

A1475

Sappington-Marmaduke Family Papers, 1810-1941

4.0 linear feet

Processed by Christopher Gordon, October 2003

REPOSITORY

Missouri Historical Society Archives

P.O. Box 11940

St. Louis, MO 63112-0040

314-746-4510

archives@mohistory.org

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Dr. John Sappington was born May 15, 1776, in Maryland. He was the son of Mark Brown Sappington and Rebecca Boyle Sappington. John studied medicine under his father until 1800 when he moved to Franklin, Tennessee, to begin his own practice. In 1814-1815, he studied medicine at the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia and received his M.D. He returned to Franklin but later moved to Missouri in 1817. Sappington settled first in Howard County before making his permanent home in Arrow Rock, Saline County, in 1819.

Dr. Sappington is regarded as the first doctor to effectively use quinine for the treatment of malaria and fevers. He rejected the common practices of bloodletting and purges in favor of modern medical practices. In 1832, Sappington began to produce a malaria remedy named "Sappington's fever pills." He employed agents across the Midwest and South to sell the pills. By patenting his medicine and acting as manufacturer and wholesaler, Sappington alienated himself from many physicians of the period who looked upon his actions as unprofessional. The pills were extremely successful and sold by the millions. In 1844, Sappington wrote *The Theory and Treatment of Fevers*, a book written as a treatment guide for the general public. Dr. Sappington married Jane Breathitt in 1804. They had nine children. He died September 7, 1856, at his home, "Fox Castle," in Arrow Rock.

Meredith M. Marmaduke was born in Westmorland County, Virginia, in 1791. He was the son of Vincent and Sarah Porter Marmaduke. During the War of 1812, Marmaduke was commissioned a colonel of the Westmorland County militia. After the war, he was appointed U.S. marshal for the eastern district of Virginia and later served as clerk of the circuit court. Marmaduke moved to Missouri in 1821 for health reasons. He partnered with several men of Saline County and soon became a successful Santa Fe trader. By 1820, he had settled on a farm near Arrow Rock. He married Levinia Sappington, daughter of Dr. John Sappington. They had ten children. M.M. Marmaduke died in Arrow Rock in 1864.

Marmaduke engaged in the general merchandise business and formed Marmaduke and Company and was involved with the partnership of Marmaduke and Sappington Company. M.M. Marmaduke was heavily involved in statewide politics and was closely associated with Senator Thomas Hart Benton. Marmaduke used his influence to organize the first state fair in Missouri and served as the fair's president. In Saline County, he served as county surveyor and as a county judge. In 1840, Marmaduke was elected lieutenant governor of Missouri. He served in

this capacity until the death of Governor Thomas Reynolds in 1844. Thereafter, Marmaduke was acting governor until the end of the term. He ran for governor in 1844 but withdrew in favor of fellow Democrat John Edwards. After his term in office, Marmaduke remained active in Democratic politics in Missouri. In 1847, he was elected as a member of the state constitutional convention. When it became apparent that the South would secede from the Union, Marmaduke remained loyal to the federal cause. Marmaduke's son John broke with his father and enlisted as a Confederate officer. Brigadier General John Marmaduke commanded a force of Missouri volunteers throughout the war.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The Sappington-Marmaduke Family Papers consist of correspondence, circulars, deeds, ferry licenses, bills of sale, receipts, land surveys, commissions, and account books. The collection is divided into two series: **Correspondence Series** (1810-1941) and **Accounts Series**, (1803-1895). Both series are arranged chronologically. The collection is indexed in the Archives Card Catalog.

The Sappington-Marmaduke Family Papers are a combined collection of the papers of Dr. John Sappington and M.M. Marmaduke. The **Correspondence Series** contains personal correspondence relating to family affairs, local news, Missouri politics, and business correspondence regarding Dr. Sappington's fever pill business and Marmaduke's mercantile and Santa Fe trade businesses. The collection contains correspondence to and from many individuals who are significant in Missouri history. Among the correspondents are Edward Bates, Thomas Hart Benton, Lilburn W. Boggs, William Clark, John Edwards, Seth Hardeman, Claiborne Fox Jackson, John Marmaduke, George Penn, and Thomas Reynolds. **[Note: Dr. John Sappington of Arrow Rock, Missouri, should not be confused with John Sappington of Sappington, Missouri, whose papers are included in the Hawken-Sappington Family Papers.]**

The **Correspondence Series** contains numerous documents relating to the family's slave holdings. Slaves owned by the Sappington and Marmaduke families are often mentioned by name. Numerous slave deeds and bills of sale exist throughout the collection. An 1821 copy of a county order establishing a slave patrol to police county roads and punish slaves caught out after 8 p.m. is among the items dealing with slavery. Slavery is also mentioned in a political context in M.M. Marmaduke's correspondence with various Missouri political figures.

The **Correspondence Series** contains manuscripts, receipts, orders, advertising circulars, business correspondence, and other material relating to Dr. Sappington's fever pills and the 1844 edition of his book *The Theory and Treatment of Fevers*. A copy of the manuscript "A Treatise on Fevers" is included in a bound volume. Letters to and from sales agents in the Midwest and southern U.S. document the sales of the fever pills including discussions of prices and marketing.

M.M. Marmaduke's involvement in the Santa Fe trade is represented by correspondence with his partners Samuel McClure and John Lucas. Among the items referring to the Santa Fe trade are Marmaduke's letters to and from William Clark, superintendent of Indian affairs, regarding items stolen from Marmaduke and his partners by the Osage Indians. The correspondence also contains details about trips to Santa Fe and Mexico.

The collection largely documents M.M. Marmaduke's involvement in Democratic politics in Missouri. Correspondence and circulars concerning political issues in Missouri from approximately 1830 to 1860 are represented in Marmaduke's papers. Information in the collection relates to Marmaduke's 1840 election to the office of lieutenant governor of Missouri, his political battles with anti-Benton Democrats, recommendations for political appointments, Marmaduke's ascension to the office of governor upon the suicide of Governor Thomas Reynolds in 1844, and his involvement in the state constitutional convention in 1847.

Correspondence and other papers relating to the life of Confederate Brigadier General John Sappington Marmaduke, son of M.M. Marmaduke, include John Marmaduke's grade cards from the U.S. Military Academy, letters to his friends while serving in the U.S. Army, Civil War military correspondence, and some postwar items.

The last folder in the **Correspondence Series** contains newspaper clippings of articles that relate to the history of the Sappington and Marmaduke homes, Sappington family history, and various events in the history of the Boonslick and/or Little Dixie region of Missouri written by Charles Van Ravenswaay.

The **Accounts Series** contains two boxes of receipts, memorandum books, bills, bills of sale, account books, ledgers, and other business account items. This series primarily documents the business activities of E.D. Sappington & Company and the firms of Marmaduke and Sappington and Pearson and Sappington. Information relating to the sales of Dr. Sappington's fever pills is contained in this series. The ledgers and daybooks of E.D. Sappington and Company, a grocery store, are included in this series. The books contain information on the store's operation from 1829-1845. Three volumes of the general merchandise business of Marmaduke and Company and Marmaduke and Sappington Company of St. Helena and Jonesboro, Missouri, detail the businesses' operations from 1832 to 1836.

Information pertaining to Dr. John Sappington and his *Theory and Treatment of Fevers* can be found in Thomas Hall's article "John Sappington," published in the *Missouri Historical Review* (Vol. 24, #2; January 1930). An examination of Sappington's farming and business ventures can be found in Lynn Morrow's "Dr. John Sappington: Southern Patriarch of the West," *Missouri Historical Review* (Vol. 90, #1; October 1995). Meredith Miles Marmaduke's Santa Fe trade journal along with notes by F.A. Sampson was published in the *Missouri Historical Review* (Vol. 6, #1; October 1911).

INVENTORY

Correspondence Series, 1810-1941; no date

Box 1 1810-1831

folder 1	1810-1821
folder 2	1822-1824
folder 3	1825-1827
folder 4	1828
folder 5	1829
folder 6	1830
folder 7	1831

Box 2 1832-1840

folder 1	1832-1834
folder 2	1835-1836
folder 3	1837-1838
folder 4	1839
folder 5	January-July 1840
folder 6	August-December 1840

Box 3 1841-1845

folder 1	1841
folder 2	1842
folder 3	1843
folder 4	January-June 1844
folder 5	July-December 1844
folder 6	1845

Box 4 1846-1850

folder 1	1846
folder 2	January-July 1847
folder 3	August-December 1847
folder 4	January-April 1848
folder 5	May-December 1848
folder 6	1849
folder 7	1850

Box 5 1851-1869; 1930-1941

folder 1	1851
folder 2	1852
folder 3	1853
folder 4	1854
folder 5	1855
folder 6	1856-1859
folder 7	1860-1869
folder 8	1930-1941; clippings
folder 9	Genealogy

Box 6 no date

folder 1 no date
folder 2 no date
folder 3 no date

Accounts Series, 1803-1895**Box 7 1803-1838**

folder 1 1803-1822
folder 2 1823-1827
folder 3 1828-1830
folder 4 1831-1832
folder 5 1833-1834
folder 6 1835-1838

Box 8 1839-1895; no date

folder 1 1839
folder 2 1840-1842
folder 3 1843
folder 4 1844-1846
folder 5 1847-1849
folder 6 1850-1855
folder 7 1856-1895
folder 8 no date
folder 9 no date

Volumes, 1829-1845

Volume 1 Daybook; Marmaduke and Company, St. Helena, Missouri, May 28, 1832-May 21, 1833
Volume 2 Account book: Marmaduke and Company, St. Helena, Missouri, and Marmaduke and Sappington, Jonesboro, Missouri, May 17, 1832-August 1, 1833
Volume 3 Account book: Marmaduke and Company, St. Helena, Missouri, and Marmaduke and Sappington, Jonesboro, Missouri, 1832-1836
Volume 4 Daybook: E.D. Sappington and Company, Jan. 1-Sept. 30, 1830
Volume 5 Daybook: E.D. Sappington and Company, July 18-Dec. 31, 1830
Volume 6 Daybook: E.D. Sappington and Company, Jan. 4-July 31, 1831
Volume 7 Daybook: E.D. Sappington and Company, Jan. 1, 1831-Jan. 1, 1832
Volume 8 Daybook: E.D. Sappington and Company, Nov. 31, 1831-July 31, 1833
Volume 9 Daybook: E.D. Sappington and Company, July 31-Dec. 31, 1832
Volume 10 Daybook: E.D. Sappington and Company, Jan. 1-Aug. 1, 1833
Volume 11 Daybook: E.D. Sappington and Company, Aug. 5, 1833-June 24, 1836
Volume 12 Daybook: E.D. Sappington and Company, Jan. 4-July 31, 1834
Volume 13 Daybook: E.D. Sappington and Company, Aug. 1-Dec. 31, 1834
Volume 14 Daybook: E.D. Sappington and Company, Jan. 1-June 27, 1835
Volume 15 Daybook: E.D. Sappington and Company, July 1, 1835-Oct. 18, 1843
Volume 16 Expense journal: E.D. Sappington and Company, July 3, 1833-Jan. 26, 1835

Volume 17 Ledger: E.D. Sappington and Company, Oct. 1829-March 1845
Volume 18 Ledger: E.D. Sappington and Company, Feb. 18, 1830-Sept. 13, 1833
Volume 19 Ledger: E.D. Sappington and Company, 1834-1835
Volume 20 Manuscript: Dr. John Sappington's "A Treatise on Fevers"