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Martha M. Bigelow to Dr. Silver, 7 February 1957

Martha Mitchell Bigelow

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Ann Arbor

LEWIS G. VANDER VELDE, Director
F. CLEVER BALD, Assistant Director

February 7, 1957

RACKHAM BUILDING
ROOMS 156-168

Dr. James W. Silver
University of Mississippi
University, Mississippi

Dear Dr. Silver:

It is amazing how often I run across Mississippi as I study Michigan history. Once again I have run across a connection that intrigues me and I am wondering if perhaps you can help me with it. I am to give a paper at the Michigan Academy of Science and Arts in March and since I can't get away from my love for the South and the Civil War I chose as my topic "The Confederate Attempt to Capture Johnson's Island in Sandusky Bay, Ohio, September 19, 1864." Jacob Thompson, Confederate Commissioner in Canada, helped plan the raid. Since Thompson was from Oxford, Mississippi, I am wondering if you can tell me if there are any Thompson Papers located anywhere in the state. I have written Mr. McCain at the State Archives but haven't heard from him yet.

I wonder if any any chance he has any relatives still living in Oxford that would have any information. I realize that this is a rather nebulous hope but if you can give me any leads at all, I will appreciate it.

—this refers to Thompson, of course, not Mr. Cain — one of the days I shall learn to be more careful in using pronouns!

I suppose in Mississippi now the jonquils are beginning to bloom and other early flowers--lucky you'll. It makes me homesick just to think of it. We are still covered with snow and frozen stiff--and I feel like that includes me as well as the landscape. Like Jacob working for Rachel, I feel that I have put in my seven years of exile--but like him I fear that I'm doomed to another seven!

Much as I like my job here, I do get lonesome for contact with students so this Spring I am teaching an extension course for Eastern Michigan at Ypsilanti--guess what in--Michigan History! The quirks of Fate are often amusing; but I am happy to have this contact again.

My regards to all the members of the History Dept. I suppose I shall always have a special love for the University of Mississippi.

Sincerely,

Martha M. Bigelow

Martha M. Bigelow
Ass't Curator of Manuscripts

MMB:mb