

**Folder 25: Simon B. Buckner to Delia H. C. Buckner Correspondence, 1882-1884**

**1882**

S. B. Buckner, Chicago, [IL], to Delia H. Claiborne, Charlestown, WV. September 28, 1882. ALS, 4 pp.

Intends on sending the requested photographs and describes the significance of his attire in each of them. Plans on sending her a photograph of Lily. Complains that the hotel in Charlestown misinformed him of his train. Promises to send extracts of a book by an oriental scholar.

S. B. Buckner, Chicago, [IL], to Delia H. Claiborne, Charlestown, WV. September 30, 1882. ALS, 8 pp.

Discusses Hindu, Sanskrit writings, the Ramayana and the Mahabharata, and the Indian hero, Rama. Transcribes several passages in quotations and makes some comments.

**1883**

S. B. Buckner, Glen Lily, Hart Co., KY., to Delia H. Claiborne, no place. August 12, 1883. ALS, 4 pp.

Writes about his daughter's wedding in terms of a funeral. Compares himself to the Second Richard and quotes a passage. Writes at length about his distress over losing his daughter but also explains to her how her letter changed his mood. Page(s) missing.

S. B. Buckner, White Sulphur Springs, WV, to Delia H. Claiborne, Richmond, VA. September 12, 1883. ALS, 4 pp.

Relates the issues with trains from Richmond, which prompted him to write from a station instead of waiting until he is in Kentucky. Appears to apologize for acting on feelings that were not expected by her and thanks her for her kindness to him. Writes that they will never again meet, but will cherish the memories of their friendship.

S. B. Buckner, Glen Lily, Hart Co., KY, to Delia H. Claiborne, [Richmond, VA]. September 16, 1883. ALS, 4 pp.

Reports that he is in Glen Lily and equates the drought there with her expelling him from "Paradise." Mentions meeting the Prestons in White Sulphur Springs and being in Louisville with Lily for him to sit for the photographer. Expresses his fondness for memories of her friendship even in solitude.

**1884**

S. B. Buckner, Glen Lily, to Delia H. Claiborne, no place. May 13, 1884. ALS, 4 pp.

Glad to return from political life at the State Convention in Frankfort and find her letter. Thanks her for an Easter card and relates his melancholy. Informs her that he hopes to complete work on his place so he can work on the grounds and make the "Delian Way" worthy of its

name. Wishes to visit the Orient, but will be in Lexington for a Board meeting and hopes to visit Richmond afterward.

S. B. Buckner, Glen Lily, to Delia H. Claiborne, no place. May 28, 1884. ALS, 5 ½ pp.

Explains at length his despair over her refusal to see him. He insists on knowing her summer plans. Relates his plans of being in Lexington and for the rest of the summer. Describes his excitement in her acknowledgement of their deep friendship.

S. B. Buckner, Glen Lily, to Delia H. Claiborne, Richmond, [VA]. June 6, 1884. ALS, 8 pp.

Writes poetically and with quotations to express his desire to see her and remains hopeful. Informs her that he can visit in the middle of July. Relates his meeting with the Prestons and conveys news of Col. Hamilton. Updates her on Lily's happiness and the isolation he feels because of it. Writes about the beauty of historic Virginia and chides her for calling herself "an old maid." Comments that amongst her suitors, he is most likely to make her a widow.

**Folder 26: Simon B. Buckner to Delia H. C. Buckner Correspondence, July – March 1885**

S. B. Buckner, no place, to Delia H. Claiborne, no place. [January 1, 1885]. Poem. 2 pp.  
A four stanza poem about Delia, entitled 'Ode to the Fairest.'

S. B. Buckner, Glen Lily, to Delia H. Claiborne, Richmond, VA. January 13, 1885. ALS, 4 pp.  
Informs her of a change in plans for arriving in Richmond. Expresses delight at seeing her but is apprehensive of having to leave her again.

S. B. Buckner, Glen Lily, to Delia H. Claiborne, no place. February 1, 1885. ALS, 8 pp.  
Expresses disappointment about departing from her presence as well as many romantic sentiments. Reports his plans to be in Washington with Lily and stay at the Ebbitt House and expects it will be an unexpected pleasure for Lily to see Delia. Writes at length of his love and devotion to her and asks if she has a response for him and will offer her heart to him.

S. B. Buckner, Glen Lily, to Delia H. Claiborne, no place. February 7, 1885. ALS, 4 pp.  
Writes his confirmation of his devotion to and affection for her. Assumes she will be attended by many admirers while in Washington and is made vain by having time to give him attention. Relates progress on the "Delian Way" and other work at Glen Lily.

S. B. Buckner, Glen Lily, to Delia H. Claiborne, no place. February 11, 1885. ALS, 8 pp.  
Relates his gratitude in receiving a letter from her even though she remains busy. Informs her of his and Lily's travel plans for Washington on the 18<sup>th</sup> for the monument dedication and move on to New York. Reports Lily has seen in the papers that he was in Virginia but has made no inquiry. Discusses Gen. Gordon's death and explains the British campaign in Egypt and his thoughts on the British government's plan [includes drawing of a map]. Compares her to a military victory.

S. B. Buckner, New York City, to Delia H. Claiborne, no place. February 23, 1885. ALS, 4 pp.  
Conveys romantic sentiments and how it improves his mood. Writes of Lily's activities in New York and how she is a great "time-annihilator."

S. B. Buckner, New York City, to Delia H. Claiborne, no place. February 25, 1885. ALS, 4 pp.  
Lily keeps him occupied at the hotel but leaves tonight to visit Mrs. Aldrich. Writes of his struggle in determining how to reconcile Lily with the idea of their marriage. Reports he and Lily went to the photographer with Gertrude.

S. B. Buckner, New York City, to Delia H. Claiborne, no place. February 25, 1885. ALS, 4 pp.  
Relates their travel plans and his intention of returning to Glen Lily to tame the surrounding landscape. Writes at length about his constant thoughts of her and waxes poetically on his love for her.

S. B. Buckner, New York [City], to Delia H. Claiborne, no place. February 26, 1885. ALS, 4 pp.  
Expresses loving sentiments at length. Conveys plan to send fresh flowers the day before the inauguration ball and hopes that she will wear one that he sends as opposed to the many

others he expects she will receive. Asks if he should send the ring now or wait until he is in Richmond.

S. B. Buckner, New York City, to Delia H. Claiborne, no place. February 27, 1885. ALS, 4 pp.

Writes of the books he plans to send to her about ancient civilizations. Reveals his hesitation to send them at all as a distraction from what he desires her to concentrate on, but would also not wish to deprive her of enjoyment in their perusal.

S. B. Buckner, New York City, to Delia H. Claiborne, no place. February 28, 1885. ALS, 4 pp.

Insists on his love and steadfast devotion to her. Reports he has not told Lily of their engagement but mentions that she can infer the inevitable and he will wait to confide in her. He believes she will be agreeable.

S. B. Buckner, New York City, to Delia H. Claiborne, no place. March 1, 1885. ALS, 4 pp.

Declares many loving thoughts about her and thanks her for her kindness. Pleased she has mentioned the engagement to her household even though she has denied it to others.

S. B. Buckner, New York City, to Delia H. Claiborne, no place. March 2, 1885. ALS, 7 pp.

Expresses loving thoughts and lists the books and writing tools he has mailed to her. Recalls a memory of their parting in Charlestown. Reveals that the ring will come to her soon from Tiffany's. States his understanding of how busy she is but urges her to write after leaving Washington.

S. B. Buckner, New York City, to Delia H. Claiborne, no place. March 2, 1885. ALS, 4 pp.

States many romantic sentiments and wonders at how he has won her love.

S. B. Buckner, Louisville, [KY], to Delia H. Claiborne, Richmond, [VA]. March 4, 1885. ALS, 4 pp.

Describes the landscape of Pennsylvania and wishes she had seen it with him. States his affection for her and comments on how brilliant she must be at the Presidential Ball. Reveals that he has commissioned wild honey locust hairpins to be sent to her.

S. B. Buckner, Louisville, [KY], to Delia H. Claiborne, no place. March 5, 1885. ALS, 4 pp.

Describes hair pins he has sent as being unique and with buttons from his Confederate uniform. Poetically declares his continued loving feelings for her. Explains his daughter's character and the difficulty in telling her about his marital intentions.

S. B. Buckner, Glen -Lily, to Delia H. Claiborne, no place. March 5, 1885. ALS, 4 pp.

Describes the nature around Glen-Lily and his wish for her to be there. Says to remember him to Mrs. Washington when she visits Clover Leaf.

S. B. Buckner, Louisville, to Delia H. Claiborne, Richmond, VA. March 7, 1885. ALS, 4 pp.

Writes romantic thoughts and desires and wishes for her happiness.

S. B. Buckner, Glen -Lily, to Delia H. Claiborne, no place. March 10, 1885. ALS, 4 pp.

Complains of everything going wrong while he is away. Writes of how the majority of his workers are employed in working on Glen-Lily. Describes the latest features and the beauty of the setting.

S. B. Buckner, Glen -Lily, to Delia H. Claiborne, no place. March 12, 1885. ALS, 7 pp.

Insists that no mortal can be completely happy and must overcome all difficulties. Attempts to assuage her distress over Lily's negative opinion of their marriage by explaining Lily's nature and the situation at length. He remains hopeful.

S. B. Buckner, Glen -Lily, to Delia H. Claiborne, no place. March 13, 1885. ALS, 6 pp.

Writes about medical men meeting at his estate. Comments on his ability to offer only the hospitality of a tavern keeper to his guests. Major Adair is the remaining guest. Reports that he has written to Lily instead of verbal explanation and regardless of the outcome deigns not to lose Delia.

S. B. Buckner, Glen -Lily, to Delia H. Claiborne, no place. March 14, 1885. ALS, 4 pp.

Expresses romantic feelings and doubts his being worthy of her affection. Professes his immense trust in her both as a lover and as her best friend. Appeals to her to hold her decision and give Lilly time to develop her feelings.

S. B. Buckner, Glen -Lily, Hart County, KY, to Delia H. Claiborne, no place. March 15, 1885. ALS, 4 pp.

States that he always has a chivalrous feeling toward woman and it is now concentrated on her. Expresses many romantic sentiments concerning his love and devotion.

S. B. Buckner, Glen -Lily, to Delia H. Claiborne, no place. March 16, 1885. ALS, 6 pp.

Writes to her about his vision of her while living at Glen-Lily. Assures her that his heart is her in its entirety and other assurances of his love.

S. B. Buckner, Glen -Lily, to Delia H. Claiborne, no place. March 17, 1885. ALS, 4 pp.

Explains how he placed his order for roses and does not know how other flowers were with them but sees it as a happy omen. Describes the construction and the view of the pathway he has made for her and named the "Delian Way."

S. B. Buckner, Glen -Lily, to Delia H. Claiborne, no place. March 18, 1885. ALS, 8 pp.

Responds to her questions about his life at the "Knobs," which he explains are the small mountains nearby. Describes the geography of the land around his dwelling in great detail. Explains the origin of its name coming from the surrounding glens and his daughter's name. Describes the extent of "The Delian Way" and how wild the setting is. Writes of the various workers he employs to subdue this wildness

S. B. Buckner, Glen -Lily, to Delia H. Claiborne, no place. March 19, 1885. ALS, 6 pp.

Explains the reasons behind his delayed letters; how work had piled up while he was away and how the postal service functions and does not permit mail every day. Expresses his desire to have her there so as to avoid the post as means of communication. Writes of her

impending visit to Clover Leaf and insists that her grandmother will consent to his suit. He asks about the opinions of the younger members of her household since their discovery of his plans.

S. B. Buckner, Glen -Lily, to Delia H. Claiborne, no place. March 20, 1885. ALS, 4 pp.

Announces the completion of the pathway and describes it. Responds to her that he is happy when beautifying Glen-Lily in order to please her. Quotes poetry while referencing how she will teach him how to tame the wild scenes.

S. B. Buckner, Glen -Lily, to Delia H. Claiborne, no place. March 21, 1885. ALS, 6 pp.

Reports that he has been receiving unwelcome visits from one of those "peripatetic friends of the newspaper variety." Explains how he has dealt with this person, who was a bequest of the medical convention which had recently convened at Glen-Lily and has finally been dismissed. Relates the completion of a roadway and the arrival of deep snow.

S. B. Buckner, Glen -Lily, to Delia H. Claiborne, no place. March 22, 1885. ALS, 6 pp.

Explains the joy he has in writing her letters. Dismayed at the snow present on the first day of spring. Describes how he has scheduled his mail to her. Looks forward to Col. Abney's message, which he says he would have sent if in Abney's position.

S. B. Buckner, Glen -Lily, to Delia H. Claiborne, Clover Leaf. March 23, 1885. ALS, 4 pp.

Reports that the snow is finally departing and his work can continue on the road and planting grass seed. Admits that he was too severe in dealing with his "newspaper friend" who has good qualities. Hopes he can gratify her every wish.

S. B. Buckner, Glen -Lily, to Delia H. Claiborne, no place. March 24, 1885. ALS, 4 pp.

Explains that he writes of the weather often because of how it factors into his operations at Glen-Lily. He describes the weather and the moon's impact on life and farming at length.

S. B. Buckner, Glen -Lily, to Delia H. Claiborne, no place. March 25, 1885. ALS, 4 pp.

Discusses the weather and the moon. Declares his intent to make a rough map of the premises for her. Offers apologies for the conduct of another and insists he will respect her wishes.

S. B. Buckner, Glen -Lily, to Delia H. Claiborne, no place. March 26, 1885. ALS, 4 pp.

Writes of the locust trees in his yard and their mutual dislike for them but his wish for them to stay. They are damaged and he must trim the branches that threaten the roof. Other trees he transplanted from the woods grow vigorously and can soon replace the old locusts. Expects flowers to appear on the property soon.

S. B. Buckner, Glen -Lily, to Delia H. Claiborne, no place. March 28, 1885. ALS, 5 ½ pp.

Believes that everything should be as she wishes and suitable to her. Hopes that his one wish of consummating their engagement be fulfilled in a reasonable time and not continue as they are, as he is repressing his "barbarian nature" which would have otherwise prompted him to snatch her up instantly. Hopes to meet her friend, Miss Styer. Reminisces about a moment they had together a month ago.

S. B. Buckner, Glen -Lily, to Delia H. Claiborne, no place. March 30, 1885. ALS, 8 pp.

Explains that he could not write the night before because he was visiting an old friend and occupied the next day. Mentions how busy he has been and another brief snow. Writes of the contents of two papers sent to him by his newspaper friend and how poorly written and inaccurate they are. Answers her question about Atlantis and refers to the facts offered by [Ignatius] Donnelly in his book. Asks her if she is a Darwinian and states that he is. Writes of his delight in her grandmother's approval of his suit.

S. B. Buckner, Glen -Lily, to Delia H. Claiborne, no place. March 31, 1885. ALS, 4 pp.

Explains how the last day of the month requires normal duties as well as paying employees. Writes about testing improved farming tools and improving roads.

**Folder 27: Simon B. Buckner to Delia H. C. Buckner Correspondence, April-June 1885**

S. B. Buckner, Glen-Lily, to Delia H. Claiborne, no place. April 4, 1885. ALS, 4 pp.

Requests that she speak freely to him of herself, and assures her with many romantic writings about her and their future. Awaits her a to Richmond and mentions he has commenced gardening.

S. B. Buckner, Glen-Lily, to Delia H. Claiborne, no place. April 6, 1885. ALS, 4 pp.

Reproaches her for suggesting her burn her letters. Writes of a visit from Mr. Belknap, whose character developed as he learned more of him. Relates news of the garden and the progress of breaking up rocks to continue a branch of the "Delian Way." Expresses disappointment in not being with her to visit her cousin.

S. B. Buckner, Glen-Lily, to Delia H. Claiborne, no place. April 7, 1885. ALS, 4 pp.

Writes that she will not find the abundance of beauty and variety of trees at Glen-Lily that she has at Clover-Leaf. Describes the various trees to be found at Glen-Lily at length. Expresses envy of the nature in Hanover which enjoys her presence.

S. B. Buckner, Glen-Lily, to Delia H. Claiborne, no place. April 8, 1885. ALS, 4 pp.

Writes about completing another section of the "Delian Way," describing the progress and further plans for it. Offers many romantic sentiments and reassures her of his love although he does not feel worthy. Hopes to reach Richmond on the 15<sup>th</sup> unless she writes otherwise.

S. B. Buckner, Glen-Lily, to Delia H. Claiborne, no place. April 9, 1885. ALS, 4 pp.

Impressed by her housekeeping duties she acquired for his sake and describes his own household situation. Married, male employees live away from Glen-Lily with "an authority more arbitrary than mine." Unmarried workers live in "a sort of barrack" and under the charge of one of the employee's wives, the housekeeper. Informs her that the employees will hear her mandates, with him setting the example.

S. B. Buckner, Glen-Lily, to Delia H. Claiborne, no place. April 10, 1885. ALS, 3 pp.

Informs her of a possible delay in his arrival in Richmond due to business. Asks her to tell her grandmother he will not take Delia away permanently.

S. B. Buckner, Glen-Lily, to Delia H. Claiborne, no place. April 11, 1885. ALS, 4 pp.

Thanks her for her many letters and conveys romantic thoughts. Writes of his use of a "pedometer" to measure his steps. Mentions that his Fort Donelson comrades still take interest in his "surrender" to Delia.

S. B. Buckner, Glen-Lily, to Delia H. Claiborne, no place. April 12, 1885. ALS, 4 pp.

Jests about her running away when he arrives and conveys his plans for travel to Richmond. Thanks her for taking charge of wedding preparations and expresses his feeling of unworthiness in exchanging himself for her.

S. B. Buckner, Glen-Lily, to Delia H. Claiborne, no place. April 13, 1885. ALS, 4 pp.



Reports he has been busy preparing for his departure, especially due to the need to prepare for seed-time. Writes that he must leave instructions for assistants and delay some plans. Conveys his travel schedule and assures her he will hold the friendship of Col. Abney in high esteem.

S. B. Buckner, Louisville, [KY], to Delia H. Claiborne, no place. April 22, 1885. ALS, 4 pp.  
Expresses romantic sentiments and sadness due to parting from her company.

S. B. Buckner, Glen-Lily, to Delia H. Claiborne, no place. April 24, 1885. ALS, 8 pp.  
Reports that his visit with Lily in Louisville went poorly and she reacted violently. Warns her that Lily's opposition may incite gossip in Louisville's society and make visits difficult but reassures her that he will be there for her. Describes the gardens at Glen-Lily. Mr. Barret has agreed to guard Simon from danger until Delia arrives.

S. B. Buckner, Glen-Lily, to Delia H. Claiborne, no place. April 25, 1885. ALS, 4 pp.  
Reports that her father has consented to their marriage in a letter. Writes of the nature growing on the property and has planted roses he sent for from Louisville.

S. B. Buckner, Glen-Lily, to Delia H. Claiborne, no place. April 29, 1885. ALS, 4 pp.  
Expresses his wish that she recovers quickly from her cold. Promises to determine a date she can expect him in Richmond but he must first attend to business and spend time with Mr. Belknap when he visits soon.

S. B. Buckner, Glen-Lily, to Delia H. Claiborne, no place. April 29, 1885. ALS, 4 pp.  
Lists his present occupations: plowing lands for crops, arraying, planting, and transplanting flowers, pruning trees and shrubs, excavating ground for ponds, constructing a cistern at a truant house, building a [work]shop, and working on the "Delian Way." Responds to her letter in which she quotes her mother regarding Delia's influence over him.

S. B. Buckner, Glen-Lily, to Delia H. Claiborne, no place. April 30, 1885. ALS, 4 pp.  
Reports of being busy with the "employer's department" and being attentive to visiting neighbors. Writes many long and eloquent expressions of his love. Remains amazed that she is deserving of her love.

S. B. Buckner, Glen-Lily, to Delia H. Claiborne, no place. May 1, 1885. ALS, 4 pp.  
Writes a soliloquy of his daily employments at Glen-Lily, including how he envisions her if she were present. Describes the plants found in the garden and the scenery of the surrounding environ. Updates her on the progress of the "Delian Way."

S. B. Buckner, Glen-Lily, to Delia H. Claiborne, no place. May 3, 1885. ALS, 4 pp.  
Relates a meeting with various people, presided over by his cousin, Miss Wood, in Delia's absence. Reports that the guests enjoyed the springs while on a walk. Reassures her about her preoccupations which prevent her from writing more often. Replies that he is happy she is pleased with the ring and he waits impatiently for the wedding day of June 10.

S. B. Buckner, Glen-Lily, to Delia H. Claiborne, no place. May 4, 1885. ALS, 4 pp.

Writes of how grateful he is for her letters and her love. Reassures her that she is not moving to an "ironed cage" and can visit her native land as she pleases and she can tell her father and uncle this.

S. B. Buckner, Glen-Lily, to Delia H. Claiborne, no place. May 5, 1885. ALS, 4 pp.

Writes about an extract from the Louisville Courier-Journal within a dispatch to the paper from Washington City, which reports that all of Kentucky is excited by her arrival to tame "the wild barbarian of the Green River Knobs." In imitation of Rome, he is building a roadway purchased from his neighbor, Dr. Bowling. Continues to work on the flower garden for her.

S. B. Buckner, Glen-Lily, to Delia H. Claiborne, no place. May 6, 1885. ALS, 4 pp.

Occupied in planning a new floor in his old 'den' of alternating ash and walnut boards. Mentions a sketch he has created of the arrangement of the house, explaining the layout and the current uses of each room, while also relating his hope that she will change things as she desires.

S. B. Buckner, Glen-Lily, to Delia H. Claiborne, no place. May 7, 1885. ALS, 4 pp.

Relates his interest in receiving her photograph which he did not bother her about because he knew she was busy. Points out two terms she used in her letter, writing that as a "gray-haired barbarian," he must consult Mr. Barret as how to properly render them. Notes that he has sent a slip of a Louisville paper announcing his happy fortune and informs her that all of the state is publishing about it.

S. B. Buckner, Glen-Lily, to Delia H. Claiborne, no place. May 9, 1885. ALS, 4 pp.

Continues his work excavating reservoirs for holding surplus water, has finished with his vegetable garden, and work continues on the road and wire fencing. Reports that he is arranging a crossing over the brook and will save the final section of the "Delian Way" for her arrival. The flower garden is also ready and is reconstructing the summer house at its entrance.

S. B. Buckner, Munfordville, Hart C[oun]ty., KY, to Delia H. Claiborne, no place. May 13, 1885. ALS, 3 pp.

Visited Lily in Louisville and found her softened but not reconciled to his marriage, which he assumes time will resolve her feelings. Lily will visit her cousin, Maggie Morehead, in Hawesville, Ky., and he will bring them to Glen-Lily for a visit. Mr. Barret, will visit next week.

S. B. Buckner, Glen-Lily, to Delia H. Claiborne, no place. May 13, 1885. ALS, 4 pp.

Sympathizes with her feelings about the publicity surrounding their engagement. Writes of a newspaper articles he has seen in Kentucky, specifically one of Paris, which takes issue with her mother in the question of government. Relates that he will select a ring in Richmond and his pleasure in hearing her say that she is as wild as the mountains around him.

S. B. Buckner, Glen-Lily, to Delia H. Claiborne, no place. May 14, 1885. ALS, 4 pp.

Welcomes the fact that people are offering congratulations to her on his account. Believes she is "preparing the public mind for the advent upon the stage" by hanging his picture in her

boudoir. Relates that he has assured Mr. Barret she will select the most charming of Richmond's women for him as his partner at the wedding.

S. B. Buckner, Glen-Lily, to Delia H. Claiborne, no place. May 15, 1885. ALS, 4 pp.

Explains how he arranged so that his workers who have been assigned to the public highway from Munfordville will work on the portion nearest Glen-Lily and he will thus have control over repairs. Describes the beauty of Glen-Lily.

S. B. Buckner, Glen-Lily, to Delia H. Claiborne, no place. May 17, 1885. ALS, 4 pp.

Flattered by General and Mrs. Anderson's compliments of him and comments on their approval. Mentions the Washington Post article she refers to and reassures her of her "excellencies." Reminds her that Glen-Lily is a log cabin and not a mansion.

S. B. Buckner, Glen-Lily, to Delia H. Claiborne, no place. May 21, 1885. ALS, 4 pp.

Expresses both love and grief over her previous letter and reassures her of his devotion to her. Wishes to not cause her grief over the issue of her daughter and apologizes for her actions, however he sympathizes with her distress.

S. B. Buckner, Glen-Lily, to Delia H. Claiborne, no place. May 22, 1885. ALS, 4 pp.

Writes of his plan to visit his daughter in Hayesville, KY, to take her to Louisville and to Glen-Lily while her husband, Mr. Belknap, is away. Warns her that his letters may lapse while he travels to Hawesville by "river steamers." Describes continued work on Glen-Lily.

S. B. Buckner, no place, to Delia H. Claiborne, no place. May [23 or 24], 1885. ALS, 4 pp (missing first 4 pp).

Reports on meeting friends and acquaintances in Louisville who congratulated him on the engagement and hope to be friends with her. Grieved to learn she is ill. Asks if she is unhappy with him, acknowledging the problem with Lily and asks if his efforts are not enough.

S. B. Buckner, Glen-Lily, to Delia H. Claiborne, no place. May 30, 1885. ALS, 4 pp.

Reveals great anxiety over her illness and lack of letters and awaits positive news. Reports that the house awaits now awaits only her presence. Mr. Belknap arrived and is staying several days but Simon needs to see Mr. Barret in Louisville while awaiting her final decision on the wedding date.

S. B. Buckner, Glen-Lily, to Delia H. Claiborne, no place. June 1, 1885. ALS, 4 pp.

Writes elegantly of their future happiness. He awaits her decision on a wedding date and will plan to arrive three or four days beforehand.

S. B. Buckner, Glen-Lily, to Delia H. Claiborne, no place. June 4, 1885. ALS, 4 pp.

Relates his suffering from their continued existence apart and would relish an earlier wedding date. Writes of his plans to leave for Richmond.

**Folder 28: Simon B. Buckner to Delia H. Claiborne Buckner Correspondence, 1886-1889**

**1886**

Simon [Bolivar Buckner], Louisville, KY to Delia [Claiborne Buckner], no place. October 7, 1886. ALS. 2 pp.

Felt strange being in Frankfort without her and their son. Mentions Mr. Buck canceling his trip so he will now travel alone for Hopkinsville.

Simon [Bolivar Buckner], Hopkinsville, KY to Delia [Claiborne Buckner], no place. October 7, 1886. ALS. 1 p.

Reports his travel plans for Madisonville and Munfordsville.

Simon [Bolivar Buckner], Frankfort, KY to Delia [Claiborne Buckner], no place. July 8, 1888. ALS. 2 pp.

Complains of the heat being oppressive and writes of Mr. Warner leaving. Considers asking Mr. Miller to watch the house while he is in the mountains. Informs her of a deposit he made to her credit.

Simon [Bolivar Buckner], Frankfort, KY to Delia [Claiborne Buckner], no place. August 1, 1888. ALS. 2 pp.

Detained in Ashland due to the collision of two freight trains and is glad he did not have to spend as many hours alone in the mansion without her. Went to Louisville to open the bids on the penitentiary but cannot due to the failure of its architect. Relates further travel plans and hopes she enjoys [White Sulpher] Springs.

Simon [Bolivar Buckner], Frankfort, KY to Delia [Claiborne Buckner], no place. August 3, 1888. ALS. 1 ½ pp.

Entertained Cincinnati guests in Lexington and relates travel plans. Wishes he could be with her when she visits her family.

Simon [Bolivar Buckner], Glen-Lily, KY to Delia [Claiborne Buckner], no place. November 10, 1888. ALS. 2 pp.

Consoles her and assures her that she will completely recover. Relates when John Barret, Judge Sharp, Mr. Caperton, and Ben Bayless are leaving.

Simon [Bolivar Buckner], Glen-Lily, KY to Delia [Claiborne Buckner], no place. November 14, 1888. ALS. 4 pp.

Pleased to hear of her successful operation and mentions a new employee. Reports the many incidences of agricultural neglect of [Edwin?]. Relates his visit with Mr. Bayless. Writes that the election is a Waterloo to the Democracy, but Kentucky "maintains her position in the democratic column."

Simon [Bolivar Buckner], Frankfort, KY to Delia [Claiborne Buckner], no place. November 23, 1888. ALS. 4 pp.

Reports on his work, including sending the military to Perry County and how the Blackburn-Rucker imbroglio remains a hot topic. Believes they have lost the House of Representatives and the Presidency, Carlisle will be important to the seccatorial contest, and [Joseph] Blackburn will not be re-elected. Says the contest will be between she and Carlisle. Comments on dinner with Mr. and Mrs. Young E. Allison. Writes of the dog, Dixie, and how he rejoices over her restored health and will join her in Richmond.

Simon [Bolivar Buckner], Frankfort, KY to Delia [Claiborne Buckner], no place. December 5, 1888. ALS. 2 pp.

Feeling lonely even with the company of Hill's family. Reports that Miss Dixon's engagement ended and he will attend Miss Hain's wedding. Edwin came by and wrongfully complained of unsettled debts.

Simon [Bolivar Buckner], Frankfort, KY to Delia [Claiborne Buckner], no place. December 11, 1888. ALS. 2 pp.

Writes in detail about how the Harris wedding was a "first class 'shebang.'" Relates his meeting with a farmer who is also a devoted fox hunter. Wishes to take Delia to Washington if she is well enough.

Simon [Bolivar Buckner], Frankfort, KY to Delia [Claiborne Buckner], Richmond, VA. December 12, 1888. ALS. 2 pp with envelope.

Plans to cancel entertaining electors at tea if she cannot leave for Washington. He will instead go directly to her as he misses her.

Simon [Bolivar Buckner], Frankfort, KY to Delia [Claiborne Buckner], Richmond, VA. December 14, 1888. ALS. 1 p with envelope.

Returns from Louisville after seeing Lily, to whom he gave a box to see the Boston Ideal Company perform Carmen. Reports that the "Bostonians," will be in Louisville after the holidays and invites her to attend.

Simon [Bolivar Buckner], Frankfort, KY to Delia [Claiborne Buckner], no place. December 17, 1888. ALS. 2 pp.

Notes that some people like unattractive wives but he is blessed with a lovely and attractive one. Despairs over having to wait longer to see her in Washington but is convinced the absence will ensure her permanent restoration. Gov. Bryan wrote of his improvements and impending return to Kentucky so that he can travel to her.

Simon [Bolivar Buckner], Frankfort, KY to Delia [Claiborne Buckner], Richmond, VA. December 22, 1888. ALS. 2 pp. with envelope.

Writes about his supper with The R[ail] Road Commissioners, Judge Sharp, Judge Beennett, Col. Stoddard Johnston, and Gerald Hager. Deeply misses her company and wishes to never let such an absence happen again. Clarissa and Col. Johnston send boxes to her.

Simon [Bolivar Buckner], Frankfort, KY to Delia [Claiborne Buckner], Richmond, VA. December 20, 1888. ALS. 2 pp. with envelope.

Depressed by her sad note and promises never to participate in politics again if she is not there with him and happy with it. Writes while waiting for the train to the farm and waits to hear about the Washington trip.

Simon [Bolivar Buckner], Frankfort, KY to Delia [Claiborne Buckner], Richmond, VA.  
December 28, 1888. ALS. 4 pp. with envelope.

Reports on his leaving the farm, going to Louisville to conduct business and recover money for the state, and returned home to answer letters. Relates his anguish over not being with her and is understanding of her decision not to go to Washington. Informs her that Gov. Bryan's return will allow him to join her and bring her back. Thanks her in advance for her future efforts preparing supper for the electors and for reminding their son of him.

Simon [Bolivar Buckner], Frankfort, KY to Delia [Claiborne Buckner], Richmond, VA.  
December 30, 1888. ALS. 4 pp.

Asks if he can retrieve her now instead of having to wait until after the electors meet. Discusses the various presents they have received along with an ill-fitting suit in need of tailoring. Mentions Clarissa understanding Delia's instructions and the low yield of vegetables from the farm. Insists the only care he needs is her presence.

## 1889

Simon [Bolivar Buckner], Frankfort, KY to Delia [Claiborne Buckner], no place. January 1, 1889. ALS. 2 pp.

Writes that he called on people for New Year's because the mansion was unendurable without her. Discusses some political corruption, including his exposure of fraud amongst Louisville officials.

Simon [Bolivar Buckner], Frankfort, KY to Delia [Claiborne Buckner], no place. January 3, 1889. ALS. 2 pp.

Complains of how terrible it is to wait to go to her. Received an invitation from Ireland, whom they met in Ashland. Sends her Mr. Jacob's "Truth" and informs her that he accepted an invitation to speak at Leiderkrantz Hall in Louisville at a Democratic rally.

Simon [Bolivar Buckner], Frankfort, KY to Delia [Claiborne Buckner], no place. January 8, 1889. ALS. 1 pp.

Informs her of a possible delay in reaching her and that he will leave from Louisville after speaking about Andrew Jackson.

Simon [Bolivar Buckner], Frankfort, KY to Delia [Claiborne Buckner], no place. January 10, 1889. ALS. 2 pp.

Recapitulates the Courier Journal article about his speech at the Democratic Club at Leiderkrantz Hall being well-received by the audience. Apologizes for needing to attend a dinner for the Commercial Club of Louisville to give a 'sort of' official endorsement to their enterprise and informs her of his new travel plan. States that his absence from Kentucky must be brief as Gov. Bryan is ill again.

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Simon [Bolivar Buckner], Frankfort, KY to Delia [Claiborne Buckner], no place. January 11, 1889. ALS. 2 pp.

Capt. Hage[?] arrived and reported on her looking well. Despoited money into her account and looks forward to seeing her in a week. Relates that Mrs. Adams was there to consult with Clarissa and reassures Delia that all will be well with the entertainment. Mentions that Col. Polk Johnson is now the Public Printer and editor of the Capital.

**Folder 29: Simon B. Buckner to Delia H. Claiborne Buckner Correspondence, 1891-1892**

**1891**

Simon [Bolivar Buckner], Louisville, KY to Delia [Claiborne Buckner], no place. December 18, 1891. ALS. 2 pp.

Relates how much he misses Delia, his health improvements under Dr. Palmer's direction, and states that he attended the funeral for Mr. Blair[?].

Simon [Bolivar Buckner], Glen Lily, [KY] to Delia [Claiborne Buckner], no place. December 20, 1891. ALS. 4 pp.

Discusses the difficulty in being away from Delia and relates the landscape improvements completed which Delia requested previously.

Simon [Bolivar Buckner], Glen Lily, [KY] to Delia [Claiborne Buckner], no place. December 23, 1891. ALS. 4 pp.

Provides money for Delia to ensure she is financially comfortable. Relates that his health improves and comments about the winter weather. Informs Delia of the arrival of the "Frankfort Resolutions" and a box which contained a pair of silver goblets.

Simon [Bolivar Buckner], Glen Lily, [KY] to Delia [Claiborne Buckner], no place. December 26, 1891. ALS. 4 pp.

Informs Delia of his loneliness at Christmas and relates loving thoughts to her. Discusses his health and land improvements.

**1892**

Simon [Bolivar Buckner], Glen-Lily, [KY] to Delia [Claiborne Buckner], no place. January 1, 1892. ALS. 4 pp.

Reflects on the old year and the new year and how he misses her. Reports on the activities at home and his continued improvements. Informs her not to send the mineral water, which he will try in Richmond.

Simon [Bolivar Buckner], Glen-Lily, [KY] to Delia [Claiborne Buckner], no place. January 15, 1892. ALS. 3 pp.

Describes the scene created by the snow. Mentions not knowing the name of his other's father and is awaiting news from Chicago to close the "Ashland matter."

Simon [Bolivar Buckner], Glen-Lily, [KY] to Delia [Claiborne Buckner], no place. January 18, 1892. ALS. 2 pp.

Learned from the papers about the Brown's reception to the Legislation. Leaving for Louisville to attend the State Convention in interest of the Columbian Exposition, per invitation of the Commercial Club to make remarks. Thanks her for her interest in his ancestry.



Simon [Bolivar Buckner], Glen-Lily, [KY] to Delia [Claiborne Buckner], no place. January 31, 1892. ALS. 4 pp.

          Informs her of the delay in the Chicago transaction, which delayed his trip to Richmond. Sends her another \$100. Remarks that Col. Anderson is enjoying his continued stay. Visited the Hartswell family, who were mostly sick with the grippe, but his own health improves.

Simon [Bolivar Buckner], Glen-Lily, [KY] to Delia [Claiborne Buckner], no place. February 7, 1892. ALS. 4 pp.

          Writes of their separation only being worth it because her health is improving and she is enjoying her friend's company. Comments on Jeremiah's mourning family and Clarissa's unsympathetic employers. Col. Anderson enjoyed his stay and the Hartswell family is recovered aside from he and his wife. Hopes to bring her to Washington when he joins her in Richmond.

Simon [Bolivar Buckner], Glen-Lily, [KY] to Delia [Claiborne Buckner], no place. February 11, 1892. ALS. 4 pp.

          Relates that Chicago transaction is nearly complete and weather has allowed him to complete some work on the property like developing a stone quarry. Reports of Mr. Wood's family being ill and encloses a letter from Gen. Hardin with insight into Frankfort affairs.

Simon [Bolivar Buckner], Glen-Lily, [KY] to Delia [Claiborne Buckner], no place. February 12, 1892. ALS. 3 ½ pp.

          Sends her \$50 and relates the cold weather. Welcomes the marriage of Fernand Claiborne to Miss. Villeré, noting the Villeré family is one of the oldest Creole families in New Orleans. Relates that the Hartswell is improved.

**Folder 30: Delia H. C. Buckner to Simon B. Buckner Correspondence, 1882-March 1885**

Note: All correspondence in this group are between Delia Herbert Claiborne [written as both Delia Herbert Claiborne or Delia Herbert Claiborne Buckner] to Simon Bolivar Buckner.

**1882**

Delia Claiborne, Clover Lea, Hanover Co., to Gen[e]r[a]l [Simon Bolivar] Buckner, no place. September 29, [1882]. ALS, 4 pp.

Thanks him for the books which occupied her while in Charleston. Writes of enjoying her lovely surroundings and hopes he will come as well, especially to Mt. Vernon.

Delia Claiborne, no place, to Gen[e]r[a]l S. B. Buckner, Chicago, IL fwd. to Rio, Hart County, KY. October 9, 1882. ALS, 7 ½ pp with envelope.

Thanks Buckner for copying extracts of Vedic literature including Mayathrata [*Mahabharata*], lending to understanding of the Vedic people and Rama. She is returning to Washington [D.C.] at the behest of Judge [Alexander Burton] Hagner.

Delia Herbert Claiborne, Richmond, [VA] to General [Simon Bolivar Buckner], no place. February 11, [1882?]. ALS, 7 ½ pp.

Recounts recent activities, including a visit to the Shirley [plantation] of the Carter family on the James River [VA]. Gives opinions on books she is reading and interest in a course on Carlyle. Mentions Hamilton's illness and a visit to the studio of Mr. Valentine.

**1883**

Delia Herbert Claiborne, Richmond, [VA] to General [Simon Bolivar Buckner], no place. August 20, 1883. ALS, 4 pp.

Offers sympathy for the loss of his daughter [to marriage] but says he should be more resigned. Misses White [Sulphur Springs], has been in Richmond since May, and believes she will stay through autumn. Reading Prescott's Conquest of Mexico.

Delia Herbert Claiborne, Richmond, [VA] to General S. B. Buckner, no place. October 17, 1883. ALS, 2 ½ pp.

Sends her condolences regarding the death of his sister.

Delia Herbert Claiborne, Richmond, [VA] to General S. B. Buckner, no place. November 29, [1883]. ALS, 4 pp.

Mr. Valentine is teaching her German, to which she diligently applies herself. Declares *Vanity Fair* the "most clever novel" she has read. Reports the Democratic victory followed with a great jubilee. Asks if he thinks General Williams will be re-elected.

Delia Claiborne, Clover Lea, Hanover Co., to General [Simon Bolivar] Buckner, no place, [1883]. ALS, 3 pp.

Acknowledges receipt of his daughter's wedding invitation. Col. Peyton was in Richmond several times during the winter. She remembers him to herself with 'The Owls Serenade.'

## 1884

Delia Herbert Claiborne, Richmond, [VA] to General [Simon Bolivar Buckner], no place. November 1, 1884. ALS, 4 pp.

Lame from wearing low-heeled English walking shoes and will accompany her grandmother to the country for a few days. Reports that her friend Miss White will marry Mr. Helm Bruce of Kentucky.

Delia Herbert Claiborne, Richmond, [VA] to General [Simon Bolivar Buckner], no place. November 24, 1884. ALS, 7 pp.

Attended Grand Jubilee of the Democrats. Considers Hart County's Republican vote a disgrace. Met with friend, Col. John Abney of South Carolina. Looks forward to seeing his daughter and a visit to Louisville. Plans to attend the inauguration of the [Washington] monument in Washington on 22 February. Informs of reading and social life.

Delia Herbert Claiborne, Richmond [VA] to General [Simon Bolivar] Buckner, Rio, Hart County, KY. December 1, 1884. ALS, 4 ½ pp.

Flattered by his constant letters and reports that she has received violets anonymously and muses on the "mystery of the human heart."

Delia Herbert Claiborne, Clover Lea to General S. B. Buckner, no place. [1884]. ALS, 4 ½ pp.

Describes how she spent her leisure at Clover Lea in Hanover. Mentions an "article" he is in, describing the character and virtues of men, and also states that she is unaware of how Virginia casts its vote.

Delia Herbert Claiborne, Richmond, [VA] to General S. B. Buckner, Rio, Hart County, KY. January 15, [1884]. ALS, 6 pp.

Reports of her plans for a country ramble being cancelled due to her aunt's mother, Mrs. Coulter Cabell, who died from catching on fire while making her morning toilet. Hopes that Delian [Way?] progresses under his direction but is not disturbing the Log Cabin and notes how attractive Glen Lily is.

Delia Herbert Claiborne, Clover Lea, to General [Simon Bolivar Buckner], no place. May 22, 1884. ALS, 8 pp.

Describes her visit to the neglected, ancestral home of the Bassetts with her grandmother. Briefly discusses Democrats in regards to upcoming presidential election. Plans to leave Richmond in June to avoid malarial fever and postpones his visit. Refers to the war in Central Africa and Gen[e]r[a]l Gordon. Writes of her admiration of the Prestons of Lexington. Informs him that Miss Marie Lord's father admires Mildred Lee, of whom Claiborne is a fan.

Delia Herbert Claiborne, Richmond, [VA] to General S. B. Buckner, Rio, Hart County, KY.  
August 22, 1884. ALS, 4 pp.

Writes of spending time with friends and an uncle in Richmond and of books she is reading. Mentions the Prestons having had a disappointing vacation and responds to his description of the Circus. Asks if he attended the Democratic Convention in Chicago.

Delia Herbert Claiborne, Richmond, [VA], to General [Simon Bolivar Buckner], no place.  
October 9, 1884. ALS,

Looks forward to him sending photographs of his home's surroundings. Complains of three weeks of heat. Plans to stay home through the fall and hopes he will visit her as promised.

Delia Herbert Claiborne, Richmond , [VA], to General S. B. Buckner, Rio, Hart County, KY.  
December 21, 1884. ALS, 4 pp.

Reveals that Col. Carlton Radford of Bedford, W. Va., speaks highly of Buckner. Mentions dining with Mr. Helm Bruce and his bride. Thanks him for the photos, which she had asked for in jest.

### **1885 January - March**

Delia Herbert Claiborne, Richmond , [VA], to General S. B. Buckner, no place. January 3, [1885]. ALS, 4 pp.

Reports a busy schedule and that her father told her latest suitor that she was spoiled and extravagant. Insists he visit soon and hopes he will escort her again as he did from White Sulphur to Charlestown. Asks about praise he received in 'The Century' by Lew Wallace.

Delia Herbert Claiborne, Richmond , [VA], to General [Simon Bolivar Buckner], no place.  
January 10, [1885]. ALS, 1 p.

Reports of being busy but will depart for Alexandria on the 20<sup>th</sup>, so encourages him to hasten his visit if he wishes to see her.

Delia Herbert Claiborne, Washington, to General [Simon Bolivar Buckner], no place. February 25, 1885. ALS, 4 pp.

Thanks him for the roses but informs him that her visitor, Lannie[?] Heth asked about their engagement. Delia apologizes for denying this due to being unprepared for the announcement. Mr. R[?] wishes to visit and all are excited for the ball. Writes that Col. Abney and other friends will attend, but is understands his disinterest.

Delia Herbert Claiborne, Washington, to General S. B. Buckner, no place. February 26, 1885. ALS, 4 pp.

Reports of receiving many visitors and being escorted by Leigh Robinson to a dinner party. Sympathizes with Lily about her grief over the marriage announcement and hopes to win her friendship through reasonable means.

Delia Herbert Claiborne, Washington, to General [Simon Bolivar Buckner], no place. February 27, 1885. ALS, 5 ½ pp.

Expresses deep and amorous feelings toward him and the fact that she did not believe this possible. She relates the negative opinions here acquaintances have of Buckner, including one saying he never talks. Writes of her family's interest in her future and tells him they will make their announcement when he visits in April. She insists that flirtations cease until then, and only her intimate friends will know.

Delia Herbert Claiborne, Washington, to General [Simon Bolivar Buckner], no place. March 3, 1885. ALS, 8 pp.

Thanks him for the solitaire and roses, he sent to her. Reports that her day has been spent with Col. Abney, who is "half-mournful" over the suspected truth she will tell him. The President is arriving to stay at Arlington, the military parades occur constantly, and prominent buildings are decorated for the next day's inauguration. Expresses further sentiments of her affection.

Delia Herbert Claiborne, no place, to General [Simon Bolivar Buckner], no place. [1885?]. ALS, 3 ½ pp.

Writes hurriedly before leaving for [Chester?] Arthur's last reception. Attempting to write before he leaves N. L. [?] Hopes he sends more roses and closes with a remark about an engagement to walk with "some horrid man."

Delia Herbert Claiborne, [Washington], to General [Simon Bolivar Buckner], no place. March 5, [1885]. ALS, 5 ½ pp.

Reports on attending the inauguration and watching the procession to the Capitol. Watched some of it from the house with Mrs. Leigh Robinson, then the fireworks. Attended the ball with the Gen'l and Judge Hagner and Julia and met many Kentuckians there. Comments on the elaborate décor. Reports her mother does not believe their engagement, but remains hopeful about her father and uncle's response.

Delia Herbert Claiborne, Richmond, [VA], to General [Simon Bolivar Buckner], no place. March 10, 1885. ALS, 5 pp.

Writes of her return home to her parent's negative reception of her plans to marry. She intends to think only of him for a month. Expresses her desire for his daughter, Lily, to accept her. Reports that Grandmother Bassett believes she will never come home again, but she states this will not be the case.

Delia Herbert Claiborne, Richmond, [VA], to General [Simon Bolivar Buckner], no place. March 11, 1885. ALS, 4 pp.

Looks forward to living at Glen Lily. Ponders where she is attractive and intelligent as he imagines. States how she thinks being engaged forever would be charming. She has a message for him from Col. Abney.

Delia Herbert Claiborne, Richmond, [VA], to General [Simon Bolivar Buckner], no place. March 15, 1885. ALS, 6 pp.

Promises that she will not be unreasonable and will follow his plans for the future unless she disapproves. She has great love and respect for him and relates her reservations about men. Writes of the books she is reading, Easter plans, and her suddenly "idle life."

Delia Herbert Claiborne, Richmond , [VA], to General [Simon Bolivar Buckner], Rio, Hart County, KY. March 18, 1885. ALS, 4 pp with envelope.

Describes her travel and social plans and comments on his interest in having none. Informs him that her family does not take their engagement seriously.

Delia Herbert Claiborne, no place, to General [Simon Bolivar Buckner], no place. March 21, [1885?]. ALS, 1 p.

Writes of her social plans and implores him to write to an address in Hanover Co. for the time being and only write of "personal interest, surroundings, and affection for me." She will explain why another day.

Delia Herbert Claiborne, no place, to General [Simon Bolivar Buckner], no place, March 22, 1885. ALS, 5 pp.

Arrived at [Orapar?], home of Mrs. Duval, sister of John Esten Cooke, and describes the family and their activities to him. Mentions that her friend, Miss Steger, looks forward to meeting him and Mrs. Hagner had a thousand questions for her.

Delia Herbert Claiborne, Clover Lea, to General [Simon Bolivar Buckner], no place, March 25, 1885. ALS, 7 ¼ pp.

Writes of catching a cold and being subject to her grandmother's homeopathy for it. Shares the news of her grandmother's satisfaction with their engagement. Jests about his serious response to a complaint of hers. Thanks him for describing Glen Lily in depth and relates her appreciation for the country. Notes his love of Philosophy has seen neglect in the past few months. Sends a clipping on Donnelly's new book, "The Cryptogram." Mentions an imminent war between Russia and England.

Delia Herbert Claiborne, Clover Lea, to General [Simon Bolivar Buckner], Rio, Hart County, KY, March 27, 1885. ALS, 6 pp with envelope.

States her disbelief that she prides herself on receiving "love letters." Describes her observations of the land and its landmarks while walking along the river near her home. Hope he has recovered from his "infliction" of a "wretched fraternity." Informs him that her younger family members are mostly reconciled with her engagement, but some family and friends act as though she will disappear and never be heard from again.

Delia Herbert Claiborne, Clover Lea, to General [Simon Bolivar Buckner], no place, March 28, [1885]. ALS, 8 pp.

Impressed by his sending four letters before receiving hers. Discusses "My Lady Pokahontas," writing that she is familiar with all of the places described. Describes the church where they will attend service in the morning. Tired of questions about the engagement and assumes a scowl. Commends him for the drawing he sent of a newspaper friend and on the weather. Writing on the following day, she mentions a snowstorm and activities of the day.

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Looks forward to seeing Glen Lily and insists they are the same age because the feeling of their hearts makes them young.

Delia Herbert Claiborne, Clover Lea, to General S[imon] B[olivar] Buckner, Rio, KY, March 31, 1885. ALS, 4 pp with envelope.

Repeats her uncle's joke about her South American correspondent due to "Rio" on his letters. Excited to hear of his visit, but it must be before the 10<sup>th</sup> to ensure Mrs. Washington is there with her grandmother. Expresses her excitement about their life at Glen Lily and says she is childish and innocent as well as mature.

**Folder 31: Delia H. C. Buckner to Simon B. Buckner Correspondence, 1885 April-1887**

**1885 April -June**

Delia Herbert Claiborne, Clover Lea, to General [Simon Bolivar Buckner], Rio, Hart Co., Kentucky, April 1, 1885. ALS, 5 ½ pp with envelope.

Reports on the family's activities at Clover Lea and describes the variety of trees on the property. Requests a map or outline of his surroundings.

Delia Herbert Claiborne, no place, to General [Simon Bolivar Buckner], no place, [April 3, 1885]. ALS, 4pp.

Reassures him that the wedding will be between June 5 and 10. Writes of his visit on 15 April and her intention to make all their plans then and simply. Mentions arrival of family and their activities and of her grandmother attempting to teach her housekeeping.

Delia Herbert Claiborne, Clover Lea, to General S. B. Buckner, no place, April 6, [1885]. ALS, 3 ½ pp.

Describes her Easter Sunday to him and confirms that she no longer denies their engagement when others ask.

Delia Herbert Claiborne, Clover Lea, to General S. B. Buckner, Hart County, Rio, KY, April 7, 1885. ALS, 4 pp with envelope.

Laura Mitchell has returned to visit to everyone's delight. Friends have complained about not knowing the marriage plans. The neighbors vie to give her more attention as if to express regret at her future departure. She warns him that his visit may prompt a desire to flee to "parts unknown." Mentions the death of Genr'l Grant.

Delia Herbert Claiborne, Clover Lea, to General [Simon Bolivar Buckner], no place. April 9, [1885]. ALS, 3 ½ pp.

Did not hear from him, so enjoys a letter from Col. Abney, who she hopes he will befriend. Reports on a book she is reading and that her family has no interest in writing letters. Writes that she is helping her grandmother create a scrapbook.

Delia Herbert Claiborne, Clover Lea, to General [Simon Bolivar Buckner], no place. April 10, [1885]. ALS, 5 ½ pp.

Refuses his request to tell him more about herself. Reveals having three brothers and no sisters and attending school with 15 boys and no girls. Writes that she and her grandmother hauled a secretary containing letters of her great grandfather. Reports that she is reading Emerson and hopes he will write soon.

Delia Herbert Claiborne, Richmond, [VA], to General [Simon Bolivar Buckner], no place. April 16, [1885]. ANS, 1 p.

Acknowledges his arrival and looks forward to seeing him the next morning instead of that evening due to having a headache.



Delia Herbert Claiborne, no place, to General [Simon Bolivar Buckner], no place. April 24, 1885. ALS, 4 pp.

Reports that the note he left for her father will be answered. Writes of her plans to prepare for their union and will stay at her uncle's one week.

Delia Herbert Claiborne, Clover Lea, to General [Simon Bolivar Buckner], no place. April 27, [1885]. ALS, 4 pp.

Saddened by his daughter, Lily's, opposition to her and explains the difficulties of being accepted by families of admirers. Comments on the beauty of the crescent and star ornament he sent.

Delia Herbert Claiborne, Richmond , [VA], to General [Simon Bolivar Buckner], no place. April 30, [1885]. ALS, 4 pp.

Mentions his letter telling her of her father's consent and is elated at her family's acceptance of her choice. Shares romantic sentiments and excitement regarding Glen Lily. Reminds him to send anything Mrs. Belknap would desire.

Delia Herbert Claiborne, Richmond , [VA], to General [Simon Bolivar Buckner], no place. May 2, [1885]. ALS, 4 pp.

Complains of the energy that is misapplied to wedding preparations. Content that he will be attended by Mr. Barry but bemoans the fate of Kate Claiborne, whose eye "little Jeannie" stuck her finger in. Complains of her popularity at both houses and the jealousies that arise. States that marriage shows who are one's true friends.

Delia Herbert Claiborne, Richmond , [VA], to General [Simon Bolivar Buckner], no place. May 7, 1885. ALS, 6 pp.

Reports that she is tired of hordes of visitors, letters and the publicity in the newspaper about their marriage disgusts. Mentions her ring size requirements and was glad he had a visit from friends. Clarifies a statement in a previous letter mentioning "submissive will" and says she does not know the meaning of it. Says the letters are complimentary toward him. Gen'l Jackson's Daughter Julia is to marry 3 June to Mr. Christian of Richmond.

Delia Herbert Claiborne, Richmond , [VA], to General [Simon Bolivar Buckner], no place. May 11, 1885. ALS, 6 pp.

Expresses many romantic sentiments. Says if he is fond of burlesque or caricature of your best friend, the Washington Post has gratified this. Notes that she has received the plan of Glen Lily and approves. Reports of a Gen'l and Madame who complimented him and insists he dine with them next time he visits. Makes plans for her last visit to Clover Lea. Mentions her dentist was one of his soldiers.

Delia Herbert Claiborne, Richmond , [VA], to General [Simon Bolivar Buckner], no place. May 18, 1885. ALS, 4 pp.

Expresses concern over the strength of their bond, that even while reassured by friends and his love, she is concerned of his complete devotion. Asks him to promise never to cause her

sorrow as her character requires no defence and their trust is perfect. Insists he not say her name to his daughter, but only their impending wedding date.

Delia Herbert Claiborne, Clover Lea, to General [Simon Bolivar Buckner], no place. May 19, 1885. ALS, 4 pp.

Apologizes for the temper presented toward him in her last two letters and insists nothing will change their approaching wedding date of June 10. She will depart on Tuesday and her house will be filled with friends of the Episcopal Council.

Delia Herbert Claiborne, no place, to General [Simon Bolivar Buckner], no place. May 20, 1885. ALS, 4 pp.

Writes about making travel plans for him to come to Va. with Mr. Barrett. States her selection of six ladies and six men for the bridal party and at least 80 guests.

Delia Herbert Claiborne, no place, to General [Simon Bolivar Buckner], no place. [May] 24, [1885]. ALS, 4 pp.

Promises not to forget he is her "devoted lover and sincerest friend" in the future and is grateful for the responses to her temperamental letters for which she is ashamed. While feeling indifferent to everything [wedding prep], she restates her loving sentiments.

Delia Herbert Claiborne, Richmond , [VA], to General [Simon Bolivar Buckner], no place. May 29, 1885. ALS, 6 pp.

Writes of her distress at being both his comfort and grief. Begs him not to mention his daughter's name in her presence. Relates her distress at any problems now that they are nearly wed. Reports that her uncle informed her that her ancestor was Buckner Claiborne.

Delia Herbert Claiborne, Richmond , [VA], to General [Simon Bolivar Buckner], Rio, Hart County, KY. June 1, 1885. ALS, 5 ½ pp with envelope.

Implores him not to dwell on the past. Writes that she cannot change plans to occur on the 16<sup>th</sup> instead of the 10<sup>th</sup> as Kate Claiborne has firm plans, it would be an embarrassment, and cites superstition.

## 1886

Delia [Claiborne Buckner], no place, to Simon [Bolivar Buckner], no place. December 25, 1886. ALS, 3 pp.

Disappointed to spend Christmas without him. Recounts Simon Jr. awakening early and opening gifts from the household. Reports friends have visited and berate him for his lack of political activity.

Delia [Claiborne Buckner], no place, to Simon [Bolivar Buckner], no place. [1886?]. ALS, 2 pp.

Cabell Breckinridge visits and Gen'l Echols offers to send her home. Requests more money and lists what she has spent it on.

## 1887

Delia [Claiborne Buckner], White Sulphur [Springs, WV], to Simon [Bolivar Buckner], no place, June 22, 1887. ALS, 3 pp.

Gov. Knott visited her and admires Simon [Jr.]. She acknowledges that Simon Jr. is “a dear little fellow” and worth the cost to her. Says she is improving and the visit home spoilt the child.

Delia [Claiborne Buckner], White Sulphur Spr[in]gs, [WV], to Simon [Bolivar Buckner], no place, July 1 [1887]. ALS, 4 pp.

Thinking of him in Owensboro, “speechifying” and wished to reach him before he went into the mountains. Reports Simon’s activities and well-being. “Those people” still haunt her cottage. The Whitney’s baby is compared to theirs in a northern paper.

Delia Claiborne Buckner, Glen Lily, to [Simon Bolivar Buckner], no place, August 6, [1887]. ALS, 4 pp.

Spent an evening with cousin, Jennie, in a hammock speaking of him. Reports of all the changes being made to the house and the arrival of furniture.

Inconclusive dates:

Delia Herbert Claiborne, Richmond, [VA] to General S. B. Buckner, no place. September 21, [1883?]. ALS, 4 pp.

Thanks him for his letters sent during his ‘westward course.’ Says she will prize his friendship, but hesitates to write as she is not so graceful with the pen as he. Visited Mr. Valentine at his studio and was visited by Col. Peyton and Maj. Byrne. Col. Peyton looks forward to visiting Kentucky.

Delia Herbert Claiborne, Clover Lea, Hanover Co., [VA] to General [Simon Bolivar Buckner], no place. Undated. ALS, 4 pp.

Staying at Clover Lea with her grandmother until mid-August, causing negligence in her writing and making plans. Spends hours preserving fruit and relates the joys of the house and surrounding area.

**Folder 32: Delia H. C. Buckner to Simon B. Buckner Correspondence, 1912**

Delia Claiborne Buckner, Louisville, KY, to Simon Bolivar Buckner, Munfordville, KY, December 1, 1912. ALS, 4 pp with envelope.

Judge Watkins in Munfordville will defer date when Bolivar addresses the school children. Informs of being at train station with his grandson, Walter, and of plans to see M. Green go on to Richmond. Relays comments from Miss Lucy Belknap and further travel details.

Delia Claiborne Buckner, Alderson, WV, to Simon Bolivar Buckner, Munfordville, KY, December 2, 1912. ALS, 3 pp with envelope.

Reports details of her train ride and Walter's offer to be with Buckner while she was away. Reports some minute social encounters prior to her departure.

Delia Claiborne Buckner, Richmond, VA, to Simon Bolivar Buckner, Munfordville, KY, December 2, 1912. ALS, 2 ½ pp with envelope.

Picked up by Walter and Kate Cox, who has lost her son. Bolivar arrived early and was happy to see classmates at the game. Cheney is trying to enter West Point but a new law prevents his appointment, and he will soon make his Richmond Society debut. Delia met Gov. Norris of Montana and his wife. Kate tells her Gov. Mann is unpopular.

Delia Claiborne Buckner, Richmond, VA, to Simon Bolivar Buckner, Munfordville, KY, December 3, 1912. ALS, 3 pp with envelope.

Relates her activities with Bolivar, including a visit to Aunt Fanny, meeting May Burnet's fiancé, Dr. Green, and going to the Capitol. Reports on the health and activities of General Cox. Invited to a reception at Governor Mann's mansion. Reports that Bolivar says the wedding presents are gorgeous.

Delia Claiborne Buckner, Richmond, VA, to Simon Bolivar Buckner, Munfordville, KY, December 5, 1912. ALS, 4 pp with envelope.

Reports positively on the wedding. Had lunch with Miss Mary Lee, who had visited General Curtis Lee, who fell down stairs and broke his hip. Miss Lee will also see Capt. Robt Lee in New Kent, who is unwell. Notes that Richmond is growing more beautifully than Louisville. Writes of her meeting with Herbert Washington. Relates further travel plans.

Delia Claiborne Buckner, Richmond, VA, to Simon Bolivar Buckner, Munfordville, KY, December 6, 1912. ALS, 2 pp with envelope.

Informs him of more social events and Bolivar's being charmed by her friends. Col. Archer Anderson asks after Buckner. Reports that Col. Gracie died.

**Folder 33: 1892- 1912 Correspondence between Simon Bolivar Buckner and Simon Bolivar Buckner, Jr.**

S[imon] B[olivar] Buckner, Glen Lily, [KY] to Simon Bolivar Buckner [Jr.], Richmond, VA. February 12, 1892. ALS, 2 pp with envelope.

Relates how much he misses his son being home and praises his son for being an obedient boy while in Richmond with his mother [Delia Claiborne Buckner].

S[imon] B[olivar] Buckner, Glen Lily, [KY] to S[imon] B[olivar] Buckner [Jr.], West Point, NY. March 18, 1905. ALS, 3 pp with envelope.

Thanks his son for entertaining his mother [Delia Claiborne Buckner] during a recent visit. Shares how proud he is of the accomplishments by his son as a soldier and student.

S[imon] B[olivar] Buckner, Glen Lily, [KY] to S[imon] B[olivar] Buckner [Jr.], West Point, NY. September 29, 1905. ALS, 2 pp with envelope.

Discusses an incident that occurred at West Point involving his son and a plebe which he treated too harshly. Provides advice on how to be a good soldier and hopes for his son to keep improving his scores.

S[imon] B[olivar] Buckner, Glen Lily, [KY] to S[imon] Bolivar Buckner [Jr.], West Point, NY. November 1, 1905. ALS, 2 pp with envelope.

Relates his pride in his son's conduct in the face of difficulties, especially in the management of the plebs.

S[imon] B[olivar] Buckner, Glen Lily, [KY] to S[imon] B[olivar] Buckner [Jr.], West Point, NY. December 31, 1905. ALS, 2 pp.

Expresses pleasures in his son's accomplishments from the last year and wishes good fortune for his son in the coming year. Relates pride in hearing his son is taking lessons in wrestling.

S[imon] B[olivar] Buckner, Munfordville, KY to S[imon] Bolivar Buckner [Jr.], West Point, NY. February 11, 1906. ALS, 1 pp with envelope.

Discusses a former visit to West Point when he walked the trails around the area.

S[imon] B[olivar] Buckner, Glen Lily, [KY] to S[imon] B[olivar] Buckner [Jr.], [West Point, NY]. November 26, 1906. ALS, 2 pp.

Inquires about his son's possible travel plans and The Beggar's Opera. Agrees with his son's admiration of the autumn trees.

S[imon] B[olivar] Buckner, Louisville, KY to S[imon] B[olivar] Buckner [Jr.], West Point, NY. January 15, 1907. ALS, 2 pp with envelope.

Commends his son for not taking unnecessary funds from him and reports that Lily has travelled abroad.

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S[imon] B[olivar] Buckner, Glen Lily, [KY] to S[imon] Bolivar Buckner [Jr.], West Point, NY.  
December 18, 1907. ALS, 3 pp with envelope.

Lends advice about seeking a position using John Allen's words "The man should never seek the office but that the office should always seek the man."

S[imon] B[olivar] Buckner, Glen Lily, [KY] to S[imon] B[olivar] Buckner [Jr.], West Point, NY.  
February 10, 1908. ANS, 1 pp with envelope.

Lists the bonds between himself and his son in July 1907. which are held at the Bank of the Fidelity Safety Bonds in Louisville, KY.

S[imon] B[olivar] Buckner, Glen Lily, [KY] to S[imon] Bolivar Buckner [Jr.], Louisville, KY.  
February 23, 1908. ALS, 2 pp with envelope.

Advises his son to stay in Hopkinsville before returning home to visit.

S[imon] B[olivar] Buckner, Glen Lily, [KY] to S[imon] Bolivar Buckner [Jr.], San Antonio, TX.  
January 2, 1909. ALS, 1 pp with envelope.

Asks if his son would like a puppy. Informs his son that the paper on Panama has not been received.

S[imon] B[olivar] Buckner, Glen Lily, [KY] to S[imon] Bolivar Buckner [Jr.], Cebu, Philippines.  
August 4, 1910. ALS, 2 pp with envelope.

Relates news from the Kentucky Society of The Sons of the American Revolution that both of them have gained membership. Discusses sending a Sunday edition of the Courier-Journal to him and Walter's recent visit.

S[imon] B[olivar] Buckner, Glen Lily, [KY] to S[imon] Bolivar Buckner [Jr.], Cebu, Philippines.  
August 22, 1910. ALS, 2 pp with envelope.

Discusses the delivery delay in their correspondence and the benefits of reading literature regarding Roman Empire.

S[imon] B[olivar] Buckner, Glen Lily, [KY] to S[imon] Bolivar Buckner [Jr.], Cebu, Philippines.  
August 1910. ALS, 2 pp.

Advises his son to begin preparing documents and keeping an account of his actions for historical record. Believes Napoleon's success rested on his intellectual studies and records.

S[imon] B[olivar] Buckner, Glen Lily, [KY] to S[imon] Bolivar Buckner [Jr.], Cebu, Philippines.  
September 4, 1910. ALS, 2 pp.

Informs his son of dues paid to The Sons of the American Revolution and his genealogic connection with the organization.

S[imon] B[olivar] Buckner, Glen Lily, [KY] to S[imon] Bolivar Buckner [Jr.], Cebu, Philippines.  
October 26, 1910. ALS, 4 pp with envelope.

Repeats news of their entrance into The Sons of the American Revolution. Expresses pleasure in receiving his letters describing life and the Philippines character. Mentions that the Courier-Journal ran his son's article on the bull fight in Mexico.

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Description of Collection, 2013

S[imon] B[olivar] Buckner, Glen Lily, [KY] to S[imon] Bolivar Buckner [Jr.], Cebu, Philippines. November 3, 1910. ALS, 2 pp with envelope.

Provides advice from Julius Caesar's life for dealing with people which one has authority over. Informs his son of a Brooks Brothers in Chicago.

S[imon] B[olivar] Buckner, Glen Lily, [KY] to S[imon] Bolivar Buckner [Jr.], Cebu, Philippines. February 23, 1911. ALS, 3 pp.

Discusses the military duties his son taken upon himself and relates information about their financial accounts. Separate page in letter lists the accounts between himself and his son in July 1910 to Feb 1911.

[Simon] Bolivar [Buckner Jr.], Richmond, VA to Father [Simon Bolivar Buckner], no place. December 4, 1912. ALS, 4 pp with envelope.

Relates his enjoyment of his time in the Philippines and discusses meeting relatives on his trip to Richmond with his mother [Delia Claiborne Buckner].

Unmatched envelope from December 1910.