



Meredith Miles Marmaduke Papers (C1021)

Collection Number: C1021

Collection Title: Meredith Miles Marmaduke Papers

Dates: 1823-1886

Creator: Marmaduke, Meredith Miles, 1791-1864

Abstract: Correspondence and miscellaneous personal and business papers of a Saline County, Missouri, farmer, businessman, lieutenant governor, and governor of Missouri.

Collection Size: 0.6 linear foot, also available on 1 roll of microfilm

Language: Collection materials are in English.

Repository: The State Historical Society of Missouri

Restrictions on Access: Collection is open for research. This collection is available at [The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-Columbia](#). If you would like more information, please contact us at columbia@shsmo.org. Collections may be viewed at any research center.

Restrictions on Use: The materials in this collection are in the public domain.

Preferred Citation: [Specific item; box number; folder number *Meredith Miles Marmaduke Papers* (C1021); The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-Columbia [after first mention may be abbreviated to SHSMO-Columbia].

Donor Information: The State Historical Society of Missouri purchased the Meredith Miles Marmaduke Papers from S. J. Cantwell in March and June 1933. Additional portions of the papers were purchased from Lillian S. Harrison of Marshall, Missouri, in June 1937.

Alternate Forms Available: [Slavery documents](#) are available online in the [Missouri Slavery Documents digital collection](#).

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Historical Note: Meredith Miles Marmaduke was born in Westmoreland County, Virginia, on August 28, 1791. He was educated in the public schools, and at twenty-two years of age, was commissioned as colonel of the regiment that was raised in his county in the War of 1812.

Returning to Virginia after the war, he was appointed United States marshal for the eastern district of Virginia, served for several years in that office, and was subsequently elected clerk of the circuit court. He immigrated to Missouri for his health, was engaged in the Santa Fe trade for six years in Howard County, and then settled near Arrow Rock, where he became a successful farmer.

In 1826 Marmaduke married Lavinia Sappington, the daughter of Dr. John Sappington, a prominent pioneer physician of Saline County, and for a brief time became a partner in his father-in-law's enterprises. Sappington was famous for his use of quinine to treat malaria fevers.

A Democrat, Marmaduke served as Saline County surveyor and county judge. He was elected lieutenant governor of Missouri in 1840, assuming the duties of governor when Governor Thomas Reynolds committed suicide in 1844. Marmaduke was a member of the 1845 Missouri Constitutional Convention and in 1854 and became president of the State Agricultural Society and of the district fair association.

During the Civil War Marmaduke was a fierce Union supporter. One son, Confederate General John Sappington Marmaduke, was Missouri's 25th governor (1885-1887) and another, Henry Hungerford Marmaduke, served as a gunner in the Confederate navy aboard the ironclad Merrimac. The Marmadukes had ten children, two of whom died in battle during the Civil War. Marmaduke died March 26, 1864 and is buried at Sappington Cemetery State Historic Site near Arrow Rock, Missouri.

Arrangement:

The papers are arranged chronologically and correspondence and business records are not separated.

Scope and Content Note:

The papers comprise business accounts, receipts, market reports, and advertisements; family, personal and business correspondence; land sales, surveys and records; maps; memoranda; limited family material; and an account book dated 1830-1831 kept by Marmaduke and Dr. John Sappington when they owned a store in Jonesboro, Missouri.

Business records comprise the bulk of the collection and include bills of lading, invoices and IOUs, ledger sheets, loans, and receipts. There is limited material on the sale and purchase of enslaved individuals both in Virginia and Missouri. The business records focus primarily on the Marmaduke farm near Arrow Rock and on the various Marmaduke family enterprises. Correspondence between Marmaduke and his agents includes crop and market reports, commodities prices, and general agricultural conditions in Missouri. The agents traveled in the Mississippi River basin and there are limited descriptions of agricultural conditions in other states where the family conducted business; and to a lesser extent, attempts to collect monies owed from the Sappington Fever Pill business. Of particular note is an 1841 advertisement touting the pedigree, race record, and progeny accomplishments of the thoroughbred stallion Tranby imported from England.

The limited political correspondence provides insight into national and Missouri state politics of the 1840s and includes discussion of the administration of President James Knox Polk, the political careers of Missouri Senator Thomas Hart Benton and Henry Clay of Kentucky, the

annexation of Texas and the subsequent Mexican American War of 1845-1848, and the Missouri Constitution Convention of 1845. Letters from Senator Thomas Hart Benton, George Champlain Sibley, and James Sidney Rollins are included.

There are some legal documents, which provide insight into the practical administration of Saline County, Missouri, politics and government in the 1840s. These documents include deeds, depositions, estate papers, land surveys and transfers, maps, partnership agreements, political appointments, and tax records.

The correspondence between Marmaduke and his family in Virginia focuses primarily on family news and social conditions of the era and includes correspondence from the related Belfield, Dozier, Harrison, Hungerford, Porter, McClanahan, and Walker families. Of interest is the 1853 cadet appointment to West Point for Marmaduke's son, John Sappington Marmaduke.

Scattered throughout the papers are nineteenth century maps of Africa (1848), Europe (1843 and 1847), Great Britain (1839), South America (1847), the United States (1847), and the West Indies (1848).

On the microfilm some of the documents were blurred when filmed. Retakes of those documents are at the end of the folder in which the document is stored.

Container List:

f. 1	n.d.
f. 2	1823 May 20-1824 February 28
f. 3	1824 May 6-1827 September 20
f. 4	1827 November 20-1829 June 6
f. 5	1829 June 14-1830 February 18
f. 6	1830 February 23-26
f. 7	1831 April 21-1834 February 3
f. 8	1834 February 14-1835 March 26, Miscellaneous accounts
f. 9	1835 March 27-April 22, Miscellaneous accounts
f. 10	1835 May 11-1837 March 13
f. 11	1837 November 14-1839 March 24
f. 12	1839 May 4-1840 July 29
f. 13	1840-1841
f. 14	1842 January 30-1843 April 21
f. 15	1843 April 25-1844 August 12
f. 16	1844-1846
f. 17	1846 November 17-1847 April 13
f. 18	1848-1851
f. 19	1852 January 15-1854 June 10
f. 20	1854 June 15-1856 March 31
f. 21	1856 April 24-1884 June 2
f. 22	1884-1886, William Harrison papers

f. 23 1830-1831, Account Book

Index:

Subject	Folders
Account books	23
Advertisements	1, 13
Agriculture, 1820s--Missouri	5
Agriculture, 1840s--Missouri	17
Agriculture, 1850s	18-20
Becknell, George F.	18
Becknell, William	13
Belfield family	20
Benton, Thomas Hart (1782-1858)	1, 16
Berry, Conklin M.	15
Bills of lading, 1820s	5
Bills of lading, 1830s	6
Bills of lading, 1840s	17
Boon, H. L.	15
Brown, William	1
Burch, Thomas C.	4, 5
Business records, 1820s	1-5
Business records, 1830s	6-12, 23
Business records, 1840s	12-18
Business records, 1850s	18-21
Business records, 1880s	21, 22
Chambers, Benjamin	7
Clay, Henry (1777-1852)	17
Cramer, John	23
Dawson, A. B.	14
Deeds, 1830s	11
Depositions, 1820s	4
Depositions, 1830s	1, 7, 10
Depositions, 1840s	18
Dozier family	7
English, James L.	14
Estate management, 1880s	22
Ewing, N. C.	16
Foster, T. L.	14

Grisham, John R.	4
Hall, Sylvester	12
Hardeman, John Locke (1809-1858)	20
Hardeman, Thomas	1
Harris, Nathan	6, 11, 12
Harrison, William	21, 22
Hauler, Samuel	23
Haynie, Flemington	14
Hays, Christian	18
Heathman, James	12
Hemp-Prices, 1850s	19, 20
Hogan, George M.	17
Horse breeding, 1840s-Missouri	13
Huffman, David	23
Hungerford family	2, 4, 6, 20
Invoices, 1820s	4, 5
Invoices, 1830s	5-12
Invoices, 1840s	12-18
Invoices, 1850s	18-20
Jackson, Claiborne Fox (1806-1862)	17
Jackson, John P.	18
Jenkins, Aaron	23
Keyte, James	1, 5
Keyte, Thomas James	1
Land records, 1820s	4
Land records, 1830s	6, 11, 12
Land records, 1840s	13, 15, 16
Land records, 1850s	20
Land surveys, 1820s	4
Land surveys, 1830s	6
Legal documents, 1820s	4, 5
Legal documents, 1830s	6-12
Legal documents, 1840s	13-16, 18
Legal documents, 1880s	21, 22
Loans, 1840s	17
Loans, 1850s	19, 20
Long, J. W.	15
Lowry, John	17
Lynch, John	22
Maps, 1830s	11

Maps, 1840s	14, 17, 18
Maps--Africa, 1840s	18
Maps--Europe, 1840s	17
Maps--South America, 1840s	17
Maps--United States, 1840s	17
Maps--West Indies, 1840s	18
Marmaduke family	2, 11, 19, 21,22
Marmaduke, Meredith Miles (1791-1864)	1-21
Marvin, Asa C.	19
McCandliss, Wilson	1
McClanahan family	3, 10
McHenry, John	14
McNutt, Robert	14
Medicine, 1830s-Missouri	1, 10
Medicine, 1840s-Missouri	15
Mexican War	17
Miller, Jonathan G.	19
Missouri State Agricultural Society	19, 20
Missouri, 1820s	5
Missouri, 1840s--Politics and government	13, 16, 17
Missouri, 1850s--Politics and government	19
Missouri, Cooper County	22
Missouri, Jonesboro	23
Missouri, Marshall	21, 22
Missouri, Saline County	11
Missouri. Bank of	11
Missouri--Politics and government, 1840s	13, 16, 17
Missouri--Politics and government, 1850s	19
Monroe, William	16
Neale, Augt.	5
Oden, John	15
Oregon Territory, Boundary dispute	16
Ork, Allen	6
Owen, Abel	4
Parsons, Isaac	16
Payne family	2
Pearson, Alonzo	4
Peery, William	14
Penn, George	1, 14-17, 19
Phelps, John S. (1814-1886)	16

Pitts, George R.	11
Polk, James Knox (1795-1849)	16, 17
Porter family	2, 15
Poultry farming-Missouri, 1850s	20
Quisenberry, Jackson	10
Rayburn, Samuel S.	13
Receipts, 1820s	1-5
Receipts, 1830s	6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 12
Receipts, 1840s	12-18
Receipts, 1850s	18-22
Receipts, 1880s	21, 22
Reynolds, Thomas	15
Ringo, Peter	11
Rollins, James Sidney (1812-1888)	20
Salisbury, Lucius	20
Sappington family	4, 7, 8
Sappington, Erasmus D.	1, 4, 6, 8-11, 14, 16, 19
Sappington, John (1776-1856)	1, 3, 10, 11, 14-16, 18-20, 23
Sappington, William B.	12-14, 16, 17, 21
Sibley, George Champlain (1782-1863)	4
Slavery, 1820s-Missouri	2
Slavery, 1830s-Virginia	7
Slaves-Purchase and sales records-Missouri	2
Smith, G. R.	15
Stafford, Stephen	19
Stephens, Joseph L.	19
Superintendent of Indian Affairs	13
Tax records, 1830s	10, 12
Texas, 1830s	10
Thompkins, Blaine	16
Todd and Krum	17, 18
Todd, Joseph	23
Todd, Samuel	23
Trigg, William H.	19
Tymony, Francis	12, 14, 17, 18
U.S. Military Academy, West Point, New York	20
United States, 1840's--Political and government	17
United States, 1840s-Politics and government	17
Walker family	6
Washington D.C.	16, 17, 19

Watson, James L.	17
Wells, (Robert W.)	16, 17
Wheeler, Stephen	23
Willson, James	14
Wilson, W. A.	11
Yancey, David	13