

A Guide to the A.S. Lara Papers, 1856-1861 SC 0249

A. S. Lara papers
1856-1861



Title Statement

A Guide to the A.S. Lara Papers, 1856-1861 SC 0249

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Profile Description

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Descriptive Summary

Unit ID

SC 0249

Unit ID

/repositories/4/resources/426

Unit Date

1856-1861

Language

English

Abstract

The A. S. Lara Papers, 1856-1861 consist of letters, receipts and documents relating to business dealings of merchant, Aaron S. Lara, in Rockbridge County and Augusta County, Virginia.

source

Jeffrey S. Evans & Associates

Creator

Lara, Aaron S., 1824-1901

Extent

0.08 cubic feet 1 folder

Repository

James Madison University Libraries Special Collections

Administrative Information

Access Restrictions

Collection open to research. Researchers must register and agree to copyright and privacy laws before using this collection. Please contact Research Services staff before visiting the James Madison University Special Collections Library to use this collection.

Use Restrictions

The copyright interests in this collection have not been transferred to the James Madison University Special Collections Library. For more information, contact the Special Collections Library Reference Desk (library-special@jmu.edu).

Acquisition Information

Item was purchased at auction on November 10, 2017 from Jeffrey S. Evans and Associates (Lot #195 and #229).

Processing Information

The A.S. Lara Papers consist of documents pulled from two separate auction lots, based on collection assessment at the time of purchase.

Preferred Citation

[identification of item], [box #, folder #], A. S. Lara Papers, 1856-1861, SC 0249, James Madison University Special Collections, Harrisonburg, Virginia.

Biographical / Historical

A. S. Lara (Aaron S. Lara) was born in 1824 and died in 1941. He was a merchant, dealing in basic sundries such as coffee, flour and butter, as well as tobacco, liquor and wagons. A letter addressed to him in "Goshenbridge, Rockbridge, VA" suggests that he did business in Goshen between the dates of 1857-1861. His correspondence indicate he dealt with suppliers and buyers in Leesburg, Craigs ville, Walkers Creek, and Staunton.

Goshen is located in the northwest of Rockbridge County, Virginia, at the confluence of Mill Creek and the Great Calfpasture River. Goshen was a stop on the Virginia Central Railroad, which stretched about 200 miles across the state and connecting Richmond, Virginia in the east and Covington, Ohio at its westernmost point. Records indicate that the Virginia Central Railroad transported goods for Lara to such places as Fishersville, Staunton, and Richmond.

Scope and Content

The collection consists of letters, receipts and documents related to the business dealings of merchant, Aaron S. Lara, between the dates of 1856-1861. Letters reveal dealings with suppliers and clients in Craigs ville, Walkers Creek, Leesburg and Staunton, Virginia. Of note is a letter from G. S. Catlett, of the Office of the Bank of the Valley in Virginia in Staunton, requesting "a nice lot of fresh butter...I am so confined in Bank that I have not time to attend the little market of this big town." A letter from James A. Walker at Walker's Creek, on December 12, 1858, discusses the sale of "two waggons [sic] - say some 25 or 30 barrels" of superfine flour. A letter from J.A. Craig of Craigs ville, Virginia discusses the sale of two carts, also includes a 1 cent Franklin stamp.

The Lara papers include an 1858 bill for \$10.02 from the Virginia Central Railroad regarding the transport of tobacco, lime, and sundries to such locations as Staunton, Fishersville, and Richmond.

A court summons of A.S. Lara, C.M King, and John Brown reveals a debt of \$159.59, with damages of \$20. The summons is signed by Clerk of the Court, J.D. Imboden, and addressed to the sheriff of Augusta County.

The Lara Papers contain two letters that reference enslaved people. A letter from December 4, 1860,

discusses the sale of slaves owned by a Mr. O'Dell. A letter from L.P. Catlett, from the Office of the Bank of the Valley in Virginia, requests to buy enslaved person, Petunia, from A.S. Lara "as a nurse from my little girl aged 13 months old."

Keywords

Retail trade -- Virginia -- 19th century
Food prices -- 19th century
Receipts (Acknowledgments) -- Virginia -- 19th century
Business records -- Virginia -- 19th century
Slavery -- Virginia -- 19th century
Rockbridge County (Va.) -- History -- 19th century
Virginia -- Economic conditions -- 19th century
Letters (correspondence)
Receipts (financial records)
Subpoenas
Jeffrey S. Evans & Associates
Virginia Central Railroad Company

Bibliography

Find A Grave. "Aaron S. Lara (1824-1901)." Find a Grave Memorial no. 62137797. Accessed December 11, 2017. <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/62137797/aaron-s.-lara>. Morton, Oren Frederic. *A history of Rockbridge County Virginia*. Westminster, Md.: Heritage Books, 2007.

Provenance

According to the record of sale, collection was formerly the property of a private collector from Augusta County, Virginia.

Arrangement

The collection is arranged chronologically in one folder.

Description of Subordinate Components

A. S. Lara papers

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/5052

Unit Date 1856-1861

Mixed Materials [1000886347] 1 (box)

Container 1 (folder)