

1796-1876

Physical Description: Letters, accounts, poems, sketches. 173 items.

Acquisition: Gift of Miss Pattie Mordecai, Mimosa Street, Raleigh,
North Carolina.
June 22, 1944.

Division of Archives and Manuscripts
State Department of Archives and History
Raleigh, North Carolina

Description: Jacob Mordecai (1762-1838) settled in Warrenton, North Carolina (1789) and after failing in business opened a female seminary (1809) assisted by his daughters Rachel and Ellen and son Solomon. In 1818 he retired to a farm near Richmond and moved to the city in 1829. By marriage to two sisters, he had a large family. Judith's children were: Moses, Rachel, Ellen, Solomon, Samuel, and Caroline; Rebecca's were: George W., Alfred, Augustus, Julia, Eliza, Emma, and Laura. Moses was a prominent lawyer in North Carolina; Samuel was a merchant in Richmond; George was a lawyer and president of the Raleigh and Gaston Railroad (1840) and of the State Bank in North Carolina (1845); Augustus farmed near Richmond; Emma engaged in educational and religious work; Rachel married and moved to Wilmington, North Carolina; Ellen lived to be ninety-three and wrote an unpublished novel on Warrenton, North Carolina; Henry was a lawyer in Raleigh, ? (Moses) where he married the two daughters of Joel Lane; Solomon was a physician in Mobile, Alabama; Caroline married Achilles Plunkett and continued her father's school; Alfred was a major in the United States Army and held a number of important posts; Eliza married her cousin Sam H. Myers; Laura, the youngest, died in 1839; and Julia remained at home.

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The collection contains 144 letters. These (1796-1876) are from members of the family to one another and with the generation of niéces and nephews. Family affairs, the school at Warrenton, trips taken, events of the day, comprise the subject matter. From 1810-1818 Rachel writes Samuel of the progress and workings of the school; of Washington, D. C. and of the capitol under construction, of Georgetown and Alexandria. Refugees flight to Warrenton during the War of 1812; slave insurrections in Virginia and Wilmington, North Carolina are related; the Raleigh fire of 1833 is described; the funeral of President Adams (1848) is viewed by members of the family; Natural Bridge and the Blue Ridge are described; a trip from Richmond to New York, by boat, is related. A letter to a member of the family from Mrs. S. P. Lewis (1864) describes depredations in Monroe County, Virginia, and a mutilated diary (1865) describes four days, April 13 - 17. Letters of Emma Mordecai and Marcus Ward, governor of New Jersey, give the southern and northern sentiments relative to the war. From 1868-1876 George W. Mordecai, Jr., writes his Aunt Emma of his life in California.

Work Sheet

P. C. 185.1

NAME OF COLLECTION: MORDECAI, PATTIE, Collection (ADDITION)

DATES: 1826, 1828, 1835

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: 3 items; letters

ACQUISITION INFORMATION: Received March 22, 1967; gift of Miss Elizabeth M. Montgomery, [REDACTED], Raleigh. (Received with P.C. 1335, and covered by contract attached to acquisitions record thereof.) Accessioned May 12, 1967.

HISTORY AND DESCRIPTION: _____

Letter, January 8, 1826, Ellen Mordecai to Dr. Mordecai; letter, February 3, 1828, Caroline Mordecai Plunkett to Ellen Mordecai; letter, August 20, 1835, E. H. Mitchell to Ellen Mordecai; discuss mostly family matters.