BLACK STUDIES RESEARCH SOURCES Microfilms from Major Archival and Manuscript Collections

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SLAVERY IN ANTE-BELLUM SOUTHERN INDUSTRIES

Series A: Selections from the Duke University Library

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A microfilm project of
UNIVERSITY PUBLICATIONS OF AMERICA
An Imprint of CIS
4520 East-West Highway • Bethesda, MD 20814-3389

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Slavery in ante-bellum southern industries [microform]. microfilm reels. -- (Black studies research sources) Accompanied by printed reel guide. Contents: Ser. A. Selections from the Duke University Library / editorial adviser, Charles B. Dew: associate editor, Randolph Boehm. ISBN 1-55655-282-3 (ser. A : microfilm) 1. Slave labor--Southern States--History. 2. Southern States--

Industries--History. I. Dew, Charles B. II. Boehm, Randolph. III. Duke University. Library. IV. University Publications of America (Firm) V. Series. [HD4865] 91-33943 306.3'62'0975--dc20

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INTRODUCTION

On January 21, 1833, James C. Dickinson of Louisa County, Virginia, forwarded disturbing news to his friend William Weaver, one of the leading ironmasters in the valley of Virginia. Weaver regularly hired substantial numbers of slaves in Dickinson's neighborhood to help work his iron properties in Rockbridge County, and Weaver could not have been pleased when he received Dickinson's letter. "[T]he young man you told me you got to hire Lewis Harriss's hands told me that he hired all three and bonded for them," Dickinson wrote; "afterward Mayburry went there...bribed both negro and master...hired the main hand that you wanted and left the other two for you—I think Mayburry acted very low," Dickinson added, "neither do I think any honest man would take that advantage."

Thomas Mayburry, Weaver's former business partner but by 1833 a bitter competitor in the valley iron trade, may or may not have acted in gentlemanly fashion by "bribing both negro and master," but the fact was that he had thus managed to secure the services of a skilled slave ironworker Weaver had been counting on hiring for the coming year. The slave would be working at Mayburry's Gibraltar Forge in Rockbridge County in 1833, not at Bath Iron Works or Buffalo Forge, Weaver's two Rockbridge County installations.²

This letter is only one document among the thousands contained in this microfilm series, Slavery in Ante-Bellum Southern Industries, but Dickinson's 1833 letter to Weaver tells us a great deal about the industrial phase of the South's peculiar institution. It reflects the dependence of many southern manufacturers on skilled slave artisans, and it suggests the reliance many of these industrialists had to place in hired slave labor. It also reveals the lengths to which some employers would go in their efforts to secure key slave workers in a highly competitive hiring market. The fact that a potential employer, in this instance a Virginia ironmaster, found it necessary to offer money to a slave to persuade the man to work for him tells a significant story of its own. Slaves possessing industrial skills had considerable leverage at their disposal when it came to a test of wills with white masters and employers, and blacks engaged in manufacturing enterprises frequently showed an impressive ability to use this leverage to their advantage, as these records demonstrate time after time.

Again, the William Weaver Papers are suggestive. On July 24, 1829, John W. Schoolfield, a Lynchburg commission merchant, placed a large order for bar iron with Weaver. Schoolfield knew exactly what he wanted:

two sets of tire iron 3 inches wide and 1/2 inch thick,

two sets of tire iron 2 1/2 inches wide and 1/2 inch thick, and

two sets of tire iron 2 inches wide and 1/2 inch thick.

Weaver's principal hammerman at Buffalo Forge at this time was a skilled slave forgeman named Sol Fleming, and Schoolfield instructed Weaver to "make Sol gage [sic] them or else people will not have them." The slave hammerman had to draw this iron (to be used for making metal tires for wagon wheels) to exact specifications, Schoolfield was saying, or it would not sell. And Schoolfield, who had earlier served as a clerk for Weaver at Buffalo Forge, knew that close work of this kind might be better executed if he offered Fleming an incentive. "You may

¹James C. Dickinson to William Weaver, January 21, 1833, William Weaver Papers, Duke University Library.

²See Charles B. Dew, *The Master and the Slaves: William Weaver and the Ironworkers of Buffalo Forge* (forthcoming, W. W. Norton & Company, 1992).

promise Sol that if he will draw Iron nicely to suit my orders and quick after they are received that I will give him a beautiful callico [sic] dress for his wife [for] Christmas," Schoolfield wrote.³

As Christmas approached, Sol Fleming raised the subject of the promised dress with Weaver, and Weaver passed the slave's query on to Schoolfield. "Tell Sol that I had not forgotten the Dress I promised him," Schoolfield replied, "but he has not done any thing to earn it. It has been from four to 6 months since that promise was made." Schoolfield continued that the iron ordered back in July had been slow reaching Lynchburg and some had not been received at all. "He must not expect me to give him a Dress promised on a condition with which he did not comply." Perhaps it was only a coincidence, but for months later Schoolfield was complaining about the "bad Iron" he was receiving from Buffalo Forge, where Sol Fleming worked. "As I keep no Iron but yours, if a man gets a bad piece of me he can not mistake the works it comes from," Schoolfield reminded Weaver. The merchant asked that Weaver fill his future orders from Bath Iron Works, a blast furnace and forge complex Weaver had constructed in northern Rockbridge County during the late 1820s.⁵

Whether Sol Fleming was paying Schoolfield back for reneging on his promise is impossible to say, but Weaver could not afford the reputation that the slave forgeman at one of his installations produced "bad Iron." Weaver had too much invested in his iron works to run such a risk. What, then, were his choices? Weaver could threaten Fleming with a whipping or possible sale if he did not do better, but these were dangerous options. You could not get "well drawn tire," as one of Weaver's customers put it, out of a slave too sore to work, and an angry slave artisan could easily commit acts of industrial sabotage that were capable of halting all forge production. The threat of sale was a hollow one as well. Skilled slave forgemen were hard enough to come by as it was, and Sol Fleming was capable of turning out very high quality work when he wanted to. The solution, as Weaver and industrialists throughout the ante-bellum South knew, was to follow along the course John Schoolfield had originally chosen when he offered Fleming "a beautiful callico dress for his wife": to rely on incentive and reward as the principal means of motivating slave laborers to work for, rather than against, their employers' interests.

There is no question that force and coercion were the cement that held slavery together in the Old South, and industrial slavery was no exception. No one, after all, was ever a willing slave. But if a slave did not challenge the institution openly, did not try to run away or carry resistance to levels that the master considered intolerable, the industrial system offered the slave a chance to earn tangible and sometimes substantial rewards.

The key to this phase of the industrial slave regimen was the task system. Almost every industrial job performed by slaves in the ante-bellum South had a minimum daily or weekly task. Sol Fleming, for example, was required to turn out a daily "journey" of 560 pounds of bar iron at Buffalo Forge, and this was the standard task for slave hammermen throughout the Virginia iron district. Slave refiners, the forgemen who produced the blooms or "anchonies" that hammermen like Fleming reheated and pounded into merchant bar iron, had a task of 11/2 tons (or 2,240 pounds) of anchonies per week. The task of slave choppers, who cut wood to be converted into charcoal to fuel blast furnaces and forges across the South, was nine cords per week (11/2 cords per day working a six-day week). And so it went. Turpentine workers, shingle makers, coal miners, tobacco factory hands, tannery workers—the list goes on and on—all worked on a task basis. These tasks were invariably set at levels that an average slave could reach by

³John W. Schoolfield to William Weaver, July 24, 1829, Weaver Papers, Duke.

⁴Ibid., December 7, 1829.

⁵ *Ibid.*, April 22, 1830.

⁶Lewis Webb & Co. to William Weaver, June 16, 1829, Weaver-Brady Papers, University of Virginia

⁷Dew, The Master and the Slaves; Ronald L. Lewis, Coal, Iron, and Slaves: Industrial Slavery in Maryland and Virginia, 1715–1865 (Westport, Conn.: Greenwood Press, 1979), 118–126; Robert S. Starobin, Industrial Slavery in the Old South (New York: Oxford University Press, 1970), 99–104; S. Sydney Bradford, "The Negro Ironworker in Ante Bellum Virginia," Journal of Southern History XXV (1959): 199–200. See also Dew, "Sam Williams, Forgeman: The Life of an Industrial Slave in the Old South," in Region, Race and Reconstruction: Essays in Honor of C. Vann Woodward, ed. J. Morgan Kousser and James M. McPherson (New York: Oxford University Press, 1982), 210–219; "David Ross and the Oxford Iron Works: A Study of Industrial Slavery in the Early Nineteenth-Century South," William and

putting in a day, or week, of steady work, and they almost never changed over time. Both master and slave regarded them as the traditional standard, and they were not pegged at excessively difficult levels for good reason: the whole intent of the task system was to encourage slaves to accomplish a set amount of work in a given time and then to work beyond that minimum point in order to earn compensation for themselves.

Employers stood ready to pay industrial slaves whenever they exceeded their assigned task. Slaves could take compensation for their "overwork" as this extra labor and production were called, in either cash or goods, and the earning power provided by their individual jobs was frequently supplemented by a variety of other types of activity. Slaves could make additional sums by working nights, Sundays (a traditional day of rest for slaves throughout the South), or holidays. They often were allowed to raise pigs, calves, chickens, or foodstuffs on plots of land provided by their employers, and industrial employers almost always were willing to buy any surplus livestock, poultry, or food the slaves wished to sell. Industrialists often paid slaves who held important supervisory positions an "allowance," in effect a regular wage, for performing their duties; slave colliers who supervised charcoal pits and skilled slave blast furnace hands were often compensated in this way. And slaves who undertook difficult or arduous jobs were often rewarded in some fashion. To cite one typical example, William Weaver filled his ice house at Buffalo Forge every winter by having his slave force cut blocks of ice from the pond behind his forge dam; each man who participated in this activity was paid 50 cents and was issued a "whiskey ration" as well.8

The slaves' earnings, and their expenditures, were recorded in ledgers kept by their employers, and these "Negro Books," as the volumes were generally labelled, constitute some of the most valuable documentary evidence we have concerning slavery in the Old South. Excellent examples of these revealing sources in the Duke collection include the Mary G. Franklin Account Books and ledgers in the Jeremiah T. Jones Papers, the Richard Grist Series of the James Redding Grist Business Records, and the Dismal Swamp Land Company Records. When University Publications of America completes its forthcoming microfilm project of the industrial slave materials in Alderman Library at the University of Virginia, additional superb examples of slave overwork records will be made available.

The extraordinary value of these overwork ledgers derives from the insight they provide into slave life. Here is one of the rare instances where the documentary record takes us inside the slaves' own world. Their purchases of food, clothing, tobacco, household items, and the like; their drawing cash at various times during the year (and particularly just before Christmas); and the use of their earnings to provide gifts for their parents, wives, and children show what slaves did with resources they themselves controlled. These entries tell us something of the slaves' priorities and choices, and records of this kind are extremely important to historians trying to reconstruct black life under slavery. Since we have far fewer examples of the types of primary sources—letters, diaries, memoirs—for slaves than we have for their masters, any sort of evidence that gives us a glimpse of the interior lives of the slaves should be mined with great care, sensitivity, and attention to detail. The "Negro Books" generated in the course of industrial slavery are just such records, and *Series A: Selections from the Duke University Library* contains some outstanding examples of this type of material.

The use of hired slaves for industrial labor is another topic covered in detail in these records, as suggested in the letter from the William Weaver Papers quoted at the beginning of this introduction. Employers sought slave hirelings for an amazingly broad range of industrial activity: as construction laborers, miners, deck hands, turpentine workers, shingle makers, wood choppers, millers, sawmill workers, railroad hands, tobacco factory operatives, and iron workers. Indeed, there was almost no laboring activity in the ante-bellum South that did not employ slave workers, many of whom were hired out by their masters, usually on an annual basis. The Duke records permit the student of southern slavery to study this hiring process in

⁸Dew, The Master and the Slaves.

Mary Quarterly, 3d ser., XXXI (1974): 206-9; and "Slavery and Technology in the Antebellum Southern iron Industry: The Case of Buffalo Forge," in Science and Medicine in the Old South, ed. Ronald L. Numbers and Todd L. Savitt (Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 1989), 117-121.

detail and over a substantial number of decades; the Joseph Belknap Smith Papers, the Jeremiah T. Jones Papers, the James Redding Grist Business Records, the Dismal Swamp Land Company Records, the William Weaver Papers, and the Francis Thomas Anderson Letters and Papers are outstanding in this regard.

As these collections show, employers of industrial slaves generally tried to fill out their work gangs by going into the annual hiring market. The two-week period following Christmas was the usual time for this activity. Men like William Weaver and Francis Anderson would travel "down the country," as residents of the valley of Virginia referred to the territory east of the Blue Ridge Mountains, and visit the hiring markets held at county seats in the Virginia Tidewater and Piedmont. There, masters who had surplus labor would bring their slaves on the appointed day, and potential employers—tobacco factory owners, railroad and canal builders, gold and coal mine operators, ironmasters, and local farmers—would compete with one another for the available supply of hands.

Historians have vigorously debated whether the hiring system led to the widespread abuse of slaves by their temporary employers.9 Evidence in the Duke collections allows students of slavery to probe this question in considerable detail. One thing the correspondence between the owners of hired slaves and the industrial employers makes clear is that masters paid close attention to the reputation of the men who sought to hire their bondsmen. These letters also reveal that the slaves themselves had considerable say over where, and for whom, they would work during the year. It is clear that many slaves were willing to be hired out (particularly to employers like William Weaver, who generally had a good reputation regarding the treatment of slave hands) because of the opportunity industrial labor gave them to earn overwork. A document entitled "Memo Cash to Negroes Dec. 23, 1857" in the Weaver Papers at Duke, for example, shows fifty-three slaves hired to work at Weaver's Etna Furnace in Botetourt County, Virginia, receiving cash payments just before these men returned home for Christmas. The timing of these overwork payments, typical of disbursements made at industrial establishments throughout the South, meant that each one of these men would go home for Christmas with cash in hand. Since the slaves themselves decided when and how they would take their overwork compensation, this list indicates that these men refrained from spending all of their earnings during their previous months at Weaver's blast furnace so that they would have money with which to celebrate the holidays. And it meant that those men with wives and children at home would have the wherewithal to buy presents for their families. This sort of opportunitythe chance for a husband and father to do something for his wife and children-was one of the reasons slaves were willing to leave their homes in eastern Virginia, travel on foot across the Blue Ridge to valley ironworks like Weaver's Buffalo Forge or Etna Furnace or Anderson's Glenwood Furnace, and spend the year working away from their families as hired forge workers or blast furnace hands.

The Duke records also make clear that slave resistance was a constant problem for many southern industrialists. Runaways particularly plagued some operations, as documented in the James Redding Grist Records and the Richard H. Riddick Papers in detail. Work slowdowns and acts of industrial sabotage were other forms of slave resistance with which employers had to contend. Industrial masters sought to use the overwork system and the compensation it provided as a major tool in their efforts to discipline and motivate their slave workers. But, as the Duke collections reveal (see, for example, the Tillinghast Slave Task Book), opposition could never be completely stifled, and some industrial slaves went to heroic lengths in their efforts to challenge the system. One of Richard Riddick's slaves, to cite only one example, escaped to Boston in the early 1850s and successfully resisted his owner's efforts to bring him back to North Carolina.

⁹Kenneth M. Stampp, The Peculiar Institution: Slavery in the Ante-Bellum South (New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1956), 84; Clement Eaton, "Slave-Hiring in the Upper South: A Step Toward Freedom," Mississippi Valley Historical Review XLVI (1960): 668–9; Richard B. Morris, "The Measure of Bondage in the Slave States," Mississippi Valley Historical Review XLI (1954): 231–9; Charles B. Dew, "Disciplining Slave Ironworkers in the Antebellum South: Coercion, Conciliation, and Accommodation," American Historical Review LXXIX (1974): 393–418.

Insights into many other aspects of slave life can be gleaned from the Duke materials. The working conditions for slaves engaged in a wide variety of industrial occupations are described here. The integration of labor forces—black and white, slave and free—is covered in considerable detail. The material conditions of the slaves' daily lives—their food, clothing, housing, and the like—are well documented. And much evidence concerning slave health problems and the care that masters and employers provided can be found in these collections. The essays in the Reel Index describing each set of papers provide an excellent guide to the wide range of topics illuminated by these manuscripts and highlight the strengths of the individual collections.

Industry never rivaled agriculture as an employer of slave labor in the Old South. Robert Starobin estimates that only about 5 percent of the South's slave population was engaged in industrial work in the two decades prior to the Civil War. 10 But numbers do not tell the whole story here. Because of the kinds of records industrial enterprises kept, and because of the fortuitous survival of superb collections of these records in depositories like the Duke University Library, a window is opened on the slave's world that no other type of primary documentary evidence affords. When the Duke series is joined by University Publications of America's forthcoming microfilm edition of the University of Virginia industrial slave sources—records like the Weaver-Brady Iron Works and Grist Mill Papers and the Anderson Family Papers and Ledgers, for example, that directly complement the Duke holdings—historical investigators will have ready access to some of the richest, most valuable, and most complete collections in the entire documentary record of American slavery.

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¹⁰Starobin, Industrial Slavery, vii.

NOTE ON SOURCES

The collections microfilmed in this edition are holdings of the Duke University Library, Department of Special Collections, Durham, North Carolina 27706.

EDITORIAL NOTE

The Reel Index for this edition provides the user with a précis of each collection. Each précis provides information on the industry, the principal business entities, the slave force, and many business and personal activities documented in the collection.

Following the précis, the Reel Index itemizes each file folder and manuscript volume. The four-digit number to the left of each entry indicates the frame number at which a particular document or series of documents begins.

Related materials on the hiring of slaves in ante-bellum southern industries may be found in UPA's Records of Ante-Bellum Southern Plantations from the Revolution through the Civil War. Concentrations on industrial slavery may be found in the Franklin Elmore papers in Series C, Part 2; in the Samuel Smith Downey papers in Series F, Part 3; and in the William Massie papers in Series G, Part 2. It was not possible to obtain permission to reproduce the Daniel K. Jordan papers documenting turpentine production in North Carolina and South Carolina, but the collection is open to researchers at the Duke University Library.

REEL INDEX

Reel 1

Joseph Belknap Smith Papers, 1802 (1845–1872) 1916, Columbia Mine, Columbia, McDuffie, and Wilkes Counties, Georgia; also Massachusetts, Michigan, New York, and Tennessee

Description of the Collection

Joseph Belknap Smith (1815–ca. 1889) was an investor and entrepreneur. The collection comprises personal and business letters, letterpress books, diaries, miscellaneous business records, and other papers of Smith and members of his family. These documents are mainly concerned with Smith's speculative enterprises in mining, railroads, cotton planting, and grain mills in Georgia, Tennessee, and other parts of the nation. The bulk of the material is of the period 1845–1872. The collection includes information on gold mining in Georgia, copper mining in Michigan and Tennessee, business conditions in the South before and after the Civil War, and the development of the railroad system in the South.

Smith was a speculator on a rather large scale. His investments at various times included interests in copper mines in Michigan and Ducktown, Tennessee; the New York Bay Cemetery Company; a lumber company and a cotton and land company in England; a telegraph and railroad company in Venezuela; gold mines in Columbia and Wilkes Counties, Georgia; and a grain mill, sawmills, and lands in Georgia. His father, who lived until 1857, was a wealthy Massachusetts merchant who engaged in European and West Indian trade.

Joseph Belknap Smith married three times. His wives were Catherine, Harriet, and J. Septima Shank. It appears that by his first two wives he had the following children: Harry, Edward, Willie, Granville, Bobby, and Mary. His second wife was in ill health for quite a while before her death in the winter of 1855. During their marriage she remained part of the time with her relatives in Philadelphia while he was in New York City and Georgia looking after business interests. It seems that the Smith children remained north with relatives. By 1865 Smith had married J. Septima Shank of Georgia.

Papers, 1802-1916

The papers in this collection consist primarily of correspondence. Other items among the papers include bills and receipts, accounts, deeds, and articles of agreement. The papers provide much insight into Smith's business and personal affairs. Many business transactions documented in the papers are also further documented in the manuscript volumes.

In 1837, Smith, then of Worcester, Massachusetts, was commissioned aide-de-camp to General Jonathan Day of the Massachusetts militia. In 1845 he was connected with at least two copper companies in Michigan, and during that year he made a trip from Boston to the copper mining regions of that state (see also his diary among the manuscript volumes).

By 1852 he was in partnership with Benjamin H. Broomhead and George Wood in gold mining and copper mining in Georgia and Tennessee, respectively. Wood was in London at the time trying to sell certain properties of theirs and exploring a lumber business in England in which he and Smith were interested. In the latter half of the 1850s, however, Smith was spending much time in New York City.

While Smith was in New York from 1857–1860, Broomhead kept him informed about affairs at their gold mines. Letters from the mines discuss labor problems, work accomplished, amounts of gold produced, drainage troubles, and problems following veins of ore in the mines. Letters also relate to the sale, purchase, and hiring of slaves. One letter dated June 24, 1857, relates an incident in which the engineer at the Columbia Mines got drunk and beat a slave on the head and arms with a pick handle. When informed that beating slaves with deadly weapons was against the rules, the engineer protested and was immediately discharged by Broomhead.

Also between 1857 and 1860, Smith received many letters from a friend, Eliza Annie Dunston of Dover, New Hampshire. During this time she taught school in St. Charles and Chicago, Illinois, and Mississippi. Her letters describe experiences as a student and teacher, travel, social life, and her friendship with Illinois representative John F. Farnsworth.

During 1858 and 1859 Smith became involved in the formation of a telegraph and railroad company in Venezuela. Letters and financial reports from William Hatfield Clark, a friend and associate in the Venezuelan project, kept Smith informed about the project. Included is a contract dated 1859 between James F. Howell of Caracas and William Hatfield Clark, Elijah H. St. John, Joseph Belknap Smith, Edward P. Bray, and Seth B. Cole, all of New York, to equip and build a railroad from Caracas to the nearby port of La Guaira.

In the spring of 1860, Smith left New York for the mines of Georgia. Broomhead had become increasingly discouraged with the prospects for the mine and was anxious to sell it. During this time, Smith also received letters from William Hatfield Clark, who was then on Wall Street in New York City, regarding progress in a lawsuit brought in that city regarding their Venezuelan ventures. These letters indicate that Smith might have moved south to escape paying judgments stemming from the suit and contempt of court charges. Broomhead, meanwhile, moved to Newnan, Coweta County, Georgia, but continued writing to Smith regarding work at the mines, the care of slaves owned by the partnership, and other matters.

Smith also received occasional letters from family members, including his mother Mary Smith who lived in Dover, New Hampshire, and Lowell, Massachusetts, and from his various children. There is a letter dated 1854 from Smith's sister, Mrs. Mary E. Thomas of near Covington, Kentucky.

Letters during the Civil War discuss domestic conditions in Georgia and camp life in Virginia and Tennessee. Topics include the outfitting of troops, business conditions, morale, and the results of battles, etc. Smith and his cohorts sold much of their mining equipment for scrap metal during the war. Accounts during the war continue to document the purchase and hire of slaves. Other accounts continue to document the running of a post office at Columbia Mines. Letters discuss the scarcity of salt in Georgia and the formation of a salt company. During the war Smith also received letters from Edward R. Thomas, a nephew who was serving in the 2nd Kentucky, Confederate States of America.

Many letters of 1864 and 1865 are addressed to J. Septima Shank from her brothers and cousins serving in the Confederate forces near Petersburg, Virginia. One letter provides a vivid description of the failed Union siege of Petersburg and reports that Union soldiers forcibly prevented black infantry from retreating. Also during this period is correspondence from her future husband Joseph Belknap Smith, her sister Adeline, and various women friends.

Papers of the postwar period document economic conditions and labor problems in Georgia. Particularly interesting are letters written by Smith and others in 1865 and 1866 to relatives and former associates in the North. These letters present views on the prospects of freedmen and whites in the Reconstruction era. Also included are letters from Septima (Shank) Smith's brother who emigrated to Texas and wrote of conditions there, legal agreements with freedmen and other documents relating to labor conditions in the South, papers concerning education in Georgia and Alabama, and an address of Jacob R. Davis to the black voters of the 18th District of Georgia, ca. 1868. Papers of the 1880s and 1890s document the settlement of the estate of Joseph Belknap Smith and his wife's continued management of mining and milling properties in Georgia.

Manuscript Volumes, 1845-1907

Manuscript volumes include a letterpress book; a Union Mines account book; a ledger running from 1860 to 1872; five volumes of a Joseph Belknap Smith diary covering the following periods: 1845–1850, 1861, 1863–1867, and 1884; and two volumes of a J. Septima (Shank) Smith diary.

The letterpress book contains copies of letters of Joseph Belknap Smith and one of his partners, George Wood, about their copper mines in Ducktown, Tennessee, and other matters, 1849–1855. The account book is the record of a post office at the Union Mines in Berzelea, Georgia, 1860–1868. The ledger has valuations for 1860–1872 of the mine and mill properties of Joseph Belknap Smith and his partners and the amount of the Confederate soldiers' tax and war taxes for some of the war years.

The first part of the first volume of the Joseph Belknap Smith diary covers the period from June 14-August 12, 1845. During this time Smith travelled about three thousand miles from Boston, Massachusetts, to the copper mining regions of Michigan and back. The diary gives an interesting account of this journey and the hardships of camp life in Michigan. The remainder of this volume is a daybook for part of the years 1846 to 1850. Most of the contents of the subsequent volumes of the diary relate to Smith's life in Georgia, including a statement that he made a Confederate flag and hoisted it, assessments of his property in Columbia and Wilkes counties, a description of a camp meeting, and comments on the impressment of food by the Confederate government, Confederate taxes and currency, and the movement of refugees in Georgia. Two volumes of a diary of J. Septima (Shank) Smith cover the years 1905 and 1907 in Georgia.

N.B. A later addition to the Joseph Belknap Smith Papers was not microfilmed in this edition. This material consists almost entirely of postbellum family and business correspondence of Joseph Belknap Smith and J. Septima (Shank) Smith. These papers are open to researchers onsite at the Duke University Library, Department of Special Collections.

Introductory Materials

0001	Introductory Materials. 1	frame.
		Papers, 1802-1916
0002	1802-1854. 171 frames.	
0173	1855-1857. 193 frames.	
0366	1858-1859. 257 frames.	
0623	1860. 243 frames.	
0866	1861-1862. 282 frames.	

Reel 2

Joseph Belknap Smith Papers cont. Papers, 1802–1916 cont.

0001	1863–1866. 264 frames.
0265	1867–1869. 146 frames.
0411	1870–1916. 91 frames.
0502	Receipts, Notes, and Checks, 1872-1915 and Tax Receipts, 1888-1911. 51 frames.
0553	Surveys, 1869-1908 and Undated. 39 frames.
0592	Correspondence, Undated. 34 frames.
0626	Contracts, Indentures, Receipts, and Business Forms, etc., Undated. 71 frames.
0697	Diagrams, Undated. 13 frames.
0710	Photograph of Joseph Belknap Smith, Undated. 3 frames.

Manuscript Volumes, 1845-1907

0713	Joseph Belknap Smith, Letterpress Copy Book, 1849-1855. 247 frames.
0960	Joseph Belknap Smith, Account Book, Union Mines, 1860-1868. 59 frames.

Reel 3

Joseph Belknap Smith Papers cont. Manuscript Volumes, 1845–1907 cont.

0001	Joseph Belknap Smith, Ledger, Upper Mills, 1860-1872. 216 frames.
0217	Joseph Belknap Smith, Diary, 1845-1850. 51 frames.
0268	Joseph Belknap Smith, Diary, 1861. 70 frames.
0338	Joseph Belknap Smith, Diary, 1864-1865. 72 frames.
0410	Joseph Belknap Smith, Diary, 1863-1864 and 1864-1865. 82 frames.
0492	Joseph Belknap Smith, Diary, 1866-1867. 60 frames.
0552	Joseph Belknap Smith, Diary, 1867. 66 frames.
0618	Joseph Belknap Smith, Diary, 1884. 206 frames.
0824	J. Septima (Shank) Smith, Diary, 1905. 210 frames.
1034	J. Septima (Shank) Smith, Diary, 1907. 206 frames.

Reel 4

Jeremiah T. Jones Papers, 1841–1878, Chesterfield County, Virginia

Description of the Collection

Jeremiah T. Jones was an official or part owner of David Watkins & Co., a coal firm with mines near Midlothian, Chesterfield County, Virginia. The collection consists largely of financial records, including five volumes of account books and five financial papers. Two of the account books are labelled as belonging to Jones, and others relate to him. Many entries in the volumes relate to the work of slaves, hire of labor, and the provisioning of workers in the mines. Other entries concern equipment and supplies for the mines.

A large account book dated 1841–1853 contains special accounts for Jones, David Watkins, Howell D. Watkins, and Richard Davis, apparently owners or officers of the firm of David Watkins & Co. The volume also contains a few accounts for the Gowrie mines in Chesterfield County and entries for hired and slave labor, goods purchased or sold, blacksmith work, expenses, and shipment of coal by railroad in the 1840s. Midlothian was a terminus of the Chesterfield Railroad. This railroad, the first in Virginia, began operation in 1831 and was built in order to ship coal to Manchester, Virginia.

The other volumes are relatively small. The account book dated 1853–1854 includes figures and specifications for mine shafts and machinery and accounts for workers and possibly other individuals for food and clothing, blacksmith work, and coal sent on the railroad. The account book dated 1854–1857 documents shoes and clothing provided for workers at the mines. The account book dated 1865–1867 contains accounts for clothing, food, coke, individuals, and also some figures on coal and slate deposits at the mines. The final account book, dated 1877–1878, records the sale of food and clothing and may be the record of a company store associated with the mines.

The financial papers include an 1853 list of workers and undated lists of dimensions of mine shafts. Miscellany consists of an undated drawing showing the dimensions and shafts of a mine.

Introductory Materials

0001 Introductory Material. 1 frame.

Account Books and Miscellany

0002	Jeremiah T. Jones, Account Book, 1841-1853. 152 frames.
0154	Jeremiah T. Jones, Account Book, 1853-1854. 42 frames.
0196	Jeremiah T. Jones, Account Book, 1854-1857. 24 frames.
0220	Jeremiah T. Jones, Account Book, 1865-1867. 40 frames.
0260	Jeremiah T. Jones, Account Book, 1877-1878. 50 frames.
0310	Jeremiah T. Jones, Financial Papers, 1853 and Undated. 5 frames.
0315	Jeremiah T. Jones, Miscellany, Undated. 5 frames.

Mary G. Franklin Account Books, 1842–1855, Cherokee County, Georgia

Description of the Collection

This collection consists of two account books, kept by Mary G. Franklin and her son Bedney L. Franklin, which document gold mining, milling, and farming in Georgia. Accounts detail production, slave and hired labor, provisions, and other expenses incurred by the operation.

Mary G. Franklin, miner and farmer, was a widow in southern Georgia when she drew a forty-acre lot in the Gold Lottery of 1832. The lot was in Cherokee County in northern Georgia where she moved her family. The property, located on the Etowah River, had valuable gold deposits. She established a mine and a stamping mill, expanded her holdings, owned slaves, built a handsome home, and educated all her children. The agricultural census of 1850 lists her with a 500-acre farm worth \$10,000. Her account book reveals that she also operated a sawmill and may have mined coal and slate. There was a water-powered mill on the site. The account book of Mary G. Franklin, 1847–1855, records information on her mining, milling, and farm operations. Included are entries for work by hired hands and slaves in these operations and the adjacent shop and stamper. One section of the volume is a daybook for the period January–July 1853. Work performed by women is recorded often. The remainder of the volume consists of accounts, 1847–1855. These accounts are varied and largely agricultural, although mining matters appear. They include accounts for slaves and hired workers, the sawmill, and provisions and clothing furnished to slaves. Accounts show payments made to slaves for extra work and payments made to owners for the hire of slaves.

The account book of Bedney L. Franklin, 1842–1843, is largely a cashbook of expenditures, both business and personal. The volume includes accounts for hired workers, a list of slaves, and accounts of profits from the mine from January–April 1843. Items relate to the farm, mine, and sawmill, personal expenses, travel, provisions and clothing, medical visits, and miscellaneous expenses. This volume was later used by Ophelia Yerby of Athens, Georgia, who pencilled into it copies of letters that she wrote to the *Sunny South* newspaper.

Introductory Materials

0320	Introductory Materials. 1 frame.
	Account Books
0321 0385	Mary G. Franklin, Account Book, 1847–1855. 64 frames. Bedney L. Franklin, Account Book, 1842–1843. 65 frames.

Tillinghast Family Papers (Slave Task Book), 1849–1851, Fayetteville, Cumberland County, North Carolina

Description of the Collection

The slave task book, 1849–1851, details the use of slave labor in turpentine manufacturing and the purchase of clothing for slaves. This book belonged to John Augustus Williams, the father of Carolina Williams, who married Walter Alves Tillinghast.

Records show the amounts of turpentine, of various grades, made over the course of several years at various tasks and aggregate amounts produced. The tasks are numbered and surviving records most completely cover tasks 8–14. Information regarding the tasks includes the number of boxes and the location of the land worked by each slave. Entries include the names of slaves working at each task and amounts produced per slave. Some notations record absences of slaves from work for visits to relatives. Occasional entries show disobedience or the unwillingness of slaves to perform their assigned task. Each slave was debited for a chipper, file, and axe and credited for the number of barrels of turpentine collected. Other recorded expenses include the purchase of hoop poles and corn.

The record of clothing furnished slaves includes lists of names. These lists show articles of clothing, blankets, or footwear provided for slaves and often give dates of distribution. The 1849 list includes twenty-eight names and the 1850 list includes thirty-seven names. Slave lists also show the number of boxes cut by each individual on the various tracts of land. Charts compiled near the end of the volume show the names of slaves working at each task and give daily production figures between January and March 1850.

Accounts in the volume also record the sale of turpentine and rosin through the firm of De Rosset & Brown, commission merchants of Wilmington, North Carolina, and New York, New York. Williams also dealt with David Murphy, a paper manufacturer of Cumberland County, North Carolina. Another person with whom Williams dealt extensively was Thomas L. Lutterloh, who appears to have been a commission merchant.

Scattered entries in the volume date from the 1890s. These later entries consist of Tillinghast children's copybook exercises.

N.B. This volume has been selected from a larger collection of Tillinghast family papers, 1765–1945, on deposit at the Perkins Library at Duke University. The remainder of the collection was not included in this edition because of negligible documentation on the turpentine works. For a description of the entire collection, see Richard C. Davis and Linda Angle Miller, eds., Guide to the Cataloged Collections in the Manuscript Department of the William R. Perkins Library, Duke University (Santa Barbara, California: American Bibliographical Center—Clio Press, 1980). Researchers should note the existence of other collections of Tillinghast family papers at the John Carter Brown Library and at the Rhode Island Historical Society Library, both in Providence, Rhode Island.

Introductory Materials

0450 Introductory Materials. 1 frame.

Slave Task Book

0451 Tillinghast Family, Slave Task Book, 1849–1851. 86 frames.

James Redding Grist Business Records, 1791–1920, Washington, Beaufort County, North Carolina

Description of the Collection

This collection consists of five series: John Kennedy Series, 1784–1826; Correspondence Series, 1814–1920; Financial and Legal Papers Series, 1812–1876; Allen Grist Series, 1780–1781 and 1813–1846; and Richard Grist Series, 1818–1831.

The bulk of the material in this collection documents the business affairs and personal lives of John Kennedy and Allen, Richard, and James Redding Grist. John Kennedy was a landowner and merchant of Washington, North Carolina, and served as sheriff of Beaufort County, North Carolina. Allen Grist—the father of James Redding, William S., and John W. Grist—was a landowner and a deputy sheriff, then sheriff, of Beaufort County. He also had various business partnerships with Richard and James Redding Grist. Richard Grist, who is believed to be a brother to Allen, ran a general store in Washington, North Carolina and moved to New Bern,

North Carolina, after 1830. He was also a landowner and had an extensive shipping business. Other siblings of Allen and Richard Grist are Frederick, Ann Cobb of North Carolina, and Harriet Stickney (Mrs. Thomas F.) of Alabama. James Redding Grist of Brunswick County and Washington and Wilmington, North Carolina, was a dealer in lumber and naval stores in partner-ship with his father, Allen Grist.

A major portion of documentation involves the production and shipment of turpentine, which was apparently a joint venture of Allen, Richard, and James Redding Grist and Thomas F. Stickney. Letters from the two decades preceding the Civil War are the most valuable sources for the study of industrial slavery. They are very complete and give information on work in the turpentine camps, as well as the marketing of turpentine and rosin.

John Kennedy Series, 1784-1826

This series includes business, political, and personal correspondence of John Kennedy. Business letters concern shipping in the United States and the West Indies, mercantile activities, and the sale of turpentine in New York. Political letters relate to eastern North Carolina. Personal letters discuss life in and around Washington, North Carolina. Some letters refer to Kennedy's courtship of Elizabeth H. S. Easton in 1807 and their subsequent marriage. Frequent correspondents include Judge H. Potter of Raleigh and James Easton of Pitt County, North Carolina, who were related to Kennedy. Correspondence after 1810 concerns personal matters and the estates of John Easton (Kennedy's father-in-law) and Joseph Brickell, for whom Kennedy was administrator. One letter to John Kennedy is misfiled in the Correspondence Series, which follows.

Financial and legal papers in this series are in the names of John Kennedy, John & William Kennedy, and John Kennedy, Jr. A legal case of June 3, 1801, concerns the disputed title to a slave woman named Bell. Bills of lading record shipments of pork, turpentine, tar, rosin, and other commodities, and accounts record the purchase and sale of these items. Many accounts include payments made for slave hire and purchases of goods made for the use of slaves. Medical accounts include entries for the treatment of slaves.

Other documents concern personal expenses of the Kennedys, including tuition for the education of his sons John and Warren and daughters Eliza Ann, Mary, and Susan at the Washington Academy between 1819 and 1825. Documents also record the purchase of land, the construction of barns and outbuildings, and blacksmith work on a variety of plows and implements. A deposition of John Kennedy, dated November 11, 1805, concerns a dispute over an election to the general assembly for Beaufort County. On the back of an account with Joel Dickinson, dated March 17, 1806, is an undated statement regarding Charles Brown, a free man of color, who complained of being deprived of papers stating he was a freeborn immigrant from Jamaica. A deposition dated April 24, 1824, accused a slave owned by Kennedy of stealing one or more barrels of pork from a store house. Notations on this document indicate that the evidence of a free man of color would be required to bring it to trial and a judgment was found against the slave, who was sentenced to receive thirty lashes at the public whipping post.

Tax lists included in this series give aggregate figures for districts in Beaufort County. More detailed lists also show the names of taxpayers with data regarding their property and the number of white and black polls per household. Other documents in this series include accounts of money received for taxes, lists of delinquent taxes, lists of insolvents, and a notice of a public sale to be held at the courthouse. In the 1789 tax year, Richard Grist owned 1,910 acres and eleven black taxables, and John Kennedy owned 1,400 acres and fifteen taxable slaves. Each also owned other property in the town of Washington.

Correspondence Series, 1814-1920

This series documents activities of the Grist family in Beaufort County, North Carolina.

Many letters throughout the series mention the purchase, sale, and hire of slaves. A letter of May 27, 1818, sets the terms for the hire of a slave who could cut mill stones, including money to be paid to the slave each month and permission for the slave to visit his wife. A vast number of business letters, accounts, prices current, cargo manifests, and other papers reveal that Richard Grist was exporting tar, pitch, turpentine, rosin, barrel staves, peas, corn, hams, and lard to the West Indies, particularly in 1827 and after. His agent on St. Bartholomew, Matthew B. O'Neill,

sometimes traded these cargoes for sugar, rum, and other articles, which were carried to Buenos Aires and traded for salt, which was sent back to Grist.

Richard Grist was also exporting large quantities of lumber and naval stores to Philadelphia between 1831 and 1832. Also in the 1830s, he and Allen Grist shipped turpentine to New York. Their commission merchant in that city was John S. Bryan & Co. The last letters addressed to Richard Grist are in 1833. Letters from 1834 through 1849 are mostly addressed to Allen Grist. Letters to James Redding Grist begin in 1850.

Letters of 1843 are addressed to Benjamin Runyon as cashier of an unidentified bank in Washington, North Carolina. This correspondence concerns financial transactions with the Massachusetts Bank in Boston.

Personal letters include letters from friends and family of the Grists. A letter of January 27, 1820, mentions plans for inviting young ladies to a social function. A letter from J. Manly to Richard Grist, dated December 21, 1820, includes a list of books that Manly recommended for beginning a library. One letter in this series, dated December 25, 1822, is a personal letter to John Kennedy describing Christmas in Raleigh and activities of his family there on a visit. A letter of November 3, 1830, from Margaret Williams to Elizabeth Latham discusses religious matters.

Numerous letters of the 1830s are from John Washington and John C. Washington of Kinston, Lenoir County, North Carolina, to Richard Grist in New Bern. These letters concern the management of land, slaves, shipping, agriculture, and other business matters. Family letters to Richard Grist in the 1830s include letters from his brother Frederick Grist and sister Ann Cobb of North Carolina and another sister, Harriet Stickney of Alabama. These letters reveal that Richard Grist's wife's name was Eliza.

There are many letters between James Redding Grist and his father concerning their partnership in lumber and naval stores. The bulk of this extensive trade was with New York commission merchant, R. M. Blackwell. They also dealt with merchants in Wilmington and New Bern, North Carolina, and Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Documents after 1843 include information on methods of obtaining turpentine and rosin, the hiring and purchase of slaves, and coastwise trade. A letter from a land surveyor in Brunswick County to Allen Grist dated November 23, 1843, describes turpentine operations on a large tract of land under the management of James Redding Grist. An 1847 tax list documents Allen Grist's taxable slaves and eleven parcels of land with improvements, including a mill and dwelling on Blounts Creek in Beaufort County.

A letter of James Redding Grist dated September 9, 1850, describes a dispute over the punishment of slaves owned by his uncle Latham who were working at turpentine production in Brunswick County. This letter discusses the conduct of the slaves, their personal lives, and their work under the task system. James Redding Grist's cousin, Benjamin Grist, served as his agent in Brunswick County in the 1850s and after 1857, in Baldwin County, Alabama. A number of other persons also served as overseers in Brunswick and Columbus Counties, North Carolina, including William S. Grist, a brother of James Redding Grist. [Another letter of William S. Grist is included in the Financial and Legal Papers Series, which follows.] Letters from the overseers usually discuss the work and care of slaves. Many other letters concern arrangements for hiring slaves from their owners.

Letters from Sussex County, Virginia, in May, August, and November 1854 tell the tale of two slaves named Ned and Colin, who ran away from the Grist's turpentine operation and returned to their place of birth. Colin remained a fugitive for six months. These letters recount the slaves' life histories and recommend that James Redding Grist either sell them in that neighborhood or consign them to the New Orleans market for sale to a sugar plantation. One of the slaves was eventually sold in Richmond, Virginia.

Letters of October-November 1855 and December 1859, from James Scull to James Redding Grist, are addressed "Dear Master" and discuss work, shipping, and market conditions in Wilmington. James Redding Grist moved to Washington, North Carolina, in 1855 but maintained an operation in Wilmington.

There are also letters to Elizabeth Grist, the wife of James Redding Grist, from her relatives in North Carolina and South Carolina. These letters during the 1850s discuss family matters and social conditions. There are also letters from James to Elizabeth.

Letters from overseers in Alabama in the late 1850s and 1860–1861 discuss turpentine production and the work of slaves. This operation was on the Fish River in Baldwin County in southern Alabama near the Gulf of Mexico. Letters mention runaway slaves and the transportation of slaves between North Carolina and Alabama, as well as everyday work, production, and the hire of slaves. Letters and prices current from New Orleans commission merchants discuss the sale of naval stores and market conditions. James Redding Grist also visited his Alabama holdings periodically, as reflected in letters to his wife. A letter from Thomas F. Stickney on December 24, 1860, includes a price current for the Mobile, Alabama, market and lists of ninety-eight slaves worked by the firm of Grist & Stickney, documenting the estate of John W. Grist, another brother of James Redding Grist. One of the lists shows the occupation of slaves and gives data on their ownership and terms of hire.

Included in the Correspondence Series of 1860 are documents concerning the Washington, North Carolina, Literary Society. These include an essay and a report concerning the library of the society. A letter of September 15, 1860, appears to be from a slave in Washington, North Carolina, to his son regarding religion, duty, obedience, and family matters. A similar letter of October 27, 1861, is from a mother to her children, John B. and Jesse Paton. Correspondence during the Civil War concerns difficulties brought on by the blockade. Not only were shipments of produce uncertain, but the uncertainty of supplies forced the Grists to let many hired slaves return to their masters due to lack of food. Slave lists of 1862–1863 document the hire of slaves to the Shelby Iron Works. Family letters of the war era concern the occupation of coastal North Carolina and fighting in Alabama. Postwar letters comment on the difficulties faced by family members and the prospects for continuing operations in North Carolina and Alabama. A funeral notice for James Redding Grist is dated May 5, 1874.

Undated correspondence includes a legal agreement between Benjamin Grist and Allen and James Redding Grist concerning the ownership of slaves and the proceeds of the turpentine crop. Undated letters from Thomas F. Stickney and others also concern operations in Baldwin County, Alabama, including the work and hire of slaves and the hiring out of troublesome slaves to steamboats in Mobile. One undated letter is from Ann Cobb to her brother Richard Grist. Additional undated letters includes family correspondence of Elizabeth Grist.

Financial and Legal Papers Series, 1812-1876

This series includes documents from Allen Grist's tenures as deputy sheriff and sheriff of Beaufort County in 1814–1845. Two folders consist exclusively of tax lists, 1815–1816 and 1819. Members of the Grist family are credited with extensive lands and slaves in these lists. Other documents include receipts for various payments made or received for the county and papers stemming from various civil lawsuits and the collection of debts. Richard Grist served as a justice of the peace and was the administrator of various estates at various times. Business papers of Allen Grist, James Redding Grist, Richard Grist, and John Kennedy are also included in this series. Papers refer to turpentine production and slaves, as well as the extensive shipping business of Richard Grist. Medical accounts refer to the treatment of slaves.

Documents of James Redding Grist appear as early as 1843, but become more frequent in 1847. A bill of sale for two slaves from Allen Grist to James Redding Grist is dated July 28, 1847. Business papers of Allen and James Redding Grist thereafter document turpentine operations, including additional slave purchases and hire arrangements. Documents include life insurance on slaves and papers relating to the purchase of food and clothing for slaves. Accounts and bills of lading concern extensive shipments of turpentine and rosin from Wilmington, North Carolina, to New York.

Many circular letters and other business correspondence from R. M. Blackwell & Co. in New York and others are included in this series. Also included is an incomplete letter, dated November 4, 1855, from William S. Grist, a brother of James Redding Grist, to Allen Grist concerning a dispute between the brothers over business matters and the disciplining of a slave in Brunswick County. A misfiled letter of August 24, 1862, concerns a young girl's activities during the Civil War in Townesville.

Documents of 1858 and later include bills of lading and accounts with New Orleans commission merchants concerning turpentine operations in Baldwin County, Alabama, in addition

to those of North Carolina. New Orleans accounts are with the firm of Marshall J. Smith & Co. Papers stemming from Alabama operations also concern the purchase and hire of slaves and the purchase of food, clothing, and supplies.

Financial and legal papers of the postwar period reflect the unsettled conditions of the region. Many of these papers concern lawsuits and other problems. Shipments of turpentine and rosin continued on a much reduced scale.

Undated financial and legal papers include many of the business matters of James Redding Grist and Allen Grist, as outlined above. Additional items include printed circular letters and handbills. Other papers include recipes and school papers. A few papers concern Richard Grist, Thomas Dickinson, and John Kennedy.

The last folder in this series includes two small account books. The first is an undated memorandum book including accounts and memoranda for Mrs. James Redding Grist and other women. These are primarily domestic records of linens and food or produce. Another volume of accounts and memoranda, dated 1854–1856, includes financial accounts of Allen Grist and James Redding Grist. Items include amounts due from or payable to various persons, lists of tools, and other memoranda.

Allen Grist Series, 1780-1781 and 1813-1846

The Allen Grist Series consists of an account book, dated 1838–1846, and two ledgers, dated 1780–1781, and 1813–1825, concerning the office of sheriff of Beaufort County. One ledger, 1813–1816, includes a ledger of Thomas Dickinson, 1780–1781, a commission merchant of St. Eustasius, West Indies. Allen Grist volumes record moneys received for the county for taxes, estates settlements, and lawsuits. There are some entries relating to slave sales, slave hire, and the clothing of slaves.

Richard Grist Series, 1818-1831

The Richard Grist Series includes two daybooks, dated 1821–1827, and two ledgers, dated 1818–1831, documenting his mercantile and shipping business in Washington, North Carolina. These volumes record trade with many ports in the United States and abroad. There are accounts with many North Carolinians for goods and services. Many entries mention payments and supplies given to Negroes and there are references to the purchase, hire, and sale of slaves. Ledger entries for Negroes show amounts credited to slaves and free Negroes for flat hire, piece work, and overwork. Items purchased by them included rum, food, clothing, tools, and tobacco. Other debits included cash. Some accounts reveal the occupations of slaves including carpenters and cooks on ships. Shipping costs are noted and often include payments made to seamen. The ledgers are indexed at the beginning of each volume.

N.B. Researchers should note the existence of a letterbook, dated 1788–1797, of John Kennedy, Jr., a merchant of Washington, North Carolina, among the Thomas Merritt Pittman Papers at the Duke University Library. The relationship of John Kennedy, Jr., to John Kennedy is unclear, but many of the early letters and papers in the present collection are signed John Kennedy, Jr.

Introductory Materials

0537	Introductory Materials. 1 frame.
	John Kennedy Series, 1784–1826
0538 0713	Correspondence, 1796–1812. 175 frames. Financial and Legal Papers, 1789–1799. 194 frames.

James Redding Grist Business Records cont. John Kennedy Series, 1784–1826 cont.

0001	Financial and Legal Papers, 1800-1804. 210 frames.
0211	Financial and Legal Papers, 1805–1809. 154 frames.
0365	Financial and Legal Papers, 1810–1819. 155 frames.
0520	Financial and Legal Papers, 1820–1826. 147 frames.
0667	Tax Lists, 1784–1789. 144 frames.

Correspondence Series, 1814–1920

0811 1814–1829. 177 frames.

Reel 6

James Redding Grist Business Records cont. Correspondence Series, 1814–1920 cont.

0001	1830–1832. 154 frames.
0155	1833-1844. 166 frames.
0321	1845–1852. 151 frames.
0472	1853–1854. 145 frames.
0617	1855–1856. 149 frames.
0766	1857-August 1858. 184 frames.
0950	September 1858–April 1859. 218 frames.

Reel 7

James Redding Grist Business Records cont. Correspondence Series, 1814–1920 cont.

0001	May-October 1859. 132 frames.
0133	November 1859-June 1860, 211 frames.
0344	July-December 1860, 156 frames.
0500	January-June 1861. 161 frames.
0661	July 1861-1870. 186 frames.
0847	1871-1920 and Undated. 143 frames.

Financial and Legal Papers Series, 1812–1876

0990 1812-1816. 178 frames.

Reel 8

James Redding Grist Business Records cont. Financial and Legal Papers Series, 1812–1876 cont.

0001	List of Taxables, Beaufort County, North Carolina, 1815–1816. 65 frames.
0066	1817–1819. 141 frames.
0207	List of Taxables, Beaufort County, North Carolina, 1819. 15 frames.
0222	1820–1826. 188 frames.
0410	1827–1829, 222 frames

0632	1830-1838. 173 frames.
0805	[1839]-1849. 183 frames.

James Redding Grist Business Records cont. Financial and Legal Papers Series, 1812–1876 cont.

0001	1850-1851. 189 frames.
0190	1852–1853. 257 frames.
0447	1854-1855. 188 frames.
0635	1856. 85 frames.
0720	1857. 120 frames.
0840	1858, 168 frames.

Reel 10

James Redding Grist Business Records cont. Financial and Legal Papers Series, 1812–1876 cont.

0001	January-April 24, 1859. 102 frames.
0103	April 25-December 1859, 151 frames
0254	January-April 1860. 129 frames.
0383	May-December 1860. 211 frames.
0594	1861. 166 frames.
0760	1862-1876. 83 frames.
0843	Undated. 193 frames.

Reel 11

James Redding Grist Business Records cont. Financial and Legal Papers Series, 1812–1876 cont.

James Redding Grist, Agricultural Memorandum Book and Volume of Accounts and Memoranda, Undated and 1854–1856. 74 frames.

Allen Grist Series

0075 Allen Grist, Account Book, 1838–1846. 108 frames. [See also Reel 13, Frames 0380–0469].

Richard Grist Series

0183 Richard Grist, Day Book, 1821–1824. 699 frames.

Reel 12

James Redding Grist Business Records cont. Richard Grist Series cont.

0001	Richard Grist, Day Book, 1824-1827. 800 frames.
0801	Richard Grist, Ledger, 1818–1831, 429 frames.

James Redding Grist Business Records cont. Richard Grist Series cont.

0001 Richard Grist, Ledger, 1820-1826. 379 frames.

Allen Grist Series

0380	Thomas Dickinson and Allen Grist, Ledger, 1780–1781 and 1813–1816. 89 frames.
0469	Allen Grist Ledger, 1814–1825. 88 frames. [See also Reel 11, Frame 0075].

Richard H. Riddick Papers, 1839–1879, Pantego, Beaufort County, North Carolina

Description of the Collection

Richard H. Riddick was engaged in the shingle and lumber trade as an agent for the Albemarle Swamp Land Company from ca. 1840 until his death in 1870, when he was succeeded in office by his brother Nathaniel Riddick. The company, formed as an association in 1840 and formally incorporated in 1867, was controlled by the Riddicks and William B. Whitehead, all of Nansemond County, Virginia. The collection consists of three series: Letters and Papers, 1839–[1877] 1879; Bills and Receipts, 1842–1879; and Bound Accounts, 1859–1861.

Letters and Papers, 1839-[1877] 1879

This series forms the major part of this collection. Earliest papers document the acquisition of land in Beaufort and Washington counties, North Carolina, from various persons and the estate of Josiah Collins. The articles of association mention lands totalling seventy thousand acres, more or less. This series documents company affairs, including the cutting, shipping, and sale of timber. Also documented are land squabbles and the building of a railroad in 1871.

This series also documents a runaway slave in 1850–1851, who escaped to Boston, Massachusetts, and remained there despite the Riddicks' efforts to retrieve him. The case, while not a notorious one, affords an illustration of the Fugitive Slave Law and the difficulty of recapturing slaves in the North. Included is a letter from the ex-slave describing his escape and correspondence with the U.S. Marshalls Office in Boston describing their efforts at recapturing the slave. A printed account of a citizens meeting at Faneuil Hall in Boston and newspaper clippings describe some of the public opposition to the Riddicks' efforts.

The principal business of the firm involved the sale of large amounts of shingles through New York and Philadelphia commission merchants, as documented in correspondence. Minutes of meetings of the firm describe some of its operations and the improvements contemplated for the ensuing year. Some family letters of Riddick's wife and others are included in this series. Other items concern the hiring out of slaves to a steamboat in Mobile, Alabama, between 1860 and 1864.

Bills and Receipts, 1842-1879

This series includes additional documents, such as bills of lading and accounts, relating to the Albemarle Swamp Land Company and the sale of shingles in New York and Philadelphia. Accounts and bills and receipts also show expenses of the firm and of Richard H. Riddick, Nathaniel Riddick, and other individuals. Many items from the period 1851–1853 concern the construction of a house on Staten Island, New York, owned by Richard H. Riddick. Postbellum records include accounts for labor and a small memorandum book, dated 1868–1869.

Bound Accounts, 1859-1861

This series consists of small volumes compiled by Richard H. Riddick detailing the sale of shingles by the firm and purchases of personal items for family members. Also included are slave

Reels 13-14

lists showing articles of clothing furnished in 1860 and 1861. Accounts show payments made for labor and supplies furnished various individuals.

N.B. Researchers should note the existence of a small collection of Riddick family papers among the holdings of the Manuscripts Department of the University of Virginia Library.

Introductory Materials

0557 Introductory Materials. 1 frame.

Letters and Papers, 1839-[1877] 1879

0558	1839-1855. 140 frames.
0698	1856-1866. 158 frames.
0854	1867–[1877] 1879. 162 frames.

Reel 14

Richard H. Riddick Papers cont. Letters and Papers, 1839–[1877] 1879 cont.

0001 Undated, 30 frames.

Bills and Receipts, 1842-1879

0031 1842–1865. 164 frames. 0195 1866–1879. 226 frames.

Bound Accounts, 1859–1861

0421 1859–1861. 55 frames.

Dismal Swamp Land Company Records, 1688 (1763-1871) 1879, Suffolk (Independent City) and Nansemond County, Virginia

Description of the Collection

The Dismal Swamp Land Company, a Suffolk, Virginia, enterprise with extensive lands in Nansemond County, Virginia, was founded in 1763 by George Washington, Thomas Walker, William and Thomas Nelson, Robert Burwell, John Robinson, Fielding Lewis, Anthony Bacon, John Lyme, Samuel Gist, Robert Tucker, and William Walters. Ultimately as the shares were subdivided, the list of proprietors came to include the names of other leading Virginia families. The firm was dissolved in 1879.

In the early years the proprietors were interested in the agricultural possibilities of the swamp including rice and corn culture. Agricultural plans, however, were soon abandoned for the production of cypress shingles and staves. While the original grant of land to the firm was for one thousand acres, they paid taxes on forty thousand acres of land and were frequently embroiled in disputes over surveys and other land matters.

Administration of the firm was conducted through a president, managers, and an executive agent. The president and managers were usually stockholders. A succession of agents regularly reported to the managers of the company. The records include five series: Letters and Papers, 1688–1879; Receipts, 1700–1879; Manuscript Volumes, 1795–1863; Additional Papers—Photocopies, 1794–1855; and Oversize Papers, 1760–1821.

Letters and Papers, 1688-1879

This is the largest series of the collection. Included are land plats and copies of wills of shareholders, as well as minutes of company meetings and powers of attorney for the voting of

shares at meetings. Legal papers also document lawsuits arising over boundaries, trespassing, and succession to the ownership of shares in the company. Regular payment of dividends to shareholders of the company are also documented. Accounts record sales of shingles and lumber, as well as expenses, including labor and provisions.

Letters contain reports from resident agents of the company regarding labor problems, runaway slaves, and production. Letters also refer to the clothing, food, and work of slaves and the hire or purchase of additional slaves as needed for the operation of the company. Correspondence also relates to the financial affairs of the company, the scheduling of stockholders meetings, and other matters such as problems with trespassers on land claimed by the company. Some of the local persons with whom the firm had frequent dealings over the years included members of the Riddick, Whitehead, and Kilby families.

Records in this series refer to plans for the Dismal Swamp Canal as early as 1800 and its impact on the lands of the company. Improved access to the lands simplified the shipment of quantities of shingles in the following decades. Letters refer regularly to the repairing of roads, bridges, canal banks, mill dams, and the use of barges in the work of the company. The company also operated a sawmill and grist mill. Letters of 1817 refer to stock of the Dismal Swamp Canal Company being sold by the Dismal Swamp Land Company. The proceeds of this sale were invested in slaves during 1818.

Production and profits were greatest during the period from the 1820s through the 1840s. Dividends were cut considerably during the Panic of 1837. In a quarterly report for the period from November 1, 1838–February 1, 1839, the agent of the company wrote regarding plans for cultivating mulberry seedlings. Also filed in this series under 1838 is a book of check stubs for the years 1829–1837. Subsequent reports during 1839 reveal the progress of the mulberry seedlings and a collapse in the market for them with the end of the short-lived silkworm craze. Reports from 1840 to 1860 are not as informative. Weekly and monthly reports, however, continue to give production and sales figures for shingles made for the company. A report of September 1, 1852, discusses the difficulty of hiring hands for cutting ditches in the swamp. Letters and papers also continue documenting the payment of dividends, the succession to ownership of shares in the company, and legal questions over land titles.

Papers of 1860–1861 reflect the increasing disruption of commerce requiring the mass discharge of hands hired by the company. During the Civil War most of the barges, small boats, buildings, and bridges owned by the company were destroyed and the canals and roads running through its land fell into disrepair. Although the agent feared labor would be a major problem in resuming operations, he was able to hire sufficient contract laborers and resumed operations in 1865. The effects of the change from slave to free labor on operations is discussed fully in a report of March 22, 1866. A severe fire during that summer further reduced the prospects for the company's future. Flooding in subsequent years was followed by a poor market for shingles and another fire in the summer of 1869. Papers of 1870–1871 include monthly payroll vouchers for labor. Production of shingles, railroad ties, telegraph poles, and other lumber increased under the management of a new agent, until his death in February 1871. On April 15, 1871, the entire operation was leased out for a fixed annual fee. Papers from 1872 to 1879 are scattered. Undated letters and papers include a list of slaves captured by the British during the Revolutionary War.

Receipts, 1700-[1872] 1879

Receipts provided in this series are richest for the period beginning in 1820. Tax receipts show the acreage and numbers of slaves owned by the firm. In 1860 it held 41,436 acres of land and seventeen slaves in Nansemond County.

Many receipts document slave hire and other labor accounts. Terms of hire for slaves include the cost and often refer to the supply of food and clothing to the slaves. There are also receipts for the purchase of slaves by the company. Receipts occasionally refer to the jailing of slaves. Accounts with the agent, inspector, and skilled workers appear frequently. Shingle getters were paid by the thousand. Others, such as yard hands, cart boys, and lightermen were paid by the week, although they also could earn credits for extra work.

Other expenses documented include food, clothing, legal fees, medical fees, postage, and other supplies. Freight was a major expense including the lighterage, hauling, and loading of

shingles and other shipping costs. Receipts document the repair and construction of buildings, canals, ditches, roads, tools, vessels, and vehicles. Surveying expenses and some letters from surveyors working for the company are also included.

Check stubs, dated 1837–1840, appear with the receipts for 1840. Check stubs, dated 1866–1869, are in the 1860–1866 folder. Check stubs, dated 1869–1871, are in the 1867–[1872] 1879 folder.

Also included are powers of attorney, cancelled checks, and receipts relating to the payment of dividends to shareholders. Some correspondence regarding annual meetings and a host of other shareholder-related topics are filed in this series.

Manuscript Volumes, 1795-1863

Manuscript Volumes, 1795–1863, are predominantly financial records, but also include letterbooks. This series should be used in conjunction with the previous two series.

The earliest folder includes two volumes: the first was used as an account book in 1795–1796 and as a letterbook between 1812 and 1813, and the second is a letterbook, dated 1812–1843. Accounts show the number of shingles cut by hired slaves and the amount paid for hire with the names of slaves and owners. Letterbook entries by James Henderson, 1812–1818, Thomas Griffen, 1819–1820, Fielding Lewis, 1822–1827, and Robert Butler, 1830–1843, (as presidents of the company) concern the management and operations of the firm. Many letters consist of instructions to the agent of the firm in Suffolk. Letters often refer to lawsuits, meetings, and other actions undertaken by the company. Letters in 1812 include a petition to the state legislature for the incorporation of the firm. Letters from 1816 to 1818 concern the interest that the firm held in the Dismal Swamp Canal Company.

Also included in this series is a bank book, dated 1837–1853, and four volumes of checkbook stubs, dated 1840–1863. The bankbook lists deposits and withdrawals from the firm's account at the Bank of Virginia in Norfolk. Check stubs match entries in the bankbook and provide more detailed information regarding the payment of dividend and expenses. Other check stubs and cancelled checks are included in the series described above.

Additional Papers—Photocopies, 1794–1855

Included in this series are photocopies of five legal documents. Most of these records concern activities of the Dismal Swamp Canal Company in Virginia and North Carolina. One item is an undated plat of the canal.

Oversize Papers, 1760-1821

The oversized papers presented in this series consist of a 1760 indenture and two plats, 1821 and undated. The plats show the proposed route of canals on lands of the Dismal Swamp Canal Company and others in the area.

N.B. Researchers should note the existence of Robert Harding Reid, "History of the Dismal Swamp Land Company of Virginia," (Duke University, M.A. thesis, 1948). The Virginia State Library holds records of the Dismal Swamp Canal Company, including plats of lands of the Dismal Swamp Land Company in the Board of Public Works collection.

Introductory Materials

0476	Introductory Materials. 1 frame.
	Letters and Papers, 1688–1879
0477 0575	1688–1782 and Plats, 1784 and Undated. 98 frames. 1783–1791, 205 frames.
0780	Early Wills and Early Proprietors List of Plot for Surveys, 1736-1747 and Undated.
0803	23 frames. 1799–1805. 200 frames.

Dismal Swamp Land Company Records cont. Letters and Papers, 1688–1879 cont.

0001	1806-1813. 107 frames.
0108	1814-1816. 125 frames.
0233	1817-1818. 128 frames.
0361	1819-1825. 133 frames.
0494	1826-1831. 214 frames.
0708	1832-1833. 174 frames.
0882	1834-1835. 153 frames.

Reel 16

Dismal Swamp Land Company Records cont. Letters and Papers, 1688–1879 cont.

0001	1836. 145 frames.
0146	1837. 126 frames.
0272	1838. 199 frames.
0471	1839. 129 frames.
0600	1840. 102 frames.
0702	1841-1843. 241 frames.

Reel 17

Dismal Swamp Land Company Records cont. Letters and Papers, 1688–1879 cont.

0001	1844-1845. 159 frames.
0160	1846. 142 frames.
0302	1847-1848. 215 frames.
0517	1849-1850. 229 frames.
0746	1851. 155 frames.
0901	1852, 129 frames.

Reel 18

Dismal Swamp Land Company Records cont. Letters and Papers, 1688–1879 cont.

0001	1853-1854. 170 frames.
0171	1855-1859. 178 frames.
0349	1860. 203 frames.
0552	1861-1865. 237 frames.
0789	1866. 191 frames.

Dismal Swamp Land Company Records cont. Letters and Papers, 1688–1879 cont.

0001	1867-1868. 268 frames.
0269	1869. 143 frames.
0412	January-June 1870. 221 frames.
0633	July-December 1870. 222 frames.
0855	January-March 1871, 161 frames.

Reel 20

Dismal Swamp Land Company Records cont. Letters and Papers, 1688–1879 cont.

0001 0216	April—December 1871. 215 frames. 1872–1879. 129 frames.
0345	Undated. 105 frames.
	Receipts, 1700–[1872] 1879
0450	1700–1829. 29 frames.
0479	1830–1839. 294 frames.
0773	1840-1849. 312 frames.

Reel 21

0001

Dismal Swamp Land Company Records cont. Receipts, 1700–[1872] 1879 cont.

	Manuscript Volumes, 1795–1863
0853	Undated and Envelopes. 52 frames.
0533	1867–[1872] 1879. 320 frames.
0244	1860–1866. 289 frames.
	1000 1000, 2 10 110, 1100

0905 Account Book, 1795 [-1796], and Letter Books, 1812–1813 and 1812–1843. 158 frames.

Reel 22

Dismal Swamp Land Company Records cont. Manuscript Volumes, 1795–1863 cont.

0001	Bank Book, 1837-1853. 38 frames.
0039	Check Book Stubs, 1840-1846. 83 frames.
0122	Check Book Stubs, 1846-1848. 43 frames.
0165	Check Book Stubs, 1848-1851. 42 frames.
0207	Check Book Stubs, 1851-1863, 192 frames.

1850-1859, 243 frames.

Additional Papers—Photocopies, 1794–1855

0399 1794-1855. 16 frames.

Oversize Papers, 1760–1821

0415 1760-1821 and Undated. 9 frames.

William Weaver Papers, 1809–1885, Rockbridge County, Virginia

Description of the Collection

William Weaver (1781–1863) was an ironmaster and pioneer in scientific agriculture. Weaver, possibly a native of Pennsylvania, settled in Virginia in the 1820s and became owner of the Bath Iron Works and Buffalo Forge near Goshen, Rockbridge County. The collection consists of four series: Documents Relating to the Location of the Bath Iron Works and the Birthdates of Members of the Weaver Family, 1851–1859 and 1972; Papers, 1809–1885; Bills and Receipts, [1801] 1816–1875; and Buffalo Forge Checks, 1874–1875.

The collection contains information about the iron industry in ante-bellum, Civil War, and postbellum Virginia. Documents concern the use of slaves as industrial laborers and life among Weaver's workers; the food and clothing he provided for his slaves included pork, flour, blankets, shoes, and other items.

Weaver dealt extensively with Lynchburg and Richmond merchants for both the sale of iron and purchase of supplies. Weaver also had extensive business, family, and personal contacts in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Weaver was succeeded by his nephew Daniel E. C. Brady, who was also possibly a native of Pennsylvania. Scattered documents in the collection relate to the Massie, Bryan, and other families whose relation to Weaver or Brady is not known.

Documents Relating to the Location of the Bath Iron Works and the Birthdates of Members of the Weaver Family, 1851–1859 and 1972

The first series consists of Documents Relating to the Location of the Bath Iron Works and the Birthdates of Members of the Weaver Family, 1851–1859 and 1972. Material in this folder consists of photocopies furnished with a cover letter in 1972.

Papers, 1809-1885

The bulk of the papers are business letters dealing with the iron industry in Virginia. There are many orders from retail dealers showing the items most in demand, such as bar iron, plow points, horseshoe iron, and iron strips for wagon wheels. From these orders, which continue throughout the collection, a view of wholesale prices is provided.

Tied closely to iron production are comments on the financial state of the nation. These, too, range throughout the collection, indicating the price of land, crops, livestock, and the ease or difficulty of collecting debts. The effects of the Panics of 1819, 1837, and 1857 and the economic problems facing the South during and after the Civil War are revealed. Bank failures were noted, and Andrew Jackson's controversy with the Second Bank of the United States drew opinion from some of Weaver's correspondents. The westward migration of Virginians and the course of transportation improvements in Virginia can also be noted throughout the collection.

Many letters among the papers concern the hire of slaves from owners throughout Southside and central Virginia. Letters reveal prices paid for yearly hire and other details such as food and clothing to be provided, holidays, visitation privileges, laborers' specific skills, and the arrangement of special working conditions for certain slaves. Letters also discuss accidents and illnesses among slave laborers in the iron industry. Items also include slave lists, physical descriptions of slaves, comments on the reliability of individual workers, and records of payments made to slaves for extra work. Letters also refer to the taking up of runaway slaves and arrangements for their return. Weaver sometimes employed an agent to contact slaveowners and arrange for slave hire. There is also correspondence from slave trading firms such as that of R. H. Dickinson. Papers also document the purchase and sale of slaves.

Weaver received regular correspondence from the managers of the Bath Iron Works and the Etna Furnace, in Botetourt County. He also received letters from agents at the Buffalo Forge during absences from home. These letters refer to work accomplished, the activities of slaves, the need for supplies, and other matters. Correspondence also documents the sale of iron products, including agricultural machinery. Correspondence also concerns wheat growing, milling, and livestock on Weaver's lands.

William Weaver served as executor of the estate of his brother in Pennsylvania and as guardian for two nephews. Letters on these topics concern financial arrangements, education, and personal matters. William Weaver's wife Elizabeth (Newkirk) Weaver also received letters from a sister and nieces in Pennsylvania.

Frequent correspondents of the 1850s and 1860s include Weaver's nephews: William W. Rex, John A. Rex, Charles K. Gorgas, and Daniel C. E. Brady. Letters from Weaver to Brady on August 27, 1855, and March 4, 1856, refer to his intentions to entrust Brady with his estate and the management of his slaves. Brady served as Weaver's agent thereafter, gradually assuming the entire responsibility for running the business. After William Weaver died in 1863, Brady continued to manage the property, which he sought to sell or lease.

Bills and Receipts, [1801] 1816-1875

Bills and receipts provided in this series also include correspondence attached to accounts and other financial papers. Tax receipts show that William Weaver was assessed for landholdings of over six thousand acres and fifty-nine slaves in Rockbridge County during 1849 and 1850. Documents prior to 1865 often concern the purchase and hire of slaves. Many items document the purchase of supplies and sale of iron or agricultural products by Weaver and Brady or their associates.

Buffalo Forge Checks, 1874–1875

Buffalo Forge checks were redeemable at the store of Daniel C. E. Brady. This scrip is in denominations of fifty cents to five dollars and shows the initials or names of bearers.

N.B. The Weaver-Brady Iron Works and Grist Mill Papers among the holdings of the Manuscripts Division, Special Collections Department, University of Virginia Library is a complementary collection including detailed slave record books, estate papers, and postbellum labor accounts. The University Library, Washington and Lee University, holds the Etna Furnace Company Account Book, 1854–1857.

More on agriculture, slavery, and the iron industry in Virginia may be found in University Publications of America's microfilm publication Records of Ante-Bellum Southern Plantations from the Revolution through the Civil War, Series G, Selections from the Barker Texas History Center, University of Texas at Austin, Part 2: William Massie Collection.

Introductory Materials

0424 Introductory Materials. 1 frame.

Documents Relating to the Location of the Bath Iron Works and the Birthdates of Members of the Weaver Family, 1851–1859 and 1972

0425 1851-1859 and 1972. 7 frames.

Papers, 1809-1885

0432	1809-July 1828. 210 frames.
0642	August 1828-August 1829, 320 frames.
0962	September-December 1829. 113 frames.
1075	January-February 1830. 93 frames.

William Weaver Papers cont. Papers, 1809–1885 cont.

0001	March-December 1830. 261 frames.
0262	1831. 241 frames.
0503	1832. 297 frames.
0800	1833. 139 frames.

Reel 24

William Weaver Papers cont. Papers, 1809–1885 cont.

0001	1834-1835. 232 frames.
0233	1836-1853. 221 frames.
0454	1854. 209 frames.
0763	1855-1859. 222 frames.

Reel 25

William Weaver Papers cont. Papers, 1809–1885 cont.

0001	1860. 332 frames.
0333	1861-1866. 394 frames.
0727	1867-1869. 263 frames.

Reel 26

William Weaver Papers cont. Papers, 1809–1885 cont.

0001	1870-1872. 378 frames.
0379	1873-1874. 242 frames.
0621	1875. 218 frames.
0839	1876-1885 and Undated, 152 frames.

Bills and Receipts, [1801] 1816-1875

0991 [1801] 1816–1829. 177 frames.

Reel 27

William Weaver Papers cont. Bills and Receipts, [1801] 1816–1875 cont.

0001	1830-1839. 306 frames.
0307	1840-1865. 420 frames.
0727	1866-1869. 356 frames.
1002	1970 -1973 3/3 frames

William Weaver Papers cont. Bills and Receipts, [1801] 1816–1875 cont.

0001 1874-1875. 243 frames.

0244 Undated and Fragments. 20 frames.

Buffalo Forge Checks, 1874–1875

0264 1874–1875. 28 frames.

Francis Thomas Anderson Papers, 1828–1915, Fincastle, Botetourt County, Virginia

Description of the Collection

Francis Thomas Anderson (1808–1887) was born at Walnut Hill, the family estate in Botetourt County, Virginia. He was the son of William and Anna (Thomas) Anderson. Francis Thomas Anderson had an older brother, John Thomas Anderson, a Whig politician of Mount Joy in Botetourt County. Another brother was Dr. William N. Anderson of Lewisburg, Greenbrier County, Virginia (now West Virginia). His youngest brother was Joseph Reid Anderson of the Tredegar Iron Works in Richmond.

Francis Thomas Anderson married Mary Ann Alexander, a daughter of William D. Alexander. The Andersons had at least six children, including William A., Francis, Anna, Josephine, Fanny, and Mary Evelyn. Mary Evelyn Anderson married Alexander Bruce, a son of James Coles Bruce of Berry Hill, Halifax County, Virginia.

Francis Thomas Anderson was a prominent man as a partner in the law firm of Anderson & Glascow, a businessman in the iron industry, a member of the House of Delegates, a Whig leader, Judge of the Virginia Supreme Court of Appeals, and rector of Washington and Lee University. In partnership with D. W. Shanks and John Thomas Anderson, he developed the Cloverdale Furnace in Botetourt County around 1840. The best quality of iron produced in Virginia came from Cloverdale. After 1843 it was virtually a part of the Tredegar Iron Works run by Joseph Reid Anderson. Francis Thomas Anderson was also connected with the Glenwood Furnace in Rockbridge County, Virginia.

The collection consists entirely of letters and papers, dated 1828–1915. The bulk of the collection concerns the iron business, but letters also relate to his legal practice, politics, and family matters. William D. Alexander of Greenville, Meriwether County, Georgia, wrote to his son-in-law and daughter, including a letter of February 10, 1851, describing a trip to Texas and the agricultural prospects in that state. Many letters concern the education of the Anderson children.

The iron business and transportation improvements in Virginia were closely connected. John T. and Francis Thomas Anderson maneuvered in such a fashion that the Virginia legislature extended the James River and Kanawha Canal from Lynchburg to Buchanan, in Botetourt County. Anderson used many boats in getting his iron to Richmond. Much of the iron produced was also marketed to railroad companies.

Many letters from his brother Joseph Reid Anderson concern the Tredegar Iron Works and related companies he controlled. Financial relations between the two were close and letters reveal many transactions between them.

Letters from managers at Andersons' various furnaces concern operations, supplies, shipments, and slaves. Many letters from slaveowners document the hire and sale of slaves for the iron works. Anderson bought out his partner D. W. Shanks in 1853. Correspondence with merchants and accounts reveal purchases of supplies for the iron works and for personal use. An 1854 memorandum includes accounts with slaves at the iron works.

Anderson was also involved in the lime business. Letters discuss the sale of lime to merchants and planters. One letter from John Hartwell Cocke on July 30, 1853, concerns his and other large planters' need for quantities of lime. Anderson also dealt in wheat, flour, and real estate.

N.B. The Virginia State Library and Archives holds the Tredegar Iron Company Papers, a mammoth collection documenting the business controlled by Joseph Reid Anderson. Additional Francis Thomas Anderson papers among the holdings of the University Library, Washington and Lee University include the Anderson Family Papers and the Rockbridge Historical Society Papers.

Additional letters of Mary Evelyn (Anderson) Bruce, including letters from her father, are in the Bruce Family Papers which may be found in University Publications of America's microfilm publication Records of Ante-Bellum Southern Plantations from the Revolution through the Civil War, Series E, Selections from the University of Virginia Library, University of Virginia, Part 3.

Introductory Materials

0292	Introductory Materials. 1 frame.
	Letters and Papers, 1828–1915
0293	1828–1839. 58 frames.
0351	1842-1846. 66 frames.
0417	1847–1850. 66 frames.
0483	1851. 97 frames.
0580	1852. 54 frames.
0634	1853. 93 frames.
0727	1854. 19 frames.
0746	1855. 48 frames.
0794	1856. 32 frames.
0826	1857. 99 frames.
0925	1858. 103 frames.
1028	1859-1865. 45 frames.
1073	1866-1871, 31 frames.
1104	1872-1895. 36 frames.
1140	1915. 8 frames.
1148	Undated. 39 frames.