

**ADAMS, MARTHA RIVERS  
COLLECTION  
1751-1902**

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## **INTRODUCTION**

The Martha Rivers Adams Collection centers on the Paine, Abernathy, Rivers, and Brown families from Giles County, Tennessee. The Martha Rivers Adams Collection was assembled mainly by Martha Rivers Adams, and was donated to the Tennessee State Library and Archives by her nephew, Douglas C. Macleod.

The collection occupies .84 cubic feet of shelf space, and numbers approximately 300 items. Single photocopies of unpublished writings in the Martha Rivers Adams Collection may be made for purposes of scholarly research.

## SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The Martha Rivers Adams Collection, containing approximately 300 items, consists of original material from 1751-1902, and centers on the Rivers, Paine, Abernathy, and Brown families of Giles County, Tennessee. It includes agreements, Civil War items, correspondence, land records, ledgers, lists, obituaries, poems, promissory notes, a will, and several miscellaneous items.

The bulk of the collection, consisting of correspondence, business and general; land records, grants and deeds; and miscellaneous receipts, was gathered by Martha Rivers Adams, a historian and writer of a column for the Lynchburg, Virginia newspaper in the 1940's and 1950's. After her death, the information passed to her son, William Duvall Adams, and then, upon his death, to a nephew, Douglas C. MacLeod.

The majority of business correspondence concerns Milton Paine's dealings with various creditors to whom he owed money. These various letters are addressed to Milton Paine's father, James Paine, who appeared to be handling the matter.

General correspondence is family in nature. Among the more interesting letters are those written by Methodist Bishop Robert Paine (1799-1882) to various family members between 1840-1878. While not of significant historical importance, the letters provide insight into some of the prevailing issues of the day--slavery, sickness, and daily survival.

There is an assortment of Civil War documents contained in the collection, including an 1864 Confederate Military Pass allowing a Miss Barber to receive medical attention and visit an imprisoned brother in the north.

Receipts in the collection are varied in nature and cover a wide time-span, 1751-1902.

Several poems, written by J.P. Rivers, are contained in the collection. They appear to have been written during the Civil War period.

## CONTAINER LIST

### Box Number 1

<u>Folder #</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Date</u>
1.	Civil War--Atrocities--Federal,	1862
2.	Civil War--Conscription--Confederate,	1863
3.	Civil War--Finance, Commerce, and Confiscation--Confederate Property Return,	1864
4.	Civil War--Military Pass--Confederate,	1864
5.	Civil War--Purchase Permit--Confederate,	1864
6.	Civil War--Requisition--Federal,	1864
7.	Correspondence--Business--Brown-Herndon	
8.	Correspondence--Business--Kuhn-Westmoreland	
9.	Correspondence--General--Authors Unknown	
10.	Correspondence--General--Duncan-Paine	
11.	Correspondence--General--Paine, Robert	
12.	Correspondence--General--Rivers, Charles--Tyree Rivers	
13.	Correspondence--General--Stoddard-Tarpley	
14.	Financial Documents--Promissory Note--Neill, William, et al.,	n.d.
15.	Invitation--Paine, James, to Elizabeth, James, and W.W. Rivers,	1836
16.	Land Records--Deeds--Abernathy, Thomas E., to James Rivers,	1901
17.	Land Records--Deeds--Bright, James, to James Neill,	1814
18.	Land Records--Deeds--Brown, Aaron, to John H. & William Rivers,	1818
19.	Land Records--Deeds--Brown, Lewis, to James Paine,	1832
20.	Land Records--Deeds--Easley, John, to Caleb Swett,	1826
21.	Land Records--Deeds--Kyles, William, to Richard Walthall,	1833
22.	Land Records--Deeds--Lamm, William, to Thomas Abernathy,	1836
23.	Land Records--Deeds--Neill, James, to Burwell Abernathy,	1825
24.	Land Records--Deeds--Paine, James, to William Rivers,	1839
25.	Land Records--Deeds--Rivers, John H., to William W. Rivers,	1830
26.	Land Records--Deeds--Rivers, John H., to William W. Rivers,	1830
27.	Land Records--Deeds--Rivers, J.W., to J.B. Scott,	1903
28.	Land Records--Deeds--Stark, James, to William Redus,	1815
29.	Land Records--Deeds--Steele, John, to Martha Abernathy,	1869
30.	Land Records--Grants--State of Tennessee to Thomas E. Abernathy,	1824
31.	Land Records--Grants--State of Tennessee to Thomas E. Abernathy,	1824
32.	Land Records--Grants--State of Tennessee to John Easley,	1815
33.	Land Records--Grants--State of Tennessee to William Lamm,	1826

34. Land Records--Grants--State of Tennessee to James Neills, 1824

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**CONTAINER LIST, continued:**

Box Number 2

<u>Folder #</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Date</u>
1.	Land Records--Surveys--Brown, Lewis,	1815
2.	Land Records--Surveys--Brown, Thomas,	n.d.
3.	Ledger--Rivers, John C. & William W.,	1828-1831
4.	Legal Documents--Agreements--Abernathy, Ralph & William Ridgeway,	1837
5.	Legal Documents--Agreements--Freedman Employment Office,	1866
6.	Legal Documents--Power of Attorney--Brown, Mary J.,	1883
7.	Legal Documents--Property Deed,	1848
8.	Legal Documents--Wills--Brown, Lewis,	1839
9.	Lists--Household,	n.d.
10.	Lists--New Orleans Wholesale Prices Current,	1835
11.	Maps--Captain James Rivers "Hometract,"	1913
12.	Obituaries--Paine, Bishop Robert,	1882
13.	Photographs, drawings, etc.--Upshaw, Josephine,	n.d.
14.	Poetry--Rivers, J.P., n.d.-	1865
15.	Receipts--Miscellaneous--n.d.-	1831
16.	Receipts--Miscellaneous--	1832-1902
17.	Scrapbooks--Rivers, J.P.,	1880
18.	Scrapbooks--Rivers, Martha, "Flowers Found at, and Around, Elkmont Springs,"	1902

