

## Lemuel Pratt Grant (1817 – 1893) Papers, 1838 – 1855

24 folders, original loose papers. .25 cu ft

Donor: Governmental Records Office

This collection consists primarily of letters to Lemuel P. Grant early in his career as a civil engineer and railroad builder. Because many of the correspondents (58) were relatives or personal friends, as well as railroad co-workers, they often included family news in their letters. In later years, Grant became a prominent citizen of Atlanta, GA. A larger number of records are housed at the Atlanta Historical Society.

Lemuel Pratt Grant and his older brother, James Harvey Grant (b. 1812), were originally from Maine. When young men, they worked for the Reading Railroad in Pennsylvania. In the 1830's, when construction of railroads began in Georgia, James came south and was joined two years later by Lemuel. The brothers were employed as rodmen and construction engineers on the Georgia Railroad. Later James moved out of state, but Lemuel remained in Georgia and became a civil engineer and officer in several railroads branching out from Atlanta. Throughout his long career, Grant played an important role in establishing Atlanta as a railroad center of the South. He was a public-spirited citizen and prominent in civic, business and philanthropic endeavors. The most numerous group of letters is from Grant's brother James who frequently signed his letters "J.H.G." He came to Georgia first and worked at various places along the Georgia Railroad. After Lemuel moved to Georgia, James continued to correspond because the brothers lived or worked in different towns along the rail line. When James moved to or visited in other states, he corresponded with Lemuel. His letters contain much information about railroad construction projects, and sometimes he included drawings of engineering plans or equipment. His letters also contain brotherly advice, news of family and friends, and gossip.

The next most numerous groups of letters are from correspondents who were railroad co-workers or friends and relatives associated with Grant's railroad activities.

A final group of miscellaneous letters consists of personal, business, or legal papers and letters from a variety of individuals.

<u>FOLDER</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>
1	James H. Grant Letters, 1838 - 1840. From February 19, 1838, to January 24, 1840, James wrote from Greensborough (Greensboro), Georgia, to Lemuel who was living in various railroad towns in Pennsylvania (Manayunk, Phoenixville, Norristown, Rising Sun). There are interesting remarks about families he visited or young ladies he dated as well as descriptions of several Georgia towns (Madison, Greensborough, Athens) and their social life. A letter dated December 26, 1838, was written to Charles T. Stewart who was a civil engineer in the same location (Manayunk, Pennsylvania) as L. P. Grant.
2	James H. Grant Letters. 1840 - 1841. From March 15, 1840, to September 19, 1841, James wrote to Lemuel, who was now living in various towns along the Georgia Railroad (Mt. Pleasant, Covington, Macon). He continued to mix personal, family, and railroad information and news, announcing plans to take off

<u>FOLDER</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>
2, cont.	for several months of travel to Missouri and other mid-west states en route to Maine to visit his family.
3	James H. Grant Letters, 1841 - 1843. From December 21, 1841, to November 5, 1843, James wrote to Lemuel from Glasgow, Missouri, where he had settled and bought property. He operated a mill until it failed and suffered other financial difficulties. James' and Lemuel's sister, Eliza, lived in Glasgow also and is mentioned in these letters. During this period, Lemuel was sick and returned to Maine to visit his mother and recuperate. The brothers returned to Georgia in late 1843 to continue working for the railroad. A letter dated November 5, 1843, is written by James and a friend, Fred c. Arms (see Folder 5).
4	James H. Grant Letters, 1849 - 1851. From January 15, 1849, to December 13, 1851, James lived in Tennessee (Winchester, Murfreesboro, Nashville, Chattanooga) where he worked for a railroad. His letters were a mixture of business and family news. He had married Jane Winfield and mentioned "our little darling."
5	Fred C. Arms Letters, 1843 - 1845. Arms was an assistant civil engineer on the Georgia Railroad. He and L. P. Grant had surveyed the final section from Covington to Atlanta (then Marthasville). His letters contain railroad information and personal news.
6	George D. Cole Letters, 1840 - 1842. Cole worked for a railroad in Black Rock, New York.
7	William H. Dabney Letters, 1841 and 1852. Dabney and L. P. Grant married sisters, daughters of Ammi Williams. The letters contain personal and business news.
8	James Day Letters, 1838 and 1841. A friend and railroad co-worker who wrote from Pennsylvania and New York.
9	Wilson M. C. Fairfax Letters, 1840. Letters of inquiry about railroad construction from a friend in Reading, Pennsylvania.
10	F. P. Holcomb Letters, 1843. Holcomb wrote from New Castle, Delaware, inquiring about a railroad construction job in Georgia. In the second letter, he referred to Grant's bout with an illness described as "Oconee Swamp fever" and his own bouts with similar illnesses.
11	William Hopper Letters, 1841 - 1843. Hopper was a personal friend in Philadelphia and wrote news of friends and events.
12	Isaac Hudson Letters, 1851 and 1852. Business letters about the poor financial situation of a railroad project in Tennessee.
13	Robert F. Hunt Letters, 1842. Personal letters full of gossipy news of family and friends in Greensborough and Athens, Georgia, and Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.
14	Francis E. Nicole Letters, 1842 and 1843. A combination of business and personal letters from a coworker in Twiggs County and Macon, Georgia. The letter of December 4, 1843, refers to L. P. Grant's upcoming wedding.
15	John E. Parke Letters, 1841 and 1845. Business and personal letters from Greensborough and Rome, Georgia. Parke mentions runaway slaves in North Georgia, a railroad wreck and the death of 20 people in Marietta, Georgia, from "inflammatory fever."

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16	Charles T. Pollard Letters, 1845. Primarily letters concerning railroad routes and schedules and written from Fredericksburg, Virginia, and Montgomery, Alabama.
17	Charles P. Shannon Letters, 1845. Railroad business matters in Montgomery, Alabama and Shannonsville, Pennsylvania.
18	John A. B. Shaw Letters, 1840 and 1842. Railroad and gossip personal news from Forsyth, Georgia.
19	Adeline Thomson Letters, 1841 and 1842. Adeline was the sister of J. Edgar Thomson, Chief Engineer of the Georgia Railroad. Her letters from Greensborough, Georgia, as well as one from Philadelphia, contain family news. One letter is concerned with antagonistic feelings toward Charlotte Thomson (see Folder 20).
20	C[harlotte] Thomson Letters, 1841. These letters are signed C. Thomson or C.T. She is the Charlotte referred to in Adeline Thomson's letters (see Folder 19) a widow and possibly an in-law of the Thomson family. She wrote from Greensborough, Georgia, about personal or family news.
21	James Waller Letters, 1839. A railroad friend from Ballston and Sing Sing, New York.
22	William G. Waller Letters, 1839. A railroad friend who wrote from Richmond, Virginia, and Sing Sing, New York.
23	L. P. Grant Miscellaneous Incoming Letters, 1838 - 1855. This group contains one letter from each of 34 correspondents who were relatives, friends, or business associates of Grant. Some became prominent citizens of Georgia. The letters were written from places in Georgia, unless otherwise designated, and the names of the correspondents are listed alphabetically:

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| 1. James S. Bullock                         | 21. J. Norcross                                    |
| 2. L. Chivalieg(?), Reading, Pennsylvania   | 22. Richard Peters                                 |
| 3. Reuben Cone                              | 23. P.J. Rogers                                    |
| 4. John Drakeford, Tuskegee, Alabama        | 24. Ezekial Root                                   |
| 5. G.S. Ealon                               | 25. E.D. Sanford                                   |
| 6. Patrick Flynn                            | 26. E. Sprague, Phoenixville, Pennsylvania         |
| 7. Philip Ford, Troy, New York              | 27. William W. Tarbutt                             |
| 8. John T. Grant                            | 28. Henry Thompson                                 |
| 9. John Henson, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania  | 29. Samuel A. Whitaker, Phoenixville, Pennsylvania |
| 10. W.S. Holmes, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania | 30. L.N. Whittle                                   |
| 11. J.C. Hunt                               | 31. J.W. Wilde                                     |
| 12. Marg. Huriker, Montgomery, AL           | 32. Levi Willard                                   |
| 13. L. Kates and Co., Mobile, AL            | 33. John S. Williams                               |
| 14. F. Krog                                 | 34. John A. Wright, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania     |
| 15. c. ? McCay                              |  |
| 16. Jesse McLindren                         |  |
| 17. A. Means                                |  |
| 18. McPherson B. Millen                     |  |
| 19. L.S. Morgan                             |  |
| 20. H. Morris, Philadelphia, PA             |  |

<u>FOLDER</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>
24	Unidentified Papers. 1838 - 1854. Letters have either no signatures or illegible ones. A Thomas H. Highsmith's deed concerns property in Cobb County, Georgia.