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Andrew C. Cowles, Margaret C. Reynolds, and Others

[Archive]: Letters and Documents from the North Carolina Estate of Colonel Andrew C. Cowles, Confederate Officer and Politician, circa 1830 – 1880

North Carolina: [circa 1830-1880]

\$2500



A small family archive consisting of over 50 personal family letters and over 125 estate documents and letters of Andrew C. Cowles, a prominent Confederate Colonel and politician from Hamptonville, North Carolina. During the Civil War Andrew Cowles served as a member of the North Carolina House of Representatives (1860-64), and he commanded the 18th Brigade of the 75th Regiment of North Carolina Militia at Hamptonville. Immediately after the war he served as State Senator, from 1865-66, and again from 1870-74. He also ran a successful whiskey distillery.

Most of the letters and documents span the years from the late 1860s through mid-1880s, including many dating back to the early 1830s, and a few up to about 1900. Half of the personal family letters were written by Cowles' wife Maggie Reynolds while he was away on senate business in Raleigh: most are long letters, typically 4 to 6 neat and densely written pages in her small legible hand, and containing much intimate personal content and related domestic news and happenings at the estate in Hamptonville. Also included are letters from Andrew Cowles to Maggie, and letters from various siblings and relatives from both the Cowles' and Reynolds' extended families. These contain both personal content and much additional content about the running of the Hamptonville estate and other properties in North Carolina and other states. Most of the letters have been retained folded in their original envelopes (with stamps).

Among the estate documents are many letters by and to members of both the Reynolds' and Cowles' family, and friends and associates in their circle. Included are over 125 miscellaneous documents and letters: ranging from receipts to formal letters, and including all manner of estate documents: summons, insurance policies, ledger accounts, etc., dating from 1830-1880.

Most of the letters and documents have been retained folded, overall very good, with scattered short tears and fraying to the edges and folds of some items. A list of selected items follows:

I. Personal Letters

A. Maggie Reynolds to Andrew Cowles

[Posted to:] Col. A.C. Cowles, Senate Chamber, Raleigh, N.C.

1. ALS. Octavo. 3pp. Hamptonville, December 18, 1870.
2. ALS. Octavo. 6pp. Hamptonville, January 15, 1871.
3. (Jan. 19, 1871). ALS. Octavo. 7pp. (+ 2pp. inserted letter and additional half-page letter).
4. [Postmark]: Jan. 23 [1871]. ALS. Octavo. 2pp. Hamptonville.
5. [Postmark]: Jan. 23 [1871]. Octavo. 6pp. (+ 2pp. inserted letter Jan. 22, 1871) Hamptonville.
6. [Jan. 29, 1871]. ALS. Octavo. 3pp. At Home – January 29.
7. ALS. Octavo. 4pp. Hamptonville, February 12, 1871.
8. ALS. Octavo. 4pp. Hamptonville, Sunday, December 15, 1872.
9. ALS. Octavo. 6pp. (+ 1 additional quarto letter enclosed). Hamptonville, January 18, 1873.
10. ALS. Octavo. 4pp. Hamptonville, February 16, 1873.
11. ALS. Small folio. 1p. Hamptonville, February 23, 1873.
12. [Nov. 1873?]. ALS. Octavo. 3pp. [Letterhead]: "State of North Carolina, Senate Chamber." Hamptonville. [extract]: "Dear Andy / Pa got here safe yesterday evening. The things you sent the children and myself were gratefully received ... I have slept down stairs two night now, am not quite done moving yet. Mandy Aunt Sophie and I worked hard yesterday and day before to get through but couldn't quite do so, will be ready though for the hog killing. I am very well haven't hurt myself so you need not be uneasy about me ... Reuben and Carrie Belle are as well as when you left, they both miss you ... much love from myself and many kisses from Babies ... your affectionate Wife."
13. [MS postmark: "Nov. 28" 1873]. ALS. Octavo. 4pp. (+ insert: Post Card). "State of North Carolina, Senate Chamber." [Hamptonville].
14. (Nov. 30, 1873). ALS. Octavo. 3pp. Hamptonville.
15. (Dec. 7, 1873). ALS. Quarto. 4pp. Hamptonville.

16. [MS postmark: "Dec. 12" 1873]. ALS. Octavo. 6pp. "State of North Carolina, Senate Chamber." [Hamptonville], Monday Night, 8th.

17. [MS postmark: "Dec. 15" 1873]. ALS. Octavo. 3pp. "State of North Carolina, Senate Chamber." Hamptonville, Sunday Eve.

18. [MS postmark: "Jan. 23" 1874]. ALS. Octavo. 6pp. "Senate Chamber, Raleigh, N.C., 187-". Hamptonville, Tuesday Night.

19. ALS. Octavo. 3pp. "Senate Chamber, Raleigh, N.C., 187-". Hamptonville, Sunday, January 25, 1874.

20. ALS. Octavo. 4pp. Hamptonville, February 1, 1874.

21. ALS. Octavo. 4pp. Hamptonville, February 5, 1874.

22. ALS. Octavo. 1p. Hamptonville, Thursday Evening, February 5, 1874.

23. ALS. Octavo. 4pp. Hamptonville, February 8, 1874.

B. Andrew Cowles to Maggie Reynolds (Statesville, N.C.)

1. ALS. Quarto. 1p. Hamptonville, N. Carolina: July 25, 1869.

2. ALS. Quarto. 6pp. (+ insert) Hamptonville, N.C. May 20, 1870.

3. ALS. Quarto. 1p. Hamptonville, N. Carolina: June 28, 1872.

C. Maggie Cowles to Carrie Belle Cowles

1. ALS. Octavo. 3.5pp. Snow Creek, May 23 [1887].

2. ALS. Octavo. 4pp. (+ insert: letter from Carrie's younger brother). Snow Creek, September 9, 1887.

3. ALS. Octavo. 4pp. (+ insert). Snow Creek, September 13, 1887.

4. ALS. Octavo. 6pp. (+ insert: letter from Carrie's younger brother). Snow Creek, October 24, 1887.

D. Carrie Cowles (Cowles sister) to Andrew Cowles

1. ALS. Octavo. 4pp. Wallingford, CT, April 12, 1870.

2. Two ALS. Octavos. 4pp./2pp. Wallingford, CT, May 4/May 20, 1870.

3. ALS. Octavo. 6pp. Wallingford, CT, May 23. Re: Andrew's upcoming marriage to Maggie.

4. ALS. Octavo. 4pp. Wallingford, CT, May 25, 1870.

Miscellaneous Other Letters

1. (1834). Absey to William. ALS. Quarto. 2.5pp. Statesville, N.C. September 4, 1834. "Friend William / I have arrived safely in Statesville ... the report had got circulated that I was coming home and I did not have the pleasure of surprising Bell as I hoped to do. She is the happiest creature now that you ever saw ... I find that she has been very much alarmed about me. Afraid that I would [take?] the Cholera. But I was protected from the ravages of that fatal disease and have once more had the pleasure of gazing upon that one who is so near and dear unto my heart. / The time is fast approaching when I hope to call her mine. I am looking forward with bright anticipation to the 26 th [the wedding] as the time when I shall be happy indeed ... preparations ... I hope to make many of my

friends happy on that night. I wish you would come down on the Saturday before ... / We intend to invite Miles & Andrew Cowles ... / I saw Pink in Philadelphia ... Write me whether you will be down on Saturday or not. / Your affectionate Friend Absey”

2. (1838). Amelia Reynolds to Mrs. Belle Simonton. ALS. Quarto. 2pp. Hamptonville, August 1-4, 1838. Dear cousin Belle / I will write a few lines this evening and send with cousin Maggie ... I have not been feeling as well this week as usual, my head troubles me mightily; the children are well and are enjoying themselves mightily well; Mr. Martin’s people went to Quaker meeting to-day – and Annie went with them, has just got back: thinks a great deal of Miss Mary Martin ... The Quakers are having protracted meeting about three miles from here. Mr. Martin said there was a minister and his wife there to-day (and preached) from Chicago. ... / cousin Maggie and myself have been trying to get some sewing done ...

3. To Miss Maggie Reynolds (from Andrew Cowles?)
-ALS. Octavo. 1p. Liberty Hill, N.C. March 22, 1867.

4. Carrie to Mrs. A.C. Cowles
-ALS. Quarto. 3pp. February 18, 1872.

5. (Bank of Statesville to A.C. Cowles). ALS. Octavo. 1p. March 17, 1874.

6. To Margaret Cowles. ALS. Octavo. 1p. Statesville, N.C. October 17, 1878 (From A.W. Jamison, a colleague of Andrew).

7. To. Mrs. M.C. Cowles (from “Steve?”). ALS. Octavo. 7pp. (+ insert). Insert dated: December 19, 1890.

8. To M.C. Cowles (from her young son). ALS. Octavo. 2pp. Fancy Hill January 25, 1892.

II. Estate Documents and related Letters

A. Hugh Reynolds (Letters and Documents)

Selected letters:

1. Andrew Reynolds to “Mr Hugh Reynolds, Statesville, Iredell County N.C.” ALS. Folio. 3pp. Indiana State, Jackson County, May 23, 1835. “Dear Brothers and Sister ...” Folded. Scattered short tears along some of the folds (minor loss to some of the handwriting).

2. Andrew Reynolds to Hugh Reynolds, Mocksville, Davy County, N.C. (circa 1830s). ALS. Quarto. Several sheets, folded. Scattered tears at the folds.

3. R.M. Johnson to Hugh Reynolds, Tabo, October 1, 1869.

4. R.M. Johnson to Hugh Reynolds, Tabo Mo, October 5, 1869. “Friend Hugh ... I had a talk with Mr. A. Franks. He says that he will take Eight Thousand Dollars of your money, and pay you ten per-cent interest, and give you a mortgage on his plantation, of four hundred acres, which will make it perfectly safe. He rates his land at \$40.00 per acre. He has been offered \$30.00 for it, it is nearly all under fence ...” [verso]: “Uncle Hugh: As Pa is through I will write a few lines to tell you about our beets, corn, &c. ... your friend / Bellie”

5. Andrew Cowley to Hugh Reynolds, Statesville, Iredell County, N.C. ALS. Quarto. 2pp. Raleigh, N.C., Sunday Eve, November 23, 1873. “Dear Uncle Hugh / I enclose a letter from Maggie – please ... Give my love to Sister Belle and Aunt Jane.

6. Several other letters and documents (estate documents, ledger accounts, receipts, etc.).

B. Other Reynolds' and Cowles' family members and relatives: Letters and Documents, circa 1830 – 1880:
-Over 125 miscellaneous documents: ranging from receipts to formal letters, and including all manner of estate documents: summons, insurance policies, ledger accounts, etc. [BTC#399138]

