

Cabaniss, John C. Letters

John C. Cabaniss Letters
1851-1855

Title Statement

Cabaniss, John C. LettersGuide to the John C. Cabaniss Letters SC 00620

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Profile Description

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Descriptive Summary

Unit ID

SC 00620

Unit ID

/repositories/2/resources/2909

Unit Date

1851-1855

Language

English

Creator

Cabaniss, John C., 1805-1858

Creator

Hill, Nancy Sink Cabaniss, 1785-1868

Extent

0.01 Linear Foot

Repository

Special Collections Research Center

Administrative Information

Conditions Governing Access:

Collection is open to all researchers.

Conditions Governing Use:

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Acquisition Information:

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John C. Cabaniss Letters, Special Collections Research Center, Swem Library, College of William and Mary.

Biographical Information:

John C. Cabaniss was born around 1805 in Franklin County, Virginia, the son of Nancy Sink and Courtland Henry Cabaniss. He left Virginia circa 1850 for San Francisco, California to make his fortune in the Gold Rush. Cabaniss was a proprietor of the Folsom Street coal yards as well as several other lots around San Francisco. He was a member of the San Francisco Lodge No. 7 of the Masons and died of an apparent suicide on April 25, 1858.

Scope and Contents

This collection contains twelve letters written by John C. Cabaniss, a proprietor of the Folsom Street coal yards in San Francisco, California to his mother, Mrs. Nancy Hill [Nancy Sink Cabaniss Hill] in Franklin County, Virginia. Cabaniss moved to San Francisco during the Gold Rush.

Most of his letters mention that he is coming home soon, is in good health and the business is doing well. For a time, a friend from home, Moses G. Noble, lives with him. The letters also mention the collapse of the banks in San Francisco in 1855 and his family's slaves. He tells his mother that he will pay to hire or buy Mariah's husband. He often sends money to his mother, once asking her to give Mariah, and others, \$25. By 1855, he also owns a ranch and still works at the coal yard.

John Cabiness committed suicide on April 25, 1858 and a copy of the April 26, 1858 Sacramento Daily gives details of his death. A copy of a typed partial biography of John Cabaniss, possibly written by the seller and mostly unsourced, hints at an earlier bankruptcy in Alabama.

Keywords

Letters (correspondence)

California--Description and travel--19th century

California--Economic conditions--19th century

Coal--California

Franklin County (Va.)--History

San Francisco (Calif.)--19th century

Slavery--Virginia--19th century

Suicide

Noble, Moses Greer

Arrangement of Materials:

Arranged chronologically.

Description of Subordinate Components

Letters

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/241815

Unit Date 1851-1855

Mixed Materials Small Collections Box 21 (Box)

Container 1 (folder)

