

Augusta County Historical Society
Acc. # 7
Archibald Gerard Robertston Collection
2 March 1874, undated

Size: 1 folder (3 items)

Associated Material: Stuart Family Papers, 1768-1912, Acc. 29922, Miscellaneous Reels 602-605, Library of Virginia, Richmond.

Historical/Biographical Note: Alexander Hunter Holmes Stuart, the son of Judge Archibald Stuart, was born on 2 April 1807, in Staunton. A lawyer, he represented Augusta County in the Virginia House of Delegates, 1836-1837 and 1874-1877, and in the Virginia Senate, 1857-1861. He served one term in the U.S. House of Representatives, 1841-1843, and was Secretary of Interior in the Fillmore administration, 1850-1853. One of the most prominent members of the Whig Party in Virginia before the Civil War, Stuart opposed secession as a delegate to the 1861 Virginia Convention. After the war, he served on the Committee of Nine that helped restore home rule to the state. He died in Staunton on 13 February 1891 and was buried in Thornrose Cemetery.

The trustees of Staunton Academy were incorporated in 1792, but the actual building was not completed until about 1810. The academy operated for nearly seventy years, until the building was turned over to the trustees of public free schools.

Scope & Content: Consists of three documents collected and donated by Archibald Gerard Robertson, a lawyer in Richmond, Va.: an undated letter from "Harbottle Grindstone," intended for publication in the *Staunton Spectator* and concerning the Staunton Academy; a letter from the sheriff of Augusta Co., W. L. Maury (or Mauzy), to A. H. H. Stuart, dated 2 March 1874, and an accompanying petition from various members of the Augusta County bar.

The letter and petition to Stuart address increasing the pay of the county sheriff and deputies. The Grindstone letter is addressed to the trustees of the Staunton Academy, thanking them for their efforts on behalf of the school.

Organization/Arrangement: Chronological