

Bigler-Sessler-John Family Papers

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1752-1925



Title Statement

Bigler-Sessler-John Family PapersBigler-Sessler-John Family Papers, 1752-1925 Ms.1993.011

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2020-09-21 Finding aid notes updated to new department standards. juliags
2026-02-06 Kalei Woodford updated date formatting, removed EAD Location link, added classification and series numbers, and corrected typos.

Descriptive Summary

Unit ID

Ms.1993.011

Unit Date

1752-1925

Language

The materials in the collection are in English.

Abstract

The collection contains correspondence, legal documents, and accounting receipts and records relating to the Bigler, Sessler, and John families of southwest Virginia.

Creator

John family

Creator

Bigler family

Creator

Sessler family

Extent

0.5 Cubic Feet 1 box

Repository

Special Collections and University Archives, Virginia Tech

Administrative Information

Conditions Governing Access

Collection is open for research.

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Source of Acquisition

The collection was acquired by Special Collections in 1993.

Processing Information

The processing, arrangement, and description of the Bigler-Sessler-John Family Papers was completed in October 2013.

Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: [identification of item], [box], [folder], Bigler-Sessler-John Family Papers, Ms1993-011, Special Collections and University Archives, Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, Va.

Scope and Contents

The collection contains correspondence, legal documents, and accounting receipts and records relating to the Bigler, Sessler, and John families who were connected to each other through marriage and resided predominantly in rural Southwest Virginia. The collection contains a varied array of documents including a math workbook from 1803, which belonged to Mark E. Sessler; a share cropping agreement between John Patterson and George Odewait from 1820; and a letter from Priscilla R. John to "Moll," which gives a very detailed description of revival and prayer meeting in Montgomery Co. in 1859. The documents in this collection provide insight into several facets of daily life in Southwest Virginia from the mid eighteenth century through the early twentieth century through the perspectives of members of the Bigler, Sessler, and John families.

Keywords

Virginia, Southwest

Slavery -- United States

Montgomery County (Va.)

Local/Regional History and Appalachian South

Rights Statement for Archival Description

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Arrangement

Physical arrangement of the collection reflects the order in which the collection was received. The "Contents List" groups like materials together into series.

Description of Subordinate Components

Series I: Correspondence and Invitations

Letter from Dora Lee to Mrs. Seesler

Unit Date May 31, 1887

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 2 (folder)

Letter from P. Ruth to Naomi John

Unit Date August 7, 1857

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 4 (folder)

Letter from Naomi John to Mary

Unit Date March 1, 1860

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 5 (folder)

Letter from Priscilla R. John to Moll

Unit Date August 24, 1859

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 6 (folder)

Letter from Sue to Naomi John

Unit Date September 1863

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 8 (folder)

Free Franked by H. A. Edmundson Letter to Naomi John

Unit Date March 2, 1865

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 9 (folder)

Letter from France to Cousin Mattie (Sessler)

Unit Date December 13, 1878

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 10 (folder)

Envelope addressed to Miss Mattie Sessler, from Texas

Unit Date October 22 [unknown year]

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 12 (folder)

Letter from France to Cousin Mattie (Sessler)

Unit Date February 12, 1878/79

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 15 (folder)

Letter from Wm. J. Walker (indenture)

Unit Date 1752

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 16 (folder)

Turned envelope addressed to Naomi John

Unit Date March 22 [unknown year]

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 17 (folder)

Letter to Mr. Biglor from John Gosogen

Unit Date November 30, 1804

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 19 (folder)

Letter from George W. P. of Poplar Groce to Jo

Unit Date January 22, 1857

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 24 (folder)

Letter from George J. Etzler to J. B. Sesler

Unit Date April 10, 1875

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 25 (folder)

Letter from Dr. H. Black to Mr. James John

Unit Date February 25, 1857

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 27 (folder)

Letter from Eliza Hammon to Martha John

Unit Date July 22, 1853

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 28 (folder)

Letter from Naomi to Mrs. Elizabeth Sessler ("Lizzi")

Unit Date October 27, 1889

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 29 (folder)

Letter from Naomi to Mattie

Unit Date January 8, 1890

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 30 (folder)

Letter to Martha John from Sarah Henderson

Unit Date August 10 [unknown year]

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 31 (folder)

Letter to Mary Ann John from sister

Unit Date undated

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 32 (folder)

Letter to Lomie from Peter M. Deeds

Unit Date May 30, 1875

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 33 (folder)

Letter to Lomie

Unit Date undated

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 34 (folder)

Letter from Naomi Bishop to her sister Elizabeth Sessler

Unit Date March 3 and March 8 1897

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 35 (folder)

Letter from Naomi John Bishop to family

Unit Date March 15, 1868

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 36 (folder)

Letter from M. E. Gordin to family

Unit Date April 18, 1882

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 37 (folder)

Letter and cover from N. B. [Naomi Bishop] to Mrs. T. S. Henderson

Unit Date December 31, 1876

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 39 (folder)

1 letter and 3 documents concerning case of David John, disabled son of deceased James and Anna John

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 40 (folder)

Letter from Martha to her sister Lizzie Sesler

Unit Date February 15, 1883

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 41 (folder)

Letter from Mark Sessler and his brother to Mattie

Unit Date September 17, 1878

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 42 (folder)

Letter from Naomi (John) Bishop to her father James John

Unit Date November 1, 1875

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 43 (folder)

Letter from M. E. Armstrong to Annie Gardner

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 46 (folder)

Letter from Penelope L. Holbrook to Naomi John

Unit Date June 14, 1852

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 47 (folder)

Letter from James John to his wife

Unit Date March 6, 1858

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 48 (folder)

Letter to Mattie Sesler

Unit Date March 29, 1878

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 49 (folder)

Miscellaneous folder #1

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 55 (folder)

Letter from D. C. Allen to M. E. Sessler, Esq.

Unit Date February 23, 1893

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 59 (folder)

Letter from Mattie Sessler to W. A. Watkins

Unit Date May 10, 1882

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 60 (folder)

Letter from Mattie [Sessler] to James B. Watkins

Unit Date November 2, 1883

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 61 (folder)

Letter from James L. Watkins (first page missing)

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 62 (folder)

Letter from James L. Watkins to his brother

Unit Date September 19, 1906

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 63 (folder)

Letter from James L. Watkins to Brother

Unit Date July 8, 1906

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 64 (folder)

Letter from J. B. Watkins to Mattie Sessler

Unit Date March 19, 1889

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 65 (folder)

Letter from S. A. Watkins to brother

Unit Date May 7, 1890

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 66 (folder)

Letter from B. D. Painter to Mrs. J. B. Watkins

Unit Date February 28, 1925

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 67 (folder)

Wedding invitation to Mr. J. B. Watkins and family, Frances Marron Jamison to Marshall W. Mangus

Unit Date October 18, 1910

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 68 (folder)

Letter from Pearl watkins to mother Mrs. J. B. Watkins

Unit Date October 13, 1902

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 69 (folder)

Letter from Jane S. Dame Wood to unknown recipient

Unit Date January 14, 1877

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 70 (folder)

Letter from C. Byrd Manges to Mattie Sessler

Unit Date December 17, 1878

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 71 (folder)

Letter from Alice Walters to Cousin Anna Gardner

Unit Date January 23, 1887

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 72 (folder)

Letter from James B. Watkins to Mattie Sessler

Unit Date January 3, 1883

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 73 (folder)

Letter from J. B. Watkins to Mattie Sessler

Unit Date September 12, 1884

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 74 (folder)

Letter from J. B. Watkins to Mattie Sessler

Unit Date September 15, 1878

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 75 (folder)

Letter to M. E. Sessler

Unit Date October 18, 1893

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 76 (folder)

Letter to Mattie from Uncle Harvey

Unit Date June 12, 1882

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 77 (folder)

Letter from J. H. H. Figgat to Mr. M. E. Sessler

Unit Date October 18, 1891

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 78 (folder)

Letter to "sister" from unknown author

Unit Date undated

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 79 (folder)

Letter from Martha E. Brown to Emma and (reverse side) Naomi Bishop to Lizzie

Unit Date February 10 and February 11, 1880

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 80 (folder)

Letter from J. J. Bishop to Grandma

Unit Date February 10, 1880

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 81 (folder)

Letter from Priscilla [John] to her sister Tabitha S. Henderson

Unit Date February 7, 1876

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 82 (folder)

Letter to Mary Ann John from Sussanna McDonald

Unit Date undated

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 84 (folder)

Letter from M. A. Kirby to family

Unit Date undated

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 86 (folder)

Letter from M. W. Jones to Emma

Unit Date June 5, 1888

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 89 (folder)

Letter to James John from I. Frances

Unit Date July 21, 1849

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 21 (folder)

Series II: Financial, Land, and Legal Documents

Share Cropping Agreement between John Patterson and George Odewait

Unit Date February 27, 1820

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 7 (folder)

Account bill for Jacob Brunk to settle account of Jacob Garman, deceased

Unit Date October 16, 1823

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 11 (folder)

A list of hands for the road John Sessler, surveyor

Unit Date 1825

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 13 (folder)

Sesler Family births

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 14 (folder)

Note of payment of John Sesler

Unit Date April 19, 1826

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 18 (folder)

Montgomery Co. Deed- Zacheriah Stanley to Henry Myers (Miers)

Unit Date April 4, 1797

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 20 (folder)

Note of Payment from Morse Bigler to John Beckener

Unit Date c. October 1792

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 22 (folder)

Claim of Jacob Bigler on Ambrose Myers

Unit Date November 5, 1832

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 23 (folder)

Indenture between Robert Watkins and Moses and William Watkins [Deed]

Unit Date June 14, 1851

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 38 (folder)

Bill from R. H. Kyle and Co. to William John, John, and Son, Fincastle

Unit Date August 21, 1829

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 44 (folder)

Deed from John C. Gish to Mark B. Sessler

Unit Date September 24, 1845

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 45 (folder)

Notes and Receipts Folders #1-4

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 50-53 (folder)

Statement and Settlement of Accounts of M. E. Sessler

Unit Date May 1900

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 54 (folder)

Miscellaneous folder #2-4

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 56-58 (folder)

List of accounts payable by James John to William A. Obenshain

Unit Date October 21, 1846

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 83 (folder)

Accounts payable by Jacob Bigler to John Layman

Unit Date 1835-1844

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 85 (folder)

Bill of Account of James John from J. R. C. Brown

Unit Date October 26, 1844

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 87 (folder)

Bill of Account to J. A. Bass, deceased from Moses Watkins

Unit Date March-June 1861

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 88 (folder)

Legal document to appoint Thos. W. Wrenne to represent Maggie G. Clark

Unit Date February 13, 1895

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 90 (folder)

Series III: Notebooks and Ephemera

German Writing Exercise on Rag Paper

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 1 (folder)

Fancy Lettering Compliments of Sessler

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 3 (folder)

Math workbook of Mark E. Sesler (Includes 1788 Fragment from an Architecture workbook)

Unit Date 1788, 1803

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 26 (folder)