

Taylor, Bennett papers addition

Bennett Taylor papers--addition
1851-1894

Title Statement

Taylor, Bennett papers additionBennett Taylor papers addition MSS 9221

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Notes

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Profile Description

Creation: This finding aid was produced using ArchivesSpace on 2026-03-05 17:42:29 +0000.

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

Descriptive Rules: Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Descriptive Summary

Unit ID

MSS 9221

Unit ID

[Archival Resource Key](#)

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Unit ID

/repositories/3/resources/1382

Unit Date

1851-1894

Mixed Materials

1 (folder)

Language

English

Extent

0.08 Cubic Feet 2 legal size folders including existing collection. One CD of digital files of the 30 family letters. Original family correspondence (addition) photocopies (existing collection)

Repository

Albert and Shirley Small Special Collections Library

Administrative Information

Conditions Governing Access

The collection is open for research use.

Immediate Source of Acquisition

This collection was a gift from Elizabeth Page Kirk to the Small Special Collections Library at the University of Virginia Library on 17 October 2018.

Preferred Citation

MSS 9221, Bennett Taylor papers, Albert and Shirley Small Special Collections Library, University of Virginia Library.

Biographical / Historical

Lieutenant Colonel Bennett Taylor was born in 1836 to Martha Jefferson Randolph Taylor (who was a great-granddaughter of Thomas Jefferson) (1817-1857) and John Charles Randolph Taylor (1812-1875) in Jefferson County Va. [now West Virginia]. He attended the University of Virginia from 1854 to 1859. At the onset of the American Civil War, he entered the 19th Virginia Regiment, Company F, Picketts Division. After the war he became the proprietor and editor of the Charlottesville Chronicle from 1868-1871. He became clerk of the Circuit Court in 1872 and remained in that office until May 1886 when he resigned. He was also the Town Magistrate and Justice of the Peace. He practiced as an attorney at the Albemarle bar until 1889 when he went to Radford where he resided until his death. He often helped poor clients and did not receive payment for his work while he struggled to pay his own rent. He wrote to his sons that he wished he had money to help them get started in their lives. Many of his family members worked for the railroad. He was married to Lucy Colston Taylor (1842-1928) from Frederick County and they had six children, Raleigh Taylor (1869-1952), Lewis Taylor (1871-1945), John Charles Taylor (1874-1962), Pattie Taylor (1867-1903), Jane Taylor (1881-1940) and Edward Taylor (1877-1940).

Content Description

MSS 9221 Bennett Taylor papers consist of family correspondence with letters to and from Bennett about education at the University of Virginia, descriptions of United States Civil War battles including the 19th Virginia Regiment Company F, Picketts Division at 2nd Manassas, a prisoner exchange for Lieutenant Colonel Bennett Taylor from Johnson Island in Lake Erie New York, and family news of descendants of Thomas Jefferson and local Charlottesville families from 1851-1894. Correspondence of Bennett Taylor (1836-1898): 30 letters. In addition to the letters there is a University of Virginia examination report for Bennett Taylor's father John Charles Randolph Taylor, dated July 5, 1860.

Many of the letters are digitized on the Thomas Jefferson Foundation website. Also included is a compact disk containing scans of the 30 Taylor family letters.

While Bennett Taylor had a low income and probably did not enslave people, his relatives did. Some letters describe "servants" who are helping them with cooking or cleaning or experiencing sickness. One letter in particular mentions the selling of "Eugenia". (January 8, 1857) It is likely that this is an enslaved person.

This addition to the collection contains the original letters. The existing collection contains photocopies of the letters, and printed items including a circular about Bennett Taylor campaigning for Clerk of the Circuit Court (October 1, 1874), a Sketch of the Life of Lieutenant Colonel Bennett Taylor, Death memoriam of Jane Hollins Randolph (January 18, 1871), and information about the death of Captain Lewis Randolph. There is also an essay containing the genealogy of Rawleigh Colston.

There is a related collection in the University Archives that contains an autograph album of Bennett Taylor with signatures of his fraternity brothers, Alpha Kappa at the University of Virginia. RG-30/17/1.821

Keywords

letters (correspondence)

United States -- History -- Civil War, 1861-1865

Arrangement

Folder 1 contains the family correspondence of 30 letters from and to Bennett Taylor from 1851 to 1894 including an examination from the University of Virginia for his father John Charles Randolph Taylor. This folder is an addition to Folder 2.

Folder 2 is the original collection which contains photocopies of the letters in the family correspondence of Bennett Taylor from 1851 to 1894. It also has printed information about the Taylor family.

There is also a CD containing digital files of the 30 letters of family correspondence.

Description of Subordinate Components

University of Virginia examination for John Charles Randolph Taylor

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/217737

Unit Date 1860

Mixed Materials 1 (folder)

Language English

John Charles Randolph Taylor and Martha (Patsy) Jefferson Randolph Taylor to Bennett Taylor

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/217738

Unit Date 1851 September 20

Mixed Materials 1 (folder)

Language English

E. W. Randolph to Bennett Taylor

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/217739

Unit Date 1854 January 2

Mixed Materials 1 (folder)

Language English

John Charles Randolph Taylor to Bennett Taylor

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/217740

Unit Date 1854 February 17

Mixed Materials 1 (folder)

Language English

Martha (Patsy or P. J.) Taylor to Bennett Taylor

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/217741

Unit Date 1854 February 26

Mixed Materials 1 (folder)

Language English

John Charles Randolph Taylor to Bennett Taylor

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/217742

Unit Date 1856 November 14

Mixed Materials 1 (folder)

Language English

Jane Randolph Taylor to Bennett Taylor

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/217744

Unit Date 1856 November 21

Mixed Materials 1 (folder)

Language English

Scope and Contents

This letter from Bennett's sister Jane mentions that John and Lewis had their usual dispute about the "North and South".

Jane Randolph Taylor to Bennett Taylor

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/217743

Unit Date 1857 January 8

Mixed Materials 1 (folder)

Language English

Scope and Contents

Mentions selling "Eugenia" to Mr. Godwin at the bank. Don't know whether this is an enslaved person.

P. J. Taylor to Bennett Taylor

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/217745

Unit Date undated

Mixed Materials 1 (folder)

Language English

R. C. [Raleigh Thomas] Colston to [Lucy Colston Taylor]

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID [Previous Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID [Previous Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/217746

Unit Date 1862 May 27

Mixed Materials 1 (folder)

Language English

Scope and Contents

Probably Raleigh Thomas Colston to his sister Lucy who married Bennett Taylor. He writes to her from a Camp near Winchester and describes General Jackson's command advancing them near the Potomac with details battle.

Raleigh Thomas Colston to Lucy Colston Taylor

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/217747

Unit Date 1863 January 14

Mixed Materials 1 (folder)

Language English

Scope and Contents

Colston mentions that the 2nd Regiment bivouac'd Rappahannock on Picketts Duty. He also tells her that some of the men get married so that they can get a furlough.

Bennett Taylor to John Charles Randolph Taylor

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/217748

Unit Date 1863 July 9

Mixed Materials 1 (folder)

Language English

Scope and Contents

Bennett writes to his father that he is well but that he was wounded and that he is a prisoner. He mentions that George Geiger (from Charlottesville, Virginia) was hit in the spine and is with him in the United States Hospital. Bennett is in the 19th Virginia Regiment Company F Picketts Division.

J. S. Nicholas to John Charles Randolph Taylor

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID [Previous Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/217749

Unit Date 1863 July 16

Mixed Materials 1 (folder)

Language English

Scope and Contents

Nicholas tells Bennetts father that Bennett is well but wounded on his side and is a prisoner in Baltimore, Maryland.

Mrs. [A. C. T.] to John Charles Randolph Taylor

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/217750

Unit Date August 1

Mixed Materials 1 (folder)

Language English

Henry Gantt to John Charles Randolph Taylor

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID [Previous Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID [Previous Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID [Previous Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/217751

Unit Date 1863 September 22

Mixed Materials 1 (folder)

Language English

Scope and Contents

Henry Gantt writes from Oakwood recommending the exchange of Bennett Taylor and praises Bennett as being his senior Captain. Gantt was from Scottsville, Virginia and served as a Colonel in the 19th Virginia Regiment Company F of Picketts Division. He fought in the Battle of Gettysburg and survived debilitating wounds including his face and shoulder. <https://scottsvillemuseum.com/war/gantt/home.html>

J. Taylor to John Charles Randolph Taylor

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/217752

Unit Date 1863 September 29

Mixed Materials 1 (folder)

Language English

Joseph and Ellen Wayles Coolidge to Bennett Taylor

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/217753

Unit Date 1864 November 17

Mixed Materials 1 (folder)

Language English

Moncure Robinson to Bennett Taylor

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID [Previous Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID [Previous Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/217754

Unit Date 1864 December 22

Mixed Materials 1 (folder)

Language English

Scope and Contents

Moncure Robinson writes to his nephew advising him about the possibility of an exchange.

Ellen Wayles Coolidge to Bennett Taylor

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/217755

Unit Date 1865 January 10

Mixed Materials 1 (folder)

Language English

Ellen Wayles Coolidge to Bennett Taylor

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/217756

Unit Date 1865 January 27

Mixed Materials 1 (folder)

Language English

Ellen Wayles Coolidge to Bennett Taylor

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/217757

Unit Date 1865 February 17

Mixed Materials 1 (folder)

Language English

Aunt Robinson to Bennett Taylor

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID [Previous Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/217758

Unit Date 1865 February 19

Mixed Materials 1 (folder)

Language English

Scope and Contents

She writes to Bennett that they are going to Washington D. C. to see about facilitating his exchange.

Ellen Wayles Coolidge to Bennett Taylor

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/217759

Unit Date 1865 February 21

Mixed Materials 1 (folder)

Language English

Aunt Robinson to Bennett Taylor

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/217760

Unit Date 1865 March 7

Mixed Materials 1 (folder)

Language English

Scope and Contents

General Hancock is arranging the exchange. Help obtained from Mrs Emley.

Jane Hollins Randolph to Lucy Colston Taylor

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/217761

Unit Date 1865 August 2

Mixed Materials 1 (folder)

Language English

Scope and Contents

Jane Hollins Randolph writes to her grandson Bennett's wife Lucy expressing her love and happiness for them both.

[Sarah Jane Brockenbrough Colston] S. J. C. to Raleigh Thomas Colston

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/217762

Unit Date 1865 March 13

Mixed Materials 1 (folder)

Language English

Scope and Contents

S. J. C. writes about the rough experience of the campaign in the winter and is thankful it is over. Family news includes information such as Lewis is managing Lego, and Sue and John are at the University of Virginia. The Railroads have cut ten percent of all their employees and they can't pay rent.

Sarah Jane Brockenbrough Colston to Lucy Colston Taylor

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID [Previous Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/217763

Unit Date 1870 March 15

Mixed Materials 1 (folder)

Language English

Scope and Contents

Family news. Possible mention of enslaved person "Jim". Mentions Governor Walker and business improving. (Virginia Governor Gilbert Carlton Walker 1833-1885)

Sarah Jane Brockenbrough Colston to Lucy Colston Taylor

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID [Previous Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID [Previous Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID [Previous Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/217764

Unit Date 1877 January 16

Mixed Materials 1 (folder)

Language English

Scope and Contents

She mentions that business is dependent on the Canal.

Bennett Taylor to his son Raleigh Taylor

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/217765

Unit Date 1894 January 25

Mixed Materials 1 (folder)

Language English

Bennett Taylor to his son Raleigh Taylor

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/217766

Unit Date 1894 February 18

Mixed Materials 1 (folder)

Language English

Photocopies of transcribed family letters to and from Bennett Taylor

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/217768

Unit Date 1851-1894

Mixed Materials 2 (folder)

Language English

Circular for Bennett Taylor campaign for Clerk of the Circuit Court

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/217767

Unit Date 1874 October 1

Mixed Materials 2 (folder)

Language English

Sketch of the Life of Lieutenant Colonel Bennett Taylor

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/217769

Mixed Materials 2 (folder)

Language English

In Memoriam: Death of Jane Hollins Randolph

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/217770

Unit Date 1871 January 18

Mixed Materials 2 (folder)

Language English

Death of Captain Lewis Randolph

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/217771

Mixed Materials 2 (folder)

Language English

Genealogy essay about Rawleigh Colston and history of Edward Colston of Britain

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID [Previous Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/217772

Mixed Materials 2 (folder)

Language English