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FELIX HARGRETT (1902-1988) PAPERS OF JOHN HOOK

The collection includes two volumes of typed transcriptions of the papers of John HOOK done by Felix HARGRETT. Also included are miscellaneous photostatic copies of the papers, as well as correspondence and research notes of HARGRETT. The papers cover the years 1760-1808 and are copies of the HOOK papers at Duke University in North Carolina.

BOX 1 Transcriptions (2 volumes)

- BOX 2**
- 2-1** Miscellaneous papers 1763-1771
 - 2-2** Miscellaneous papers 1771-1773
 - 2-3** Miscellaneous papers 1773-1775
 - 2-4** Miscellaneous papers 1775-1778
 - 2-5** Miscellaneous papers 1777-1800
 - 2-6** Miscellaneous papers 1801-1808
 - 2-7** Miscellaneous papers
 - 2-8** CALLAWAY vs. THOMPSON
 - 2-9** HOOK vs. PICKLESIMON and WEST
 - 2-10** KENNETT to BUFORD
 - 2-11** Thomas Ludwell LEE to Richard Henry LEE
 - 2-12** HOOK vs. ROSS
 - 2-13** HOOK vs. SWINFIELD HILL and Company
 - 2-14** Manuscript fragments
 - 2-15** HARGRETT letters
 - 2-16** Miscellaneous notes and references

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JOHN HOOK (1745-1808)

John HOOK, the son of Henry HOOK, was born ca. 1745 in Glasgow, Scotland. He emigrated to Virginia and arrived in Richmond in 1758 as an indentured apprentice clerk and storekeeper for a firm in Glasgow. He later moved to Petersburg, where he worked for the James and Robert DONALD Company.

John HOOK was later partners with William and James DONALD in a store at New London in Bedford County, Virginia. Although the business opened in 1766, HOOK had a difficult time since he was a newcomer. Crop failures in the area resulted in HOOK accepting deeds of trust and mortgages for payment. He gradually acquired large tracts of land in North Carolina, Kentucky, and Georgia.

In 1771, he entered into a partnership with David ROSS, a leading exporter-importer in Richmond and Petersburg. The partnership lasted until 1779. ROSS brought suit against John HOOK for breach of partnership. The final settlement of the ROSS-HOOK Company was made in 1850.

During the Revolutionary War period, John HOOK was prosecuted for making treasonable comments against the new government in Virginia and for distributing Loyalist pamphlets. He was finally jailed but was released. Later, under threat of being tarred and feathered, he was taken prisoner and brought to trial. HOOK answered all the charges against him and was released, with the understanding that he was to cease all trade with England and was to sign an oath of allegiance.

John HOOK married 29 February 1772 Elizabeth SMITH, daughter of Col. John SMITH, of Bedford County.

John HOOK died in 1808 in Franklin County, Virginia.

[Warren L. Moorman, "John Hook, New London Merchant," Journal of the Roanoke Valley Historical Society, Vol. 11, No. 1 (1980), pp. 40-54.]

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FELIX HARGRETT (1902-1988)

Felix HARGRETT was born 30 May 1902 in Georgia and was graduated with honors from the University of Georgia in 1924. He was associated with the Home Insurance Company of New York during his entire business career.

Felix HARGRETT served with the U. S. Navy during World War II, retiring in 1946 as Commander.

Following his retirement in 1967, HARGRETT moved to Roanoke, Virginia, where he lived until 1983. He was a trustee of the University of Georgia Foundation and was a founder and trustee of the University Botanical Gardens.

Felix HARGRETT discovered John HOOK's letter copy books and donated them to Duke University in North Carolina. He had discovered them while spending the summer at the *Mons Hotel* at the Peaks of Otter, in Bedford County, Virginia.

Felix HARGRETT died on 14 December 1988 in Lynchburg and was buried in the Evergreen Burial Park in Roanoke.

[Obituary, *News & Daily Advance* (Lynchburg, VA), 16 December 1988, Sect. B, p. 2 col. 2; Felix Hargrett, "John Hook, Frontier Bookseller," *Journal of the Roanoke Valley Historical Society*, Vol. 11 No. 1 (1980), p. 55.]