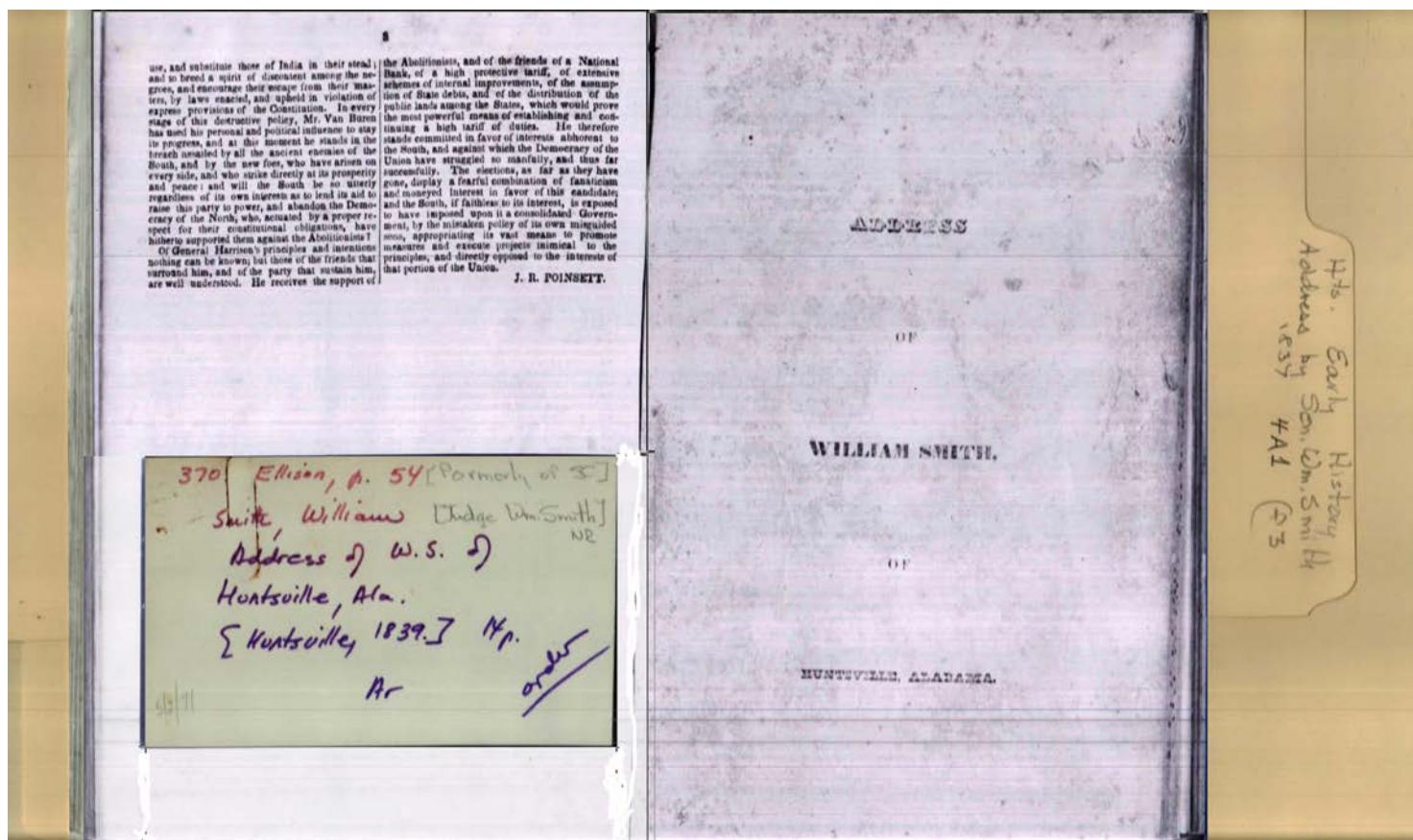


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Smith, Sen. William Speech - copy, 1839 - Early History

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**Names:**

Ellison,  
 Garrison, General

Poinsett, J. R.  
 Smith, William

Van Buren,

**Places:**

Huntsville, AL

**Types:**

speech

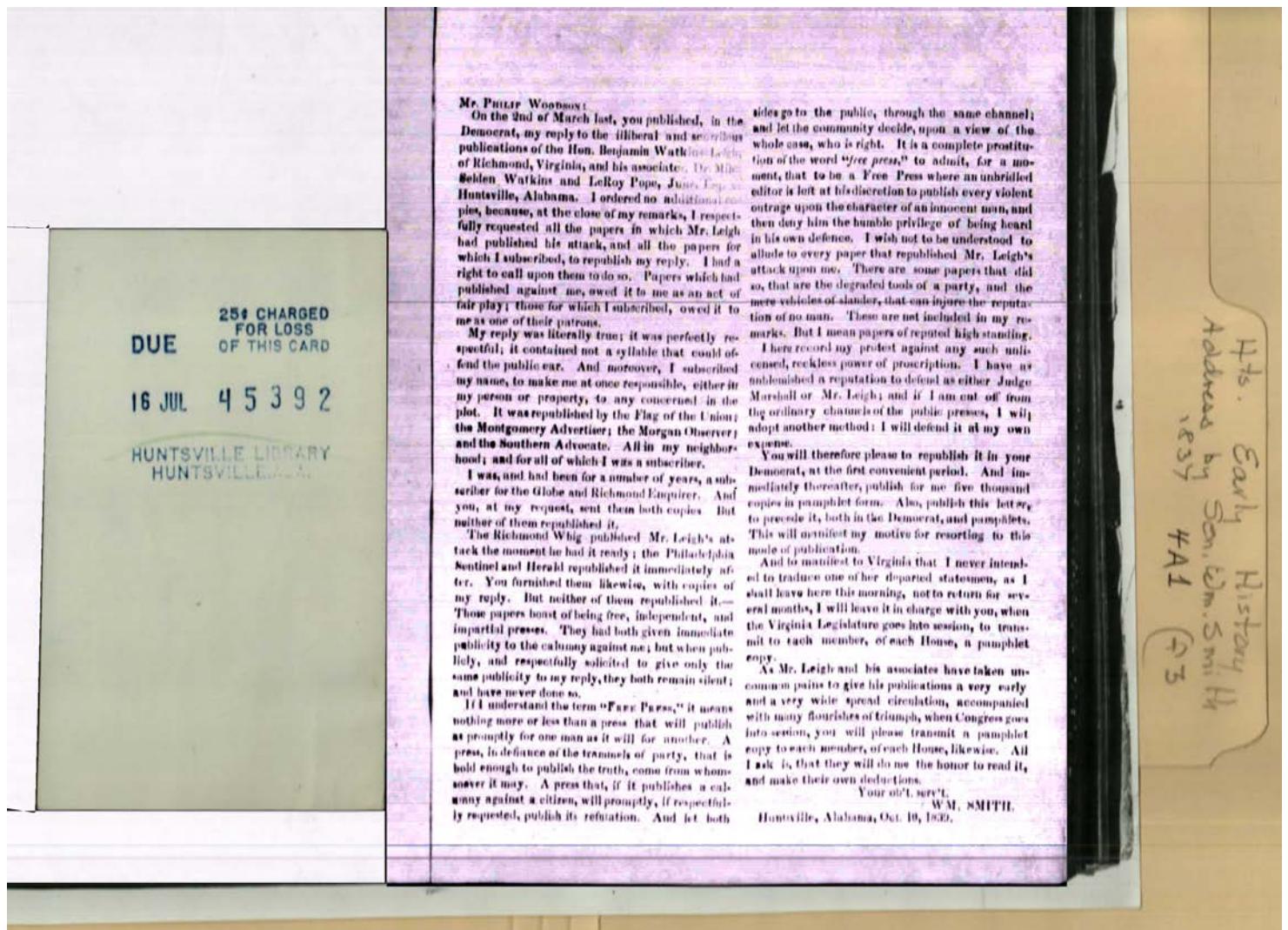
**Dates:**

1839

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Smith, Sen. William Speech - copy, 1839 - Early History

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**Names:**

Leigh, Benjamin  
Watkins  
Marshall, Judge  
Pope, LeRoy, Jr.  
Smith, W. M.

Watkins, Miles  
Selden  
Westnoy, Philip  
Flag of the Union  
Globe

Montgomery  
Advertiser  
Morgan Observer  
Philadelphia Sentinel  
Herald

Richmond Enquirer  
Richmond Whig  
Southern Advocate

**Places:**

Huntsville, AL

**Types:**

speech

**Dates:**

Oct 18, 1839

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H. S. Early History  
Address by Sen. Tom. Smith  
1839 A.D.

**ADDRESS OF W. L. SMITH.**  
OF HUNTSVILLE, ALABAMA.

In this speech, I submit this address to all who may be kind enough to read it: But it is more especially submitted to my constituents, of Madison county, to whom I am immediately responsible for my moral character, or one of their neighbors; and for the rectitude of my political opinions, as one of their Representatives; and ask it at their hands, to read it, and to read it through.

It contains my reply to certain publications, made some twelve months ago, by Doctor Miles Selden Watkins, of Huntsville, Alabama; Le Roy Pope, Jun'r., Esq., Editor of the Southern Advocate, Huntsville, Alabama; and the Honorable Benjamin Watkins Leigh, of Richmond, Virginia.—Which were extensively circulated through the Richmond Whig, the Philadelphia Sentinel & Herald, Mobile Mercantile Advertiser, and in the Baltimore, New York, and Boston Whig papers; and, last of all, in the Huntsville, Southern Advocate. And all this before I knew any such thing was agitated. I will give their principal publication entire, and some of the outline of others, after some preliminary remarks, by which these publications can be better understood.

In July, 1837, seven other gentlemen, and myself, were candidates to represent Madison county in the Legislature of Alabama. We were called upon by the people to say, if elected, and it should be agitated, in any form, in the Legislature, to resister the Bank of the United States, whether we would vote for or against it. The eight candidates, to a man, and myself one of them, declared, explicitly, they would vote against it.

I was immediately assailed by Mr. Pope, Editor of the Southern Advocate, in that paper. He published, three weeks in succession, that I, a Jackson man, and a member of the committee of Finance, of the Senate of the United States, had voted in favor of that bank in 1836. He brought in connection with my vote, the Bank Report of Mr. McDade, in 1830, asserting him to be a good Jackson man ~~also~~. The names of the Hon. Henry Clay, and the Hon. David Walker, were also in every ear, as high authority of the constitutionality of that Bank. And mostly, to put the question beyond all doubt, Mr. Editor Pope arrayed the illustrious names of Washington, Marshall, and Madison, and the rest. David Walker, were also in every ear, as high authority of the constitutionality of that Bank.

After mostly, to put the question beyond all doubt, Mr. Editor Pope arrayed the illustrious names of Washington, Marshall, and Madison, and the rest.

The point immediately raised, and appointed the date of opposition, was, the self Doctor Miles Selden Watkins, to protest that session which they both instantly ratified.

son, as conclusive of its constitutionality. And to the sanctity of their name, he appealed the weight of his own eulogy,—in which he declared they were,

"The purest names in the Republic—Statesmen and political Juris of the most enlarged and comprehensive genius and knowledge, and most patriotic virtue, who will to the last, stand up for the pure, unvarnished, most uncompromising, no question, clear, unadulterated exposition of the constitution!"—See *S. & D. 1st chapt. 1837.*

I was aware of the name of great names, but knew the people were unconcerned in political plots and intrigues, and had an abiding confidence in their honesty and intelligence; and upon a notice of two days only, a very large and intelligent assembly favored me with their attention in the Methodist church, in Huntsville.—Hence whom, I hurriedly, but conscientiously, gave my view of the Bank opinion of each of those distinguished statesmen.

Two days after, a very labored Essay, that filled seven columns of the Southern Advocate, appeared in that paper, set written by Mr. Pope, but by a committee of his next friends.—At the head of which stood, in large capital letters, this inscription:

"JUDGE SMITH'S SPEECH IN THE METHODIST CHURCH."

Which scarcely contained a semblance of my speech. Instead of my speech, it was a tissue of the last bitter and calumniatory spleen of the writer, digested in their most frantic mood. The paper, containing this prolixically large Essay, was issued from the press four days in advance of its regular time, to be hurried through the country with telegraphic despatch, when too late for me to respond to it before the election. Notwithstanding I was elected by an overwhelming majority. And there it was to be suppressed the strife as and have ended; as it usually does on such occasions. But notwithstanding opponents, disappointed in their efforts, and vindictive of their gross ingratitude which always impresses high minded opponents, commenced the party invective, sarcasm, and appointed the date of opposition, I, here, at the request of my friends, send you this letter with the request that you will obtain from your sources correct information as to the facts in the case, and communicate the result to me, as soon as may suit your convenience.

Yours truly, M. S. WATKINS

*Letter from Dr. Miles Selden Watkins, Huntsville, Alabama, to B. W. Leigh, Huntsville, August 10, 1837.*

My Dear Sir—Dear Doctor—Political enemies, which terminated on the 10<sup>th</sup> month of August, 1837, in more than one occasion, by the Hon. Wm. Smith, (late of South Carolina,) that Judge Justice Marshall was the owner in 17 shares of stock in the U. S. Bank, in the year 1819, which he held in the name of Mr. Jackson vs. The State of Maryland, that the charter of that bank was contested.

This statement derives additional importance from the fact, that it was made upon the authority of a U. S. Senator now representing the State of Alabama.

We here are not willing to minish the truth of such allegations upon partisan statements, without interfering with your power, and believing it to be the duty of every man to protect the character of one country and its distinguished benefactors, I here, at the request of my friends, send you this letter with the request that you will obtain from your sources correct information as to the facts in the case, and communicate the result to me, as soon as may suit your convenience.

Yours truly, M. S. WATKINS

*Letter from Dr. Miles Selden Watkins, Huntsville, Alabama, to B. W. Leigh, Huntsville, August 10, 1837.*

Dear Sir—I should be greatly obliged if you would answer to your letter of the 10th inst. for I intended to write to Philadelphia in a post office, but it was necessary to delay me to answer it with satisfactory and accuracy.

The information which you receive, no reliance can be placed upon the late Col. J. A. Smith, alias that noted lawyer of Green Bay, of the United States, Esq., &c. In his book, "The Slave in the States," or "McClung's Slave in the Slave States," he states that the character of that bank is illusory.

It appears by Mrs. Weston's report to that the amount of it was commenced in February, 1819, and that the Court of Justice the opinion of the Court on the 10<sup>th</sup> August, 1819, was,

"That the claim of the plaintiff for the recovery of the sum of one thousand dollars, and interest, for services done to the U. S. Bank, is not founded in law, and that the defendant is entitled to judgment for the same."

As it did not appear from these documents absolute certainty, that Mr. Marshall had title to his property in the last named case, I repeated the name of Col. J. A. Smith, in the hope that I might be able to get a copy of the decision of the court, and I did so in the case of Mr. Jackson vs. The State of Maryland, that the charter of that bank was contested.

We here are not willing to minish the truth of such allegations upon partisan statements, without interfering with your power, and believing it to be the duty of every man to protect the character of one country and its distinguished benefactors, I here, at the request of my friends, send you this letter with the request that you will obtain from your sources correct information as to the facts in the case, and communicate the result to me, as soon as may suit your convenience.

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*Letter from Dr. Miles Selden Watkins, Huntsville, Alabama, to B. W. Leigh, Huntsville, August 10, 1837.*

Dear Sir—I should be greatly obliged if you would answer to your letter of the 10th inst. for I intended to write to Philadelphia in a post office, but it was necessary to delay me to answer it with satisfactory and accuracy.

I shall be glad to hear from Mr. T. C. [unclear]

### Names:

Alabama Legislature  
Bank of the United States  
Clay, Henry  
Cope, Thomas P.  
Distlie,  
Huntsville Methodist Church

Leigh, B. W.  
Leigh, Benjamin  
Watkins  
Marshall, Judge  
Marshall, Thomas  
Marshall, William  
McDade,  
Pope, LeRoy, Jr.

Smith, Judge  
Smith, William  
Watkins, M. S.  
Watkins, Miles  
Selden, Doctor  
Webster, Daniel  
Mobile Mercantile Advertiser

Philadelphia Sentinel Herald  
Richmond Whig  
Southern Advocate

### Places:

Huntsville, AL

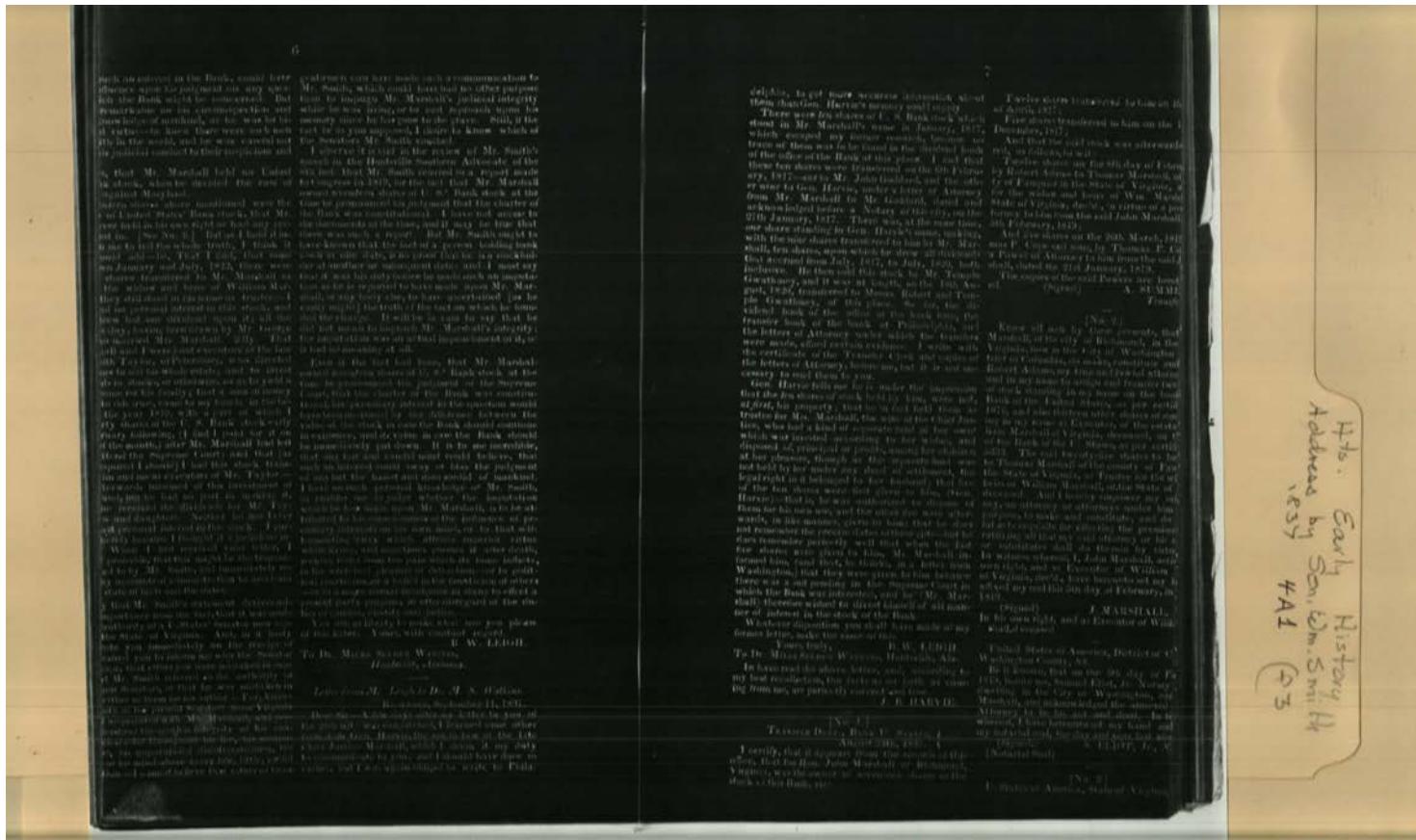
### Types:

speech

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## Topics:

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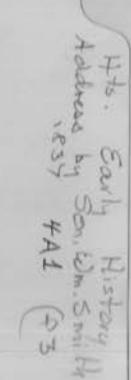
## Types:

## speech

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positive image, page 6 &  
Topics:

7

Names:

, George  
, William  
Adams, Robert  
Cope, Thomas P.  
Eliot, Samuel, Jr.

Goddard, John  
Gwathney, Robert  
Gwathney, Temple  
Harvie, General  
Harvie, J. B.

Leigh, B. W.  
Marshall,  
Marshall, Thomas  
Marshall, William  
Smith,

Summer, A.  
Taylor,  
United States Bank  
Watkins, Miles  
Selden, Doctor

Types:

speech

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positive image, page 6 &

## Topics:

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## Names:

, George  
, William  
Adams, Robert  
Cope, Thomas P.  
Eliot, Samuel, Jr.

## Types:

## speech

Goddard, John  
Gwathney, Robert  
Gwathney, Temple  
Harvie, General  
Harvie, J. B.

Leigh, B. W.  
Marshall,  
Marshall, Thomas  
Marshall, William  
Smith,

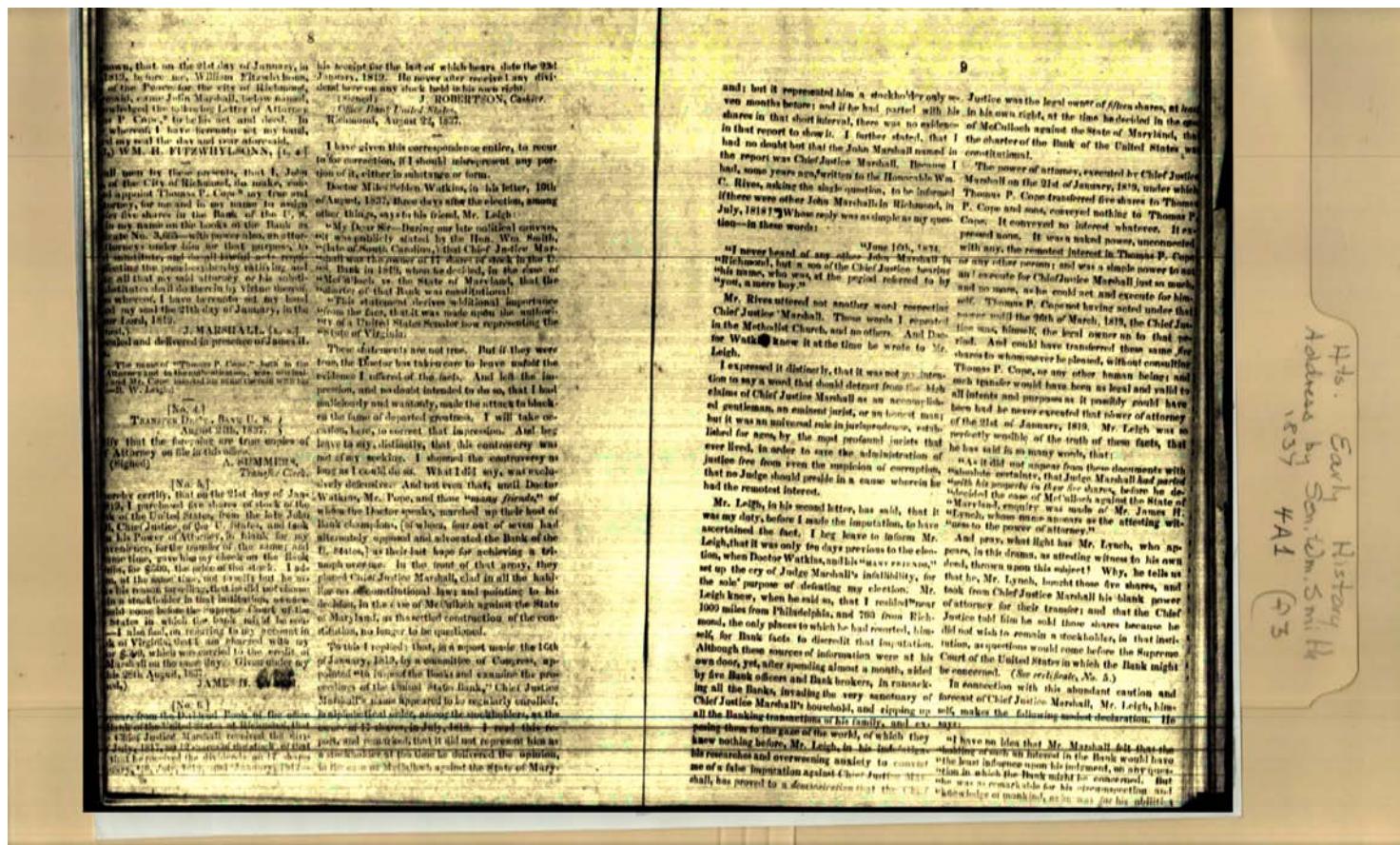
Summer, A.  
Taylor,  
United States Bank  
Watkins, Miles  
Selden, Doctor



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### Topics:

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### Names:

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William H.  
Leigh,

Lynch, James H.  
Marshall, Chief  
Justice  
Marshall, Julia

McCulloch,  
Pope,  
Rives, William C.  
Robertson, J.

Smith, William  
Summers, A.  
Watkins, Miles  
Selden, Doctor

### Types:

speech







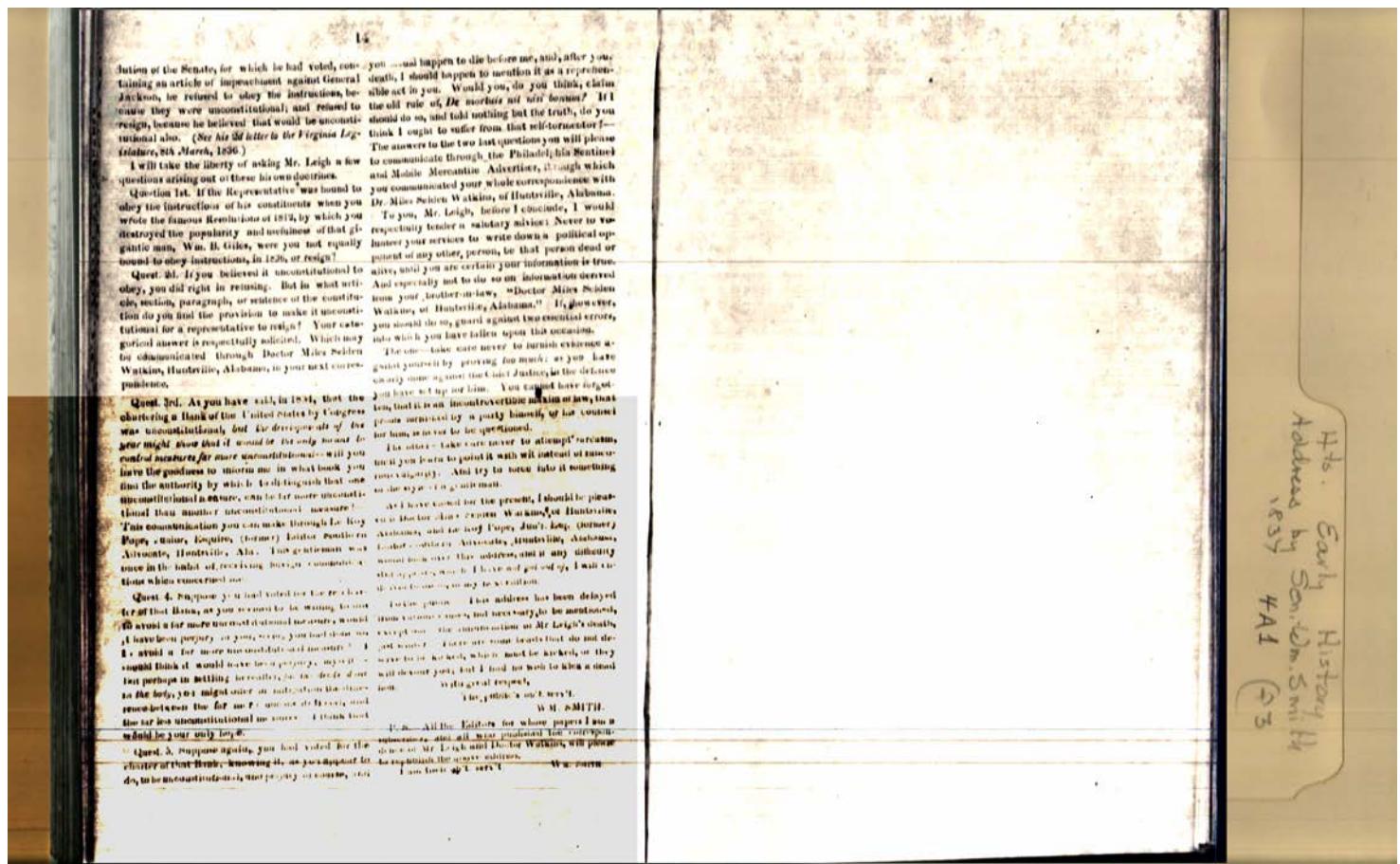




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Jackson, General  
Leigh,  
Pope, LeRoy, Jr.

Smith, W. M.  
Watkins, Miles  
Selden, Doctor

Mobile Mercantile  
Advertiser  
Philadelphia Sentinel  
Herald

Types:

speech

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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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