

Inventory of the Theodocius Joshua Scurlock Papers 1855-1888

Theodocius Joshua Scurlock Papers, 1855-1888.
1855-1888.

A Collection in the Manuscripts and Rare Books Department Mss. 81 Scu4
Earl Gregg Swem Library, College of William and Mary
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Descriptive Summary

Collection number

Mss. 81 Scu4

Language

English

Abstract

Letters, 1855-1888, received by or concerning Dr. Theodocius Joshua Scurlock while a resident of Texas and Mexico from family members in Alabama and Texas and friends in Alabama, Mississippi and Texas. Also includes a diary, December 1867-April 1869, kept by Scurlock on his journey to Mexico.

Creator

Theodocius Josha Scurlock.

Extent

116 items.

Repository

Special Collections, College of William and Mary

Administrative Information

Restrictions on Access

Collection is open to all researchers.

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Acquisition Information

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Preferred Citation

Theodocius Joshua Scurlock Papers, Manuscripts and Rare Books Department, Swem Library, College of William and Mary.

Scope and Content Information

The collection is primarily composed of letters received by Dr. Theodocius Joshua Scurlock (1828-1887), a graduate of Tulane University and a resident of Texas and Mexico, 1855-1888, from family members in Alabama and Texas, and friends in Alabama, Mississippi, and Texas. The letters reflect the restlessness of the pre-Civil War years, and the difficulties and disillusionment felt by many people during Reconstruction. Diary included was kept by Scurlock on his journey to Mexico, December 1867-April 1869, in which he gives his impressions of the people he encountered as well as the natural history of the regions he passed through.

Index Terms

Subjects:

Reconstruction.

Geographical Names:

Texas--History--1846-1950.

Mexico--History--1867-1910.

Alabama--History--1819-1950.

Mississippi-- History.

Mexico--Description and travel.

Arrangement

Organization

This collection has been organized into 5 Series: 1. Letters, 1850-1859, 2. Letters, 1860-1869, 3. Letters, 1870-1879, 4. Letters, 1880-1889, 5. Letters, no date.

Arrangement

The letters in this collection are arranged into Series by ten year increments, the Subseries are then arranged chronologically into individual years. Not every year produced letters and this is reflected in overall arrangement. The diary is listed separately as the last item in the collection.

Components List

Letters, 1850-1859.

Box-folder 1:1-5

Extent

50 items.

Letters, 1855.

Box-folder 1:1-2

Extent

16 items.

Lucena Scurlock, Macon County, Alabama, to son [Theodocius Joshua Scurlock] [Pittsburg, Texas], 14 January 1855.

Box-folder 1:1

Extent 2 pages.ALS.

Scope and Content

Glad to have received letter but worried about health; reports brother Dan had left for Irving [College]; money hard to come by and price for cotton very low; refers to pending lawsuit; other family news.

Lucena Scurlock, Macon County, Alabama, to her son [Theodocius Joshua Scurlock], [Pittsburg, Texas], 5 March 1855.

Box-folder 1:1

Extent 4 pages.ALS.

Scope and Content

Worries about health and relates deaths of various towns people; money hard to come by and business bad; other family and town related news.

Lucena Scurlock, Macon County, Alabama, to her son [Theodocius Joshua Scurlock], [Pittsburg, Texas], 16 April 1855.

Box-folder 1:1

Extent 4 pages.ALS.

Scope and Content

Crops doing well; received letter from a most "dangerous woman," claiming son hadn't paid a debt; advises him to stay away from this "awful woman"; mentions pending lawsuit referred to as "hooke suit" (?); other family and town news.

Augustus Darby, "Lockland" [Macon County,] Alabama, to T[heodocius] J[oshua] Scurlock, [Pittsburg, Texas], 3 May 1855.

Box-folder 1:1

Extent 3 pages.ALS.

Scope and Content

Refers to a favor which "came to hand"; talks about crops and prices; refers to the burning of a foundry in Montgomery [Alabama]; many suffering from scarlet fever; mentions the Hook's lawsuit being taken to Supreme Court; other family and town news.

Lucena Scurlock, Macon County, Alabama, to her son [Theodocius Joshua Scurlock], [Pittsburg, Texas], 12 June 1855.

Box-folder 1:1

Extent 4 pages.ALS.

Scope and Content

Complains about mail system; has not received any letters from son; crops doing very well, especially corn; discusses Hook's lawsuit; relates town "anecdote"; other family news.

Elisa C. Scurlock, "Lockland, [Macon County], Alabama, to brother, [Theodocius Joshua Scurlock], Pittsburg, Texas], 1 July 1855.

Box-folder 1:1

Extent 2 pages.ALS.

Scope and Content

Glad to receive letter after "too months"; crops doing very well; Scarlet fever still "going through neighbourhood"; other family news.

Lucena Scurlock, Macon County, Alabama, to her son [Theodocius Joshua Scurlock], [Pittsburg, Texas], 2 July 1855.

Box-folder 1:1

Extent 3 pages.ALS.

Scope and Content

Speaks of fine crops and many deaths from Scarlet fever; Hook suit not yet decided; advises to stay away from the "slandering living old devil" who claims he hasn't paid debt; other family news.

Lucena Scurlock, Macon County, Alabama, to her son [Theodocius Joshua Scurlock], [Pittsburg, Texas], 13 July 1855.

Box-folder 1:1

Extent 1 page.ALS.

Scope and Content

Worried that lawyers want evidence from him for Hook's case; advises not to give any at all; reports crops are good except cotton and all are well.

Lucena Scurlock, Macon [County], Alabama, to her son [Theodocius Joshua Scurlock], [Pittsburg, Texas], 23 July 1855.

Box-folder 1:1

Extent 3 pages.ALS.

Scope and Content

Reports a retrial for "Hooke's" case and advises that he give no evidence; advises to stay away from "Tom the big baby"; asks him not to mention case in any letters except to her, Mit or Will; other family news.

S.G. Jones, Laplace, Alabama, to T[heodocius] J[oshua] Scurlock, [Pittsburg, Texas], 17 Aug. 1855.

Box-folder 1:1

Extent 3 pages.ALS.

Scope and Content

Replies to question about health and crops; gives long account about political opinions relating to the "American party", break up of the Whigs and strengthening of Democrats; relates local arrests; business interests shifting; other news about common friends.

Lucena Scurlock, Macon County, Alabama, to her son [Theodocius Joshua Scurlock], [Pittsburg, Texas], 3 Sept. 1855.

Box-folder 1:2

Extent 4 pages.ALS.

Scope and Content

Disease going around caused by snakes, many deaths; defines Hook's case as diverse case; advises to

disease going around caused by snakes, many deaths; defines Hook's case as divorce case; advises to not give any evidence; case has been given a retrial; worried about Mary's [sister] health; not receiving Texas paper; other family news.

D[an] Scurlock, Irving College, to brother T[heodocius] J[oshua] Scurlock, [Pittsburg, Texas], 15 Sept[ember] 1855.

Box-folder 1:2

Scope and Content

Received letter; has severe cold, health at Irving generally good; plans on staying two years; has not rained lately and is very warm; Had sent catalogue, will send another.

James G. Henderson Binetree P.O. Ups[h]ur County, Texas, to [Theodocius Joshua Scurlock] [Pittsburg, Texas], 24 Sept. 1855.

Box-folder 1:2

Extent 1 page.ALS.

Scope and Content

Requests help in getting into business as an "averseer."

James G. Henderson, Pinetree, Texas, to Theodocius Joshua Scurlock, [Pittsburg, Texas], 11 Oct. 1855.

Box-folder 1:2

Extent 2 pages.ALS.

Scope and Content

Inflicted with typhoid, hopes to be well soon; asks that Scurlock take care of some business dealings; received letter from William Harrison giving news of many deaths in Montgomery, County [Alabama]; provides arrangements for moving [to Texas]; family news.

D[an] Scurlock, Irving College to brother [Theodocius Joshua Scurlock],n.p., 2 Dec. 1855 [?].

Box-folder 1:2

Extent 2 pages.ALS.

Scope and Content

Times dull as session ending; has sprained ankle; has received letter from Ma which criticizes his spelling; will try again to send catalogue.

Lucena Scurlock "Lockland", Macon County, Alabama, to her son T[heodocius] J[oshua] Scurlock, [Pittsburg, Texas], 16 Dec. 1855.

Box-folder 1:2

Extent 2 pages.ALS.

Scope and Content

Sends papers on Freeman Divorce case; refers to a petition and preparation of legal papers; other family news.

Letters, 1856.

Box-folder 1:2-3

Extent

12 items.

D[an] Scurlock, Irving College, to his brother T[heodocius] J[oshua] Scurlock, [Pittsburg, Texas], 8 January 1856.

Box-folder 1:2

Extent 4 pages.ALS.

Scope and Content

Relates how letter had been detoured to mother's house, was "read at home" then sent on to Irving; advises T.J. to settle down and get married; also advises to not travel until decision to make Kansas a

state is made; advises to go to Kansas if it becomes a slave state; mentions a planned act of violence by Negroes near Clarksville [Tennessee] on the Cumberland River; planned to knock us all in the head" and "make themselves free Ladies and Gentleman."; other family news.

G[reen] B. McNeil Phila[delphia] Neshoba County, Mississippi to T[heodocius] Josh[ua] Scurlock [Pittsburg, Texas], 18 February 1856.

Box-folder 1:2

Extent 2 pages.ALS.

Scope and Content

Glad to hear that he is happy, expected him to be "Alabama-sick" [homesick]; has begun farming, finds its hard work; all in good health except mother who has "posey "; other news.

Green B. McNeil, Philadelphia, Nesh[oba County] Miss[issippi] to his friend [Theodocius] Josh[ua] Scurlock [Pittsburg] Texas. 26 April 1856.

Box-folder 1:2

Extent 2 pages.ALS.

Scope and Content

Complains in great length that Josh did not stop to visit on his way to Texas; glad to hear his health has improved with the "Minreul wutter"; inquires about a Negro, John, who held freedman's status; other family news.

S. G. Jones, Laplace [Alabama] to T[heodocius] J[oshua] Scurlock [Pittsburg, Texas], 18 May 1856.

Box-folder 1:2

Extent 2 pages.ALS.

Scope and Content

Relates the marriage of two couples of the area; reports the results of the elections for probate and circuit judge and refers them to their respective parties; have had long dry spell, hasn't been good for the "God of Macon...King cotton"; reports other deaths and gives some family news.

Lucena Scurlock, Macon County Alabama, to her son [Theodocius Joshua Scurlock], 12 June 1856.

Box-folder 1:3

Extent 6 pages.ALS.

Scope and Content

Bill has gotten married, spends great deal of time telling why he shouldn't have "don[e] the deed"; begs son not to go to Central America because climate not good for health; crops are doing well except cotton; inquires about "Ben's wife" who was lost on a boat which was sunk on 20 April 1856; has hired new help who is young and "don't know much"; other family news.

D[an] Scurlock, Irving College to brother T[heodocius] J[oshua] Scurlock [Pittsburg, Texas], 18 June 1856.

Box-folder 1:3

Extent 2 pages.ALS.

Scope and Content

Gives long philosophical and metaphorical arguments about the importance of good health; compares the "excruciating pain" of the invalid to the "vast freedom" of the healthy; will remain at College for 6 week break in isolation as few students have remained.

M.D. Brackmon Henderson, Rusk County Texas, to Mr. T. Thetford, Marshall [County, Texas], 20 July 1856.

Box-folder 1:3

Extent 1 page.ALS.

Scope and Content

Refers to a debt owed by Mr. Scurlock and to Mr. Scurlock's absence at this time; mentions a hired black man in the employ of Mr. Scurlock.

Mr. [?] Rockmore Henderson [Rusk County Texas] to Mr. [T.] Thetford, n.p., 6 Oct. 1856.

Box-folder 1:3

Extent 1 page.ALS.

Scope and Content

Has not heard or seen [Theodoicus Joshua] Scurlock nor has he been in [Texas]; Has not the funds to pay the debt but will soon; refers to a boy [slave] who "has plenty to eat but nothing to do."

Mary Darby, Macon County, Alabama, to her brother [Theodocius Joshua Scurlock], 6 Oct. 1856.

Box-folder 1:3

Extent 4 pages.ALS.

Scope and Content

Pleads with brother to stop his traveling, to buy a home and settle down; claims that hundreds of tears have been shed, thinking he was dead; begs [T.J.] to meet brother Billy in Marshall [Texas] and stay with him.

[Lucena Scurlock], Macon County, Alabama, to her son [Theodocius Joshua Scurlock] [Sulphur Springs, Lampassas County Texas], 6 Oct. 1856.

Box-folder 1:3

Extent 4 pages.2 cys. of AL.

Scope and Content

Glad to receive letter and that he [T.J.] hasn't gone to Nicaragua; sorry to learn he has been "lying on the bed of affliction"; encourages him to go to Marshall [County, Texas] to meet [brother] Bill who has just married; sister has been married; sent 2 letters to different addresses; other family news.

R.W. Montgomery, Webberville Travis county, Texas to T[heodocius] J[oshua] Scurlock, 30 November 1856.

Box-folder 1:3

Scope and Content

Rejects Scurlock's proposition to buy his land in Nepsher County; would like \$3 an acre; doesn't believe land in that area is selling for less.

C.A. Laughlin, Austin City, Texas to his friend [Theodocius Joshua] Scurlock, New Orleans, [Louisiana], 15 Dec. 1856.

Box-folder 1:3

Extent 1 page.ALS.

Scope and Content

Hopes business better for Scurlock than himself; selling out and moving to New Orleans; enjoyed traveling from his town.

Letters, 1857.

Box-folder 1:4

Extent

10 items.

C.A. Laughlin, Shrevertport, Louisiana , to friend [Theodocius Joshua] Scurlock, n.p., 3 March 1857.

Box-folder 1:4

Extent 2 pages.ALS.

Scope and Content

Has returned to "this city" and plans to stay; is pleased by the business prospects; believes could make good profit on investments; likes the amusements of the city.

Lucena Scurlock, "Lockland" [Macon County] Alabama, to her son [Theodocius Joshua Scurlock], n.p., 5 April 1857.

Box-folder 1:4

Extent 2 pages.ALS.

Scope and Content

Has not received word in 3 months; very cold weather and is affecting the crops; very little corn; money is tight; has bought "a negro"; had poor crop last year; other family news.

S.G. Jones, Cross Keys, Macon [County] Alabama, to T[heodocius J][oshua] Scurlock, n.p., 3 May 1857.

Box-folder 1:4

Extent 3 pages.ALS.

Scope and Content

Has had a "very cold and backward spring"; 200 deaths since Xmas from measles; brother is talking about joining U.S. Army; Democrats have full ticket for legislature and County offices; many old whigs have gone Democrat; Democrats only party "able to beat back abolitionists and save our country from ruin"; reports Freeman and Williams lawsuit decided in favor of Williams; other family and town news.

Thomas Harbison, Macon County, Alabama, to friend [Theodocius Joshua Scurlock], n.p., 14 June 1857.

Box-folder 1:4

Extent 2 pages.ALS.

Scope and Content

Relates family is well, brother Dan is home from Tennessee, brother William had measles; will try to visit [T.J.] and that part of country; a few deaths have occurred caused by measles; other town news.

G[reen] B. McNiell Philad[elphia], Neshoba County, Mississippi to his friend [Theodocius] Josh[ua] [Scurlock], n.p., 16 July 1857.

Box-folder 1:4

Extent 2 pages.ALS.

Scope and Content

Glad to have received letter; sorry Josh didn't come to visit; crops doing badly because of cold spring but should make profit in cotton; voted for Buchanan in election as did Josh.

D[an] Scurlock, Tuskegee [Alabama] to his brother [Theodocius Joshua Scurlock], n.p., 11 Aug. 1857.

Box-folder 1:4

Extent 4 pages.ALS.

Scope and Content

In good health; has been trying to find a job; reading law now; married an unnamed woman; crops okay except cotton for which it has been too cold.

S.G. Jones, "Lockland" Macon County, Alabama to T[heodocius] J[oshua] Scurlock, n.p., 30 Aug. 1857.

Box-folder 1:4

Extent 3 pages.ALS.

Scope and Content

Glad to receive letter and all in good health; American Party has won full representation in both Houses of Congress; describes political antics of both parties concerning "burying" the opponent; crops doing well except cotton because of cold; relationship between Jones family and Scurlocks not on firm ground as a result of daughter Mit's husband; other town news.

Lucena Scurlock, "Lockland" [Macon County] Alabama, to son [Theodocius Joshua Scurlock], n.p., 18 Sept. 1857.

Box-folder 1:4

Extent 3 pages.ALS.

Scope and Content

Has not been well but glad to receive letter; crops not very good, cotton getting a high price, about 15 cents; Wishes he could come to visit before she dies; discourages [Josh] to go to Central America as there will be "fighting enuf [sic] to do in your own native land."; other family news.

D[an Scurlock], Tuskegee [Alabama], to brother [Theodocius Joshua Scurlock], n.p., 30 Sept. 1857.

Box-folder 1:4

Extent ALS.

Scope and Content

Has a slight cold; have been several weddings; thinking about going to law school in Tennessee; would like to set up practice in Texas or "other new country,"; other family news.

Thomas S. Cliett, Macon County, Alabama, to T[heodocius] J[oshua] Scurlock, Cubahatched P.O. [Texas], 1 November 1857.

Box-folder 1:4

Extent 1 page.ALS.

Scope and Content

Has the "clap", likes T.J.'s proposition, would like to be doing something; hard times coming on; other family news.

Letters, 1858.

Box-folder 1:5

Extent

11 items.

D[an] Scurlock, LaPlace, Alabama, to his brother T[heodocius] J[oshua] Scurlock, n.p., 5 Feb. 1858.

Box-folder 1:5

Extent 1 page.ALS.

Scope and Content

Just returned home; has a cold; expenses for trip amounted to \$60, Did not need money advanced by T.J.

William M. Johnston, Marshall, Texas to T[heodocius] J[oshua] Scurlock, n.p., 20 Feb[uar]y 1858.

Box-folder 1:5

Extent 1 page.ALS.

Scope and Content

Has on hand \$150 belonging to T.J. received through money order; Mr. Barker has paid nothing on debt; sister sends word T.J. must get married.

G.B. McNeil, Philadelphia, Neshoba County Miss[issippi] to [Theodocius] Josh[ua] Scurlock, 7 March 1858.

Box-folder 1:5

Extent 2 pages.ALS.

Scope and Content

Misses Josh very much, encourages him to come and visit several times; family is well; has been married; other family news.

Dan Scurlock, "Lockland" [Macon County Alabama,] to brother T[heodocius] J[oshua] Scurlock, n.p., 21 Apr. 1858.

Box-folder 1:5

Extent 2 pages.ALS.

Scope and Content

Has received no word since February; refers sarcastically to Cupid and Social Life; reading [law] at home; intends to come to Texas following winter; other family news.

D[an] Scurlock, LaPlace [Alabama] to brother T[heodocius] J[oshua] Scurlock, n.p., 5 May 1858.

Box-folder 1:5

Extent 6 pages.ALS.

Scope and Content

Describes the fashions of LaPlace and the young ladies; crops doing well, plenty of food; convention meeting in Montgomery [Alabama] to discuss dissolving of nation; court system inefficient and overloaded; other family and town news.

G.B. McNeil, Philadelphia, Neshoba County Miss[issippi] to Friend [Theodocius Joshua Scurlock], n.p., 2 June 1858.

Box-folder 1:5

Extent 2 pages.ALS.

Scope and Content

Surprised to hear he is studying medicine although thinks he's too old; married a 45 year old man to his first wife, thought that was strange; has been very ill with chills and fever; crops not very good, winter was too wet.

D[an] Scurlock, "Lockland" [Macon County] Alabama, to brother [Theodocius Joshua Scurlock], 13 July 1858.

Box-folder 1:5

Extent 4 pages.ALS.

Scope and Content

Describes in detail the "examinations" which were attended by all the music lovers; loves young America; still plans to go to Texas to live, would like to practice law there; sister is living in unfortunate situation; encourages him to study medicine; other family news.

N.D. Ward, Marshall, Texas to [Theodocius] J[oshua] Scurlock, n.p., 29 July 1858.

Box-folder 1:5

Extent 1 page.ALS.

Scope and Content

Requests to have bond signed, money given and note returned, in reference to Hart Conyer.

N.D. Ward, Marshall, Texas to T[heodocius] J[oshua] Scurlock, n.p., 18 August 1858.

Box-folder 1:5

Extent 1 page.ALS.

Scope and Content

Has received signed note; rejects offer to sell piece of land to a friend because terms are too long for the low price offered.

Lucena Scurlock, Alabama, to her son [Theodocius Joshua Scurlock], n.p., 1 Sep[tember] 1858.

Box-folder 1:5

Extent 4 pages.ALS.

Scope and Content

Has been ill for 10 days; advises him to not go to New Orleans too early because of Yellow fever; encourages him to write to brother [Dan] to go to law school in Montgomery; other family news.

D[an] Scurlock, n.p. to brother [Theodocius Joshua Scurlock], n.p., 1 Sep[tember] 1858.

Box-folder 1:5

Extent 4 pages.ALS.

Scope and Content

All in good health; have been a few cases of Typhoid fever; crops very good; has been reading [law], feels this year has been a waste, will go back to read [with another lawyer] as before; other family news.

Dan Scurlock, LaPlace [Alabama] to brother [Theodocius Joshua Scurlock], n.p., 1 December 1859.

Box-folder 1:5

Extent 4 pages.ALS.

Scope and Content

Ma has decided to move to Polk County Texas; requests a small house; this has foiled plans for school, will maybe farm in Texas if can't find a school.

Letters and Papers, 1860-1869.

Box 1-2

Extent

38 items.

Letters, 1860

Box-folder 1:6-7

Extent

20 items.

W. Carrie, Pittsburg [Texas?] to [?], Feb. 1860.

Box-folder 1:6

Extent 1 page.ALS.

Scope and Content

Receipt for \$287.50 included; speaks of terms of payment; refers to an unknown lawsuit; has a jug of whiskey and no one to drink it with.

Dan Scurlock, Mt. Pleasant [Texas] to his brother [Theodocius Joshua Scurlock], n.p., 23 March 1860.

Box-folder 1:6

Extent 2 pages.ALS.

Scope and Content

Has made business contacts requested; the due bill has come up in court but they cannot collect on it; and other family news.

Thomas Harbison, Polk County, Texas to friend T[heodocius] J[oshua] Scurlock, n.p., 24 May 1860.

Box-folder 1:6

Extent 2 pages.ALS.

Scope and Content

Land sold to Day and Thompson for \$3 an acre; brother William left for Alabama; corn looks good but cotton is small, haven't had rain since 16 of April; other town news.

Dan Scurlock, Mt. Pleasant, [Texas] to brother [Theodocius Joshua Scurlock], n.p., 31 May 1860.

Box-folder 1:6

Extent 4 pages.ALS.

Scope and Content

Discusses recent emigration to Texas of family and friends from Macon County Alabama; presents some prejudices toward northwesterners; refers to a note coming due; crops good but need rain; refers to the "railroad sensation" in Jefferson which will take some time to settle; other family news.

Thomas Harbison, Polk County Texas, to T[heodocius] Josh[ua] Scurlock, n.p., 22 June 1860.

Box-folder 1:6

Extent 3 pages.ALS.

Scope and Content

Speaks of crops and lack of rain; reports problems with child slave Scurlock left [to his brother]; other family news.

Dan Scurlock Mt. Pleasant [Texas] to brother [Theodocius Joshua Scurlock], n.p., 3 July 1860.

Box-folder 1:6

Extent 3 pages.ALS.

Scope and Content

Making preparations from 4th of July Celebration; have had little rain and temperatures have been up to 98 [F.]; has heard of yellow fever in T.J.'s city, advises him to take care of himself; refers to the drinking habits of friends.

T[obias] G[ibson] Richardson, Louisville, [Kentucky] to [Theodocius Joshua] Scurlock, n.p., 3 July 1860.

Box-folder 1:6

Extent 2 pages.ALS.

Scope and Content

Instructions referring to Scurlock moving out of the house he is living in and what the owner expects will be done by Scurlock in upkeep.

G[reen] B. McNeil. Phila[delphia], N[eshoba] C[ounty], Mississippi, to friend [Theodocius] Josh[ua] Scurlock], n.p., 29 July 1860.

Box-folder 1:6

Extent 4 pages.ALS.

Scope and Content

Family all well; had intended to move to Texas but crops failed, will have to buy corn this year; anxious to see Josh, wants to know why he hasn't married.

Dan Scurlock Mt. Pleasant [Texas] to brother [Theodocius Joshua Scurlock], n.p., 4 August 1860.

Box-folder 1:6

Extent 5 pages.ALS.

Scope and Content

Weather has been very hot, have had no rain, crops are burning, cotton failing, wonders if Texas is "a fit place for civilized men to live", many Western town and private homes have been burned because of the abolition movement, "The people are aroused to a sense of their [the abolitionist's] danger", compares it to Harper's Ferry; refers to T.J.'s thesis, suggests the topic of Tetanus, mentions a case of murder Dan is defending; centering on a Negro who contacted tetanus after a severe whipping.

William Gardner, Pittsburg, Upshur [County] Texas to [Theodocius Joshua Scurlock], n.p., 24 August 1860.

Box-folder 1:6

Extent 1 page.ALS.

Scope and Content

Inquires about a note for several hundred dollars that he has heard nothing about, would like to know what happened to it; shows his discontent with Texas, describes it as "this land of contention where belzebug seems to be prime ruler."

G.B. McNeil, Phila[delphia] Nes[hoba] County, Miss[issippi] to friend [Theodocius Joshua Scurlock] [New Orleans, Louisiana], 29 August 1860.

Box-folder 1:7

Extent 4 pages.ALS.

Scope and Content

Sorry to hear [Scurlock's] mother is dissatisfied with her move to Texas, but has heard many are; the drought continues, has traveled to Alabama and 200 miles up Alabama River and found the drought reaches further; friends wanted to look him up in New Orleans; encourages him to come visit; other family and town news.

T[homas] H. Harbison, Polk County, Texas to T[heodocius] J[oshua] Scurlock, n.p., 4 September 1860.

Box-folder 1:7

Extent 2 pages.ALS.

Scope and Content

All in good health, crops are turning out better than expected; has traded land in Tennessee for land in Texas; reports murder of old man by child in Sumpter [South Carolina], in jail waiting trial; coal is scarce, other family and area news.

Dan Scurlock n.p. to brother [Theodocius Joshua Scurlock], n.p., 4 September 1860.

Box-folder 1:7

Extent 4 pages.ALS.

Scope and Content

Received letter with thesis, contained information they already had, refers to the lawsuit thesis was needed for; finally received rain which rejuvenated crops; health of area has been good, "too much so for the good of the Doctors", refers to murder committed by Jack Taliaferro, includes other town news.

G.B. McNeil, Phila[delphia] Nesh[oba] County Miss[issippi] to friend [Theodocius Joshua Scurlock], n.p., 21 September 1860.

Box-folder 1:7

Extent 3 pages.ALS.

Scope and Content

Begs "Dosh" to come and visit him, outlines how to get to Philadelphia; all are well, has heard from Scurlock's mother who hates Texas and wants to return to Alabama.

R.A. Brown, Baton Rouge, Louisiana to [Theodocius Joshua] Scurlock, n.p., 9 Sept. [18]60.

Box-folder 1:7

Extent 1 page.ALS.

Scope and Content

Promises to pay what he owes in few weeks.

T[homas] H. Harbison, Polk County, Texas to friend T[heodocius] J[oshua] Scurlock, n.p., 10 October 1860.

Box-folder 1:7

Extent 3 pages.ALS.

Scope and Content

Corn crop better than expected; relates robbery charges against men from Polk County and other town news.

Bailey Barton, Pittsburg, Upshur County, Texas to T[heodocius] J[oshua] Scurlock, n.p., 15 October 1860.

Box-folder 1:7

Extent 3 pages.ALS.

Scope and Content

Describes details of common friend's death, also refers vaguely to various other [medical] cases "town is improving, have built a female college and have a Methodist preacher who will convert...the negroes and dogs before they stop", other town news.

Dan Scurlock, n.p. to brother [Theodocius Joshua Scurlock], n.p., 23 Oct. 1860.

Box-folder 1:7

Extent 4 pages.ALS.

Scope and Content

Gives lengthy opinion of upcoming Presidential election between Douglas and Lincoln and also projection and hopes for house and Senate elections; other family news.

Dan Scurlock Mt. Pleasant [Texas] to brother T[heodocius] J[oshua] Scurlock, n.p., 27 Nov. 1860.

Box-folder 1:7

Extent 4 pages.ALS.

Scope and Content

"Bad crops, low water and high prices"; will be traveling back to Polk County before Christmas; gives results of Presidential elections; other family news.

W.W., Corrie, Pittsburg, Texas to Dr. T[heodocius] J[oshua] S[curlock], n.p., 29 Dec. [1860 ?].

Box-folder 1:7

Extent 2 pages.ALS.

Scope and Content

All well; friend has stopped drinking; this friend wants to fight when war begins; [Brother] Dan "fixing n to go see Mother; other news.

Letters and Papers, 1862

Box-folder 2:1

Extent

2 items.

Diploma of Medicine for Theodocius Scurlock from Louisiana University [Tulane] (in Latin), 5 March 1862.

Box-folder 2:1

Extent

1 page.D.S. See medium oversized file.

T.N. Pitts, Pittsburg, Texas to Dr. T[heodocius] J[oshua] Scurlock, n.p., 6 Sept. 1862.

Box-folder 2:1

Extent 2 pages.ALS.

Scope and Content

Hasn't heard from him; corn crops good, leaf worm has injured cotton crops; has decided to study medicine; hopes girlfriend hasn't decided to marry someone else, encourages Scurlock to marry; relates town affairs.

M.W. Davis, Livingston, Polk County [Texas] to friend "Dosh" [Theodocius Joshua Scurlock], n.p., 10 Sep[tember] 1866.

Box-folder 2:1

Extent 2 pages.ALS.

Scope and Content

Asks advice on collecting lawyers in Upshur County, has not gotten judgement on claims of Scurlock's; Frank Bensen has eloped with Darby's wife; cotton crops poor.

Letters, 1867

Box-folder 2:1-2

Extent

14 items.

T[heodocius] J[oshua] Scurlock, Texas State Lunatic Asylum, Austin, Texas to Wilson L. Collins, n.p., 3 January 1867.

Box-folder 2:1

Extent 3 pages.ALS.

Scope and Content

Expresses his opinion about national politics, predicts a military governor for Texas judging by the acts of the "Vandal Congress," has no faith in "Andrew Johnson the chief of drunkards of the Vandal states." Advises to sue, D.J. Kimball for money he owes; has not heard from Pittsburg and will write a "cuss lettr" if they "do not respond".

D[an] Scurlock [Mt. Pleasant, Texas], to brother T[heodocius] J[oshua] Scurlock, n.p., 3 Feb. 1867.

Box-folder 2:1

Extent 4 pages.ALS.

Scope and Content

Has had to harvest his own cotton because he has no laborers; hired no freedmen because of some fights the previous year; will give up farming and maybe sell rugs with Dr. Hendricks; money is hard to come by; [Brother] Bill just recovering from serious illness; other family news.

T[heodocius] J[oshua] Scurlock, Austin City, Texas, to brother Dan Scurlock, Mt. Pleasant, Texas, 3 March 1867.

Box-folder 2:1

Extent 3 pages.ALS.

Scope and Content

Shows very little faith in the "Vandal n government; questions whether Dan has received the horse he sent; business not very good, advises that one should run business on a cash system; relates he has lost about \$200 on a credit based system; had had difficulty with superintendent of Lunatic Asylum, told him what he thought of him and challenged him to a fight, all stemmed from disagreement on treatment of patients; will be leaving soon.

D[an] Scurlock n.p. to brother T[heodocius] J[oshua] Scurlock n.p., 7 April 1867.

Box-folder 2:1

Extent 2 pages.ALS.

Scope and Content

Will begin selling rugs, have ordered supply from New Orleans; hopes doing better in city than would have at Asylum; other family news.

D[an Scurlock] Mt. Pleasant, Texas to AL[?] n.p., 6 June 1867.

Box-folder 2:1

Extent 4 pages.ALS.

Scope and Content

Has not heard from brother [Theodocius Joshua Scurlock] since March; would like any information on him as had heard rumor that he had been killed; selling goods with Dr. Hendricks in "six full stores in Mt. Pleasant".

D[an] Scurlock n.p. to brother [Theodocius Joshua Scurlock], n.p., 24 June 1867.

Box-folder 2:1

Extent 5 pages.ALS.

Scope and Content

Relates rumors that T.J. is dead and how this rumor came about; Long guilt speech about the death of his mother; never received the horse sent to him; other family news.

F.C. Swain, Austin, Texas to friend "Sky" [?] n.p., 14 July 1867.

Box-folder 2:1

Extent 2 pages.ALS.

Scope and Content

Discusses different medical cases and dental cases; relates deaths of acquaintances; has been very ill.

G.B. McNeil Phila[delphia], Nesoba County Miss[issipi] to friend T[heodocius] J[oshua] Scurlock n.p., 2 August 1867.

Box-folder 2:1

Extent 4 pages.ALS.

Scope and Content

Mentions Scurlock has left Austin but not where he's gone; war has ruined him; crops have been good; at home at time of surrender; has begun preaching and serving his God.

F. Carry C. Swain, Waco, Texas to Dr. T[heodocius] J[oshua] Scurlock n.p., 20 Aug[ust] 1867.

Box-folder 2:2

Extent 2 pages.ALS.

Scope and Content

Have been in city 5 days, very different from Austin; many sick town supporting 10-12 Doctors and many drug stores; has met a gay widow with whom he keeps company.

C.M. Etheredge [?], Austin, Texas to Dr. [Theodocius Joshua Scurlock], n.p., 4 Sept. 1867.

Box-folder 2:2

Extent 4 pages.ALS.

Scope and Content

Enquires of a Claiborne Herbert in Columbus, Colorado County; has opened a school but is doing poorly, would appreciate any help Scurlock could give; gives update on doctors [from Austin Lunatic Asylum]; will be leaving Austin soon.

D[an] Scurlock, Mt. Pleasant [Texas] to brother [Theodocius Joshua Scurlock] n.p., 15 September 1867.

Box-folder 2:2

Extent 4 pages.ALS.

Scope and Content

Has been in poor health; crops have been very poor; war has destroyed the South and the "Southern devils have a hard hand of it after we get through a war in which we lose everything"; will continue in business if can.

Louis C. Wise, Austin [Texas] to Dr. [Theodocius Joshua Scurlock] n.p., 17 Sept. 1867.

Box-folder 2:2

Extent 4 pages.ALS.

Scope and Content

Jobs hard to get in Austin; Doctors from Lunatic Asylum did not do well in private practice, have gone to Georgetown; negro notary has been appointed in Austin, other town news.

Harry C. Swain, Waco, Texas, to friend "Sky" [?] n.p., 21 Sept. 1867.

Box-folder 2:2

Extent 3 pages.ALS.

Scope and Content

Did not make as much in business here as in Bastrop; encourages Sky to join him and "Dock" in Austin; Dock will pay his passage to Austin; 2 deaths from yellow fever; enjoying company of "The widow".

Harry Swain, Austin, Texas, to friend "Sky," n.p., 13 Oct. 1867.

Box-folder 2:2

Extent 2 pages.ALS.

Scope and Content

Austin dull place; Gen. [Joseph Jones] Reynolds has arrived to take over department; Boon has located office, not doing well; City covered with grasshoppers; describes as "damb poor country"; "Better be in Hell without claws".

D[an] Scurlock, Mt. Pleasant, Texas to brother [Theodocius Joshua Scurlock], Mexico, 10 Oct. 1869.

Box-folder 2:3

Extent 6 pages.ALS.

Scope and Content

Describes his plans to get in touch with brother; feels government is in bad condition, "Texas will soon pass through to fiery ordeal of what is denominated reconstruction.", expresses his prejudices toward Blacks; begs brother to come back to Texas.

Letters, 1870-1879.

Box-folder 2:3

Extent

6 items.

Letters, 1870

Box-folder 2:3

Extent

4 items.

W.L. Collins, Jefferson, Texas to Dr. T[heodocius] J[oshua] Scurlock, Tuxpan, Mexico, 24 Feb. 1870.

Box-folder 2:3

Extent 2 pages.ALS.

Scope and Content

Expresses opinion of government: "I hope it [government] will sink to the latter most pits of Hell."; has been able to collect some relates town news.

D[an] Scurlock, Mt. Pleasant Texas to brother [Theodocius Joshua Scurlock] n.p., 25 May 1870.

Box-folder 2:3

Extent 7 pages.ALS.

Scope and Content

Waited until Texas was accepted back into the Union; considers this a good gained from

reconstruction; claims Negroes will remain in place they should, inferior position; wants to know about Mexico: politics, commercial facilities and social events; encourages him to come back to the U.S.; other town news.

W.L. Collins, Jefferson, Texas to Dr. T[heodocius] J[oshua] Scurlock, Tuxpan Republic of Mexico, 25 June 1870.

Box-folder 2:3

Extent 4 pages.ALS.

Scope and Content

Relates local political happenings through reconstruction; and some very strong opinions; thanks for the description of Mexico; sends regards of many people and relates other family and town news.

W.L. Collins, Jefferson, Texas to Dr. T[heodocius] J[oshua] Scurlock, Tuxpan "Republick" of Mexico, 6 Aug. 1870.

Box-folder 2:3

Extent 3 pages.ALS.

Scope and Content

Relates his preconception of Mexico; "hopes to see all Democrats elected" in upcoming elections; other town news.

T[heodocius] J[oshua] Scurlock, Tamiahua, Tuxpan, Republic of Mexico to brother [Dan Scurlock] n.p., 18 Ja[nuar]y 1871.

Box-folder 2:3

Extent 4 pages.ALS.

Scope and Content

Does not agree that Democrats have never changed, has been in poor health; is doing well in profession; explains his problems at the Asylum; eating in Mexico is cheap; is studying man; [contains several passages with no meaning].

D[an] Scurlock, Mt. Pleasant Texas, to brother [Theodocius Joshua Scurlock] [Fantima, State of Vera Cruz, Mexico], 25 May 1879.

Box-folder 2:3

Extent 4 pages.ALS.

Scope and Content

Hasn't heard from him in 2 months; encourages him to come visit Mt. Pleasant; claims it will be one of the most important small towns when the railroad is built from St. Louis through Texarkana; is now assessing taxes for the county; other family news; includes envelope.

Letters, 1880-1889.

Box-folder 2:3-4

Extent

16 items.

D[an] Scurlock, Mt. Pleasant, Texas to brother [Theodocius Joshua Scurlock], n.p., 3 March 1882.

Box-folder 2:3

Extent 6 pages.ALS.

Scope and Content

Wife not well with ovarian tumor; has become partner in goods firm; still county tax assessor; receives 6500 for this job; Mt. Pleasant included on Railroad which begins in St. Louis and will go to the Rio Grande to connect with Mexican rail encourages him to come and visit.

T.J. Eckards and J. Tessier, Tuscan [Mexico] to Mr. Teodocio [Theodocius] J. Scurlock, Fantima, Mexico, 20 August 1883.

Box-folder 2:3

Extent 1 page.ALS.

Scope and Content

Received account against Jose Gamundi for \$73.88; has placed credit in his name for \$73.88.

Letters, 1884

Box-folder 2:4

Extent

2 items.

A.M. Boyd, Tuxpan [Mexico] to T[heodocius] J[oshua] Scurlock, M.D., Fantima, Mexico, 26 June 1884.

Box-folder 2:4

Extent 2 pages.ALS.

Scope and Content

Refers to securing claims on oil wells and coal mines; expects that there will be a boom in oil lands after [Mexican] Presidential election; hopes to do some speculating; hopes to settle himself financially for life.

A.M. Boyd Tuxpan, [Mexico] to Dr. T[heodocius] J[oshua] Scurlock, Fantima [Mexico], 5 Nov. 1884.

Box-folder 2:4

Extent 2 pages.ALS.

Scope and Content

Sickness is increasing; has received "Charge of the Vice-consulate property." refers to a matter concerning archives [records of the consulate?], other town news.

Letters, 1886

Box-folder 2:4

Extent

5 items.

D[an] Scurlock Mt. Pleasant, Texas to brother Dr. T[heodocius] J[oshua] Scurlock [Fantina, Mexico], 22 Janu[uar]y 1886.

Box-folder 2:4

Extent 4 pages.ALS.

Scope and Content

Is now working at a bank as a cashier and continues to assess taxes; is living comfortably but still must pay off some debts from Merchandising; family is well and being educated as he would like; refers to the Democratic Victory for Presidency and remarks "that the south is again at the Head of National affairs;" other family news.

Mary D. Pitts, Milledgeville, Georgia to cousin T[heodocius] Josh[ua] Scurlock, [Mexico], 14 March 1886.

Box-folder 2:4

Extent 4 pages.ALS.

Scope and Content

Introduces herself by reminding him of when she was a child; makes a plea for money which she needs; begs him not to pass judgement on her for asking for money.

Claude Scurlock, Mt. Pleasant, Texas to his uncle Dr. T[heodocius] J[oshua] Scurlock, Tamiahua; Mexico, 28 March 1886.

Box-folder 2:4

Extent 5 pages.ALS.

Scope and Content

Gives description of himself: gives family news; describes Mt. Pleasant; asks many questions about Mexico and whether a Doctor could do well there; hopes to study medicine.

Claude Scurlock Mt. Pleasant, Texas to Uncle Dr. T[heodocius] J[oshua] Scurlock, [Mexico], 18 May 1886.

Box-folder 2:4

Extent 6 pages.ALS.

Scope and Content

Gives town news; crops look good, had a hail storm nearby; has chosen medicine as a prospective occupation; town working hard to raise money for railroad to town; includes lineage of Scurlock family.

J. Tessier, Tuscpa[n] [Mexico] to Mr. T[heodocius] J[oshua] Scurlock, Tamiaqua [Mexico], 23 October 1886.

Box-folder 2:4

Extent 1 page.ALS.

Scope and Content

Acknowledges "carta"[?] and list of goods sent to him; will do all in his power as executor of his will to deliver property safely.

Mary M. Harris Mt. Pleasant, Texas to Uncle Dr. T[heodocius] J[oshua] Scurlock, Tamiahua, Mexico, 24 Jan. 1887.

Box-folder 2:4

Extent 4 pages.ALS.

Scope and Content

Questions why he hasn't come to visit; gives description of herself; relates father's [Dan Scurlock] poor health; gives some town news.

Letters, 1888

Box-folder 2:4

Extent

6 items.

William L. Scurlock, Carrigan, Polk County, Texas to J. Tessier, Tuscpa[n] [Mexico], 16 April 1888.

Box-folder 2:4

Extent 1 page.ALS.

Scope and Content

Questions will of Dr. Theodocius [Joshua] Scurlock; inquires whether estate was left to brothers individually and was it lawful under Mexican laws; others are trying to come in on will.

J.Tessier, Tusc[pan] [Mexico] to William J. Scurlock, Corrigan [Polk County] Texas, 5 May 1888.

Box-folder 2:4

Extent 1 page.ALS.

Scope and Content

Not acquainted with Mexican laws but believes the brother [William and Dan] are only benefactors.

J. Tessier, Tuscpán [Mexico] to Daniel Scurlock, Mt. Pleasant, Texas, 14 May 1888.

Box-folder 2:4

Extent 1 page.ALS.

Scope and Content

Remits trunks and a box containing possession of brother [Theodocius Joshua Scurlock]; has sold amputating instruments for \$20 to local hospital; will send due cash as soon as possible.

J. Tessier, Tuscpán [Mexico] to Daniel Scurlock, Mt. Pleasant, Texas, 7 June 1888.

Box-folder 2:4

Extent 2 pages.ALS.

Scope and Content

Assures him possessions have been sent; explains that his brother [Theodocius Joshua Scurlock] did not have a great estate when he died; advises him to contact two friends who knew him; requests a receipt sent to him from [Scurlock's] papers.

D[an] Scurlock, Mt. Pleasant, Titus County Texas to A. G. Pardue, Agt., Southern Express Co. [New Orleans, Louisiana], 9 June 1888.

Box-folder 2:4

Extent 2 pages.ALS.

Scope and Content

Inquiring about possessions of deceased brother [Theodocius Joshua Scurlock] which he has not yet received; requests that he make some enquires; refers to his brother's assassination.

C.A. Pardue, agt. New Orleans, Louisiana to D[an] Scurlock, Mt. Pleasant Texas, 12 June 1888.

Box-folder 2:4

Extent 1 page.ALS.

Scope and Content

Informs him goods have arrived, will pay duties and willship as soon as possible.

Letters, n.d.

Box-folder 2:5

Extent

3 items.

T[heodocius] J[oshua] Scurlock, Tuxpán [Mexico] to [brother Dan Scurlock ?] [Mt. Pleasant Texas], n.d.

Box-folder 2:5

Extent

6 pages, pages 1 and 2 missing.ALS.

Scope and Content

Discusses the advantages of living outside of the U.S.; shows his bitterness toward U.S. politics, racial problems and how the government is taking care of them; defends Mexico as a better place to live; discourages any immigration.

Pages 1 and 2 missing.

L[ucena] Scurlock [Macon County, Alabama] to [son Theodocius Joshua Scurlock] n.p., n.d.

Box-folder 2:5

Extent fragment.ALS.

Scope and Content

Relates Bill Moore's crime of forgery for 50 bales of cotton and his arrest.

Mary P. Darby, n.p. to her brother T[heodocius] J[oshua] Scurlock, n.p., n.d.

Box-folder 2:5

Extent fragment.ALS.

Scope and Content

Begs brother to return to Marshall to comfort Mother and rest of family; relates [sister] 'Mit' has married; also "Beany [?]" was shot dead previous morning.

Diary of Theodocius Joshua Scurlock containing details of Dr. Scurlock's journey from Texas to Tulango, Mexico, December 1867 - April 1869.

Box-folder 2:6

Extent 162 pages.MsV. with TCy.

Scope and Content

Diary of Theodocius Joshua Scurlock containing details of Dr. Scurlock's journey from Texas to Tulango, Mexico; his impressions of the lifestyles of the people he encountered as he traveled south and the novelties he sees and learns about for the first time; and a table of distances traveled, detailed weather reports, and descriptions of the locations and names of towns stayed in. It gives an insight to the questioning nature of Dr. Scurlock and his ability to describe some of the methods of technique he viewed (e.g., medical and spinning). It also contains lists of edible birds and animals, trees for lumber and various fruit trees and vegetables.