

Collection: NEY, PETER STUART [STEWART], PAPER[S]
[Rowan County, N. C.]

P.C. 800.1

1908, 1972, n.d.

Physical Description: 3 items; reminiscence, dictionary page, lecture.

Acquisition: Biennial Report, 1914-1916, reminiscence presented by the Honorable O. H. Allen, Kinston; xerox copy of lecture sent by P. Martin, 1 Impasse des Ecuries, 78 Versailles, France.

Description: Peter Stewart Ney, according to his declaration of intent to become an American citizen in Bennettsville, S. C. in 1820, was born in Scotland, 1787. He died in Rowan County in 1846. From 1819 until 1846 he taught in schools, mainly in North Carolina, but also in South Carolina and Virginia. The widely-held belief that he was actually Marshal Michel Ney who served with Napoleon has been given extensive treatment in print, especially in the following books: James Weston, Historic Doubts as to the Execution of Marshal Ney, 1895; J. Edward Smoot, Marshal Ney; Before and After Execution, 1929; and Legette Blythe, Marshal Ney, A Dual Life, 1937.

In this collection is a nine-page manuscript, "Reminiscences of Peter Stewart Ney, the Great Marshal of France," written by one of Ney's pupils, James H. Foote, Roaring River, Wilkes County, 1908. Mr. Foote records his schoolboy memories of Ney, quotes two poems by Ney and the text of a letter from the "son of your old school teacher who was the great Marshal of France. s/E. M. C. Neyman," Saltillo, Indiana, March 18, 1908.

Also included is a negative photostat of a page from a Latin dictionary with the signature "Peter S. Ney" on the margin "presumed to be one of the books in a library bought by Dr. James Henning Lane, near Bennettsville, S. C., date of purchase unknown"; and a photocopy of a lecture delivered by Mrs. Dorothy MacKay Quynn at the 1'Institut Napoleon in 1950 and published in the Revue de l'Institut Napoleon, No. 125, Oct-Dec, 1972. The title of the lecture, which was based on a manuscript

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written for the "American government," is "The Death of a Legend: The Survival of Ney in America." (translation attached to photocopy).

Finding Aids:

Main Entry Card

Date Card

1908

Autograph Card

Foote, James H.

Subject Card

NEY, PETER STEWART

See Also: N. C. Archives--P.C. 48.1, William Henry Hoyt Collection.
Southern Historical Collection--William Henry Hoyt Papers.

Finding Aid completed 31 December 1972 by Ellen Z. McGrew.