

C PC 109 (14) 1875-1885
Cabaniss, Septimus (written by)
Cabaniss, Bettie

Huntsville Feb 27. 1876

My Dear Bettie

You ask my advice as to the propriety of your making application for employment as Matron at the Lunatic Asylum under the present government.

If your Mother and family cannot be otherwise released from a state of want and dependence, so far from regarding such a step on your part considerable, I should esteem it an act of heroism. Any reputable means of living is far more creditable than a state of dependence.

If an arrangement can be made for an exchange of the town property for a farm on advantageous or fair terms, with a transfer of the lien to the amount of the value of the town property, it may be best for your Mother and would be agreeable to me.

I feel unwilling to ask for a sale of the town property while your Mother is without any other home, and my own family is not actually suffering for food, clothing or shelter.

Names:

Cabaniss, Bettie

Cabaniss, Martha

Places:

Huntsville, AL

Types:

correspondence

Dates:

Feb 27, 1870

C. PC 109 (14) 1875-1885
Cabaniss, Septimus (written by)
Cabaniss, Bettie

And it maybe that a kind providence may enable your Father with the united endeavor of himself & children to relieve the property of from its encumbrance, before the exactions of my creditors or the necessities of my family can claim me to enforce the lien.

If not enabled to discharge the lien in full when required, she may be enabled to find some friend able & willing to buy the lien and grant such further time as will enable her to discharge the lien.

It maybe that some good fortune will befall me that may render it unnecessary for me to enforce it.

Whilst I am too despondent to hope for such a blessing yet I do feel trustful that some kind of relief will be afforded to your most excellent Mother. And that she could if it should become necessary ~~from~~ make some arrangement to prevent her new home from being sold.

May God so direct
With ever fervent sympathy
From Mother
S. D. Cabaniss

Names:

Cabaniss, S. D.

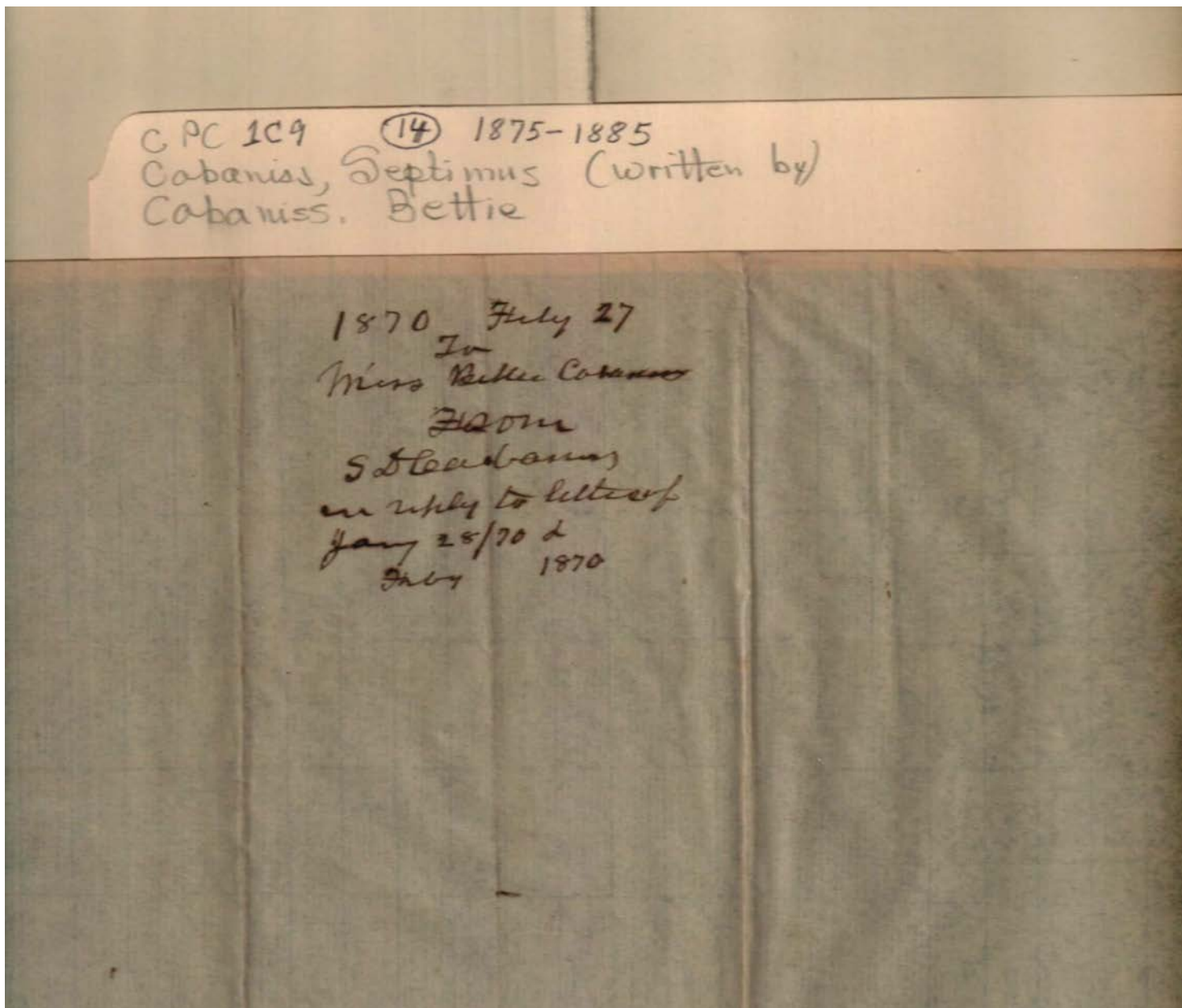
Types:

correspondence

Frances Cabaniss Roberts Collection: Series 1, Subseries C, Box 9, Folder 14

Cabaniss, Bettie from Cabaniss, Septimus Douglass, Sr., 1875 - 1885

Image 3 r01c09-14-000-0035 [Contents](#) [Index](#) [About](#)



Names:

Cabaniss, Bettie

Cabaniss, S. D.

Types:

memo

Dates:

Feb 27, 1870

CPC 109 (14) 1875-1885
Cabaniss, Septimus (written by)
Cabaniss, Bettie

Huntsville Ala April 25 1885

Miss Bettie Cabaniss
Jackson Miss.
Dear friend -

Within the last two or three
years I receive a two or perhaps more letters from
you to which I have not heretofore replied.
They gave me much pain, because they
indicated an uneasy apprehension on
your if not a conviction on your part, that
I was or might be disposed to disown
or otherwise you and your brothers and
sisters, and also a seeming forgetfulness
of some occurrence of the past, to which
I may have referred.

I commenced a letter in reply to one
of yours, but before concluding, it was in-
terrupted, and it being a painful subject
did not return to the unpleasant task,
and concluded that perhaps it would be
better to waive a reply, until I could visit
your mother and her children, and in
dear by conversation to satisfy you
and others of your mother's children, of an
impression that seems to be contemplated towards
me and consequent wrong to my family,
and especially to the afflicted members of it.

Names:

Cabaniss, Bettie

Places:

Huntsville, AL

Types:

correspondence

Dates:

Apr 25, 1885

C PC 109 (14) 1875-1885
Cabaniss, Septimus (written by)
Cabaniss, Bettie

But in as much as you, in one of your
letters unmistakably discomage such
a visit, I subsequently concluded that it ~~best~~
would be best to await a final settlement
of the estate of your Uncle Charles Cabaniss,
and then when you mine & that of
your brother and sister should be released
from any feeling of apprehension to
surrounding of a disposition on my
part to wrong any of you by withholding
any any part of your distributive
shares of your Uncle's estate, to
make an appeal to ^{your} ~~their~~ sense
of liberality to ~~their~~ mother, if not
to me -

In as much as your brother & sister were
young at the close of the Civil war, I
feel reluctant to suppose that they can
have been fully and correctly advised
of the circumstances attending my
loans to your ^{father} and my ~~own~~ ^{own} ~~own~~
On the Circumstances under which
I granted small ~~sums~~ on the debt in
his lifetime & subsequent to his death
notwithstanding the loss of my own
estate by reason of the war and subse-
quent misfortunes -

Names:

Cabaniss, Charles

Types:

correspondence

CPC 109 (14) 1875-1885
Cabaniss, Septimus (written by)
Cabaniss, Bettie

page 3. to Mrs B.C.

It seems that you have forgotten what you
saw of the matter - I have known some
among my people a letter written at your
mother's request as to her estate in 1870,
asking my consent to a transfer of a
lien given by ~~her~~ ^{my} mother ~~from~~ ^{fallen}
from property in Jackson, to a farm that
he contemplated buying in the country.
During all of my life I have abhorred
disensions between near relatives, and
but few occurrences have given me
more pain than the seeming misunder-
standing that has arisen between the
family of my brother Alfred and myself
growing out of pecuniary transactions.
If his younger children ^{or} your
mother has not been fully informed
as to the circumstances leading to it,
it is due to them, if not to me and to the
memory of your father that they should
be - I therefore earnestly request
that you will as soon as practicable
after receipt of this, have a family
meeting at your mother's and read
to her & to each of your brothers
& sisters in turn or will attend this
letter and such the correspondence
between your father & myself.

Names:

Cabaniss, Alfred

Types:

correspondence

C PC 109 (14) 1875-1885
Cabaniss, Septimus (written by)
Cabaniss, Bettie

4

and a your letter of 1870, & my reply -
and such letters from Col Sloan &
as I may find & send you herewith -

I entertain some hope that it may lead to
a more kindly feeling on the part of some
of you if not all of your fathers children
towards me there has been manifest love with
the last two ^{or three} years - If the correctness
of any of the copies shall be doubted I
will send the Original to Jackson -

I felt mortified by your complaint of
my having in 1843 charged you with
interest upon \$50, lent to you in 1872
on promise that it should be returned
soon - and you ask whether I had
paid any debts of my own, contracts
before the war - My answer is that I
have paid many thousands dollars of such
debts, and not less than three thousand
dollars ~~more~~ of interest on a debt of
\$2500. - which I regarded as your
fathers debt as he knew, and which
is yet outstanding against me
& which when mortgaged I got Genl
Walker to become bound for as
surety - The Creditor had retired
from business and did not call for
payment whilst the debt was well
secured - Genl Walker is dead &
his estate reported insolvent, and

Names:

Stewart, Colonel

Walker, L. A.,
General

Types:

correspondence

C. PC 109 (14) 1875-1885
Cabanus, Septimus (written by)
Cabanus, Bettie

5

and I apprehend that suit will be brought against me unless the debt can be paid or satisfactorily secured -

When your father wrote me his letter of 1866. I proposed to the Creditor that he should either buy the property before ^{a release of my family} to, or take a lien, supposing as I did then that your father would be confined at the Asylum & propose the Creditor decline it -

When in Jackson in 1869 I found your father's ^{presenting} situation worse & her story was certain at the Asylum - I then asked Cal Stewart if my lien on the property would be imperilled by further indulgence, he replied that it would not be, and I said to him that I would not be disposed to leave the property so a desperately at a sacrifice, so long as I could in justice to my comfortably & Creditor obtain from it -

I am now six years & more older than was your father at the time of his death and am nearly worn out, am much poorer than I was when I borrowed from you Chapman ^{or when your father died} the money lent to your father.

I am not in the habit of speaking of acts of kindness on my part to

correspondence

C PC 1C9 (14) 1875-1885
Cabaniss, Septimus (written by)
Cabaniss, Bettie

6

others, but was provoked to write speaking
of it to Mr. McDavid, which as I sup-
posed led you to write such unkind
letters - May be as much as I have
never harassed your father on account
of his indebtedness, contracted under
the circumstances detailed in the
correspondence, and relying upon the
good faith of his family, suffered
my claim to become barred by statute
of limitations, may I not hope
that your mother and with the
approval of her children will con-
sent to a renewed pledge of the property
or some portion interest in it and
that her children may be willing to pay
some part of the balance just
needed of ^{their} distribution shares
of the estate of your uncle Charles -
I am aware that I have no claim that
can be now enforced by law - but
any assistance that may be given to
assist me in paying or securing
the outstanding debt referred to
will be gladly received - But for your
father asking indulgence in 1859 & 1860.
the \$2500 debt would have been discharged
before the war - If I have to pay that debt
I have no hope of being able to ^{do so} leaving to
my children half as much as your father
in debt - ^{to me} now amount to -

Names:

Cabaniss, Charles

McDavid,

Types:

correspondence

C PC 1C9 (14) 1875-1885
Cabaniss, Septimus (written by)
Cabaniss, Bettie

7

After making a final settlement of
my claim on the estate I have
some hope that I could pay a short visit
to Jackson, ~~and~~ starting this morning
or to morrow, but the condition of my
family & my business cares do not
admit of my doing so - On some
account I would have rather done so
than to write -
If I shall have written any thing
wounding to your feelings or that
of any of your mother's family, it has
not been written with such in-
tent -

Respectfully
S. D. Cabaniss

Names:

Cabaniss, S. D.

Types:

correspondence

Frances Cabaniss Roberts Collection: Series 1, Subseries C, Box 9, Folder 14
Cabaniss, Bettie from Cabaniss, Septimus Douglass, Sr., 1875 - 1885

[Contents](#) [Index](#) [About](#)

Table of Contents

[Image 1](#) (r01c09-14-000-0033)

[Image 2](#) (r01c09-14-000-0034)

[Image 3](#) (r01c09-14-000-0035)

[Image 4](#) (r01c09-14-000-0036)

[Image 5](#) (r01c09-14-000-0037)

[Image 6](#) (r01c09-14-000-0038)

[Image 7](#) (r01c09-14-000-0039)

[Image 8](#) (r01c09-14-000-0040)

[Image 9](#) (r01c09-14-000-0041)

[Image 10](#) (r01c09-14-000-0042)

[Table of Contents](#)

[Name & Place Index](#)

[About the Collection](#)

Frances Cabaniss Roberts Collection: Series 1, Subseries C, Box 9, Folder 14

Cabaniss, Bettie from Cabaniss, Septimus Douglass, Sr., 1875 - 1885

[Contents](#) [Index](#) [About](#)

Name & Place Index

Cabaniss, Alfred [6](#)

Cabaniss, Bettie [1](#), [3](#), [4](#)

Cabaniss, Charles [5](#), [9](#)

Cabaniss, Martha [1](#)

Cabaniss, S. D. [2](#), [3](#), [10](#)

Chapman, Governor [8](#)

Huntsville, AL [1](#), [4](#)

McDavid, [9](#)

Stewart, Colonel [7](#), [8](#)

Walker, L. A., General [7](#)

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

Conditions Governing Use: This material may be protected under U. S. Copyright Law (Title 17, U.S. Code) which governs the making of photocopies or reproductions of copyrighted materials. You may use the digitized material for private study, scholarship, or research. Though the University of Alabama in Huntsville Archives and Special Collections has physical ownership of the material in its collections, in some cases we may not own the copyright to the material. It is the patron's obligation to determine and satisfy copyright restrictions when publishing or otherwise distributing materials found in our collections.

Provenance: Gift of Johanna Shields on October 28, 2006.



**The UAH Archives and Special Collections
M. Louis Salmon Library**