

1824, 1846-1878, 1918, n.d.

**Physical Description:** 48 items: incoming letters, deeds, plats, mortgage, receipts, statement, appointments, and miscellaneous material.

**Acquisition:** Loaned for microfilming by Mr. W. T. Trotter, [REDACTED], Raleigh. Filmed by State Department of Archives and History, February, 1967.

**Description:** James Trotter was born in Alva, Scotland, probably on December 4, 1828; he removed to England when about fifteen years old and to Buncombe County, North Carolina, when about twenty-two years old. While in England, Trotter apparently trained as a landscape gardener or horticulturist, a trade which he continued for a time in America. Sometime prior to the Civil War, he moved to Greenville, South Carolina, where he apparently remained. He was appointed Postmaster of Greenville in 1866 and remained in this position at least until 1882.

The letters in this collection are for the most part from relatives and friends in Scotland and England, and concern family matters. The earliest letter (October 22, 1824) is from Ann Trotter to Mary Trotter, and it seems possible that Ann was James Trotter's mother. Several letters from Mary Buchanan suggest that this may have been Mary Trotter's married name.

A letter from D. Buchanan to Trotter, dated May 2, 1860, states that a Mr. Wilson, a teller in the National Bank of Scotland, Edinburgh, was James Trotter's father. It adds, "So your name is quite correct"; but the meaning of this is not clear. Another letter of Buchanan, dated February 19, 1861, informs Trotter that he (Trotter) was born December 4, 1838; but it is probable that 1838 should be 1828, as a statement by Andrew Brown, Alva Parish minister, dated February 6, 1850, indicates that Trotter would have been about twenty-two years old at that time.

D. Buchanan's letter of February 19, 1861, further expresses some anxiety for Trotter's safety in light of the talk of civil war, and it outlines a code which Trotter can use to pass news back to England.

A letter, dated November 12, 1865, from Reuben Tomlinson, Superintendent of Education for South Carolina, orders Trotter to "proceed to Anderson S. C. and do all in your power to establish a school in that place for Colored children." No further information on the outcome of this is included in the collection.

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With one exception (1918), there are no letters after 1865. Several commissions for Trotter's appointment as Postmaster of Greenville, three deeds and plats for land there, and a mortgage<sup>1865</sup> included, along with several miscellaneous items. The last dated item in the collection is a letter of June 25, 1918, from Private Charles F. Tankersly, Jr., 120th Infantry Regiment, A. E. F., from "Somewhere in France," to Mrs. J. W. Trotter, Wilmington, N. C.

See also W. T. Trotter Collection, eighteen letters, 1860-1876 and n.d., having no apparent relation to the James Trotter Papers.

Finding Aids:

Main Entry Card

Subject Cards

WAR--CIVIL (Letter-- Feb. 19, 1861.)

Finding Aid completed February 23, 1967, by C. F. W. Coker.