

2019

David M. Phillips Papers

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M-019 DAVID M. PHILLIPS PAPERS, 1819-1869

SCOPE AND CONTENT

Pioneer settler of Claiborne Parish, Louisiana; includes correspondence received from relatives and friends in Georgia and Louisiana, and other papers; materials relate to living conditions prior to, during, and immediately after the Civil War. 3 folders.

| BOX | FOLDER | DESCRIPTION |
|---------|--------|---|
| 001 | 001 | William Phillips business records, 1819-1822: Notes, receipts, and other business papers of William Phillips, great-grandfather of R.C. Phillips, Sr. |
| 002-003 | | David M. Phillips correspondence, 1853-1869: Letter from A.B. Floyd, Forsyth, Georgia, 1853. Contents: his financial misfortunes including death of some slaves; announcing his intention to marry soon. Two letters from cousins in Georgia, 1855, about crops, health, and politics. Letter from his sister Mary F. White, 1855, about family matters. Letter from brother-in-law Jim White [undated, 1855?], about politics and scarlet fever epidemic. Letter from brother-in-law Charles Womack in Buena Vista, 1855, about politics and local conditions. Letter from Charles Womack, in Schley, Georgia, 1857, about crops, slaves and family activities. Letter from David Phillips, 1857, to his wife while on a trip to Alabama and presumably Georgia. Several letters, 1858 and 1859, from friends and relatives containing information similar to above-mentioned letters. Several letters, mostly from Charles Womack, 1861, about secession of Southern states and the beginning of the Civil War. Letter from Charles Womack, 1861, to his father from Camp Stephens in Pensacola, Florida, about army life. |

Letter from Charles Womack, 1861, to David Phillips from Camp Stephens in Pensacola, Florida, about army life.

Letter to David Phillips, 1861, from a friend in Georgia about living conditions.

Letter from Charles Womack, 1861, to his sister about his experiences in the Army while stationed in Pensacola, Florida.

Letter to David Phillips, 1861, from friend William Murphy in Georgia, about companies being formed for the Confederate Army in that region and related news.

Letter from Lucinda Phillips, 1861, in Marion County, Georgia, to her sister about family and living conditions.

Letter to David Phillips, 1861, from his brother-in-law Charles Womack at Camp Stephens in Pensacola, Florida.

Receipt dated Feb. 1864 for what seems to be land in Louisiana impressed for the use of the Confederate Army, signed by Lt. D.M. Phillips and others.

Obituary for Thomas M. Floyd, 1864, killed during the Civil War.

Letters to David Phillips, 1866, from friend William R. Murphy in Monroe County, Georgia. Contents: poor post-war conditions there; names the friends and acquaintances who died in the war and those wounded; how certain persons are trying to farm again with and without paid help; the poor plight of widows and orphans; how he cared for the sick and wounded during the war; how his cotton was burned by the Yankees. He says he is now farming on a small scale, with five Negroes and three white boys hired. Two families are living on his place and he feeds 16 people. He says most of the former slaves have left the area. He is looking forward to a visit from David.

Letter to David Phillips, 1866, from his brother-in-law Charles Womack in Schley County, Georgia. Contents: the health of his families and local conditions since the war ended; a family of four Negroes hired to help farm; his troubles in farming; the difference in the Negroes since they are now freedmen; a court established by the last legislature for every county to handle reconstruction problems. He mentions poor crops and foretells much suffering and

starvation for the area. He is looking forward to David's visit and is planning to move. [Remainder of letter (copy) is too faint to read.]

Letter to David Phillips and his wife [?], 1868, from Schley County, Georgia. [Copy too faint to read.]

Two letters, 1869, from Charles Womack in Americus, Georgia. Contents: his plans for trying to make more money from his crops and his desire to get married; the change for the better in jury selections in the area; that the freedmen are getting along pretty well but that some have not found homes yet; that the Ku Klux Klan have run off nearly all the Negroes from Schley County; and personal matters.

Letter, 1869, from David's friend, William Murphy from Gainesville, Georgia. Contents: his family; visit by Charles and Elizabeth Womack; his work in a business firm in Gainesville; the sale of his land. He writes bitterly of how those men who were formerly wealthy are now poor while those who were poor are now the "mighty ones." Mentions by name some whom he considers scoundrels.