

A Guide to the Charles Spitzer Letters, 1833-1886 SC 0137

Charles Spitzer Letters
1833-1886



Title Statement

A Guide to the Charles Spitzer Letters, 1833-1886 SC 0137

Author: Special Collections Staff, Kayla Payne

Publication Statement

Publisher: James Madison University Libraries Special Collections

820 Madison Drive
MSC 1706
Harrisonburg, Virginia 22807
Telephone: (540) 568-3612
library-special@jmu.edu
URL: <https://www.lib.jmu.edu/special/>



November 1994, July 2012

Profile Description

Creation: This finding aid was produced using ArchivesSpace on 2025-12-03 07:01:39 -0500.

Language Usage: Description is written in: English, Latin script.

Descriptive Rules: Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Descriptive Summary

Unit ID

SC 0137

Unit ID

/repositories/4/resources/449

Unit Date

1833-1886

Language

English

Abstract

The Charles Spitzer Letters, 1833-1886, are comprised of 35 letters written between members of the Charles Spitzer family of New Market, Virginia.

Creator

Spitzer, Charles, 1807-1865

source

Green Valley Auctions, Inc.

Extent

0.08 cubic feet 1 folder

Repository

James Madison University Libraries Special Collections

Administrative Information

Access Restrictions

Collection is open for 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 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

Purchased by Friends of Carrier Library at Green Valley Auctions, Inc. on July 23, 1994.

Processing Information

In order to streamline the process of applying collection numbers, Special Collections staff completed a large-scale renumbering campaign in the spring of 2017. **This collection was previously cataloged as SC 3065.**

Preferred Citation

[identification of item], [box #, folder #], Charles Spitzer Letters, 1833-1886, SC 0137, Special Collections, Carrier Library, James Madison University, Harrisonburg, Va.

Bio/Historical Note

Charles Spitzer (1807-1865) was a gunsmith based out of New Market, Virginia who learned the trade under his father Henry Spitzer. Charles married Elizabeth Frances Amiss in 1833 and they went on to have four children.

Scope and Content

The Charles Spitzer Letters, 1833-1886, are comprised of 35 letters written between members of the Charles Spitzer family of New Market, Virginia. Selected letters of interest include eight letters (May 19-October 14, 1833) between Charles and fiancé Elizabeth Amiss discussing preparations for marriage; a December 2, 1838 letter from Thomas Amiss to sister Elizabeth in which he expresses his preference for life in St. Louis, Missouri, his business is good and life is cheaper than in New Market, mentions Moses Spitzer, who in *A History of Shenandoah County* by John Wayland (1927) is said to have died with the infamous Donner party in the California Sierras in 1846; and a July 25, 1849 letter from Thomas Amiss in which he describes a massive fire and cholera outbreak in St. Louis. Also included are two Sunday school certificates (1850, 1851) and two tax receipts (1849, 1852). Most letters deal with day to day matters including illness and birth and death of family members. Two letters (1861, 1886) concern Charles Spitzer's services as a gunsmith.

Keywords

Gunsmiths -- Virginia -- Biography

Gunsmithing

Firearms -- Design and construction

Rifles -- History -- 19th century

New Market (Va.) -- Sources

Saint Louis (Mo.) -- History -- Sources

New Market (Va.) -- History
Harrisonburg (Va.) -- History
Letters (correspondence)
New Market (Va.) -- Social life and customs
Green Valley Auctions, Inc.
Amis family
Spitzer family
Spitzer, Moses

Arrangement

The letters are arranged in one folder.

Description of Subordinate Components

Charles Spitzer Letters

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/5423

Unit Date 1833-1886, undated

Mixed Materials [1000886590] 1 (box)

Container 1 (folder)