

American Antiquarian Society
Manuscript Collections

<i>NAME</i>	<i>OF</i>	<i>COLLECTION: LOCATION(S)</i>
:		
Slavery in the United States Collection, 1703-1905 "S"		Mss. boxes Oversize
mss. boxes "S"		Octavo
vols. "S"		Folio vols.
"S"		

SIZE OF COLLECTION:

2 manuscript boxes; 1 oversize folder (2 items); 3 octavo volumes; 1 folio volume

SOURCES OF INFORMATION ON COLLECTION:

SOURCE OF COLLECTION:

R.H. Dickinson & Brother correspondence, gift of Thomas Hovey Gage, 1941; slave account book for R.H. Dickinson & Brother, 1855-1858, gift of Mrs. Albert W. Rice, 1954; correspondence of Charles Emory Smith/Edward A Huston, gift of Miss Emily D. Smith, 1979.

COLLECTION DESCRIPTION:

This collection, which spans the years 1703 to 1905, contains a variety of correspondence, business records, and documents relating to slavery in the United States. These materials include both sides of the history of slavery, from slave trading to abolition.

There is correspondence of three Richmond, Va., slave trader/auctioneer firms: **R. H. Dickinson & Brother**, which later became **Dickinson, Hill & Co.**; **E. H. Stokes**; and **Betts & Gregory**. The majority of the correspondence deals with the business of the buying and selling of

slaves. Some letters from slave owners set the pricing of their slaves to be sold; while other letters describe the type of slave(s) buyers are looking for (e.g., dark mulatto, boys and girls between a certain age and/or height, a seamstress). There are other letters describing the atmosphere of slave auctions (e.g., dull).

Other business records include a daybook of **R. H. Dickinson & Brother** for the period 1846 to 1849, and an account book for **Dickinson, Hill & Co.** for the years 1855 to 1858. This volume also includes scattered diary entries of **Sarah Earle Chase (1836-1915)** for the spring of 1865 in Richmond and for a voyage to Europe in the spring and summer of 1870. There are three folders of sales and tax receipts for slaves, as well as one folder of blank receipts. These materials, along with the above-mentioned correspondence, were probably taken from the Dickinson office in Richmond by Sarah Earle Chase and her sister Lucy Chase (1822-1909) [see the Chase Family Papers collection description].

There are six folders of correspondence of **Isaiah Coffin Ray (1804-1882)**, a boot and shoe merchant in Nantucket and New Bedford, Mass., who shifted his calling to law in the 1850s. He was appointed to the American Anti-Slavery Committee on Finance at the 1844 Convention in New York. These letters, dated 1836 to 1851, mainly concern arrangements for lectures, meetings, etc., while some are of a more personal nature. Several of the correspondents were active in the Fourierist movement and Brook Farm, but the letters appear to be concerned primarily with anti-slavery activities. Principal correspondents are Rebecca T. Pool (-), John Orvis (1816-1897), John Anderson Collins (1810-1879), John Allen (-), Harrison Gray Otis Colby (1807-1853), Elizabeth Buffum Chace (1806-1899), Asa Burnham Hutchinson (1823-1884), John C. Cluer (1800-), Albert Brisbane (1809-1890), and William Henry Channing (1810-1884).

The miscellaneous correspondence contains both the business of slave trading and the anti-slavery movement. The letters concerning sales of slaves are mainly from the Southern States. However, there are two letters with a northern connection. The first, dated 20 February 1806, from John Taylor, of Northampton, Mass., to Noah Scovell, of Saybrook, Conn., is in regard to a runaway slave girl. The second, dated 15 March 1831, from Nathaniel Humphreys, of Antigua, to Jno. C. Lee, of Salem, Mass., is in regard to the sale of slaves.

There are two letters written to **Elizur Wright (1804-1885)** while he was editor of the *Anti-Slavery Reporter* in New York City. The first, dated 26 October 1837, is from **Elijah Parish Lovejoy (1802-1837)**. He writes that "... you may depend on me for aid in contributions to the columns of the Magazine ...". Lovejoy, however, was killed by a mob in Alton, Ill., just a few days later on 7 November. The other letter, dated 27 January 1838, is from **Rev. John Pierpont (1785-1866)** declining to contribute to the magazine.

A letter, dated 6 December 1852, from **Charles Calistus Burleigh (1810-1878)** to **Samuel Joseph May (1797-1871)** is in regard to Jefferson Lee, "... originally from the South." It seems Lee had moved to Pennsylvania, then to Plainfield, Mass., and who "...now thinks it will be for his advantage to remove to Canada ... He thinks of going to the

Elgin settlement ..." This letter serves as an introduction of Lee to May.

Two letters, dated 12 January and 5 April 1856, are from **Charles Emory Smith (1842-1908)**, of Albany, N.Y., to his uncle **Isaac Smith** (-), of Leominster, Mass. In the letters, Smith argues in favor of abolition and the preservation of the Union, while his uncle opposed the latter principle. There is also a letter, dated 13 August 1868, from **Edward A. Huston(?)** to Isaac Smith detailing Huston's visit with **William Lloyd Garrison (1805-1879)** and his family.

Two photostats of letters (originals in the UMass library) concern **Erasmus Darwin Hudson (1806-1880)**. The first is a letter of introduction written for him by **James Sloan Gibbons (1810-1892)**, while the other is "short & sweet" from an unidentified correspondent.

Other correspondents include **George Leonard (1801-1881)**, **William Cost Johnson (1806-1860)**, **Ralph Randolph Gurley (1797-1872)**, **Samuel May (1810-1899)**, **Henry Ingersoll Bowditch (1808-1892)**, **Henry Alexander Wise (1806-1876)**, and **James Shannon (1799-1859)**. Most of these letters are in regard to the deliverance of lectures.

The miscellaneous documents include a list of slaves from Plaquemine, La.; bills of sales and deeds for slaves; manumissions; a list of taxes and fees paid to the state of Alabama and Greene County; and a resolution of the state of Massachusetts in regard to the abolition of slavery. One manumission document, dated 26 March 1794, is of particular interest. Signed by **Nicholas Davies (c. 1708-1794)**, and witnessed by seven others, the document liberates twenty of his slaves and their children. It was recorded, on 23 June 1794, at the Bedford County (Va.) Court House.

Another interesting manumission, dated 7 July 1845, is for "Amanda Holmes, a coloured woman," and a bill of sale, dated 29 January 1850, for "one negro named Williams Holmes" from Col. Adam D. and Mary B. Stewart, to Amanda Holmes, a free woman of color, all of St. Louis, Mo.

Other documents include a typed copy of a slaver's accounts in Africa for the years 1789 to 1792; the constitution of the **Cambridge (Mass.) Anti-Slavery Society**, dated 4 June 1834; and a school report, by **Theron Johnson Damon (1883-1973)**, entitled "Inside History of Shadrach Fugitive Slave Case," dated 25 May 1905. Damon graduated from Harvard in 1905.

A call for a national (or northern) convention, to be held in October 1857, of those in favor of disunion, went out in July of 1857, from **Thomas Wentworth Higginson (1823-1911)** and other leading abolitionists. There are twenty-five folders of responses to that call from seventeen states.

The collection also contains two small notebooks attributed to **Arnold Buffum (1782-1859)**. The first is a report from the **Philadelphia Anti-Slavery Society** and a draft of a petition to the U.S. Congress. The second contains drafts of two lectures or articles dated 26 October 1853 and 4 November 1853 plus two pages of an expense account for 1856.

See Contents List.

15 July 1974
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revised 16 May 1979
revised 5 March 2010

American Antiquarian Society

Manuscript Collections

Slavery in the United States Collection, 1703 - 1905

Contents List

BOX	FOLDER	CONTENTS
1		Correspondence, n.d.; 1806 - 1868
		R.H. Dickinson & Brother, Correspondence, 1846 - 1848
	1	1846, February
	2	1847, February - April
	3	1847, May - June 14
	4	1847, June 18 - 30
	5	1848
		Dickinson, Hill & Co., Correspondence, 1855 - 1862
	6	1855
	7	1857 - 1862
	8	E.H. Stokes, Correspondence, 1859 - 1863
	9	Betts & Gregory, Correspondence, 1859 - 1861
		Isaac Coffin Ray, Correspondence, n.d.; 1836 - 1851
	10	n.d.; 1836; 1842, April
	11	1842, May - 1844
	12	1845
	13	1846 - 1847, February
	14	1847, March - November
	15	1849 - 1851
		Miscellaneous Correspondence, 1806 - 1868
	16	1806 - 1842
	17	1845 - 1855 March
	18	1855 June - 1868
		Documents, n.d.; 1703 - 1905
		Receipts, etc. for slaves, 1856 - 1865; blanks
	19	1856 - 1859

Slavery in the United States Collection, 1703 - 1905
Miscellaneous Correspondence, 1806 - 1868 (cont.)
p. 5

20 1860 - 1864 December 14
21 1864, December 15 - 1865
22 blank

Miscellaneous Documents, n.d.; 1703 - 1867

23 n.d.; 1703 - 1829
24 1845 - 1867

BOX FOLDER

CONTENTS

Other Documents, 1789 - 1905

25 Slave Journal, 1789 - 1792
26 Cambridge (Mass.) Anti-Slavery Society,
Constitution, 1834 June 4
27 Theron J. Damon, School Report, 1904 - 1905
"Inside History of Shadrach Fugitive Slave Case"

2

**Materials pertaining to the National (or Northern)
"Disunion" Convention, 1857**

1 unknown; California; Connecticut
2 Illinois
3 Indiana
4 Iowa
5 Maine; Massachusetts (Abington - Cummington)
6 Massachusetts (Danvers - Huntington)
7 Massachusetts (Leicester - Montague)
8 Massachusetts (Nantucket - Reading)
9 Massachusetts (Salem - Upton)
10 Massachusetts (Watertown - West Boylston)
11 Massachusetts (West Brookfield - Worcester)
12 Michigan (Adrian - Hickory Grove)
13 Michigan (Jonesville - Ypsilanti)
14 Minnesota; New Hampshire
15 New Jersey; New York (Clayville - Groton)
16 New York (Harlem - Norway)
17 New York (Oswego - Thompson)
18 Ohio (Akron - Conotton)
19 Ohio (Fairmount - Lenox)
20 Ohio (Mogadore - Portage)
21 Ohio (Salem - Wilmington; no location)
22 Pennsylvania (Alleghany - Horsham)
23 Pennsylvania (Jamestown - Willow Grove)
24 Rhode Island; Vermont
25 Wisconsin

**OCTAVO
VOLUME**

1 Philadelphia Anti-Slavery Society, Notebook, 1837? (34
pp.)
2 Arnold Buffum, Notebook, 1853; 1856 (96 pp.)
3 Dickinson, Hill & Co., Account Book, 1855 - 1858;

Slavery in the United States Collection, 1703 - 1905
Miscellaneous Correspondence, 1806 - 1868 (cont.)
p. 6

Sarah Earle Chase, Diary, 1865; 1870 (320 pp., mostly blank)

FOLIO
VOLUME

R. H. Dickinson & Bro. (Richmond, Va.),
Slave Dealers' Daybook, 1846 - 1849 (324 pp.)

Slavery in the United States Collection, 1703 - 1905
 Miscellaneous Correspondence, 1806 - 1868

DATE	TO	FROM	SUBJECT
1806 February 20	Noah Scovell, Saybrook [Conn.]	John Taylor, Northampton [Mass.]	a runaway slave girl
1831 March 15	Jno. C. Lee, Salem [Mass.]	Nathaniel Humphreys, Antigua	sale of slaves
1832 May 10	Wm. Cost Johnson, Pres. of the Young Mens Convention	R.R. Gurley, Office of the Col. Society, Washington [D.C.]	the presentation of 100 copies of the 15 th annual report of the American Society for Colours
1836 November 17	Rev. George Leonard, Marshfield [Mass.]	Samuel J. May, South Scituate [Mass.]	agreeing to lecture on Sunday, 4 December [1836]
1837 October 26	Elizur Wright, ed. Anti-Slavery Magazine, New York [N.Y.]	Elijah P. Lovejoy, Alton [Ill.]	Anti-Slavery magazine
1838 January 27	Rev. E. Wright, ed., Anti- Slavery Magazine	Rev. John Pierpont, Boston [Mass.]	contribution to the magazine
1841 July 22	"To Whom It May Concern"	James S. Gibbons, chair, Ex Committee	[photostat] letter of introduction for Erasmus Darwin Hudson
1842 June 13	"Doctor"	[Erasmus Darwin Hudson]	[photostat]
1842 December 7	Samuel May, Leicester [Mass.]	H.I. Bowditch, et al, Latimer Committee	calling a county convention
1845 January 2	Mrs. and the Misses Thayers, Harrison Avenue	John Pierpont, Boston [Mass.]	thank you for a "golden" gift
1846 February 1	W. C. Brazeal, Richmond [Va.]	E. G. Leigh	sale of a slave boy

Slavery in the United States Collection, 1703 - 1905
 Miscellaneous Correspondence, 1806 - 1868 (cont.)
 p. 8

DATE	TO	FROM	SUBJECT
1846 February 8		Richard Kernodle, Raleigh [N.C.]	sale of slaves
1846 February 9		Alex Fitzhugh, Falmouth [Va.]	sale of slaves
1846 February 10	Wm. C. Tompkins, Richmond [Va.]	S. G. Fauntleroy, Piedmont [Va.]	sale of a slave
1846 February 20		Alex Fitzhugh, Falmouth [Va.]	sale of slaves
1846 February 22	R. H. Hill	F. Fitzhugh	sale of a slave
1846 February 24		Alex Fitzhugh, Falmouth [Va.]	sale of a slave
1846 February 28		Elisha Melton, Richmond [Va.]	sale of a slave
1847 June 4		W. A. [illeg.], Hamburg	sale of slaves
1852 December 6	Samuel J. May, Syracuse [N.Y.]	C. C. Burleigh, Plainfield [Mass.]	the movement of Jefferson Lee to the Elgin settlement in Canada
1855 March 19		[illegible], Newbern, N.C.	purchase of slaves
1855 March 23	N. B. Hill	N.I.B. Whitlock, Tappak [Va.]	sale of slaves
1855 June 25	G.W. Reynolds	John Pierpont, West Medford [Mass.]	delivering a lecture
1855 October 23	Hon. Henry A. Wise	James Shannon, pres., University of the State of Missouri, Columbia, Boone Co. [Mo.]	invitation to lecture
1856 January 12	Isaac Smith	Charles E. Smith, Albany [N.Y.]	abolition

Slavery in the United States Collection, 1703 - 1905
Miscellaneous Correspondence, 1806 - 1868 (cont.)
p. 9

DATE	TO	FROM	SUBJECT
1856 April 5	Isaac Smith	Charles E. Smith, Albany [N.Y.]	abolition
1860 July 18	Browning & Morse	Jno. I. Grandstaff, Edinburgh	sale of slaves
1860 July 28		Thomas D. Barron, Richmond [Va.]	sale of slaves
1861 February 10	J. J. Price	[illegible] & Co., Memphis [Tenn.]	sale of slaves
1861 May 13		G.R. Cooper, Stafford Store	I.O.U
1861 October 30		John Pierpont, Washington [D.C.]	
1868 August 13	Isaac Smith, Leominster [Mass.]	Edward A. Huston, Cambridge [Mass.]	visit to Mr. Garrison's house

Slavery in the United States Collection, 1703 - 1905
Miscellaneous Documents, n.d.; 1703 - 1867

DATE	DESCRIPTION
n.d.	"List of Slaves," Plaquemino, La.
1703 November 9	Bill of sale for " a certain Negroe man Gabriel" from Simon Chapman, of Stanford, Ct., to Fidy Merrick(?), of Springfield, Mass. [photocopy, original in oversize folder]
1711 August 1	slave document
1719 January 21	Bill of sale for "a Negroe boy called Charlestown" from Sarah Foster, of Charlestown, Mass., to Simon Davis, of Concord, Mass.
1743/4 January 26	Deed for three negroes, Adam, Florah, and Amey, from Mary Deloney, of Berkley Co., S.C., to her son Arthur Deloney, of Berkley Co., S.C. [photocopy, original in oversize folder]
1745 September 28	Bill of sale for "My Negro Man George ... together with his Apparrell" from Amos Brown, Stow, Mass., to Ebenezer Wadsworth, of Grafton, Mass.
1768 April 13	Bill of sale for "my Negroman servant for live Cato" from Lydia Loring, of Plimpton, Plymouth Co., to Thomas Loring, of Plimpton, Plymouth Co. [typewritten copy]
1794 March 26	Emancipation proclamation for the twenty slaves and their children of Nicholas Davies, of Bedford County, Va.
1798 October 1	Bill of sale for "a certain negro man ... Hosea" from Asa Pond, of Franklin, Mass., to Jonathan Butterick, of Lancaster, Mass. [photostat & typewritten copy]
1811 January 4	Bill of sale for "one Negro Boy named Isam" from Nathaniel Stephenson, of Southampton Co., Va., to Thomas Horn, of Nash Co., N.C.
1821 February 1	Bill of sale for "Four negroes viz Juliet, Peter, Rose, & Jacob" from S.H. Gallagher, as guardian of Julia Flack, to James Chesnut [Charleston, S.C.?)
1826 June 16	Manumission of "Henry Hall a yellow man"
1829 March 9	Bill of sale of "a certain negro boy slave by the name of Elijah" seized by the constable of Jones Co., N.C., from William [illegible] and sold to John Williams, of [illegible] Co., N.C.

DATE	DESCRIPTION
1845 July 7	Manumission of "Amanda Holmes, coloured woman"

- 1846 January 19 "A List of the sale of slaves belonging to the estate of John Griggs decd."
- 1850 January 29 Bill of sale of "one negro named William Holmes" from Col. Adam D. Stewart and Mary B. Stewart, of St. Louis, Mo., to Amanda Holmes (a free woman of colour), of St. Louis, Mo.
- 1856 March 6 Certificate from John J. Morte, Recorder of the parish of St. Tammany, La., reporting on liens, mortgages, or encumbrances for five slaves (Harriet, Frances, William, Georgianna, and Arlene) belonging to Martin G. Penn
- 1857 April 18 List of taxes and fees paid to the state of Alabama and the county of Greene for a license for selling eight negroes
- 1859 January 21 Bill of sale for "Sarah Jane a woman of yellow complexion ... and her child Edmund" from Henry R. Harris to W.I. Harris [Meriwether Co., Ga.]
- 1862 April 1 Resolution of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in regard to the abolition of slavery
- 1867 March 5 Slave contract