

Collection: MONTFORT STOKES PAPERS  
Salisbury, North Carolina  
1783-1819, n.d.

P.C. 102.1

**Physical Description:** 55 items, including letters, bills of sale, certificate, petition, power of attorney, witness tickets, memos.

**Acquisition:** From Biennial Report, 1930-1932, 27 letters to Stokes, 1790-1811, presented by B. D. McCubbins, Salisbury; November 13, 1962, 27 items, letters and court records, transferred from Rowan County records.

**Description:** Montfort Stokes (1762-1842), Revolutionary War soldier and clerk of Superior Court of Rowan County, served in War of 1812, U. S. Senate (1816-1823), N. C. Senate (1826), N. C. House of Representatives (1829-1830), as Governor (1830-1832), and as Indian commissioner and agent (1832-1842). For further biographical information see Dictionary of American Biography, Vol. XVIII, p.67 and North Carolina Historical Review, Vol. XVI (1939) pp. 237-272, 373-403.

Correspondence (1785-1819, n.d.) includes letters to Stokes as clerk of Superior Court in Rowan County, referring to cases, asking aid, requesting transcripts or search of records, relating to depositions, etc. Correspondents include Simon Turner and William Stas of Raleigh, and William Blackledge of Wayne County.

A letter to Stokes (April 7, 1811) from William Phillips, in jail in Salisbury, asks for his help. He sends Stokes "my distressed lady's letters," a character recommendation, and two letters written to him while sheriff at his home in White County, Tennessee. One of these letters (1809) is from John Sevier, recommending Colonel Robert Weakly as candidate for Congress from Phillips' district. Phillips' wife's letters inform him of the state of his business at home, give news of the children, relate her distress at his absence, and urge him to secure bail and return home. She also writes to Stokes petitioning the release of her husband.

Other correspondence includes a letter (1800) to Stokes from Jesse Franklin (U. S. Senator at that time) mentioning a bill relating

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to "mode of deciding disputed elections of president and vice-president of the U. States"; Joseph Gales (1803) writing in regard to copies of the Laws and Journals for use during court; John McKnitt Alexander requesting Stokes to take care of an account for him; his friend, Duncan Cameron (1804, 1807) mentioning among other things dissatisfaction with the judiciary system; William Davidson (1810) relative to selling lottery tickets for the Catawba Company; J[esse] A. Pearson (1810) accusing Stokes of being author of an unsigned publication against Pearson (during a quarrel which later led to a duel between Stokes and Pearson, in which Stokes was wounded); nephew John R. Stokes (1810) writing from Chillicothe, Ohio, relative to land and warrants he was investigating there; and several letters relative to horses and racing.

Miscellaneous items include bills of sale (1790), John Haywood to Henry I[rwin] Toole, and Toole to Stokes, for Negro girl; copy of petition of Stokes as administrator of Alexander Worke's estate, to General Assembly (1809), requesting an act to comply with will of Worke to set several of his slaves free; power of attorney; witness tickets; memorandums; 20 shilling note, N. C. currency, 1783; and other miscellaneous items.

Finding Aids:

Main Entry Card

Geographic Card

Salisbury, N. C.

Autograph Cards

Alexander, J[ohn] Mc[knitt] (1804)

Cameron, Dun[can] (2) (1804, 1807)

Davidson, W[illiam] (1810)

Franklin, J[esse] (2) (1800, 1807)

Gales, Jo[seph] (1803)

Pearson, J[esse] A. (1810)

Sevier, John (1809)

Subject Card

PHILLIPS, WILLIAM--White County, Tennessee, 1810-1811

SOCIAL LIFE AND CUSTOMS--Horse racing, 1804, 1807, 1810

Finding aid completed 19 July, 1967, by Betsy Freshman.