Records of Ante-Bellum Southern Plantations

From the Revolution through the Civil War

Series D
Selections from the Maryland Historical Society

University Publications of America
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Records of Ante-Bellum Southern Plantations from the Revolution through the Civil War

Series D

Selections from the Maryland Historical Society
A Guide to

Records of Ante-Bellum Southern Plantations from the Revolution through the Civil War

Series D

Selections from the Maryland Historical Society

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A microfilm project of
UNIVERSITY PUBLICATIONS OF AMERICA, INC.
44 North Market Street • Frederick, MD 21701
NOTE ON SOURCES

The Posey Account Books and Richard Dorsey papers were not filmed in their entirety. Parts of the collections dating after 1865 were not filmed.

EDITORIAL NOTE

The map of the state of Maryland used on this microfilm is that of Thomas G. Bradford, *Maryland*, 1838. The map of Virginia used before the Charles Coleman Diaries is that of Anthony Finley, *Virginia*, 1824.

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ISBN 0-89093-780-X.
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Reel 1

Jacob Franklin Accounts, 1702–1818,
Anne Arundel County, Maryland, MS. 282

The earliest accounts in this book are those of Robert Franklin (d. 1735). Accounts continue with those of Jacob Franklin (d. 1819). Records include farm and house accounts; births, marriages, and deaths in the Franklin family; and slaves owned by the Franklins with their births and deaths. Primary crops were wheat and tobacco, with livestock including beef, pork, and horses. Also noted are amounts of lumber sawn and the rental of houses.

Introductory Materials. 2pp.
0054 Jacob Franklin, Accounts, 1761–1818. 15pp.

William Patterson Account Books, 1777–1830,
Baltimore, Maryland, MS. 904

These four volumes and the will of William Patterson (1752–1835) relate to the merchant and shipping activities of this prominent Baltimorean. Receipt books chronicle hundreds of items ranging through merchant shipping matters, plantation affairs, services performed, the education of his children, ground rents, and debts owed to estates. The preface to Patterson’s will, written in 1827, details his life from birth in County Donegal, Ireland, his rise in the shipping business in Philadelphia and the West Indies, through his arrival in Baltimore during 1778 and investments in real estate, and eventual founding of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad.

0069 Introductory Materials. 2pp.
0071 William Patterson, Account Book, Volume 1, 1787–1798. 70pp.
Hollyday Family Papers, 1607–1905,
Queen Annes and Talbot Counties, Maryland, MS. 1317

This extensive collection documents the correspondence, agricultural, and business dealings of the Hollyday family of “Ratcliffe Manor” in Talbot County and “Readbourne” in Queen Annes County. One volume contains tabulations of land duties levied on the Eastern Shore, 1727–1745, for the importation of Negroes, Irish servants, and liquor, and for the exportation of tobacco, tar, and pork. Correspondence includes that of William Anderson and James Anderson, merchants of London and relatives of the Hollydays, on matters ranging from social affairs to the tobacco trade and nonimportation, 1748–1774. Letters of Henry Hollyday(1) (1725–1789) to his brother, James Hollyday(2) (d. 1786), document smallpox inoculation (1777), salt making (1779), Continental currency (1780), the British in the Chesapeake (1780–1781), law, politics, and innumerable plantation and social occurrences in their lives, including many references to slave labor. Correspondence of James Hollyday (4) relates to cotton planting in Adams County, Mississippi, and the prospects of farmers there versus those in Maryland from 1814 to 1829, with some letters dwelling on the attitude of Maryland slaves toward migration. The movement for improvements in agriculture in Maryland appears in letters, including some to John S. Skinner, 1823–29.
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0230  Anna Maria Chew (Hollyday) Jones to James Hollyday (4), August 26, 1821. 5pp.
0235  George Stewart Hollyday to James Hollyday (4), September 20, 1821. 5pp.
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James Hollyday (4), Indenture to John Perkins, Adams County, Mississippi, January 1, 1822. 5pp.
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0638 Sermon Delivered at Funeral of Mrs. Tench Tilghman (Anna Maria), January 15, 1843. 15pp.
0653 George S. Hollyday and Mrs. Susan Hollyday, Deed to Henry Hollyday(3), March 2, 1843. 5pp.
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0662 Henry Hollyday(3), Slave Children, Names and Ages, 1846. 3pp.
0665 Henry Hollyday(3) to Frisby Tilghman, May 9, 1847. 3pp.
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0703 Henry Hollyday(3), Receipt of Silver Plate from Mrs. Susan Hollyday, November 21, 1848. 3pp.
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0731 Mrs. Susan Hollyday (Mrs. James(3)), Copy of Will Probated through Error, August 29, 1849. 7pp.
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0743 Henry Hollyday(2), Will, and Codicil, February 14, 1850. 5pp.
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0776 J.B. Neiford (Headmaster St. James College) to Henry Hollyday(3), December 10, 1850. 4pp.
0780 General Tench Tilghman, Maryland and Delaware Railroad Company Stock Certificate, 1850. 5pp.
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*Thomas Wood Family Papers, 1820–1888, Prince Georges County, Maryland, MS. 1896*

This collection details the financial matters and business affairs of Thomas Wood (1795–1854) whose southern Maryland plantation, “East View,” was located in the Aquasco (or Woodville) section of Prince Georges County. Most of the correspondence deals with the selling price of tobacco, wheat, and other plantation products as well as those of goods bought for the plantation. An 1843 document has an inventory of 26 slaves he owned. A majority of the papers are those of general commission merchants in Baltimore such as Pike and Neale; Thompson and Spawling; Neale, Harris and Company; Neale and Luckett; and Johnson and Magruder. Papers after 1854, the year of Thomas Wood’s death, concern his widow, Eliza Wood, John Thomas Wood, or Miss Ann M. Wood. There is a large collection of bills, accounts, etc., which are grouped after the correspondence.

0001 Introductory Materials. 2pp.

**Business Correspondence**

0003 1820. 8pp.
0011 1821. 9pp.
0020 1823. 6pp.
0026 1824. 16pp.
0042 1825. 3pp.
0045 1831. 17pp.
0062 1832. 13pp.
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0090 1834. 16pp.
0106 1835. 51pp.
0157 1836. 6pp.
0163 1838. 42pp.
0205 1839. 2pp.
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0322 1843. 49pp.
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0412 1845. 54pp.
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Thomas Wood Family Papers cont.

Business Correspondence cont.

0001 1867. 9pp.
0010 1868. 2pp.
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0023 1872. 3pp.
0026 1873. 3pp.
0029 1874. 2pp.
0031 1878. 2pp.
0033 1888. 1p.
0034  N.D. 11pp.

Bills, Accounts, etc.

0045  N.D. 34pp.
0079  1804–1819. 58pp.
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Thomas Wood Family Papers cont.

Bills, Accounts, etc. cont.


Oden Family Papers, 1755–1827,
Prince Georges County, Maryland, MS. 178

Benjamin Oden (1762–1836) began operations in Prince Georges County as a business agent for Stephen West, Jr. (1727–1790), eventually marrying two of West’s daughters and acquiring substantial lands in his own right. The home plantation and a store Oden owned were in Upper Marlborough, Prince Georges County. Earliest papers show the conditions of Anglo-American trade, and subsequent materials concern land sales and acquisitions; tobacco sales and cultivation; slaves and slave management; banking; and family matters. This collection is divided into subseries A–F and is arranged chronologically within each subseries. Other principals in these papers are Robert W. Bowie, Washington Bowie, Maria West Jackson, and Benjamin Oden Mulliken.

0514 Introductory Materials. 2pp.

Section A—Business Papers of Stephen West

0521 1755. 3pp.
0524 1759. 6pp.
0530 1763. 3pp.
0533 1764. 3pp.
0536 1769. 3pp.
0539 1770. 3pp.
0542 1772. 7pp.
Section A—Miscellaneous Plats and Accounts

0654  N.D. 21pp.
0675  1760. 5pp.
0680  1794. 5pp.
0685  1804. 5pp.

Section B—Land Documents of Stephen West, Benjamin Oden, and Others

0690  1755. 5pp.
0695  1779. 5pp.
0700  1783. 5pp.
0705  1784. 8pp.
0713  1788. 3pp.
0716  1794. 5pp.
0721  1795. 7pp.
0728  1814. 5pp.
0733  1815. 2pp.
0768  N.D. 14pp.

Section C—General and Business Correspondence of Benjamin Oden

0782  1788–1789. 8pp.
1790  1790 (Luther Martin to Benjamin Oden, 3 Letters, 1790 and 1816). 9pp.
0799  1791–1796. 18pp.
0817  1803–1809. 11pp.
0828  1805–1806 (Samuel Chase, Jr. to Benjamin Oden, 3 letters). 7pp.
0848  1815–1819. 19pp.
0867  1820–1823. 29pp.
0896  1825–1827. 41pp.
0937  1828–1829. 36pp.
0973  1830 (Reverdy Johnson to Benjamin Oden). 3pp.
0976  1830–1832. 37pp.
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Oden Family Papers cont.

Section C—General and Business Correspondence of Benjamin Oden cont.

0001 1833–1834. 28pp.
0029 1835. 37pp.
0066 1836. 25pp.
0091 N.D. 24pp.

Section D—Bonds, Accounts, and Other Business Documents of Benjamin Oden

0115 1791. 8pp.
0123 1792. 10pp.
0133 1793. 3pp.
0136 1800. 3pp.
0139 1801. 3pp.
0142 1817. 3pp.
0145 1821. 3pp.
0148 1826. 2pp.

Section E—Oden Family Letters

0150 1806–1807. 9pp.
0183 1828. 7pp.
0232 1835. 24pp.
0256 1835. 29pp.
0285 N.D. 23pp.

Section F—Material relating to Robert Bowie, Washington Bowie, and Others

0308 1764. 6pp.
0314 1771. 3pp.
0317 1793. 5pp.
0322 1799. 2pp.
0324 1802. 3pp.
0327 1807. 8pp.
0335 1815. 5pp.
Roger Johnson Account Books, 1806–1842, Frederick County, Maryland, MS. 496

Roger Johnson (1749–1831) was the youngest brother of Governor Thomas Johnson. They moved from Anne Arundel County to Frederick County before the Revolution and amassed considerable lands. With the partition of the Johnson holdings, Roger Johnson gained title to their lands in southern Frederick County, near Sugarloaf Mountain and adjacent to Montgomery County, Maryland. He operated the Bloomsbury Forge and Johnson Furnace in addition to the Bloomsbury Mills and plantations which are documented in this collection. Many accounts are his son and daughter-in-law’s, Richard and Juliana Johnson. The Daybook, 1806–1812, shows quantities of wheat, rye, bran, and corn received at the mill as well as flour, shorts, and middlings ground and marketed in Baltimore, Fredericktown, and Georgetown. Plantation accounts include many references to slave labor and the hiring of free Negro laborers and craftsmen. The Invoice Book, 1809–1815, lists amounts of cloth and clothing bought. The Ledger, 1812–1842, contains an alphabetical index including surnames and classifications such as Provisions, Plantation, Wheat, Tobacco, Cash, and Expenses.

Reel 9

Roger Johnson Account Books cont.

Jones Record Books, 1779–1812, Baltimore and Anne Arundel Counties, Maryland, MS. 517

Judge Thomas Jones (1735–1812) was a successful lawyer, Deputy Commissary of Baltimore, Major in the Baltimore Battalion, Registrar of Wills, Judge in the Court of Appeals, and plantation owner residing at "Walnut Grove" on Patapsco Neck at the borders of Baltimore and Anne
Arundel Counties. Each of these twenty-eight volumes contains a full inventory of servants, slaves, livestock, grain, farm implements, and furniture; as well as daily entries on winds, weather, livestock, work, and general subjects. On the last page of each volume after 1779 is a monthly table enumerating the numbers and kinds of vessels passing "Walnut Grove" en route to Baltimore. This collection is nearly complete—five volumes are missing—and contains valuable information on the history of agriculture and slavery, social and economic history, and shipping and navigation in the Baltimore area.

0160 Introductory Materials. 1p.
0189 Thomas Jones, Record Book, Volume 1, 1779. 28pp.
0217 Thomas Jones, Record Book, Volume 2, 1780. 28pp.
0249 Thomas Jones, Record Book, Volume 3, 1781. 32pp.
0279 Thomas Jones, Record Book, Volume 4, 1782. 30pp.
0305 Thomas Jones, Record Book, Volume 5, 1784. 26pp.
0332 Thomas Jones, Record Book, Volume 6, 1785. 27pp.
0359 Thomas Jones, Record Book, Volume 7, 1786. 27pp.
0383 Thomas Jones, Record Book, Volume 8, 1787. 24pp.
0411 Thomas Jones, Record Book, Volume 9, 1789. 28pp.
0440 Thomas Jones, Record Book, Volume 10, 1790. 29pp.
0468 Thomas Jones, Record Book, Volume 11, 1791. 28pp.
0496 Thomas Jones, Record Book, Volume 12, 1792. 28pp.
0524 Thomas Jones, Record Book, Volume 13, 1793. 28pp.
0555 Thomas Jones, Record Book, Volume 14, 1795. 31pp.
0613 Thomas Jones, Record Book, Volume 16, 1797. 28pp.
0649 Thomas Jones, Record Book, Volume 17, 1798. 26pp.
0686 Thomas Jones, Record Book, Volume 18, 1800. 25pp.
0718 Thomas Jones, Record Book, Volume 19, 1801. 24pp.
0746 Thomas Jones, Record Book, Volume 20, 1803. 28pp.
0774 Thomas Jones, Record Book, Volume 21, 1804. 28pp.
0802 Thomas Jones, Record Book, Volume 22, 1805. 28pp.
0829 Thomas Jones, Record Book, Volume 23, 1806. 28pp.
0857 Thomas Jones, Record Book, Volume 24, 1807. 27pp.
0884 Thomas Jones, Record Book, Volume 25, 1808. 28pp.
0911 Thomas Jones, Record Book, Volume 26, 1809. 27pp.
0938 Thomas Jones, Record Book, Volume 27, 1810. 27pp.
These papers relate to Jacob Michael (d. 1852) detailing land purchases, bills, and accounts. Some family correspondence appears relating to the capture of runaway slaves in Philadelphia, 1832, and an account of the dry goods business in Baltimore and intentions of setting out for Indiana to pursue the dry goods business, all in 1836. The will of Jacob Michael in 1862 depicts an estate of many farms, slaves and other possessions.
Posey Account Books, 1847–1872, Maryland, MS. 665

This book details the operation of Homestead Farm and the Mill Farm and Mill, possibly of Baltimore County on evidence in the volume of taxes paid there. A companion volume, which has not been included as it dates 1900–1905, indicates that the Poseys could have been located in Charles County, Maryland, as it details the Posey administration of a colored school in La Plata, Maryland. The Poseys had as many as 17 slave hands and 7 slave children in 1849. Records include annual sales of tobacco, wheat, corn, slaves, butter, livestock, middlings, and flour. Purchases included: clover, timothy, and orchard grass seeds; plaster; fertilizer; lime; excelsior; plough parts; and labor. Yearly inventories to 1864 show appraisals of their wealth. The second half of the book takes the form of a ledger with a surname index at the end. These accounts are mostly for the milling business of W.A. Posey. Two other volumes of this collection have not been included because their subject matter, the late nineteenth century, exceeds the time frame of this micropublication.

0218 Introductory Materials. 2pp.

Neilson Record Books, 1798–1899, Harford County, Maryland, MS. 613

James Crawford Neilson (1806–1900) spent his early years in England and Belgium, returning to Baltimore in 1833. He worked as an engineer and surveyor for several railroads and the U.S. Coast Survey before commencing business as an architect in Baltimore. The earliest volume is in Dutch. Volumes 2–5 were probably kept by Neilson’s father-in-law, James W. Williams, relating to “Priestford” farm in Dublin District, Harford County. These journals, 1824–1844, record average yields and the amount of slave work required in wheat harvests, farm equipment, and cultivation of corn, clover, fruit and berries, locust trees, garden crops, and livestock. Also noted are camp meetings, social visits, and political meetings. Subsequent volumes document the architecture, surveying, and agricultural affairs of James Crawford Neilson.

0529 Introductory Materials. 2pp.
Reel 11

Neilson Record Books cont.

0250 James Crawford Neilson, Volume 6, Deer Creek Survey, Baltimore and Philadelphia Rail Road, 1835. 17pp.
0267 James Crawford Neilson, Volume 7, Survey Notes, Baltimore and Ohio Rail Road, 1838–1861. 60pp.
0327 James Crawford Neilson, Volume 8, Survey Journal, 1842–1848. 67pp.
0750 Loose Pages Taken from Volume 11, James Crawford Neilson, Private Ledger, 1864–1900. 20pp.
0770 Loose Pages Taken from James Crawford Neilson, Survey Journal, 1842–1848. 9pp.

Richard Dorsey Papers, 1809–1848, Baltimore, Maryland, MS. 1764

Richard Dorsey (1780–1850) was a tobacco inspector until ca. 1822 and in his subsequent dealings was a merchant, financier, and farmer. He was a resident of Baltimore. The bulk of this collection is the incoming correspondence of Richard Dorsey. The items dating from 1809–1810 relate to the confinement and treatment of his sister, Rebecca Dorsey, for insanity and opium addiction. Benjamin Rush, James S. Lewis, and W. Hammond are the correspondents. Correspondence of 1830 relates to Dorsey’s efforts to retrieve three runaway slaves in New York City. Later items discuss the settlement of the Rebecca Dorsey and Elizabeth Dorsey estates, including inventories of land, slaves, and stock in the Mechanics Bank and the Fredericktown Turnpike Company.

0779 Introductory Materials. 2pp.

Papers

0781 Miscellaneous. 7pp.
0788 Richard Dorsey, Incoming Correspondence, 1809–1810. 30pp.
0835 Richard Dorsey to William Baker Dorsey, February 9, 1830. 5pp.
John Eager Howard Estate Inventory, 1827–1828,
Baltimore, Maryland, MS. 2450

John Eager Howard (1752–1827) of “Belvidere House” in Baltimore was a prominent Maryland citizen and statesman of the Revolutionary and Federal periods. This manuscript consists of a sales book, containing records of private sales and auctions of the personal estate of Colonel Howard. A room-by-room inventory details the objects sold from “Belvidere” House on November 5–6, 1827, listing the purchaser along with the price paid for each lot. Separate lists record an auction held at the “Lodge” Farm in Patapsco Neck, Maryland, on December 22, 1828, as well as private sales held at both Howard establishments. Items sold include art work, decorative items, farm animals and implements, furniture, silver, slaves, textiles, and wines. Included in the Introductory Materials is a “Register of the John Eager Howard Estate Inventory,” prepared by Karen A. Stuart in December 1979, which is a detailed finding aid and includes an index to the names of purchasers.

Reel 12

Charles Coleman Diaries, 1842–1849,
Halifax County, Virginia, MS. 1966

The diaries of Charles Coleman record the agricultural and social activities on his plantation in Halifax County, Virginia, near North Carolina. Farm work ranged from work on houses, shoes, and clothing for his slaves to cultivation, harvest procedures and slave labor in corn, cotton, gardening, hay, livestock, tobacco, and wheat. Weather notes record the delays, delights, and inconveniences of working the land. Coleman made careful notes on church attendance, including the topics of sermons, style of oration, and comparisons with other sermons. Also noted are court days and local attendance in Halifax and nearby Charlotte Counties. Among the social occasions recorded by Coleman were balls, parties, visits, and his own second marriage to Alice Sydnor.
Bloomsbury Farm Account Books, 1848–1863, Maryland, MS. 6

These three books were kept by Columbus Shipley, an overseer, documenting the expenses and receipts of “Bloomsbury” Farm. This farm, owned by Gustav W. Lurman, was located in Baltimore County, Maryland. An indenture of April 22, 1854, gave Lurman a right-of-way to “Bloomsbury” through the lands of Benjamin Barroll (MS.541 Lurman Papers and Genealogy, Box 1: Deeds. See also MS.541.1 Lurman Account Books for Farm Operations 1867–1882). Principal crops were apples, cherries, cider, hay, peaches, potatoes, straw, strawberries, and wheat. Expenses included the salary of Columbus Shipley, hire of harvest hands, and the purchases of farm equipment and parts, including plough points and shears. The hire of servants from M.E. House at “Farmlands,” a Lurman estate in Baltimore county, is the only clear indication of location in the volumes. A Carroll County marriage license of January 26, 1865, wedded a Columbus Shipley to Catherine Blizzard.

Susanna Warfield Diaries, 1845–1885, Carroll County, Maryland, MS. 760

Miss Warfield (1797–1890) of “Groveland” in Sykesville kept a personal diary covering a thirty-year period, with some gaps in the chronology. She recorded social calls, books read, concerts and recitals, dreams, familial relations and strains, and church affairs, including her efforts leading to the construction of St. Barnabas Chapel. Other items of interest include a corn husking party with fifty Negroes singing choruses, accounts of slavery and Irish servants, and visits to Capon, Virginia; York Springs and Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; and New York. Many accounts relate to visits and incidents in Baltimore, her activities keeping house for her mother, and her writings. Civil War entries document Confederate forays, deserters, and local sentiments.
Susanna Warfield, Diary, 1849. 101pp.
Susanna Warfield, Diary, 1853–1854. 80pp.
Susanna Warfield, Diary, 1863–1885. 124pp.
Susanna Warfield, Diary, 1885. 17pp.

Martha Forman Diaries, 1814–1860
Cecil County, Maryland, MS. 403

Mrs. Martha Forman (1788–1864) was the wife of Major-General Thomas Marsh Forman (1758–1845). Their residence of “Rose Hill” in Cecil County is the scene of many entries in her diary, though others date from Delaware. Slave lists among the 1824 and 1833 entries indicate the Forman’s owned about forty slaves. Other entries record the distribution of clothing and provisions to slaves. Some of the work undertaken at the plantation is mentioned including wheat culture, haymaking, buttermaking, and candlemaking. Social events, teas, and illnesses in the family are all recorded along with church attendances, road conditions, and weather notes.

Introductory Materials. 2pp.
Martha Forman, Diary, 1814–1821. 225pp. (cont. on Reel 13)

Reel 13

Martha Forman Diaries cont.

Martha Forman, Diary, 1824–1832. 396pp.
Martha Forman, Diary, 1832–1844. 250pp. (cont. on Reel 14)

Reel 14

Martha Forman Diaries cont.

Martha Forman, Diary, 1844–1853. 229pp.
Martha Forman, Diary, 1814–1824; 1855–1859. 347pp.
RECORDS OF ANTE-BELLUM SOUTHERN PLANTATIONS
FROM THE REVOLUTION THROUGH THE CIVIL WAR

SERIES A. Selections from the South Caroliniana Library, University of South Carolina
SERIES B. Selections from the South Carolina Historical Society
SERIES C. Selections from the Library of Congress
SERIES D. Selections from the Maryland Historical Society

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