NAME OF COLLECTION: Cooper, James Fenimore, Papers, 1792-1884

LOCATION: Mss. boxes "C"

OVERSIZE mss. boxes "C"

SIZE OF COLLECTION:

7 manuscript boxes; 1 oversize manuscript box

SOURCES OF INFORMATION ON COLLECTION:


Robert E. Spiller and Philip C. Blackburn. A Descriptive Bibliography of the Writings of James Fenimore Cooper. (New York: Bowker, 1934)

SOURCE OF COLLECTION:

One letter, dated 25? February 1832 to Armand Carrel, was purchased from George S. MacManus Co., 1983. Two letters, dated 22 May 1826 and 7 July 1827, was purchased from Ximenes Books, 1986. One letter, bound into The Deerslayer, was purchased from Argonaut Books, 1987. The remainder of the collection was the gift of the Paul Fenimore Cooper, Jr. estate, 1990.

COLLECTION DESCRIPTION:

James Fenimore Cooper (1789-1851), the son of William Cooper (1754-1809) and Elizabeth Fenimore Cooper (1752-1817), was born in Burlington, N.J., but spent his youth at Otsego Hall in Cooperstown, N.Y., the home of his father. After an early education at the public school in Cooperstown and at the home of an Episcopal rector in Albany, he attended Yale University for three years. In 1806 he went to sea, receiving a commission as a navy midshipman in 1808. His marriage to Susan Augusta De Lancy (1792-1852) of Westchester County, N.Y., took place in 1811, when he also resigned from the navy. In the years immediately following their marriage, the Coopers lived in Mamaroneck, Cooperstown, Scarsdale (where he began writing), and New York, N.Y. Cooper's first novel, Precaution (1820), was not a success, but this was followed by The Spy (1821), The Pioneers (1823), and The Pilot (1823), all of which were very successful.

Cooper met the Marquis de Lafayette (1757-1834) in 1824, and the two became friends. In 1826 Cooper and his family moved to Europe, living mostly in Paris. They returned to New York City in 1834, and lived there for two years before settling at Otsego Hall in 1836.

Cooper was a prolific writer, and in the course of his life he became involved in a number of controversies, both literary and personal. He was attacked by the newspapers, and initiated and won several lawsuits for libel. Many of the papers in the present collection deal with these court cases (see Ethel R. Outland, The "Effingham" Libels on Cooper: a Documentary History of the Libel Suits of James Fenimore Cooper Centering Around the Three Mile Point Controversy and the Novel Home as Found, 1837-1845 [Madison: University of Wisconsin, 1929. University of Wisconsin Studies in Language and Literature, No. 28]).
NAME OF COLLECTION:
Cooper, James Fenimore, Papers, 1792-1884

COLLECTION DESCRIPTION (cont.):
Cooper's later works included the "Littlepage" trilogy—Satanstoe (1845), The Chainbearer (1845), and The Redskin (1846). These novels reflected his sympathies with landowners against tenants in the anti-rent controversy that took place in New York in the 1840s.

The present collection consists of many of Cooper's own papers, along with some papers of other family members that were in the possession of Cooper's great-grandson, Paul Fenimore Cooper, Jr. It contains a number of manuscripts of Cooper's works, including four of his novels (Red Rover, The Bravo, Satanstoe, and The Chainbearer), along with fragments of other works. The papers also include extensive correspondence, notably with Cooper's American publisher, Carey and Lea, and with members of the Cooper and De Lancy families. There are many letters written by Cooper to Commodore William Branford Shubrick (1790-1874). Also in this collection are business papers and ledgers, copies of contracts, deeds, and indentures.

See Contents List (which includes an itemized list of the correspondence).
# American Antiquarian Society

*Manuscript Collections*

James Fenimore Cooper, Papers, 1792-1884

## Contents List

**Manuscript Box**

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<th>Folder</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Cooper's Writings, n.d.; 1820-1849</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Folder 1 Copyright Certificate for Precaution; 1820 (photocopy) Articles of agreement between JFC and Carey and Lea for <em>The Prairie</em>; 1826</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1A</td>
<td>Review of <em>The Pilot</em> (in JFC hand); 5 pp.; c. 1823</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td><em>The Prairie</em>; author's ms. of &quot;Preface&quot;; author's corrected copy of proof sheets of pp. 265-277; 1827</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td><em>Red Rover</em>; author's ms.; c. 58 leaves; plus 109 pages in Wm. Cooper's hand (lacks c. 7 leaves); 1827</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>Draft intended for publication in <em>Edinburgh Review</em> (Cooper expresses anger with their treatment of his book <em>Notions of Americans</em>); fragment (the rest at Yale); 1828/9?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td><em>The Bravo</em>; author's ms.; 60 leaves (both sides); c. 1829</td>
</tr>
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<td>6</td>
<td>Travel journal, Paris, 9/19-23/1830; 3 leaves</td>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td><em>The Water-Witch</em>; ms. fragment; 2 leaves pasted together (both sides); c. 1830</td>
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<tr>
<td>8A</td>
<td><em>The Headsman</em>; author's ms.; 2 leaves (both sides); 1833</td>
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<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td><em>Monikins</em>; ms. fragment; 5 leaves (both sides); c. 1835</td>
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<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Gleanings in Europe; ms. fragment; 1 leaf (1 side); (published Philadelphia: Carey, Lea and Blanchard, 1837; the fragment is from vol. 2, p. 119-123) Unidentified author's ms.; 1 leaf</td>
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<td>11</td>
<td>&quot;On the Distinctions between the English and American Politics&quot;; author's ms.; article intended for <em>Democratic Review</em>, 10 pp.; c. 1837-1840</td>
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<td>12</td>
<td>Author's ms. about the &quot;Effingham&quot; libel suit; 2 leaves (both sides); c. 1837-1845</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12A</td>
<td>Articles of agreement between JFC and Lea and Blanchard for <em>The Naval History of the United States</em>; 1838</td>
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<td>13</td>
<td>&quot;Abuse of Liberty of the Press&quot;; author's ms. &quot;Preface&quot; to second edition of <em>Naval History Information on the U.S.S. Surprize</em> Miscellaneous mss. in JFC's and other hands; c. 1839?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td><em>Satanstoe</em>; author's ms.; 129 leaves (1 side); c. 1843-1845</td>
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<tr>
<td>15-20</td>
<td><em>The Chainbearer</em>; author's ms.; Chapters I-XXX, 6 folders; c. 1845 Two copies of proof sheet of title page (N.Y.: Burgess, Stringer &amp; Co., 1845)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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(cont.)
Folder 21  "Lies"; author's ms.; about Tiffany case. 1 leaf (1 side); n.d.
Folder 22  Jack Tier; author's ms.; pp. 1-6, 17-30; c. 1848
Folder 23  Oak Openings; author's ms.; fragment, 3 leaves (1 side); numbered 71, 75, and 76 (respectively); c. 1848
Folder 23A  The Sea Lions; author's ms.; fragment, 1 leaf (1 side); 1849
Folder 24  Author's ms. about French law and customs; 4 leaves; n.d.
Folder 25  Unidentified fragment of author's ms.; "Chapter VI"; ½ leaf (1 side); n.d.
Folder 26  Author's ms. about Hamilton, Arnold, etc.; 2 leaves (2 pp.); n.d.
Folder 27  Author's ms.; unidentified dialogue or play; 2 leaves (2 pp.); n.d.
Folder 28  Author's unidentified ms. notes; 1 leaf (1 side); n.d.
Folder 29  Author's mss. about naval history and biography of Barney; 25 various pp.; n.d.
Folder 30  Miscellaneous author's mss.: letters to editors, unidentified letters about Naval History; unidentified fragments
Folder 30A  Ms. leaf; naval episode; n.d.
Folder 30B  Family record and Otsego Hall record; 1833 and 1840
Folder 31  Copy of Yale Literary Magazine, 5.5 (March 1840) containing article on JFC with his own marginal notes

2 Correspondence, n.d.; 1801-1834; 1848-1851
Folder 1  Copies of correspondence, 1848-1851 (see itemized list below)
Folder 2  Undated or illegible
Folder 3  1801; 1808; 1810-1811; 1813-1815
Folder 4  1816-1817
Folder 5  1818
Folder 6  1819
Folder 7  1820-1821
Folder 8  1822
Folder 9  1823-1824
Folder 10  1825
Folder 11  1826, January - March
Folder 12  1826, April - December
Folder 13  1827, January - July 2
Folder 14  1827, July 7

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Folder 15 1827 July 23 – November
Folder 16 1828
Folder 17 1829-1830
Folder 18 1831
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3 Correspondence, 1835-1929 and Miscellaneous Items, n.d.; 1822-1851
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Folder 16 1845, January – July
Folder 17 1845, August – December
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Folder 19 1848
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Folder 21 1850, January – May
Folder 22 1850, June – December
Folder 23 1851; 1854; 1860; 1868; 1872; 1874-1875; 1884; 1929
Folder 24 Alphabetical list of names; unspecified purpose; n.d.

(cont.)
Folder 25  Miscellaneous items:
  11 empty envelopes
  Calling card for Robert McCall
  Extracts from minutes of New-York Historical Society, 10/7/1851
  2 locks of JFC's hair
  Decorative title page of The Spy, Phila.: Harrison Hall, 1822
  Autographed (?) engraving of JFC—"The Author of 'The Spy'"
  London: Published in The New Monthly Magazine by Colburn & Bentley, 1 April 1831
  Autographed engraving of JFC—Engraved by J. C. Buttre. From a
daguerreotype by Brady, 1 September 1850, in the possession of
Mrs. H. F. Phinney
  Portion of ms. periodical, The Hartwick Spy, vol. 1, no. 5,
  printed by Henry Sly 4th at Goblins Village; 1831 (?)
  Unsigned, undated note concerning JFC and Washington Irving

Folder 26  Impression of JFC's seal; also negative of this seal

Folder 27  Copy of Southern Literary Messenger, v. 4, no. 6 (June 1838) with
  JFC's signature

Folder 28  Copy of "The Lumley Autograph" by Susan Augusta Cooper begun in the
  January 1851 issue of Graham's Magazine and concluded in the
  February 1851 issue

4 Business Papers, n.d.; 1803-1851

Folder 1  Listing of miscellaneous JFC Business Papers (bound in packets)
  prepared by Paul F. Cooper; packets disassembled

Folder 1A  Orders (Navy); 1808

Folder 1B  Receipts (Navy); 1810

Folder 1C  3 promissory notes; 1808

Folder 2  Checks drawn on account at Bank of NY; 1817-1818
  Bank book, Bank of NY; 1817-1819

Folder 3  Checks drawn on account at Bank of NY; 1819

Folder 4  Checks drawn on account at Bank of NY; 1834-1835
  Promissory note to Otsego County Bank; 1849
  Promissory note to Bank of NY; 1851

Folder 5  Checks drawn on account at Otsego County Bank; 1833-1834; 1837; 1848;
  1849; 1850; 1851

Folder 6  Receipted bills; 1803; 1808-1814

Folder 7  Receipted bills; 1815-1818

Folder 8  Receipted bills; 1819-1849

Folder 9  Foreign bills; n.d.

Folder 10  Foreign bills; 1826-1829

Folder 11  Foreign bills; 1830-1833

Folder 12  Agreement, JFC and Richard Heaviside, printer, to accompany JFC to
  Florence to work on book; n.d.

Folder 13  Draft indenture, JFC to John Whitford, re: Wm. Cooper agreement; n.d.

Folder 14  Leases—list of amounts due; n.d.

(cont.)
Folder 15  Deposition of Sidney Ketchum re: promissory note (Gibbs, Gordon & Sandford case; n.d. (c. 1839?)

Folder 16  Memos re: Gibbs, Gordon & Sandford case (2 items, dated 1839 [?], 1839-1845)

Folder 17  2 leaves removed from account book: JFC in account with estate of Wm. Cooper, deceased (cut from acc't book in Paris, 4/23/1827 by Wm. Cooper); sheets dated 1810-1811; 1817

Folder 18  4 leaves removed from account book: account of William Van Booskirk (cut from acc't book in Paris, 4/23/1827 by Wm. Cooper); sheets dated 1813-1817

Folder 19  Account of money paid Courtland C. Cooper by various people and paid by him; 8/31/1816

Folder 20  4 leaves removed from account book: monies paid and received (cut from acc't book in Paris by Wm. Cooper, 4/23/1827); sheets dated 1816

5  Business Papers, n.d.; 1804-1852

Folder 1  Appleton foot case; 1814-1817

Folder 1A  Articles of Agreement between JFC and Alpha Perry and Daniel D. Boles re: transfer of land to Perry and Bowles

Folder 2  Leaf removed from account book; account of Mount Ovis (on verso spelled Otis) (cut from acc't book in Paris by Wm. Cooper, 4/23/1827); 1813; 1817

Folder 3  4 leaves removed from account book; account of Courtland C. Cooper (leaves removed by Wm. Cooper, 4/23/1827, Paris); 1814-1815; 1817

Folder 4  Articles of Agreement between JFC and Robert Ward for building a house in Scarsdale; 1817

Folder 5  Land sold to Gordon Mumford; 1819
  Agreement re: promissory note of JFC held by Mumford
  JFC purchase of ship, "Union of NY" from Mumford

Folder 6  Articles of Agreement, JFC and Edward Miles (?) re: work to be done; 1819

Folder 7  Tabulation of 1820 census, listed by state and companion to earlier figures for NY, NJ, PA, and miscellaneous other information; [1820]

Folder 8  Bond, JFC to Robert McDermot for ship; 182_; 1821

Folder 9  Bill of sale for crops, stock, etc., to JFC to secure rent; Ebenezer Holmes; 1822

Folder 10  Assignment of mortgage bond, estate of Wm. Cooper; 1804-1826
  Schedule of property of Wm. Cooper, prepared during contesting of Wm. Cooper's will; other related papers; 1822
  Summary of Wm. Cooper's will; 1836

Folder 11  Memo of agreement between JFC and Charles Wiley and Oliver Halsted, Booksellers, re: 2nd ed. of The Spy; 1822
  Account of The Pioneers with J. Murray; 1823
  Account of sales of books by Halsted; 1825

(cont.)
Folder 12  "George Willits and William H. Cornell have given a joint Bond of Indemnification to James Cooper ..."; signed Brookes; 1823
Folder 13  Note about interest owing JFC, signed by Brookes; 1823
Folder 14  "An Act Authorizing James Cooper to assume a middle name"; 1826
Folder 15  Account and statement for books (including expenses for several of JFC's books (The Last of the Mohicans, The Pilot, Lionel Lincoln); 1826
Folder 16  Account of JFC with Robert Campbell (attorney); 1817-1819
Folder 17  Appraisal of stock; 1818
Folder 18  Account of purchase of clothing items and fabric; 1818
Account of tailoring and repair work on clothing; 1818-1821
Folder 19  Account of purchases (food staples and household items; owed to Monmouth Lyon); 1818-1819
Folder 20  Promissory notes, signed by JFC; 1825; 1836; 1844; 1845; 1846
Folder 21  Miscellaneous agreements, contracts, indentures, copyright certificates, legal proceedings, insurance policies, subpoenas, receipts, etc.; n.d.; 1804-1824
Folder 22  Same as folder 21; 1825-1852

6  Business Papers, etc., n.d.; 1834-1897
Folder 1  Listing of Wm. Cooper's property in "Feronia," in JFC's hand; 1834
Folder 1A  Articles of Agreement between JFC, as surviving executor of Wm. Cooper estate, and William Averell; 1834
Folder 2  Declaration of Trust, signed by JFC for Horace Comstock; 1835
Folder 3  JFC Last Will and Testament (see also later will, 1849); 1835
Folder 4  Release from agreement re: $2,000 investment in Illinois with J. Ogden; 1835
Folder 5  Account book of JFC with NY provisioner, J. ____ (?); 1835-1837
Folder 6  Cooperstown; deeds of Otsego Hall and grounds, etc.; 1835-1844
Folder 6A  Trader's Fire Insurance Co. policy; 1836
Folder 7  Promissory note, JFC to Paul F. Cooper; 1838
Folder 8  Plan of subscription for Hall for Athenian Institute; 1838
Folder 9  Promissory note, Sidney Ketchum; papers re: attempt to collect; 1839
Folder 10  Court order to E. D. Richardson to appear in court for case between JFC and Thurlow Weed; 1841
Folder 11  Horace M. Comstock, correspondence re: deed, property, and sums owing JFC (deed in oversize folder, 3/16/1841, for property in Kalamazoo, MI); 1841; 1842
Folder 12  JFC action against Sidney Ketchum re: promissory note; 1845
Folder 13  Supreme Court, notice of retainer by defendant's attorney, JFC vs. J. S. Sandford; 1845

(cont.)
Folder 14 Promissory note to City Bank of NY; 1845
Folder 14A Agreement, use of "stereotype" plates of The History of the Navy of the United States of America, from 1845 to 1856; 1845
Folder 15 Order for time to plead, Supreme Court, James Sandford; 1846
Folder 16 William Stone vs. JFC; 1846
"Defts. points" (i.e., the points made by the defendant, JFC; n.d.
Folder 17 Court for Correction of Errors, Wm. L. Stone vs. JFC; copy costs; 1846
Folder 18 Account of traveling expenses incurred for trip by Comstock to Michigan on JFC's behalf (?); 1847
Folder 19 Papers re: attempts to collect on 1837 note of Horace Comstock (also involving Isaac Schuyler, Sidney Ketchum, case against Gibbs & Gordon)
Folder 20 Attempt to collect from Sidney Ketchum; 1847
Folder 21 Agreement to rent store in Cooperstown by JFC, to Wm. A. Comstock & Co.; 1847
Folder 22 Copy, Supreme Court, JFC vs. James S. Sandford, et al. (Gordon & Gibbs) and other documents re: this case relating to 1839 promissory note (Detroit, MI, George Hand att'y for JFC); 1848
Folder 23 Isaac Schuyler, Power of Attorney to JFC; 1848
Folder 24 JFC Last Will and Testament;1849 (see also earlier will, 1835)
Folder 25 Sidney Ketchum, affidavit re: attendance at court in Detroit (re: Gibbs, etc. case); 1849
Nathaniel Eldridge (the same); 1849
Folder 26 Deposition Papers; JFC vs. Gibbs & Gordon; 1836-1839
Folder 27 Deposition Papers; JFC vs. Gibbs & Gordon; 1847 (re: 1839)
Folder 28 Deposition Papers; JFC vs. Gibbs & Gordon; 1849
Folder 29 Partial copy of Last Will and Testament, dated 11/8/1849; 1851
Folder 30 Receipt for taxes paid on land in Kalamazoo; 1850
Folder 31 Deposition papers; JFC vs. Gibbs, Gordon, etc.; 1850
Folder 32 Receipt for $500 subscription to Fort-Plan & Cooperstown Road Co. by JFC; 1850
Folder 33 Bishop DeLancey's notes on order of funeral procession of JFC; 1851
Folder 34 Kalamazoo County, MI, A council of probate re: JFC will; 1852
Folder 35 JFC calling card; paper currency(xerox copy to Graphic Arts); n.d.
Folder 36 Various envelopes; one memoranda sheet, etc.; n.d.
Folder 36A Portraits of JFC, Twinkles newspaper, 5/10/1897
Folder 37 Newspaper clipping commemorating 100th anniversary of JFC's birth; n.d.
Folder 37A Dealers descriptive list of JFC letters for sale; n.d.
Folder 38 History of ownership of J. F. Cooper House in Burlington, NJ, plus copy
7 Account Book, etc., n.d.; 1826-1851
Account Book 1 Household expenses; 1834-1845
Account Book 2 Paris; [1838]-1842 (pages for 1838 removed)
Account Book 3 Real estate; 1844-1851
Account Book 4 Italy, France, Germany; 1828-1830
Account Book 5 Real estate; 1829-1835
Account Book 6 JFC: "An Account Book containing Items of Monies I received when from Home—began Augst 1826"; 1826-1845
Folder 1 Account book 7; France; 1846-1849
Account book 8; France; 1850
Folder 2 Account book: hardware, and days worked account; 1837
Unidentified account book, clothing, food, sundries; n.d.
Folder 3 Xeroxes of various JFC mss., from the C. Waller Barrett Collection at University of Virginia (delivered by Kay House, 7/20/90)

8 Miscellaneous Item
Part of the bed on which JFC died, 9/14/1851

Oversize Manuscript Box

1 Miscellaneous Business Papers, n.d.; 1811-1846
Folder 1 Resolution of meeting held in Westchester Co., NY, against War of 1812; n.d.
Folder 2 Apprenticeship agreement between Samuel Conklin and JFC for services of Conklin's daughter Catherine; 1811
Folder 3 Deed for property in Dekalb, (lot no. 401, 100 acres) from Denis and Lidia [sic] Thayer; 1815
Folder 4 Deed for property in DeKalb, (lot no. 1) from Barton Carver to JFC; 1816
Folder 5 Deed for property in Edmeston [sic] (Otsego Co.; Wharton Patent, lot no. 4 in Great Lot No. 6) from Asa and Lydia Luce to JFC; 1817
Folder 6 Quit claim on land in Wharton Patent belonging to the estate of Wm. Cooper and deeded to JFC by Isaac Cooper, exec for Wm. Cooper, Samuel Cooper, and George and Ann Pomeroy; 1817
Folder 7 Deed for land purchased by JFC at public auction ...; 1817
Folder 8 Deed for property in Cooperstown from John and Catherine Prentiss to JFC; 1818
Folder 9 Transfer of rights of Robert Sedgwick by JFC for lands; 1818
Folder 10 Draft of agreement (?) re: JFC assessment of mortgages; 1819 (?)
Folder 11 Account of JFC with Josiah Bradlee & Co.; 1820
Folder 12 Account of JFC with Welles & Co., Paris; 1828-1829

(cont.)
Folder 13  Deed for land in Spring Wells, MI, from Charles Trowbridge to Sidney Ketchum; 1836

Folder 14  Deed for property in Middlefield (Otsego Co.) from Ebenezer Ingals to Calvin Graves and Lyman Ball; 1838

Folder 15  Deed of property in Farmington, MI, from Elijan and Lucy Ann Cook to Isaac Schuyler; 1839

Folder 16  Deed for property in Middlefield (Otsego Co.) from Asa Luce to JFC; 1839

Folder 17  Deed for property in Middlefield (Otsego Co.) from Isaac Fitch and Malinda [sic] Fitch to JFC; 1840

Folder 18  Deed for property in Kalamazoo, MI, from Horace H. and Sarah Comstock to JFC; 1841

Folder 19  Deed for property in Michigan previously conveyed by Sidney Ketchum, now conveyed by Isaac Schuyler to Wm. J. Roome; 1841

Folder 20  Letter, JFC to Mr. Edward Myers (?); mounted on board with original watercolor painting by R. W. Van Buskirk; letter dated 4/3/1843; painting dated "NY 1879"

Folder 20A Letter, including DeLancey family record, to JFC from Robert Bolton, Jr.; dated 3/29/1845

Folder 21  Deed for land in Middlefield (Otsego Co.) from Calvin and Fanny Graves to JFC, 1846

Folder 22  Map of village of Kalamazoo showing lots owned by JFC; n.d.

Folder 23  Deed for property (a farm) in Scarsdale from James and Susan Augusta Cooper to William Shotwell; 1819

Folder 24  Deed for farm in Scarsdale from JFC and wife Susan Augusta Cooper to William Shotwell; 1820