

**The Filson Club Historical Society**

**The Grigsby Family  
Papers**

The papers of the Grigsby family.

For information regarding literary and copyright interests for these papers, see the Curator of Manuscripts, James J. Holmberg.

**Size of Collection**

**11.66 cubic feet**

**Locator Number Mss.\A\G857**

## Scope and Content Note

Collection includes the papers of Susan Preston Shelby Grigsby (1830-1891) of Traveller's Rest near Danville, Ky.; her father Alfred Shelby (1804-1832), youngest son of Governor Isaac Shelby; her mother, Virginia Hart Shelby Breckinridge (1809-1859); her step father Reverend Robert Jefferson Breckinridge (1800-1871); her husband, John Warren Grigsby (1818-1877); and a few papers of their children. Also included are papers of the allied Tobias Gibson(b. 1801) family of Ky. and La., and the Nathaniel Hart (1770-1844) and Arthur Hooe Wallace (1794-1878) families of Ky.

Early correspondence, 1818-1859, includes letters of Charles S. Todd discussing revolutionary activity in South America, the election of 1828, and personal matters; family letters noting day to day activity; letters of introduction for Alfred Shelby written by Martin Van Buren and Henry Clay; Letitia Todd's niece's 1832 June 1 letter to Susan Shelby describing the death of Todd's children from cholera; letters, 1833, to Virginia Shelby discussing the cholera epidemic in Ky.; and letters between the women of the family detailing plantation life and their activities, often mentioning slaves and their activities.

Correspondence dated 1860-1865 concerns the secession crisis; attitudes toward secession; slavery; the Civil War in Ky.; confiscation of property and impressment of slave labor; John Grigsby's military service in the Confederate Army; daily activities; and family news and events.

Postwar correspondence regards family matters and day to day life.

The papers of John Warren Grigsby contain family, personal, and business letters, 1838-1877, concerning his service as U.S. consul at Bordeaux, France, 1839-1849; his marriage to Susan P. Shelby; European travels; U.S. and Va. politics; and his service in the Confederate Army.

The remainder of the collection include business accounts, legal papers, land papers, and genealogical material.

Mss.

A Grigsby Family  
G857 Papers. 1818-1884.

Box 1

- fl. 1 Alfred Shelby correspondence, 1819.
- fl. 2 Alfred Shelby correspondence, 1820.
- fl. 3 Alfred Shelby correspondence, 1821.
- fl. 4 Alfred Shelby correspondence, 1822-1823.
- fl. 5 Alfred Shelby correspondence, 1825-1826.
- fl. 6 Alfred Shelby correspondence, 1827.
- fl. 7 Alfred Shelby correspondence, 1828.
- fl. 8 Alfred Shelby correspondence, 1829-1830.
- fl. 9 Alfred Shelby correspondence, 1832.
- fl. 10 Alfred Shelby correspondence, n.d.
- fl. 10a Susanna Hart Shelby correspondence, 1827-1833.
- fl. 10b Letter to Mrs. Sarah Shelby McDowell.

Box 2

- fl. 11 Alfred Shelby accounts, 1826-1827.
- fl. 12 Alfred Shelby accounts, 1828-1830.
- fl. 13 Alfred Shelby accounts, 1831-1832.
- fl. 14 Alfred Shelby Latin translation and exercises, and Greek exercise.
- fl. 14a Alfred Shelby compositions, 1819-1821.
- fl. 15 Alfred Shelby questions and answers, 1820-1821.
- fl. 16 Alfred Shelby miscellaneous papers.
- fl. 16a John Shelby notebook.
- fl. 16b Article about Isaac Shelby: First Governor of Kentucky-Hero of Three Wars.
- fl. 16c Copy of the resolutions adopted by the mayor and common council of Detroit, 1944 Sept. 21, relative to Governor Isaac Shelby and his citizen army of Ky. militia.  
Copy of the resolutions adopted by the State Historical Society of Michigan, 1944 Sept. 2, relative to Governor Isaac Shelby and his citizen army of Ky. militia.
- fl. 16d Newspaper clippings about Isaac Shelby.

Box 3

- fl. 17 Virginia Hart Shelby correspondence, 1827-1830.
- fl. 18 Virginia Hart Shelby correspondence, 1831-1832.

- fl. 19 Virginia Hart Shelby correspondence, 1833 Jan.-Aug.
- fl. 20 Virginia Hart Shelby correspondence, 1833 Sept.-Dec.
- fl. 21 Virginia Hart Shelby correspondence, 1834 Jan.-Mar.
- fl. 22 Virginia Hart Shelby correspondence, 1834 Apr.-Sept.
- fl. 23 Virginia Hart Shelby correspondence, 1834 Oct.-Dec.
- fl. 24 Virginia Hart Shelby correspondence, 1835.
- fl. 25 Virginia Hart Shelby correspondence, 1836 Jan.-July.
- fl. 26 Virginia Hart Shelby correspondence, 1836 Aug.-Dec.

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- fl. 27 Virginia Hart Shelby correspondence, 1837.
- fl. 28 Virginia Hart Shelby correspondence, 1838.
- fl. 29 Virginia Hart Shelby correspondence, 1839.
- fl. 30 Virginia Hart Shelby correspondence, 1840 Jan.-Aug. 15.
- fl. 31 Virginia Hart Shelby correspondence, 1840 Aug. 16-Dec. 31.
- fl. 32 Virginia Hart Shelby correspondence, 1841 Jan.-July.
- fl. 33 Virginia Hart Shelby correspondence, 1841 Aug.-Dec.
- fl. 34 Virginia Hart Shelby correspondence, 1842 Jan.-July.
- fl. 35 Virginia Hart Shelby correspondence, 1842 Aug.-Dec.

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- fl. 36 Virginia Hart Shelby correspondence, 1843.
- fl. 37 Virginia Hart Shelby correspondence, 1845.
- fl. 38 Virginia Hart Shelby correspondence, 1846 Jan.-Mar.
- fl. 39 Virginia Hart Shelby correspondence, 1846 Apr.-June.
- fl. 40 Virginia Hart Shelby correspondence, 1846 July-Sept.
- fl. 41 Virginia Hart Shelby correspondence, 1846 Oct.-Dec.
- fl. 42 Virginia Hart Shelby correspondence, 1847 Jan.
- fl. 43 Virginia Hart Shelby correspondence, 1847 Feb.
- fl. 44 Virginia Hart Shelby correspondence, 1847 Mar.
- fl. 45 Virginia Hart Shelby correspondence, n.d.
- fl. 46 Virginia Hart Shelby correspondence, n.d.
- fl. 47 Virginia Hart Shelby correspondence, n.d.

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- fl. 48 Virginia Hart Breckinridge correspondence, 1848.
- fl. 49 Virginia Hart Breckinridge correspondence, 1849 Jan.-June.
- fl. 50 Virginia Hart Breckinridge correspondence, 1849 July-Aug.
- fl. 51 Virginia Hart Breckinridge correspondence, 1849 Sept.-Dec.
- fl. 52 Virginia Hart Breckinridge correspondence, 1850 Jan.-Mar.
- fl. 53 Virginia Hart Breckinridge correspondence, 1850 Apr.-Dec.
- fl. 54 Virginia Hart Breckinridge correspondence, 1851 Jan.-Apr.
- fl. 55 Virginia Hart Breckinridge correspondence, 1851 May.
- fl. 56 Virginia Hart Breckinridge correspondence, 1851 June.
- fl. 57 Virginia Hart Breckinridge correspondence, 1851 July-Aug.

- fl. 58 Virginia Hart Breckinridge correspondence, 1851 Sept.-Oct.
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- fl. 61 Virginia Hart Breckinridge correspondence, 1852 Jan.
- fl. 62 Virginia Hart Breckinridge correspondence, 1852 Feb.
- fl. 63 Virginia Hart Breckinridge correspondence, 1852 Mar.-Apr.
- fl. 64 Virginia Hart Breckinridge correspondence, 1852 May.
- fl. 65 Virginia Hart Breckinridge correspondence, 1852 June.
- fl. 66 Virginia Hart Breckinridge correspondence, 1852 July-Sept.
- fl. 67 Virginia Hart Breckinridge correspondence, 1852 Oct.-Nov.
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- fl. 69 Virginia Hart Breckinridge correspondence, 1853 Jan.-Mar.
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- fl. 71 Virginia Hart Breckinridge correspondence, 1854 Jan.-Mar.
- fl. 72 Virginia Hart Breckinridge correspondence, 1854 Apr.-June.
- fl. 73 Virginia Hart Breckinridge correspondence, 1854 July-Aug.
- fl. 74 Virginia Hart Breckinridge correspondence, 1854 Sept.-Oct.
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- fl. 76 Virginia Hart Breckinridge correspondence, 1855 Jan.-Mar.
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- fl. 80 Virginia Hart Breckinridge correspondence, 1856 Jan.-Feb.
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- fl. 82 Virginia Hart Breckinridge correspondence, 1856 July-Sept.
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- fl. 84 Virginia Hart Breckinridge correspondence, 1857 Jan.-Mar.
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- fl. 89 Virginia Hart Breckinridge correspondence, 1858 Jan.-June.
- fl. 90 Virginia Hart Breckinridge correspondence, 1858 July-Aug.
- fl. 91 Virginia Hart Breckinridge correspondence, 1858 Sept.-Dec.
- fl. 92 Virginia Hart Breckinridge correspondence, 1859 Jan.-Feb.
- fl. 93 Virginia Hart Breckinridge correspondence, 1859 Mar.-May.

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- fl. 94 Correspondence to Virginia Hart Breckinridge from her daughter, Susan

- Grigsby n.d.
- fl. 95 Correspondence to Virginia Hart Breckinridge from her daughter, Susan Grigsby n.d.
  - fl. 96 Correspondence to Virginia Hart Breckinridge from her daughter, Susan Grigsby n.d.
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  - fl. 98 Correspondence to Virginia Hart Breckinridge from her daughter, Susan Grigsby n.d.
  - fl. 99 Correspondence to Virginia Hart Breckinridge from her daughter, Susan Grigsby n.d.
  - fl. 100 Correspondence to Virginia Hart Breckinridge from her daughter, Susan Grigsby n.d.
  - fl. 101 Correspondence to Virginia Hart Breckinridge from her daughter, Susan Grigsby n.d.
  - fl. 102 Correspondence to Virginia Hart Breckinridge from her daughter, Susan Grigsby n.d.
  - fl. 103 Correspondence to Virginia Hart Breckinridge from her daughter, Susan Grigsby n.d.

Box 11

- fl. 104 Correspondence to Virginia Hart Breckinridge, n.d., while residing in Lexington, 1847-1851.
- fl. 105 Correspondence to Virginia Hart Breckinridge, n.d., while residing in Lexington, 1847-1851.
- fl. 106 Correspondence to Virginia Hart Breckinridge, n.d. , while residing in Danville, 1852-1859.
- fl. 107 Correspondence to Virginia Hart Breckinridge, n.d.
- fl. 108 Correspondence to Virginia Hart Breckinridge, n.d.

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- fl. 109 Virginia Hart Shelby accounts, 1833-1840.
- fl. 110 Virginia Hart Shelby accounts, 1845-1851.
- fl. 111 Virginia Hart Shelby accounts, 1852.
- fl. 112 Virginia Hart Shelby accounts, 1853.
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- fl. 116 Virginia Hart Shelby accounts, 1857-1858.
- fl. 117 Virginia Hart Shelby accounts, n.d.
- fl. 118 Virginia Hart Shelby canceled checks.
- fl. 119 Virginia Hart Shelby legal and estate papers, 1852-1860.
- fl. 120 Virginia Hart Shelby memoranda.
- fl. 121 Virginia Hart Shelby receipts.
- fl. 122 Virginia Hart Shelby miscellaneous papers.

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- fl. 123 Robert J. Breckinridge (1800-1871) correspondence, 1845.
- fl. 124 Robert J. Breckinridge (1800-1871) correspondence, 1846.
- fl. 125 Robert J. Breckinridge (1800-1871) correspondence, 1847-1852.
- fl. 126 Robert J. Breckinridge (1800-1871) correspondence, 1853-1856, and n.d.
- fl. 127 W. L. Breckinridge, Jr. letter.
- fl. 128 Robert J. Breckinridge (1800-1871) accounts, 1847-1850.
- fl. 129 Robert J. Breckinridge (1800-1871) accounts, 1851-1852.
- fl. 130 Robert J. Breckinridge (1800-1871) accounts, 1853.
- fl. 131 Robert J. Breckinridge (1800-1871) accounts, 1854.
- fl. 132 Robert J. Breckinridge (1800-1871) accounts, 1855-1858.
- fl. 133 Robert J. Breckinridge (1800-1871) miscellaneous papers, 1846-1857.
- fl. 133a Robert J. Breckinridge (1800-1871) family record.

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- fl. 134 Isaac Shelby (d. 1848) papers.
- fl. 135 Alfred Shelby composition, 1847 Dec. 10.
- fl. 135a Mary Shelby compositions.
- fl. 136 Susan Preston Shelby correspondence, 1842.

- fl. 137 Susan Preston Shelby correspondence, 1845.
- fl. 138 Susan Preston Shelby correspondence, 1846 Jan.-Mar.
- fl. 139 Susan Preston Shelby correspondence, 1846 Apr.-Dec.
- fl. 140 Susan Preston Shelby correspondence, 1847.
- fl. 141 Susan Preston Shelby correspondence, 1848.
- fl. 142 Susan Preston Shelby correspondence, 1849.
- fl. 143 Susan Preston Shelby correspondence, 1850.

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- fl. 144 Susan Preston Shelby Grigsby correspondence, 1851 Jan.-June.
- fl. 145 Susan Preston Shelby Grigsby correspondence, 1851 July-Dec.
- fl. 146 Susan Preston Shelby Grigsby correspondence, 1852.
- fl. 147 Susan Preston Shelby Grigsby correspondence, 1853 Jan.-Mar.
- fl. 148 Susan Preston Shelby Grigsby correspondence, 1853 Apr.-June.
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- fl. 151 Susan Preston Shelby Grigsby correspondence, 1854 Jan.-July.
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- fl. 156 Susan Preston Shelby Grigsby correspondence, 1857 Jan.-Mar.
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- fl. 185 Susan Preston Shelby Grigsby correspondence, 1866.
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- fl. 187 Susan Preston Shelby Grigsby correspondence, 1869.
- fl. 188 Susan Preston Shelby Grigsby correspondence, 1870.
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- fl. 198 Susan Preston Shelby Grigsby correspondence, 1878 Jan.-June.
- fl. 199 Susan Preston Shelby Grigsby correspondence, 1878 July-Dec.
- fl. 200 Susan Preston Shelby Grigsby correspondence, 1879 Jan.-June.
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- fl. 202 Susan Preston Shelby Grigsby correspondence, 1880 Jan.-June.
- fl. 203 Susan Preston Shelby Grigsby correspondence, 1880 July-Dec.
- fl. 204 Susan Preston Shelby Grigsby correspondence, 1881 Jan.
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- fl. 206 Susan Preston Shelby Grigsby correspondence, 1881 Mar.-Apr.
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- fl. 210 Susan Preston Shelby Grigsby correspondence, 1882 Jan.-Apr.
- fl. 211 Susan Preston Shelby Grigsby correspondence, 1882 May-Dec.
- fl. 212 Susan Preston Shelby Grigsby correspondence, 1883 Jan.-Apr.
- fl. 213 Susan Preston Shelby Grigsby correspondence, 1883 May-June.
- fl. 214 Susan Preston Shelby Grigsby correspondence, 1883 July-Dec.

- fl. 215 Susan Preston Shelby Grigsby correspondence, 1884.
- fl. 216 Correspondence to Susan Preston Shelby Grigsby from her mother, Virginia Hart Shelby Breckinridge, n.d.
- fl. 217 Correspondence to Susan Preston Shelby Grigsby from her mother, Virginia Hart Shelby Breckinridge, n.d.
- fl. 218 Correspondence to Susan Preston Shelby Grigsby from her mother, Virginia Hart Shelby Breckinridge, n.d.
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- fl. 220 Susan Preston Shelby Grigsby correspondence, n.d.
- fl. 221 Susan Preston Shelby Grigsby correspondence, n.d.
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- fl. 226 Susan Preston Shelby Grigsby correspondence, incomplete.
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- fl. 227 Susan Preston Shelby Grigsby accounts, 1848-1850.
- fl. 228 Susan Preston Shelby Grigsby accounts, 1851-1855.
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- fl. 243 Susan Preston Shelby Grigsby accounts, n.d.
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- fl. 245 Susan Preston Shelby Grigsby land papers, 1854-1881.
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- fl. 247 Susan Preston Shelby Grigsby legal papers.  
Account with Central National Bank of Danville, 1874-1880.
- fl. 248 Susan Preston Shelby Grigsby receipts for horses and mules confiscated by the  
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- fl. 249 Susan Preston Shelby Grigsby miscellaneous papers.
- fl. 249 Susan Preston Shelby Grigsby hotel menus, 1848.
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- fl. 250 Susan Preston Shelby Grigsby memoranda.
- fl. 251 Sarah Gibson Humphreys, Historic Homes and families of the Bluegrass  
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- fl. 252 Sarah Gibson Humphreys: incomplete article on Traveler's Rest.

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- fl. 253 Grigsby family records.
- fl. 254 John Warren Grigsby biographical material.
- fl. 255 John Warren Grigsby correspondence, 1838-1849.
- fl. 256 John Warren Grigsby correspondence, 1850.
- fl. 257 John Warren Grigsby correspondence, 1851.
- fl. 258 John Warren Grigsby correspondence, 1852 Jan.-Aug.
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- fl. 260 John Warren Grigsby correspondence, 1853 Jan.-June.
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- fl. 263 John Warren Grigsby correspondence, 1855 Jan.-June.
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- fl. 271 John Warren Grigsby correspondence, 1859 Jan.-June.
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- fl. 280 John Warren Grigsby correspondence, 1868 Jan.-June.
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- fl. 282 John Warren Grigsby correspondence, 1869.
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- fl. 291 John Warren Grigsby correspondence from his wife, n.d.
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- fl. 294 John Warren Grigsby accounts as U.S. consul at Bordeaux, France, 1841-1850.
- fl. 295 John Warren Grigsby accounts, 1852.
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- fl. 315 John Warren Grigsby accounts, 1871 Jan.
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- fl. 323 John Warren Grigsby accounts, 1873 Jan.-Apr.
- fl. 324 John Warren Grigsby accounts, 1873 Apr.-June.
- fl. 325 John Warren Grigsby accounts, 1873 July-Sept.
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- pkg.326 Virginia Shelby Grigsby scrapbook, 1878.

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- fl. 327 John Warren Grigsby accounts, 1874 Jan.-Feb.
- fl. 328 John Warren Grigsby accounts, 1874 Mar.-June.
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- fl. 337 John Warren Grigsby commissions, 1859-1869.
- fl. 338 John Warren Grigsby land papers, 1847-1851.
- fl. 339 John Warren Grigsby legal papers, 1851-1875.
- fl. 340 John Warren Grigsby legal papers: Charles S. Brent v. Edmund H. Taylor, Jr.  
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- fl. 341 John Warren Grigsby legal papers: John Warren Grigsby v. E. G. Stagg et al.
- fl. 342 John Warren Grigsby military papers, 1861-1865.
- fl. 343 John Warren Grigsby political papers, 1868-1876.
- fl. 344 John Warren Grigsby papers about horses, 1852-1862.
- fl. 345 John Warren Grigsby papers about cattle.
- fl. 346 John Warren Grigsby slavery documents.
- fl. 347 John Warren Grigsby invitations.
- fl. 348 John Warren Grigsby miscellaneous papers.
- fl. 349 John Warren Grigsby will, 1857 Mar. 18.
- fl. 350 John Warren Grigsby obituary notice and newspaper clippings.
- 351 Memorandum book of expenses, 1867 Jan. 1- 1870 Dec. 29.
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- 351 Memorandum book of expenses, 1875 Jan. 1- 1876 Dec. 25.

351 Bank book with Central National Bank, 1870 Jan. 18-1877 Feb. 24.

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- fl. 352 Virginia Grigsby correspondence, 1871-1892.
- fl. 353 Virginia Grigsby school report and exercises, 1869 and n.d.  
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- fl. 354 Hart Grigsby correspondence, 1873-1875.
- fl. 355 Hart Grigsby correspondence, 1876.
- fl. 356 Hart Grigsby correspondence, 1878.
- fl. 357 Hart Grigsby correspondence, 1881-1883, and n.d.
- fl. 358 Hart Grigsby miscellaneous papers.
- fl. 359 Cadet Grigsby reports from Virginia Military Institute, 1858.
- fl. 360 Louisiana Grigsby correspondence, 1883-1884  
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- fl. 361 Susan Preston Grigsby correspondence, 1880 and n.d.
- fl. 362 Susan Grigsby correspondence, 1861 and n.d.

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- fl. 364 Gibson family correspondence, 1876-1893.
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- fl. 366 Nathaniel Hart, Jr. correspondence, 1836-1846.
- fl. 367 Nathaniel Hart, Jr. correspondence, 1847-1852.
- fl. 368 Nathaniel Hart, Jr. accounts, 1837-1851.  
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- fl. 369 William Preston Hart correspondence, 1833-1863.
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- fl. 371 Letitia Preston Hart Wallace correspondence, 1842-1862.
- fl. 372 Letter from William Wallace to Arthur H. Wallace, 1864 Sept. 7.
- fl. 373 Francis Preston: Sketch of the Preston family.
- fl. 374 Miscellaneous family letters, 1830-1882.
- fl. 375 Miscellaneous accounts, 1830-1883.
- fl. 376 William Preston (1729-1783) memorial, 1780 Mar. 29.
- fl. 377 Anonymous manuscript about slave labor in Ky.
- fl. 378 Samuel McCollock letter to Drs. Welford and Carter, 1801 Apr. 16, gives instructions on preparing ginseng.
- fl. 379 Graves Mill Turnpike Road subscription book, 1859.
- fl. 380 M.P. Taylor correspondence with the Reverend Lewis W. Burton, Bishop of Lexington, and others about her service as House Mother and art teacher at

Ashland Seminary in Versailles, 1902-1903.