

Preston, Thomas L., Letter

Thomas L. Preston Letter

1860



Title Statement

Preston, Thomas L., Letter Thomas L. Preston Letter, 1860 Ms.2008.041

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Publication Statement

Publisher: Special Collections and University Archives, Virginia Tech

Special Collections and University Archives, University Libraries (0434)
560 Drillfield Drive
Newman Library, Virginia Tech
Blacksburg, Virginia 24061
Business Number: 540-231-6308
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URL: <http://spec.lib.vt.edu>



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Profile Description

Creation: This finding aid was produced using ArchivesSpace on 2024-10-26 07:20:46 -0400.

Language Usage: Description is written in: English, Latin script.

Descriptive Rules: Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Descriptive Summary

Unit ID

Ms.2008.041

Unit Date

1860

Language

The materials in the collection are in English.

Abstract

The collection consists of a letter from Campbell County, Virginia resident Thomas L. Preston to John M. Preston of Smyth County, Virginia. The letter discusses personal matters and health, ending with a note about the political climate and the possibility of impending war between the North and South.

Creator

Preston, Thomas L. (Thomas Lewis), 1812-1903

Extent

0.1 Cubic Feet 1 folder

Repository

Special Collections and University Archives, Virginia Tech

Administrative Information

Conditions Governing Access

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Source of Acquisition

The Thomas L. Preston Letter was purchased by Special Collections in 2008.

Processing Information

The processing, arrangement and description of the Thomas L. Preston Letter commenced and was completed in July 2008.

Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: [identification of item], [box], [folder], Thomas L. Preston Letter, Ms2008-041, Special Collections and University Archives, Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, Va.

Biographical Note

(Note: The precise identity of the Thomas L. Preston who wrote this letter could not be confirmed. The information that follows is for a Thomas L. Preston who *may* have been the letter's author.)

Thomas Lewis Preston, son of Francis and Sarah Buchanan Campbell Preston, was born in Abingdon, Virginia on November 20, 1812. He attended Washington College before graduating with a degree in law from the University of Virginia in 1833. In 1842 he settled in Smyth County, Virginia, where he eventually operated the family salt works, served as a director of Abingdon's branch of the Exchange Bank of Virginia, and represented Smyth County in the Virginia General Assembly. He also served on the governing boards of Emory and Henry College, Mary Washington College and Virginia Military Institute. Commissioned a Confederate Army captain at the outbreak of the American Civil War, he served as assistant adjutant general under General Joseph E. Johnston. When his commission was revoked by the War Department, he declined a new commission as major. Moving to Albemarle County in 1863, Preston served as rector of the University of Virginia from 1864 to 1865. He married twice, first to Elizabeth Breckinridge Watts (ca.1822-1843) and later to Anna Maria Saunders (1825-1911). He died March 20, 1903 in Albemarle County.

Scope and Content

This collection contains a letter from Thomas L. Preston, of Campbell County, Virginia to John M. Preston, of Smyth County, Virginia. Dated from Yellow Branch P. O., the letter relates to personal matters and family health before ending with a brief discussion of the national political climate and the possibility of impending armed conflict. "Perhaps the direct consequences of the separation of political relations, war, may be near our hearthstone," Preston writes. "I do not know what to anticipate but I will ever be loyal to Virginia & follow my fight if necessary under her flag."

Keywords

Civil War

Local/Regional History and Appalachian South

United States -- History -- Civil War, 1861-1865

Preston, John M.

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Description of Subordinate Components

Letter

Unit Date 1860

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