Guide to the Jacob Faser letters
MSS.0506

This finding aid was produced using the Archivists’ Toolkit
September 11, 2014
Describing Archives: A Content Standard
## Table of Contents

- **Summary Information** .......................................................... 3
- **Biographical/Historical note** ............................................... 4
- **Scope and Contents note** ..................................................... 4
- **Administrative Information** .................................................. 4
- **Controlled Access Headings** ............................................... 5
- **Collection Inventory** .......................................................... 6
## Summary Information

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Repository</strong></th>
<th>University Libraries Division of Special Collections, The University of Alabama</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Creator</strong></td>
<td>Faser, Jacob</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Title</strong></td>
<td>Jacob Faser letters</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Date [inclusive]</strong></td>
<td>1861-1865</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Extent</strong></td>
<td>0.1 Linear feet (16 items)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Language</strong></td>
<td>English</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Abstract</strong></td>
<td>Letters written from Mobile, Alabama, where Faser was working as a sword maker, to his wife in Macon, Mississippi, dealing mainly with personal news and information on the prices of available goods.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Preferred Citation note

Jacob Faser letters, W.S. Hoole Special Collections Library, The University of Alabama.
Biographical/Historical note

Jacob Oscar Faser was born on October 22, 1822, in Wurtemberg, Germany, and immigrated to the United States with his family at the age of five, and settled in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. He was apprenticed to F. W. Widmann, a famous metal worker and sword maker. Faser was apparently very talented as Widmann, upon his death in 1848, bequeathed his pattern (sword) book/catalog to Faser.

After Widmann's death, Faser stayed in Philadelphia and worked for William H. Horstmann who had bought Widmann's stock and equipment. He married Louise Elizabeth Mentzinger on October 19, 1848. The couple had nine children, four of whom died very young: Jacob Edward (1849-1853); Emma Virginia "Emmie" (1851-1853); Pamela (1853-1941); Christian (1955-?); Catherine Matilda "Katie" (1958-1932); Lillie Elfrida (1860-1864); William (1864-1866); Joseph Oliver (1867-1943); and Clara Irene (1872-?).

In 1854, Faser moved his family to Macon, Mississippi, where he set up a silversmith shop. At the outbreak of the Civil War, he left his family in Macon, and went to Mobile, Alabama, in 1861, to help set up a sword factory on St. Francis Street for James Conning. During the war, he also worked at the Confederate Briarfield Arsenal in Columbus, Mississippi, and at the Selma Arsenal in Selma, Alabama.

He returned to Macon in 1864 where he reopened his silversmith shop and making guns and swords. He was elected mayor of Macon and later was an alderman. He died in Macon on August 4, 1891.

Scope and Contents note

A collection of letters written from Mobile, Alabama, where Faser was working as a sword maker, to his wife in Macon, Mississippi. They deal principally with personal news and information on the prices of available goods.

Administrative Information

Publication Information
University Libraries Division of Special Collections, The University of Alabama November 2009

Revision Description
March 2013

Conditions Governing Access note
None

Conditions Governing Use note
None

Provenance
Gift of Mrs. Robert Kirksey, 1991

Processed by
Updated by Donnelly Walton, 2009; updated by Martha Bace, 2013, 2014

Controlled Access Headings

Personal Name(s)

• Faser, Jacob -- Correspondence

Subject(s)

• Alabama
• Business and Labor
• Civil War
• Commercial products--Prices--Alabama--Mobile
• Daily Life and Family
• Sword-maker
• Swords--Confederate States of America
Collection Inventory

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Letters</th>
<th>Box</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3396</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>