Date July 17, 1811

box-folder 2 (box)

Container 20 (folder)

Mathias Lane to Gen. J. Preston in Richmond; Concerns squatters burning timber and selling the ashes on Preston's land in Kentucky; requests a power of attorney to remove the squatters; Glasgow, Kentucky

Unit Date August 5, 1811

box-folder 2 (box)

Container 20 (folder)

James Preston to "Dear Brother," Gen. John Preston in Richmond; Concerns the purchase of a piece of property, for which he requests payment; Smithfield

Unit Date October 27, 1811

box-folder 2 (box)

Container 20 (folder)

"Extract from H. Crutchfield's Books, requested by General Preston, in Order to know precisely the Expense of his three sons for one year;" Costs of John Preston's sons to go to school; lists tuition, board, lodging, shoes, clothing, etc.,

Unit Date 1811-1812

box-folder 2 (box)

Container 20a (folder)

Promissory note to Robert Gamble; Signed J. Preston

Unit Date January 14, 1812

box-folder 2 (box)

Container 21 (folder)

William R. Preston to "Dear Father," Gen. John Preston in Richmond; Concerns studies at Mr. Crutchfield's school; requests \$5.00; Bath County

Unit Date January 16, 1812

oversize 1 (folder)

Thomas Preston to "Dear Brother," Gen. John Preston in Richmond; Concerns a piece of property for sale; military promotions; Lexington

Unit Date February 16, 1812

box-folder 2 (box)

Container 21 (folder)

Bill (and receipt) to John and Joseph Boyce.; Treasury Office, Richmond

Unit Date June 20, 1812

box-folder 2 (box)

Container 22 (folder)

Cornelius Brown to Gen. John Preston in Richmond; Reports on affairs at Horseshoe Bottom; Horseshoe Bottom

Unit Date July 11, 1812

box-folder 2 (box)

Container 22 (folder)

Gr. Smith to Gen. John Preston in Richmond; Fragment

Unit Date July 15, 1812

box-folder 2 (box)

Container 22 (folder)

Elizabeth Ann Cabell Preston to [her husband], Gen. John Preston in Richmond; Concerns family and farming matters

Unit Date September 22, 1812

box-folder 2 (box)

Container 23 (folder)

William Preston and John Preston to "Dear Father," Gen. John Preston in Richmond; Lysander Smith to "Dear Cousin," Gen. John Preston [3 letters on 1 sheet]; Relate happenings at Mr. Crutchfield's school; Bath County

Unit Date October 1, 1812

box-folder 2 (box)

Container 23 (folder)

Gen. John Preston to [his son] Whitley Preston at Horsehoe bottom, Montgomery County; Concerns Whitley's staying with his father during the winter; Richmond

Unit Date November 9, 1812

box-folder 2 (box)

Container 23 (folder)

Gen. John Preston to [his son] Whitley Preston at Horseshoe Bottom, Montgomery County; Concerns farming affairs at Horseshoe Bottom; requests that Whitley come to Richmond to see the General Assembly; Richmond

Unit Date December 4, 1812

box-folder 2 (box)

Container 23 (folder)

Bill to General Preston for coal; Signed John Potts

Unit Date December 1812

box-folder 2 (box)

Container 24 (folder)

Received of Minor Carey, a load of coal; Signed J. Preston; Richmond

Unit Date December 15, 1812

box-folder 2 (box)

Container 24 (folder)

Draft of a letter [from John Preston?] to an unspecified party; Concerns problems with a requested loan of public funds; Richmond

Unit Date March 26, 1813

box-folder 2 (box)

Container 25 (folder)

John Brockenbough [president, Bank of Virginia] to John Preston and Samuel Shepard; Concerns a loan for the Commonwealth of Virginia

Unit Date June 4, 1813

box-folder 2 (box)

Container 25 (folder)

Promissory note to James McDowell [Moffatt?]; Signed J. Preston and James McDowell

Unit Date September 21, 1813

box-folder 2 (box)

Container 25 (folder)

Memorandum of property at the Lower Horseshoe Bottom; Includes enslaved individuals, livestock, farm implements

Unit Date November 30, 1813

oversize 1 (folder)

Memorandum of property at the Upper Horseshoe Bottom; Includes enslaved individuals, livestock, farm implements

Unit Date November 30, 1813

box-folder 2 (box)

Container 25 (folder)

Whitley Preston to "Dear Father," Gen. John Preston, in Richmond; Refers to collecting a debt for his father from Mr. Edmundson, driving hogs and other farming affairs; Greenfield

Unit Date January 3, 1814

box-folder 2 (box)

Container 26 (folder)

William Radford to [his brother-in-law] Gen. John Preston in Richmond; Introduces Samuel Harrison, a merchant whose business has brought him to Richmond. Lynchburg

Unit Date June 1, 1814

box-folder 2 (box)

Container 26 (folder)

Account of Gen. John Preston with D. Madison

Unit Date June 1814

box-folder 2 (box)

Container 26 (folder)

Thomas Arthur to Gen. John Preston in Richmond; Concerns property Arthur wishes to buy from Preston

Unit Date November 26, 1814

box-folder 2 (box)

Container 27 (folder)

Eliza Preston to "My Dear Papa," Gen. John Preston, in Richmond; Reports on Eliza's daily activities; Montgomery County

Unit Date December 11, 1814

box-folder 2 (box)

Container 27 (folder)

John B. Preston to "Dear Father," Gen. John Preston, in Richmond. Reports on school; requests clothes. Hanover County,

Unit Date Febraury 26, 1815.

box-folder 2 (box)

Container 28 (folder)

Francis Preston to "Dear Brother," Gen. John Preston, at Horseshoe, Montgomery County; Refers to procuring salt kettles; plaster production; the difficulty of getting white labor; Abingdon

Unit Date August 30, 1815

box-folder 2 (box)

Container 28 (folder)

Bill to [John Preston?] for harness and coal; Signed Harmon Sifford

Unit Date September 1, 1815

box-folder 2 (box)

Container 28 (folder)

Isaac Preston to "My Dear Uncle," Gen. John. Preston; Refers to problems with the title to a piece of property in New Market; a dinner ball given to honor Gen. Jackson; Isaac's planned move to New Orleans; Abingdon

Unit Date October 26, 1815

box-folder 2 (box)

Container 29 (folder)

Francis Preston to "Dear Brother," Gen. John Preston; Concerns a loan Gen. Preston was to secure from the Bank of Virginia for Francis Preston; crops and holdings in Kentucky

Unit Date October 26, 1815

box-folder 2 (box)

Container 29 (folder)

Whitley Preston to [his father], Gen. John Preston in Richmond; Concerns a tract of land in Cabell County which Whitley suggests be resurveyed; Cabell County

Unit Date January 8, 1816

box-folder 2 (box)

Container 30 (folder)

Received of John Preston, a sum for tuition for his daughter; Signed J. A. Oswald; Richmond

Unit Date January 1816

box-folder 2 (box)

Container 30 (folder)

Francis Preston to "Dear Brother," Gen. John Preston, in Richmond; Concerns elections in Botetourt and Montgomery Counties; Fincastle

Unit Date April 10, 1816

box-folder 2 (box)

Container 30 (folder)

Received of John Preston, \$1000 for 50 bank shares; Signed B. Peyton [?]

Unit Date December 11, 1816

box-folder 2 (box)

Container 31 (folder)

Dr. J. Augustus Smith to John Preston in Richmond; Informs Preston of the poor conduct of his son at college; William and Mary College

Unit Date December 25, 1816

box-folder 2 (box)

Container 31 (folder)

John Preston to Dr. Augustus Smith [at the College of William and Mary]; Reply to Smith's letter of 25 December; Draft; Richmond

Unit Date December 27, 1816

box-folder 2 (box)

Container 31 (folder)

David French to Gen. John Preston in Richmond; Reports on French's arrival at Barboursville and his efforts to engage a surveyor; land deals in Ohio; Barboursville

Unit Date February 8, 1817

box-folder 2 (box)

Container 32 (folder)

Randolph Ross to Gen. John Preston; Refers to Whitley Preston's visit to Havana; business matters; a trip to Philadelphia and Washington; Lexington

Unit Date March 7, 1817

box-folder 2 (box)

Container 32 (folder)

Promissory note of Joshua Brotherhood to Gen. John Preston for 6000 acres of land warrants; Signed Gordon Cloyd

Unit Date October 30, 1817

box-folder 2 (box)

Container 32 (folder)

Bill of goods bought from Wilson & Drew by Mr. John Preston; Items purchased between December 1814-July 1816; Account settled

Unit Date August 1817

box-folder 2 (box)

Container 32a (folder)

G. Peyton to [John Preston?]; Concerns rumors of land speculation involving the Treasurer of Virginia, Preston; Christiansburg

Unit Date November 7, 1817

box-folder 2 (box)

Container 33 (folder)

Account of cattle taken to the range and/or bought, 1817. Signed Tilgh. H. West; Horseshoe

Unit Date December 10, 1817

box-folder 2 (box)

Container 33 (folder)

James McDowell to [his brother-in-law], Gen. John Preston; Letter of introduction for Hiram Jennings, a prospective overseer for Preston's plantation; Cherry Grove

Unit Date December 28, 1817

box-folder 2 (box)

Container 33 (folder)

"Articles given to the Negroes at the Horseshoe;" Lists articles of clothing given to enslaved individuals

Unit Date December 1817

box-folder 2 (box)

Container 33 (folder)

Account of Gen. Preston with Charles [Purcell?]

Unit Date February 25, 1818

box-folder 2 (box)

Container 34 (folder)

Received of Mr. Preston, payment for pantaloons; Signed John Curry

Unit Date April 18, 1818

box-folder 2 (box)

Container 34 (folder)

Received of Gen. Preston, payment for one great coat; Signed P. Shipard; Richmond

Unit Date November 16, 1818

box-folder 2 (box)

Container 34 (folder)

William Radford to [his brother-in-law], Gen. John Preston; Informs Preston that Radford will become president of the Farmers Bank in Lynchburg; requests that his name be withdrawn as a candidate for director of the Bank of Virginia; Lynchburg

Unit Date December 20, 1818

box-folder 2 (box)

Container 35 (folder)

William Norwell to John Brockenbrough in Richmond; Concerns choice of directors for the Bank of Virginia; Lynchburg

Unit Date December 24, 1818

box-folder 2 (box)

Container 35 (folder)

Mary P. Lewis to "Dear Brother," Gen. John Preston; Requests legal advice on the acquisition of a piece of property; Sweet Springs

Unit Date February 17, 1819

box-folder 2 (box)

Container 35 (folder)

Received of John Preston, payment for bank stock; Signed Carter B. Page. Richmond

Unit Date June 19, 1819

box-folder 2 (box)

Container 35 (folder)

Promissory note of James G. Swann to John Preston

Unit Date January 20, 1820

box-folder 2 (box)

Container 36 (folder)

Sarah P. Preston to "Dear Father," Gen. John Preston; Concerns school and vacation activities, family affairs; Cherry Grove

Unit Date May 8, 1820

box-folder 2 (box)

Container 36 (folder)

John Hammet to Gen. John Preston at Greenfield; Reports on affairs at Horseshoe Bottom; Horseshoe Bottom

Unit Date June 4, 1820

box-folder 2 (box)

Container 36 (folder)

George Munford to John B. Preston at Little Creek, Goochland County; Concerns the death of "Grandmama," who died at "Uncle William's" (William Radford); Richmond

Unit Date August 18, 1820

box-folder 2 (box)

Container 36 (folder)

Gordon Cloyd to Gen. John Preston in Richmond; Inquiries about whether Horseshoe is still for sale; Springfield

Unit Date January 22, 1821

box-folder 2 (box)

Container 37 (folder)

Notification that John Preston and James P. Preston, as defendants in a court case, need to appear in court; Copy signed J. Robertson, Attorney General

Unit Date June 20, 1821

box-folder 2 (box)

Container 37 (folder)

Nathaniel Hart to Gen. John Preston near Fincastle, Botetourt County; Concerns property of Preston's which has apparently been taken up by someone else; Spring Hill, [Kentucky]

Unit Date June 20, 1821

box-folder 2 (box)

Container 37 (folder)

Gen. Gordon Cloyd to Gen. John Preston; Concerns sale of steers and oxen; pasture land; Springfield

Unit Date September 22, 1821

box-folder 2 (box)

Container 37 (folder)

Lists of directors for the Virginia Bank. [Ballots?]; Four sheets; one dated

Unit Date January 23, 1823

box-folder 2 (box)

Container 38 (folder)

Nathaniel Hart to Gen. John Preston in Fincastle; Concerns a court settlement in favor of Preston which will probably be paid with a tract of land; Spring Hill, [Kentucky]

Unit Date April 23, 1824

box-folder 2 (box)

Container 38 (folder)

Broadside advertising land previously belonging Gen. John Preston in Giles, Cabell, and Kanawha counties for sale

Unit Date October 30, 1824

box-folder 2 (box)

Container 38 (folder)

Transcriptions of several legal documents (on one sheet), including custody papers and power of attorney made out to John Preston by Peter McConnell Barren County, Kentucky

Unit Date November 29, 1830

box-folder 2 (box)

Container 39 (folder)

E[lizabeth] Madison to "Dear Brother," Gen. John Preston; Requests intercession of John on a business matter and three bushels of hemp seed

box-folder 2 (box)

Container 39 (folder)

Joseph Fagg to Gen. John Preston at Greenfield, Botetourt County; Concerns employment as an overseer

box-folder 2 (box)

Container 39 (folder)

Memorandum dealing with land entries in Kentucky for John Preston and Francis Preston

box-folder 2 (box)

Container 39 (folder)

Draft of a description of an unidentified woman; Signed J. Preston on verso

box-folder 2 (box)

Container 39 (folder)

Papers Relating to the John Preston Family

Unit Date 1811-1833, n.d.

Whitley Preston, Grammar exercise

Unit Date October 5, 1811

box-folder 2 (box)

Container 40 (folder)

Jacob [Rudisk?] to William Preston; Refers to hiring Mat again

Unit Date December 25, 1822

box-folder 2 (box)

Container 40 (folder)

Thomas W. Ligon to William M. Radford in Liberty, Virginia; Discusses college life at Yale, New Haven, Connecticut

Unit Date February 18, 1832

box-folder 2 (box)

Container 40 (folder)

George Clark to William Radford in Lynchburg; Concerns land affairs in Kentucky, Lexington

Unit Date June 8, 1833

box-folder 2 (box)

Container 41 (folder)

Elizabeth M. Preston to "My dear Brother," William W. R. Preston, at Falling Spring Valley, Bath County; Concerns family matters; Elizabeth and her sister Susanna will be attending school in Richmond

box-folder 2 (box)

Container 41 (folder)

Papers from Other Families

Unit Date 1756-1897, n.d.

Land grant to Tobias Smith, 330 acres in Augusta County; Signed Robert Dinwiddie

Unit Date March 10, 1756

oversize 1 (folder)

Account of Col. John Buchanan [with William McClenahan?]; Signed by McClenahan

Unit Date November 20, 1766

box-folder 3 (box)

Container 1 (folder)

Accounts of Col. Breckinridge, 1767-1973; Lists accounts with various persons

box-folder 3 (box)

Container 1 (folder)

Land grant to Joseph Jenkins, 58 acres in Augusta County; Signed [Lord] Botetourt

Unit Date May 12, 1770

oversize 1 (folder)

Certificate attesting the right of Thomas Page to hold 400 acres of property in Montgomery County; Signed Jos. Cabell, N. Cabell, Gabl. Penn

Unit Date September 10, 1782

box-folder 3 (box)

Container 1 (folder)

Received of James Boyle, payment for a survey; Signed James Desor

Unit Date March 18, 1789

box-folder 3 (box)

Container 2 (folder)

Note concerning land holdings of John Breckenridge to be surveyed; Signed David Robinson and John Love,

Unit Date April 30, 178[9?]

box-folder 3 (box)

Container 2 (folder)

Agreement for harvesting a wheat crop by William Burr; Signed Chris Champ

Unit Date July 8, 1791

box-folder 3 (box)

Container 3 (folder)

Received of William Thompson, rations for the Wythe Rangers; Signed James [McGaruth?]

Unit Date 1791

box-folder 3 (box)

Container 3 (folder)

Received from Messrs. McMurdo and Fisher, a sum resulting from a lawsuit against John Mayo by William Mayo; Signed Ben Sheppard

Unit Date March 10, 1802.

box-folder 3 (box)

Container 4 (folder)

Broadside, "Sketch of the Actions fought at San Pascal in Upper California between the Americans and Mexicans, Dec. 6th & 7th, 1846"

box-folder 3 (box)

Container 5 (folder)

Octavia [Radford?] to her sister-in-law, "Dear Sister Susan" [Susanna Smith Preston Radford]; Refers to Octavia's new-born son and other family members; Near Lynchburg,

Unit Date June 21, 1852

box-folder 3 (box)

Container 5 (folder)

John A. Shearer to William B. Radford and Henry Bowyer, in Amsterdam, Botetourt County; Requests information on J. M. Humphreys, a prospective principal of Shearer's boys academy; Spout[?] Spring, Appomattox County

Unit Date June 1, 1857

box-folder 3 (box)

Container 5 (folder)

A. G. Preston to [his wife] "My Dear Alice;" Speaks of his illness; Buchanan

Unit Date March 9, 1897

box-folder 3 (box)

Container 6 (folder)

Account of Col. John Buchanan

box-folder 3 (box)

Container 6 (folder)

List of repairs to be made to the Polygon, room by room; "Chris Tompkins" on back

box-folder 3 (box)

Container 6 (folder)

Accounts [for warrants?] totaling \$19,240.00

box-folder 3 (box)

Container 7 (folder)

Draft of a letter from [?] to [?], referring to seeing Mr. [R.?] Preston in Williamsburg; land dealings; "Gran Smith" on top of first page

box-folder 3 (box)

Container 7 (folder)

Draft of a letter from [?] to "My Dear Agatha," writes of Mrs. Preston, who is dying

box-folder 3 (box)

Container 7 (folder)