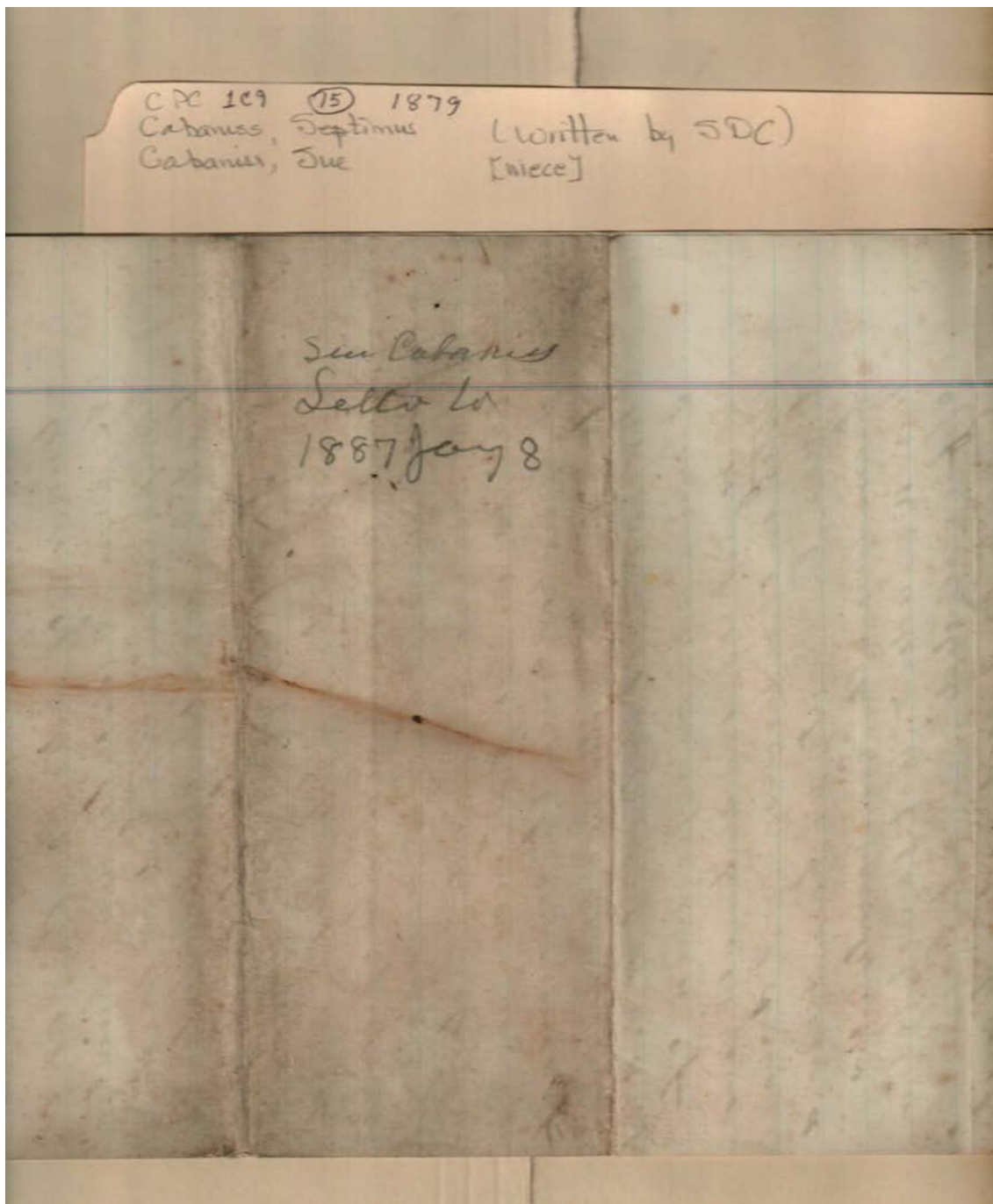


Frances Cabaniss Roberts Collection: Series 1, Subseries C, Box 9, Folder 15

Cabaniss, Sue from Cabaniss, Septimus Douglass, Sr., 1879

Image 1 r01c09-15-000-0043 [Contents](#) [Index](#) [About](#)



Names:

Cabaniss, Sen

Types:

memo

Dates:

Jan 08, 1887

CRC 109 (15) 1879
Cabaniss, Septimus
Cabaniss, Sue (Written by SDC)
[Niece]

Copy

Huntsville, Ala. Jan'y 8 1879

My Dear Sue,

Your letter of the 27th ult. has just received and I regret that an unavoidable pressure of old unsettled business affairs prevents me from replying to it as fully as I wish.

Your letter the unkind in its tone and spirit was not as you suppose, unwelcome, for I am not without a hope that it may perhaps lead to a better understanding between your mother and some (at least) of the other members of her family, & much more than seems to have existed for several years past. I have had no communication from any of the members of your mother's family except your brother Charles for a long while possibly probably four years or more - One of the letters received from Charles three or four years ago was indeed unwelcome for it was quite in-

Names:

Cabaniss, Charles

Cabaniss, Mary Sue

Places:

Huntsville, AL

Types:

correspondence

Dates:

Jan 08, 1887

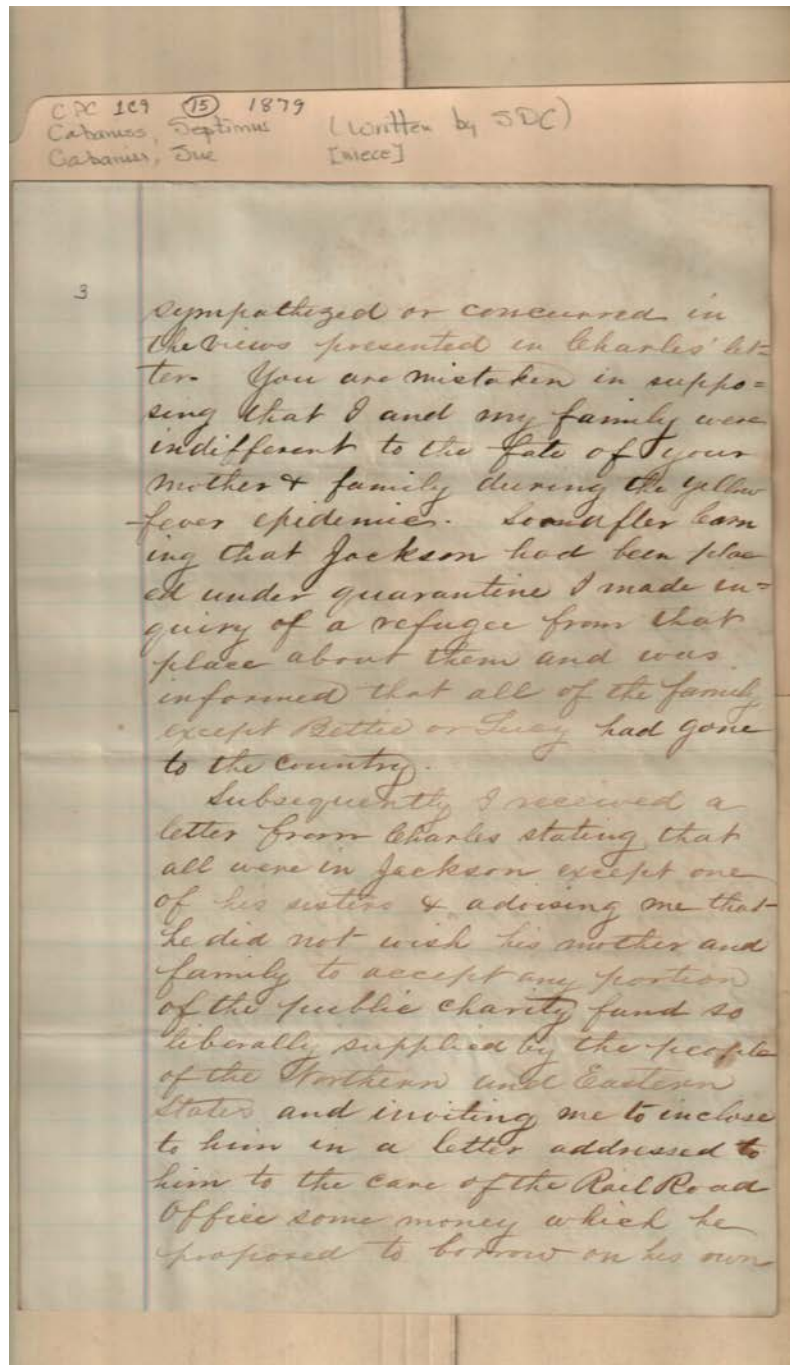
CDC 109 (15) 1879
Cabaniss, Septimus
Cabaniss, Sue
[Written by JDC]
[Niece]

2.

sitting. While I have been inclin-
ed to indulge the hope that is was
written without the knowledge or
approval of his mother & elder
sisters and brothers, the subsequent
long silence of all of them has not
been calculated to strengthen that
hope. It gave me much pain to
have received such a letter from
my brother's son, so much so
that I abstained from communi-
cating its contents to my wife or
children. I have not time now
to search for it and will not
undertake to repeat its contents
but may hereafter find it and
send it to his mother. Soon af-
ter its receipt I commenced a
letter to your mother, but before
completing it was called from
home, and afterwards abstained
from finishing it, partly be-
cause of the unpleasantness of
the subject and partly because
I then hoped that I should
be able to visit her at Jackson
in a few months afterwards and
ascertain whether she and the
other members of her family

Types:

correspondence



Names:

Cabaniss, Bettie

Cabaniss, Charles

Cabaniss, Lucy

Types:

correspondence

CDC 109 (15) 1879
Cabaniss, Septimus
Cabaniss, Sue
(Written by SDC)
[Niece]

4

account for his mother and family. There were then several cases of Yellow fever in Huntsville among refugees, and we could not know but that it would soon become epidemic here as it had become at Holly Springs, Decatur and Chattanooga. It was with difficulty that I could command the funds to pay the necessary current expenses of my family, and as I was owing many debts which I could not meet and apprehended the necessity of sending my own family from home which would necessitate a considerable expense to provide board and lodging for them, I did not think it improper for me under the circumstances to think it more proper for your mother to accept if need be a small part of the public charity in such an emergency than that I should neglect the wants of my own family leaving out of view my obligations to my Creditors.

Types:

correspondence

CPC 109 (15) 1879
Cabaniss, Septimus
Cabaniss, Sue (Written by SDC)
[Niece]

5

I did not think it incumbent upon me to venture such an explanation to your brother Charles; for in the offensive letter before referred to, he claimed to be well informed as to my pecuniary condition and clearly manifested an unwillingness to credit my own statements upon that subject. I did however contemplate a letter to his mother and soon after getting his letter obtained a Bank check for a small amount with a view to inclosing it to her, but before I got an opportunity of writing, a call was made upon me which in my judgment made it most proper for me to give it another direction, and I did not write because I wished my letter to be accompanied with something more substantial, than mere professions of sympathy. But scarcely a day passed without my examining the telegrams which related to the epidemic at Jackson, Miss.

I think it not improbable that

Names:

Cabaniss, Charles

Types:

correspondence

CRC 109 (15) 1879
Cabaniss, Septimus
Cabaniss, Sue (Written by SDC)
[Niece]

6

some one impressed Charles with an erroneous notion as to my pecuniary condition, and that he deemed it niggardly in me not to divide with his mother's family more liberally, forgetful of the fact that I was the best judge of my own condition. If he had known of the comforts which I had denied to my own wife & children since the war he would perhaps have thought differently. You will perhaps appreciate it when I inform you that I have never given to either of my daughters a wardrobe, a bureau or a bedstead, and that they continue to lodge upon the trundle beds provided for them in their childhood, and in the nursery where they were reared. This has not proceeded from a want of affection for them, nor from a disposition to hoard money. They are affectionate, dutiful, industrious, and great helps in our household.

You mention that you wrote to me simply to inquire why

Names:

Cabaniss, Charles

Types:

correspondence

CDC 109 (15) 1879
Cabaniss, Septimus
Cabaniss, Sue (Written by SDC)
[Niece]

7

your Uncle Charles Cabaniss has not replied to letters written to him during the past year by your sister Bettie & yourself. I was not aware of such a delinquency on his part, and could only indulge in conjectures as to the cause of it. For the last two years he has evidently been declining in health & vigor. At the beginning of last year he resigned the clerkship which he had held for 41 years and went to the Country to live with his sister Mrs. White and her maiden daughters, neither of her two sons being with her. Being very industrious, yet feeble, he labors too much, and as I have often overtasked his strength and sometimes is rendered sick by it. He has also an asthmatic affection which not unfrequently prevents him from sleeping at night or even lying in a recumbent position. He rarely visits Huntsville, and I do not often have leisure and opportunity concurring to enable me to visit

Names:

Cabaniss, Bettie

Cabaniss, Charles

White, Mrs.

Types:

correspondence

CDC 109 (15) 1879
Cabaniss, Septimus
Cabaniss, Sue (Written by SDC)
[piece]

2

him. He has never been accustomed to writing other letters than those relating to business. It may be truly said that he is "a man of deeds not of words". During the last fall he rec'd a letter from a stranger in Desoto Co. Miss, informing him that his nephew Charles Allen was there in the last stage of Consumption & destitute. With the consent of his sister and her daughters, he sent a young man for him & had him brought there in a most helpless condition. He is yet alive, & somewhat improved, but cannot recover.

I rode out & took dinner at Sister's on Christmas Day. All the surviving members of my Father's family were present, except Charlie Allen's mother. By a singular coincidence whilst I was there my brother's mail was brought to him which included a letter from Dr Callender Superintendent of the Lunatic Asylum, Nashville, Tennessee, acknowledging the receipt of \$250.⁰⁰ for the main

Names:

Allen, Charlie

Cabaniss, Charles

Callender, Dr.

Types:

correspondence

CRC 109 (15) 1879
Cabaniss, Septimus
Cabaniss, Sue
(Written by SDC)
[Niece]

9

-tenance of Sister Martha at the
Asylum, and informing him that
her physical health was good &
that she was always "comfortable
& cozy" & known by all as Grand-
mother. Dr Callender married
the daughter of Dr Jno P. Ford,
who was a schoolmate of mine
& of your father's, & a near neigh-
bor in our boyhood. Sister Mar-
tha is in her 82nd year - has been
a lunatic since the summer of
1837. My letter has grown much
longer than I anticipated, and yet
I must add an expression of
my regret at one sentence in your
letter in these words. "For I declare
to you the charity we have received
from you all has haunted us
like a shadow that cannot be thrown
off or warded". What has brother
Charles or I said or done to excite
such a state of feeling? Please
make my compliments acceptable
to your mother & family & be assur-
ed of my desire for your health
& happiness.
(Signed) S. D. Cabaniss.

Names:

Cabaniss, Charles
Cabaniss, Martha

Cabaniss, S. D.
Callender, Dr.

Ford, John P., Dr.

Types:

correspondence

Frances Cabaniss Roberts Collection: Series 1, Subseries C, Box 9, Folder 15
Cabaniss, Sue from Cabaniss, Septimus Douglass, Sr., 1879

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Cabaniss, Sue from Cabaniss, Septimus Douglass, Sr., 1879

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Frances Cabaniss Roberts Collection

Preferred Citation: Frances Cabaniss Roberts Collection, Archives and Special Collections, M. Louis Salmon Library, University of Alabama in Huntsville, Huntsville, AL.

Collection Scope and Content: The Collection of 114 Linear ft. includes a total of 156 Archival Boxes. The Frances Cabaniss Roberts collection covers the historical records of the Cabaniss Roberts family. This collection contains extensive correspondence records of the Cabaniss Roberts family circa 1830 to 1930.

Archives/Special Collections Access Restrictions: None

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