

William and Sally Newsum Papers

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27 May 1804 - 11 December 1806

Title Statement

William and Sally Newsum Papers Guide to William and Sally Newsum Papers MS 00321

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Descriptive Rules: Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Descriptive Summary

Unit ID

MS 00321

Unit ID

/repositories/2/resources/9075

Unit Date

27 May 1804 - 11 December 1806

Language

English

Extent

.21 Linear Feet

Extent

The letters were previously folded, and several are in pieces.

Repository

Special Collections Research Center

Administrative Information

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Immediate Source of Acquisition

Gift of Dectora Coe Jeffers

Processing Information

Collection taken out of original order and arranged chronologically by letter date.

Biographical / Historical

William Newsum Jr. (Jan. 24, 1785 – Aug. 19, 1828) from Norfolk, Virginia married Sarah (Sally) Cary (1788 – Oct. 7, 1841) from Albemarle, Virginia on February 1st, 1806. William Newsum Jr. attended William and Mary and studied Law to become a lawyer in Norfolk. From 1806 to 1808 and again in 1816 he was a member of the House of Delegates for Norfolk. He was a Captain during the War of 1812.

Sally Newsum had older two brothers, Wilson Jefferson Cary (1783/4 – 1823) and Miles Cary (1786 – 1827), and a younger sister Jane Cary (1791 – 1805) whose death is the topic of one of William's letters.

William and Sally had a son Wilson Cary Newsum (1808 –1873/5) and a daughter Mary Anne Newsum Skipwith (1806/7/9 – 1890). Wilson Cary Newsum married Cornelia Littlefield (1818 – 1873). Mary Anne Newsum married George Green Skipwith (1803 – 1852).

William and Sally may have had another child, Robert Starke Newsum, but this is unverified.

In 1823 the Newsum family along with Sally's mother, Jane Barbara (Carr) Cary (1766 – 1819), moved to Maury County, Tennessee and established the plantation "Longwood."

Note: Information found from "The Virginia Carys: An Essay in Genealogy" by Fairfax Harrison and "A Guide to the Carr-Cary Family Papers" from University of Virginia Library.

Scope and Contents

This collection contains letters sent from William Newsum Jr. to his wife Sally, nee Cary, from 1804 through 1806. William Newsum Jr. was a William & Mary alumnus and studied law. They were married on February 1, 1806 and had their first child late 1806 or early 1807. The letters to Sally begin when they are courting and end in December 1806.

Included is one letter from William Newsum to an unknown Sir and a letter from William's mother Mary Bassett Stark Newsum to her daughter-in-law Sally. One of the letters still has its envelope. Also included are miscellaneous poems, from Anna Laetitia Barbauld, St. George Tucker, and various lines written to Martha Waldron Skipwith, born 1724, married to Fulwar Skipwith and Sally Cary by H. Tucker and F. Carr.

William writes about his excitement for his upcoming marriage and later the birth of his child. He writes about his longing to be with Sally and how much he misses her. He offers condolences on the loss of her younger sister Jane Cary in 1805. He talks about the value of education and exercise, as well as his thoughts on literature and friendship. He also discusses the finances of William & Mary, his desire to be a lawyer, and some of his tasks as a member of a public office.

Topics include marriage, education, literature, love letters, condolences, government, William & Mary, finances, and family.

Keywords

Letters (correspondence)

Poetry

Education

Description of Subordinate Components

Correspondence

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/449266

Unit Date 1804-1806

Mixed Materials 1 (Box)

Language English

William Newsum Jr., at Williamsburg, to [unknown]

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/449267

Unit Date 27 May 1804

Mixed Materials 1 (Box)

Container 1 (Folder)

Container 1 (Item)

Language English

Scope and Contents

Discusses public office candidates, the lottery system at William & Mary, government and economy, and his desire to become a lawyer.

"I intended when I was in Norfolk to have asked you to purchase some of the tickets in the W&M lottery and at least to assist the sale of them by every execution - The time for drawing it is approaching fast, and I believe the tickets have had a very limited circulation."

From the William & Mary Libraries Wiki: A lottery was held for the benefit of the College of William & Mary at various times from about 1804-1812.

William Newsum Jr., at Norfolk, to Miss Sally Cary, at Williamsburg (?)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/449268

Unit Date 19 April 1805

Mixed Materials 1 (Box)

Container 1 (Folder)

Container 2 (Item)

Language English

Scope and Contents

Talks about his feelings for Sally, seeing his friends, wishing to be in two places at once, and apologizes for previous awkward correspondence.

William begins his letter by writing, "Our last words my dear, dear Sally are yet trembling on my lips - and my sensations at parting again and again revived, refuse to submit to any control."

General

The name and address of the recipient have been crossed out, but based upon the contents of the letter, it is most likely addressed to Sally at her Williamsburg residence.

Based upon the other correspondence in this collection, William is writing almost exclusively to Sally in Williamsburg.

William Newsum Jr., at Princess Anne, to Miss Sally Cary, at Williamsburg

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/449269

Unit Date 9 May 1805

Mixed Materials 1 (Box)

Container 1 (Folder)

Container 3 (Item)

Language English

Scope and Contents

Discusses Sally's sad thoughts, his Mother and family coming to visit, Sally's education, the role of parents in education, the health of Sally's sister, the value of exercise, and poetry.

"Indeed my dear friend I envy your present situation so much, that I am almost tempted to throw these musty old Law books in the fire and to entreat Mrs. C. to permit me too to become her pupil, and your schoolfellow."

This letter confirms that William was studying law, but the identity of Mrs. C is unknown.

General

An envelope addressed to "Miss Sally Cary, Williamsburg" and stamped with the date "May 11" most likely accompanies this letter.

William Newsum Jr., at Norfolk, to Miss Sally Cary, at Williamsburg

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/449270

Unit Date 18 July 1805

Mixed Materials 1 (Box)

Container 1 (Folder)

Container 4 (Item)

Language English

Scope and Contents

Consolation letter to Sally about the death of her little sister Jane Cary, discusses the grief of Sally's mother.

"Check not then the stream of sorrow which flows from the pitying eyes of an affectionate girl mourning the loss of a lovely amiable sister, and grieving over the agony of an afflicted mother."

William comforts Sally in this letter. Sally's younger sister Jane, aged 14, (1791 - 1805) had just passed away.

William Newsum Jr., at Princess Anne, to Miss Sally Cary, at Charlottesville

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/449271

Unit Date 05 September 1805

Mixed Materials 1 (Box)

Container 1 (Folder)

Container 5 (Item)

Language English

General

This letter is not yet transcribed due to its fragile state.

William Newsum Jr., at Norfolk, to Miss Sally Cary, at Williamsburg

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/449272

Unit Date 10 December 1805

Mixed Materials 1 (Box)

Container 1 (Folder)

Container 6 (Item)

Language English

Scope and Contents

Discusses exercise, literature and reading, and forgiveness and friendship.

"I am not partial when I say that you are blameless But remember my dear friend, that forgiveness is a most amiable virtue and that if it can not conciliate those who are displeased with us - it can at least make us pleased with ourselves - Be still the same Sally Cary."

William seems to be offering Sally advice about a disagreement with one of her friends.

William Newsum Jr., at Norfolk, to Miss Sally Cary, at Williamsburg

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/449273

Unit Date 10 January 1806

Mixed Materials 1 (Box)

Container 1 (Folder)

Container 7 (Item)

Language English

Scope and Contents

Talks about his father being unwell, and his feelings towards Sally.

William begins his letter by discussing his father, and ends by discussing his upcoming wedding.

"I regret my, dear friend, that I was unable to write to you by the last mail – but the indisposition of my father has retarded his affairs so much that I was obliged to devote a greater part of the last week to his concerns...In a few short weeks my dear Sally, we shall be man & wife, and then I hope we shall show the world how to love, and how to be happy."

William Newsum Jr., at Norfolk, to Miss Sally Cary, at Williamsburg

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/449274

Unit Date 21 January 1806

Mixed Materials 1 (Box)

Container 2 (Folder)

Container 1 (Item)

Language English

Scope and Contents

Discusses Sally's sad feelings, a fight between a father and child, and his and Sally's upcoming wedding.

"As the day approaches my dear friend – my impatience becomes almost intolerable – I wish to God it had arrived – I shall then be the happiest man in the Christendom...God bless you I wish the 1st of Feby. Had arrived."

This letter confirms the February 1, 1806 wedding date of William and Sally.

Mary Bassett Stark Newsum, at Norfolk, to Mrs. Sally Newsum, at Williamsburg

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/449275

Unit Date 24 July 1806

Mixed Materials 1 (Box)

Container 2 (Folder)

Container 2 (Item)

Language English

Biographical / Historical

Mary Bassett Stark (1760-1819) married William Newsum (1761-1836) on May 7, 1782 and gave birth to her son William Newsum Jr. in 1785.

Scope and Contents

Apologizes for her poor correspondence, discusses the 4th of July and other events, and updates Sally on family members.

"As my dear Sally you so well know my aversion to writing, you will attribute to that cause my tardiness in answering your favor."

This letter was written by Sally's mother-in-law, Mary.

General

Written on pencil on the letter is "From the great Grandmother of my children," followed by three unknown initials.

William Newsum Jr., at Richmond, to Mrs. Sally Newsum, at Williamsburg

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/449276

Unit Date 02 December 1806

Mixed Materials 1 (Box)

Container 2 (Folder)

Container 3 (Item)

Language English

Scope and Contents

Apologizes for not writing sooner and talks about how much he misses Sally and wishes he could be with her.

William frequently ended his letters by writing 'adieu.' "Adieu my love and believe that nothing would give me so much delight as to be seated by your side, and to tell you how fondly – how tenderly I love you."

William Newsum Jr., at Richmond, to Mrs. Sally Newsum, at Williamsburg

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/449277

Unit Date 11 December 1806

Mixed Materials 1 (Box)

Container 2 (Folder)

Container 4 (Item)

Language English

Scope and Contents

Discusses public office duties, the upcoming birth of their child, and visiting friends.

William offers Sally encouragement in this letter: "It is thus my dear wife that you will be enabled to meet the painful moment with more comfort and consolation. It will be but a moment of pain – and will yield us years of happiness in return. Imagine my love, as you have done, the impassioned joy we shall feel at beholding the innocent little babe."

Poems, undated

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/449278

Mixed Materials 1 (Box)

Container 2 (Folder)

Language English

Love poems to Martha Skipwith and Sally Cary

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/449279

Mixed Materials 1 (Box)

Container 2 (Folder)

Container 5 (Item)

Language English

Scope and Contents

First two poems to Martha Waldron Skipwith, born 1724, married to Fulwar Skipwith, and six poems to Sally Cary. The poems were written by H Tucker and F Carr.

Poems from Mrs. Barbauld and St. George Tucker

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/449280

Mixed Materials 1 (Box)

Container 2 (Folder)

Container 6 (Item)

Language English

Scope and Contents

The poems are undated, and it is unknown who copied them down.

Mrs. Barbauld is Anna Laetitia Barbauld (1743-1825). The title of the poem is "A Thought on Death." Written underneath is "Written by Mrs Barbauld at the age of 96." However, Mrs. Barbauld died at the age of 81.

The bottom lines under Mrs. Barbauld poem are from the Iliad of Homer by Alexander Pope.