

MS54 Smith Collection

About the collection:

A collection of legal and business documents relating to the Smith family of Alleghany County, Virginia dating from 1845 to 1877. They deal with the concerns of Henry Smith (died c.1852) and his wife Jennet Smith who died in 1867. Jennet Smith is referred to variously as Janet, Jenet, Jannet, or even Jennetta in the documents. The estate passed from Jennet Smith to her nephew William Scott.

The documents include account statements, inventories and some letters. Most interesting is the insight the documents give to the Smith family's involvement in the slave trade. The Smith's appear to have hired slaves out and the collection includes documents relating to this activity. In her will Jennet Smith bequeaths a "negro" called George to her nephew.

The papers were purchased at auction in 2010.

Diarmuid Kennedy, 2010



Queen's University
Belfast

MS54 Outline

MS54/1	Documents dated 1850-1855	p. 4
MS54/2	Documents dated 1856-1858	p. 4
MS54/3	Documents dated 1859-1864	p. 4
MS54/4	Note regarding land dispute [n.d.]	p. 4
MS54/5	Letter dated 6 th January 1845	p. 4
MS54/6	Inventory of slaves dated 14 th January 1852	p. 4
MS54/7	Will of Jennet Smith dated 30 th September 1853	p. 4
MS54/8	Copy of Will of Jennet Smith dated 20 th [sic] September 1853	p. 4
MS54/9	Agreement relating to slaves dated 1 st January 1854	p. 4
MS54/10	Statement of account dated 1861	p. 4
MS54/11	Note of inquiry [1862?]	p. 5
MS54/12	Statement of account dated 1862	p. 5
MS54/13	Legal note dated May 1867	p. 5
MS54/14	Sale notice dated 8 th May 1867 and sale bill dated 20 th May 1867	p. 5
MS54/15	Legal note dated 14 th May 1867	p. 5
MS54/16	Note relating to inventory dated 21 st May 1867 and inventory of sundry items [n.d.]	p. 5
MS54/17	Account document dated 22 nd May 1867	p. 5
MS54/18	Legal document dated 1868 and 1870	p. 5
MS54/19	Account document dated 26 th 1868	p. 5
MS54/20	Legal document dated 3 rd April 1868	p. 6

<u>MS54/21</u>	Note dated 13th November 1868	p. 6
<u>MS54/22</u>	Account of slave bonds dated 10 th April 1873	p. 6
<u>MS54/23</u>	Sale bill dated 2 nd November 1877; sale bill [n.d.]	p. 6
	<u>Appendix 1, Index of Names</u>	p. 7
	<u>Appendix 2, Index of Place Names</u>	p. 9



MS54/1 Documents dated 1850-1855

c. 12 Bundles (plus some loose pages) of financial and legal documents relating to slave hire. Most marked Jennet (or Jenet) Smith and/or Andrew Williamson.

MS54/2 Documents dated 1856-1858

6 Bundles (plus some loose pages) of financial and legal documents relating to slave hire. Most marked Jennet (or Jenet) Smith and/or Andrew Williamson.

MS54/3 Documents dated 1859-1864

5 Bundles (plus some loose pages) of financial and legal documents relating to slave hire. Most marked Jennet (or Jenet) Smith and Andrew Williamson.

MS54/4 Note regarding land dispute [n.d]

Note to Mr. James D. Davidson requesting a record search to establish legal title to land at Rockbridge. 1 p.

MS54/5 Letter dated 6th January 1845

Letter to Mr. Henry Smith from J. D. Davidson, Lexington. 2 pp.

MS54/6 Inventory of slaves dated 14th January 1852

An inventory of slaves hired by Henry Smith's Executor, Andrew Damron, for the year 1852, including cost of hire and allocation. 1 p.

MS54/7 Will of Jennet Smith dated 30th September 1853

Last Will and Testament of Jennet Smith, widow of Henry Smith of Alleghany County, Virginia. Signed by Jennet Smith and witnesses, James Ritchie and William Ritchie. 1 p.

MS54/8 Copy of Will of Jennet Smith dated 20th [sic] September 1853

Copy of Last Will and Testament of Jennet Smith, widow of Henry Smith of Alleghany County, Virginia. Signed by Jennet Smith and countersigned as 'A True Copy Teste' by Joseph T. Fudge, Clerk. 1 p.

MS54/9 Agreement relating to slaves dated 1st January 1854

'Agreement between Mrs. Smith and A. Williamson for keeping negroes 1854'. Agreement relates to the retention of 4 named slaves, one with children, from the estate of Henry Smith, deceased. Signed by Jennet Smith and Andrew Williamson. 1 p.

MS54/10 Statement of account dated 1861

Mrs. Jennet Smith in account with A. J. Simpson 1861. Account detailing work and materials and associated costs. Items include shoes, chains, nails, shovels and repairs. Invoice total \$19.39 ½. 1 p.

MS54/11 Note of inquiry [1862?]

Note of inquiry by William Scott relating to settling outstanding business and interest payments from the period 1861-62. 1 p.

MS54/12 Statement of account dated 1862

Mrs. J. Smith's account with A. J. Simpson. Account detailing work and materials and associated costs from February to May 1862. Items include horse shoe nails, 'removes', lap links and steeling mattock. Invoice total \$4.88. 1 p.

MS54/13 Legal note dated May 1867

A copy teste signed by Joseph T. Fudge, Clerk, and motioned by Charles L. Haynes, Administrator, appointing appraisers to report on the monetary value of the personal estate of Jennet Smith, deceased. 1 p.

MS54/14 Sale notice dated 8th May 1867 and sale bill dated 20th May 1867

Notice relating to the sale of the personal property of Jennet Smith, deceased. Sale to be held on Wednesday 22nd May 1867 at Jennet Smith's residence. Goods to be sold listed including farm animals, implements and crops. Signed by Charles L. Haynes, Administrator of Jennet Smith's estate. 1 p.

Bill recording proceeds from sale of Jennet Smith's personal estate on 20th May 1867 as \$993.98. Signed by J. J. Hobbs. 1 p.

MS54/15 Legal note dated 14th May 1867

Note signed by Joseph T. Fudge, Clerk, recording tax payments made by Charles L. Haynes relating to the Will of Jennet Smith, deceased. 1 p.

MS54/16 Note relating to inventory dated 21st May 1867 and inventory of sundry items [n.d.]

Note relating to an inventory of personal property and its appraised value compiled by the signatories relating to the estate of Henry Smith, deceased. 1 p.

Inventory of sundry household items, mainly kitchen utensils and bedding, and some tools. No values attributed. 1 p.

MS54/17 Account document dated 22nd May 1867

Mrs. Jennet Smith, deceased, in account with Dr. J. F. Hughes. Account amounting to \$350 relating to medical expenses incurred on 4 December 1866, attested as just and correct by Dr. J. F. Hughes. 1 p.

MS54/18 Legal document dated 1868 and 1870

Document relating to monies owed by Mrs. Jennet Smith's estate to Mr. Thomas Sithington amounting to \$15.60 for 3 bags of wheat acquired in 1863 and attested by Mount Joy Luckett before John M. Armintrout, JP, on 10th October 1868. Document undersigned by Charles L. Haynes, Administrator of Jennet Smith's estate, agreeing to pay this amount, dated 6th October 1870. 1 p.

MS54/19 Account document dated 26th 1868

Mrs. J. Smith's account with Clarissa H. Karney dated 1862-63 relating to visits and medicine amounting to \$5.00, attested and signed by Asbury Matheny, JP.

Note pencilled on reverse relating to visit to Sallie, Jennet Smith's servant. 1 p.

MS54/20 Legal document dated 3rd April 1868

Document to Charles L. Haynes, Executor of Jennet Smith's Will, signed by Legatees of Henry Smith's estate, relating to a pending Alleghany Court decision regarding legal allocation of Smith estate assets. 1 p.

MS54/21 Note dated 13th November 1868

Note from William Scott to C. L. Haynes, outlining agreement reached with [William] Simpson regarding monies owed to Mr. Simpson by Jennet Smith's estate on 1st January 1862 and further updated on 13th November 1868 considering unfulfilled work relating to waggon adjustments. 1 p.

MS54/22 Account of slave bonds dated 10th April 1873

Statement of account outlining amounts owed by John H. Hyatt to Andrew Damron relating to hire of slaves from 1855 to 1861 and interest accrued to 10th April 1867. Statement total \$508.20. 1 p.

MS54/23 Sale bill dated 2nd November 1877; sale bill [n.d.]

Sale bill to C. L. Haynes for \$24.62, signed by William Scott. Fragment.

Sale bill to Dr. Hughes for amount of \$1.90. Fragment.

Appendix 1
Index of Names

<u>Name</u>	<u>Reference</u>	
Armintrout, John M.	MS54/18	p. 5
Damron, Andrew	MS54/6	p. 4
	MS54/22	p. 6
Davidson, James, D.	MS54/4	p. 4
	MS54/5	p. 4
Fudge, Joseph T.	MS54/8	p. 4
	MS54/13	p. 5
	MS54/15	p. 5
Haynes, Charles, L.	MS54/13	p. 5
	MS54/14	p. 5
	MS54/15	p. 5
	MS54/18	p. 5
	MS54/20	p. 6
	MS54/21	p. 6
	MS54/23	p. 6
Hobbs, J. J.	MS54/14	p. 5
Hughes, Dr. J. F.	MS54/17	p. 5
	MS54/23	p. 6
Hyatt, John H.	MS54/22	p. 6
Karney, Clarissa H.	MS54/19	p. 6
Lucket, Mount Joy	MS54/18	p. 5
Matheny, Asbury	MS54/19	p. 6
Ritchie, James	MS54/7	p. 4
Ritchie, William	MS54/7	p. 4
Sallie	MS54/19	p. 6

Scott, William	MS54/11	p. 5
	MS54/21	p. 6
	MS54/23	p. 6
Simpson, Dr. A. J.	MS54/10	p. 4
	MS54/12	p. 5
Simpson, [William]	MS54/21	p. 6
Sithington, Thomas	MS54/18	p. 5
Smith, Henry	MS54/5	p. 4
	MS54/6	p. 4
	MS54/7	p. 4
	MS54/8	p. 4
	MS54/9	p. 4
	MS54/16	p. 6
	MS54/20	p. 6
Smith, Jennet (Janet, Jenet, Jannet, Jennetta)	MS54/1	p. 4
	MS54/2	p. 4
	MS54/3	p. 4
	MS54/7	p. 4
	MS54/8	p. 4
	MS54/9	p. 4
	MS54/10	p. 4
	MS54/12	p. 5
	MS54/13	p. 5
	MS54/14	p. 5
	MS54/15	p. 5
	MS54/17	p. 5
	MS54/18	p. 5
	MS54/19	p. 6
	MS54/20	p. 6
MS54/21	p. 6	
Williamson, Andrew	MS54/1	p. 4
	MS54/2	p. 4
	MS54/3	p. 4
	MS54/9	p. 4

Appendix 2

Index of Place Names

<u>Place Name</u>	<u>Reference</u>	<u>Description</u>	
Alleghany	MS54/20	Pending Alleghany Court decision regarding legal allocation of Smith estate assets.	p.5
Alleghany County, Virginia	MS54/7	Last Will and Testament of Jennet Smith	p. 4
	MS54/8	Copy of Last Will and Testament of Jennet Smith	p. 4
Lexington	MS54/5	Letter to Mr. Henry Smith from J. D. Davidson, Lexington	p. 4
Rockbridge	MS54/4	Location of disputed land	p. 4

