

Booton-Modesitt Family Papers

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circa 1809-1880



WILLIAM
& MARY

CHARTERED 1693

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Descriptive Summary

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Unit Date

circa 1809-1880

Unit Date

1820-1850

Language

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Creator

Booton, Lucy Mary Modesitt

Extent

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Repository

Special Collections Research Center

Administrative Information

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Scope and Contents

Papers of the Modesitt-Booton families of Luray, Virginia. The bulk of the collection consists of papers relating to Lucy Marye of Luray, Virginia who married James Modesitt in 1815. She was widowed in 1827 and remarried James Booton in 1830. Lucy was born to Peter and Eleanor Marye and was sister to William Staige Marye, who is considered one of the founders of Luray, Virginia Also included are letters by John Booton and others relating to slavery and politics, children's copy books, account books, a broadside, invoices, legal contracts and documents.

Information from seller

All of the following, description and excerpts, was provided by the seller and has not been verified: "The archive of Lucy Marye of Luray, Virginia who married James Modesitt in 1815, who died in 1827, Lucy then married James Booton in 1830. (1809-1880 with the large majority of items being from the 1820s-1850s). Lucy was born to Peter and Eleanor Marye and was sister to William Staige Marye, who is considered one of the founders of Luray, Virginia.

Included are copy books by the children, Sarah, Wyatt Stage and others, from the 1840s and 1850s. They range from a few pages to several with around 70 pages. They are all handwritten and have areas for copying the same line over and over again along with other areas for class notes and exercises.

Confederate Bond Coupon from 1864

Small Broadside for selling the business of Robert Modisett, selling the entire stock 1850s

18 page account book for items including Hog Skins, Squirrel Skins, Sheep Skins and other items from 1834

Small Account Book/Ledger including clothing items from 1835

2 Page Handwritten Poem written by John Booton 1844 at Luray Academy Diary of Charles Modisett as a Teacher of the Public White School in the Springfield District from 1880, including enrollment, attendance, ages of kids, along with a selection of his notes as teacher.

Invoices many several pages long some for medical items from Jonas Crane, a doctor in the area, some for blacksmith work, several for work on shoes and clothes Receipts including slave tax receipts Indentures and Deeds for land and property

Several Large Fold Lists of Land Grants

Some Books and Journals including New England Primer from the 1830s and 1840s Prayer book and hymnal Group of 15 Circulars for the Commissioner of Revenue for Virginia from the 1840s and 1850s, they belonged to Charles Modesitt who was the Commissioner in Page County

4 page Policy of Insurance from the Insurance Company of the Valley of Virginia at Winchester from 1853

Virginia Confederate Bond Coupon

1864 Several Engraved Rewards of Merit for the Children from the 1840s-1860s

Nice License for Private Entertainment by Charles B Modesitt

1860 Handwritten note for the Election of 1853, listing all the votes from Congress, Senate and House from Price's Mill, Brintz's Mill, Mohler's Mille, Honeyville, Springfield, Rileysville, Oakham and Luray with Armstrong, Butler, Faulkner, Buswell, Keyser and Spitter all running for office

Small Printed Broadside of the Faculty of Jefferson College from 1849

Documents dealing with the death and estate of James Modesitt from 1827

Handwritten Invitation to John and Robert to attend a social party at the Washington House in Luray, signed by all the managers

1845 Letters The majority are 3-4 pages long. Interesting group of letters from G Gordon, who was a cousin. They were from Honeyville, Virginia to Luray from the 1830s

Letters from Hawksbill, Virginia from William R Almond, a well known businessman in Page County from the 1820s

Letters from her son while he was at school at Jefferson Medical College from 1849-1853

Letters from her son, Robert Modesitt, as he traveled and started his business in Pennsylvania 1840s.

Letters from Lucy Gordon from 1840 from Slate Mills, Virginia

A few letters from James Modesitt to Lucy 1810s

A few letters from Lucy to her children" "There are two literary societies composed of the students of the college. They meet once a week and in rotation have lectures, compositions, and a debate. I am a member of the largest one, the Adelpian, and last night I spoke two rounds on the debate. The first time I ever made a speech. The question for debate was this. Can a government be perpetuated which is not founded on a religion?" "I have one important matter to communicate and that is that I am going to be married in May unless something strange, very strange, turns up. I hope you are willing to trust my judgment in the selection of a companion for life. I think my choice is a prudent and happy one and one that cannot fail to please you. I am sure if you love me or any child you have, you will love her. I wish you could see her." "I saw this morning an account of another battle fought between the Americans and the Mexicans which lasted sometime. During the action, lieut. Thomas Jordan and many other gallant officers were wounded. I reckon Mr. Jordan will be much grieved to hear that his son has happened to such a sad accident but it will be of some consolation to him to think that it was done in defense of his country. Brid. Gen. Joshua Howe of this place received orders from the president this morning to call together the militia of this country and march to the field of battle on the 22nd of June. I would like to know if there is any likelihood of many being taken away from Luray." "We have had a warm political contest here but all is lost. JK Polk will certainly be president of the US. I am disappointed beyond measure. I could not have believed he could have beaten our gallant old Harry, but it is all over, and we must make the best of it." "I was a little surprised last Thursday morning when I got up to discover an attempt to break in the store during the night. They bored holes with an anger through the door next to the street with the intention to get out the key, I suppose, but they did not succeed. They were scared off by the watchmen. If they had gotten in, I think they would have met with rather a warm reception. I did not hear them as I sleep upstairs, but if they had come up there, I had the thing that would have made them get out a little quicker than they got in. There seems to be a gang of villains about here for awhile. They have attempted to fire buildings and do other mischief. One rouge has been safely lodged in jail for breaking in a store in Parkersburg, Virginia and robbed it of \$200." "The honorable James Buchanan passed through here last Monday and made a short speech to the students. I was very well pleased both with the speech and the man. One does not see any of the outward peculiarities which are sometimes taken for characteristics of greatness, except indeed the deep cunning expressed by his eyes or the sharpness and

prominence of the chin." "I hope Daniel Kibler's letter has not put Charlie in the notion of going to the West. I suppose from what he says that his father has taken up some government or vacant land, as it is called."

"The University of Virginia receives an annuity of \$15,000 from the state and one of the conditions on which it receives it is that there shall be one student from every congressional district from the state educated free of charge for tuition and boarding. I could perhaps get in there from the Paige District, but it would make me feel a little too degraded to be educated at the expense of the state. Besides, the Virginia University is one of the best, if not the very best, college in the United States." Letter from Port Gibson, Mississippi from Mary Marye describing her life from 1848. "We stayed in Washington city until 5:00 Saturday evening. We went to the president's house, the public grounds, the Washington Monument, the Equestrian Statue of Jackson, the Capitol, the Patent Office. I enclose a five dollar note which I got from Mr. Grove. It turns out to be counterfeit." "I received a letter from Dr. Rust some weeks ago. He offers me two fifths of his practice if I will go in to co-partnership with him in the spring. I answered it not accepting positively his offer, though I think it is not unlikely that I will." "Did you see Belle Austin's husband while you were in Uniontown? He is a whopper. Considerably over six feet. I saw a catalog of the Steubenville Seminary a few days ago which had the name of Margret Thompson from Luray, Virginia in it. Pray, who is she? Is she Dr. Thompson's daughter? The seminary is only a days ride from this place." "I have heard alarms of fire every night since I have been here. The first night I got here there was a fire very near in sight of my window besides three others. The town seemed to be in commotion all night. I have gotten along from the time I left home. I will give you first and account from the day I left. The first day I went to Shenandoah Furnace. The next day I went to Harrisonburg and the next day to New Market where I remained until Wednesday. I walked from New Market to Mount Jackson, seven miles. It was not the day for the stage when I left New Market." "I suppose you will wonder what brought me here. I will answer that. It was through the improper intimacy of the young man that was here with a very respectable young lady. In order to keep out of trouble, he left this place last Sunday for parts unknown. He did not go without the knowledge of brother Robert. He has always acted highly honorable with him." Letters from Lucy Booton to her children from Slatevilles, Virginia. Letter to Dr F.W.G. Thomas, who became a well known physician in Missouri looking for employment from 1852 Nice letter from Rockingham with a nice folk art drawing of a bird with a branch at the top of the letter Great letter from James to Lucy a few months before they were married in 1815, "I have purchased my Brother's blacksmith's and expect to start out to fetch them in on Wednesday next. I am making preparation to settle in Luray. I find that I shall get sufficient employ in my line of business and a great supply of work for my smiths. I believe it will be far more advantageous to me to live in town than out in the neighborhood as I cannot do anything at farming with my present force. my desire for your precious company is great tho I cannot see you now, only in mind, as soon after I return from the Allegany if possible I shall visit you, you may look for me on the Saturday before the fourth Sunday in the present month." Letter from James to Lucy from 1820, "Business goes on well, Rose is very attentive doing her best to please her mistress, when she comes home. She is very attentive to the children. I think my dear it will be very convenient after I come from the Ohio State for you to visit our mother again before Christmas. truly, truly your till death Jas Modesitt" "I have sent a vial of spirits of Mendereri, you will please give cousin Lucy a teaspoon full every hour, when she seems feverish, until her skin becomes moist, I have also sent some creamer tartar she can use to make the magueria operate should it not operate without" "She seems to decline fast but she does not appear to suffer much severe paint often. Dr Henkel's medicine weakened her very fast while taking to Dr Kim came in to see her and advised her together with Dr Crane to discontinue the use of it" "Cousin Jno Booton wrote to me a few weeks ago saying that Dr Rust was desirous that I should return in the spring to practice with him. I don't know what to say about it. I shall write to John asking what share Dr Rust is willing to give and how long he proposes the partnership should last. This will give me time to hear from you on the subject." "I sent by him one dozen bottles of McMunn's Elixir of opium for Lucy. It will help to control her cough and whenever she requires an opiate whether in the shape of Laudaman Panegone, Black Drop, Morphia, or Solid Opium" "On Friday last Samuel S Austin brother of Mary, was killed on the hill this side of Brownsville, by the bursting of a wall swivel, that is a Mexican gun made of brass and weighing between 100 and 125 pounds. A piece of it about 10 inches long and 1 inch thick struck him in the abdomen or rather his thigh and mashed the hip bone, throwing clear out a part of the joint nearly as large as the half of a hen's egg and tearing out his entrails. He had gone down the Ohio river to Wheeling to meet the volunteers from this county just returning from Mexico" "The other accident resulted in the death of a little boy a few days previous to that. He was the son of Mr Peter Kremer of this place and was hanging with his hands to the coupling pole of a wagon and the driver not knowing he was there stopped and commenced backing the wagon, when the little boy fell and the wheel passed right over his neck, breaking it and causing instant death," "I was going to write to you last Sunday but as Gen Taylor was expected to pass through here this week. I put it off in order to give you an account of his reception and description of his person. He arrived here yesterday evening at 7 precisely and remained over night. A large concourse of citizens met him about a mile from town and escorted him to the Clinton House in an open carriage. He was welcomed to the town in a short speech by E.P. Oliphant, to which he replied in a speech of about three to five minutes..It seems that everybody had got it into their noggins that he was a large man, consequently they were disappointed to find him a small one" Letter from Madison County from 1833 to James Booton, "Dear Sir I am informed by Mr Thomas Clore that you wish to purchase a farm on this side of the mountain. I have a small one. I will sell on accomodating terms the tract contains 137 acres, it is on the south side of the Robison River" "I was

very busy for a while after Mr Fetzer left here for Wheeling. You said in your letter that Doctor Robertson has sold his farm to David Kibler for \$900 and has moved to the West. I don't recollect any David Kibler unless he is a son of old Philip Kibler." "Emily is to be married next month, Mrs Ruby has left him, he has treated her very badly. Mr D brought her home to live, She is going to apply for a divorce, be kind enough to burn this letter." "I thought I would wait until we heard from our election. We gave a small vote to what it should have been, about 750 majority where it out the have been 1150 Scott Vote in page" "You said in your letter that Uncle James Marye had just gone home from Mothers, he must be getting younger instead of older if he can stand so many fatiguing journeys across the ridge." "We have a had a great deal of wet, The National road has been in a horrid condition, all winter, it is getting a little better now. You have a nice set of candidates for the Senate, I must confess. The county candidates will do a little better." "There is an old colonel by the name of Semaroski lecturing on Napoleon Bonaparte he served under Napoleon in the French war, 23 years. He has been in 202 battles he has a very large scar from his mouth to his ear and a very large lump on his side where he was wounded with a cannonball. He is also a minister of the Gospel a Lutheran by profession.He was born in Poland and educated in France and moved to Indiana after the French Revolution" "We had a grand illumination of the town about a week ago in celebration of the surrender of the city of Vera Cruz.Capt S.S. Austin has just ? From Mexico, he went about 3 months ago by himself but afterwards joined the 3rd artillery and served as 1st Lieutenant in the attack on Vera Cruz." "He has a prospect of selling out here too and if he does I think he will go to Missouri probably after that concern is closed in Baltimore. His business calls him to Missouri now for two or three weeks.Say nothing about this out of the Family for he does not wish it mentioned to any person I know." "Since the treaty with Mexico has been concluded a great number of soldiers going home passed through this place. The most of them looked the worse for the war, there were several distinguished officers of high rank among them, that that I saw were, General Pillow, Quitman, Cadwalder and last but not least Major General William Butler of Kentucky, the Democratic Candidate for Vice President." "General Patterson and Shields also went through here but I did not see them..The Whigs and Democrats both have polls up. The Whig pole is 210 feet high...There was a discussion at the Whig Pole on Friday night between AJ Ogle and J.S. Dawson, the former the Whig Candidate for Congress and the latter the Democratic one for the same office" "I see by the newspapers that the Democrats have done the thing up brown at the election in the Old Dominion. As far as heard from they have already a majority of seven over what they had in the last legislature. How is it in Page, is Boswell or Keyser elected?" "I start for the West in the morning but not very far, yet my trip will be longer, I fear than will be entirely pleasant to me. I have hope of getting back before 1st April, will be much pleased to be disappointed to the contrary. My trip west from which I have just returned, was a pleasant one with the exception of cold weather. I experienced a river severe time crossing the Alleghany Mountains" Nice letter from L.C. Marye from Fredericksburg, 1845, "Aunt Lucy, You will please inform me what were the movements of your father during the Revolution of our country, if you have any information on this please inform me." "The expectation of a war with Mexico has caused great excitement and go where you will almost you will find that the subject of their discussion, in fact the surgeon of the Union Town Companies have had a great many applicants under pretence of different diseases to try to get off from going to war" "I am going to school at Madison College, do not let the word College deceive you any person would naturally suppose that it was a large flourishing institution but they would be wonderfully mistaken. For it is nothing to be compared with the Luray Academy when it was under the admirable superintendence of G.W. Grayson or Bandylegs as we used to call him." "We were detained at Harpers Ferry nearly two days and saw a great many curiosities there, one of which was the U States armory, a great curiosity indeed" "I saw your cousin, J.K. Booton last Tuesday, I believe he was in usual health. He is now captain of the company that your father had the command of before his decease" "much more tedious journey than we anticipated I saw a great many strange things at least strange to me. Among them was the railroad and steam cars in operation by being thrown off the road from the fact of the North River being past fording we were compelled to go ten miles out of our way or lay by at Frankfort until the next day, that was a dreadful days travel, a most wretched road from Frankfort to Cumberland" "Rob's little boy, Austin got kicked by a horse about ten days ago and had his collar bone broken. It still had to be fastened to its place but he does not complain of it hurting him any and is running about as if nothing unusual had happened to him. He is one of the boldest and most reckless boys I ever saw." "I would recommend this plan to him, to leave Luray Friday morning on horseback in time to get to New Market for the stages going from Winchester to Staunton in the day time..stay all night and leave at day light for the Rockbridge Alum Springs and get here Saturday evening, I suppose if he were to come by Lexington he would possibly find the connection between the stages a little better." "Robert and all his family are well. He had Lucy's and Austin's Daguerreotypes taken a few days ago" "Several families from Dage County have passed through here going West, within the last week or two among them were William Wood, Washington Ruffner, and old Mr Varner going home from Ohio. Has the company that started from Luray a few days before I did, get back yet?.The widow and children of Sam Austin came back here last night from Philadelphia where she went after his death to see her mother" "There has been a good deal of excitement here since the election and it seems that the Whigs have beat the Democrats in this state and the Democrats had beat the Whigs in Ohio.Great efforts will be made by each party to carry this state in November for President" "There was arrested yesterday and taken to jail a man by the name of Thomas Evans for the murder of Hayden Bliss on 19th of November 1845. After this fatal affray Evans says he went to Ohio but feeling uneasy and uncomfortable there he thought it would be better for him to return home. We are told he

made no resistance to the officer who arrested him but quietly and peaceably submitted to his control and direction. Evans says he did it in self defense. He murdered him by chopping Blisses head in a horrid manner with a corn cutter. The murdered man was a brother in law of the murderer." "I left your overshoes at the Post Office at New Market to be returned to you, I will send those Saddlebags and Overcoat in Roberts Trunk" "We arrived here on the 4th of the month being detained by the snow two days at Harpers Ferry. I was in the United States Armory at the Ferry it was a great curiosity to me indeed to see more than three hundred person employed in making guns." "I felt like jumping up and cracking my heels together when I heard that Colb of Georgia was elected speaker of the house and then the Chairmen of all the important committees in the senate are pro-slavery men. Such a triumph of the south puts the abolitionist about here considerably down in the mouth. What do you think of the President's Message, I think it small potatoes" "I wish he had been here last Sunday Morning to witness the departure of the Fayette County Volunteers for Mexico, it was an imposing sight." "Your Turnpike affair seems to be looking up. Perhaps when I visit Page again I shall have the pleasure of crossing the Massanutten Mountains in the stage. I suppose Stage will have an opportunity for making some money by it and there is no doubt but that he will improve it" "The people here are very apprehensive of the cholera, none has occurred in town yet, but there have been several cases at the poor house, a good many deaths by cholera have taken place in Brownsville." "I suppose you have heard of the steam boat explosion here last week. It was a melancholy thing indeed, there was at the time and since died from injuries, twenty-six or seven persons. The boat was entirely new and was about to make a short trip for trial and had not left shore fifty yards when the boiler burst and made the dreadful destruction of life, there was eighty-two persons on board and only fifteen escaped unhurt" "I suppose you are now acting sheriff and a laborious job you have of it no doubt. The duties of the officer in Virginia are much greater than they are here. The Sheriffs in Penn have no taxes to collect" "I was on a tour in the West. I wrote him from Wheeling, I left Wheeling on Sunday in the Steam Boat Messenger and arrived here about 12 yesterday. I leave here this evening for Nashville, Tennessee on the steam boat, Martha." Nice letter from Louisville, Kentucky while traveling "The woman arrested sometime ago for killing the Watchman, has been tried and acquitted on the ground that she committed the murder in Self-Defense. Charles Austin, Marye's Brother, was to be tried for seduction and breach of promise of marriage but the case was compromised before it came into court by his Father paying the girl's father five hundred and fifty dollars. Another girl sued Skiles Austin for a case of the same nature. The male portion of that family have turned out badly" "This is a day of sad gloom in our town. The Cholera in its most malignant form commenced its savages here yesterday. I think the first occurred about 8 AM and died about noon. Since that time 7 have died and there are others that are sick that may terminate fatally. It is so far confined to one street principally non having occurred but in the vicinity of that street. The gloom and alarm here you can hardly conceive, many have left town and many more I think will leave." "I have got about 5 or 6 hundred silk worms which keep me very busy of mornings and evenings feeding them and shifting them on fresh leaves. I feed them on the natural mulberry and James William on the Morus Multicaulis. My worms appear to grow faster than his." Nice letter from James to Lucy from 1825 "Peter set off for Columbia, 6th of this month he went from here to Culpeper intending to take the stage and go on immediately but when he got there it was gone. He then took the stage and went to Orange CH where he intended to take the Fredericksburg and Charlottesville Stage but when it arrived it was so crowded that he could not get a seat. he therefore directed his trunk to be sent on to Charlottesville and set off on foot he walked to Gordonsville 10 miles to breakfast. Mechanicsville 6 miles to dinner then to MacCauley's tavern" "He hired 2 horses and a boy to carry him to Silmington 12 miles then to Columbia which waqs 9 miles, he walked, he got there Sunday evening. He got on board a boat loaded with tobacco bound to Richmond and went 12 miles by way of the river to Cartersville" "1824 Slave Document being an appraisal and dividing up of 21 Slaves, they are all named in the document." "Interesting document from 1824 being a 3 page complaint about a slave that was hired for a year threatening to run away with her husband. Her husband actually comes and demands that he sell her back to the previous owner or she will runaway, it's really interesting. Letter from John Booton while at college from 1850 "The Niggers are very numerous here and very important. A few evenings since a big black fellow who thought himself as good as anybody undertook to make some students here from Kentucky and some of the other slave states, get out of his road. The even convinced him he had waked up the wrong passengers. They gave the negro a little the soundest cudgeling he ever had. The whole body of the negroes became outraged at this and armed themselves with guns, pistols, bowie knives, axes, and clubs swearing vengeance on the white fellows that whipped their colored brother and if the rest of the students came to their assistance, prepared for a general battle. they did not proceed to violence but contented themselves by getting out warrants for the arrest of the students concerned in the affray. Some think the disturbance will not end here but that during the coming vacation while a good many of the students are at home the negroes will attempt to overpower those that remain here. All I can say is that if they do there will be blood spilled. The blacks are nearly all armed. To make the matter worse a good many of the inhabitants take sides with the niggers. How I despise such people. I have hardly benevolence enough to wish them a happy hereafter. I have never had any difficulty with the blacks or their white allies and hope I shall not have." Letter from John Booton from 1851 about runaway Virginia slaves and the battle that ensued over them being arrested and the free blacks and abolitionists that get involved and ready to fight for them, really fantastic: "We had a great excitement here last Monday on account of the arrest of some runaway negroes from Virginia. There were warrants issued for the arrest of five fugitives. Two of them were taken at Robstown on the Loughgheny River, but the free blacks and

abolitionists raised a mob, rescued the slaves and cut some of the officers. Two others were arrested in Brownsville and after creating a good deal of excitement were brought to Uniontown for trial. After they had been lodged in jail news came that there was a considerable body of armed negroes headed by one or two abolitionists coming from Brownsville to attempt a rescue. In hearing this the sheriff ordered out the military to maintain the laws. A part of the darkies reported to be coming, come in town one at a time. Finding the soldiers ready and anxious for a fight they left town without ceremony. Money was raised to indemnify the owners and the slaves set at liberty." 1855 Letter from Criglersville to Luray "Mr Lindsay has two negroes with the fever, bad cases, I attend to them and go there every other day. It is seven miles from here. He is the first man in the county that gave me substantial encouragement. He says he has more confidence in the over the ridge doctors than he has in those about here. They are dangerously ill but if I can cure them and I think I can it will be a strong spoke in my wheel" Letter from Charles Modisett from Page County 1860 "James W Modesitt Sheriff of page County on the 6th day of July last and enclosed a copy of each together with a list of Free Negroes and transmitted them by mail to your office" A document from Charles Modesitt from Page County from 1857 that includes listing the number of Free Negroes in the town at 3 cents each, there were 48 at the time Letter from William Almond from Hawksbill to Luray 1825 "There will be more done to them by Mr Modesitt's estate than my utmost fears anticipate so much that it will absolutely necessary for me to sell all the black people, and I very much question whether they together with all the rest of the personal estate will be sufficient to pay all the bonded and guardian debts." Letter from John Booton from 1846 about Albino Black Children There was a great animal show here yesterday and wax works and four white negro boys their father and mother are said to be black and these naturally white, their noses are flat and their hair white and curly and have every resemblance of a negro except their eyes and feet. I saw a man after the show was over and said he pulled out a bunch of his hair to ascertain whether he had on a wig or not and found that he had not." Letter from John Booton from 1846 "There was a murder committed but a short distance from there. The murder was a negro supposed to be a runaway and stabbed up a white man for trying to arrest him and made his escape. William says he has volunteered for Texas, tell him if he is very eager to get there an opportunity now offers for staying five years so if he wants to go bad he had better come on here immediately as there are now officers here from the army recruiting" Letter from John Booton Christmas Eve 1845 about a sermon by the well known Indian Missionary, John Douglas Bemo from the Seminole Tribe "I heard a Seminole Indian preach last Sunday a week in the Presbyterian Church at this place I also heard him give a description of himself, his tribe the same night. It was very interesting indeed there was a collection made for him to distributbe amongst his tribe, he got \$100 at this place, \$19 of which he got out of James Peach's Family, the Indian's name was John Bemo of the seminoe tribe, a nephew of the celebrated Chief Osceola." Letter from John Booton from 1847 "A great number of volunteer soldiers passed through here within the past week for Mexico. I also saw two Indians pass through yesterday on the stages going home from Washington City. They belong to the Caw tribes in a remote part of Missouri. They were bare headed and nothing to cover their body but a blanket thrown carelessly over their shoulders and a pair of shoes. It would be impossible for me to describe the beads and jewelry of various kinds about their persons. They could speak English Tolerably well." 1861 Confederate Document for taxes including sections about slaves by Charles Modesitt 1862 Confederate Circular from the Auditor's Office in Richmond on licenses to run distilleries."

Keywords

Account books

Broadsides

Exercise books

Financial records

Invitations

Invoices

Letters (correspondence)

Virginia--Social life and customs--19th century

Luray (Va.)--History--19th century

Presidents--United States--Election--1848

Slavery--Virginia--19th century

United States--History--Mexican War, 1845-1848

Description of Subordinate Components

Revenue Circulars

Unit ID id66175

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/310390

Unit Date 1840-1860

Mixed materials 1 (Box)

Container 1 (Folder)

Scope and Contents

Group of 15 Circulars for the Commissioner of Revenue for Virginia from the 1840s and 1850s, they belonged to Charles Modesitt who was the Commissioner in Page County

Copy Books

Unit ID id66154

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/310391

Unit Date 1840-1860

Mixed materials 1 (Box)

Container 2 (Folder)

Scope and Contents

1 of 2. Ten Copy Books by the Children, Sarah, Wyatt Stage and others, from the 1840s and 1850s, they range from a few pages to several with around 70 pages. They are all handwritten and have areas for copying the same line over and over again along with other areas for class notes and exercises.

Copy Books

Unit ID id254056

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/310392

Unit Date 1840-1860

Mixed materials 1 (Box)

Container 3 (Folder)

Scope and Contents

2 of 2. Ten Copy Books by the Children, Sarah, Wyatt Stage and others, from the 1840s and 1850s, they range from a few pages to several with around 70 pages. They are all handwritten and have areas for copying the same line over and over again along with other areas for class notes and exercises.

Farm Journal Almanacs

Unit ID id66583

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/310393

Unit Date 1870-1890

Mixed materials 1 (Box)

Container 4 (Folder)

Farm Journal Almanacs

Unit ID id254058

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/310394

Unit Date 1870-1890

Mixed materials 1 (Box)

Container 5 (Folder)

Booklets

Unit ID id66584

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/310395

Unit Date 1874

Mixed materials 1 (Box)

Container 6 (Folder)

Scope and Contents

New England Primer , Old School and New School

Accounts

Unit ID id66585

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/310396

Unit Date 1830-1860

Mixed materials 1 (Box)

Container 7 (Folder)

Scope and Contents

Lucy Modesitt's accounts

Mechanics Journals

Unit ID id66586

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/310397

Unit Date 1850-1859

Mixed materials 1 (Box)

Container 8 (Folder)

State Publications

Unit ID id66587

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/310398

Unit Date 1850-1877

Mixed materials 1 (Box)

Container 9 (Folder)

Scope and Contents

The General Laws in relation to Commissioners and Collectors of the Revenue, 1850. Laws in relation to Commissioners and Collectors of the Public Revenue, etc. 1858. Annual Reports of the Fish Commissioners of the State of Virginia, 1875-1877

Newspapers

Unit ID id66588

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/310399

Unit Date 1859

Mixed materials 1 (Box)

Container 10 (Folder)

Scope and Contents

Richmond Examiner enclosing a copybook exercise by John W, Modesitt, circa January 2, 1860.

Land Grants and Accounts

Unit ID id67480

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/310400

Unit Date 1850-1860

Mixed materials 1 (Box)

Container 11 (Folder)

Accounts

Unit ID id67481

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/310401

Unit Date 1825-1850

Mixed materials 1 (Box)

Container 12 (Folder)

Scope and Contents

Confederate Bond Coupon from 1864 Small Broadside for selling the business of Robert Modesitt, selling the entire stock 1850s 18 page account book for items including Hog Skins, Squirrel Skins, Sheep Skins and other items from 1834 Small Account Book/Ledger including clothing items from 1835 2 Page Handwritten Poem written by John Booton 1844 at Luray Academy Diary of Charles Modisett as a Teacher of the Public White School in the Springfield District from 1880, including enrollment, attendance, ages of kids, along with a selection of his notes as teacher. Prayer book and 4 page Policy of Insurance from the Insurance Company of the Valley of Virginia at Winchester from 1853 Virginia Confederate Bond Coupon 1864 Several Engraved Rewards of Merit for the Children from the 1840s-1860s Nice License for Private Entertainment by Charles B Modesitt 1860 Handwritten note for the Election of 1853, listing all the votes from Congress, Senate and House from Price's Mill, Brintz's Mill, Mohler's Mille, Honeyville, Springfield, Rileysville, Oakham and Luray with Armstrong, Butler, Faulkner, Buswell, Keyser and Spitter all running for office Small Printed Broadside of the Faculty of Jefferson College from 1849 Documents dealing with the death and estate of James Modesitt from 1827.

Letters

Unit ID id67953

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/310402

Unit Date 1820-1829

Mixed materials 1 (Box)

Container 13 (Folder)

Scope and Contents

Complaint of 1824: 3 page complaint, 1824, about a slave that was hired for a year threatening to run away with her husband. Her husband actually comes and demands that he sell her back to the previous owner or she will run away.

Letters

Unit ID id67952

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/310403

Unit Date 1830-1839

Mixed materials 1 (Box)

Container 14 (Folder)

Letter from Abner Berry

Unit ID id66163

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/310412

Unit Date 1833 July

Mixed materials 1 (Box)

Container 14 (Folder)

Scope and Contents

"Dear Sir I am informed by Mr Thomas Clore that you wish to purchase a farm on this side of the mountain. I have a small one. I will sell on accommodating terms the tract contains 137 acres, it is on the south side of the Robison River"

Letter to sister

Unit ID id66624

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/310413

Unit Date 1830 June 8

Mixed materials 1 (Box)

Container 14 (Folder)

Scope and Contents

"Did you see Belle Austin's husband while you were in Uniontown? He is a whopper. Considerably over six feet. I saw a catalog of the Steubenville Seminary a few days ago which had the name of Margret Thompson from Luray, Virginia in it. Pray, who is she? Is she Dr. Thompson's daughter? The seminary is only a days ride from this place."

Letter to mother**Unit ID** id66625**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival_objects/310414**Unit Date** 1830 February 17**Mixed materials** 1 (Box)**Container** 14 (Folder)**Scope and Contents**

"I hope Daniel Kibler's letter has not put Charlie in the notion of going to the West. I suppose from what he says that his father has taken up some government or vacant land, as it is called."

Letter to Mother**Unit ID** id66630**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival_objects/310415**Unit Date** 2019-10-12T00:00:00.000**Mixed materials** 1 (Box)**Container** 14 (Folder)**Scope and Contents**

"We stayed in Washington city until 5:00 Saturday evening. We went to the president's house, the public grounds, the Washington Monument, the Equestrian Statue of Jackson, the Capitol, the Patent Office. I enclose a five dollar note which I got from Mr. Grove. It turns out to be counterfeit."

Letter to mother**Unit ID** id66633**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival_objects/310416**Unit Date** 1837**Mixed materials** 1 (Box)**Container** 14 (Folder)**Scope and Contents**

"Rob's little boy, Austin got kicked by a horse about ten days ago and had his collar bone broken. It still had to be fastened to its place but he does not complain of it hurting him any and is running about as if nothing unusual had happened to him. He is one of the boldest and most reckless boys I ever saw."

Letter from John Booton to his brother**Unit ID** id67488**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival_objects/310417**Unit Date** 1853 November 20**Mixed materials** 1 (Box)**Container** 14 (Folder)**Scope and Contents**

"Cousin Jno Booton wrote to me a few weeks ago saying that Dr Rust was desirous that I should return in the spring to practice with him. I don't know what to say about it. I shall write to John asking what share Dr Rust is willing to give and how long he proposes the partnership should last. This will give me time to hear from you on the subject." "I sent by him one dozen bottles of McMunn's Elixir of opium for Lucy. It will help to control her cough and whenever she requires an opiate whether in the shape of Laudaman Panegone, Black Drop, Morphia, or Solid Opium"

Letter to James Booton**Unit ID** id67490**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival_objects/310418**Unit Date** 1832 March 27**Mixed materials** 1 (Box)**Container** 14 (Folder)**Scope and Contents**

"I have sent a vial of spirits of Mendereri, you will please give cousin Lucy a teaspoon full every hour

"I have sent a vial of spirits of menderen, you will please give cousin Lucy a teaspoon full every hour, when she seems feverish, until her skin becomes moist, I have also sent some creamer tartar she can use to make the magueria operate should it not operate without"

Letter from Madison County to James Booton

Unit ID id67497

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/310419

Unit Date 1833

Mixed materials 1 (Box)

Container 14 (Folder)

Scope and Contents

"I was very busy for a while after Mr Fetzer left here for Wheeling. You said in your letter that Doctor Robertson has sold his farm to David Kibler for \$900 and has moved to the West. I don't recollect any David Kibler unless he is a son of old Philip Kibler."

Letter to Aunt Lucy from L.C. Mary [?]

Unit ID id254067

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/310420

Unit Date 1845 July 10

Mixed materials 1 (Box)

Container 14 (Folder)

Scope and Contents

"Aunt Lucy, You will please inform me of what were the movements of you father during the Revolution of our country, if you have any information on this please inform me."

Letters

Unit ID id67954

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/310404

Unit Date 1840-1845

Mixed materials 1 (Box)

Container 15 (Folder)

Letter to Mother

Unit ID id66170

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/310421

Unit Date 1843 July 18

Mixed materials 1 (Box)

Container 15 (Folder)

Scope and Contents

"I start for the West in the morning but not very far, yet my trip will be longer, I fear than will be entirely pleasant to me. I have hope of getting back before 1st April, will be much pleased to be disappointed to the contrary. My trip west from which I have just returned, was a pleasant one with the exception of cold weather. I experienced a river severe time crossing the Alleghany Mountains"

Letter to mother

Unit ID id66174

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/310422

Unit Date 1842 April 23

Mixed materials 1 (Box)

Container 15 (Folder)

Scope and Contents

"I suppose you have heard of the steam boat explosion here last week. It was a melancholy thing indeed, there was at the time and since died from injuries, twenty-six or seven persons. The boat was entirely new and was about to make a short trip for trial and had not left shore fifty yards when the boiler burst

and made the dreadful destruction of life, there was eighty-two persons on board and only fifteen escaped unhurt"

Letter to mother

Unit ID id66617

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/310423

Unit Date 1844 November

Mixed materials 1 (Box)

Container 15 (Folder)

Scope and Contents

"We have had a warm political contest here but all is lost. JK Polk will certainly be president of the US. I am disappointed beyond measure. I could not have believed he could have beaten our gallant old Harry, but it is all over, and we must make the best of it."

Letter to Mother

Unit ID id66621

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/310424

Unit Date 1845 December 6

Mixed materials 1 (Box)

Container 15 (Folder)

Scope and Contents

"We arrived here on the 4th of the month being detained by the snow two days at Harpers Ferry. I was in the United States Armory at the Ferry it was a great curiosity to me indeed to see more than three hundred person employed in making guns."

Letter to mother

Unit ID id67120

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/310425

Unit Date 1842 February 2

Mixed materials 1 (Box)

Container 15 (Folder)

Scope and Contents

"I have heard alarms of fire every night since I have been here. The first night I got here there was a fire very near in sight of my window besides three others. The town seemed to be in commotion all night. I have gotten along from the time I left home. I will give you first and account from the day I left. The first day I went to Shenandoah Furnace. The next day I went to Harrisonburg and the next day to New Market where I remained until Wednesday. I walked from New Market to Mount Jackson, seven miles. It was not the day for the stage when I left New Market."

Letter to Aunt

Unit ID id67498

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/310426

Unit Date 1841

Mixed materials 1 (Box)

Container 15 (Folder)

Scope and Contents

"I have got about 5 or 6 hundred silk worms which keep me very busy of mornings and evenings feeding them and shifting them on fresh leaves. I feed them on the natural mulberry and James William on the Morus Multicaulis. My worms appear to grow faster than his."

Letters**Unit ID** id67955**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival_objects/310405**Unit Date** 1845-1849**Mixed materials** 1 (Box)**Container** 16 (Folder)**Letter to Mother****Unit ID** id66627**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival_objects/310427**Unit Date** 1849**Mixed materials** 1 (Box)**Container** 16 (Folder)**Scope and Contents**

"The University of Virginia receives an annuity of \$15,000 from the state and one of the conditions on which it receives it is that there shall be one student from every congressional district from the state educated free of charge for tuition and boarding. I could perhaps get in there from the Paige District, but it would make me feel a little too degraded to be educated at the expense of the state. Besides, the Virginia University is one of the best, if not the very best, college in the United States

Letter to brother**Unit ID** id67121**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival_objects/310428**Unit Date** 1849 November 4**Mixed materials** 1 (Box)**Container** 16 (Folder)**Scope and Contents**

"The honorable James Buchanan passed through here last Monday and made a short speech to the students. I was very well pleased both with the speech and the man. One does not see any of the outward peculiarities which are sometimes taken for characteristics of greatness, except indeed the deep cunning expressed by his eyes or the sharpness and prominence of the chin."

Letter to Mother**Unit ID** id67122**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival_objects/310429**Unit Date** 1846 January**Mixed materials** 1 (Box)**Container** 16 (Folder)**Scope and Contents**

"There was arrested yesterday and taken to jail a man by the name of Thomas Evans for the murder of Hayden Bliss on 19th of November 1845. After this fatal affray Evans says he went to Ohio but feeling uneasy and uncomfortable there he thought it would be better for him to return home. We are told he made no resistance to the officer who arrested him but quietly and peaceably submitted to his control and direction. Evans says he did it in self defense. He murdered him by chopping Blisses head in a horrid manner with a corn cutter. The murdered man was a brother in law of the murderer

Letter from John Booton**Unit ID** id67483**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival_objects/310430**Unit Date** 1846**Mixed materials** 1 (Box)**Container** 16 (Folder)**Scope and Contents**

"There was a murder committed but a short distance from there. The murder was a negro supposed to

be a runaway and stabbed up a white man for trying to arrest him and made his escape. William says he has volunteered for Texas, tell him if he is very eager to get there an opportunity now offers for staying five years so if he wants to go bad he had better come on here immediately as there are now officers here from the army recruiting"

Letter from John Booton about Albino Black Children

Unit ID id67484

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/310431

Unit Date 1846

Mixed materials 1 (Box)

Container 16 (Folder)

Scope and Contents

There was a great animal show here yesterday and wax works and four white negro boys their father and mother are said to be black and these naturally white, their noses are flat and their hair white and curly and have every resemblance of a negro except their eyes and feet. I saw a man after the show was over and said he pulled out a bunch of his hair to ascertain whether he had on a wig or not and found that he had not."

Letter from John Booton

Unit ID id67486

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/310432

Unit Date 1847

Mixed materials 1 (Box)

Container 16 (Folder)

Scope and Contents

"A great number of volunteer soldiers passed through here within the past week for Mexico. I also saw two Indians pass through yesterday on the stages going home from Washington City. They belong to the Caw tribes in a remote part of Missouri. They were bare headed and nothing to cover their body but a blanket thrown carelessly over their shoulders and a pair of shoes. It would be impossible for me to describe the beads and jewelry of various kinds about their persons. They could speak English Tolerably well."

Letter to Brother

Unit ID id67491

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/310433

Unit Date 1848

Mixed materials 1 (Box)

Container 16 (Folder)

Scope and Contents

"On Friday last Samuel S Austin brother of Mary, was killed on the hill this side of Brownsville, by the bursting of a wall swivel, that is a Mexican gun made of brass and weighing between 100 and 125 pounds. A piece of it about 10 inches long and 1 inch thick struck him in the abdomen or rather his thigh and mashed the hip bone, throwing clear out a part of the joint nearly as large as the half of a hen's egg and tearing out his entrails. He had gone down the Ohio river to Wheeling to meet the volunteers from this county just returning from Mexico." The other accident resulted in the death of a little boy a few days previous to that. He was the son of Mr Peter Kremer of this place and was hanging with his hands to the coupling pole of a wagon and the driver not knowing he was there stopped and commenced backing the wagon, when the little boy fell and the wheel passed right over his neck, breaking it and causing instant death"

Letter to Mother

Unit ID id67593

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/310434

Unit Date 1847

Mixed materials 1 (Box)

Container 16 (Folder)

Scope and Contents

"I left your overshoes at the Post Office at New Market to be returned to you, I will send those Saddlebags and Overcoat in Roberts Trunk"

Invitation

Unit ID id67597

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/310435

Unit Date 1845

Mixed materials 1 (Box)

Container 16 (Folder)

Scope and Contents

Nice Handwritten Invitation to John and Robert to attend a social party at the Washington House in Luray, signed by all the managers 1845

Letter

Unit ID id67598

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/310436

Unit Date 1845

Mixed materials 1 (Box)

Container 16 (Folder)

Scope and Contents

Nice letter from L.C. Marye from Fredericksburg, 1845, "I saw your cousin, J.K. Booton last Tuesday, I believe he was in usual health. He is now captain of the company that your father had the command of before his decease"

Letters

Unit ID id67956

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/310406

Unit Date 1845-1849

Mixed materials 1 (Box)

Container 17 (Folder)

Letter to Brother

Unit ID id66162

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/310437

Unit Date 1847 March 21

Mixed materials 1 (Box)

Container 17 (Folder)

Scope and Contents

"We have a had a great deal of wet, The National road has been in a horrid condition, all winter, it is getting a little better now. You have a nice set of candidates for the Senate, I must confess. The county candidates will do a little better."

Letter to mother

Unit ID id66167

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/310438

Unit Date 1849 March 16

Mixed materials 1 (Box)

Container 17 (Folder)

Scope and Contents

"The woman arrested sometime ago for killing the Watchman, has been tried and acquitted on the ground that she committed the murder in Self-Defense. Charles Austin, Marye's Brother, was to be tried for seduction and breach of promise of marriage but the case was compromised before it came into court

by his Father paying the girl's father five hundred and fifty dollars. Another girl sued Skiles Austin for a case of the same nature. The male portion of that family have turned out badly"

Letter to Mother

Unit ID id66168

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/310439

Unit Date 1845 March

Mixed materials 1 (Box)

Container 17 (Folder)

Scope and Contents

"I have one important matter to communicate and that is that I am going to be married in May unless something strange, very strange, turns up. I hope you are willing to trust my judgment in the selection of a companion for life. I think my choice is a prudent and happy one and one that cannot fail to please you. I am sure if you love me or any child you have, you will love her. I wish you could see her."

Letter to Brother

Unit ID id66169

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/310440

Unit Date 1848 February

Mixed materials 1 (Box)

Container 17 (Folder)

Scope and Contents

"There are two literary societies composed of the students of the college. They meet once a week and in rotation have lectures, compositions, and a debate. I am a member of the largest one, the Adelpian, and last night I spoke two rounds on the debate. The first time I ever made a speech. The question for debate was this. Can a government be perpetuated which is not founded on a religion?"

Letter to Aunt

Unit ID id66171

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/310441

Unit Date 1848 July

Mixed materials 1 (Box)

Container 17 (Folder)

Scope and Contents

"Aunt Lucy, You will please inform me what were the movements of your father during the Revolution of our country, if you have any information on this please inform me."

Letter to Mother

Unit ID id66172

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/310442

Unit Date 1846 May 4

Mixed materials 1 (Box)

Container 17 (Folder)

Scope and Contents

"The expectation of a war with Mexico has caused great excitement and go where you will almost you will find that the subject of their discussion, in fact the surgeon of the Union Town Companies have had a great many applicants under pretence of different diseases to try to get off from going to war"

Letter to Mother**Unit ID** id66173**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival_objects/310443**Unit Date** 1849 August 11**Mixed materials** 1 (Box)**Container** 17 (Folder)**Scope and Contents**

"The people here are very apprehensive of the cholera, none has occurred in town yet, but there have been several cases at the poor house, a good many deaths by cholera have taken place in Brownsville."

letter to brother**Unit ID** id66615**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival_objects/310444**Unit Date** 1846 May 28**Mixed materials** 1 (Box)**Container** 17 (Folder)**Scope and Contents**

"I saw this morning an account of another battle fought between the Americans and the Mexicans which lasted sometime. During the action, lieut. Thomas Jordan and many other gallant officers were wounded. I reckon Mr. Jordan will be much grieved to hear that his son has happened to such a sad accident but it will be of some consolation to him to think that it was done in defense of his country. Brid. Gen. Joshua Howe of this place received orders from the president this morning to call together the militia of this country and march to the field of battle on the 22nd of June. I would like to know if there is any likelihood of many being taken away from Luray."

Letter to brother**Unit ID** id66616**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival_objects/310445**Unit Date** 1846 January 1**Mixed materials** 1 (Box)**Container** 17 (Folder)**Scope and Contents**

"We were detained at Harpers Ferry nearly two days and saw a great many curiosities there, one of which was the U States armory, a great curiosity indeed."

Letter to Mother**Unit ID** id66618**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival_objects/310446**Unit Date** 1848 January 1**Mixed materials** 1 (Box)**Container** 17 (Folder)**Scope and Contents**

"I am going to school at Madison College, do not let the word College deceive you any person would naturally suppose that it was a large flourishing institution but they would be wonderfully mistaken. For it is nothing to be compared with the Luray Academy when it was under the admirable superintendence of G.W. Grayson or Bandylegs as we used to call him."

Letter to Mother**Unit ID** id66619**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival_objects/310447**Unit Date** 1847 January 8**Mixed materials** 1 (Box)**Container** 17 (Folder)**Scope and Contents**

"I wish he had been here last Sunday Morning to witness the departure of the Fayette County Volunteers for Mexico, it was an imposing sight."

Letter to brother

Unit ID id66620

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/310448

Unit Date 1849 December 26

Mixed materials 1 (Box)

Container 17 (Folder)

Scope and Contents

"I felt like jumping up and cracking my heels together when I heard that Colb of Georgia was elected speaker of the house and then the Chairmen of all the important committees in the senate are pro-slavery men. Such a triumph of the south puts the abolitionist about here considerably down in the mouth. What do you think of the President's Message, I think it small potatoes"

Letter to Brother

Unit ID id66622

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/310449

Unit Date 1848 October 21

Mixed materials 1 (Box)

Container 17 (Folder)

Scope and Contents

"There has been a good deal of excitement here since the election and it seems that the Whigs have beat the Democrats in this state and the Democrats had beat the Whigs in Ohio. Great efforts will be made by each party to carry this state in November for President."

Letter to Mother

Unit ID id66623

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/310450

Unit Date 1846 November 30

Mixed materials 1 (Box)

Container 17 (Folder)

Scope and Contents

"I was a little surprised last Thursday morning when I got up to discover an attempt to break in the store during the night. They bored holes with an auger through the door next to the street with the intention to get out the key, I suppose, but they did not succeed. They were scared off by the watchmen. If they had gotten in, I think they would have met with rather a warm reception. I did not hear them as I sleep upstairs, but if they had come up there, I had the thing that would have made them get out a little quicker than they got in. There seems to be a gang of villains about here for awhile. They have attempted to fire buildings and do other mischief. One rogue has been safely lodged in jail for breaking in a store in Parkersburg, Virginia and robbed it of \$200."

Letters

Unit ID id67957

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/310407

Unit Date 1844-1852

Mixed materials 1 (Box)

Container 18 (Folder)

Letter from John Booton**Unit ID** id65466**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival_objects/310451**Unit Date** 1850**Mixed materials** 1 (Box)**Container** 18 (Folder)**Scope and Contents**

Letter from John Booton while at college from 1850 "The Niggers are very numerous here and very important. A few evenings since a big black fellow who thought himself as good as anybody undertook to make some students here from Kentucky and some of the other slave states, get out of his road. The even convinced him he had waked up the wrong passengers. They gave the negro a little the soundest cudgeling he ever had. The whole body of the negroes became outraged at this and armed themselves with guns, pistols, bowie knives, axes, and clubs swearing vengeance on the white fellows that whipped their colored brother and if the rest of the students came to their assistance, prepared for a general battle. They did not proceed to violence but contented themselves by getting out warrants for the arrest of the students concerned in the affray. Some think the disturbance will not end here but that during the coming vacation while a good many of the students are at home the negroes will attempt to overpower those that remain here. All I can say is that if they do there will be blood spilled. The blacks are nearly all armed. To make the matter worse a good many of the inhabitants take sides with the niggers. How I despise such people. I have hardly benevolence enough to wish them a happy hereafter. I have never had any difficulty with the blacks or their white allies and hope I shall not have."

Letter from John Booton**Unit ID** id67482**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival_objects/310452**Unit Date** 1850**Mixed materials** 1 (Box)**Container** 18 (Folder)**Scope and Contents**

Letter from John Booton Christmas Eve 1845 about a sermon by the well known Indian Missionary, John Douglas Bemo from the Seminole Tribe "I heard a Seminole Indian preach last Sunday a week in the Presbyterian Church at this place I also heard him give a description of himself, his tribe the same night. It was very interesting indeed there was a collection made for him to distriubte amongst his tribe, he got \$100 at this place, \$19 of which he got out of James Peach's Family, the Indian's name was John Bemo of the seminoe tribe, a nephew of the celebrated Chief Osceola."

letter to Dr Thomas**Unit ID** id66157**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival_objects/310453**Unit Date** 1852**Mixed materials** 1 (Box)**Container** 18 (Folder)**Scope and Contents**

Letter to Dr F.W.G. Thomas, who became a well known physician in Missouri looking for employment from 1852. Letter from Rockingham with a folk art drawing of a bird with a branch at the top of the letter

James Modesitt to J.W. Modesitt**Unit ID** id254075**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival_objects/310454**Unit Date** 1848 May 7**Mixed materials** 1 (Box)**Container** 18 (Folder)**Scope and Contents**

"I see by the newspapers that the Democrats have done the thing up brown at the election in the Old Dominion. As far as heard from they have already a majority of seven over what they had in the last legislature. How is it in Page, is Boswell or Keyser elected?"

To Lucy Booton from her Son**Unit ID** id254077**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival_objects/310455**Unit Date** 1848 August 13**Mixed materials** 1 (Box)**Container** 18 (Folder)**Scope and Contents**

"Since the treaty with Mexico has been concluded a great number of soldiers going home passed through this place. The most of them looked the worse for the war, there were several distinguished officers of high rank among them, that that I saw were, General Pillow, Quitman, Cadwalder and last but not least Major General William Butler of Kentucky, the Democratic Candidate for Vice President." "General Patterson and Shields also went through here but I did not see them... The Whigs and Democrats both have polls up. The Whig pole is 210 feet high... There was a discussion at the Whig Pole on Friday night between AJ Ogle and J.S. Dawson, the former the Whig Candidate for Congress and the latter the Democratic one for the same office."

J. Booton to Brother**Unit ID** id254080**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival_objects/310456**Unit Date** 1847 April 26**Mixed materials** 1 (Box)**Container** 18 (Folder)**Scope and Contents**

"We had a grand illumination of the town about a week ago in celebration of the surrender of the city of Vera Cruz. Capt. S.S. Austin has just [?] from Mexico, he went about 3 months ago by himself but afterwards joined the 3rd artillery and served as 1st Lieutenant and the attack on Vera Cruz." "He has a prospect of seeling out here too and if he does I think he will go to Missouri probably after that concern is closed in Baltimore. His business calls him to Missouri now for two or three weeks. Say nothing about this out of the family for he does not wish it mentioned to any person I know."

To Lucy Booton from J.G. Booton**Unit ID** id254094**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival_objects/310457**Unit Date** 1846 March 2**Mixed materials** 1 (Box)**Container** 18 (Folder)**Scope and Contents**

"There is an old colonel by the name of Semaroski lecturing on Napoleon Bonaparte he served under Napoleon in the French war, 23 years. He has been in 202 battles he has a very large scar from his mouth to his ear and a very large lump on his side where he was wounded with a cannonball. He is also a minister of the Gospel a Lutheran by profession. He was born in Poland and educated in France and moved to Indiana after the French Revolution."

From J.G. Booton to Brother**Unit ID** id254096**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival_objects/310458**Unit Date** 1849 February 22**Mixed materials** 1 (Box)**Container** 18 (Folder)**Scope and Contents**

"I was going to write to you last Sunday but as Gen. Taylor was expected to pass through here this week. I put it off in order to give you an account of his reception and description of his person. He arrived here yesterday evening at 7 precisely and remained overnight. A large concourse of citizens met him about a mile from town and escorted him to the Clinton House in an open carriage. He was welcomed to the town in a short speech by E. P. Oliphant, to which he replied in a speech of about three to five minutes... It seems that everybody had got it into their noggins that he was a large man, consequently they were

disappointed to find him a small one."

Letter to Mother

Unit ID id66166

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/310459

Unit Date 1850 July 30

Mixed materials 1 (Box)

Container 18 (Folder)

Scope and Contents

"This is a day of sad gloom in our town. The Cholera in its most malignant form commenced its savages here yesterday. I think the first occurred about 8 AM and died about noon. Since that time 7 have died and there are others that are sick that may terminate fatally. It is so far confined to one street principally none having occurred but in the vicinity of that street. The gloom and alarm here you can hardly conceive, many have left town and many more I think will leave."

To Lucy Booton from John G. Booton

Unit ID id254098

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/310460

Unit Date 1849 March 16

Mixed materials 1 (Box)

Container 18 (Folder)

Scope and Contents

"The woman arrested sometimes ago for killing the Watchman, has been tried and acquitted on the ground that she committed the murder in Self-Defense. Charles Austin, Marye's Brother, was to be tried for seduction and breach of promise of marriage but the case was compromised before it came into court by his Father paying the girl's father five hundred and fifty dollars. Another girl sued Skiles Austin for a case of the same nature. The male portion of the family have turned out badly."

To Brother From Booton

Unit ID id254099

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/310461

Unit Date 1846 May 28

Mixed materials 1 (Box)

Container 18 (Folder)

Scope and Contents

"I saw this morning an account of another battle fought between the Americans and the Mexicans which lasted sometime. During the action, lieut. Thomas Jordan and many other gallant officers were wounded. I reckon Mr. Jordan will be much grieved to hear that his son has happened to such a sad accident but it will be of some consolation to him to think that it was done in defense of his country." "Brid. Gen. Joshua Howe fo this place received orders from the president this morning to call together the militia of this country and march to the field of battle on the 22nd of June. I would like to know if there is any likelihood of many being taken away from Luray."

To Brother From J.G. Booton

Unit ID id254101

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/310462

Unit Date 1846 January 1

Mixed materials 1 (Box)

Container 18 (Folder)

Scope and Contents

"We were detained at Harpers Ferry nearly two days and saw a great many curiosities there, one of which was the U States armory, a great curiosity indeed."

To Mother from Ron [?] Modesitt**Unit ID** id254106**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival_objects/310463**Unit Date** 1844 November 14**Mixed materials** 1 (Box)**Container** 18 (Folder)**Scope and Contents**

"We have had a warm political contest here but all is lost. J.K. Polk will certainly be president of the US. I am disappointed beyond measure. I could not have believed he could have beaten our gallant old Harry, but it is all over, and we must make the best of it."

To Lucy Booton from J.G. Booton**Unit ID** id254107**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival_objects/310464**Unit Date** 1848 January 2**Mixed materials** 1 (Box)**Container** 18 (Folder)**Scope and Contents**

"I am going to school at Madison College, do not let the word College deceive you any person would naturally suppose that it was a large flourishing institution but they would be wonderfully mistaken. For it is nothing compared with the Luray Academy when it was under the admirable superintendence of G.W. Grayson of Bandylegs as we used to call him."

To Lucy Booton from J.G. Booton**Unit ID** id254108**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival_objects/310465**Unit Date** 1847 January 8**Mixed materials** 1 (Box)**Container** 18 (Folder)**Scope and Contents**

"I wish he had been here last Sunday Morning to witness the departure of the Fayette County Volunteers for Mexico, it was an imposing sight."

To J. Modesitt from John G. Booton**Unit ID** id254109**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival_objects/310466**Unit Date** 1849 December 26**Mixed materials** 1 (Box)**Container** 18 (Folder)**Scope and Contents**

"I felt like jumping up and cracking my heels together when i heard that Colb of Georgie was elected speaker of the house and then the Chairmen of all the important committees in the senate are pro-slavery men. Such a Triumph of the south puts the abolitionist about here considerably down in the mouth. What do you think of the President's message, I think it small potatoes."

To J. W. Modesitt from John G. Booton**Unit ID** id254110**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival_objects/310467**Unit Date** 1848 October 21**Mixed materials** 1 (Box)**Container** 18 (Folder)**Scope and Contents**

"There has been a good deal of excitement her since the election and it seems that the Whigs have beat

the Democrats in this state and the Democrats had beat the Whigs in Ohio. Great efforts will be made by each party to carry this state in November for President."

To Lucy Booton from John G. Booton

Unit ID id254112

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/310468

Unit Date 1946 November 30

Mixed materials 1 (Box)

Container 18 (Folder)

Scope and Contents

"I was a little surprised last Thursday morning when I got up to discover an attempt to breakin the store during the night. They bored holes with an auger through the door next to the street with the intention to get out the key, I suppose, but they did not succeed. They were scared off by the watchmen. If they had gotten in, i think they would have met with rather a warm reception. I did not hear them as I slept upstains, but if they had come up there, I had the thing that would have made them get out a little quicker than they got in." "There seems to be a gang of villians about here for awhile. They have attempted to fire buildings and do other mischief. One rogue has been safely lodged in jail for breaking in a store in Parkersburg, Virginia and robbed it of \$200."

To Lucy Booton from John G. Booton

Unit ID id254113

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/310469

Unit Date 1849 October 14

Mixed materials 1 (Box)

Container 18 (Folder)

Scope and Contents

"The University of Virginia receives an annuity of \$15,000 from the state and one of the conditions on which it receives it is that there shall be one student from every congressional district from the state educated free of charge for tuition and boarding. I could perhaps get in there from the Paige District, but it would make me feel a little too degraded to be educated at the expense of the state. Besides, the Virginia University is one of the best, if not the very best, college in the United States."

To Lucy Booton from John G. Booton

Unit ID id254115

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/310470

Unit Date October 12

Mixed materials 1 (Box)

Container 18 (Folder)

Scope and Contents

"We stayed in Washington city until 5:00 Saturday evening. We went to the president's house, the public grounds, the Washington Monument, the Equestrian Statue of Jackson, the Capitol, the Patent Office. I enclose a five dollar note which I got from Mr. Grove. It turns out to be counterfeit."

To Brother from John

Unit ID id254116

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/310471

Unit Date 1849 November 4

Mixed materials 1 (Box)

Container 18 (Folder)

Scope and Contents

"The honorable James Buchanan passed through here last Monday and made a short speech to the students. I was very well pleased both with the speech and the man. Once does not see any of the outward peculiarities which are sometimes taken for characteristics of greatness, except indeed the deep cunning expressed by his eyes or the sharpness and prominence of the chin."

Letter to Sister from Booton**Unit ID** id254118**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival_objects/310472**Unit Date** 1846 July 18**Mixed materials** 1 (Box)**Container** 18 (Folder)**Scope and Contents**

"There was a murder committed but a short distance from there. The murder was a negro supposed to be a runaway and stabbed up a white man for trying to arrest him and made his escape." "William says he has volunteer for Texas, tell him if he is very eager to her there an oppotunity not offers for staying frive years so if he wants to go bad he had better come on here immediately as there are now officers here from the army recruiting."

Letter to J. W. Modesitt from John G. Booton**Unit ID** id254120**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival_objects/310473**Unit Date** 1846 June 23**Mixed materials** 1 (Box)**Container** 18 (Folder)**Scope and Contents**

"There was a great animal show here yesterday and wax works and four white negro boys their father and mother are said to be black and these naturally white, their noses are flat and their hair white and curly and have every resemblance of a negro except their eyes and feet. I saw a man after the show was over and said he pulled out a bunch of his hair to ascertain whether he had on a wig or not and found that he had not."

Letter from John Booton from 1851**Unit ID** id67485**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival_objects/310474**Mixed materials** 1 (Box)**Container** 18 (Folder)**Scope and Contents**

Letter from John Booton from 1851 about escaped enslaved persons from Virginia and the battle that ensued over them being arrested and the free Black persons and abolitionists that got involved and were ready to fight for them, really fantastic: "We had a great excitement here last Monday on account of the arrest of some runaway negroes from Virginia. There were warrants issued for the arrest of five fugitives. Two of them were taken at Robstown on the Loughhegheny River, but the free blacks and abolitionists raised a mob, rescued the slaves and cut some of the officers. Two others were arrested in Brownsville and after creating a good deal of excitement were brought to Uniontown for trial. After they had been lodged in jail news came that there was a considerable body of armed negroes headed by one or two abolitionists coming from Brownsville to attempt a rescue. In hearing this the sheriff ordered out the military to maintain the laws. A part of the darkies reported to be coming, come in town one at a time. Finding the soldiers ready and anxious for a fight they left town without ceremony. Money was raised to indemnify the owners and the slaves set at liberty."

To Lucy Booton from John G. Booton**Unit ID** id254119**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival_objects/310475**Unit Date** 1847 April 5**Mixed materials** 1 (Box)**Container** 18 (Folder)**Scope and Contents**

"A great number of volunteer soldiers passed through here within the past week for Mexico. I also saw two Indians pass through yesterday on the stages going home from Washington City. They belong to the Caw tribes in a remote part of Missouri. They were bare headed and nothing to cover their body but a blanket thrown carelessly over their shoulders and a pair of shoes. it would be impossible for me to

describe the beads and jewelry of various kinds about their persons. They could speak English Tolerably well."

Letter to John

Unit ID id67489

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/310476

Unit Date 1853 December 14

Mixed materials 1 (Box)

Container 18 (Folder)

Scope and Contents

"She seems to decline fast but she does not appear to suffer much severe pain often. Dr Henkel's medicine weakened her very fast while taking to Dr Kim came in to see her and advised her together with Dr Crane to discontinue the use of it"

To J.W. Modesitt to John G. Booton

Unit ID id254121

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/310477

Unit Date 1848 July 16

Mixed materials 1 (Box)

Container 18 (Folder)

Scope and Contents

"On Friday last Samuel S. Austin brother of Mary, was killed on the hill this side of Brownsville, by the bursting of a wall swivel, that is a Mexican gun made of brass and weighing between 100 and 125 pounds. A piece of it about 10 inches long and 1 inch thick struck him in the abdomen or rather his thigh and mashed the hip bone, throwing clear out a part of the joint nearly as large as the half of a hen's egg and tearing out his entrails. he had gone down the Ohio river to Wheeling to meet the volunteers from this county just returning from Mexico." "The other accident resulted in the death of a little boy a few days previous to that. He was the son of Mr. Peter Kremer of this place and was hanging with his hands to the coupling pole of a wagon and the driver not knowing he was there stopped and commenced backing the wagon, when the little boy fell and the wheel passed right over his neck, breaking it and causing instant death."

To J.W. Modesitt from John G. Booton

Unit ID id254122

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/310478

Unit Date 1844 November 12

Mixed materials 1 (Box)

Container 18 (Folder)

Scope and Contents

"I was very busy for a while after Mr. Fetzer left here for Wheeling. You said in your letter that Doctor Robertson has sold his farm to David Kibler for \$900 and has moved to the West. I don't recollect any David Kibler unless he is the son of Philip Kibler."

To Aunt from Mary and Mildren Marye

Unit ID id254123

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/310479

Unit Date 1841 May 26

Mixed materials 1 (Box)

Container 18 (Folder)

Scope and Contents

"I have got about 5 or 6 hundred silk worms which keep me very busy of mornings and evenings feeding them and shifting them on fresh leaves. I feed them on the natural mulberry and James William on the Morus Multicaulis. My worms appear to grow faster than his."

To Lucy Booton from John G. Booton**Unit ID** id254124**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival_objects/310480**Unit Date** 1845 December 6**Mixed materials** 1 (Box)**Container** 18 (Folder)**Scope and Contents**

"I left your overshoes at the Post Office at New Market to be returned to you, I will send those Saddlesbags and Overcoat in Robert's Trunk."

Invitation**Unit ID** id254125**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival_objects/310481**Unit Date** 1845 December 8**Mixed materials** 1 (Box)**Container** 18 (Folder)**Scope and Contents**

Nice handwritten invitation to John and Robert to attend a social party at the Washington House in Luray signed by all the managers.

Letter to Brother from Charles B. Modesitt**Unit ID** id254117**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival_objects/310482**Unit Date** 1848 March 6**Mixed materials** 1 (Box)**Container** 18 (Folder)**Scope and Contents**

"I saw your cousin, J.K. Booton last Tuesday, I believe he was in usual health. He is now captain of the company that your father had the command of before his decease."

Letters**Unit ID** id67958**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival_objects/310408**Unit Date** 1846-1849**Mixed materials** 1 (Box)**Container** 19 (Folder)**Letter from UnionTown****Unit ID** id66158**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival_objects/310483**Unit Date** 1848 May**Mixed materials** 1 (Box)**Container** 19 (Folder)**Scope and Contents**

"I see by the newspapers that the Democrats have done the thing up brown at the election in the Old Dominion. As far as heard from they have already a majority of seven over what they had in the last legislature. How is it in Page, is Boswell or Keyser elected?"

Letter to Mother**Unit ID** id66159**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival_objects/310484**Unit Date** 1848 August 13**Mixed materials** 1 (Box)**Container** 19 (Folder)**Scope and Contents**

"Since the treaty with Mexico has been concluded a great number of soldiers going home passed through this place. The most of them looked the worse for the war, there were several distinguished officers of high rank among them, that that I saw were, General Pillow, Quitman, Cadwalder and last but not least Major General William Butler of Kentucky, the Democratic Candidate for Vice President." "General Patterson and Shields also went through here but I did not see them..The Whigs and Democrats both have polls up. The Whig pole is 210 feet high...There was a discussion at the Whig Pole on Friday night between AJ Ogle and J.S. Dawson, the former the Whig Candidate for Congress and the latter the Democratic one for the same office"

Letter to Brother**Unit ID** id66160**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival_objects/310485**Unit Date** 1847 April 26**Mixed materials** 1 (Box)**Container** 19 (Folder)**Scope and Contents**

"We had a grand illumination of the town about a week ago in celebration of the surrender of the city of Vera Cruz.Capt S.S. Austin has just ? From Mexico, he went about 3 months ago by himself but afterwards joined the 3rd artillery and served as 1st Lieutenant in the attack on Vera Cruz." "He has a prospect of selling out here too and if he does I think he will go to Missouri probably after that concern is closed in Baltimore. His business calls him to Missouri now for two or three weeks.Say nothing about this out of the Family for he does not wish it mentioned to any person I know."

Letter to Mother**Unit ID** id66161**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival_objects/310486**Unit Date** 1846 March 2**Mixed materials** 1 (Box)**Container** 19 (Folder)**Scope and Contents**

"There is an old colonel by the name of Semaroski lecturing on Napoleon Bonaparte he served under Napoleon in the French war, 23 years. He has been in 202 battles he has a very large scar from his mouth to his ear and a very large lump on his side where he was wounded with a cannonball. He is also a minister of the Gospel a Lutheran by profession.He was born in Poland and educated in France and moved to Indiana after the French Revolution

Letter to Brother**Unit ID** id66164**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival_objects/310487**Unit Date** 1849 February 22**Mixed materials** 1 (Box)**Container** 19 (Folder)**Scope and Contents**

"I was going to write to you last Sunday but as Gen Taylor was expected to pass through here this week. I put it off in order to give you an account of his reception and description of his person.He arrived here yesterday evening at 7 precisely and remained over night. A large concourse of citizens met him about a mile from town and escorted him to the Clinton House in an open carriage. He was welcomed to the town in a short speech by E.P. Oliphant, to which he replied in a speech of about three to five minutes..It seems that everybody had got it into their noggins that he was a large man, consequently they were

disappointed to find him a small one"

Letters

Unit ID id258444

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/310409

Unit Date 1850-1852

Mixed materials 1 (Box)

Container 20 (Folder)

Letter

Unit ID id258456

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/310488

Unit Date 1850 July 30

Mixed materials 1 (Box)

Container 20 (Folder)

Scope and Contents

"This day is a day of sad gloom in our town. The Cholera in its most malignant form commenced its savages here yesterday. I think the first occurred about 8 AM and died about noon. Since that time 7 have died and there are others that are sick that may terminate fatally. It is so far confined to one street principally non having occurred but in the vicinity of that street. The gloom and alarm here you can hardly conceive, many have left town and many more I think will leave."

Letter

Unit ID id258464

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/310489

Unit Date 1850 June 8

Mixed materials 1 (Box)

Container 20 (Folder)

Scope and Contents

"Did you see Belle Austin's Husband while you were in Uniontown? He is a whopper. Considerably over six feet. I saw a catalog of the Steubenville Seminary a few days ago which had the name of Margret Thompson from Luray, Virginia in it. Pray, who is she? Is she Dr. Thompson's daughter? The seminary is only a days ride from this place."

Letter

Unit ID id258472

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/310490

Unit Date 1850 February 17

Mixed materials 1 (Box)

Container 20 (Folder)

Scope and Contents

"I hope Daniel Kibler's letter has not put Charlie in the notion of going to the West. I suppose from what he says that his father has taken up some government or vacant land, as it is called."

Letter from John Booton While at College

Unit ID id258496

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/310491

Unit Date 1850 December 15

Mixed materials 1 (Box)

Container 20 (Folder)

Scope and Contents

"The Niggers are very numerous here and very impudent. A few evenings since a big black fellow who thought himself as good as anybody undertook to make some students here from Kentucky and some

of the other slave states, get out of his road. They even convinced him he had waked up the wrong passengers. They gave the negro a little the soundest cudgeling he ever had. The whole body of the negroes become outraged at this and armed themselves with guns, pistols, bowie knives, axes, and clubs swearing vengeance on the white fellows that whipped their colored brother and if the rest of the students came to their assistance, prepared for a general batte. They did not proceed to violence but contented themselves by getting out warrants for the arrest of the students concerned in the affray. Some think the disturbance will not end here but that during the coming vacation while a good many of the students are at home the negroes will attempt to overpower those that remain here. All I can say is that if they do there will be blood spilled. The blacks are nearly all armed. To make the matter worse a good many of the inhabitants take side with the niggers. How I despise such people. I have hardly benevolence enough to wish them a happy hereafter. I have never had any difficulty with the blacks or their white allies and hope I shall not have."

Letter from John Booton

Unit ID id258512

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/310492

Unit Date 1851 March 20

Mixed materials 1 (Box)

Container 20 (Folder)

Scope and Contents

"We had a great excitement here last Monday on account of the arrest of some runaway negroes from Virginia. There were warrants issued for the arrest of five fugitives. Two of them were taken at Robstown on the Loughgheny River, but the free blacks and abolitionists raised a mob, rescued the slaves and cut some of the officers. Two others were arrested in Brownsville and after creating a good deal of excitement were brought to Uniontown for trial. After they had been lodged in jail news came that there was a considerable body of armed negroes headed by one or two abolitionists coming from Brownsville to attempt a rescue. In hearing this the sheriff ofered out the military to maintain the laws. A part of the darkies reported to be coming, come in town one at a time. Finding the soldiers ready and anxious for a fight they left town without ceremony. Money was raised to indemnify the owners and the slaves set at liberty."

Letter

Unit ID id258520

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/310493

Unit Date 1851 June 3

Mixed materials 1 (Box)

Container 20 (Folder)

Scope and Contents

"Rob's little boy, Austin got kicked by a horse about ten days ago and had his collar bone broken. It still had to be fastened to its place but he does not complain of it hurting him and and is running about as if nothing unusual had happened to him. He is one of the boldest and most reckless boys I ever saw."

Copy of a Letter to Dr. Thomas

Unit ID id258528

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/310494

Unit Date 1852 August 16

Mixed materials 1 (Box)

Container 20 (Folder)

Letters

Unit ID id258536

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/310410

Unit Date 1853-1860

Mixed materials 1 (Box)

Container 21 (Folder)

Letter**Unit ID** id258548**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival_objects/310495**Unit Date** 1853 December 14**Mixed materials** 1 (Box)**Container** 21 (Folder)**Scope and Contents**

"She seems to decline fast but she does not appear to suffer much severe pain often. Dr Henkel's medicine weakened her very fast while taking to Dr Kim came in to see here and advised her together with Dr Crane to discontinue the use of it."

Letter from Charles Modesitt from Page County**Unit ID** id258556**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival_objects/310496**Unit Date** 1860 September 17**Mixed materials** 1 (Box)**Container** 21 (Folder)**Scope and Contents**

"James W Modesitt Sheriff of Page County on the 6th day of July last and enclosed a copy of each together with a list of Free Negroes and transmitted them by mail to your office."

Documents**Unit ID** id67960**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival_objects/310411**Unit Date** 1824-1857**Mixed materials** 1 (Box)**Container** 22 (Folder)**Scope and Contents**

Indenture Document, Will, Work calculations

Slave Document**Unit ID** id67476**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival_objects/310497**Unit Date** 1824**Mixed materials** 1 (Box)**Container** 22 (Folder)**Scope and Contents**

"1824 Slave Document being an appraisal and dividing up of 21 Slaves, they are all named in the document."

Complaint**Unit ID** id67477**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival_objects/310498**Unit Date** 1824 August**Mixed materials** 1 (Box)**Container** 22 (Folder)**Scope and Contents**

"Document from 1824 being a 3 page complaint about a slave that was hired for a year threatening to run away with her husband. Her husband actually comes and demands that he sell her back to the previous owner or she will runaway."

Memo of Account

Unit ID id67479

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/310499

Unit Date 1857

Mixed materials 1 (Box)

Container 22 (Folder)

Scope and Contents

A document from Charles Modesitt from Page County from 1857 that includes listing the number of Free Negroes in the town at 3 cents each, there were 48 at the time