Form of material and dates: Dated 1783-1825. Letters, 1783-1825, primarily between William Short (1759-1849), American diplomat and financier, who, after a career in Europe, settled in Philadelphia, Pa., and his brother, Peyton Short (1761-1825), a native of Virginia who moved to Kentucky and engaged in extensive land speculation there and in Ohio. William gives advice concerning Peyton's career and the education of his children, and discusses other family matters, but is primarily concerned with various speculative land transactions in Kentucky and Ohio. Frequent litigation is involved, and, in the later years, William and Peyton's letters show an estrangement brought on by the latter's financial problems.

Acc. no.; Number of items; Date Received; Source
48 items; 3 March 1947; Gift of Dr. and Mrs. John W. Price, Louisville, Ky.

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Other remarks: Materials relating to the Short Papers include the William Short Short Papers and the Skipwith Family Papers.
3 Octob[er] 1783. W[illi]am Short, Richmond, [Va.], to Peyton Short, Williamsburg, [Va.]. Urges him to stand for election in the fall, as best means to get his name before the public. 3pp. AL.

24 Nov. 1783. W[illi]am Short, Rich[mon]d, [Va.], to Peyton Short, Williamsburg, [Va.]. Admonishes him to overcome his natural shyness if he is to be a lawyer. 1 p. ALS.

27 Sept[ember] 1784. W[illi]am Short, Philadelphia, [Pa.], to Peyton Short, "near Cabin Point," Surry County, Virginia. Is leaving for Falmouth on British packet Oct. 7; has met some of fellow passengers, including secretary to Dutch legation; spoke with [Henry] Laurens on conditions in Europe; directs that proceeds of sale of negroes be invested in lots in Norfolk. 2 pp. ALS.

26 Nov[ember] 1785. W[illi]am Short, Paris, [France], to Peyton Short, [Surry Co., Va.?]. Directs him to write in care of B[enjamin] Harrison, merchant of Richmond; has seen his advertisements in the Virginia papers concerning lands for sale in Virginia and Kentucky, and wonders the cause; inquires into [plantation?] sale to Col. [John] Harvie; awaiting statement of accounts and affairs from Harrison, his agent; desires to know of future plans; has given up idea of practicing law and representing Surry Co. in the legislature [?]; best to sisters and Major Edmonds. 3 pp. ALS.

18 Dec. 1792. W[illi]am Short, The Hague, [The Netherlands], to Peyton Short, [Lexington], Kentucky. Has received no word in so long, is sending this letter by way of [Thomas] Jefferson, who will be sure it is delivered; Jefferson reported receiving a letter to be forwarded which, however, had no enclosure; Jefferson sent news of the family, including marriage of sister, Jenny; pressed sister, Eliza, to send a letter, and assured her of its safe delivery, but to no avail; aversion of Americans to writing; anxious for safety of family in Kentucky because of Indian war; will leave Holland tomorrow for Spain via France; send letters to Jefferson or through J. Browne, merchant of Richmond; passage through France risky, because of present troubles; papers and library scattered; his European affairs entrusted to a Dutch concern; if problems arise, Jefferson can help; Col. [Henry] Skipwith, handling affairs in Va.; asks about Norfolk and western lands purchases; laments having ever left home. 3 pp. ALS.
26 Dec. 1797. W[illiam] Short, France, to Peyton Short, [Lexington?], Kentucky. Had hoped to be home long ago, but the President, [Washington] refused to accept resignation; then death of someone in Europe prevented departure; recently learned letters sent to America not reaching Kentucky; pained by lack of letters, but attributes it not to inattention, but Americans' almost universal aversion to writing; since the beginning of the [European] war, correspondence most precarious; even Jefferson not writing; Devilmont, arriving in Spain from Pt. Pitt, [Pa.], just when preparing to depart; spoke of family affairs, and of hazards of getting mail to Kentucky; would have written through Devilmont but he left Madrid two days sooner than expected, which occasioned having to write letters and dispatches over a forty-eight hour period; has been subject to headaches, some violent and incapacitating; is only health problem of consequence, thinks it a "family disorder" stemming from mother's side; glad Eliza married, since this is the "natural course to happiness, especially for women"; personal affairs are in sorry state, as had not made better arrangements before leaving, and does not have a good friend in Richmond; has no clue to state of affairs, management of which has passed from [Benjamin] Harrison to Col. [Henry] Skipwith, (who has not sent the accounting he promised eight years ago), and then to Messrs. Donald and Browne; Jefferson now in charge of some affairs, but these out of his way. 4 pp. ALS.
28 July 1800. W[illiam] Short, Paris [France], to Peyton Short, [Lexington, Kentucky?]. Has received letter of 29 Nov [1799], and only sorry that it did not contain more details of the family's life; interested in every detail, no matter how minute; has been lucky in life, but to be in one's own country, working toward better life, under free government, the happiest life; alarmed to read brother contemplating trip to Europe, as it would take him away from affairs and would be dangerous and costly; hopes to return next summer or winter; if he writes while Congress in session, when Jefferson is absent, send mail through John Barnes, merchant of Philadelphia, through post from Kentucky; Barnes is agent appointed by Jefferson to handle affairs formerly administered by Skipwith; Col. [Henry] Skipwith has not been the best manager, but can find no fault with him in law or equity; recounts at great length problems in affairs and his attempts to have a reckoning of them; asks advice on how to collect money owed; cautions that he deal fairly and honestly with Col. Skipwith, as he is a relative and has always shown himself to be a friend; hopes to be home soon, but still wants this business begun as soon as possible; Jefferson has documents relative to Skipwith's agency which he will make available; asks about title to lands bought from Pasky [?]; questions about western land deals, and reflects on effects of "family disease" [speculation] which has afflicted them both; observations on land use arrangements in Europe, including servidity (which he compares to slavery) and metayers (sharecroppers); reflects on uncertain income of landlords and large farmers, and the evils resulting; happy to see his brother so prosperous; sorry to hear sad fate of negroes on Rush Island, who were sold; if had been in Virginia, would have put up money to buy those who could not find good masters, as Harvie ever was; if any of them can be found in the hands of cruel masters, buy them, and if they are capable of providing for their families, give them their freedom; if not hire them out to good masters; give particular attention to female slaves; family slaves from Surry, are those most concerned about, wishes them seen to; expresses happiness that nephew Edmonds well provided for with a good guardian but hopes to be able to take over that position after arriving in America; Fulwar Skipwith has suffered a reversal of fortune since arriving in Paris and is embarrassed in his circumstances; has some money coming to him from Sir Peyton [Skipwith]; try to recover sum from Sir Peyton. 17pp. ALS.

11 Aug. 1800. W[illiam] Short, Paris, [France], to Peyton Short, [Lexington, Ky.]. Refers to letter of 28 July 1800; as suspected, Fulwar Skipwith's letter indicates money must be gotten from Sir Peyton [Skipwith]; happy to receive letter of 29 Nov. 1799, with such a detailed account of brother's finances; reiterates opposition to brother visiting in Europe; discusses Col. [Henry] Skipwith's handling of his affairs, Paskie and western lands; encapsulates account of metayers (sharecroppers) of France, and the need to keep regular accounts. 1 p. ALS.
10 Dec. 1800. W[illiam] Short, [sic] [La Roche Guyon, France], to his brother Peyton Short, [Lexington Ky.?]. Happy to receive letter of 29 Nov. 1799; has recently sent two large letters, largely concerning state of affairs with Col. [Henry] Skipwith; hopes it will be satisfactorily completed soon; has seen Dr. Watkins in Paris, and learned much about Kentucky and the family, especially as to mode of life, which never is revealed in letters; the family's prosperity all due to his better judgement, as himself had counseled against this enterprise; great happiness in having lands cultivated by tenants rather than slaves; would never have guessed that where land so plentiful and cheap, so many could be found to work the land of others; this the best kind of property; wish had invested in such land long ago; sorry had not invested in Kentucky as you advised, but left it with [Col. Henry Skipwith], and which by now would have produced a fortune; would it still be possible to trade the 10,000 acres for land near his?; discusses profitability of rent vis-a-vis expenses; hopes plan of Dr. Watkins succeeds, and negotiations with the [Spanish] government successful; much land for sale in U.S. north and south; has heard Kentucky lands four to six times more valuable since [17]94. 2 pp. ALS.

12 June 1801. W[illiam] Short, Paris, [France], to his brother, Peyton Short, near Lexington, Kentucky. Have received no letter of late; Mr. Barnes, near Georgetown, and Jefferson report no letters received; has had to postpone leaving one more year, may be next fall or spring; again counsels against a trip to Europe; leaving tomorrow for Auvergne, and waters of Vichy; if remain in Europe, not sure if will winter in Paris or take another voyage; has heard some report that Mr. Watkins has met with some misfortune in Spain; does not think his mission will be successful; please send letter through Barnes or Jefferson. 2 pp. ALS.

14 Oct. 1801. William] Short, Paris, [France], to his brother Peyton Short, near Lexington, Kentucky. Expresses appreciation for travels on behalf of Harvie deal, and promise of the same for the Paskie affair; hopes to return next spring, but will not fix time of arrival, as so often disappointed; time spent at waters and in mountains has been very good for health; observations and speculation on Col. [Henry] Skipwith affair; happy satisfied with agricultural observations; tells of difficulty of transporting a ram to Kentucky, and the experience of one Frenchman who tried sending some to his farm in New York, their rising price, along with that of their wool, due to efforts of French government; sassafras is a good crop for Kentucky mentioned to Dr. Watkins; reiterates inquiry about Mush Island slaves; asks for another yearly account, as did last year, only more detailed; copy of agricultural arithmetic on Spanish ram production; will send letters to Jefferson, but under cover to Barnes; please do same;
14 Oct. 1801. (continued from page 2) Advised having sisters ratify division of father's negroes when they came of age; death of sister Sally gives other sisters claim on negroes left by her; has estate been settled?; what about Poythress, Peters, [Kerrs?] problems the result of "ruinous" Negoe property. 6 pp. ALS.

19 Dec. 1801. W[illiam] Short, Paris, [France], to Peyton Short, Woodford County near Lexington, Kentucky. Expresses grief on loss of brother's wife [Maria (Symmes) Short]; on returning [to America] plans to go westward after taking care of long-neglected affairs; will probably arrive next Spring, somewhere in the far north; happy Harvie lands purchased; laments extent of slavery in Kentucky; France to people the Spanish territories of the lower Mississippi River; might have been avoided by better [American] handling of foreign affairs; inadvisability of proceeding with Col. [Henry] Skipwith until return; mention of nephew [John T.] Edmunds. 2 pp. ALS.

17 Sep. 1802. W[illiam] Short, "Monticello," [Alleghany Co., Va.], to Peyton Short, [Lexington, Ky.?]. Discusses journey from Winchester, [Va.]; opposed to sale of Jersey estate, and does not wish to purchase it; disparages speculation as a characteristic of Americans, especially Westerners; Wilson Cary Nicholas on way to Kentucky, but not sure where, or whether interested in purchasing his land; account with Sir Peyton Skip[with] still uncertain; two sorrels and chair received; will dispose of the grey as directed; estate papers from Col. H[enry] Skip[with] may be lodged with George Jefferson of Richmond. 2 pp. ALS.

18 Dec. 1802. W[illiam] Short, New York, [N.Y.], to Peyton Short, Pittsburg[h], Pennsylvania. Bemoans brother's erratic travels of late, and their not meeting; thanks for services of "Old Honest Joe," and worries about his return trip; happiness at brother's fortune [remarriage]; is collecting papers dealing with Col. [Henry] Skipwith's affairs. 3 pp. ALS.

1 July 1804. W[illiam] Short, New York, [N.Y.], to Peyton Short, Lexington, Kentucky. Does not know whether to sue or not over Carneal's not having given title or patent to the 10,000 acres of land; if cannot write about this soon, please inform Mr. [Charles?] or Mrs. [Janes (Short)?] Wilkins about status and have them write; have out of trip to Europe; objects to delay in settling Carneal affair; would rather have $8000 in cash than a bond for $10,000 at the end of the year; feels that sending his sons to the Atlantic states for schooling a good idea; eldest son [John Cleves Short] should go to Bishop Carroll's school near Baltimore, where he will study under French professors; the cost of $400 per year is expensive, but should not be considered impossible since it is
1 July 1804. (continued from page 3)
considered the best school in the U.S.; write to Nazareth about
son [Charles Wilkins Short]; as to bond loaned, had hoped
it would go to discharge his debts, not to embarking on
new speculative ventures; only desires it to be paid back
a little at a time, through agents in New York, Lewis
& Lawrence Brokers, Wall Street or Philadelphia George
Taylor, Jr., Broker, Second Street, or to Mr. Charles
Wilkins, merchant in Lexington, [Ky.], who will send it
to Philadelphia; have not heard from sisters, Wilkins
and Ridgely for some time. 3 pp. ALS.

brother Peyton Short, Lexington, Kentucky. Discusses
suit against Carneal for breach of contract and contract
law; mention of Paskie land; reiterates advice to send
sons to schools in Atlantic states, and soon; discusses
a loan; please send mail to Philadelphia, where agent
will always know whereabouts; have not heard from Dr.
R[iddely] or W[ilkins] since last visited, but heard from
sister W[ilkins] that [Riddely] is now a farmer and [Wilkins]
a merchant in Lexington; has not heard of J[ohn] Edmonds
since his marriage; has sent engravings for brother and
sisters. 3pp. ALS.

15 Nov[embe]r 1804. Peyton Short, Woodford Co., [Ky.], to
William Short, [New York, N.Y.?]. Continued lengthy discussion
of Carneals's breach of contract; comments that juries
often consider a suit to compel a conveyance as a maneuver
by obligee to convert the obligation into a money debt,
so it must be proven that the title was demanded and not
delivered; immigration is progressing with inconceivable
rapidity; some lands in Ohio bought 3 years ago for $2
are now selling for $5-$10 per acre; Paskie law-suit is
at last stage with the decree to be given during present
term; discusses speculation; Routomack affair a tactic
to get closer to shore. AL. Incomplete.
28 May [18]06. W[illiam] Short, Philadelphia, [Pa.], to Peyton Short, "Greenfield", Woodford County, Kentucky. Does not know if Capt. Hall (according to Col. Lytle's letter) was able to sell the land as he hoped; Gen. Wilkins confirmed his comment about selling lands; emigration good in that "quarter" so sales are good; also reports that the agent sold his land, used the money for his own purposes and then did not pay it when requested, a common occurrence; Capt. Hall should have received payment for sale, but no word of it; please send information on this matter; agent in Philadelphia is now George Taylor, Jr., South Second Street near the Pennsylvania bank; but while in country receive own money to avoid commission; if any money received, send it to the bank at Pittsburgh in care of Gen. Wilkins; keep apprised of Paskies land, and prospect for its sale; also request information on Ohio lands; since ignorant of Western geography, indicate nearby watercourses or settlements for reference, has learned of very small inheritance due from Skipwith side of the family; each brother's share one-seventieth of whole estate; wondering about proposed sale of Potomac lands; accidently learned from R. Peters about his suit against him; will help in any way possible. 3 pp. ALS Incomplete.

7 July 1806. Peyton Short, Woodford [Co., Ky.], to William Short, Philadelphia, [Pa.]. Has just returned from a month's tour of Ohio, but was not able to meet with Capt. Hall; detailed discussions concerning a land sale payment plan, litigation in connection with Paskie lands and the possible sale of some land on the Ohio River; thanks for news on the North Carolina "windfall"; lengthy inquiry and information about Jack Edmunds, and debts owed by him; appreciates offer concerning Powhatamack affair; pointed comments about Sir. Peyton Skipwith's estate settlement in connection with a 20 year-old debt owed him; also mention of Fulwar Skipwith. 12 pp. ALS.

6 March [18]07. [William Short], Philadelphia, [Pa.], to [Peyton Short, Lexington, Ky?]. Inquires about news of Ohio and Cumberland land sales, troubles in Ohio country make their main officers, such as Col. Lytle, hard to reach, making business hard to conduct; inquires as to Hall's agency, and the state of affairs regarding the lands under his disposal; discusses merits of having money in bank at Pittsburgh or Philadelphia; has learned Paskie's land to be titled in his name; the Skipwith "windfall" is not enough to bother with; discusses character of George Skipwith; reflects on desire of everyone to go into business, and attendant evils; unhappy situation of a man dependent upon foreign commerce or funds for his livelihood. 4 pp. AL.
21 April [18]07. W[illiam] Short, Philad[elphia, Pa.], to Peyton Short, Lexington, Kentucky. Inquires about plans for educating sons [John and Charles]; suggests Princeton as a good place; college costs less than $300 per year, with $450 necessary in supplies; surprised over sale of Ohio lands to Carneal at a discount, especially as he always pictured him as dishonest. 4 pp. ALS.

13 May [18]07. W[illiam] Short, Philad[elphia, Pa.], to [Peyton Short, Lexington, Ky.]. Has inquired into various schools in the region [for John and Charles]; only one definitely to be rejected is Princeton, where students have recently revolted; "Southern" boys have so much money they are a bad example and taverns are so near the school, they are a constant temptation; prefers a local school, headed by the Frenchman, Carre; however, he does not admit boys older than 13 years; requests information on Carneal sale. 2 pp. ALS.

17 June [18]07. W[illiam] Short, Philadelphia, [Pa.], to Peyton Short, Lexington, Ky. More hopeful of embarking this summer than before; will do whatever possible to aid sons [John and Charles] in getting in a school; thinks that the plan of sending one son before the other is a good one; Princeton is still in state of insurrection, but if restructured better than formerly it is to be preferred; looking into Carlisle, and a school at Germantown run by a Catholic priest who does not meddle in religion; chose between these three; describes tombstone made for parent's grave; will be leaving in a few days for New York; take care over Carneal sale; have Mr. Wilkins certify handwriting and sell Paskie tract for whatever price reasonable; has made a settlement with Col. Henry Skipwith for $6000, even though the amount should have been closer to $20,000; southern laxity extends even to the bench; to be paid in four installments by way of joint bonds in name of W. Skipwith and Ed. Harrison, who has married Col. [Henry] Skipwith's daughter; Peyton Skipwith and his wife, seen last year on way to Rhode Island, told of marriage; Col. Skipwith is in a bad way financially; his present wife's family says he has spent his wife's estate to pay his debts; pity him but cannot love him as once did. 3 pp. ALS.

22 June 1807. W[illiam] Short, Philadelphia [Pa.], to Peyton Short, Lexington, Kentucky. Sends more precise information on Princeton program, which is better, and more strictly administered since the insurrection; have Mr. Wilkins certify handwriting on Paskie sale; Gen. Wilkins says John Kerr at Chilicott a good man to handle affairs. 2 pp. ALS.
9 Oct 1807. W[illiam] Short, New York, [N.Y.], to Peyton Short, "Greenfield", Woodford Co., Kentucky. Just returned from the falls at Niagara; problems with the post to Kentucky; discusses evils of speculation, giving the examples of R[obert] Morris, prince of all [speculators] and G[eorge] Nicholas; only Pasties tract remains; please press Mr. Wilkins to go to the next court for that; 3 pp. ALS. Incomplete.

28 June [18]08. W[illiam] Short, Philad[elphi]a, [Pa.], to Peyton Short, "Greenfield," Woodford [Co.], Kentucky. States opinion of sending sons to Princeton if they desire to study law, rather than school in Philadelphia; mention of Carneal and Col. [Henry] Skipwith and debts owed by them; Paskie land issue. 3 pp. ALS.

27 Sep. 1808. W[illiam] Short, Philad[elphi]a, [Pa.], to Peyton Short, "Greenfield," near Lexington, Kentucky. About to sail for [France?]; has written to Mr. Wilkins about dealings with Carneal; desires moneys to be deposited in Bank of the United States Philadelphia; is leaving a trunk at the U.S. Bank with papers; also in it will be a tin box with titles; his son has not arrived; if he arrives after his departure, he will be assisted by Mr. John Vaughan or Mr. Mahler (?) Dickenson; asks that he sell all of his lands as soon as possible. 2 pp. ALS.

29 Dec. 1809. [Peyton Short], Fort Stoddert, [Ohio], to [William Short, Philadelphia, Pa.?]. In a former letter, advised that horses sell easier and at a better price in Ohio than in Kentucky, and that his horses should be sent there, but has recently observed in the Frankfort Palladium that the horses were put up for public sale; good market for [iron?] castings there; could probably sell 20 or 30 tons assorted; Mr. Owens promised all or part of payment due next spring in tall kettles, and a lower price if collect them at furnace rather than Lexington; perhaps, if funds allow, should have a boat built there to go to N[ew] Orleans, and if unable to be sold there, forwarded here; should be converted into a handsome profit in six months; some castings sold just before departure from Kentucky for whiskey, payable next spring; also sold Mr. John W. Hunt two tons at 40$ per ton, also to be paid in whiskey; there is a bond to secure a riverboat to send whiskey and other goods from there to New Orleans or any other market down river for his account; has said nothing of contract with MacNale concerning the Woodford Distillery, which would bring in 6000 gallons of whiskey annually until estate sold at $1.25 per gallon wholesale at New Orleans; hopes the contract with George Browne carried out; wants to keep slaves, and reclaim those tricked out of by arch-fiend T. H[art]; Suppose lands bought from Dr. Rumsay also on market, although had hoped to retire there; about March 1, an installment of $1000 due Dr. Rumsay is payable at the Russelsville [Ohio?] branch of the bank; think that may be raised in time from sale of lands on Elk River, [Tenn.]; agent there Mr. Hardy Holiman is an honest man;
29 Dec. 1809. (continued from page 3) has notified him of land purchased in Christian County, [Ky.], and exhorted him to forward to that Bank the amount indicated to discharge debt; would like to go elsewhere than Kentucky, where not known as someone who has seen better days; contemporaries in Kentucky have been going up at same rate as I going down. 4 pp. ALS.

5 Dec. [18]10. W[illiam] Short, Philad[elphia], [Pa.], to Peyton Short, New Brunswic, New Jersey. Glad he is travelling by land; please advise as to route; suggests he go westward by way of Col. [James] Henry; should leave patents for the 20,000 acres and other papers with Col. Henry, or some other dependable person; send information as to titles and prices desired; should have stayed in Kentucky, at least in opinion of Dr. R[idgely] and Mr. W[ilkins]; also would have saved living in taverns from Florida to New York these last twelve months; lengthy discussion of travel route and monetary matter. 3 pp. ALS.
24 Feb[ruary] 1811. [Peyton Short], Beaver Town, Pennsylvania, to [William Short, Philadelphia, Pa.]. Planned to go to Kentucky by water, but it turned colder and snowed, so he went overland on foot and by sleigh; now there is ice everywhere; has booked passage to Lexington by boat, which will leave as soon as the river is navigable; mention of resettling at the mills near Frankfurt; lengthy discussion centering on the raising of sheep, the profits from the wool, and the prices of lambs and ewes; mention of Carneal's debts. 4 pp. AL.

May 1811. [Peyton Short], Lexington, Ky., to [William Short, Philadelphia, Pa.] Discourse about misunderstanding of reasons why he should return to Lexington to live. 2 pp. Cy. ALS.

27 June 1811. Peyton Short, Lexington, Ky., to William Short, Philadelphia, Pa. Mention of Dr. R[idgely] and Mr. Wilkins; also confusion over dissolution of contract with Eastland; returning to Lexington in summer 1809, passed through fertile lands of Cumberland and Green Rivers, and purchased of a Dr. Rumsey a handsome and valuable tract in the Western County; 6000 acres, some of it already opened by nature to cultivation; much land speculation discussion. 4 pp. ALS.


Aug[ust] 1811. [Peyton Short], Lexington, [Ky.], to J. Forbes and Co., [Mobile, Ala.]. Recently learned from F[rancis] S[cott] Key, a lawyer in Washington, [D.C.], that Gen. James Wilkinson, who Key was prosecuting on his behalf, has assigned all his property to trustees for the benefit of his creditors; learn from his statement that he possessed an island off Mobile Bay; would like to learn more of it, as to name, value, quality of soil, etc.; will be travelling on Mississippi River this autumn; may visit your quarter. 2 pp. ALS.
23 Nov. 1811. W[illiam] Short, N. York, [N.Y.], to Peyton Short, [Lexington, Ky.]. Sale of Ohio lands involving Charles Wilkins; discussion of disposition of his negroes including their aging and thus not bearing any more children, separating families, and selling them to masters of their own choosing. 3pp. ALS.

24 Nov. [18]12. W[illiam] Short, Philadelphia, [Pa.], to Peyton Short, Lexington, Ky. Monetary matters; read in papers a movement in Congress to extend payments, and another to lower the price on the sale of public lands, and how the War [of 1812] will affect their [Congress] time in making final decisions; land sales; John [Cleve Short] wishes to join the Army, and may be the aide to G[enera]l [William Henry] H[arrison]. 3 pp. ALS.

7 April [18]15. Peyton Short, Lexington, [Ky.], to William Short, Philadelphia, [Pa.]. Gives proposal to pay debts owed and provide for family after his death, involving sales of land, transfers of mortgages of land in Indiana and Kentucky, and use of negroes. 4 pp. ALS.


8 Sept. 1815. Peyton Short, Franklin, [Ky.], to William Short, Philadelphia, [Pa.]. Rich[ar]d Boulware affair disappointing; sued in court, but could get back no more than property and, from a third person, $500; mills returned in a ruinous state; both our interests dictate repair of property; on advice of C[harles] Wilkins, have written son John for his aid; sorry that Eastland purchase so misunderstood by W[ilkins] and R[iddell]; have been offered $8000 cash, $4000 less than value; if Boulware sale had gone through, it would have netted $20,000. 3pp. ALS.

29 Oct. 1821. W[illiam] Short, Philad[elphi]a, [Pa.], to Peyton Short, Hopkinsville, Kentucky. Latest debt and estate settlement proposals mostly agreeable; feels that he [PS] has only hurt himself [through his speculation]; sorry to hear about sister, but knows she will soon be in heaven.

2 Feb[ruar]y 1822. Peyton Short, Christian County, [Ky.], to William Short, Philadelphia, [Pa.]. Charles [Wilkins Short] doing very well in Hopkinsville, [Ky.], with a lucrative practice; reviews past ten years of business matters mentioning such topics as the success of coal mines in Kentucky until after the War [of 1812], when the rest of the United States was in a state of depression, a mill that was razed during the earthquakes in the winter of 1811-1812, supporting his children in various matters, and the sales of land labor, and farm stock and produce; comment about invitation to move to Texas, but states that he is not a "man of war," and would only go "to cultivate the earth"; pledge to repay all money owed to him.

13 Feb[ruar]y 1822. [Peyton Short], Hopkinsville, [Ky.], to his brother-in-law, Charles Wilkins, Lexington, Ky. If Wilkinson's and his case come up before his appearance, please have Mr. Wickliffe appear instead of Mr. Haggar, who might betray him; do not know if H[enry] Clay has, but thinks he has come near; can promise Wickliffe a respectable fee; sorry about illness of last sister; has promised brother [William] an additional lien on estate to secure balance of payment due him. 2 pp. ALS.

17 Sep[tember] 1823. W[illiam] Short, Philad[elphi]a, [Pa.], to Peyton Short, Hopkinsville, Kentucky. Comment on continued breakdown of communication between one another; debt and mortgage information. 4 pp. ALS.

11 Feb. 1824. W[illiam] Short, Phila[delphi]a, [Pa.], to Peyton Short, [Lexington, Ky.]. Problems in communicating clearly despite being brothers; mention of Christian [Co., Ky.] estate; $1000 has been deposited in bank in Pittsburgh to be paid to him and will send more if it is necessary. 3 pp. ALS.

23 May 1825. W[illiam] Short, Philad[elphi]a, [Pa.], to Peyton Short, near Hopkinsville, Ky. Has heard that he is purchasing a parcel of land in Lexington, [Ky.], and paying for it in cash; expresses shock and disbelief at his ability to do this after all of their previous correspondence concerning his enormous debt situation; other discussion centering on monetary solvency. 4 pp. ALS.