

Letcher, John Letter

John Letcher Letter
1852



Title Statement

Letcher, John LetterJohn Letcher Letter, 1852 Ms.1993.014

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Descriptive Summary

Unit ID

Ms.1993.014

Unit Date

1852

Language

The materials in the collection are in English.

Abstract

Letter from Virginia Congressman (1851-1859), later Virginia Governor John Letcher, written December 20, 1852, to "My Dear Sir," regarding the large number of applicants for federal offices following the recent presidential election and local speculation regarding the selection of a cabinet by the president-elect (Franklin Pierce).

Creator

Letcher, John, 1813-1884

Extent

0.1 Cubic Feet 1 folder

Repository

Special Collections and University Archives, Virginia Tech

Administrative Information

Conditions Governing Access

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Immediate Source of Acquisition

The John Letcher Letter was purchased by Special Collections and University Archives in 1993.

Processing Information

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Preferred Citation

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Biographical / Historical

John Letcher, son of William H. and Elizabeth Davidson Letcher, was born in Lexington, Virginia, on March 29, 1813. He attended Randolph-Macon College before graduating from Washington Academy (today Washington and Lee University) in 1833. He was admitted to the Virginia bar six years later and established a private practice in Lexington in 1839. The following year, he became editor of Lexington's *Valley Star* newspaper. Letcher married Mary Susan Holt (1823-1909); the couple had eight children. In the Virginia Constitutional Convention of 1850, Letcher played a significant role. He was elected to the U. S. House of Representatives the following year and won election to three successive terms in Congress. In 1859, he was elected Virginia governor and served through the first three years of the American Civil War. He was defeated in his bid for an election to the Second Confederate Congress in 1863. Following the war, Letcher resumed his private law practice in Lexington and was elected to a single term in the Virginia House of Delegates in 1875. John Letcher died in Lexington on January 25, 1884, and was buried in the city's Oak Grove Cemetery.

Scope and Contents

This collection consists of a single letter from Virginia Congressman (1851-1859) and future Virginia Governor John Letcher. Dated from the House of Representatives on December 20, 1852, the letter is addressed to "My Dear Sir." Letcher writes of having recently "sold Mr Rodgers warrant for \$35.50 to D. Rowland" and of having made inquiries at the pension office, as requested. He then discusses the many applicants in the city, seeking federal office, following the recent presidential election. "The son-in-law of Govr [Joseph] Johnson," he writes, is making a desperate effort." Letcher also notes the widespread speculation regarding the selection of a new cabinet by the president-elect (Franklin Pierce). Letcher closes by conveying his regards to "Mrs. Shands." In a postscript, Letcher asks that Waitman and Maupin send his papers to him in Washington.

Keywords

Local/Regional History and Appalachian South

Rights Statement for Archival Description

Description of Subordinate Components

Letter

Unit Date 1852

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