

Frances Cabaniss Roberts Collection: Series 4, Subseries A, Box 22, Folder 4
Handwritten Notes on Local Banking and Commerce

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Dr Roberts
Handwritten Notes

#A22 Paper ④

One of the most perplexing economic questions which plagued the people of Huntsville as well as the Tennessee Valley, not only ^{in its} formative period but throughout most of the nineteenth century, was how to secure an adequate medium of exchange, and order to help solve this problem for themselves ^{as well as others,} and with idea of increasing their own personal wealth some of Huntsville's leading business and professional men decided to go into the banking business. Under the leadership of Leroy Pope, chief promoter of the idea, this group secured a charter from The

Names:

Exchange media

Pope, LeRoy

Types:

essay

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Dr Roberts
Handwritten Notes 4A22 Paper ④

Mississippi Territorial legislature
on December 11, 1816, under the act of
charter LeRoy Pope, Clement C. Clay,
Benjamin Cox, Thomas Fearn,
John P. Hickman, Jesse Searcy,
John M. Taylor, and John W. Walker
were given authority to superintend
the sale of shares of stock in the Planters
and Mechanics Bank of Huntsville
not to exceed five thousand at
\$100 each. February 5, 1817 was set
as the opening date to secure
subscriptions which had to total
\$50,000 in specie before the bank
could commence its formal
operation. Liberal terms were provided
for subscribers who were required

Names:

Bank Charter
Clay, Clement C.
Cox, Benjamin

Fearn, Thomas
Hickman, John P.

Planters & Mechanics
Bank
Pope, LeRoy

Searcy, Jesse
Taylor, John M.
Walker, John W.

Types:

essay

Dates:

Feb 05, 1817

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To pay only one-eighth of each share
in specie as a down-payment.
Three-eighths of the amount would
then due when the bank went
into operation, and the remaining
half was to be paid in two
installments within six months from
the time of the second payment.

During the next eight months
all the necessary preliminaries for
putting the bank into operation were
accomplished and on October 17, 1817
its doors were opened for business
on the west side of the Public Square.
The men named in the charter constituted
as the bank's first board of
directors and chose LeRoy Pope its

Names:

Bank begins
operation

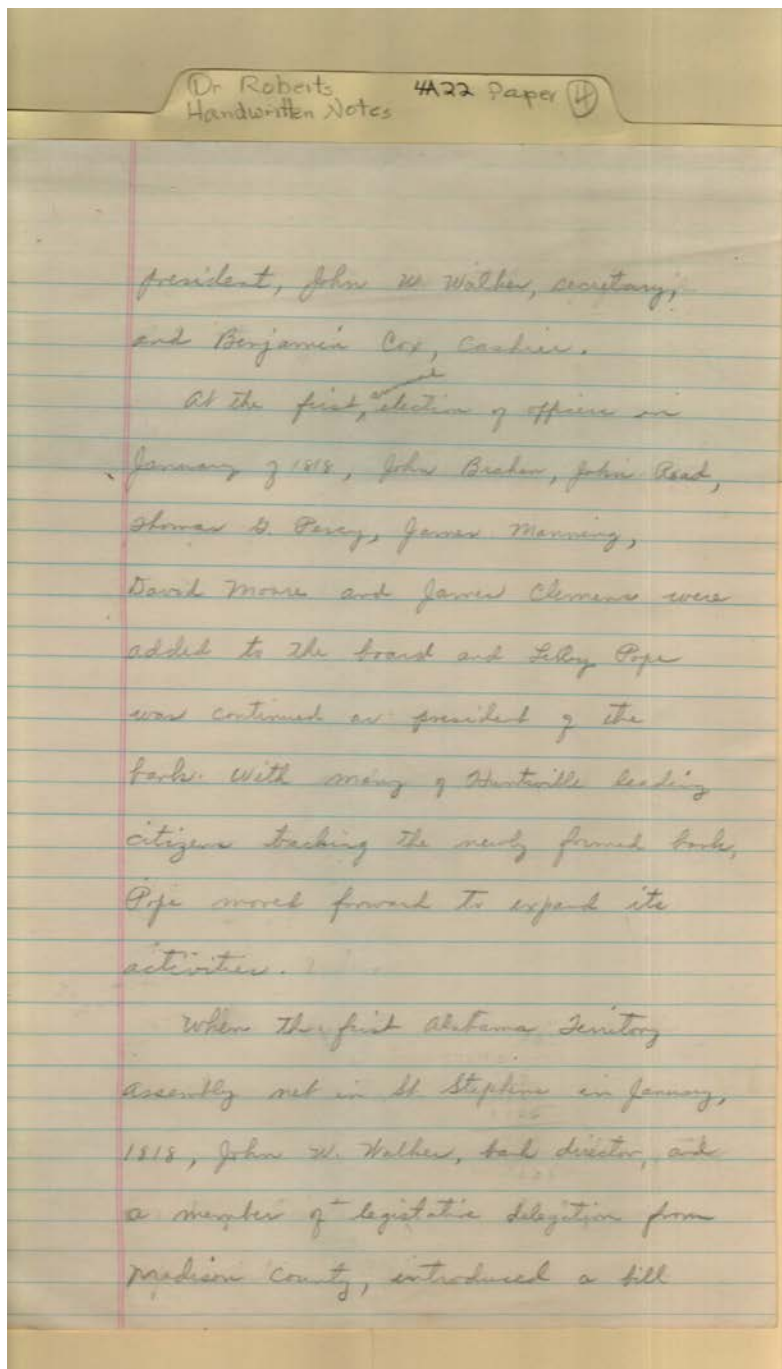
Pope, LeRoy

Types:

essay

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Names:

Brahan, John
Clemens, James
Cox, Benjamin

Manning, James
Moore, David
Percy, Thomas G.

Pope, LeRoy
Read, John
Walker, John W.

Types:

essay

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which would amend the Huntsville bank's
charter to allow it the privilege of
establishing branches in other locations,
and of circulating its notes as
legal tender in payment of all debts
to the Territory when the governor vetoed
this measure because he felt that
it gave the banks too much power
without the necessary accompanying
safeguards, Walker piloted through
a second bill which merely changed
the name to the Planters and
Merchants Bank of Huntsville and
reaffirmed its charter which had
been issued by the Mississippi
territorial legislature. During the
century, 1848,
pp 105-112.

Names:

Branch Banks not
permitted

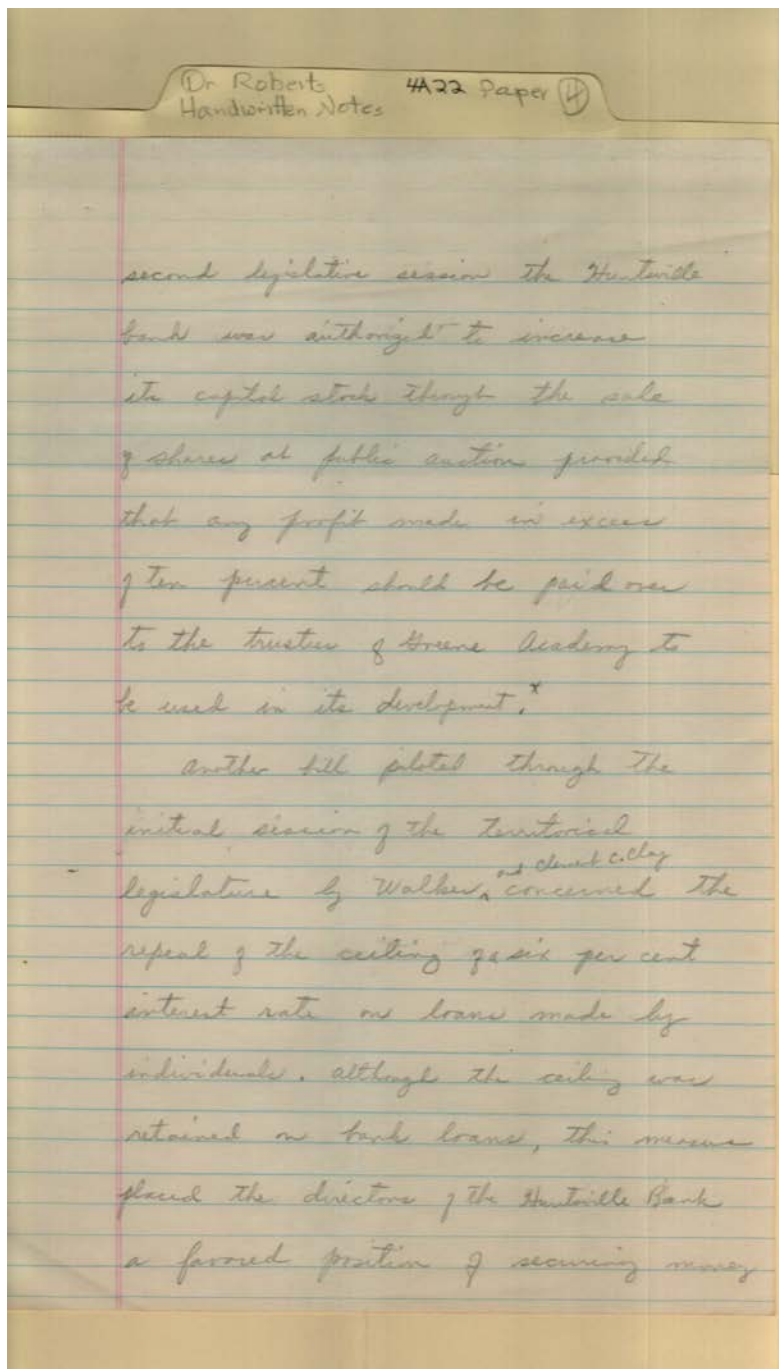
Walker,

Types:

essay

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Names:

Clay, Clement C.

Greene Academy

paid profit

Types:

essay

Dr Roberts
Handwritten Notes #22 Paper ④

to make private loans at exorbitant
rates of interest. By the time ~~this~~
this measure was repealed in December
of 1819, many of the wealthy
wealthy business men, including
a number of bank directors, had made
loans which carried at rates of
interest as high as ten percent
per month. Business men and farmers who were
unable to pay their notes when they fell ^{due} because
of a rapid decline in the economy
in 1819 found themselves saddled
with debts six times that of the
the original loans. For example, the debt
of Oley and Lewis owed to James
Clemens and Stephen S. Ewing increased
from \$4,000 to \$24,500 in four

Names:

Clemens, James
Ewing, Stephen S.

Lewis,

Original Loans
increased

Private Loans
profitable

Types:

essay

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years time. When these men and
others sought to recover a large
part of the interest they had paid,
a political as well as a
legal battle raged for a number
of years. The effects of this struggle
were felt all over the state for
~~many years~~, and the outcome
reduced the prestige of the state
supreme court for many years.
Since ~~the~~ ^{the} ^{affairs of the} Huntsville Bank
and the "interest cases" were
both aired in the arena of
local and state politics of this
period, they will be discussed
in Chapter VI which is devoted
to political affairs of this period.

Names:

Political Battle over
interest

Types:

essay

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Handwritten Notes #A22 Paper ⊕

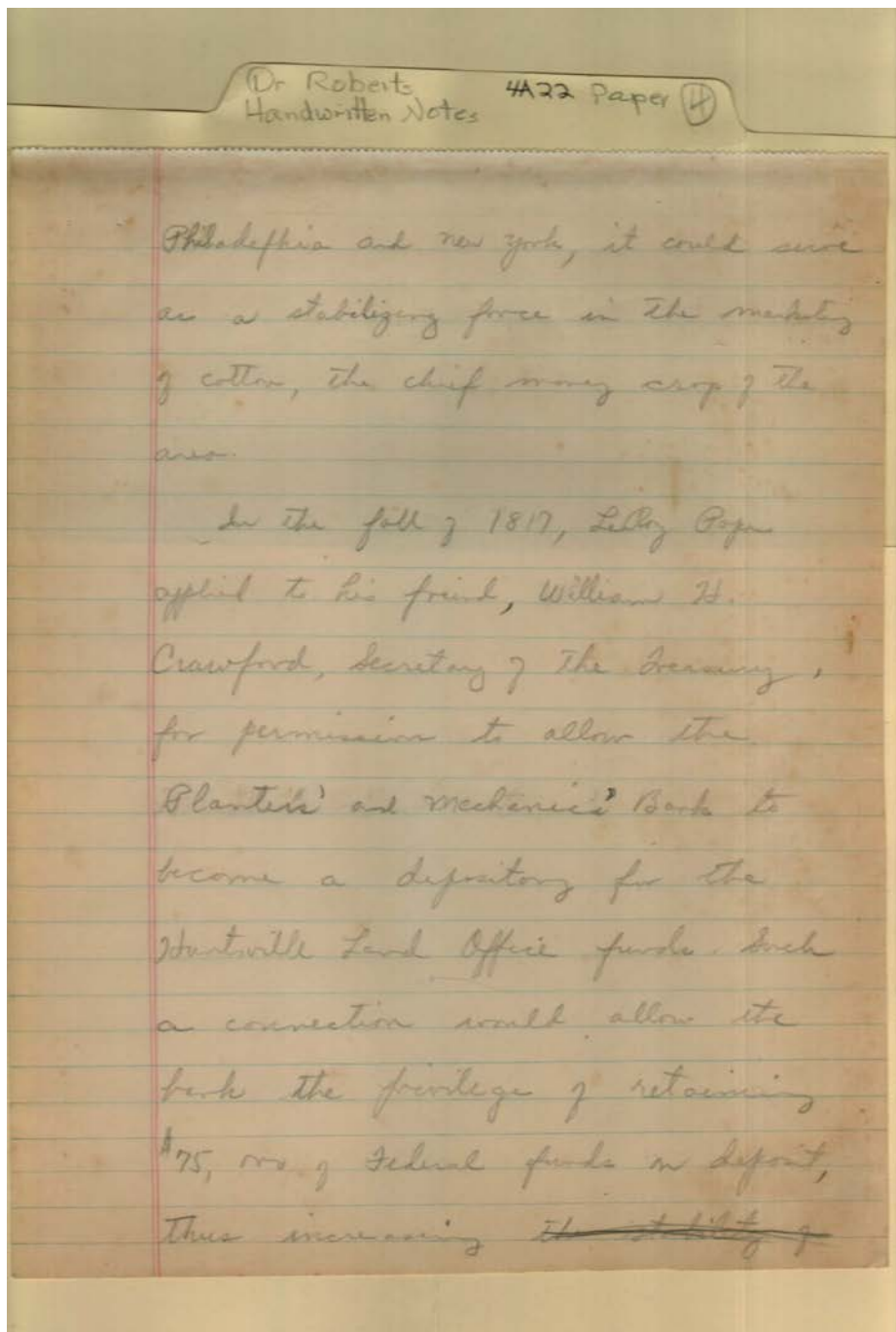
From an economic standpoint
The creation of a bank at Huntsville
appeared to have many advantages.
Opening its doors for business
shortly before all the lands in
the northern part of the Alabama
Territory would go on sale at
public auction on February 5, 1818,
the bank could be of real service.
Land purchasers, to the Huntsville Land Office,
and to men who wished to expand
their businesses, the appearance of
currency redeemable in specie was
considered a real asset to the
economic life of the Tennessee Valley.
Furthermore since the Bank had
established creditable relations with
banking firms in New Orleans and

Names:

Banks Economic
Asset

Types:

essay



Names:

Crawford, William H.

Land Office Funds deposited

Pope, LeRoy

Types:

essay

Dr Roberts
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its stability. This request was granted,
and the bank began to handle
government funds in February, 1818,
the same month that the "Great
Land Sales" began. In 1820, the
War Department also named Pope
federal pension agent in Alabama,
and for a period of four years
payments to Revolutionary soldiers
were made through the bank.

He did say that "the best
land plans of mine and men
can sometimes come to no good
end" could be applied to the president
and directors of the Huntsville bank.

Names:

Pope named pension
agent

Types:

essay

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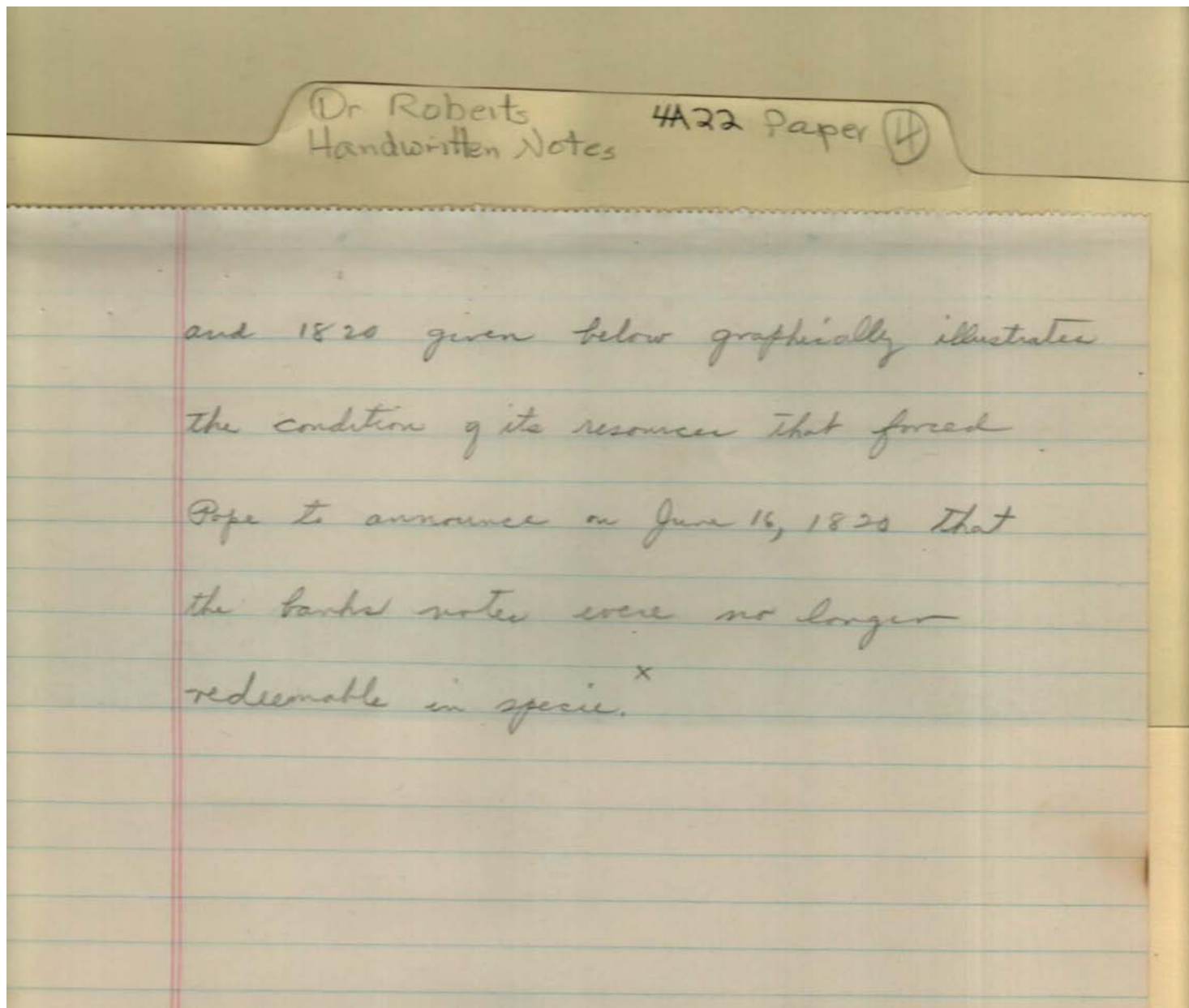
during its period of existence from
October 17, 1817 to February 1, 1825. If
its president and directors could
have realized that the ^{only} National
Bank of the United States would
force private banks to conduct
their operations in such manner
that they would be ^{forced} to redeem their
notes in specie or go out of
business, perhaps ^{they} would not have
discounted bills and notes and issued
currency notes far beyond their
capacity to redeem them in a
creditable way. An examination of
the statements of ^{the} bank for 1819 and

Names:

Private Bank forced
to specie

Types:

essay



Names:

Pope,

Specie redemption
ended

Types:

essay

Dates:

Jun 16, 1820

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By this time it had become public knowledge that a part of bank's problems were due to external circumstances over which its directors had no control, but it was not so easy for them to explain away the criticism of its internal operations. In a public statement printed in Alabama Republican, on June 23, 1870 the director informed the people that when the banks in Kentucky, Tennessee and Georgia suspended specie payments on their notes in circulation, this put such a strain on the Huntsville Bank that it was forced to follow suit in order to retain enough specie in its vaults to meet the requirements specified in its charter. If they had

Names:

Huntsville Bank
follows others

Types:

essay

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4A22 Paper (4)

continued to sustain specie payments,
The directors insisted that they would
have had to press payment of loans
before the crops were harvested and
thus adversely affect the whole economy.
With the view of restoring confidence
in the bank's operation the directors
assured the community that they
would resume specie payments
as soon as the banks of neighboring
states resumed specie payments
and even before if "the value of
the staple" in foreign markets
continued to increase.

To acquire more specie for

Names:

Pressed payment of
loans

Types:

essay

Dr Roberts
Handwritten Notes #A22 Paper 4

route, Pope decided to use a plan modeled after one that had been successfully used by the Merchants Bank at St. Stephens. On October 13, 1820 he announced in the Alabama Republican that he would receive on consignment from one to six thousand bales of cotton, which he would ship on account and risk of the owner to any port in the United States that the owner might specify; and would advance, on delivery of the cotton to Mobile or a safe place on the Tennessee River, ten cents

Names:

Cotton pays loans

Pope,

Types:

essay

Dr Roberts
Handwritten Notes

4A22 Paper ④

per pound. the balance of the net proceeds would then be paid by Pope at the Huntsville Bank as soon as the cotton was sold and the money received. apparently this plan worked, for in a report, provided by Eldred Rawlins, cashier and published by Rev David Moore, a bank director, on July 24, 1822, showed that \$22,000 in specie was received "on account of cotton" by the bank on September 1, 1821. Moore, ^{candidate for the legislature,} had the statement published to counteract mounting criticism of the banks operation. Rawlins, who had served as cashier since May 9, 1818,

Names:

Moore, David, Doctor

Pope,

Rawlins, Eldred

Types:

essay

Dr Roberts
Handwritten Notes #A22 Paper ④

certified that the bank had opened
with \$49,137.97 in specie in its
vaults and that \$58,30 had been added
in May 7 1818, \$51,658.57 in September
9 1820. In concluding his statement,
The Bankers insisted that during the
four years which he had been
cashier the directors had managed
the affairs of the bank a fair and
correct manner, and during the past
two years they had ~~not~~ used all
methods, consistent with the interest
of the surrounding country, to restore
specie payments.

No matter how hard the

Names:

Bank was fair and
correct

Rawlins,

Types:

essay

Dr Roberts
Handwritten Notes #22 Paper ④

bank's directors tried to restore confidence in its bank's operations they failed to convince the public that they were not profiting from the declining value of Huntsville Bank currency which formed the bulk of the medium of exchange in the Tennessee Valley. Kentucky William Crawford likewise had shown his lack of confidence in the bank when it suspended specie payment by demanding that all Land Office funds on deposit at the Huntsville bank be forwarded to the treasury in specie or its equivalent. To meet this demand

Names:

Crawford took Land funds back

Types:

essay

Dr Roberts
Handwritten Notes #A22 Paper ④

Pope had to transfer to the
Treasury Department most of the
bank's accumulating assets in New
York banks which might have come
back to replenish the specie
reserves as needed in its vaults.
addition →

By November of 1823 opposition to
the Huntsville Bank had grown so
strong that the state legislature
passed two acts that put the bank
on final notice to start redeeming
its currency in specie by August 1,
1824 or have its charter revoked.
After this deadline was not
met, Governor Israel Pickens, acting

Names:

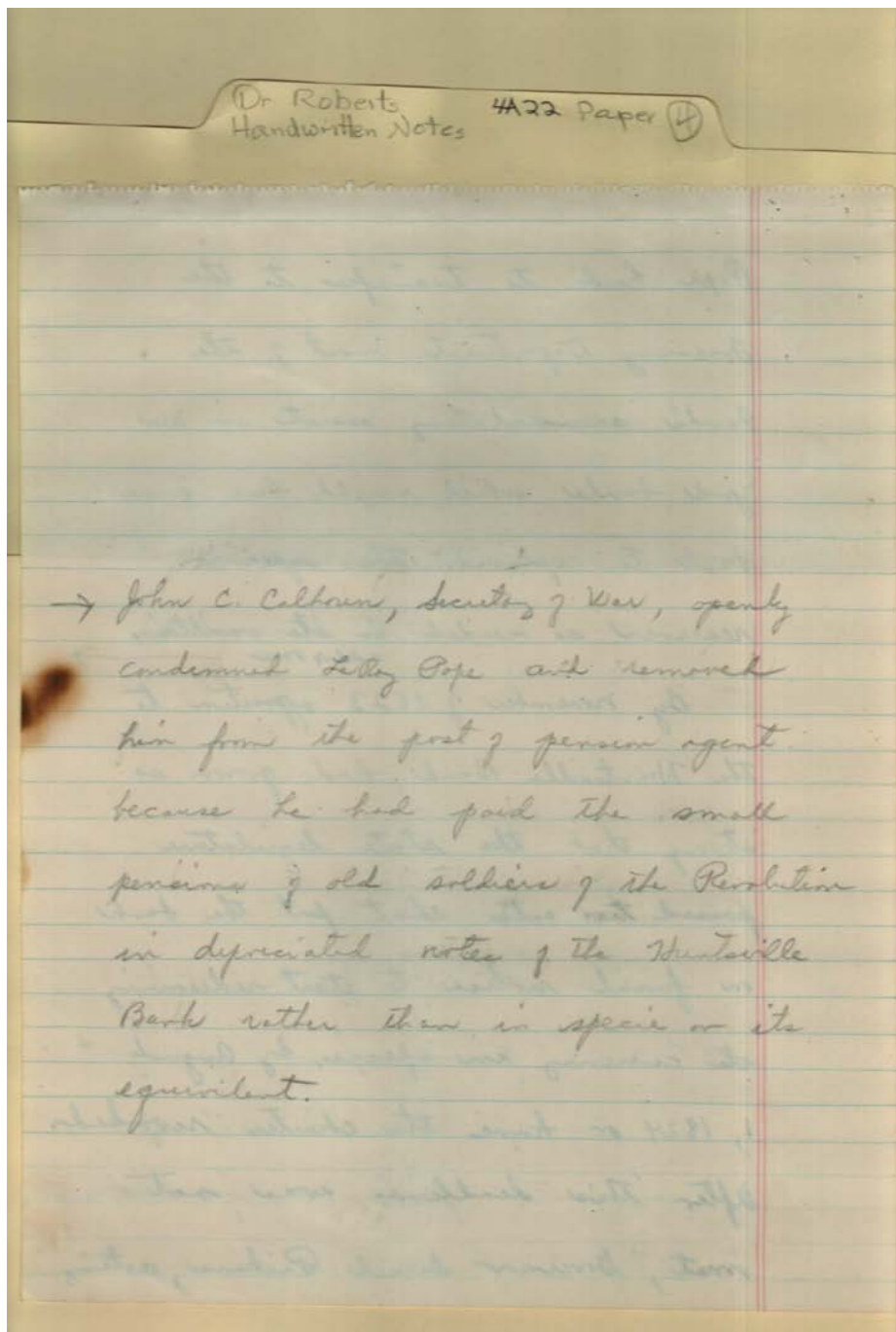
Opposition to Bank
grows

Pickens, Israel,
Governor

Pope,

Types:

essay



Names:

Calhoun, John C., Sec
of War

Pope, LeRoy
condemned

Types:

essay

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on powers granted him by the legislature, issued a proclamation stating, the Planter's and merchants' Bank of Huntsville, had to close its doors permanently on February 1, 1825.

¶ Though legally closed, the bank was not completely dead. According to the act of 1823 which put the bank on probation, the bank was given three years after the expiration of the charter to wind up its affairs. ~~of the bank~~. On January 7, 1828, shortly before this time had expired, the directors and share holders conveyed to LeRoy Pope by deed of trust all

Names:

Bank doors closed

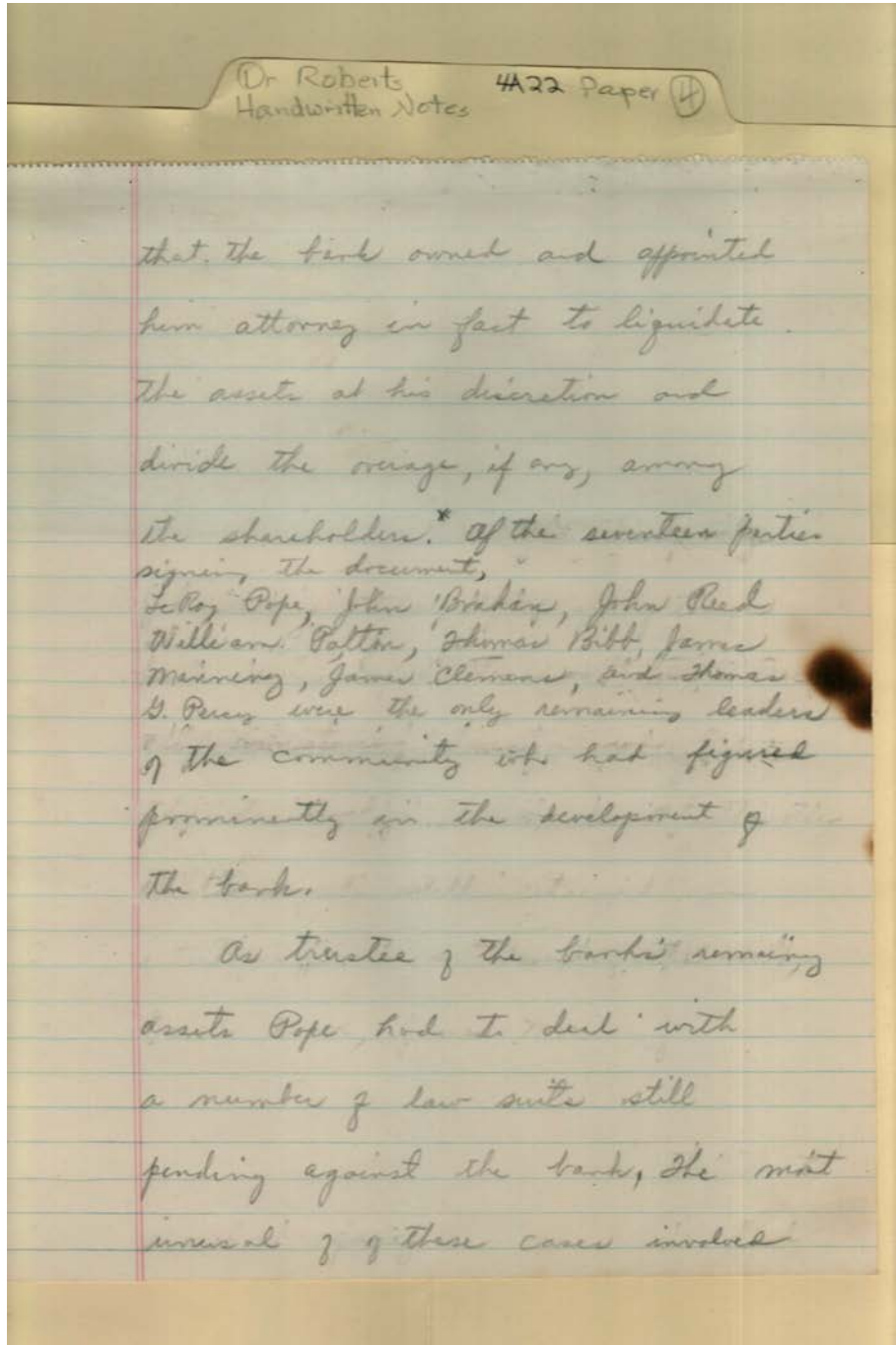
Pope, LeRoy

Types:

essay

Dates:

Feb 01, 1825



Names:

Bank liquidated by
Pope
Bibb, Thomas
Brahan, John

Clemens, James
Lawsuits filed against
Bank
Manning, James

Patton, William
Percy, Thomas G.
Pope, LeRoy
Reed, John

Types:

essay

Dr Roberts
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4A22 Paper ④

a slave owned by William and
Thomas Brandon. On October 13, 1824 while
sweeping the sidewalks in front
of the Fire Station located
near the bank on the west of the
square, a fourteen year old slave
boy found \$2,290 dollars in Kentucky
Bank notes and turned them over
to a bytander, John P. Brown, who
promptly returned them to the cashier
of the bank. When these notes were
examined they were found to
be a part of the \$29,000 which had
been taken when the bank was
robbed on July 19, 1824. When the

Names:

Brandon, Thomas

Brandon, William

Brown, John P.

Stolen Funds found

Types:

essay

Dr Roberts
Handwritten Notes #A22 Paper ④

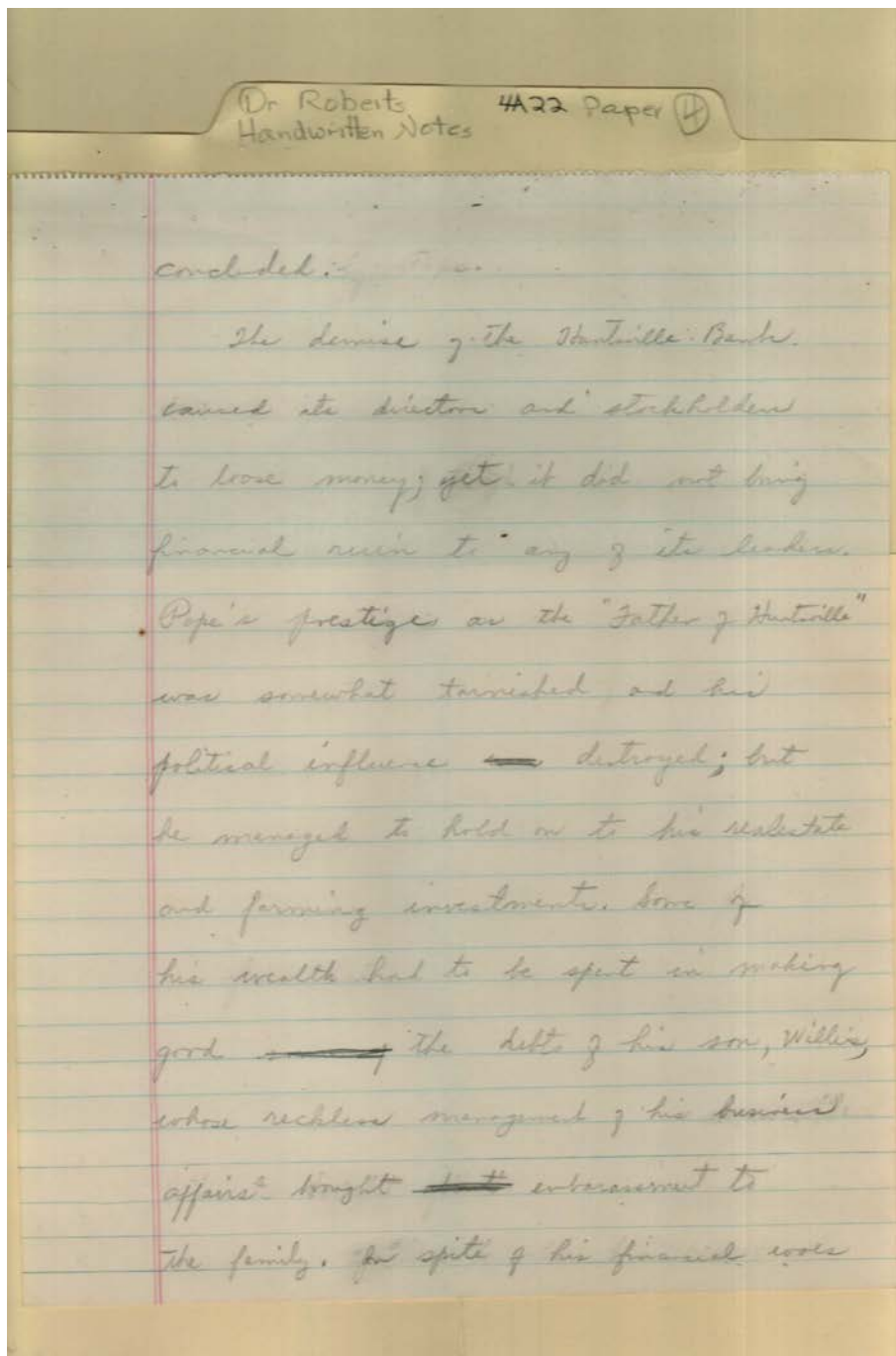
Brandon brother heard of the incident they demanded that the bank officials return the money to them claiming that they were legally entitled to all money found by their slave. The case caused such a furor in the Madison County courts that the case was transferred to Morgan County. Ultimately the controversy was appealed to the state supreme court where the Brandon's claim was upheld, but they received no money for it. The final settlement of the bank's affairs had already been

Names:

Brandon, Thomas

Types:

essay



Names:

Pope, Willis

Pope's prestige
tarnished

Types:

essay

Dr Roberts
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and family. Trouble, LeRoy Pope continued to live a comfortable life in his large brick home on the highest hill in Hartsville until his death in 1844. as he grew older his youngest son, William, took over the management of his farming interests. His second son, LeRoy Pope, junior, became a successful cotton merchant in Memphis in 1839, and his oldest son, Willis, moved to Hinds County, Mississippi where he continued his unsuccessful financial career as a planter. As the influence of Pope and his Georgia friends faded into the background of the on going development

Names:

Pope, LeRoy

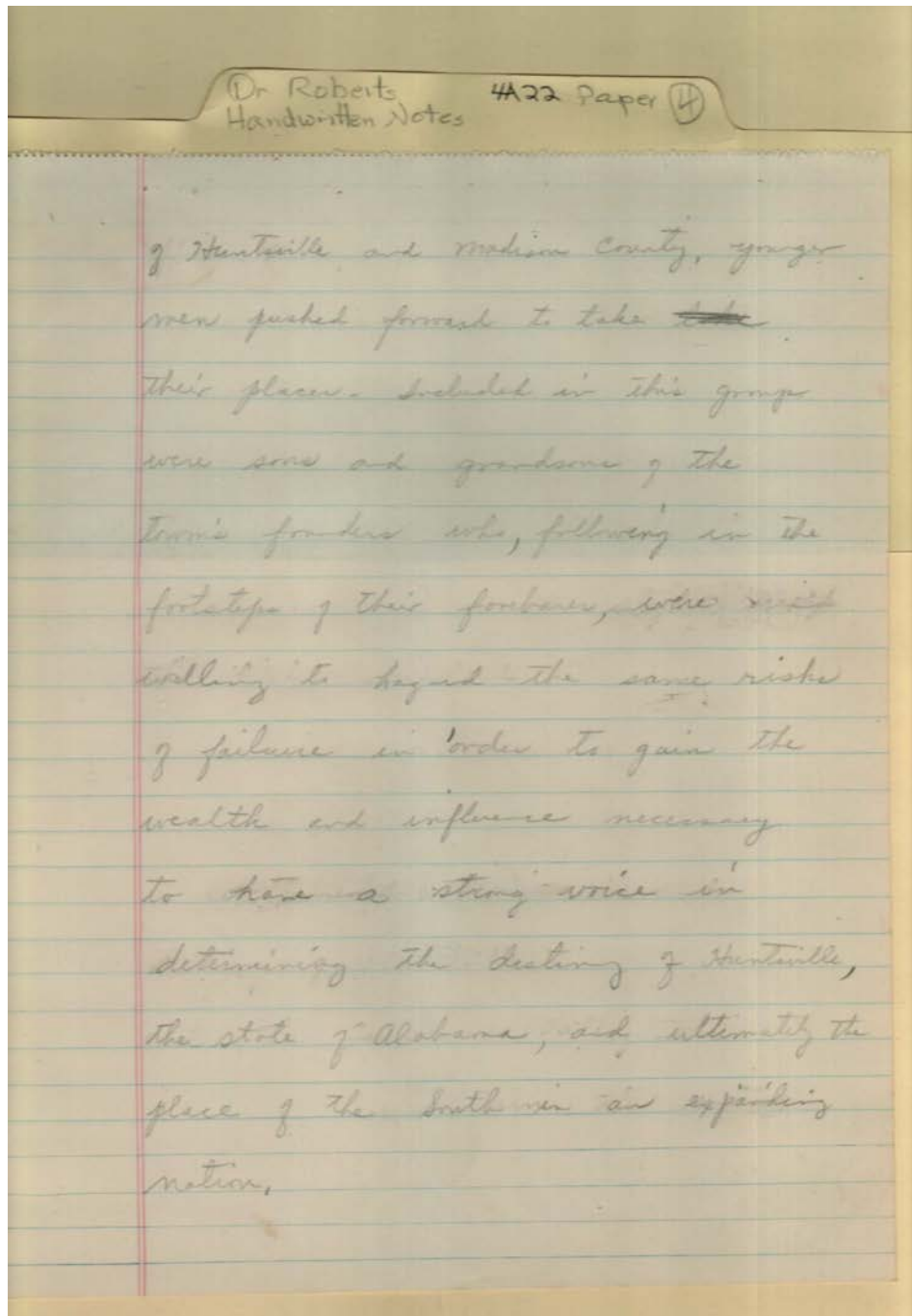
Pope, LeRoy, Jr.

Pope, William

Pope, Willis

Types:

essay



Names:

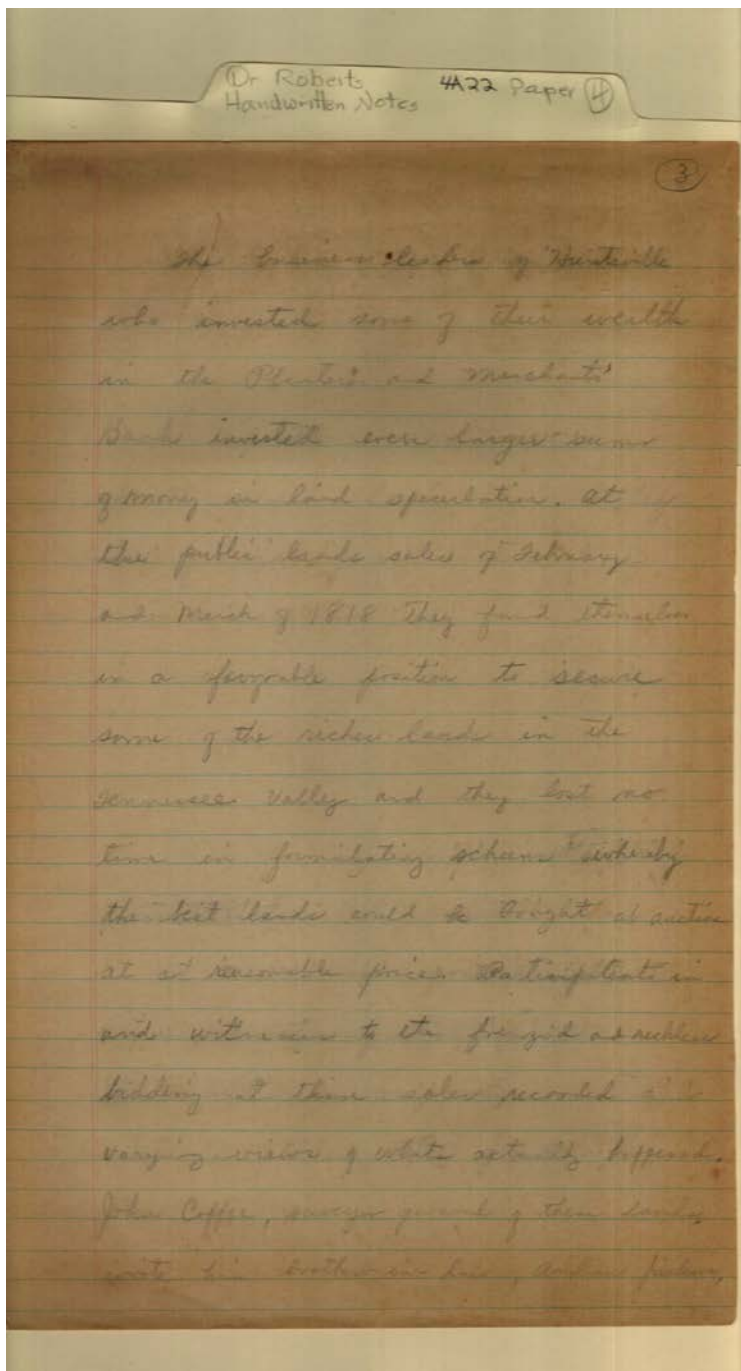
Sons followed
footsteps

Types:

essay

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Names:

Coffee, John

Jackson, Andrew

Land Speculation

Types:

essay

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on February 12, 1918, reported that a large combination of men from Madison County, Georgia, Virginia, and Kentucky had formed a company to control the land sales; but they plan had been thwarted by James Jackson and other Tennesseans who would not join the company, and instead had bid against it. Continuing his description of the sale, Coffee stated that the highest price paid for a quarter section was \$74 per acre, while the "common cotton lands" brought from \$20 to \$30 per acre. He stated bidding of James Jackson, he concluded, had benefited the government about a half million dollars. Similar

Names:

Coffee, John

Jackson, James

Types:

essay

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Dr Robert
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accounts of the exorbitant prices paid
for land at these sales were communicated
to the land commissioners in Washington
by John Reed and John Brahan of the
Huntsville land office, in his letter
of February 21, 1818. Reed also advised
that if the lands below the Tennessee
River were expected to sell in the
summer, they would likewise net
the government a considerable profit.
David Campbell, a new arrival to
Huntsville, wrote his father that
he was appalled at the actions of
the local land speculators who
were using their favored position
to acquire all of the best lands
and town sites in the Tennessee
Valley.

Names:

Brahan, John
Campbell, David

High Land prices
paid

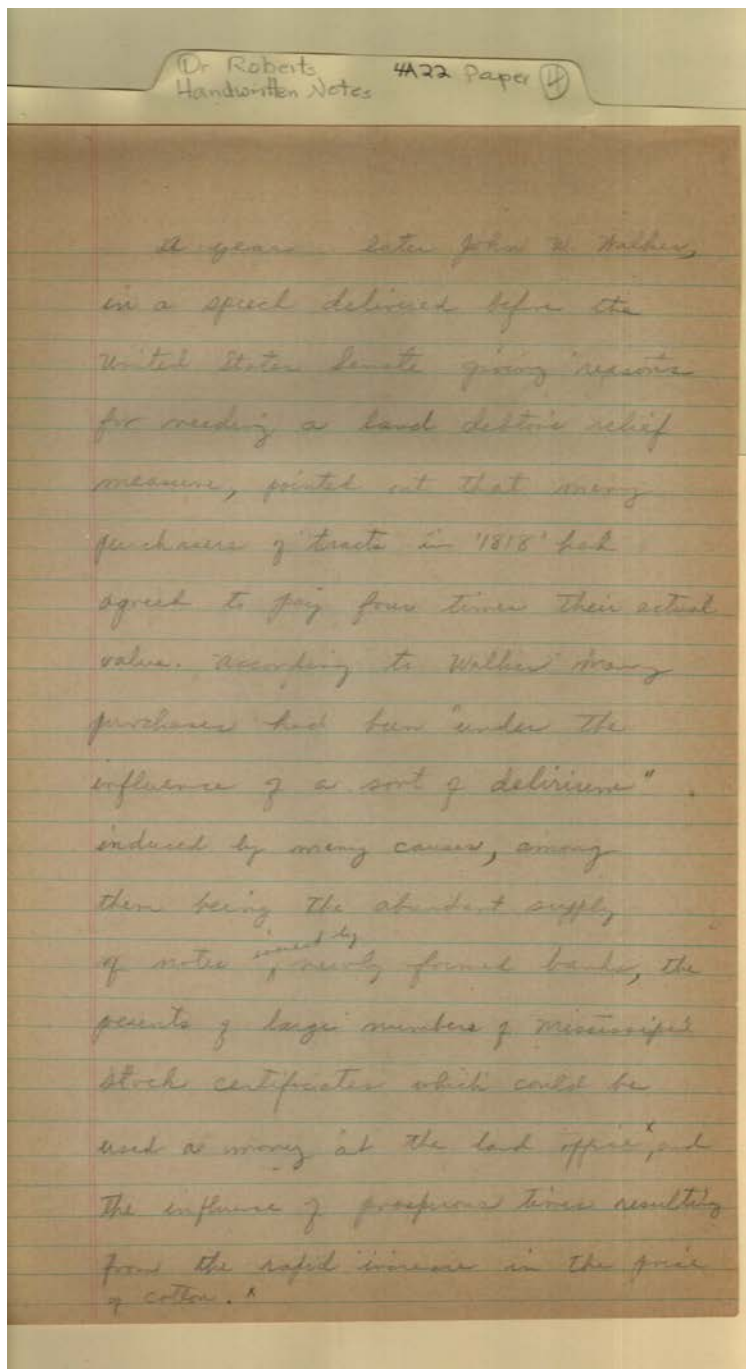
Reed, John

Types:

essay

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Names:

Land prices due to delirium

Walker, John W.

Types:

essay

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Dr Roberts
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although Walker admitted that speculators
would profit from a relief measure
but he contended that he knew
men who had paid as high as \$18
per acre for lands they fully
intended to cultivate.

By the end of 1818, most of the
best lands in the valley area had
been disposed of at an overall average
of \$6.75 per acre, more than three
times the average price for the
1829 sales. The total sales at
the Huntsville land office for the
year amounted to \$7,631,896.57.
A careful perusal of the records
of this office covering this period
indicates that the same wealthy men
from Petersburg, Virginia who had secured

Names:

High Land prices
paid

Walker,

Types:

essay

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Dr. Roberts
Handwritten Notes #A22 Paper 14

The first bank in Madison County
in 1899 once again invested large
sums in lands throughout the
Lawrence Valley. Robert Thompson's family
including his three sons-in-law, Thomas
Bibb, James Manning and Waddy Tate
owned much of the rich best lands
north of the river in Madison and
Limestone Counties. LeRoy Pope and
his son-in-law, Thomas Fearn, ~~also~~
~~also~~ added to their farm
lands and bought desirable areas for
town sites which had been recommended
for development by the surveyor general.
Cautious business men such as Thomas
Fearn, David Moore, Henry Chambers and William
Patton chose prime lands and town lots
as long range investments rather than

Names:

Bibb, Thomas
Chambers, Henry
Fearn, Thomas

Manning, James
Moore, David
Patton, William

Percy, Thomas G.
Pope, LeRoy
Tate, Waddy

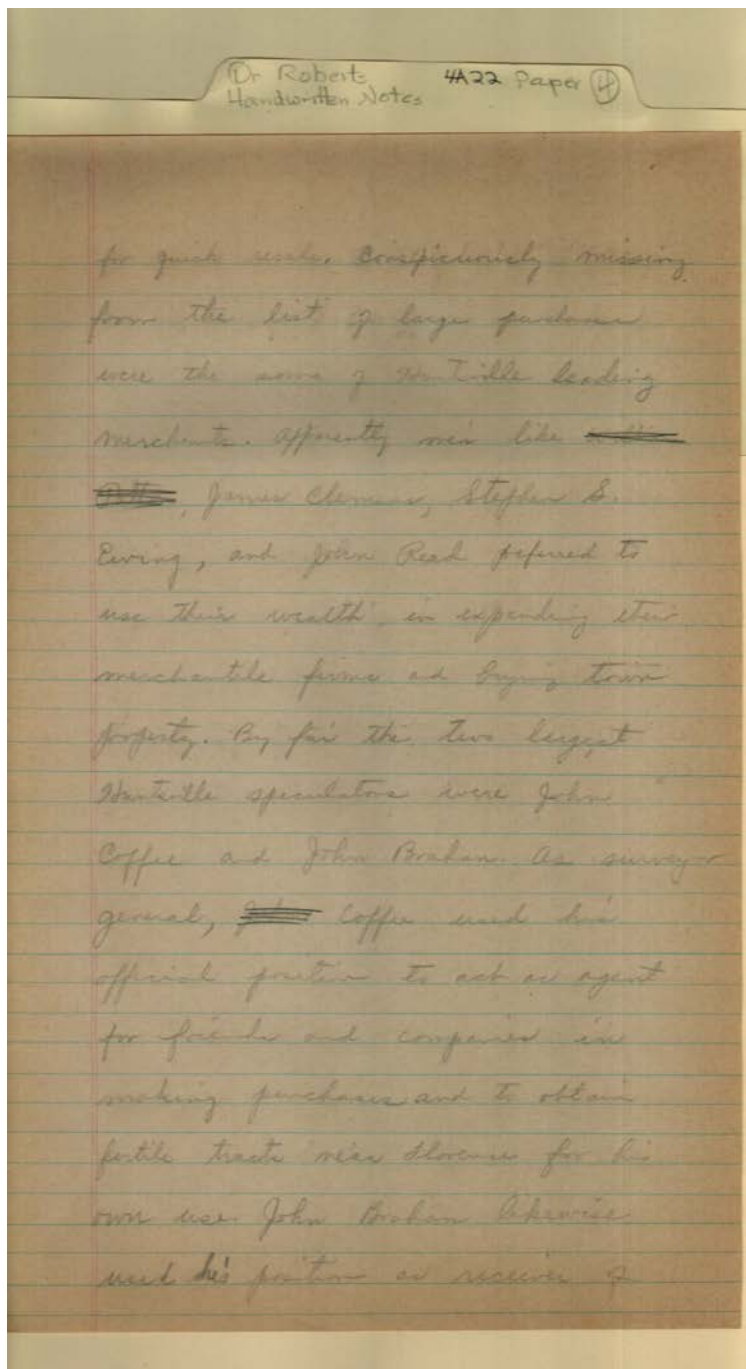
Thompson, Robert

Types:

essay

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Names:

Brahan, John
Clemens, James

Coffee, John
Ewing, Stephen S.

Reed, John

Types:

essay

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Dr Robert
Handwritten Notes #A22 Paper ④

public service at the land office to
make wise purchases for himself
and his business associates. In
his haste to acquire wealth, he incurred
a debt more than \$75,000 of government
funds to make down payments on
land purchases. Before he could retrieve
enough profit from his speculation
to return the money, his actions
were discovered by William H. Crawford,
who promptly accepted Bohlen's resignation
in August of 1889 and secured the
services of Obadiah Jones of Lawrence
County to receive a signed deed of
trust from Bohlen to insure repayment
of the deficit. This incident touched
off an investigation of the operations
of the Hunterdon Bank and the Bank

Names:

Brahan resigns

Crawford, William H.

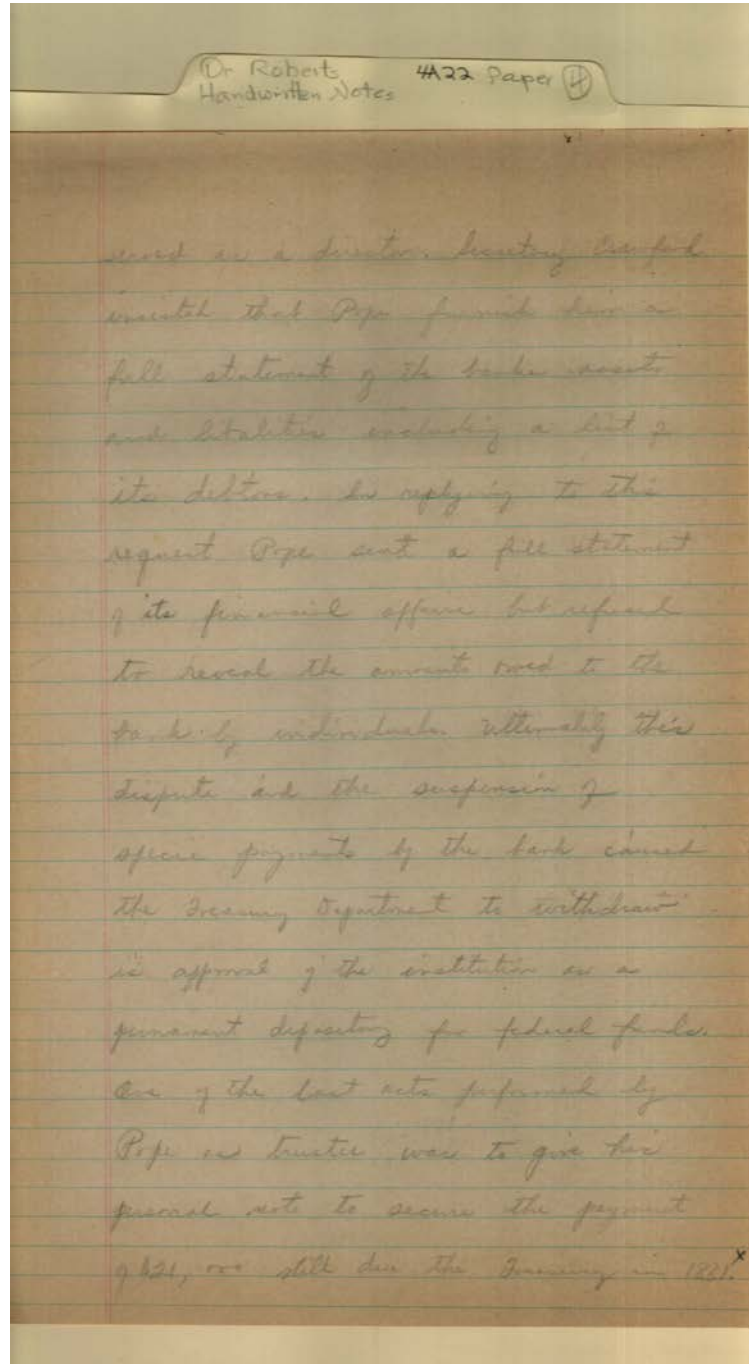
Jones, Obadiah

Types:

essay

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Names:

Crawford, William H.

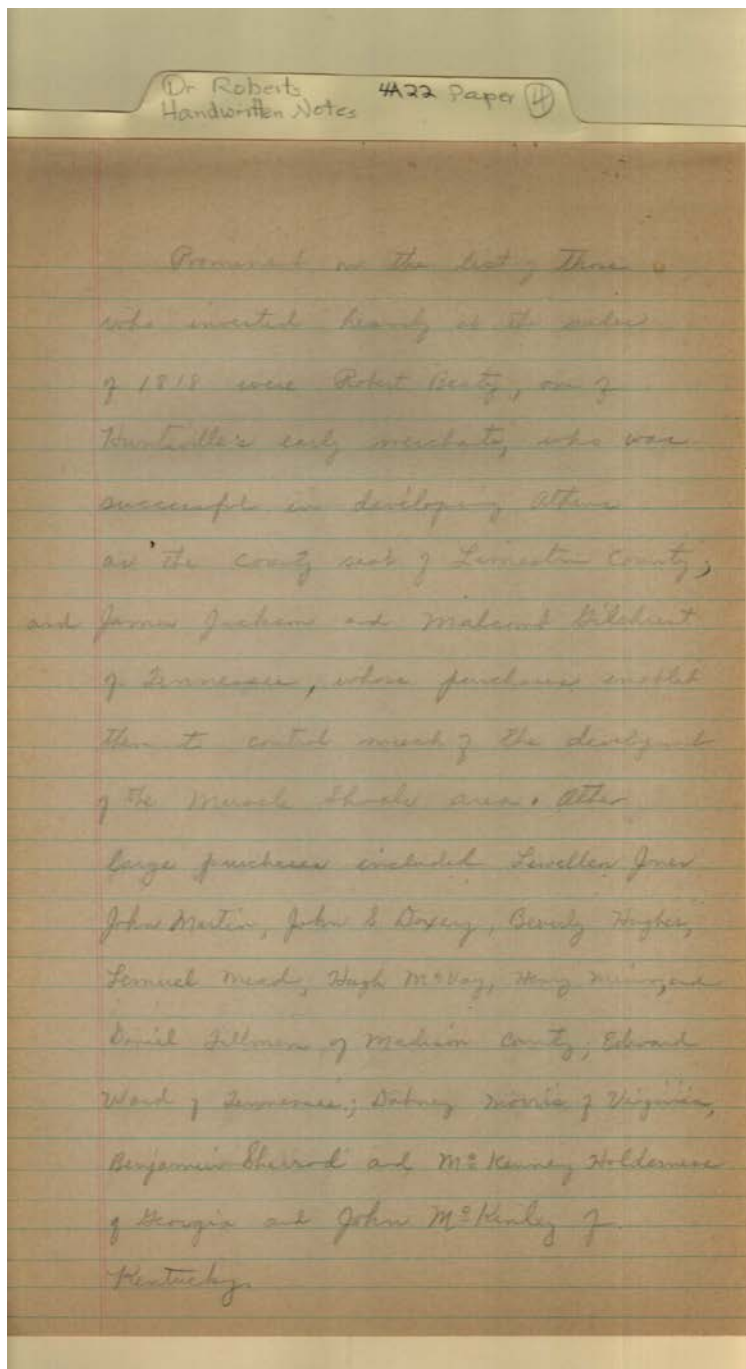
Pope,

Types:

essay

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Names:

Beaty, Robert
Doxey, John S.
Gilcrest, Malcomb
Holderness,
McKenney

Hughes, Beverly
Jackson, James
Jones, Lewellen
Mastin, John
McKinley, John

McVay, Hugh
Mead, Lemuel
Minor, Henry
Morris, Dabney
Sherrod, Benjamin

Tillman, Daniel
Ward, Edward

Types:

essay

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From 1820 to 1830 the land office business continued at a slow but steady pace under the direction of Benjamin S. Pope as register and land commissioner in response of public opinion after a eleven year delay connects the lands in eastern Madison County and Jackson County were sold at public auction. Squatter settlers of this area insisted that they be granted pre-emption rights to purchase their homesteads at \$1.25 per acre with homis to bid for them at auction, it took almost ten years for them to secure ^{the} favorable congressional action. Although most of these lands were purchased by small farmers in tracts of forty, eighty, and one hundred and sixty acres some plantations were

Names:

Cruse, Samuel

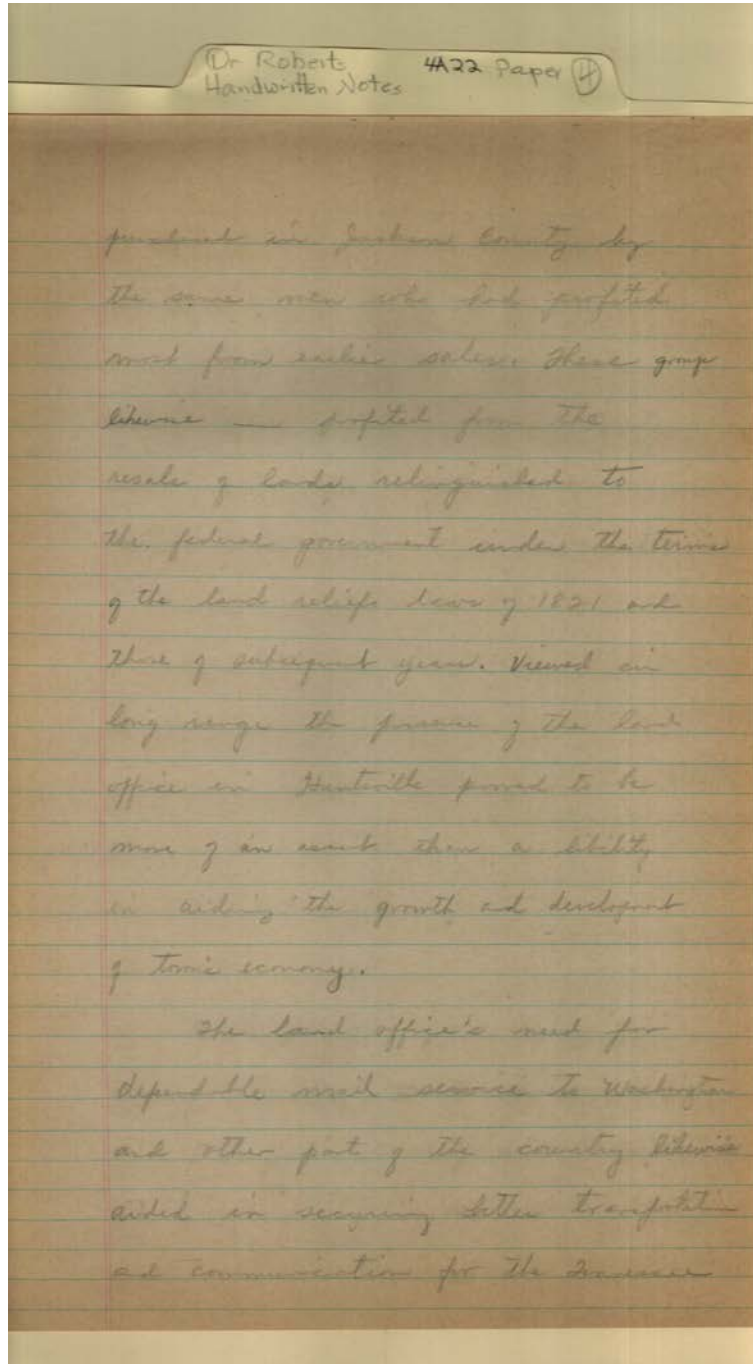
Pope, Benjamin S.

Types:

essay

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Names:

Mail Service
improved

Types:

essay

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Handwritten Notes 4A22 Paper ④

Valley. At first mail service to and
from Huntsville was furnished by
travelers going to ^{from} Nashville on
business trips. Special messengers
were sent to deliver letters and
bring back replies from officials
at the Territorial Capital in Washington,
Mississippi. Letters mailed in Huntsville
on and before 4/18/11 indicate that John
Perkins, the town's first postmaster,
had begun to handle mail at a
cost of twenty-five cents per letter,
when the land office there was started
after the conclusion of the Civil War, at
which time direct mail service from Washington to
New Orleans was routed through Huntsville
thus making it a key mail distribution
point in the Tennessee Valley.

Names:

Perkins, John

Washington to New
Orleans mail

Types:

essay

Frances Cabaniss Roberts Collection: Series 4, Subseries A, Box 22, Folder 4
Handwritten Notes on Local Banking and Commerce

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Dr Robert
Handwritten Notes 4A22 Paper ④

In 1820, Huntsville became the Terminal
point of the stage coach line that
connected with the stage route from Knoxville
to Nashville. At first trips were made on a
weekly basis, but within five years
the line was extended to Tusculum
and three trips were made each week.
A list of roads published in the
Alabama Almanack of 1823 indicated
the available routes leading from Huntsville
in all directions. One route could reach
New Orleans by crossing the Tennessee
River at Brown's Ferry in Lincoln
County and proceeding southwest on the
Military Road, completed under the direction
of General Andrew Jackson in 1817, through
Columbus, Mississippi and Jacksonville to
Lake Pontchartrain, a distance of 455 miles.

Names:

Jackson, Andrew,
General

Road Routes
described

Stage from Knoxville
to Nashville

Alabama Almanack,
1823

Types:

essay

Frances Cabaniss Roberts Collection: Series 4, Subseries A, Box 22, Folder 4
Handwritten Notes on Local Banking and Commerce

Image 43 r04a22-04-000-0106 [Contents](#) [Index](#) [About](#)

Dr Roberts
Handwritten Notes #A22 Paper 4

If the traveler preferred to go by way of Natchez, then he had to add a 300 mile boat trip making the distance approximately 750 miles to the Crescent City. Two routes were available from Huntsville to Tuscaloosa. One, known as the Huntsville Road, ~~was~~ crossed the Tennessee River at Pitts's Landing, later officially named, Whitesburg, and continued southeast to a traveling stop known as Dog's Place, thence southward, through Jones Valley to the falls of the Black Warrior, making the total distance 163 miles. The other, ~~was~~ a shorter but less traveled route because of the hilly terrain, crossed the Tennessee River three miles below Brianna at Crabbe Ferry and cont.

Names:

Road Routes
described

Types:

essay

Frances Cabaniss Roberts Collection: Series 4, Subseries A, Box 22, Folder 4
Handwritten Notes on Local Banking and Commerce

Image 44 r04a22-04-000-0107 [Contents](#) [Index](#) [About](#)

Dr. Robert
Handwritten Notes #22 Paper ⊕

in a southeast direction by way of
Lynch to Tusculum, a distance of 143 miles.
The state capital at Columbia could be
reached by two routes, one that followed
the Huntsville Road to Dickey Place and
then continued southward through Shelby
County to Columbia, a distance of 208
miles, and the other that went by
way of the Falls of Columbia River and
increased the mileage to 226.

The route from Huntsville to Florence
went by way of the old road around Elbe
River at Fort Hampton covering a
distance of 73 miles. In 1860 all
cities in the north and east travelers
went by way of Winchester, Tennessee to
Knoxville. From this point they went
southeastward passing through ^{town of} Abingdon,

Names:

Road Routes
described

Types:

essay

Frances Cabaniss Roberts Collection: Series 4, Subseries A, Box 22, Folder 4
Handwritten Notes on Local Banking and Commerce

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Dr Roberts
Handwritten Notes #A22 Paper ④

Asington, Staunton, and Winchester in
Virginia, Baltimore, Maryland, Philadelphia,
Pennsylvania then to New York City, a
distance of 936 miles. Those who
traveled to and from Savannah, Georgia
followed the northern route to Winchester
and then moved southeast along a
well traveled road which passed
through Athens, Washington and Augusta,
Nashville was only 186 miles from Knoxville
by a direct route through Fayetteville but some
travelers preferred to go by way of Winchester because
they had few streams to ford.

At the end of this list of roads
John Boardman, its publisher, touched
on a one paragraph editorial in which
he reiterated what he had often pointed
out in the columns of his paper, that

Names:

Boardman, John

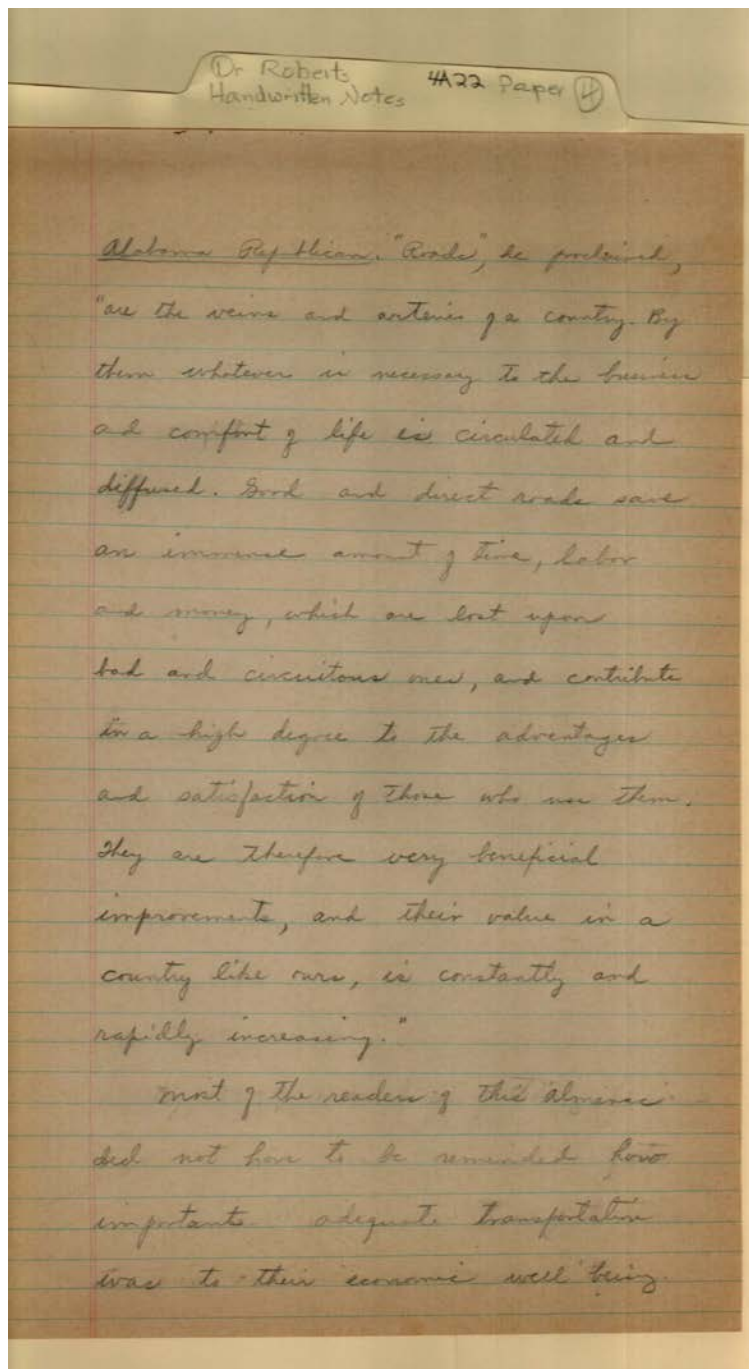
Road Routes
described

Types:

essay

Frances Cabaniss Roberts Collection: Series 4, Subseries A, Box 22, Folder 4
Handwritten Notes on Local Banking and Commerce

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Names:

Good Roads save
time and labor

Types:

essay

Frances Cabaniss Roberts Collection: Series 4, Subseries A, Box 22, Folder 4
Handwritten Notes on Local Banking and Commerce

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Dr Roberts
Handwritten Notes #22 Paper 4

they had learned over a period of
the past eight years how much of their
anticipated profits had been curtailed
by not being able to deliver their cotton
to Savannah or New Orleans in
time to secure the best price and
by not receiving adequate supplies of
merchandise at the times when their
customers were most willing to
purchase them. If Huntsville was
to retain its position as the
chief commercial center in the
Tennessee Valley, then something had
to be done to insure good roads
and river transportation. Working
at the local level, two projects were
set in motion, one to build a canal
from Huntsville to the river port of Folsom

Names:

Huntsville Canal
proposed

Types:

essay

Frances Cabaniss Roberts Collection: Series 4, Subseries A, Box 22, Folder 4
Handwritten Notes on Local Banking and Commerce

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Dr. Roberts
Handwritten Notes #22 Paper (H)

using the water beds of the Big Spring
branch and Indian Creek, and the other
to construct an all weather toll road
from Huntsville south to Ditto's Landing on
the Tennessee River and north from Huntsville
to the Tennessee line. On December 21, 1869
the Indian Creek Navigation Company was
chartered by the state legislature and LeRoy
Pope, Thomas Fearn, Stephen S. Ewing, Henry
Cook and Samuel Hazard were appointed to
open books for subscription to stock in
the corporation. according to the charter
as soon as \$10,000 worth of stock had
been subscribed the commission could
call a meeting of the investors, who would
then elect a president and board of directors
and proceed with the construction of the
canal. On March 30, 1871 a notice appeared

Names:

Cook, Henry
Ewing, Stephen S.
Fearn, Thomas

Hazard, Samuel
Pope, LeRoy

Road to Ditto's
Landing

Road to Tennessee
Line

Types:

essay

Frances Cabaniss Roberts Collection: Series 4, Subseries A, Box 22, Folder 4
Handwritten Notes on Local Banking and Commerce

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Dr Roberts
Handwritten Notes #A22 Paper ④

in the Alabama Republican that stocks
could be purchased at the Planters and
Merchants' Bank. Several days later
Dr Thomas Fearn was elected president
of the company, and during the summer
months construction of the canal moved
forward at a rapid pace. On August
21, 1821, the Alabama Republican reported
that "the work of the Indian Creek Navigation
Company is progressing rapidly and the
canal will be ready for use next season."
By the end of the first year, however, only
one half of the work had been completed
and April 7, 1822, the company's president
admitted that help would be required
to complete the unfinished half of the
canal. Unanticipated problems arose to
delay the completion of the project and

Names:

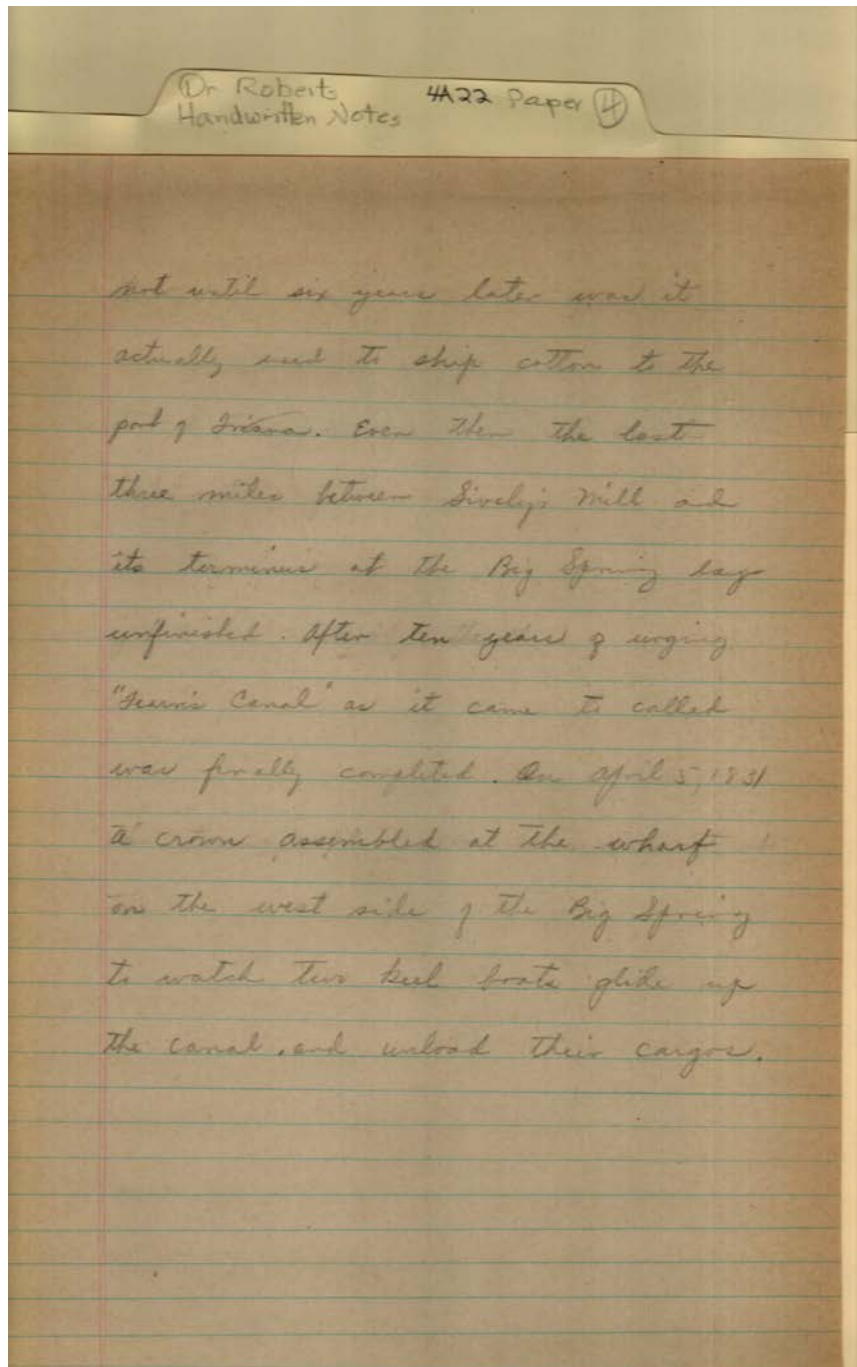
Fearn, Thomas

Indian Creek
Navigation Co.

Problems arose

Types:

essay



Names:

Fearn's Canal
completed

First two keel boats
unloaded

Types:

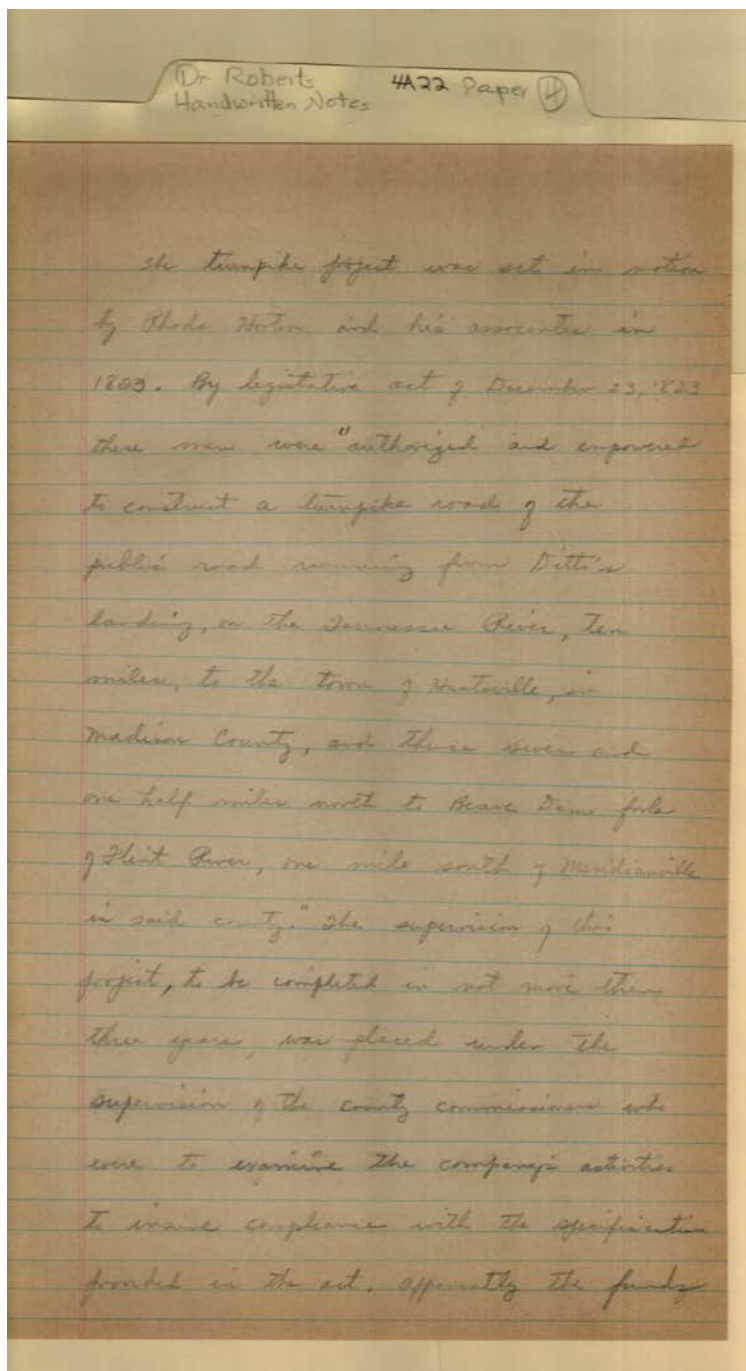
essay

Dates:

Apr 05, 1831

Frances Cabaniss Roberts Collection: Series 4, Subseries A, Box 22, Folder 4
Handwritten Notes on Local Banking and Commerce

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Names:

Horton, Rhoda

Road to Ditto's
Landing approved

Types:

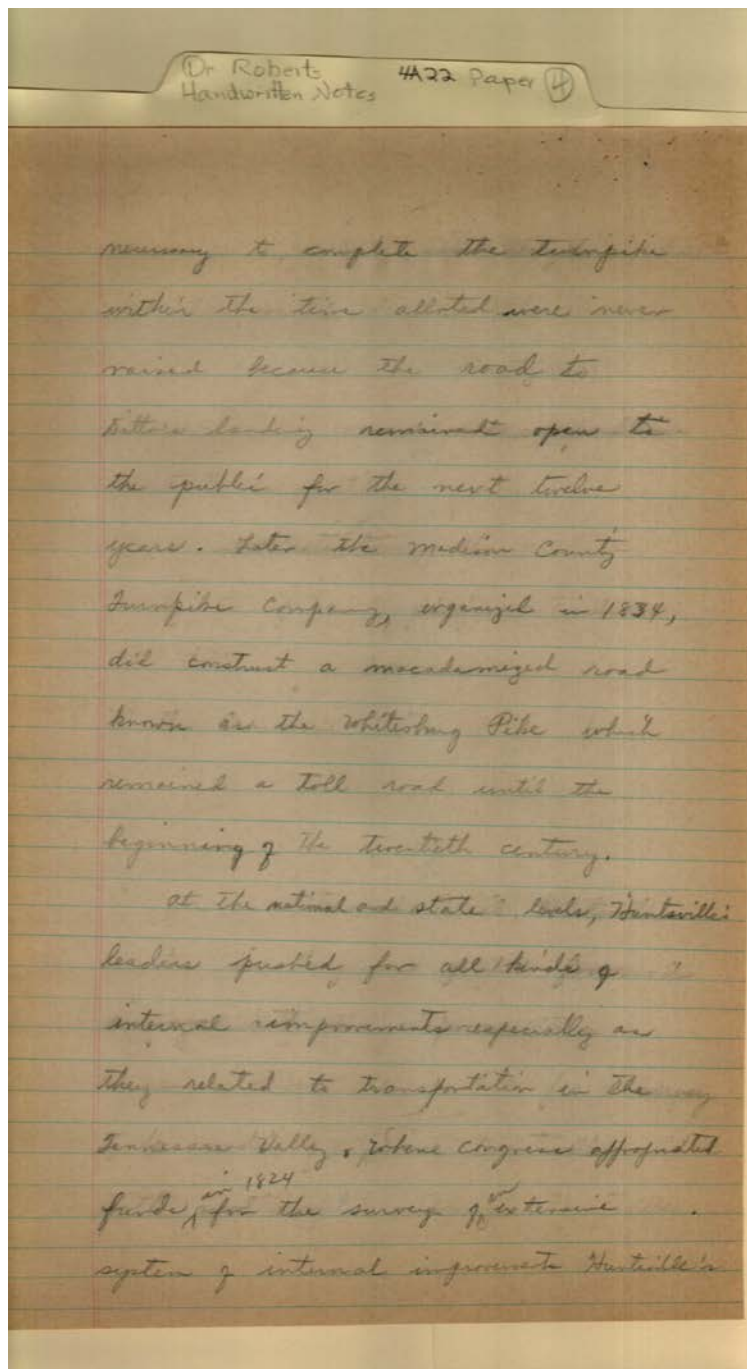
essay

Dates:

Dec 23, 1823

Frances Cabaniss Roberts Collection: Series 4, Subseries A, Box 22, Folder 4
Handwritten Notes on Local Banking and Commerce

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Names:

Road to Meridianville
started

Whitesburg Pike
macadamized

Types:

essay

Dates:

1834

Frances Cabaniss Roberts Collection: Series 4, Subseries A, Box 22, Folder 4
Handwritten Notes on Local Banking and Commerce

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Dr. Robert
Handwritten Notes #22 Paper (4)

Congressman, Gabriel Moore, insisted that the highway from Washington to New Orleans proposed by John C. Calhoun should pass through Knoxville. Although Calhoun's original plans were changed to include a survey of this route, nothing was actually accomplished. It was much easier to get a survey made than it was to persuade the people of Alabama and other southern states that the federal government should be granted the power to construct a system of transportation for the entire country. At the time that Alabama's constitution was written its framers had been willing to accept a donation from the federal government of three percent of all of the proceeds of land sales

Names:

Calhoun, John C.

Federal Roads

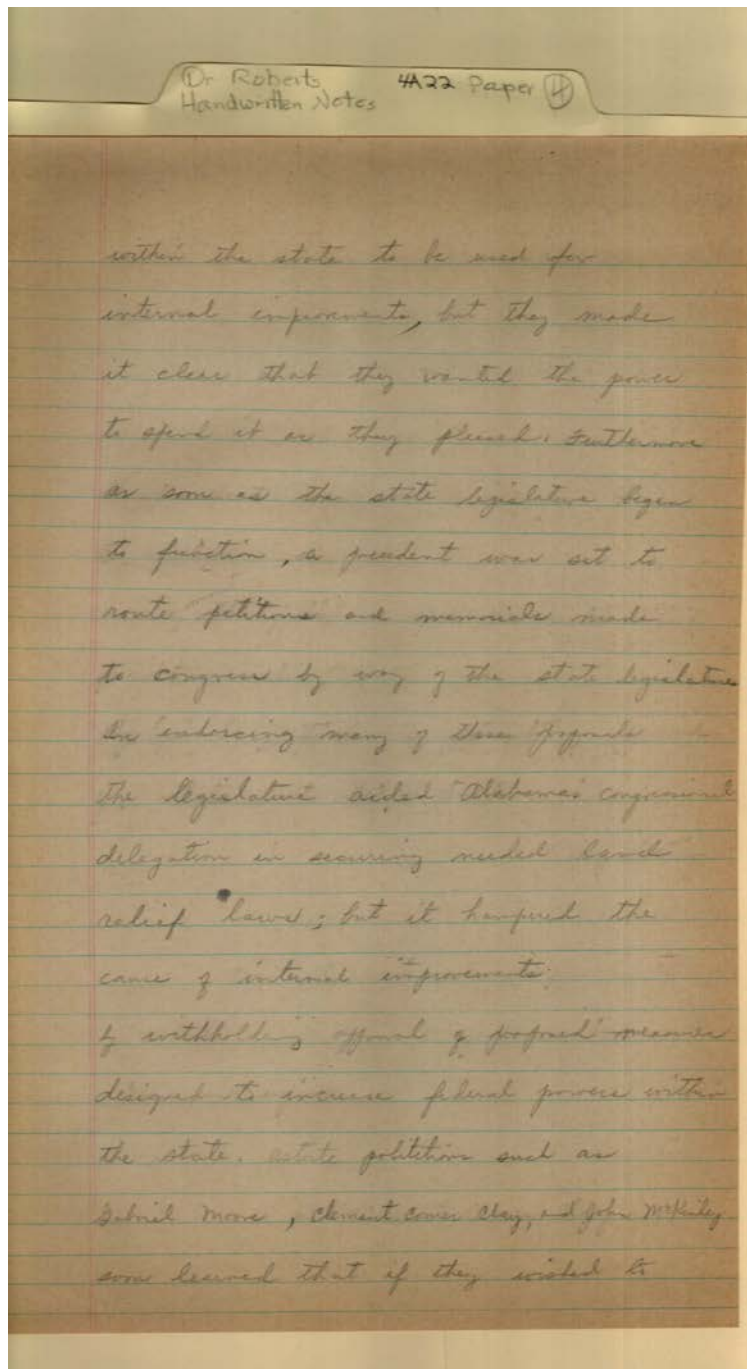
Moore, Gabriel

Types:

essay

Frances Cabaniss Roberts Collection: Series 4, Subseries A, Box 22, Folder 4
Handwritten Notes on Local Banking and Commerce

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Names:

Clay, Clement Comer

McKinley, John

Moore, Gabriel

Types:

essay

Frances Cabaniss Roberts Collection: Series 4, Subseries A, Box 22, Folder 4
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Dr Roberts
Handwritten Notes #A22 Paper ④

retain the political support of the majority.
they could no longer advocate federal
support except through state channels.

At the state level some progress
was made in getting the legislature
to consider ways of improving
navigation on the Tennessee River.
It was generally recognized by all
the people of north Alabama that
something must be done to remove
the major obstruction in the channel
of the river at Muscle Shoals.

During the summer months the
water level was so low that the
thirty miles of shoals could not be
passed. This meant that the cotton
crop grown above the shoals had
to be stored in warehouses at river
landings.

Names:

Tennessee River
navigation

Types:

essay

Frances Cabaniss Roberts Collection: Series 4, Subseries A, Box 22, Folder 4
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Dr Roberts
Handwritten Notes #A22 Paper ④

until the river rose high enough
in February to deepen the channel
sufficiently to allow boats to go
over the rapids. Since the water
went down soon after the spring rains would
over, most of the cotton had to be shipped
during a three month period. To
make the best use of this short
period of time experienced pilots were
hired to guide flats of keel boats
over the rapids. These pilots would
then turn these boats over to regular
crews who proceeded to New Orleans
by way of the Ohio and Mississippi
Rivers. The cost of storing cotton and
shipping it at a freight rate of from
four to five dollars per bale reduced

Names:

Cotton shipping

Types:

essay

Frances Cabaniss Roberts Collection: Series 4, Subseries A, Box 22, Folder 4
Handwritten Notes on Local Banking and Commerce

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Dr Roberts
Handwritten Notes #A22 Paper ④

The yearly increase of all cotton products
Southern river boat trade could
not bring supplies back up stream
over the rapids, they had to be
brought overland to Huntsville thus
adding to transportation costs. In 1821,
steamboats began to come up the
river as far as Florence and Summerville
If a canal could be built around
the shoals, then these steamboats
could be used on the river all
the way to Knoxville thus simplifying
the whole process of commercial
transportation in the Tennessee Valley.

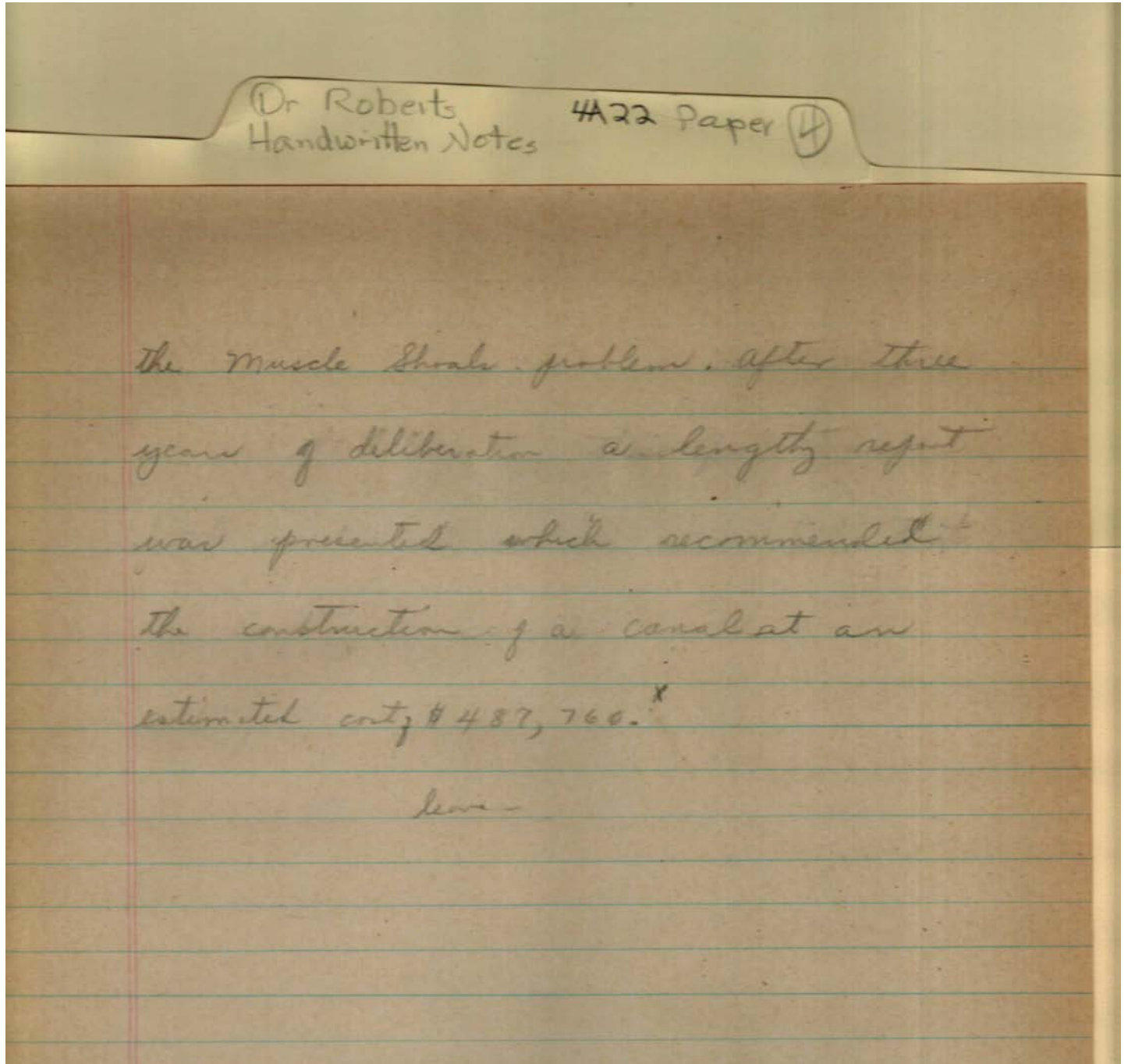
Responding to the pleas of the
leaders from the ~~legislative~~ delegations
from North Alabama, the legislature
appointed a commission to study

Names:

Shoals canal
proposed

Types:

essay



Names:

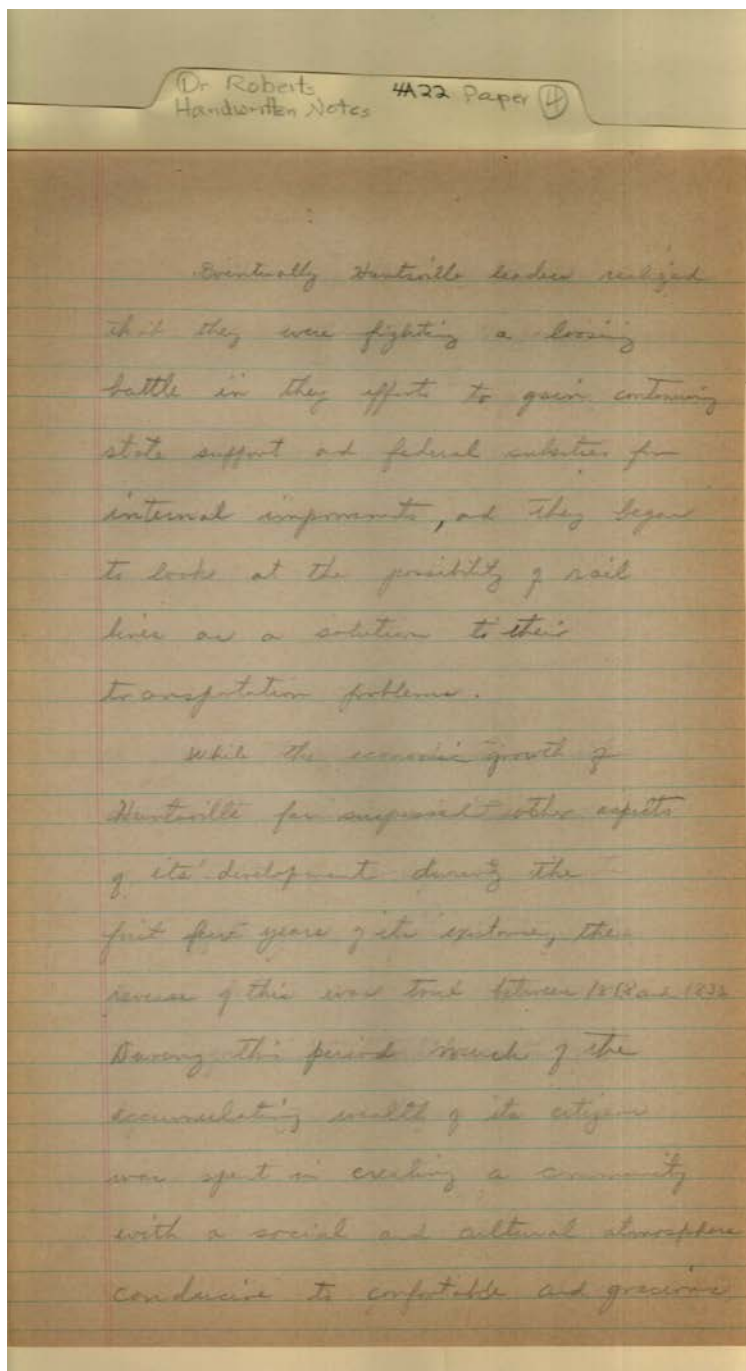
Shoals canal
proposed

Types:

essay

Frances Cabaniss Roberts Collection: Series 4, Subseries A, Box 22, Folder 4
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Names:

Huntsville
comfortable to live

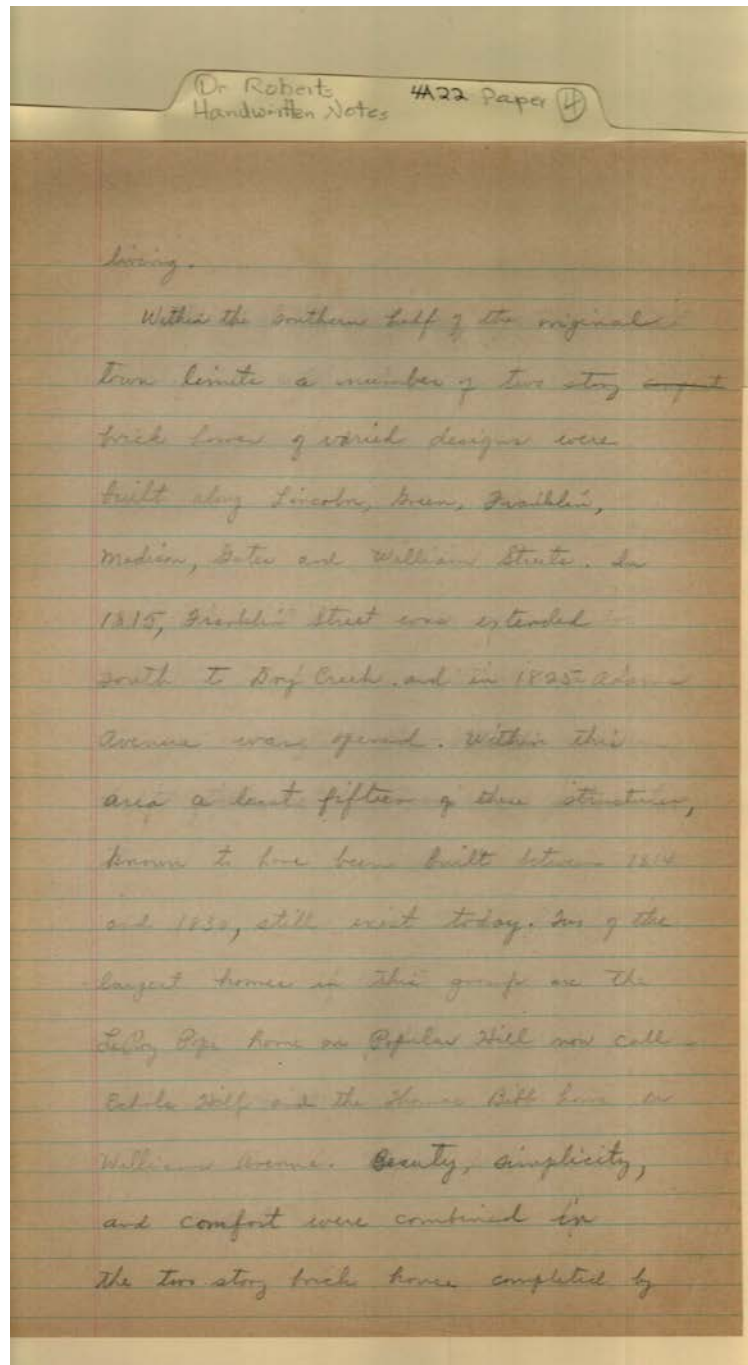
Railroads proposed

Types:

essay

Frances Cabaniss Roberts Collection: Series 4, Subseries A, Box 22, Folder 4
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Names:

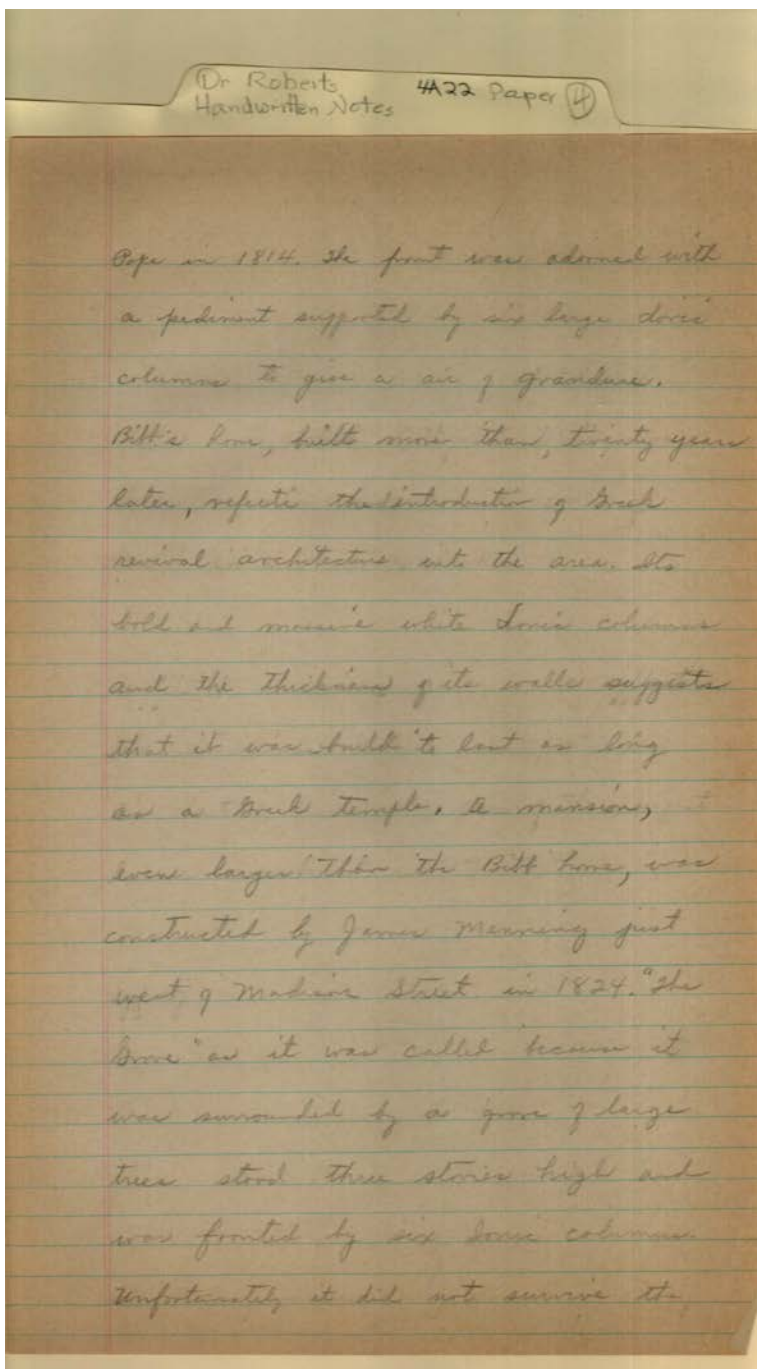
Brick homes built

Types:

essay

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Names:

Bibb, Thomas

Manning, James

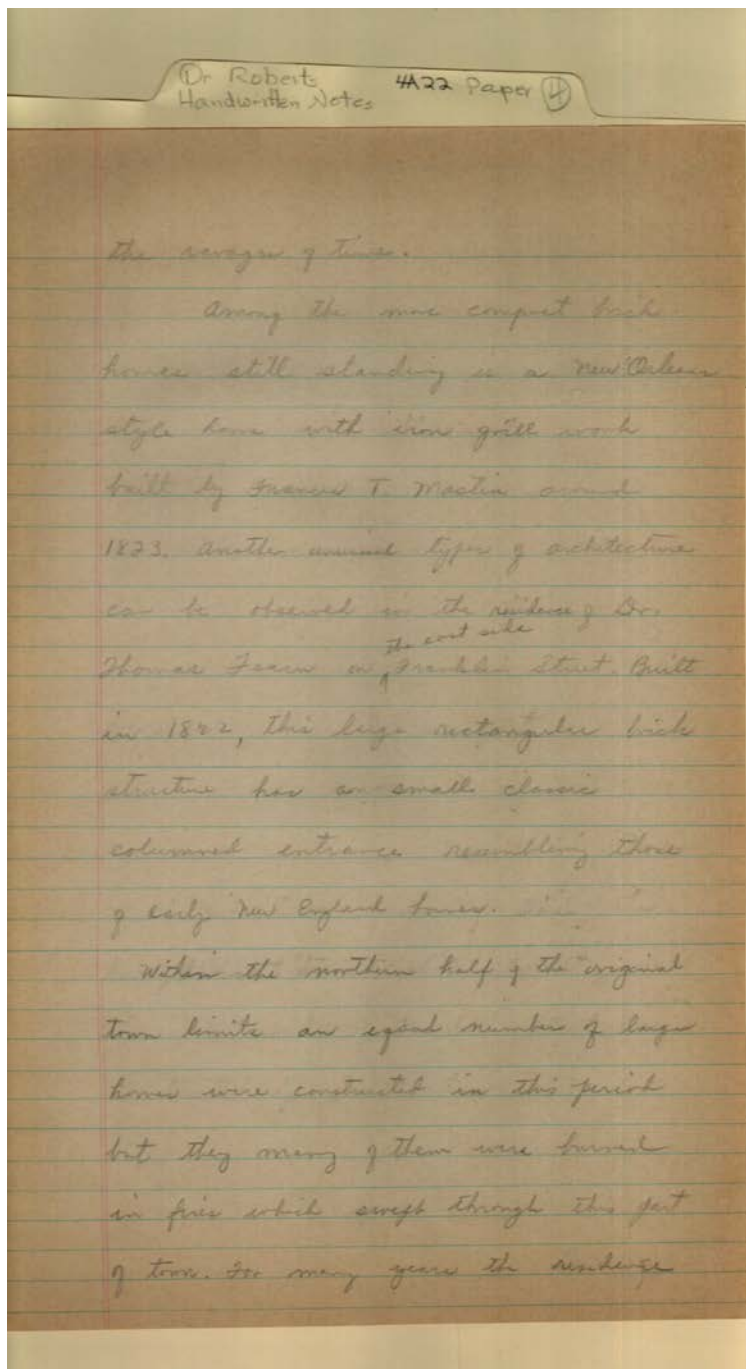
Pope,

Types:

essay

Frances Cabaniss Roberts Collection: Series 4, Subseries A, Box 22, Folder 4
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Names:

Fearn, Thomas,
Doctor

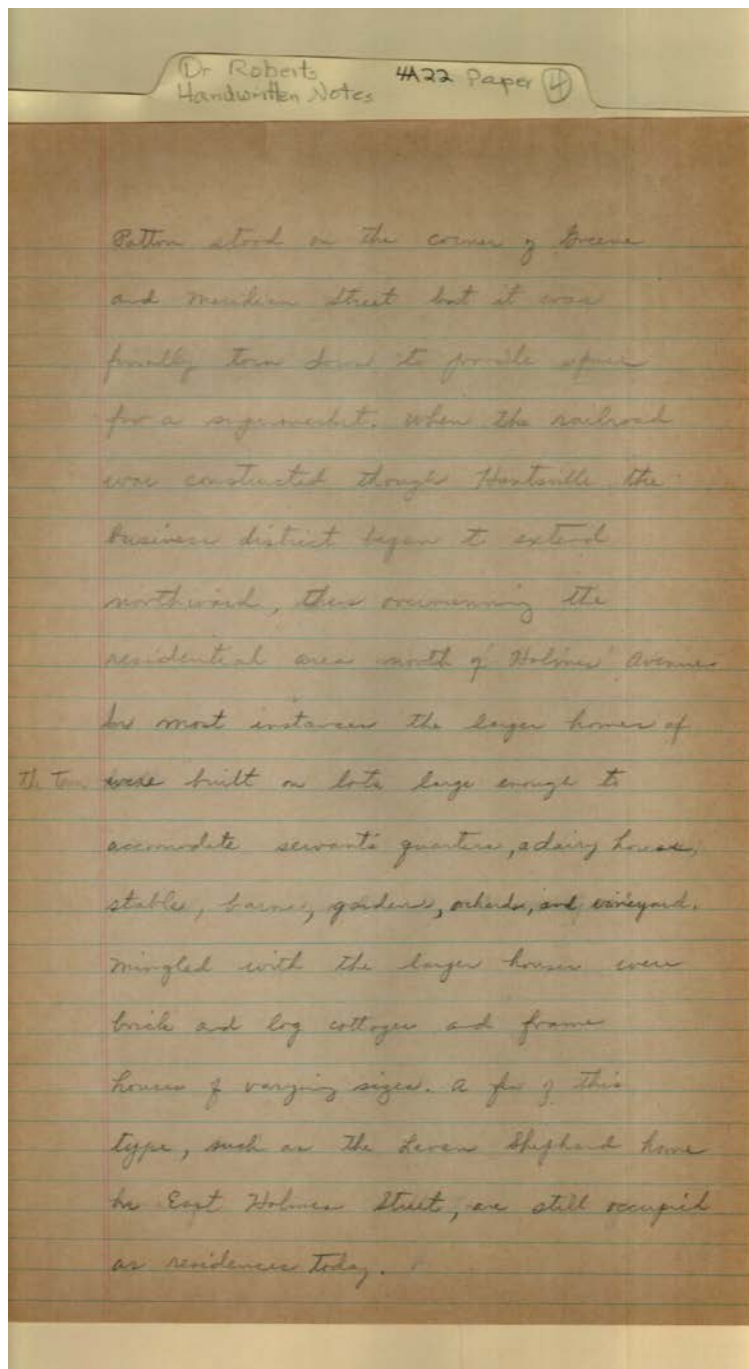
Mastin, Francis T.

Types:

essay

Frances Cabaniss Roberts Collection: Series 4, Subseries A, Box 22, Folder 4
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Names:

Residences
constructed

Shephard, Levan

Types:

essay

Frances Cabaniss Roberts Collection: Series 4, Subseries A, Box 22, Folder 4
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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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