

See also
MF 5322
Series I
Part 3
Reels 6-10

ALEXANDER K. FARRAR PAPERS

Mss. 782, 850, 1348

Inventory

Compiled by
Daniel Butcher

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SUMMARY

Size	2.25 linear ft.
Geographic Locations	Louisiana; Harvard University, Cambridge, Massachusetts; University of Virginia, Charlottesville, Virginia; Virginia Military Institute, Lexington, Virginia.
Inclusive Dates	1804-1931
Bulk Dates	1831-1870
Languages	English
Summary	Mostly financial records of Alexander K. Farrar, dealing with Farrar's plantations, as well as financial records for two estates for which he acted as executor. The correspondence relates to personal and legal business and to family life.
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Related Collections	
Citation	Alexander K. Farrar Papers, Mss. 782, 850, 1348, Louisiana and Lower Mississippi Valley Collections, LSU Libraries Special Collections, Baton Rouge, La.
Stack Location(s)	OS:F, UU:229-231
Other formats	Available (with some omissions) on microfilm 5322, series I, part 3, reels 6-10.

BIOGRAPHICAL/HISTORICAL NOTE

Alexander K. Farrar (1814-1878), a planter, slave owner, and lawyer of Kingston, Adams County, Mississippi, was one of seven children (three sons and four daughter) of Eliza King (1791-1864) and Daniel Farrar (1786-1845), also of Adams County. Alexander served as a Mississippi state senator from 1852 to 1858 and in the state's secession convention. His first wife was Ann M. (Mary) Daugherty (died circa 1860-1869), by whom he had four sons. His grandfather, Alexander Farrar, was a planter who had settled on Cole's Creek at Moss Grove Plantation.

References:

Biographical and Historical Memoirs of Mississippi, volume 1 (Chicago: Goodspeed, 1891); *Descendants of the Jersey Settlers, Kingston, Adams County, Mississippi* (Woodriver, Illinois: Eaton, 1950); *The History of the Descendants of the Jersey Settlers of Adams County, Mississippi*, 2 volumes (Jackson: Mills, editor, 1981); *The Virginia Magazine of History and Biography*, volumes 7-10.

SCOPE AND CONTENT

The papers of Alexander K. Farrar (1814-1878) include personal correspondence, financial documents, and legal documents concerning his plantation interests and legal practice. Included are legal documents pertaining to the settlement of the estates of Absalom Sharp and Lewis H. Swayze, as well as many of the business records for these estates and correspondence related to the operation of the Sharp family's Bon Ridge Plantation in Catahoula Parish, Louisiana. Correspondence and memoranda document the investigation of the murder of Duncan B. Skinner, overseer of Bon Ridge Plantation, as well as the related murder of McBryde, overseer of a nearby plantation.

The plantation records include letters and statements from New Orleans cotton factors Buckner and Stanton and Buckner, Stanton, and Newman for the sale of cotton and bills for plantation and personal merchandise. Also included are financial records for Farrar's Commencement Plantation in Adams County, Mississippi, as well as bills of sale for slaves.

Personal correspondence is from family and friends, with some correspondence related to Farrar's service in the Mississippi Legislature. There is correspondence from his sons that discusses travel from the South to the Northeast and student life at Harvard, Yale, and the University of Virginia before the Civil War and at Virginia Military Institute after the Civil War.

FARRAR (ALEXANDER K.) PAPERS
1804-1931

Mss. 782, 850, 1348
LSU LIBRARIES SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

LIST OF SERIES

Series I. Personal Papers, 1833-circa 1931, undated

Series II. Professional and Business Records, 1804, 1821-1897, undated

Series III. Absalom Sharp Estate Papers, 1849-1862, undated

Series IV. Plantation Records, 1838-1870, undated

SERIES DESCRIPTIONS

Series I. Personal Papers, 1833-circa 1931, undated

Series includes chiefly correspondence, most of which is to Alexander K. Farrar from friends in New Orleans and New York and from his sons at college. The correspondence pertains mostly to personal matters, but some business matters are also discussed. Included are letters and school reports from Farrar's sons George Daniel Farrar, a student at Yale University (1855), the University of Virginia (1855-1858), and Harvard University (1858-1859); and Stephen Duncan and Henry King Farrar, students at Virginia Military Institute (1866-1867). A series of letters (April 1860) from Dr. Caleb F. Farrar, brother to Alexander, chronicles Caleb's pursuit of a horse thief across Louisiana and Mississippi to Mobile, Alabama. The horses belonged to Robert Pipes. Several letters (1850-1859) pertain to Alexander's work in the Mississippi State Senate and petitions from constituents.

Other correspondence of note is related to the murders of Duncan B. Skinner, overseer of Bon Ridge Plantation (also spelled Bone Ridge Plantation and Bonne Ridge Plantation in the papers) in Catahoula Parish, and of a McBryde (also spelled as McBride), an overseer of a nearby plantation (1857). Both overseers were murdered by slaves, Skinner first, and then McBryde (who was murdered by slaves belonging to W. B. Foules). Included are two drafts of a letter by Alexander in which he details the investigation of the Skinner murder (September 4 and 5, 1857). Alexander's letters were in response to requests for information from friends of a Mr. McAllen (also spelled as McAllin and McCallin), a white man implicated in the Skinner murder. The slaves involved in the Skinner murder are identified as Anderson, Reuben, and Henderson. Others implicated include Jane, Darcas, and Lem. The drafts include details relating to the questioning and punishment of the slaves implicated in the Skinner murder, as they were separated, "staked down," and put "under the lash" for investigators to gain confessions. Another letter from Alexander to Foules discusses whether the slaves should be hanged publicly or privately (December 6, 1857).

Also included in the series are papers pertaining to Zion Seminary in Covington County, Mississippi. Alexander served as secretary for the founding board of the seminary, and the papers include minutes, correspondence, and financial records (May 1858-September 1860). Additionally, Alexander was associated with the governing board of Centenary College of Louisiana in Jackson. Papers pertaining to the college include correspondence with college presidents, financial records, and commencement programs (June 1858-June 1874).

Other items of note include an invitation to Whitworth Female College annual commencement exercises in Brookhaven, Mississippi, compliments of Carrie Steele (June 26-28, 1881); three typescripts: a description of Natchez with a note stating that the text was used in the Natchez City Directory of 1922 (circa 1922), a short story titled "The Rise and Fall of a Philosophical Club" by J. Mastic (circa 1913), and an article titled "Prohibition in Mississippi and How It Works" by Ben Haddam (circa 1931; the latter two typescripts were from the office of Natchez attorney Julius Lemkowitz); and an unidentified list of slaves (undated)

Series II. Professional and Business Records, 1804, 1821-1897, undated

Series chiefly contains documents related to Alexander K. Farrar's legal practice, plantation interests in Adams County, Mississippi, and cotton sales. Materials include correspondence, deeds, indentures, federal land grants, court and jail bills, receipts, account statements, memoranda, and documents pertaining to slaves, as well the business records of Farrar's partner, William Holliday. Items of note include a list of voters in the Kingston Precinct (1844); a document regarding the sale of a slave named Abbey (age two), sold by William Holliday to Mary S. Holliday in Adams County (January 25, 1846); a bill of sale for slave named Anderson, sold by John W. Baird to Farrar in Adams County (February 11, 1848); a West Feliciana, Louisiana jailer's bill paid by Farrar for a runaway slave named John (May 10, 1848); a bill of sale for slaves named Dan (age 40), Lucy (age 35), Henry (age 35), Hester (age 30), Mary (age 30), and Delia (age eight), originally owned by Peter N. Joor, purchased by Farrar in Woodville, Mississippi (May 24, 1849); a bill sale for a slave named Bill, sold by Alexander T. McMurtry to Farrar in Adams County (November 28, 1849); a document regarding the transfer of property and 45 slaves from Samuel B. Newman to Farrar in Adams County (document lists slaves' names and ages; December 24, 1849); a document listing the names of slaves on Cedar Grove (91 names listed; June 19, 1852); a bill of sale for a slave named Berlin, sold by John Fleming to Farrar (January 10, 1853); a transcript of a deed of trust between Eliza C. Wood and James Railey, owners of Anchorage Plantation and slaves in Adams County, and C. Robert Field (January 15, 1853) and another deed, regarding said plantation and slaves, between Railey and Charlotte B. Griffith (May 5, 1853); a copy of a letter from Farrar to John Fleming regarding the slave Berlin (January 20, 1853); a document titled "A bill to be entitled an Act for the relief of Jefferson College" (circa 1854); a copy of an act of sale of the property and seven slaves (named Charly Davis, his wife Ann, their children Liley, Ailcey, and Alfred, and Dick Smily and his wife Tempe) from J. L. Roberts to Farrar in Adams County (February 7, 1856); a 30 page legal document related to a suit between the state of Mississippi and the board of trustees of Jefferson College (May 30, 1856); a copy of the will of John Ford of Adams County, which lists the names of slaves bequeathed to Farrar (June 25, 1858); a copy of a memorandum of an agreement between Rufus A. Ford of Wilkinson County, Mississippi and Farrar regarding a plantation on Buffalo Creek and slaves purchased by Farrar from J. W. Baird of Wilkinson County (November 1, 1858); a letter from Farrar to Capt. Eustis regarding the health of John Holmes and an inventory of the property and slaves on Holmes' plantation in Adams County (April 3 and June 26, 1865) and other documents pertaining to the estate of Holmes (1866); and an unidentified inventory of slaves which lists their names, ages, and values (undated).

Series also contains bills, receipts, invoices, account statements, correspondence, memoranda, and deeds (1834-1848) of Daniel Farrar, especially his accounts with William Harper. Of note is a bill of sale documenting the sale of two slaves, a man named Wilson (age 27) and a woman named Sally (age 22), from Daniel to Alexander K. Farrar in Adams County, Mississippi (May 23, 1840); jailers' bills from Natchez, Mississippi paid by Daniel for runaway slaves named George, also called York (December 14, 1841), and Tom (October 4, 1842); and copy of a transfer of property in Adams County from Calvin Stephen Smith to Anna M. Smith, including slaves named Old Henry, Easter, Betsy, Moses, Amy, Lewis, Jane, Richard, Mahala, Frederick,

Old Lucy, Rachel, Nelson (or Nilson), Caroline, Darcy, Kentucky Charles, George, Emily, Martha Ann (or Anne), Sam, Kezia, Little Rachel, Alfred, Percy (or Penny) Black, Jim, Lucy Ann, and Nancy (December 18, 1841).

Additionally, series contains records (circa 1851-1856, undated) pertaining to the estate of Lewis H. Swayze, for which Alexander K. Farrar acted as executor, and records (1866-1869) pertaining to the A. K. Farrar and Co. store (also called Farrar and Smith or J. E. Smith and Co.). Materials pertaining to the store include account statements with individuals and plantations, as well as requests that credit be extended to plantation workers and sharecroppers and shipping invoices.

Series III. Absalom Sharp Estate Papers, 1849-1862, undated

Series contains papers related to the settlement and management of the estate of Absalom Sharp. Materials are mostly financial records and correspondence related to the operation of Bon Ridge Plantation in Catahoula Parish, including sales receipts for cotton and account statements. Series also includes letters from Ralph North, a Natchez lawyer; from judge James G. Taliaferro, of Harrisonburg, Louisiana; and from heirs of the estate as the widow, Clarissa Sharp, sought to purchase all the shares of the estate. Series also includes correspondence with overseers, mostly with F. W. Ford and A. A. Sanders, at Bon Ridge Plantation, discussing planting, weather, slaves, and worries about malaria outbreaks. Items of interest include an inventory listing the number of slaves, livestock, and equipment on the plantation (January 10, 1852); letters from Ford to Alexander K. Farrar describing the Ford's shooting of a slave named Moses on Bon Ridge Plantation (June 14 and 18, 1852); letters from Ford to Farrar mentioning sicknesses amongst the slaves (August 10 and September 29, 1852; January 7, March 5, August 4 and September 7, 1853); a memorandum of sale, a decree, and an inventory and appraisal of the estate listing slaves, their names, and the prices they were sold for (January 8, 11 and 13, 1855); a memorandum regarding the shares of the estate purchased by Clarissa (January 31, 1856); a list of property from the estate containing the names, ages, and values of slaves (circa January 1856); copies of letters, bonds, and a petition of William Sharp (January 20-21, 1857); a statement of settlement made with Alexander Sharp concerning the heirs of Henry Sharp (circa 1857); and multiple inventories of slaves (listing their names, ages, and values) bought by Farrar and Clarissa from the heirs of Absalom (undated).

Series IV. Plantation Records, 1838-1870, undated

Composed mostly of financial records, series documents the operating expenses and cotton sales of Alexander K. Farrar's Commencement Plantation in Adams County, Mississippi, as well as the daily expenses of his family and his purchasing of slaves. Farrar paid his accounts annually, so it is important to note that most accounts, bills, and receipts for any particular year will be found in the early months of the following year when the accounts were settled. There are letters and statements from the New Orleans cotton factors Buckner and Stanton (1842-1853) and Buckner, Stanton, and Newman (1854-1867) for the sale of cotton, with many of their letters written on copies of the *New-Orleans Price-Current and Commercial Intelligencer*, and bills for plantation and personal merchandise. Also included are some letters and accounts for Farrar's ward, Ellen D. King (1853-1861, the bulk being from 1861).

Items of interest include a bill of sale for a slave named Angeline (age 26), sold by William Bell of Vidalia, Concordia Parish, Louisiana to Farrar (December 10, 1842); an agreement between Farrar and A. T. McMurtry in which Farrar loans his slaves to McMurtry (document lists slaves' names; January 18, 1844); a bill of sale for a slave named Catharine (age 20), sold by John D. James to Farrar in Natchez (May 17, 1847); a bill of sale for a slave named Isabella, sold by A. T. McMurtry to Farrar in Natchez (May 24, 1847); a bill of sale for a slave named Milly (age 18), sold by C. N. Vaughan to Farrar (July 10, 1849); a bill of sale for slaves (document lists slaves' names and ages and mentions Reuben and family on the verso), sold by Dr. F. A. W. Davis to Farrar (slaves were originally owned by A. T. McMurtry and W. H. Stewart) in Natchez (October 11, 1849); a bill of sale for a slave named Sam (age 19), sold by A. T. McMurtry to Farrar in Adams County, Mississippi (March 19, 1850); receipts from Cooper's Well for John Holmes and Farrar (October 8, 1850); a bill of sale for slaves (document lists slaves' names, ages, and complexions), sold by J. Hewett to Farrar in Adams County (December 21, 1852); two letters regarding a disagreement between Jesse Skinner (brother of Duncan B. Skinner) and Farrar (September 29-30, 1853); a bill of sale for a slave named Bill, sold by Ralph North to Farrar in Adams County (October 29, 1853); a loan agreement between Farrar and the Standing Committee of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the Diocese of Mississippi (January 18, 1856); a bill of sale for a slave named Abbey, sold by Frances M. Holliday and his wife Mary A. Holliday to Farrar and delivered to Farrar by R. A. Harrison in Natchez (June 7, 1856), and a letter regarding the sale from G. S. Holliday at White Oaks (June 4, 1856); a letter and newspaper clipping regarding McGowan's Steam Pumping Engine (circa 1856); absence reports from the University of Virginia regarding George D. Farrar's attendance from S. Maupin (November 1, 1856; March 2, 1857; January 1 and February 1, 1858); calculations regarding a levee and slough ditch (May 28, 1859); a list of slaves loaned to Farrar by William Holliday to labor on Antone Plantation from 1856 to 1858 (circa 1862); two permits of protection to Thornton H. Farrar issued by U.S. Army forces (February 24, 1864); a letter from Farrar at Kingston to Capt. McDonald describing a contract that laborers sign on Farrar's plantation (January 9, 1867); a list of slaves (document lists slaves' names and ages) created for Mrs. Jeannette Fleming who is listed as the owner of Reuben on the document (undated); lists of slaves, including those on Bon Ridge Plantation (undated); a letter from Felix Embree to Farrar mentioning that T. H. Curry, sheriff of Wilkinson County, fled and took county tax money with him (undated); and a list of lands belonging to Farrar in Issaquena County, Mississippi, assessed in the name of Isaac Sellers (undated).

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	MF 5322	--	--	Series I, part 3, reels 6-10: Alexander K. Farrar Papers, 1804-1865 (with omissions)