

# Thomas Mead Letter, 14 January 1836

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## Title Statement

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## Descriptive Summary

**Unit ID**

SC 01683

**Unit ID**

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**Unit Date**

14 January 1836

**Language**

English

**Extent**

.01 Linear Feet

**Repository**

Special Collections Research Center

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## **Biographical / Historical**

Thomas Mead (1795-1847) was a county surveyor in Bedford County, Virginia. He was married to Martha (nee Carper) Mead and his son, Henry, owned the Warrenton Journal of Fauquier County. Frederick Carper (1799-1846) was a farmer, magistrate, and road commissioner in Fairfax County, Virginia.

## **Scope and Contents**

Thomas Mead, of Lynchburg, Virginia, writes to his brother-in-law Frederick Carper, of Fairfax City, Virginia. The letter mentions their political differences and discusses laborers from Pennsylvania coming to work on the James River Canal (which was never completed). Mead describes these white laborers as a "motley crew" and mentions "Lynches law" as a method to deal with them. Enslaved "hands" were hired from \$100 to \$150 per year to work on the project. Mead mentions prices for enslaved persons, a decrease in land cost, western migration, market prices for wheat, and shares personal news.

## **Keywords**

Slave labor

Slave bills of sale

Canals--Virginia

Merchants--Virginia--Lynchburg

Lynching--United States--History

Extrajudicial executions

## **Description of Subordinate Components**

### **Letter**

**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival\_objects/464765

**Mixed Materials** Small Collections Box 115 (Box)

**Container** 1 (Folder)

**Language** English