

The Filson Historical Society

**Sterne-Waller family
Papers, 1775-1917**

For information regarding literary and copyright interest for these papers, see the Curator of Special Collections.

Size of Collection:
1 cubic foot

Location Number:
Mss./A/S839

**Sterne-Waller family
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Scope and Content Note

The collection consists of correspondence and business, land and legal papers concerning the Sterne-Waller family who emigrated from Virginia to Kentucky in the late 1700s.

Early letters in the collection (pre-1836) tend to focus on a disputed inheritance from the estate of Charles Sterne's father (especially who should inherit a number of slaves) and Charles Sterne's activities as sheriff of Pendleton County, Kentucky. Later letters focus on family life of relatives in Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Pennsylvania, and California.

Receipts include record of payments for legal fees, land transactions, Charles Sterne's duties as sheriff of Pendleton County, Kentucky, and various goods and services.

Accounts document the expenses of Sarah Waller, John Waller, Charles Sterne, Francis Sterne and various other individuals. Also included is a record of the estate of Charles Sterne dated 1818. Account books document legal judgments for and against various individuals.

Legal papers consist of indentures and records of land disputes in Pendleton County, Kentucky.

Land papers consist of records of land transactions, surveys, and land purchases in Pendleton County and Falmouth, Kentucky.

Military papers consist of a document listing fines for residents of Falmouth, Kentucky for neglecting various militia duties, and John W. Sterne's application for a pension for his service in the War of 1812.

Education papers consist of lists of student attendance and expenses for Waterville school house in Adams County, Illinois.

Miscellaneous papers include a broadside for a lottery for the Louisville Free Public Library, a list of songs performed by T. D. Woodruff of Quincy, Illinois, a Quincy, Illinois bank book, and other documents.

The collection also includes records of receipt for land and property transactions, and Charles Sterne's expenses as sheriff of Pendleton County, Kentucky. Educational papers from Adams County, Illinois are also included.

Sterne-Waller Family Papers, 1775-1917

Biographical Note

Sterne family

Charles Sterne (circa 1756-1818) was born in Stafford County, Virginia, and achieved the rank of sergeant in the American Revolutionary War. Sterne and Susan (Susanna) Waller (circa 1762-circa 1834 and daughter of John Waller and Mary Matthews) married in the state of Virginia about 1789. The two moved to Pendleton County, Kentucky, prior to the year 1800. Charles Sterne served as Pendleton County Sheriff for approximately fifteen years.

John W. (Waller) Sterne was one of five children (four sons and one daughter) of Charles and Susan Sterne. Born in Culpeper County, Virginia, John W. Sterne and others founded the town of Falmouth in Pendleton County, Kentucky in 1799. Sterne served in the War of 1812 and moved from Kentucky to Adams County, Illinois in 1829. John W. Sterne and Elizabeth Duncan, who was born in 1801 in Pendleton County, Kentucky, married in 1823. The two died in 1880.

William C. W. Sterne was the only child of John W. and Elizabeth Sterne. Born in Falmouth, Pendleton County, Kentucky on 3 December 1824 William married Elizabeth Penrose of Washington County, Pennsylvania, on 13 March 1851. The two had five children, and Elizabeth died in 1865. William remarried to February 1876 to Sarah F. Benson (daughter of Leven Benson and Susan Sharp) of Warsaw, Illinois. William and Sarah had one daughter, Anna Gertrude Sterne, and lived in Ellington Township, Adams County, Illinois.

Waller family

Susan Waller (born circa 1762 and daughter of John Waller and Mary Matthews) married Charles Sterne in the state of Virginia about 1789. The two moved to Pendleton County, Kentucky, prior to the year 1800.

A second John Waller, likely a son of John Waller and Mary Matthews, was one of the early settlers of Falmouth, Pendleton County, Kentucky. John Waller served in the American Revolutionary War, and knew Charles Sterne.

Sarah and Mary Waller were also early settlers of Falmouth, Kentucky. Sarah Waller never married and lived with her sister Susan and her husband Charles Sterne in Kentucky.

Descendants and relations of the Sterne-Waller family resided in Kentucky, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Pennsylvania, and California.

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Folder List

Box 1

- Folder 1: Correspondence, 1796-1823
- Folder 2: Correspondence, 1826-1830
- Folder 3: Correspondence, 1831-1834
- Folder 4: Correspondence, 1835-1838
- Folder 5: Correspondence, 1840-1856
- Folder 6: Correspondence, 1857-1867
- Folder 7: Correspondence, 1874-1917, undated
- Folder 8: Receipts, 1780-1800

Box 2

- Folder 9: Receipts, 1801-1805
- Folder 10: Receipts, 1806-1807
- Folder 11: Receipts, 1808-1809
- Folder 12: Receipts, 1810-1814
- Folder 13: Receipts, 1815-1840
- Folder 14: Receipts, 1854-1877, undated
- Folder 15: Accounts, 1775-1797
- Folder 16: Account book, 1803-1807
- Folder 17: Accounts, 1804-1810

Box 3

- Folder 18: Account book, 1810
- Folder 19: Accounts, 1812-1819
- Folder 20: Accounts, 1820-1835
- Folder 21: Accounts, 1837-1881
- Folder 22: Accounts, undated
- Folder 23: Legal papers, 1793-1812
- Folder 24: Legal papers, 1816-1859
- Folder 25: Land papers, 1779-1868, undated
- Folder 26: Military papers, 1805-1871
- Folder 27: Education papers, 1842-1874
- Folder 28: Miscellaneous

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Added Entries

Abolitionists – Kentucky.
African Americans – Education.
Arkansas – History – Civil War, 1861-1865.
Broadsides.
Harrison, William Henry, 1773- 1841.
Jackson, Andrew, 1767- 1845.
Kansas – Politics and government – 1854- 1861.
Kentucky. Militia.
Louisville Free Public Library.
Money – Confederate States of America.
Pendleton County (Ky.)
Slavery – United States.
Sterne, Charles.
Sterne, John Waller.
United States. Army – Recruiting, enlistment, etc. – Civil War, 1861- 1865.
Waller family.