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"HISTORY OF THE BANJO AND JOEL WALKER SWEENEY"

The collection includes articles by George H. COLLINS (1892–), a member of the Fraternity of Five String Banjoists of America, correspondence, newsletters, and newspaper clippings concerning Joel Walker SWEENEY, inventor of the five-string banjo.

- FOLDER 1** Articles by George H. COLLINS
- 2 Correspondence (1934–1959) to Vera THOMAS, who wrote article, "Minstrel of Appomattox" [*Holland's*, Vol. 53 (Feb. 1934), p. 11.]
 - 3 Newsletter, "Five-Stringer," 1953–1954; "Fretted Instrument News," 1955
 - 4 Newspaper clippings, 1955–1969

JOEL WALKER SWEENEY (1810–1860)

Joel Walker SWEENEY, son of John SWEENEY and Tabitha BAIGHS, was born ca. 1810 in Buckingham County, Virginia. The inventor of the five-string banjo and known as the "Banjo King," SWEENEY composed many songs based on slave melodies. He performed with his band throughout the United States and gave a command performance for Queen Victoria. He died 29 October 1860 in Appomattox County, Virginia. [*Lynchburg News*, 13 March 1969, Sect. D, p.6.]