

RECORD GROUP 279

Letters of Frederick and Charles Graff

1852 -1856

Accession # 1994.31.1-4

Collection consists of 4 letters (1 incomplete) written by Frederick Graff, a physician practicing in Pointe Coupee parish and Charles Graff, his brother, who came to Louisiana to take care of his brother's widow after Frederick Graff died. The letters are dated 1852-1856 and document life in the parish during the mid 19c. They contain information about politics, mosquitos, the Mississippi river, levees, consumption, "dropsy" [edema], and attitudes held by American immigrants to the area.

--to Howard [] from Frederick Graff, physician, re his 1842 arrival in "The Arab Coast, commonly known as Pointe Coupee;" the loss of all his belongings because of a steamboat collision; mosquitos "who relish a Northerner;" family news re his mother and brother Edmund, who is ill with consumption; some discussion of Edmund's opinion as well as his own re the 1852 elections: "he gives the Democrats a blessing, but he little thinks how easy they can beat us [Whigs] this time. The Party down this way is very much pleased with the nomination--even in ecstasy. The Whigs are tardy in the contest." ALS. Forlorn Hope, June 30, 1852.

Accession # 1994.31.1a-b

--to "Dear Friend" from Frederick Graff. Graff noted he lived in "but a half-civilized community, destitute of Church or Preacher;" some discussion of the past winter's weather, his flourishing medical practice and horses (which he noted were "very scarce"). Graff offered to send "two small Creole riding ponies for your children. They are generally prized in the upper country and can be exchanged for larger horses". About other family members he noted, "I am in correspondence with no one but mother. Edmund is always in haste and Charles always in trouble. The Girls wrote about Fashions and nonsense and I dropped them." ALS. Pointe Coupee, Feb 23, 1853.

Accession # 1994.31.2

--[Fragment], begins "third sheet." [Frederick Graff?] to unidentified. The correspondent noted he was once again ill with "dropsy" [edema]. He noted he was used to the mosquitos, and that they granted him "the privileges of a Denizen," that the community was "in continual dread of overflow from the river Mississippi...the levees that protect our region are incomplete, but in process of construction. Immense amounts of money are expended yearly for our safety without avail." There is some mention of C.W. Clifford, of the firm of Wood & Abbot who was elected to the Senate. Graff observed, "If we were above high

water mark, I should look upon this [area], as the garden spot of the world, unsurpassed in fertility. Americans are constantly buying out the lazy Creole French and in a short time we will have a much better population; however these seldom move far off, but settle again on smaller tracts of land adjoining. Ultimately they must leave before the whites, like the savages." ALS. [Pointe Coupee?] c. 1854.

Accession # 1994.31.3

--to [Sheffen?] from Charles Graff re the death of his brother Frederick. "I have found everything here in much better condition than I anticipated. The loss of the Dr. is irreparable here and it seems...everybody most adored him and cannot realize his loss."

ALS. Bayou Fordoche, Feb 14, 1856.

Accession # 1994.31.4

Prepared by KPage

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