



## **Jabez Smith Papers (C2729)**

**Collection Number:** C2729

**Collection Title:** Jabez Smith Papers

**Dates:** 1847-1855

**Creator:** Smith, Jabez

**Abstract:** The papers of Jabez Smith contain letters to Smith, Independence, MO, from various people acting as his agents in California and Virginia. Also included are miscellaneous items and photographs.

**Collection Size:** 0.13 cubic feet  
(6 folders)

**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](mailto:columbia@shsmo.org) Collections may be viewed at any research center.

**Restrictions on Use:** Material in this collection are in the public domain.

**Preferred Citation:** [Specific item; box number; folder number] *Jabez Smith Papers (C2729)*; The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-Columbia [after first mention may be abbreviated to SHSMO-Columbia].

**Donor Information:** The papers were donated to the State Historical Society of Missouri by John Perry Pritchett on February 7, 1969 (Accession No. CA0614).

**Alternate Forms Available:** A letter discussing the deaths of two enslaved individuals is available online in the Missouri Slavery Documents digital collection:  
<https://digital.shsmo.org/digital/search/searchterm/c2729>.

**Processed by:** Processed by the State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-Columbia staff, date unknown. Finding aid revised by Erika Van Vranken on May 23, 2020.

**Historical Note:**

Jabez Smith was born in Spotsylvania County, Virginia, on March 12, 1787, to George Smith and Beheathland Brent Dade Smith. He married Susan Royster in 1827. She died in 1844, and he married Ann Eliza Hennin in 1851. Smith was a wealthy landowner and he enslaved hundreds of individuals in his lifetime. He was also a land speculator who moved to Jackson County, Missouri, in 1843. He died in 1855.

**Arrangement:**

The collection has been arranged chronologically.

**Scope and Content Note:**

The papers of Jabez Smith contain letters to Smith, Independence, MO, from various people acting as his agents in California and Virginia. Also included are miscellaneous items and photographs. See container list below for details.

**Container List:**

- f. 1 Letters to Jabez Smith, August 7, 1847 to June 27, 1851. Some from William Thomas about financial arrangements; family news from John A. Mitchell, some legal documents concerning land in Yazoo County, Mississippi; all documents are from Virginia.
- f. 2 Letters to Jabez Smith, August 27, 1850 to September 20, 1852. Letters on financial situation from William Thomas, letters from John Mitchell about business; discussion of the Orson Martin trial in Richmond, Virginia.
- f. 3 Letters to Jabez Smith, October 10, 1852 to April 23, 1854. Letters from agents in Sacramento, California, trying to finance a stock investment deal; business deals in New Orleans.
- f. 4 Letters to Jabez Smith, May 4, 1854 to June 1, 1855. Prospects for livestock in California; arrangement for business deals.
- f. 5-6 Miscellaneous personal articles and papers, the results of random collection by the donor. Deeds from Pennsylvania; copy of the bail bond for Jefferson Davis; autographed pictures of Truman, Stark, Champ Clark.

**Index:**

Index Terms	Folders
California, Sacramento	3,4
Cattle	4
Griggs, W. W.	1, 2
Measles	1
Mississippi, Yazoo County	1
Mitchell, James A.	1-4

Index Terms	Folders
Slavery	1, 2
Smith, Jabez	1-6
Thomas, William A.	1-4
Virginia, Pittsylvania County	1, 2