

*Lewis
family
papers
see
N. 1935*

28th

January 26th, 1965

Dr. Martin G. Netsky
"Franklin", R.F.D. 6
Charlottesville, Virginia

Dear Dr. Netsky:

The Filson Club has a good deal of printed material on Meriwether Lewis in connection with the Lewis and Clark expedition. This includes different editions of the Journals, histories of the expedition and some biographical material. We do not have any of Lewis' papers.

The best collections of the papers of Meriwether Lewis are in two places. The Missouri Historical Society, Jefferson Memorial, St. Louis, has a collection of 2 volumes and 33 pieces, 1804-1835, including a journal of the expedition.

The American Philosophical Society Library, 105 South Fifth Street, Philadelphia 6, Pa. has journals of the expedition and some miscellaneous material. There is also material at the Library of Congress but I do not know the extent of it.

I hope this information will be of help to you. If your are searching for anything specific, it would be well to tell the libraries when you write to them.

Sincerely,

DTC/jph

(Mrs.) Dorothy Thomas Cullen
Curator and Librarian

Lewis
Meriwether See
Preston, William
Papers
See
D. M. C.

February 4, 1970

Miss Caroline Dunn
Indiana Historical Society
140 North Senate Avenue
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204

Dear Miss Dunn,

I am writing in the hope that you and your staff can help me resolve a problem of identifying an early inhabitant of Indiana. I have searched through the publications of the Indiana Historical Bureau and several other Indiana publications with no success. I thought you might have special information files or access to publications on Indiana which might solve the problem.

We have a letter of Meriwether Lewis to Major William Preston (1770-1821) dated 25 July 1808 which concerns in part a man named Brady whom they wished to help. From other manuscripts in this collection, I find that this man was H. Brady and in 3 January 1808 he was living in Indiana County. On 10 January 1808 he gives his address as Mahoning Mills, Indiana County. He was at least a rough contemporary of Lewis and Preston, which would mean that he was born about the last quarter of the eighteenth-century.

Brady's wife was named Sarah and on Jan. 3, 1808 he states that he had a six month old daughter.

I've found references to a Henry Brady in Executive Proceedings of the State of Indiana 1816-1836, Dorothy Riker, ed., Indiana Historical Bureau. Indiana Historical Collections, Vol. XXIX, 1947. On page 187 Henry Brady was commissioned Captain of the 17th regiment Aug. 22, 1821; page 515 Henry Brady commissioned a justice of the peace for Marion County, Aug. 14, 1828 and served until Aug. 1831. This may be the H. Brady of the Lewis letter.

I would like to have as clear an identification of H. Brady as possible. Anything you may be able to determine concerning him will be greatly appreciated and will be most helpful. I am particularly interested in knowing his dates of birth and death with the places and anything which might indicate his association with Lewis and Preston. Both of the latter served in the Second Sub-legion of the United States Army. Brady may have been a soldier in the Army with them. He is not listed in Heitman's list of officers, so he may have been an enlisted man.

I do hope you will be able to help me with this problem.

Sincerely,

James R. Bentley
Curator of Manuscripts

Lewis,
Meriwether
See
Preston
William
Papers

February 5, 1970

Mr. John M. Jennings
Director
Virginia Historical Society
Boulevard and Kensington Avenue
Post Office Box 7311
Richmond, Virginia 23221

Dear Mr. Jennings,

I am writing in the hope that your staff can help me resolve a problem I am having in locating information. About a year ago, The Filson Club was given a sizeable collection of Preston family papers, chiefly the papers of Major William Preston (1770-1821) of Virginia and Kentucky and his descendants. Among these papers were two letters of Meriwether Lewis with good content.

I am currently in the process of transcribing and annotating these letters for publication in the Filson Club History Quarterly. In the course of searching out information to clarify references in one of them, I find that it would be very useful to have the dates and places, if possible, for two marriages which must have taken place in Virginia. I have checked our collections for these facts, but without success and am turning to you in the hope that your extensive Virginia materials may contain these facts.

Lewis' letter refers to Letitia and Elizabeth Breckinridge, daughters of General James Breckinridge of Botetourt County, Virginia. According to Orlando Brown, Memoranda of The Preston Family, Frankfort, Ky. 1842, page 4 Letitia married Col. Robert Gamble of Florida and Elizabeth married Gen. Edward Watts of Virginia, a lawyer and speaker of the Virginia Senate.

Mary Selden Kennedy, Seldens of Virginia and Allied Families, vol. 1, page 96 states: Letitia Breckinridge born Oct. 26, 1791 in Fincastle, married Robert Gamble of Richmond, Va. and later of Tallahassee, Florida. She died March 10, 1866. And on page 99: Elizabeth Breckinridge born March 31, 1794; married Gen. Edward Watts, a lawyer and Speaker of the Virginia Legislature. She died July 8, 1862.

Meriwether Lewis' letter of July 25, 1808 would indicate that Letitia was married around June of 1808, perhaps in Botetourt County or in Richmond. Elizabeth was, at that time, unmarried.

If it is at all possible, I am hopeful that the Virginia Historical Society would be able to supply me with the exact dates of these two marriages.

I am also trying to determine whether William Preston's letter to Meriwether Lewis dated July 11, 1808 has survived in original form or a copy and would like to ask whether this letter might be preserved among your manuscript collections.

Do you think I should write also to the Virginia State Library in my search for this information?

I will appreciate any advice and information you may be able to provide. These facts will be very useful in clarifying the text of this letter and in preserving and making available a few more bits of the history of the Breckinridge family history.

While working for Colonial Williamsburg, I had occasion to meet you on a visit to Richmond with Dr. Edward Riley and Junius Fishburne. You kindly gave us a tour of the building and told us about your activities. I hope someday you may be in Louisville and that we may show you The Filson Club and its collections.

Sincerely,

James R. Bentley
Curator of Manuscripts

*Lewis
Meriwether
J. Price*

February 10, 1970

Miss Anne Freudenberg
Assistant Curator of Manuscripts
Manuscripts Division
University of Virginia Library
University of Virginia
Charlottesville, Virginia 22901

Dear Miss Freudenberg:

Thank you for the information you sent in your letter of February 5th. I hadn't known that you have typed copies of both these letters.

The Filson Club now owns the originals of both of the Meriwether Lewis letters to William Preston dated 3 May 1804 and 25 July 1808. They came to us in the Preston family papers given to us in 1968. From all evidence and appearances the two Lewis letters were always part of this body of family papers and were never owned by anyone other than the successive descendants of William Preston. We received the papers from a direct descendant of Preston.

I have no idea who Mrs. J. Woods Price is or why she had typed copies of these two letters, unless she somehow heard of their existence and received permission from their then owner to copy them. Perhaps she planned a work on Lewis or some such.

At any rate, I thought you would want to know the location of the original letters for future reference. We are naturally very pleased to have them and are giving them special attention.

Again let me thank you for the helpful information you provided. I appreciate it very much.

Sincerely,

James R. Bentley
Curator of Manuscripts