

Collection: GRANT, DOROTHY FREMONT Collection
Wilmington, New Hanover County
Smithville, Brunswick County
Rockingham, Richmond County

P.C. 1436.1

1773-1893, 1954

Physical Description: 270 items; correspondence, business accounts, receipts, land grants, deeds, agreements, leases, tax receipts, license, commissions, certificate, log, newspapers and newspaper clippings, programs, invitations, menu, advertisements, insurance policies, bill of sale, oaths, testimonials, postcard, negative, etc.

Acquisition: Donated by Mrs. Douglas (Dorothy Fremont) Grant, ██████████
██████████, Asheville, N. C., October 27, 1969, with additions on January 28 and April 29, 1970.

North Carolina State Archives
Raleigh, North Carolina

Description: Biography--Sewall Lawrence Fremont (1816-1886); born in New Hampshire; graduated from U.S. Military Academy; army duty in Smithville [Southport] and in War with Mexico [see index to Governors Calendars, 1847-1848]; married Mary Elizabeth Langdon, daughter of Richard Langdon of Smithville, 1848; enroute to duty in California with 3rd Regiment, U. S. Artillery, Fremont and family survived wreck of steamer San Francisco, 1853. Resigned commission; superintendent of Wilmington and Weldon Railroad Company, 1855-1871. [Town of Fremont in Wayne County on the Wilmington and Raleigh Railroad named for S. L. Fremont in 1869.] Served during first year of Civil War as colonel in the state militia, coastal artillery defenses. During last decade of his life was employed by federal government as a civil engineer; died age 70 in Memphis, May, 1886; buried in Oakdale Cemetery, Wilmington. Additional biographical information in collection.

Records of the 18th century until the Civil War are primarily land grants and deeds, 1773-1859, for property in Smithville, Wilmington, and Richmond County acquired by Fremont in the 1860s. Other antebellum documents, exclusive of land records, include stock certificate (xerox copy), 1848; life insurance policies for \$3,000 and \$5,000, 1854-1855; law license (parchment) for Samuel Langdon, Fremont's brother-in-law, signed by the justices of the N. C. Supreme Court, 1853; bill of sale for slaves, 1858; life insurance policy for female slave, 1860; fire insurance policies for house and furniture, Smithville, \$15,000 in 1854 and \$23,000 in 1860 and 1882; Wilmington newspapers of 1854 and 1856 with death notices for Fremont's daughters; and memorabilia of the wreck of the steamer San Francisco in 1853.

GRANT, DOROTHY FREMONT Collection
Wilmington, New Hanover County
Smithville, Brunswick County
Rockingham, Richmond County
1773-1893, 1954

P.C. 1436.1

-2

DESCRIPTION (cont'd)

Wreck of the San Francisco, 9 items, 1853-1854, 1954, n.d. The San Francisco departed New York harbor bound for California, December 22, 1853, with 712 persons on board, including ca. 500 officers and men of the 3rd U. S. Artillery Regiment. Lt. Sewall L. Fremont, regimental quartermaster and acting adjutant of the regiment, was accompanied by his wife and three children (ages 1, 3, and 4). The ship was struck by a hurricane on Christmas Eve; all the Fremonts survived and were returned to New York aboard the Lucy Thompson, January 13, 1854. In the collection are a pamphlet, "The Wreck of the Steamer San Francisco," (Marine Historical Association, Inc. Mystic [Seaport], Conn., 1954); abstract log of the San Francisco, December 22, 1853-January 5, 1854 [negative photocopy from records of the Weather Bureau, National Archives]; newspaper accounts from four New York City papers of January, 1854 [negative photocopies]; article, Harper's New Monthly Magazine, [February, 1854], pp. 404-407; postcard of interior of St. Cornelius Chapel, Governors Island, New York, where there is a memorial plaque for the more than 200 persons lost in the wreck; and a 5 x 7 negative of a Currier print of the wreck with the Three Bells and Antarctic standing by [see John Greenleaf Whittier's poem, "The Three Bells"].

CIVIL WAR PERIOD, 1861-1865

Correspondence: Four letters of 1861 concern Fremont's detachment from his railroad duties for temporary duty as colonel in the militia; three letters of February-March, 1862, indicate railroad duties prevent his taking command of the militia in Wilmington. Other items of interest: a promissory note for 12-months rent on a house in Wilmington for \$4,000 in Confederate money, 1864; a telegram of April 3, 1865, from General W. T. Sherman, Goldsboro, to Union officer at Magnolia with message to Fremont that railroad property will be confiscated and that Sherman regards Fremont as a man who abandoned his country. A three-page letter of July 18, 1865, from Sherman in St. Louis to Fremont enlarges on Fremont's failure to support the Union, notes that the fury of Sherman's army was not loosed on North Carolina, and discusses the nature of governments. [These two documents from Sherman are photocopies of originals at the U. S. Military Academy, West Point.]

Commission and Appointments: N. C. Militia, colonel, chief of artillery, February 25, 1861; Confederate States of America, colonel, artillery corps of provisional army (apparently not accepted), February 27, 1862; appointment as proxy for state at stockholders' meeting, Wilmington and Weldon Railroad Company, 1863.

GRANT, DOROTHY FREMONT Collection
Wilmington, New Hanover County
Smithville, Brunswick County
Rockingham, Richmond County
1773-1893, 1954

P.C. 1436.1

-3

CIVIL WAR PERIOD, 1861-1865 (cont'd)

Blockade Runners: Letters, bills of lading, receipts for cotton shipments from Wilmington to Nassau, Bahamas, and St. Georges, Bermuda, and return shipments of miscellaneous goods. There are 16 items for the Nassau trade, June 13, 1863-July 22, 1865, carried in [13] ships including the Hausa, Advance, Falcon, and Fannie; most of this trade is with Martin and Co. The Bermuda papers consist of 34 items, January 15, 1864-July 19, 1865, associated with commission merchant, William P. Campbell, with [19] ships involved, including many also on the Nassau run. A note of June 21, 1864, from Campbell acknowledges Fremont's request that his shipments of cotton be sold in St. Georges and not in England.

Land Speculation: A deed dated February, 1864, indicates that S. L. Fremont, Lucretia Russell, and Mary J. Langdon purchased from Randall Scott McDowell, ca. 13,000 acres in Richmond County for \$50,000 in Confederate money.

Miscellaneous: Oaths of Allegiance to the United States sworn before justice of the peace in Halifax County by Edward Conigland and P. H. Langdon, June-July, 1865.

POST-WAR PERIOD, 1866-1880

Miscellanea from the post-war period include (1) invitations to commencement exercises and/or balls for the University of Louisiana (law and medical departments), 1870; Bingham School, Mebanville, 1871; Virginia Military Institute, 1871; and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, 1876 (F. M. Fremont, chief marshal) (2) invitations to "hops" from the Western North Carolina Agricultural and Mechanical Fair Association, 1872; from Kittrell's Springs [hotel], 1872, listing 46 managers [guests]; complimenting Mr. and Mrs. H. Bond, Bond's Hall, Enfield, 1875 from the gentlemen of Tarboro complimenting Mr. and Mrs. J. D. Battle and Mr. and Mrs. E. R. Stamps at Howard Hall, 1876 (February 22); (3) programs for benefit performances at the Wilmington Male and Female Seminary, 1866 and Thalian Hall, 1867; (4) advertisements for the N. C. Polytechnic Academy, Hillsborough (chartered, 1860-1861, renewed, 1867), one is a 4-page synopsis of a five-year course and special course of engineering and lists staff, expenses, etc., n.d.; (5) broadside, Wilmington Journal [Extra], March 22, 1871, announcing Governor W. W. Holden's conviction on the last six articles of impeachment [other news items on page]; (6) menu, complimentary dinner to Colonel J. R. Davis, proprietor of the Purcell House, by the citizens of Wilmington at Purcell House, 1868.

GRANT, DOROTHY FREMONT Collection
Wilmington, New Hanover County
Smithville, Brunswick County
Rockingham, Richmond County
1773-1893, 1954

P.C. 1436.1

-4

POST-WAR PERIOD, 1866-1880 (cont'd)

Also included is a form letter from S. B. Parks and Co., New York, 1870, offering counterfeit money for sale; a letter dated August 25, 1875, from Jefferson Davis in Memphis declining an invitation to the Cape Fear Agricultural Fair and to a reunion of the survivors of Fort Fisher; and a printed booklet of testimonials to Colonel Fremont on his retirement from the Wilmington and Weldon Railway Company, 1871. A letter of 1880 to Fremont from J. L. Hathaway of New York describes a meeting with Captain C. B. Pendleton of the Lucy Thompson at a Catskill summer resort and a letter of September, 1880, from the captain himself reminisces over his part in the rescue of survivors of the steamer San Francisco in 1853 (the latter is a xerox copy of the original letter given to the U. S. Military Academy, West Point). Life member certificate to Fremont from the Cape Fear Agricultural Association, 1869; and Atlanta, Georgia, newspapers of 1886, with accounts of Confederate Memorial Day celebrations and a reunion of Confederate veterans.

LAND PAPERS, Richmond County.

Grants and Deeds [courses and plats], 1773-1817, to George Collins, William Coulter, Elisha Collins, Daniel McDonald, Archibald McDonald, and Alexander McDonald; 1850-1859, to Malcolm L. Douglass, Alexander McDonald (2) and his son Randall Scott McDonald (10), Martin R. McDonald (2), Edwin Covington; John C. McKinnon, Neil B. McKinnon, James H. Covington, Eli Terry, Addison G. Terry, Thomas S. Lutterloh, Alexander Murchison; 1864 to Randall S. McDonald, Sewall L. Fremont et al.

Leases for working turpentine boxes, 1869-1874, from S. L. Fremont to (1) James H. Aycock, (2) Richmond Naval Stores Company, Frank Wooten, president; (3) James H. Aycock, Samuel W. Vick, and C. P. Mebane (firm of Vick and Mebane), and (4) James A. Cameron and Company.

Correspondence concerning acquisition, title, disputes, etc. of the Richmond County land, 1864-1885. Of special interest is material on attempts to attract immigrants to colonize on these lands in 1884-1886; an agreement in 1884 with Vivion des Lauriers of New York outlines a plan for the sale of 5,000 acres to be laid out in 100-acre tracts for sale to immigrants from France and Switzerland for the cultivation of fruits, vegetables, and silk cocoons. Another colonizing effort is reflected in three letters and an advertisement from Tilmon R. Gaines, 1885-1886, manager of the North Carolina Agency of New York with a plan to sell small 10-20 acre tracts to immigrants. The advertisement offers free passage to heads of household seeking land along the route of the Seaboard Air Line Railroad with a map showing the route of the railroad (Weldon to Hamlet, connecting with the Carolina Central Railroad for Rutherfordton). The

GRANT, DOROTHY FREMONT Collection
Wilmington, New Hanover County
Smithville, Brunswick County
Rockingham, Richmond County
1773-1893, 1954

P.C. 1436.1

-5

LAND PAPERS, Richmond County (cont'd)

letters of 1886 indicate that Fremont had contracted with Gaines as manager of the Southern Land and Navigation Company to sell his "14,000 acres for \$15,000."

LAND PAPERS, Brunswick County

Deeds: 1836, house and lot #48 Smithville, Peggy Ward to Robert J. Potts; 1845, [house] and 200 acres on White Springs Creek, John L. Hewett to Thomas L. Wescot. Residence of Richard Langdon, deceased, on lots #46 and 47, Smithville, conveyed to his son-in-law S. L. Fremont in one-third shares by Samuel Langdon, 1854; Sterling E. Langdon, 1856; and Sterling E. Langdon [now living in Cameron County, Texas], 1860. A deed of 1843 to Cuffee Russ, a free Negro of Brunswick County, conveyed 107 acres of the "Savannah Place" and adjoining tracts for \$250.00.

LAND PAPERS, New Hanover County

Deeds conveying half of lots #77 and 78 in Wilmington to Bradford Sherman, 1837; Dugald A. Lamont, 1851; and Mary E. Fremont, wife of S. L. Fremont, 1867.

Arrangement of Papers:

P.C. 1436.1	Folder	1	General Correspondence, 1861-1893
			Business Papers
		2	Blockade Running, Nassau, 1863-1865
		3	Blockade Running, Bermuda, 1864-1865
		4	Life Insurance, 1854-1864
		5	Fire Insurance, 1854, 1882, 1884
		6	Misc. Receipts/Accounts, 1854-1880
		7	Stock Certificates, 1848
			Land Papers
		8	Correspondence, Richmond Co., 1864-1886
		9	Grants and Deeds, Richmond Co., 1773-1817
		10	Grants, Richmond Co., 1850-1851
		11	Deeds and Courses, Richmond Co., 1856-1869
		12	Plats and Courses, Richmond County, 1873-1891
		13	Misc. Plats, Richmond Co., n.d.
		14	Leases, Richmond Co., 1870-1974
		15	Deeds, Brunswick Co., 1836-1860
		16	Deeds, New Hanover Co., 1837-1870
		17	Tax Receipts, county, 1868-1885
		18	Tax Receipts, federal, 1870-1871

GRANT, DOROTHY FREMONT Collection
Wilmington, New Hanover County
Smithville, Brunswick County
Rockingham, Richmond County
1773-1893, 1954

P.C. 1436.1

-6

Arrangement of Papers (cont'd)

- P.C. 1436.1 Folder 19 Slave Papers
Bill of Sale, 1858
Life Insurance Police, 1860
- 20 Advertisements
Kittrell's Springs Female College, 1867
Kittrell's Springs [Hotel], 1870
Wilmington Male & Female Seminary, 1870
N. C. Military & Polytechnic Academy, [1867] (2)
- 21 Appointment, state proxy
Wilmington & Weldon Railroad Co.
- 22 Certificate, Cape Fear Agricultural
Association, 1869
- 23 Commissions, N. C. State Militia, 1861;
Confederate States of America, 1862
- 24 Invitations
University of Louisiana Commencement
(Law & Medical Departments), 1870
Bingham School, Mebaneville, Commencement,
(Polemic & Kalisthenic Societies), 1871
Virginia Military Institute, Commencement
Ball, 1871
Kittrell's Springs, Hop & Cotillion Party,
1872
West N. C. Agricultural & Mechanical Fair
Association, Ball, 1872
University of North Carolina, Commencement,
1876
Enfield, Bond's Hall, Hop for Mr. and Mrs.
H. Bond, 1875
Tarboro, Howard Hall, Hop for the J. D.
Battles & E. R. Stamps, 1876
Terpsichorean Club, Lippitt's Hall, Series
of Hops, n. d.
- 25 License, Law, 1853
- 26 Menu, Purcell House, Wilmington, 1868

GRANT, DOROTHY FREMONT Collection
Wilmington, New Hanover County
Smithville, Brunswick County
Rockingham, Richmond County
1773-1893, 1954

P.C. 1436.1
-7

Arrangement of Papers (cont'd)

P.C.1436.1	Folder	Newspapers
	27	Wilmington, 1854, 1856, 1886
	28	Wilmington, broadside, Holden's Impeachment, 1871
	29	<u>Atlanta Constitution</u> , Confederate Memorial
	30	Day, 1866; Confederate Veterans Reunion, 1866
	31	Massachusetts
	32	Oaths of Allegiance, 1865
	33	Programs Wilmington Male & Female Seminary, 1866 Thalian Hall (2), 1867
	34	Testimonials (printed), 1871
	35	Shipwreck, <u>S. S. San Francisco</u> , 1853-1854, 1954
	36	Miscellaneous

Finding Aids

Main Entry Cards

Date Cards

1850-1858

1861-1869

1870-1876

1882-1886

Geographic Cards

Brunswick County, Smithville

New Hanover County, Wilmington

Richmond County

Autograph Cards

Bryan, H. B., 1865

Davis, Jefferson, 1875

Everett, W. J., 1873, 1874

Fremont, Sewall L., 1861², 1872, 1883

Gaines, Tilman R., 1885, 1886

Gibson, Joseph, 1885

GRANT, DOROTHY FREMONT Collection
Wilmington, New Hanover County
Smithville, Brunswick County
Rockingham, Richmond County
1773-1893, 1954

P.C. 1436.1

-8

Finding Aids (cont'd)

Autograph Cards (cont'd)

Hathaway, J. L. 1880
Hawkins, W. J., 1872
Langdon, Paul H.
Langdon, R. T., 1886
McDonald, Randall Scott, 1864
Martin, James G., 1862²
Pendleton, C. B., 1880
Sherman, William T., 1865²
Steele, Walter L., 1867, 1869, 1870
Winslow, Warren, 1861²

Subject Cards

AGRICULTURE, Fairs
BERMUDA, St. Georges
BROADSIDE
COLONIZATION, Richmond County
CONFEDERATE MEMORIAL DAY, 1886
CONFEDERATE VETERANS, 1886
COMMERCE AND BUSINESS, Turpentine
CONIGLAND, EDWARD
COUNTERFEIT MONEY
CUNNINGHAM, G.A.
DAVIS, J. R.
EDUCATION, Colleges/Universities, University of North Carolina, 1876
EDUCATION, Private, Bingham School, Kittrell's Springs Female College,
N. C. Military and Polytechnic Academy, Wilmington Male &
Female Seminary.
ENFIELD, Halifax County
HOLDEN, WILLIAM WOODS
HILLSBOROUGH
HOTELS, INNS, TAVERNS
INSURANCE, Fire and Life Insurance Policies
INVITATIONS, 1870-1876
KITTRELL'S SPRINGS
LANGDON, PAUL H.
LANGDON, SAMUEL
LAW AND LAWYERS
LOUISIANA
NASSAU
NEGROES - Before 1865, Bill of Sale, 1858; Life Insurance Policy, 1860,
Free Negro, deed, 1843

GRANT, DOROTHY FREMONT Collection
Wilmington, New Hanover County
Smithville, Brunswick County
Rockingham, Richmond County
1773-1893, 1954

P.C. 1436.1

-9

Finding Aids (cont'd)

Subject Cards (cont'd)

NEWSPAPERS

N.C. - SUPREME COURT

PROGRAMS, 1866-1867

RAILROADS, Wilmington and Weldon Railroad Co.

RAILROADS, Seaboard Air Line

RECIPES, RECIPE BOOKS, MENUS

RECONSTRUCTION

RICHMOND COUNTY

S. S. SAN FRANCISCO

SMITHVILLE, Brunswick County

STOCK CERTIFICATES

TARBORO, Edgecombe County

TAXATION

THALIAN HALL

TURPENTINE

VIRGINIA

WAR - CIVIL WAR, Commission

Confederate Money

Blockage Running

Militia

WILMINGTON

WINDER, JOHN H.

Finding Aid completed 13 July 1976 by Ellen Z. McGrew