

Frances Packette Todd Papers, 1800-1985 A&M 2354

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Title Statement

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Descriptive Summary

Unit ID

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Unit Date

1800-1985

Language

English .

Abstract

Correspondence, photographs, post cards, newspapers, pamphlets (regarding typical antebellum and postbellum topics such as slavery, states rights, etc.), official records including the 1793 marriage license for Lund Washington (George Washington's cousin) and Susanna Grayson, a 1732 shipping order for items, including gold and silver, to be transported from Delaware to London, a 1837 document authorizing payment of a navy pension to the children of Lt. John Packette, and memorabilia of a prominent Jefferson County family, the Davenport-Gibson-Packette-Todds. The bulk of the correspondence is that of Mrs. Frances Packette Todd, Braxton Davenport (Port) Gibson, Susan G. (Zan) Gibson and Mrs. Anne Gibson Packette. Mrs. Todd was an heiress who travelled much in her youth and she was married to a distant cousin, Augustine J. Todd, who, like her, also claimed descent from George Washington's family. Her aunt, Zan Gibson, was an active local historian and genealogist. Her uncle B. D. (Port) Gibson was a lawyer who was a state legislator at the turn of the century. There are letters and artifacts of his days as a student at the University of Virginia where he was quite popular and an esteemed member of the rowing team. There are also several letters of his sisters, Anne and Zan, from a private French school in Canada. There is a shell jacket of a Confederate uniform belonging to Mrs. Todd's grandfather, John Thomas Gibson. He was a non-commissioned officer serving in an engineering unit of the CSA Army which was stationed around Richmond near the end of the Civil War. Gibson also commanded militia units during John Brown's raid on Harpers Ferry in 1859. There are letters of his concerning the hiring out of slaves before and during the war. After the war he once again became successful in business and built a mansion in Charles Town upon the site where John Brown was executed. One other prominent family member was Capt. James Gibson who served in a Virginia infantry regiment stationed at Norfolk during the War of 1812. Subjects covered include family matters, politics, land, slavery, education and warfare.

Creator

Todd, Frances Packette, 1901-1987

Extent

20.67 Linear Feet Summary: 20 ft. 8 in. (44 document cases, 5 in. each); (4 document cases, 2 1/2 in. each); (1 small flat storage box, 3 in.); (3 large flat storage boxes, 3 in. each); (1 large box, 6 in.)

Physical Location

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Repository

West Virginia and Regional History Center

Administrative Information

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Keywords

Charles Town (W. Va.)

Jefferson County (W. Va.)

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

Mexican War, 1846-1848

Slaves and slavery.

United States -- History -- War of 1812

World War, 1914-1918

Brown, John.

Gibson, Braxton Davenport.

Gibson, James.

Gibson, John Thomas.

Gibson, Susan G. (Zan)

Packette, Anne Gibson.

Todd, Augustine J.

Todd, Frances Packette, 1901-1987

Adams family

Davenport-Gibson-Packette-Todd family.

Gibson family

Washington family