

# A Guide to the Charles A. Derby Papers, 1844-1867 MS.0030

Charles A. Derby papers  
1839-1891

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## Title Statement

A Guide to the Charles A. Derby Papers, 1844-1867 MS.0030

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## Profile Description

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## Descriptive Summary

**Unit ID**

MS.0030

**Unit ID**

/repositories/3/resources/600

**Unit Date**

1839-1891

**Language**

English

**Creator**

Derby, Charles A., 1828-1862

**Extent**

0.25 cubic feet Approximately 80 items in 1 box

**Physical Location**

Manuscripts stacks and Oversized Case 1

**Repository**

Virginia Military Institute Archives

## Administrative Information

**Conditions Governing Access**

There are no restrictions

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## Preferred Citation

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# Biographical / Historical

Charles A. Derby was born in Dinwiddie County, Virginia on September 12, 1828 to Perry L. Derby and Martha Jones. His early years were spent on his father's plantation and as a student at Winfield Academy in Dinwiddie County. He entered VMI on August 8, 1845 and graduated on July 4, 1848, standing 5th in a class of 24.

Following his graduation from VMI, Derby began a teaching career that continued through the late 1850s. His various positions included: Private tutor for a family in Northumberland County, Virginia Head of the Fairfax (Virginia) Academy Head of an academy in Sumterville, Alabama Professor of mathematics at military schools in Kentucky and Georgia Principal of a private academy in Eutaw, Alabama In 1856-1857, Derby began the study of theology and was ordained in the Episcopal ministry. He was named deacon at St. Stephens's Church in Eutaw, while also continuing his private school there. He subsequently gave up teaching as his primary interest and served at a church in Camden, Alabama, and then at St. Peter's Church, Lowndes County, Alabama.

Derby married twice during the 1850s. His first wife, Clara J. Hunt of Marietta, Georgia, died within a year of their marriage. On December 28, 1859, he married Charlotte Basset of Cahaba, Alabama and the couple had two daughters, Martha (October 1860-?) and Harriet (April 1862-February 1927).

A year after the outbreak of the Civil War, Derby joined the Confederate Army. He was elected Lieutenant Colonel of the 44th Alabama Infantry Regiment on May 16, 1862 and entered service at Selma, Alabama circa June 5, 1862. He was killed in action at the Battle of Antietam (Maryland) on September 17, 1862 and his body was not recovered.

## Scope and Contents

The bulk of the Charles A. Derby papers consists of Derby family correspondence. Approximately twenty-eight letters were written by Charles A. Derby (dated 1844-1862) and cover the period from late boyhood up to his death in battle in 1862. Included are letters (dated 1846-1847) written while he was a cadet at VMI, as well as correspondence dating from his careers as a teacher and Episcopal clergyman. Two items were written during his brief service in the Confederate Army.

The papers also include fourteen letters written by other members of the Derby family, primarily Mary Derby Stancell ("Mollie") and her husband, Samuel. Other items in the papers are clippings, wedding announcements, poetry, and other family documents.

## Keywords

Confederate States of America. Army—Alabama Infantry Regiment, 44th  
Virginia Military Institute—Cadet life—1840-1849  
Military education—Georgia—History  
Education—Georgia—History  
Military education—Alabama—History  
Education—Alabama—History  
Presbyterian Church in the U.S.—Presbytery of Lexington  
Episcopal Church—Alabama—History  
United States—History—Civil War, 1861-1865—Personal narratives—Confederate  
Virginia Military Institute—Class of 1848  
Correspondence  
Derby Family  
Stancell Family  
Derby, Charles A., 1828-1862

# Description of Subordinate Components

## Charles A. Derby papers

**Unit ID** /repositories/3/archival\_objects/5161

**Unit Date** 1844-1862

**Language** English

**Creator** Derby, Charles A., 1828-1862

**Extent** 4 Folder3 folders of correspondence and 1 folder of writings

**Extent** 2 Files2 files of oversized drawings

## Correspondence

**Unit ID** /repositories/3/archival\_objects/5162

**Unit Date** 1844-1849

**Language** English

**Extent** 9 itemsFolder 1

## Letter to Perry L. Derby

**Unit ID** /repositories/3/archival\_objects/1606

**Unit Date** 1844 May 13

**Language** English

### Scope and Contents

Written from Petersburg, Virginia. Letter discusses Charles A. Derby's health, finances, and family matters.

### Keywords

Virginia Military Institute—Class of 1848

Correspondence

## Letter from W. Maghee to Perry L. Derby

**Unit ID** /repositories/3/archival\_objects/1607

**Unit Date** 1845 June 27

**Language** English

### Scope and Contents

Written by Charles A. Derby's teacher to his father. Letter regards Derby's chances for an appointment at VMI and obtaining letters of recommendation.

### Keywords

Correspondence

Derby, Charles A., 1828-1862

## Letter to Perry L. Derby

**Unit ID** /repositories/3/archival\_objects/3188

**Unit Date** 1846 April 4

**Language** English

### Scope and Contents

Written from VMI, Lexington, Virginia. Letter discusses good health, academics, and candidates for Virginia legislature.

### Keywords

Virginia Military Institute—Class of 1848

Virginia Military Institute—Cadet life—1840-1849

Virginia Military Institute—Academics—History—19th century

Correspondence

### Transcription

VM Institute April 4th 1846

Dear Father, Yours of the 15th ult. was duly received. The fifteen dollars which were enclosed I handed to Col Smith as you desired. This will certainly be sufficient to cover all my expenses between now and July. In regard to my health, I think you need not be at all uneasy for it never was better than it has been since I have been here. At this time I know of no case of sickness in Lexington. For the last three weeks, the weather has been very pleasant and if it continues to be so, the corps will in a few days put on white pantaloons. Enclosed you will find a list of the standing of the third class at our January examination. I copied it from a semi-annual report. I did intend to send you a report; but there are I believe only two at the Institute. Col. Smith had this year, only a few published for the legislature. You may perhaps obtain one from Dr. Thompson. I am getting on remarkably well with all my studies except Drawing and this I must confess. I think will prevent me from retaining my present standing. When I first commenced it I had but little talent for it, and thought I have made a considerable improvement in it. My marks have hitherto been so low, that I fear I will not be able to make up for them. I shall endeavor to do my best at it. In French and Mathematics I still stand among the first. You have perhaps, before this received a circular from Col. Smith. I have I believe one demerit, but if I get no more than five between now and July, they will all be taken off. You will recollect that I had a few previous to our examination, but as they did not exceed five, they were taken off. I see in The Petersburg Republican that Dr. Thompson and Capt Sydnor are the candidates for the Legislature in Dinwiddie. I would be glad if you would inform me whether there is any chance for a Whig to be elected and also whether Mr. Lyme has any opposition. I do not believe that the candidates in Rockbridge have been nominated, but she will certainly elect two Whigs. Gov. McDorrel's influence is not so great as to prevent her from doing this although he was almost unanimously elected to Congress a short time since. I received a letter from cousin Robt last week in which he stated that his family were all well. He says that he expects after this year to teach school as there is not much to be made by shoemaking in Marysville. He thinks he can get at least thirty scholars. Give my love to mother etc. In haste your devoted son [signed]Chas. A. Derby

### **Letter to Perry L. Derby**

**Unit ID** /repositories/3/archival\_objects/1608

**Unit Date** 1846 May 9

**Language** English

#### **Scope and Contents**

Written from VMI, Lexington, Virginia. Letter regards the difficult extraction of a tooth and a disturbance in VMI barracks in which cadets threw "missiles."

#### **Keywords**

Correspondence

Virginia Military Institute—Class of 1848

Virginia Military Institute—Cadet life—1840-1849

#### **Transcription**

VM Institute May 9th 1846

Dear Father Yours of the 26th ult was duly received. Your advice in regard to perseverance I shall follow as well as I can, though, I think it will be of little avail to me, since I have to contend with many who had taken lessons in drawing before they entered the Institute. I went this morning to the surgeon's office, for the purpose of having one of my teeth extracted. Dr. Estill pulled six times as it and succeeded in getting it all out except a part of the root. He immediately sent for a dentist who pulled at it twice, but could not get it out. He advised me to wait about a fortnight, in which time he thought the room would rise above the gum, and enable him to get a hold on it. It was I believe the largest tooth in my head. You will recollect that you wished me to have it extracted when Mr. Murrill was at your house about four years ago. It did not ache, but I knew that it was an injury to my other teeth. Last night a little disturbance was caused by some of the Cadets. About eleven o'clock they commenced throwing missiles in barracks, when the Officer of the Day came to our room, and told one of my roommates, who was Corporal of the Guard at the time, to post the first relief, if the noise did not cease; but it was quelled in a short time. I would write more but I feel so badly, that I must postpone it until some other time. In haste your affectionate son, [signed] Chas. A. Derby

### **Letter to Perry L. Derby**

**Unit ID** /repositories/3/archival\_objects/1609

**Unit Date** 1846 October 24

**Language** English

#### **Scope and Contents**

Written from VMI, Lexington, Virginia. Letter regards the arrival of new faculty member William Gilham, disciplinary action against cadets, and health.

**Keywords**

Correspondence

Virginia Military Institute—Class of 1848

Virginia Military Institute—Cadet life—1840-1849

Gilham, William, 1818-1872

**Transcription**

Dear Father Your letter of the 15th inst was duly received. In compliance with your request I asked Jackson if he paid extra carriage for the box of books which he brought me. He said that it was so small no pay was required of him. Listed Mary wrote me word a short time since that six pairs of socks were sent to me. I received only five pairs. These as well as my shoes and collars fit very well. Several members of the Board held a meeting in the Capitol in Richmond some time during the last week at which time they considered the application of Jackson and decided that he should not be again admitted into the Institute. I think that as others whose conduct was much worse than his, have since the Institute has been in operation, been admitted after being dismissed it would have been but justice if they had extended to him the same kindness. Major Gilham has arrived at the Institute and has entered upon the discharge of his duties. My health is at this time unusually good. Excuse me for my short letter. I am now more busily engaged than I ever was. My love to all. Your affectionate son, [signed] Chas A Derby

**Letter to Perry L. Derby**

**Unit ID** /repositories/3/archival\_objects/1610

**Unit Date** 1847 January 19

**Language** English

**Scope and Contents**

Written from VMI, Lexington, Virginia. Letter regards results of mid-year examinations, a cadet Christmas celebration, and a severe snowstorm.

**Keywords**

Virginia Military Institute—Social life and customs

Virginia Military Institute—Academics—History—19th century

Virginia Military Institute—Cadet life—1840-1849

Virginia Military Institute—Class of 1848

Correspondence

**Transcription**

Va Military Institute Jany 19th 1847

Dear Father, As you are perhaps anxious to learn the result of our last examination I take the present opportunity to write to you. The examination commenced on Monday the 4th last and continued until Saturday evening. I still stand second in my class and am also as I expect you have before this seen in my circular a file higher in mathematics, than I was at the examination in July. I will also state that the maximum in Mathematics in the second class is 300 from which you will perceive that considerably more importance is attached to that part of the mathematical course which is studied by the second class than to that which is studied by the third class. I could have easily stood higher in Latin than I did by studying it as much as some members of my class did, but I preferred devoting my time mostly to the principal study. In fact I believe it better to have a tolerable standing in each department, than to stand very high in some, and very low in others; and it is upon this principle that I have acted ever since I have been at this place. The young man who stands first in Latin, having already a good knowledge of Mathematics devoted most of his time to that study with which he was least acquainted; on the other hand I depended upon the little knowledge of Latin which I had already acquired and studied Mathematics. I saw in some of the papers last week, that Mr. Bryan was first Lieutenant of the second company, which had been raised in Petersburg. Please inform me in your next, whether there were any Other members of that company with whom you were acquainted. You perhaps wish to know what kind of a Christmas we had. At the Institute Christmas is kept only one day, and that day is never forgotten inasmuch as it is the only one on which we are blessed with turkeys and minced pies. With the exception of the eatings my enjoyments were no greater than usual. Since I wrote to you last, there has been another severe snowstorm in Rockbridge. The weather last week was extremely cold, but it has moderated considerably. Write me word whether you have hired any servants and if you have who they are. Also whether my sisters have made much progress in the study of music. I would indeed be very much pleased to learn that they have. Give my love to them and to mother. I remain as ever - your devoted son, [signed] Chas A. Derby

P.S. My old school mate Samuel Garland stands second in the third class. Please inform me whether Samuel Hardy succeeded in obtaining the situation at Winfield Academy. We were not examined in French and consequently no standing was determined upon it. [signed] CAD

### **Letter to Perry L. Derby**

**Unit ID** /repositories/3/archival\_objects/1611

**Unit Date** 1847 February 26

**Language** English

#### **Scope and Contents**

Written from VMI, Lexington, Virginia. Letter regards future teaching positions and graduation class speakers. Letter also discusses a controversy in the Lexington Presbyterian Church as the pastor, Dr. Skinner, is "on trial" before the presbytery.

#### **Keywords**

Presbyterian Church in the U.S.—Presbytery of Lexington

Commencement ceremonies

Virginia Military Institute—Class of 1848

Virginia Military Institute—Cadet life—1840-1849

Correspondence

#### **Transcription**

Virginia Military Institute Feb 26th 1847

Dear Father, I received in due time your of the Inst in which was enclosed the half of a twenty dollar note. Of course all your advice I believe to be salutary. The most of it I have endeavored to follow from my infancy. Whatever may have been my misfortunes, I profess to be old enough to be able to preserve a moderate share of spirits. I have endeavored to banish all childish folly. For the present I will forebear writing in that metaphysical strain which has characterized the letters which I have written for the last three months. Please tell sister Mary that I received her letter; also tell sister Martha Ann that I received hers and that I inadvertently omitted to mention it in my last letter. Col. Smith has placed my name on the list of applicants as teachers. It is probably that ??????? Mr. Pendleton or myself will obtain a situation in Charles City County near the residence of Mr. Hill Carter. The salary which is offered is five hundred dollars. This it is true is a small salary; but it is much better than six hundred dollars in a town. However it is possible that I may have a chance of getting a situation better than this. Col. Smith did not mention anything in regard to the gentleman in Charles City who wishes to obtain a teacher nor do I even know as yet, his name. I shall endeavor to gather as much information on this point as possible. One serious objection which I have to living in that country is that it thought by some to be rent-wealthy. Considerable excitement has been produced in Lexington for the last month by the Skinner case of which you have probably heard. Dr. Skinner the recent pastor of the Presbyterian Church at this place, is now undergoing a trial before the Lexington Presbytery. Of all the ingenious men I ever saw I think that he is the most ingenious. It is said that he was expelled from Scotland on account of some disturbance in the church which he raised in that country. But for the disturbance which has occurred here he would in all probability been the next president of Washington College, as Dr. Ruffner will resign in the course of a few months. It is certainly astonishing to hear the debates which occur in the Presbytery. In that religious body there is sometimes created almost as much confusion as there is usually created by those sinners in Congress. This affair has several times called off Maj. Preston from his collegiate duties. I have been teaching Latin in the Institute for the last three or four weeks. The first class have elected the Speakers who are to represent them at the time of graduation as well as a speaker to represent them upon the reception of their diplomas from The Society of Cadets. Mr. B. G. Baldwin will deliver the Salutatory addresses. Messrs J. B. Jones, and Finney, orations, Mr. Councill, the Valedictory addresses and the address to the Society will be delivered by myself. The Day of the Twenty Second was exceedingly inclement and on that account but for persons attended the addresses which were delivered in behalf of the Three Societies. The Washington Society was represented by Mr. Barton, the Graham Society by Mr. Crockett, and the Society of Cadets by Mr. Finney. Give my love to all. Your affectionate son, [signed] Chas A. Derby

### **Letter to Perry L. Derby**

**Unit ID** /repositories/3/archival\_objects/1612

**Unit Date** 1847 December 27

**Language** English

#### **Scope and Contents**

Written from VMI, Lexington, Virginia. Letter discusses perseverance and value of hard work, problems with chemistry and sciences, and cadet Christmas celebrations.

**Keywords**

Virginia Military Institute—Academics—History—19th century

Correspondence

Virginia Military Institute—Social life and customs

Virginia Military Institute—Class of 1848

Virginia Military Institute—Cadet life—1840-1849

**Transcription**

Virginia Military Institute Dec 27th 1847

Dear Father I received yesterday morning the letter in which you had enclosed the other half of the twenty dollar note which I am to place in the hands of the treasurer. I was considerably surprised on learning the circumstances which attended the death of Capt Ferguson. Your advice in regard to perseverance I have all along endeavored to follow. If I fail at the next examination it will not be my fault but the fault of nature. One cannot expect to have a talent for every department. One cannot be responsible for the deficiencies of nature; yet it is his duty to improve that with which the Lord has blessed him, however little it may be. It is an admitted fact that application can never create a talent; yet it cannot be denied that by application talents are directed into their proper channels. It is for this reason that a person should while young ascertain that for which he is best fitted in order that he may not in after life be trifling with that for which he has no turn. There are many in my class who are smarter than myself; yet by application I have succeeded in accomplishing more than they have. Indolence is often an attendant of talents; for gifted men frequently trust too much to their talents. It is not always the most talented men who are first at the Bar; it is not always the most talented who have the greatest political fame; it is not always the most talented who are first in the scientific world. The greatest men of whom the world has every boasted have generally been those who with moderate abilities, by their industry made up for their deficiencies, and won the confidence and esteem of all. The lawyer who has the greatest natural ability will if he is careless get but little practice. He may be able to deliver a startling speech; he may be the originator of striking ideas; yet none can place their confidence in him. It is on this account that I never despair. Whenever I do not succeed, I try again. It seems to me that h this year I am peculiarly unfortunate. Of Chemistry I do not profess to know much; yet I do not believe that in this department I have received justice. The opinion which you hand me express in regard to our professor of Natural Sciences has undergone but little change. I have not done well, comparatively speaking in Engineering; yet I by no means find fault with our professor in that department. I believe him to be a perfect gentlemen. The principle reason why I have not done well on these two studies is that a knowledge of them depends upon the memory; and you yourself know that my memory is very poor. Those studies which depend exclusively upon the reasoning faculties I find but little difficulty in mastering. Since I wrote to you last there has been another snow storm in this county. During this Christmas there have been several private entertainments given by Cadets who have lately received boxes of eatables from their homes. This evening I have been enjoying a fine supper of oysters which are the first that I have eaten for more than two years. I continue to enjoy my usual share of health. Give my love to all. Your son as ever. [signed] Chas A Derby

**Letter to Perry L. Derby**

**Unit ID** /repositories/3/archival\_objects/1613

**Unit Date** 1849 January 16

**Language** English

**Scope and Contents**

Written from Northumberland County, Virginia. Charles A. Derby is a private instructor in the home of Mr. Harding, a wealthy landowner. The letter regards a family Christmas celebration, the contrast between the people of Dinwiddie and Northumberland, and personal matters.

**Keywords**

Correspondence

Virginia Military Institute—Class of 1848

**Correspondence**

**Unit ID** /repositories/3/archival\_objects/5163

**Unit Date** 1852-1859

**Language** English

**Extent** 11 itemsFolder 2

**Letter to Perry L. Derby**

**Unit ID** /repositories/3/archival\_objects/5164

**Unit Date** 1852 August 23

**Language** English

**Scope and Contents**

Written from Sumterville, Alabama. Letter regards new boarding accommodations, a trip to Tuscaloosa, Alabama, finances, becoming a Mason, and Cyrus Harding's appointment at VMI.

**Keywords**

Correspondence

Virginia Military Institute—Class of 1848

Mexican War, 1846-1848

Collier, Henry W., Governor, 1801-1855

Scott, Winfield, 1786-1866

Harding, Cyrus, 1834-1893

**Resolution from Board of Trustees, Georgia Military Institute**

**Unit ID** /repositories/3/archival\_objects/5165

**Unit Date** 1854 December 22

**Language** English

**Scope and Contents**

Written from Georgia Military Institute, Georgia. Regards acceptance of Charles A. Derby's resignation.

**Keywords**

Georgia Military Institute (Marietta, Ga.)

Virginia Military Institute—Class of 1848

Derby, Charles A., 1828-1862

**Charles A. Derby extracts**

**Unit ID** /repositories/3/archival\_objects/5166

**Unit Date** 1855 July-August

**Language** English

**Scope and Contents**

Certified extracts from correspondence between Charles A. Derby and Willis Crenshaw regarding business arrangements for the Eutaw Academy, Alabama.

**Keywords**

Virginia Military Institute—Class of 1848

Correspondence

Education—Alabama—History

**Eutaw Institute announcement**

**Unit ID** /repositories/3/archival\_objects/5167

**Unit Date** 1855 September 24

**Language** English

**Scope and Contents**

An announcement for the opening of the Eutaw Institute, Alabama.

**Keywords**

Education—Alabama—History

Correspondence

Virginia Military Institute—Class of 1848

**Letter to Mary Derby Stancell**

**Unit ID** /repositories/3/archival\_objects/5168

**Unit Date** 1855 October 17

**Language** English

**Scope and Contents**

Written from Eutaw, Alabama. Letter regards the death of his wife, Clara J. Hunt ("Jeanie"). Letter also describes a betrayal by Board of Trustees of Eutaw Institute and how Charles A. Derby had to open a private school on his own.

**Keywords**

Education—Alabama—History

Virginia Military Institute—Class of 1848

Correspondence

**Letter to Mary Derby Stancell**

**Unit ID** /repositories/3/archival\_objects/5169

**Unit Date** 1856 July 17

**Language** English

**Scope and Contents**

Written from Eutaw, Alabama. Letter discusses the success of Charles A. Derby's new school, life in Eutaw, and finances.

**Keywords**

Correspondence

Education—Alabama—History

Virginia Military Institute—Class of 1848

**Letter to Mary Derby Stancell**

**Unit ID** /repositories/3/archival\_objects/5170

**Unit Date** 1857 May 27

**Language** English

**Scope and Contents**

Written from Eutaw, Alabama. Letter regards ordainment in the Protestant Episcopal Church, responsibility of St. Stephen's Church in Eutaw, deaconship, and the busy school year.

**Keywords**

Education—Alabama—History

Virginia Military Institute—Class of 1848

Correspondence

**Letter to Mary Derby Stancell**

**Unit ID** /repositories/3/archival\_objects/5171

**Unit Date** 1857 August 22

**Language** English

**Scope and Contents**

Written from Dinwiddie, Virginia. Letter regards travel to Philadelphia and Boston, preaching at Christ Church in Norfolk, and family news.

**Keywords**

Correspondence

**Letter to Mary Derby Stancell**

**Unit ID** /repositories/3/archival\_objects/5172

**Unit Date** 1858 January 20

**Language** English

**Scope and Contents**

Written from Eutaw, Alabama. Letter regards growth of St. Stephen's congregation, life in Eutaw, and Charles A. Derby's school.

**Keywords**

Virginia Military Institute—Class of 1848

Education—Alabama—History

Correspondence

**Letter to Perry L. Derby**

**Unit ID** /repositories/3/archival\_objects/5173

**Unit Date** 1859 December 27

**Language** English

**Scope and Contents**

Written from Camden, Alabama. Letter regards marriage to Charlotte Basset and general news.

**Keywords**

Correspondence

Virginia Military Institute—Class of 1848

**Correspondence**

**Unit ID** /repositories/3/archival\_objects/5174

**Unit Date** 1860-1862

**Language** English

**Extent** 9 itemsFolder 3

**Letter to Mary Derby Stancell**

**Unit ID** /repositories/3/archival\_objects/5175

**Unit Date** 1860 January 10

**Language** English

**Scope and Contents**

Written from Camden, Alabama. Letter regards marriage to Charlotte Basset of Cahaba, Alabama.

**Keywords**

Correspondence

Virginia Military Institute—Class of 1848

**Letter to Mary Derby Stancell**

**Unit ID** /repositories/3/archival\_objects/5176

**Unit Date** 1860 February 28

**Language** English

**Scope and Contents**

Written from Camden, Alabama. Letter regards the success of Charles A. Derby's new church, his teaching career, and family matters.

**Keywords**

Correspondence

Episcopal Church—Alabama—History

Education—Alabama—History

Virginia Military Institute—Class of 1848

**Letter to Mary Derby Stancell**

**Unit ID** /repositories/3/archival\_objects/5177

**Unit Date** 1860 April 17

**Language** English

**Scope and Contents**

Written from Camden, Alabama. Letter regards a recent visit to Cahaba, Alabama.

**Keywords**

Correspondence

Virginia Military Institute—Class of 1848

**Letter to Mary Derby Stancell**

**Unit ID** /repositories/3/archival\_objects/5178

**Unit Date** 1860 December 19

**Language** English

**Scope and Contents**

Written from St. Peter's Church, Lowndes County, Alabama. Letter regards family matters, including housekeeping and Charles A. Derby's eight-week old child.

**Keywords**

Correspondence

Virginia Military Institute—Class of 1848

**Letter to Mary Derby Stancell**

**Unit ID** /repositories/3/archival\_objects/5179

**Unit Date** 1861 April 2

**Language** English

**Scope and Contents**

Written from St. Peter's Church, Lowndes County, Alabama. Letter regards the murder of their cousin Edward Cousins.

**Keywords**

Correspondence

Virginia Military Institute—Class of 1848

**Letter to Mary Derby Stancell**

**Unit ID** /repositories/3/archival\_objects/5180

**Unit Date** 1861 May 14

**Language** English

**Scope and Contents**

Written from St. Peter's Church, Lowndes County, Alabama. Letter regards Derby family members joining the Confederate Army and Charles A. Derby's frustrations about not being able to join.

**Keywords**

Episcopal Church—Alabama—History

Correspondence

Virginia Military Institute—Class of 1848

United States—History—Civil War, 1861-1865

**Letter to Mary Derby Stancell**

**Unit ID** /repositories/3/archival\_objects/5181

**Unit Date** 1862 April 15

**Language** English

**Scope and Contents**

Written from St. Peter's Church, Lowndes County, Alabama. Letter regards Charles A. Derby's election as Captain of the Militia of Benton.

**Keywords**

United States—History—Civil War, 1861-1865—Personal narratives—Confederate

Virginia Military Institute—Class of 1848

Correspondence

**Transcription**

St. Peter's Ch. Lowndes, Ala. April 15th, 1862

Dear Sister: I have but little news worth communicating, such is the monotony and want of variety in our region. We are all well except my wife, who has been complaining for some time. Our congregations are very small of course, as all congregations in the Confederacy are compared with what they were before the war. We have had a great quantity of rain this Spring. The washing, driving rains of March beat down the earth so hard that many of my neighbors ploughed up their corn and planted a grain. Our planters are not turning their attention this year to cotton, which is cultivated in little patches only for family use. Our neighbors are very kind to us, and I am pleased with them more and more. A call was recently made upon Lowndes composed of two regiments, for 250 men to serve 90 days. One regiment had furnished 135 men, and the other was about to furnish the remaining 115

when the Governor countermanded the call. In four hours I would have been Captain of a company ready to set out for Mobile. I had made all my arrangements to go, when the countermand was received. I hope that Captain Stancell has recovered before this and returned to his post. Henry must have been near the scene of naval conflict in the James. He must have heard the guns, if he did not witness the engagement. I am going on with my little school of three boys, teaching whenever it suits my convenience to teach. But few Confederate soldiers are left in Ala to protect her. She is consequently dependent upon her militia for her defence. Contrary to my expectation and very much to my surprise, I was recently elected "Captain of the Militia of Benton Beat." Although the militia was not to my taste, yet I did not feel at liberty to decline the office which I was so pressingly urged to accept. Accordingly I am regularly engaged with drilling my men. In these troublous time, we must labor in even uninviting fields for the public good. For a whole year or more I have been trying to learn where Mr. King is, but nobody writes me a word about him. Please give me the desired information in your next. My best regards to Capt. Stancell. Yours Affectionately, Chas. A. Derby

Mrs. Mary E. Stancell Margarettsville, N.C.

### **Letter to Mary Derby Stancell**

**Unit ID** /repositories/3/archival\_objects/5182

**Unit Date** 1862 May 27

**Language** English

#### **Scope and Contents**

Written from Benton, Alabama. Letter regards Charles A. Derby's election as Lieutenant Colonel of the 44th Alabama Infantry.

#### **Keywords**

Confederate States of America. Army—Alabama Infantry Regiment, 44th  
United States—History—Civil War, 1861-1865—Personal narratives—Confederate  
Virginia Military Institute—Class of 1848  
Correspondence

#### **Transcription**

Benton, Ala. May 27th, 1862

Dear Sister: I find myself very busy preparing for the war and have but two days to make the preparation. On the 16th inst. I was elected Lieut. Colonel of Kent's Regiment. I was on duty las week. I expected to be a home at least a week, but learn that we are ordered to Corinth immediately. Our regiment is at Selma. We have another daughter. She was born on the 26th ult. and is a very fine looking child. I have hardly a moment to write more. Be so kind as to give the above information to the rest of the family. I must today make some provision for my family. I will write more when disengaged. I hear that Capt. Stancell is wounded. How is he? Write me soon. My love to all. Yours affectionately, Chas. A. Derby

Mrs. Mary E. Stancell Margarettsville, N. C.

### **Letter to Mary Derby Stancell**

**Unit ID** /repositories/3/archival\_objects/5183

**Unit Date** 1862 July 15

**Language** English

#### **Scope and Contents**

Written from "camp near Falling Creek, Chesterfield," Virginia. Letter regards family matters and a discussion of wartime devastation.

#### **Keywords**

Confederate States of America. Army—Alabama Infantry Regiment, 44th  
United States—History—Civil War, 1861-1865—Personal narratives—Confederate  
Virginia Military Institute—Class of 1848  
Correspondence

#### **Transcription**

Camp near Falling Creek, Chesterfield. July 15th, 1862

Dear Sister: We are now about seven miles from Richmond on the turnpike leading from that place to Petersburg. I preceded the Col. By nearly two weeks. He is now with me and relieves me of a heavy responsibility. We reached Richmond at the very commencement of the series of battles. We then drew our arms. We have been in no engagement. We are gradually becoming well drilled. I have seen Mr.

Graves twice since my arrival. More than a week ago I met him accidentally. Yesterday I sought him and found him. His camp is about three hundred yards from ours. Until last week my health had been excellent. I became slightly indisposed. On recovering fromt this indisposition I had a rising on my thumb; and now I have a dreadful cold. I met Pa and Henry in Richmond nearly two weeks ago. Henry had a furlough and was on his way home. The war seems to be dormant precisely at this time. How long it will be before it rouses from its lethargy I have no idea. My intimate friends and neighbors have suffered dreadfully. Many of them have been killed and many are dangerously wounded. It makes my heart sick to think of it. I am glad that Capt. Stancell is nearly well. The poor fellow's face must have been horribly mutila-[mutilated] [based on end of sentence above, a page appears to be missing] Our Regiment have now a little breathing time. I have been thinking much of my poor wife and children. I have not heard from them since I left them. It is probable that we will remain here for some time. We now have our tents and this itself is an indication of permanency. In Richmond I met two of the immortal Pierces, who were particularly obsequious and polite. I cared nothing for their sycophancy. If I could hear from my family, I would be satisfied. My love to your family. With my afflicted hand and other ailments I find it difficult to write. Address Lieut. Col. Chas. A. Derby 44th Reg. Ala. 3d Brigade Huger's Division Richmond, VA

## **Writings**

**Unit ID** /repositories/3/archival\_objects/5186

**Unit Date** 1852-1854

**Language** English

**Extent** 2 itemsFolder 4

### **Translation of the Aeneid, Book 1**

**Unit ID** /repositories/3/archival\_objects/5187

**Unit Date** 1852 March 20

**Language** English

#### **Scope and Contents**

A translation by Charles A. Derby of Aeneid, Book 1 by Virgil.

#### **Keywords**

Virginia Military Institute—Class of 1848

Poetry

### **Acrostic poem**

**Unit ID** /repositories/3/archival\_objects/5188

**Unit Date** 1854 September 30

**Language** English

#### **Scope and Contents**

An acrostic poem written by Charles A. Derby titled "A Humble Acrostic."

#### **Keywords**

Poetry

Virginia Military Institute—Class of 1848

## **Geometry exercises**

**Unit ID** /repositories/3/archival\_objects/5184

**Unit Date** 1847 March

**Language** English

**Creator** Smith, Francis H. (Francis Henney), 1812-1890

**Physical Location** Oversized Case 1

#### **Scope and Contents**

Twelve pages of geometry exercise drawings for Francis H. Smith's course.

#### **Keywords**

Virginia Military Institute—Cadet drawings

Virginia Military Institute—Class of 1848

**Cadet uniform drawings**

**Unit ID** /repositories/3/archival\_objects/5185

**Language** English

**Physical Location** Oversized Case 1

**Scope and Contents**

One page of cadet uniform drawings.

**Keywords**

Virginia Military Institute—Cadet drawings

Virginia Military Institute—Class of 1848

**Derby family papers**

**Unit ID** /repositories/3/archival\_objects/1585

**Unit Date** 1839-1891

**Language** English

**Creator** Derby Family

**Creator** Stancell Family

**Extent** 10 Folder

**Correspondence**

**Unit ID** /repositories/3/archival\_objects/5189

**Unit Date** 1851-1855

**Language** English

**Extent** 10 itemsFolder 5

**Letter from W. M. Bates to Mary**

**Unit ID** /repositories/3/archival\_objects/5192

**Unit Date** 1851 June 12

**Language** English

**Scope and Contents**

Written from Randolph-Macon College, Virginia. Letter is written on an invitation to a commencement party.

**Letter from Samuel Stancell to Mary Stancell (Derby)**

**Unit ID** /repositories/3/archival\_objects/1593

**Unit Date** 1852 January 9

**Language** English

**Scope and Contents**

Written from Northampton County, North Carolina. Letter regards problems on his [family's?] plantation, illness among slaves, contract for railroad sills (Raleigh and Gaston Railroad), and family matters.

**Keywords**

Slavery

Correspondence

**Letter from Samuel Stancell to Mary Stancell (Derby)**

**Unit ID** /repositories/3/archival\_objects/1594

**Unit Date** 1852 January 10

**Language** English

**Scope and Contents**

Written from Northampton County, North Carolina. Letter regards family news and their marriage date.

**Keywords**

Correspondence

**Letter from Samuel Stancell to Mary Stancell (Derby)**

**Unit ID** /repositories/3/archival\_objects/1595

**Unit Date** 1852 February 25

**Language** English

**Scope and Contents**

Written from Northampton County, North Carolina. Letter regards Mary Stancell's (Derby) health and plans for their March 31st wedding.

**Keywords**

Correspondence

**Letter from Samuel Stancell to Mary Stancell (Derby)**

**Unit ID** /repositories/3/archival\_objects/1596

**Unit Date** 1852 November 6

**Language** English

**Scope and Contents**

Written from Lawrenceville, Arkansas. Letter regards Samuel Stancell's business trip.

**Keywords**

Correspondence

**Letter from Samuel Stancell to Mary Stancell (Derby)**

**Unit ID** /repositories/3/archival\_objects/1597

**Unit Date** 1852 November 11

**Language** English

**Scope and Contents**

Written from Marlbrook, Hemstead County, Arkansas. Letter regards general news about Samuel Stancell's business trip.

**Keywords**

Correspondence

**Letter from Samuel Stancell to Mary Stancell (Derby)**

**Unit ID** /repositories/3/archival\_objects/1598

**Unit Date** 1853 April 7

**Language** English

**Scope and Contents**

Written from Margarettsville, North Carolina. In the letter, Samuel Stancell asks his wife Mary "Mollie" Derby to come home soon from her visit with her family.

**Letter from Samuel Stancell to Mary Stancell (Derby)**

**Unit ID** /repositories/3/archival\_objects/1599

**Unit Date** 1853 April 12

**Language** English

**Scope and Contents**

Written from Jackson, North Carolina. Letter regards business and Mary Stancell's (Derby) health.

**Keywords**

Correspondence

**Letter from Mary Stancell (Derby) to Samuel Stancell**

**Unit ID** /repositories/3/archival\_objects/1600

**Unit Date** 1854 July 21

**Language** English

**Scope and Contents**

Written from Darvills (Dinwiddie County), Virginia. Letter regards family news.

**Keywords**

Correspondence

**Letter from Janie Hunt Derby to Mary Derby**

**Unit ID** /repositories/3/archival\_objects/1601

**Unit Date** 1855 February 6

**Language** English

**Scope and Contents**

Written from Marietta, Georgia. Letter regards general news about life in Marietta.

**Keywords**

Correspondence

**Correspondence**

**Unit ID** /repositories/3/archival\_objects/5190

**Unit Date** 1863-1889

**Language** English

**Extent** 5 itemsFolder 6

**Letter from William F. Perry to Charlotte Derby (Basset)**

**Unit ID** /repositories/3/archival\_objects/1602

**Unit Date** 1863 January 1

**Language** English

**Biographical / Historical**

William F. Perry was the commander of Charles A. Derby's regiment.

**Scope and Contents**

Included is the original letter, a contemporary copy, and a transcription. Written from "camp near Fredericksburg," Virginia. The letter offers condolences for Charles A. Derby's death.

**Keywords**

Correspondence

Derby, Charles A., 1828-1862

**Letter from Francis H. Smith to Perry L. Derby**

**Unit ID** /repositories/3/archival\_objects/1603

**Unit Date** 1863 June 20

**Language** English

**Creator** Smith, Francis H. (Francis Henney), 1812-1890

**Scope and Contents**

Francis H. Smith was Superintendent of VMI from 1839-1889. This letter is in reply to Perry L. Derby's notification that Charles A. Derby has died in battle.

**Keywords**

Correspondence

Virginia Military Institute—Class of 1848

Derby, Charles A., 1828-1862

**Letter from Charlotte Derby (Basset) to Mary Stancell (Derby)**

**Unit ID** /repositories/3/archival\_objects/1604

**Unit Date** 1864 March 13

**Language** English

**Scope and Contents**

Written from Cahaba, Alabama. Letter regards general news and family news.

**Keywords**

Correspondence

**Letter from Anna to Mary Stancell (Derby)**

**Unit ID** /repositories/3/archival\_objects/1605

**Unit Date** 1867 December 1

**Language** English

**Scope and Contents**

Written from Southampton County, Virginia. Letter regards Anna's [surname unknown] personal news.

**Keywords**

Correspondence

**Note with enclosed newspaper clippings and booklet**

**Unit ID** /repositories/3/archival\_objects/5208

**Unit Date** 1878-1889

**Language** English

**Scope and Contents**

Blank envelope includes one note dated April 13, 1889 from Marianna Ewell, three newspaper clippings regarding family deaths, and "A Child's Faith" poem booklet.

**Keywords**

Correspondence

Newspapers

Devotional poetry

**Correspondence**

**Unit ID** /repositories/3/archival\_objects/5191

**Unit Date** undated

**Language** English

**Extent** 7 itemsFolder 7

**Letter to "Sir Knights"**

**Unit ID** /repositories/3/archival\_objects/5193

**Language** English

**Scope and Contents**

An unsigned letter that describes the concept of chivalry.

**Keywords**

Correspondence

**Letter from V. B. to Miss Derby**

**Unit ID** /repositories/3/archival\_objects/5194

**Language** English

**Scope and Contents**

Devotional poem written to "my mother."

**Keywords**

Correspondence

Devotional poetry

**Place cards**

**Unit ID** /repositories/3/archival\_objects/5195

**Language** English

**Extent** 2 items

**Scope and Contents**

Two place cards. One card is for Miss Willie J. Mitchell and the other card is for Mr. and Mrs. Henry N. Harrison.

**Keywords**

Place cards

**Envelope addressed to Charles A. Derby from Anna and Lizzie Graves****Unit ID** /repositories/3/archival\_objects/5196**Language** English**Keywords**

Correspondence

**Envelope addressed to Perry L. Derby****Unit ID** /repositories/3/archival\_objects/5197**Language** English**Keywords**

Correspondence

**Letter to Mrs. Henry L. Derby****Unit ID** /repositories/3/archival\_objects/5198**Unit Date** January 17**Language** English**Scope and Contents**

Written from Berkley, Virginia. Letter regards family and personal matters.

**Keywords**

Correspondence

**Poem by Mary E. Derby****Unit ID** /repositories/3/archival\_objects/5199**Language** English**Scope and Contents**

Poem titled "Shall we meet again, Mary?."

**Keywords**

Correspondence

Poetry

**Invitations****Unit ID** /repositories/3/archival\_objects/5200**Unit Date** 1880-1889**Language** English**Extent** 8 itemsFolder 8**Keywords**

Invitation cards

**Wedding invitation****Unit ID** /repositories/3/archival\_objects/5201**Unit Date** 1884 June 12**Language** English**Scope and Contents**

Wedding invitation for Marion Macintosh and the Right Reverend G. W. Peterkin.

**Keywords**

Correspondence

**Wedding invitation****Unit ID** /repositories/3/archival\_objects/5202**Unit Date** 1886 August 4**Language** English**Scope and Contents**

Wedding invitation for Nannie L. Whitehurst and Samuel E. Long.

**Keywords**

Correspondence

**Wedding invitation**

**Unit ID** /repositories/3/archival\_objects/5203

**Unit Date** 1880 October 7

**Language** English

**Scope and Contents**

Wedding invitation for May Hundley and Louis Bowly.

**Keywords**

Correspondence

**Wedding invitation**

**Unit ID** /repositories/3/archival\_objects/5204

**Unit Date** 1883 October 18

**Language** English

**Scope and Contents**

Wedding invitation for Kate Gordon and Reverend J. E. Poindexter.

**Keywords**

Correspondence

**Invitation and place card**

**Unit ID** /repositories/3/archival\_objects/5205

**Unit Date** 1880 February 18

**Language** English

**Scope and Contents**

Invitation for an event at the home of V. A. Thornton and name card for Willetta F. Thornton.

**Keywords**

Correspondence

Place cards

**Wedding invitation for the marriage of Henry L. Derby and Jane**

**Unit ID** /repositories/3/archival\_objects/5206

**Unit Date** 1882 September 20

**Language** English

**Scope and Contents**

Wedding invitation for Fannie Towles and Daniel M. Harman.

**Keywords**

Correspondence

**Wedding invitation to Henry L. Derby**

**Unit ID** /repositories/3/archival\_objects/5207

**Unit Date** 1882 August 23

**Language** English

**Scope and Contents**

Wedding invitation for Dr. J. E. Brown and Marion A. Sullivan.

**Keywords**

Correspondence

**Charlotte Derby (Bassett) papers**

**Unit ID** /repositories/3/archival\_objects/5209

**Unit Date** undated

**Language** English

**Extent** 2 itemsFolder 9

### **Composition**

**Unit ID** /repositories/3/archival\_objects/5210

**Language** English

### **Scope and Contents**

Composition titled "The Powers of Custom."

### **Keywords**

Composition (Language arts)

### **Pressed flower and plant album**

**Unit ID** /repositories/3/archival\_objects/5211

**Language** English

### **Scope and Contents**

Pressed flower and plant album featuring the English and Latin names of each specimen.

### **Keywords**

Wild flowers

### **Henry L. Derby notebook**

**Unit ID** /repositories/3/archival\_objects/5213

**Unit Date** 1868-1870

**Language** English

**Extent** 1 itemsFolder 10

### **Notebook**

**Unit ID** /repositories/3/archival\_objects/5214

**Unit Date** 1868-1870

**Language** English

### **Scope and Contents**

Henry L. Derby's notebook he kept while at the Theological Seminary in Fairfax County, Virginia. The notebook contains course lists and schedules, finances, and other writings. A loose piece of sheet music for "Prince of Peace" and a map of "Paul's Third Journey" are tucked into the back of the notebook.

### **Keywords**

Notebooks

Maps

Sheet music

### **Newspaper clippings**

**Unit ID** /repositories/3/archival\_objects/5215

**Language** English

**Extent** 8 itemsFolder 11

### **Scope and Contents**

Eight newspaper clippings. Four clippings are related to Charles A. Derby's career at Western Military Institute, Kentucky. One clipping is related to Derby's career at Eutaw Male Academy, Alabama. Two clippings are related to the death of his wife Clara J. Derby (Hunt). One clipping is Derby's obituary.

### **Keywords**

Clippings

Virginia Military Institute—Class of 1848

Military education—Alabama—History

Derby, Charles A., 1828-1862

Derby Family

**Printed materials and textile cloth**

**Unit ID** /repositories/3/archival\_objects/5216

**Language** English

**Extent** 6 itemsFolder 12

**"Original Poems for Infant Minds" book**

**Unit ID** /repositories/3/archival\_objects/5219

**Unit Date** 1839

**Language** English

**Scope and Contents**

Book chiefly written by Jane Taylor (1783-1824) and Ann Taylor (1782-1866). Signature of Charlotte Derby (Bassett) written in pencil on the inside front cover.

**Keywords**

Books

Poetry

**"French & Son's Handbook and Directory for Worthing" fragment**

**Unit ID** /repositories/3/archival\_objects/5217

**Unit Date** 1859

**Language** English

**Scope and Contents**

Fragment (up to page 53) of the "French & Son's Handbook and Directory for Worthing."

**Keywords**

Directories

England—Sussex

**"Long's Worthing Directory"**

**Unit ID** /repositories/3/archival\_objects/5218

**Unit Date** 1891

**Language** English

**Keywords**

Directories

England—Sussex

**"Old, Old Story" book**

**Unit ID** /repositories/3/archival\_objects/5220

**Language** English

**Biographical / Historical**

Published by the American Tract Society, New York.

**Keywords**

Books

**"The Star of Bethlehem" book**

**Unit ID** /repositories/3/archival\_objects/5221

**Language** English

**Biographical / Historical**

Published by the American Tract Society, New York.

**Keywords**

Books

**"Nicholas Hamner Cobbs, D. D., In Memoriam" book**

**Unit ID** /repositories/3/archival\_objects/5222

**Unit Date** 1861

**Language** English

**Scope and Contents**

Funeral address and obituary notices for Nichoas Hamner Cobbs, D. D., who was the first bishop of the Protestant Episcopal church in the diocese of Alabama.

**Keywords**

Books

Episcopal Church—Alabama—History

**Red textile cloth with pouch**

**Unit ID** /repositories/3/archival\_objects/5223

**Language** English

**Extent** Red textile cloth is 14 inches long by 8 inches wide and features one pocket.

**Keywords**

Textile fabrics

**William L. Hughlett items**

**Unit ID** /repositories/3/archival\_objects/5224

**Unit Date** 1884

**Language** English

**Extent** 2 itemsFolder 13

**Place card**

**Unit ID** /repositories/3/archival\_objects/5225

**Language** English

**Scope and Contents**

Place card with the name Wm. Hughlett.

**Keywords**

Place cards

**Medical College of Virginia Address to the Graduates program**

**Unit ID** /repositories/3/archival\_objects/5226

**Unit Date** 1884 March 31

**Language** English

**Keywords**

Commencement ceremonies

Programs (Publications)

**"Nearer Home" poem transcription**

**Unit ID** /repositories/3/archival\_objects/5227

**Language** English

**Extent** 1 itemsFolder 14

**Keywords**

Poetry

**Poem transcription**

**Unit ID** /repositories/3/archival\_objects/5228

**Language** English

**Scope and Contents**

A transcription of the poem "Nearer Home." The transcriber is unknown.

**Keywords**

