

**Collection:** FERGUSON, ELIAS, PAPERS  
Gaston, North Carolina

**P.C.** 1229

1842-1873

**Physical Description:** c. 325 items; letters, bills, receipts, promissory notes, bills of sale, summons and depositions, and broadsides.

**Acquisition:** Gift: Mr. Robert F. Hester, [REDACTED], Wendell, N. C. Received August 30, 1963. Accessioned July 23, 1965.

**Description:** These are letters and records of Elias Ferguson, slave trader of Gaston, North Carolina.

Letters (1853-1866) addressed to Ferguson relate his suit against the Greenville Railroad Company; contain descriptions of Negroes purchased or for sale, quote prices for men and women, boys and girls, and reports on the market. A relative writing from Louisiana after the War Between the States complains of the difficulties in hiring and feeding Negroes on worn-out land and his refusal to allow them to remain unless they contract to work. Ferguson's letters to traders in Lynchburg and Richmond are inquiries about the market - prices and availability of slaves.

Miscellaneous items include: bills and receipts (1842-1873) for medical expenses, room and board, clothes and food; promissory notes (1842-1869); accounts (1841-1861) for sales of corn, cotton, etc.; summons and depositions (1852-1858); tax records (1844-1854); slave records (1857-1858), pass, descriptions; notices of auction sales (1855); receipts and bills of sale for slaves (1851-1859); overseer of the poor accounts (1849); and broadside advertisements.

Scrapbook entitled "E. W. Ferguson, Slave Trader, Personal Papers, Business Papers, Pictures, Report (1835-1839)," United States History Project by Mary Jo. Hester, January 12, 1962, was included with the papers. This is available on microfilm (P.C. mf.68). The scrapbook was taken apart, and the letters and papers were interfiled with the rest of the collection.

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Finding Aids:

Main Entry Card

Geographic Card

Gaston County, North Carolina

Subject Card

SLAVERY—Letters and records of slave trader, 1842-1873

Finding Aid completed by Beth Crabtree, June 7, 1967.