AC.392: Harper-Beall Family Papers, 1826-1959, undated

Box 1

Folder 1: Letters, 1826-1839
[mostly family letters to James Harper; a few Waugh-Harper business letters; Correspondents include Burgess Beall, P.G. Ewing, Augustus C. Finley, J.T. Finley, Maria Finley, Walter Jones, William Martin]

1830 Maria Finley to James Harper: she is responding to her first letter from a gentleman and responds to how it affects her future happiness or misery.

1834 P.G. Ewing to cousin Caroline Finley Harper of Fairfield, North Carolina: Ewing cares for their grandmother; Ewing’s father was a pastor

1835 A.C. [Augustus] Finley to friend James Harper in Greenville, Georgia: Finley’s new job in Raleigh described; the letter is unclear as to the type of job, it may be financial or political

1835 William Martin to James Harper of Fairfield, Burke County, North Carolina: relays messages from William Waugh about disposal of horses, property, and debt payers

1839 A cousin of Wadesboro, Anson County, North Carolina to Isaac A. Moore of Pottsdam, Davidson County, North Carolina: family news, hiring of slaves

1839 J.T. Finley near Holly Springs to James Harper of Harpers Store, Burke County, North Carolina: family news, financial matters, hiring of slaves lower than previous years; pregnant slave died despite contacting a midwife and a physician

1839 B[urgess] L. Beall of Jersey Settlement, North Carolina to Aunt Mary Jones of Wadesborough, Anson County, North Carolina: medical practices (bleeding and blistering)

1839 Walter Jones of the Cottage to sister Mary C. Jones: Influenza epidemic
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Folder 2: Letters, 1840-1845
[newsy letters: businesses requesting payment from Waugh and Harper, Correspondents include Emma Baker, Robert Beall, Samuel Finley, Walter Jones, A. Mitchell, A. Patterson, George Peddle]

1840 Samuel Finley to James Harper of Harpers Store, Burke County, North Carolina: family news, hired out slaves ran away; bonds’ value, unusually deep snow

1840 Walter Jones of the Cottage to sister Mary Jones: family news, medicine

1840 A. Mitchell to James Harper of Harpers Store, North Carolina: gives Mr. Morehead’s schedule of visits to Wilkesboro, Jefferson, and Harpers Store, mentions Mr. Pilson, Trap Hill, and Enoch Reeves; this is likely John Motley Morehead, North Carolina governor from 1841 to 1845

1840 Samuel Finley of Greenville, Georgia to James Harper of Harpers Store, Burke County, North Carolina: attended a Whig convention as a delegate, cattle and crop sales, failed courting between Reverend Alexander McCorkle and Dr. J.K. Moore’s daughter Mary, health matters (Finley’s throat complaint) and visiting springs as treatment

1840 [?] to James and Caroline Harper of Harpers Store, Burke County, North Carolina: Caroline gave birth to Mary Elizabeth, politics, family news, relocation of Reverend Alexander McCorkle

1843 Walter Jones of the Cottage to sister Mary C. Jones of Cotton Grove, Davidson County, North Carolina: family news, news of slaves and health matters, advice on selling slaves

1844 R[obert] L[amar] Beall of Bethany Church, Iredell County, North Carolina to Aunt Mary C. Jones of Jersey Settlement, Davidson County, North Carolina: Robert describes his new school and boarding with “Aunt Martha,” family news

1844 A. Patterson of Brownsburg, Virginia to James Harper: request for assistance transporting a runaway slave named Sam to Samuel Patterson (damaged)

1844 George R. Peddle of New York to James Harper: a notice that Harper paid for goods in gold and in counterfeit money

1844 Emma J. Baker of Salisbury, North Carolina to James Harper of Lenoir, North Carolina: requests a teaching position in a school that may be created
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Folder 3: Letters, 1846-1847
[business letters, pension payments, religious beliefs discussed, James Harper’s cousin was an engineer to PA Railroad, court cases on debts to Waugh and Harper, church building in Wilkesboro, North Carolina; correspondents include Burgess Beall, Mary L. Beall, Robert Beall, John Finley, S.L. Finley, William F. Harper, Samuel L. Jones, Walter Jones, Samuel F. Patterson, R. Tidwell, William P. Waugh]

1846 William P. Waugh of Wilkesboro, North Carolina to James Harper of Lenoir, North Carolina: hiring out slaves

1846 Samuel F. Patterson of Palmyra to James Harper of Fairfield, Lenoir, North Carolina: Patterson’s brother William is considering purchasing property of William P. Waugh and gives his opinion to Harper

1846 Mary L. Beall of Salem, North Carolina to brother R[obert] L[amar] Beall of Bethany Church, Iredell County, North Carolina: descriptions of being a Salem Academy student, teeth problems

1846 R[obert] L[amar] Beall of Bethany Church, Iredell County, North Carolina to sister Mary L. Beall of Salem, North Carolina: family news including education

1846 Samuel L. Jones of Ellwood to Aunt Mary C. Jones of Cotton Grove, Davidson County, North Carolina: questions why Mary Jones has not replied to Samuel Jones’ letters, S. Jones’ recent marriage, his wife’s farm, allusions to family members’ disliking his behavior

1847 William M. Harper of Fairfield, North Carolina to brother James Harper of Lenoir, North Carolina: William P. Waugh is unwell, family news

1847 William P. Waugh of Burke House to James Harper of Lenoir, North Carolina: Waugh going to Cherokee for court and needs payments from Harper

1847 Burgess Beall of Belfield to son Robert Beall of Bethany Church, Iredell County, North Carolina: invites Robert to a camp meeting and refers to Robert’s academics

1847 John Finley of Wilkesboro, North Carolina to Emma Baker of Lenoir, North Carolina: building a house for a [Presbyterian?] priest
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Folder 4: Letters, 1848-1849


1848 Samuel Finley of Meadow Farm to James Harper of Lenoir, North Carolina: death of Finley’s brother William, family news, his health, farm news

1848 J.G. Bynum to James Failson of Lenoir, North Carolina: Bynum must leave for business and gives Failson instructions on how to attend to business

1848 D.F. Smith of Laurel Grove to Robert L[amar] Beall of Davidson College, Mecklenburg County, North Carolina: they may have been classmates at Bethany Church, temptations of college

1848 William P. Waugh of Wilkesboro, North Carolina to James Harper of Lenoir, North Carolina: requests leather for his “colored folks”

1848 Burgess Beall of Belmont, Jersey Settlement, North Carolina to son Robert L[amar] Beall of Davidson College, North Carolina: family news, medical advice, response to request for money

1848 A.R. Jones of Mobile, Alabama to Robert Beall, Jersey Settlement, Davidson County, North Carolina: entreats Beall to concentrate on college

1848 Laura V. Jones of Mobile, Alabama to Aunt M[ary] C. Jones of Cotton Grove, Davidson County, North Carolina: not acquainted; descriptions of community; description of Dayton Female Seminary

1849 J. M. Wilson of Morganton, North Carolina to James Harper of Lenoir, North Carolina: opinion of Southern manufacturing; Wilson is a preacher

1849 Mary [Beall] of Lexington, North Carolina to brother Robert Beall of Davidson College, North Carolina: descriptions of school, family news, marriage of Mr. Hage and Miss King

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Folder 5: Letters, 1850-1854

1850 James W. Wiseman of Philadelphia to R.L. Beall: description of Philadelphia’s women and colleges, railroads, an eleven story building, comparison of Philadelphia and New York City, fear for Union

1850 R[obert] L. Beall of Belmont to Aunt Mary C. Jones of Wadesboro, Anson County, North Carolina: family news, [Davidson County] grave decoration, flower garden

1850 R.H. Campbell of Philadelphia to James Harper: shipping goods and economic changes

1851 Minerva [Mollie Harper] to Robert Beall of Chapel Hill, North Carolina: a love letter ending in French “Ce’est le premier d’Avril” or “it is April 1st.”

1851 George [W.F. Harper] of [Canip?] Beautiful, North Carolina to father [James Harper]: George received a letter from his sister Mollie about a rumor of alcohol abuse at Patterson

1851 W.G. Gaither of Iredell County, North Carolina to Uncle B[urgess] Beall of Beallmount, North Carolina

1851 H.Y. Howze of University of Virginia to aunt: description of medical school and Monticello

1853 B[urgess] Beall of Beallmont to son [Robert?] Beall: chastising son for writing to his sister and stating he wanted his children nearby to care for him in his decline; alludes to mistreatment of Burgess’ 2nd wife and their step-mother. Discusses family health, including a slave who miscarried

1853 J.C. Snodgrass of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania to Dr. [Robert] Beall of Bellmont, North Carolina: discussion of eventual triumph of sinful North by God-loving South

1853 Ellie of St. Mary’s to Aunt: family and school news

1854 W.J. Bingham of the Oaks, Orange County, North Carolina to Robert Beall of Jersey Settlement, North Carolina: description of Bingham’s male academy handwritten on a typed description; Robert sends his brother James to academy

1854 J.B. Jones of Mocksville to Aunt: Jones explains reason why he conducted the eloped marriage ceremony of his cousin Lizzie Beall to her cousin Dr. [Ira] Fitzgerald against the wishes of her father Dr. Beall
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Folder 5: Letters, 1850-1854

1854 F.B. Beall of Oaks, Orange County, North Carolina to Aunt Mary C. Jones: description of the Oaks [Male Academy] (damaged)

Folder 6: Letters, 1855-1859

[family news about marriages, illness, business matters; Robert may’ve been in medical school, young women’s accomplishments; marriages; courtship letters between Robert Beall and Mary Harper (mostly from Robert); Correspondents include Margaret Abernathy, Robert L. Beall W.J. Bingham, Ella Rankin Harper, Mollie Harper, Nealie Harper, Cora Moore]

1855 Mary [Harper] to Mother [Caroline Harper]: description of Greensboro’s Edgeworth [Female Seminary]’s Examination clothing and hairstyles

1855 W.J. Bingham of Oaks, Orange County, North Carolina to Robert Beall of Jersey Settlement, North Carolina: Bingham has throat problems and his physician told him to not teach for one year; school will close for several months until Bingham’s son graduates from the University of North Carolina and will teach; James and Thomas will need transportation home


1855 R[obert] L. Beall of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania to aunt: family issues related to Burgess Beall’s will and grave stone

1856 Nealie [Harper] of Montrose Academy to sister [Mary “Mollie”] Harper: Montrose Academy’s mistress was Miss Jones; the Harpers attend a camp meeting

1856 [unsigned] of Fairfield to Mollie [Harper]: Lenoir had a mass meeting with speakers from Salisbury, Watauga County, and Burke County, neighborhood news

1856 [Mollie Harper] of Edgeworth Female Seminary to mother Caroline Harper: post-school descriptions; Christmas presents

1857 no names: discussion of elopement and being a ‘spinster’ due to young age of bride

1857 Mag Abernathy of Fairfield to cousin Mollie [Harper]: hints at her wedding, family news, dislikes “Jim” going into law and politics

1857 Mag Abernathy of Burke County, North Carolina to cousin Mollie [Harper]: describes teaching at Rutherford Academy in Burke County, North Carolina; friendly news

1857 no names: speaks of appeal of visiting mountains of Ashe and Watauga Counties

1857 [Robert] Lamar [Beall] to Mary [Harper]: Robert calls her his “mountain friend”
1857 “Elsie” [Mary Harper?] of Fairfield, North Carolina] to Dr. [Robert] Beall of Hillside: Beall evidently criticizes “Elsie” for not replying promptly and “Elsie” chastises Beall for this

1858 no name to Mollie [Harper]: written 22 days after her wedding

Folder 7: Letters, 1860-1865
[war and war’s aftermath; siblings, parents, other relatives write to each other from Davidson, Wilkes, and Caldwell Counties, describing community response, travel, economics, politics, military events, state of mail, and freedmen, family response to war and new responsibilities, religious beliefs about war, particular battles; Correspondents include James Beall, Mollie Beall, Robert Beall, Eva Bouchelle, Col. Joseph Crouse, Ella Harper, George Harper, James Harper, Nealie Harper, S. Finley Harper, J.A. Moore, Matthew Pilson]


February 1861: Robert [Beall] of the Grove to sister-in-law Nealie [Harper]: mentions his child Lily walking, being Unionist, his hopes that mountain people will support Union

June 1861 Eva [Bouchelle] of Wilkesboro, [North Carolina] to Mary: mentions using a sewing machine; presentation of flag with Mollie Hackett giving address, description of soldiers leaving Wilkes, attitudes towards north and war

1861 J.A. Moore of Texas to nephew Robert Beall: Moore apparently lost touch with Beall family; secession’s impact on business

1861 Mary [Beall] of Cotton Grove to [Nealie??]: child Lily has a pet squirrel, knitting; soldier benefit concert in Salisbury with a play of women each representing a Confederate state, raised $200-300; offers to care for Ella Harper while spouse George away [at war]; prices of shoes and calico, slave women carding and spinning, mention of slave men

1861 S. F[inley] Harper of Evansport, Virginia to Bro: descriptions of camp; General Clark and Major Dickson described; father in Evansport to purchase hides
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Folder 7: Letters, 1860-1865

1861 S. F[inley] Harper of Evansport, Virginia to mother [Caroline Harper]: father is delayed; mentions England’s role in war

1862 S. F[inley] Harper of Evansport, Virginia to mother [Caroline Harper]: 65 volunteers from company re-enlisted

1862 George [Harper] on train to Sister: his location

1862 James Harper of Lenoir, North Carolina to R[obert] and Mary Beall: plans to send away slaves and livestock failed; hired man volunteered; description of soldiers letters regarding Battle of New Bern

1862 Matthew Pilson of Rocky Spring, August County, Virginia to James Harper: description of personal regional animosity; family and slaves suffered from typhoid fever; casualties

1862 James Beall in camp to brother: opinions about military strategy and conscription bill

1862 [Cornelia Harper] of Fairfield, North Carolina to sister [Mollie Beall]: family news, scarcity of paper and women’s life strategies; slave woman gives birth

1862 Robert Beall of Cotton Grove, North Carolina to brother: requesting address, Davidson County’s doctor situation, alludes to a promotion [perhaps James’ promotion to major]

1862 J[ames]F. Beall to brother Robert Beall: state of mail and war, located near Madison County filled with traitors who showed the soldiers who were disguised as Yankees various paths, women’s demonstrative natures


1862 Ella Harper of Fairfield, North Carolina to sister-in-law Mary Beall: George’s ‘most intimate friend’ Walter left company and family unhappy about it, family news

1863 Fin [Harper] at camp to sister Cornelia Harper: requests vegetables, friendly news, very interested in pretty ladies

1863 Robert Beall of Cotton Grove, North Carolina to Lelia [Beall] of [Fairfield, North Carolina]: Lelia is staying with her Harper grandparents and is told how to behave
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Folder 7: Letters, 1860-1865

1863 [Mary Beall] of Cotton Grove, North Carolina to parents: loom in kitchen, illness

1863 [Robert] Beall of Cotton Grove, North Carolina to father-in-law James Harper: slaves need new cabins, having trouble feeding them, one (Fred) is gambling, war discussion, George wrote a letter to the Observer, views war as punishment for sins
1863 Col. Joseph Crouse of Lexington to Capt. Beall: order to send a list of the names of male adult negroes; there is a need for 20 more from Davidson to work on the fortification

1864 S. [Finley] Harper of Raleigh Headquarters to sister Mary Beall: list of members of his mess, descriptions of the town and events

1864 unknown of medical department to (water damage): condition called “itch,” war issues

1864 Ellen of ‘home’ to cousin Mary: neighbor news

1864 unknown to father: magazine subscriptions, opinion of elections, Holden and Vance, and local candidates

1864 J.D. Ramsay of Salisbury to brother-in-law [Robert] Beall: state of stages and a visit

1864 Finley [Harper] of Virginia to mother [Caroline Harper]: Union prisoner-Confederate officer relationship, location, asks for socks and shirts, opinion of state of war and projections

1864 Finley [Harper] of Virginia to father [James Harper]: location, opinion of state of war and projections

1864 E.S.H. to “young ladies”: jokes

1864 Robert Beall of Senate Chamber, Raleigh to Molly [Mollie Beall]: list of items being forwarded (Christmas food?), price of Claret wine

1865 Ellen of Wilkesboro, North Carolina to cousin Robert Beall: description of April 13, 1865 Yankee raid on Wilkesboro

1865 Eva [Bouchelle] of Wilkesboro, North Carolina to cousin: aftermath of Stoneman’s Raid in Wilkesboro; no mail; local skirmishes, African American participation, “robbers”

1865 Matthew Pilson of Augusta County, Virginia to James Harper: family news, economic losses (stocks, slaves), location of ex-slaves, emotional state
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Folder 7: Letters, 1860-1865
1865 John Waugh of Fairfield to James Harper: possible visit, economic situation, politics

1865 [Robert Beall?] of Cotton Grove, North Carolina to father [James Harper]: Yankees in Lexington taking horses, reaction of ex-slaves, opinions on Radicalism and re-admittance to government

Folder 8: Letters, 1866-1869
[post-war experiences, Tom Beall, Robert Beall is in the General Assembly; Correspondents include Mary Jones Beall, Robert Beall, Samuel F. Patterson, Mary Eva Bouchelle Wilson, W.H. Wiseman]

1866 Robert Beall of Lenoir to ‘Madam’: 24 page description of Stoneman’s Raid

1866 Robert Beall of Beallmont to Mary Beall: family news, high number of lawsuits “lawing” in Davidson, descriptions of bushwackers and politics

1868 Eva B. Wilson of Covington, Tipton County, Tennessee to Mary Beall: Eva is sick, welcomed by spouse’s family, religious beliefs

1868 W.H. Wiseman of Newberry, South Carolina to R[obert] Beall: debts, African-Americans taught to vote in South Carolina

1868 Mary E[va] Bouchelle of Wilkeboro, North Carolina to General Patterson: death of grandfather

1868 S.F. Patterson of Palmyra, North Carolina to R[obert] Beall: history of lack of trains in western North Carolina

1869 M. Jones Beall to father Robert Beall: her first letter, dream, playing doctor

Folder 9: Letters, 1870-1876
[Letters from Mollie Beall to Robert Beall while he was in legislature; includes one letter from Robert Beall to Zebulon Vance re: political matters; family matters; several letters discuss illness of Emma Rankin and Colonel Folk’s activities; talks about plants and trees; servants, racial attitudes; difficult pregnancy of twins; Correspondents include Mollie Beall, Nealie Harper Beall, Robert Beall, J.C. Harper, cousin Loulie M. Kittrell,]

February 1870 Mary Beall to Robert Beall of Raleigh, North Carolina: descriptions of the mining company in which brother James Beall practices medicine

1870 J.C. Harper to uncle: gives an inventory of business accounts related to an unnamed business from 1856 to 1862
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Box 2

Folder 1: Letters, 1881-1885
[family news; North Carolina Exposition; W.P. Davis gives beekeeping advice; Correspondents include Mollie Beall, Robert Beall, W.P. Davis, Clara Finley, U.S. Naval Academy]


Folder 2: Letters, 1886
[racial attitudes, railroad issues, family news, business, medical treatments, requests for boarding and medical treatment; Correspondents include Ann Beall, Bess Beall, James Beall, Roberta “Berta” Beall, John M. Bernhardt, W.P. Davis, Luola Sprunt Era Wilson, W.A. Wood]

Folder 3: Letters, 1887

Folder 4: Letters, 1891-1899

Folder 5: Letters, 1904-1909

Folder 6: Letters, 1911-1919
[letters from Beall and Bernhardt children, some business letters: genealogy, family news; Correspondents include Molly Beall]

1916 Mary Harper Beall of Fairfield, Lenoir North Carolina to cousin Eva: family news, daughters traveling; desire to go “automobiling”; an associated note from Eva says that this was Mary Beall’s last letter to her

1916 Tell of Rufus, Caldwell County, North Carolina to cousin Roberta “Berta” Beall: Mary Beall died, brief mention of the 1916 flood in northwestern North Carolina

1916 Helen of Red Cliff Farms to cousin: mentions attending a movie, “Little Women”

Folder 7: Letters, 1920-1959
[genealogy; letters from Beall children and cousins]

Folder 8: Letters, undated [1 of 2]
[Includes undated letters from Robert Beall, Mollie Harper Beall, Cornelia "Nealy" Harper Beall, Samuel Finley Paterson, Margaret Abernathy, E.J. Baker, and Stella Cloyd. One letter from Robert Beall describes the Confederates' defenses against Stoneman's raid in Wilkesboro.]
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Folder 9: Letters, undated [2 of 2]
From Various [186 Frances Jones to sister Mary C. Jones: Jones invites her sister and Dr. Beall’s children for a visit. This is apparently misdated as Mary Jones died in 1858; however, the correct date is unknown.] and Letter Fragments.

Folder 10: Envelopes [1 of 2]
[Includes pre-printed envelopes from Isbell College, N.C. State Exposition, Worsham House of Memphis, Tennessee, G.W. Templeton Groceries of Mooresville, North Carolina, C.C. Crow of Aetna Life Insurance Co., Henry A. Dreer of Philadelphia, Finley Coat of Arms, United States Internal Revenue, Hotel Hunt of Saint Louis, Missouri. Also included is a Civil War-era envelope with a hand drawn national Confederate flag with eleven or twelve stars.]

Folder 11: Envelopes [2 of 2]