

Collection: BIGGS, KADER, PAPERS  
Bertie County, North Carolina

P.C. 215.1-215.3

1787; 1837-1849

**Physical Description:** Letters, invoices, bills of lading, due bills, receipted bills, promissory notes, bills of exchange, bonds, accounts, advertisements, will. 372 items.

**Acquisition:**

**Description:** Kader Biggs and his brother Joseph D. were merchants operating stores in Windsor and Williamston. They apparently dissolved their partnership in 1845 and by a settlement made at that date Kader took the store and assets in Windsor. He continued his store in Windsor under the name of Miller and Biggs in 1847 and 1848. A North Carolina newspaper (1854) advertized Kader Biggs & Co., Commission Merchants in Norfolk. Biggs was postmaster at Windsor in 1847 and the following year was a member of the House of Commons.

Much of the correspondence and other material in the collection relate to Biggs' business. Business correspondence is addressed to Biggs & Bros. (1841-1843), to Kader Biggs (1846), and to Miller & Biggs (1847-1848). These are letters from commission merchants, manufacturers, and importers in New York, Philadelphia, Baltimore, Norfolk, and Charleston. Others are from agents in Norfolk, Edenton, and Plymouth who received merchandise shipped from the north and transported it to Windsor or Williamston; they also arranged for the shipment of local produce to northern markets. Biggs apparently exported cypress shingles and staves, fish, and some crops. Customers for these products, particularly fish, sent orders from Virginia, Baltimore, Gaston, Halifax, Murfreesboro, and Weldon. A few letters relate to arrangements with persons who supplied Biggs with fish for export. Several are from manufacturers within the State - Rocky Mount, Franklin, and Smithfield.

1787; 1837-1849

Biggs received letters, while in New York on business trips, from his employee in Windsor, reporting on how things were going during his absence. His brother Joseph wrote of arrangements for securing merchandise and comparing sales records of the two stores in Williamston and Windsor. Other members of the family writing Kader were his brother William from Vicksburg and New Orleans telling of operating a store at those places; from his brother Asa relating news of the legislature; and from a sister "L. F." giving family news.

Bills of lading, invoices, receipted bills, and advertisements indicate the variety of merchandise purchased - glass, china, books, cloth and other dry goods, shoes, nails, hats, fancy goods, etc. and such staples as salt, crackers, flour, and molasses. Some of the bills are for personal purchases. An account record (1841-1845) shows the assets and liabilities of Biggs & Bros. and disposition of the property when the brothers ended their partnership.

#### WILLIAM F. G. PIERCE PAPERS AND OTHER ITEMS

In the Kader Biggs Papers are several miscellaneous items and a number of letters and other papers addressed to William F. G. Pierce at Williamston and Windsor (1837-1849. These include the will of Elizabeth Pierce (1847), bonds, and due bills. Some of the receipted bills are personal items for Pierce and other members of his family, and some are for the firm of Gray & Pierce. There are bills of lading and invoices, and passes allowing slaves to go to William Pierce's for hire. Pierce apparently shipped cypress shingles and staves, employing slave labor for this purpose. Correspondence (1840-1849) includes letters from the Superintendent of the Eastern Asylum at Williamsburg, Virginia, relative to the admission of Elizabeth Pierce (a sister) there and reporting on her progress. There are inquiries from James Hamilton in Charleston about shingle splitting on the Roanoke River and possibilities for this industry on the Savannah; from A. Joyner at Weldon and Raleigh relative to the sale or rental of his plantation; from a brother, M. G. Pierce, in Texas; from residents of Gates County in regard to contracts for labor; and from New York and Philadelphia merchants quoting market prices and sales of shingles and staves.

Among the other miscellaneous items are: a description of a piece of land signed by jurors appointed to lay off the dowry of Penelope Hare to the lands of her deceased husband on Cypress Creek and the Roanoke River (1787); and an account of Edmund Fleetwood, guardian, with his ward, Thomas Reddick (1817-1820).

Collection: BIGGS, KADER, PAPERS - Addition  
Bertie County, North Carolina

P.C. 215.4-215.11

1841-1851

1814-1818

Physical Description: Letters, bills, receipts, and account books. 8 boxes.

Acquisition: Transferred from the Bertie County records.

1963, January, 1963

Description: Kader Biggs received letters from his brother William in Vicksburg and New Orleans, Joseph D. in Williamston, and Asa in Raleigh, and Washington, D. C., and also from a sister M. E. Biggs and a cousin Eliza Smithwick. William wrote of his business enterprises, yellow fever in Vicksburg, politics in Mississippi and Louisiana, and of North Carolinians moving west. Joseph wrote of business and family in Louisburg and Williamston. Asa served in the State Assembly (1844) and in Congress. His letters give details of the expulsion of the Senator from Onslow County and mention the Homestead Bill and other legislative issues. From Washington (1846) he wrote of Webster, Dickinson, and Calhoun, of the Congressional debates on Oregon, the sub-treasury, the tariff; criticized North Carolina's reaction to the Mexican War; explained the securing of mail contracts; and described the erection of a building in the city for the exhibition of manufacture samples.

Biggs' chief correspondent in business matters was Solomon Cherry in Norfolk. The two opened a commission house there in 1851; the letters concern partnership arrangements, plans for including a grocery business, market prices, etc. Earlier letters, from numerous individuals, relate to Biggs' mercantile business in Windsor. Many of the letters are from commission merchants, wholesalers, and agents in Halifax, Murfreesboro, Wilmington, Colerain, and Plymouth, within the state, and from Norfolk, Baltimore, New York, Richmond, and Charleston.

BIGGS, KADER, PAPERS - Addition  
Bertie County, North Carolina

P.C. 215.4-215.11

1841-1851  
1814-1818

Fellow Masons from Plymouth, Wilmington, and Hertford,  
wrote about conventions, celebrations, and lodge business.

The account books (1842-1848) include inventories,  
cash on hand, and accounts of individuals or day books.