

Edmundson, Henry, Letters

Henry Edmundson Letters

1814-1847



Title Statement

Edmundson, Henry, LettersHenry Edmundson Letters, 1814-1847 Ms.2010.085

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Profile Description

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Descriptive Summary

Unit ID

Ms.2010.085

Unit Date

1814-1847

Language

The materials in the collection are in English.

Abstract

The Henry Edmundson Letters contain nine letters, eight of which were written to Edmundson and one, the earliest of the letters, written by Edmundson in 1814 to General John Preston. The senders include William Ballard Preston; Francis H. Smith, superintendent of Virginia Military Institute (V.M.I.); Bernard Peyton; Isaac White; and Joseph Robert Woods.

Creator

Edmundson, Henry, Major, 1774-1847

Creator

Preston, William Ballard, 1805-1862

Creator

Woods, Joseph Robert

Creator

Peyton, Bernard, 1792-1854

Creator

Smith, Francis H. (Francis Henney), 1812-1890

Extent

0.1 Cubic Feet

Repository

Special Collections and University Archives, Virginia Tech

Administrative Information

Conditions Governing Access

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Acquisition Information

The Henry Edmundson Letters were donated to Special Collections and University Archives in October 2010.

Processing Information

The processing, arrangement, and description of the Henry Edmundson Letters was completed in November 2010.

Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: [identification of item], [box], [folder], Henry Edmundson Letters, 1814-1847, Ms2010-085, Special Collections and University Archives, Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, Va.

Biographical Note

Henry Edmundson was born in 1774 in Pennsylvania and moved, when quite young to Botetourt County, Virginia, with his mother. After marrying Peggy King in 1799, they moved to Montgomery County and purchased land there in 1801.

Having quickly built an estate, Edmundson served in the Virginia General Assembly, representing Montgomery County on three occasions between 1818 and 1827. He also served as sheriff of Montgomery County in 1842 and 1843. On August 30, 1828, Edmundson, in partnership with Elijah McClanahan, purchased from George Hancock, Jr., the Alleghany Turnpike--a seven-mile long road that ran from the confluence of the north and south forks of the Roanoke River to the top of Alleghany Mountain near Christiansburg--along with two adjacent tracts of land. Edmundson also acquired the estate, "Fotheringay," which would become his residence. McClanahan and Edmundson owned the Turnpike until it was sold to the Southwestern Turnpike Company in 1847. Later that same year, Edmundson died.

Edmundson's son, Henry Alonzo, born on 14 June 1814, served in the U. S. House of Representatives from 1849 to 1861 and as a lieutenant colonel in the Confederate Army.

Scope and Content

The Henry Edmundson Letters contain nine letters, eight of which were written to Edmundson and one, the earliest of the letters, written by Edmundson in 1814 to General John Preston. The senders include William Ballard Preston; Francis H. Smith, superintendent of Virginia Military Institute (V.M.I.); Bernard Peyton; Isaac White; and Joseph Robert Woods. One letter, signed simply, "Wade," may indicate John Wade, one of the directors of the Lafayette and Ingles Ferry Turnpike.

The subjects of the letters range quite widely, but many have to do with financial matters, including various debts, loans, notes, and Bank of Virginia stock certificates. The letter to General Preston, dated 29 November 1814, refers to Edmundson's task of procuring hogs, perhaps to supply troops. Bernard Peyton's letter to Edmundson of 3 November 1823 is largely about "the progress of our unfortunate business with the Treasury," which refers to the aftermath of John Preston's tenure as Treasurer of Virginia and the disposition

of property to satisfy his debt. Francis H. Smith writes to discuss a leave of absence at V.M.I. for Edmundson's son.

Keywords

Local/Regional History and Appalachian South
Montgomery County (Va.)
Edmundson, Henry, Major, 1774-1847
Preston, James Patton, 1774-1843
Preston, Francis, 1765-1835

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Arrangement

The letters in this collection are arranged in chronological order.

Description of Subordinate Components

Letter from Major Henry Edmundson, Lynchburg, to General John Preston, Richmond

Unit Date 29 November 1814

item 1 (folder)

Container 1 (item)

Letter from Robert Joseph Woods, Nashville, to Major H. Edmundson, Lafayette, Montgomery County Court House, Virginia

Unit Date 29 June 1820

item 1 (folder)

Container 2 (item)

Letter from Robert Joseph Woods, Nashville, to Major H. Edmundson, Montgomery Court House, Virginia

Unit Date 25 January 1822

item 1 (folder)

Container 3 (item)

Letter from Bernard Peyton, Richmond, to Major H. Edmundson, Lafayette, Montgomery Courth House, Virginia

Unit Date 3 November 1823

item 1 (folder)

Container 4 (item)

Letter from Isaac White, Richmond, to Henry Edmundson Esq, Blacksburg, Montgomery County

Unit Date 24 March 1827

item 1 (folder)

Container 5 (item)

Letter from M. Johnson to Major Henry Edmundson, Fotheringay, Montgomery County

Unit Date 7 November 1832

item 1 (folder)

Container 6 (item)

Letter from Wade to Major H. Edmundson, Fotheringay

Unit Date 10 February 1841

item 1 (folder)

Container 7 (item)

Letter from Francis H. Smith, V.M.Institute, to Major H. Edmundson, Lafayette, Montgomery County

Unit Date 9 March 1846

item 1 (folder)

Container 8 (item)

Letter from William Ballard Preston, Richmond, to Major Henry Edmundson, Lafayette, Montgomery County

Unit Date 7 December 1847

item 1 (folder)

Container 9 (item)