

ARCHIVES  
LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY IN SHREVEPORT

DESCRIPTIVE CATALOG SHEET

1. Main Entry: ~~George Macon Pendleton Family Letters, 1848-1904.~~ 2. Titles:

3. Donor: 4. Date:

5. Restrictions:

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

6. Record types: Typescripts of letters; some receipts.

11. Historical periods: 1840-1909

7. Quantity: 1 reel leaves; linear feet

8. Kinds of copy: (Typescript) Microfilm 35 mm (negative)

SUBJECT DESCRIPTION

9. Outline of career: Born in 1790, George Macon Pendleton, Sr., wrote from Walkerton, King and Queen County, Virginia, at his home called "Bienvenue." G. M. Pendleton, Jr. sometimes called "Macon," moved to Arkansas and Louisiana in the late 1840's, following his sister Adeline and her husband, Dr. Franklin Courtney. G. M. Pendleton, Jr., taught school in <sup>Jefferson</sup> ~~Jefferson~~, Texas, and his wife, "Dolly," Mary Ann Brown Pendleton, stayed in Cargile, about five miles south of El Dorado, Arkansas.

10. Scope and contents of collection: The correspondence between George Macon Pendleton, Sr., and G. M. Pendleton, Jr., "Macon", 1840's-1890's, reflects the older man's problems in getting his children started in life. It also includes correspondence between the brothers and sisters (1860's-1904) in East Texas, Arkansas and Virginia. Many letters from "Macon," a teacher, reveal conditions of education in rural areas of East Texas and Arkansas at Mt. Lebanon University.

12. Cataloger: 13. Date Catalogued:

*George M. Pendleton Pagan*

*- Union County, Ark. - JUNE 27, 1868*

I think if you have to be out of business you had better come home and be with me and help me tend to your sicke children and would no more what to do for theme you say your expenses are twenty dollars a month you are very extravigant and I with out a sent of money I have to live saving and worke hard you said you was not agoing to teach school but one month if they did not pay you and so you have throne a way three months and now you have to stay longer to make some money and I have to stay with out seeing you still longer this hard and ther is no faireniss in such doings you have no ida hou we suffer in this old negro quarter it is like a hot oven it will kill all of us this sumer it may be best if does if we have to live from you if I was at home I would not mind it were I had a good house and every thing convenient nou hare to cook and eat and ever thing in one hut this will learn me a lesson it is to bad I am greevd about it. if you was as tierd of such as I am you would come home and stay I had rather take my hoe and follar you rou for roe than this way of living I can not helpe whate you of it you can get a school hear at shdy grove the people regret not heiring at the first the year and I do think if have to teach for nothing you had better come home wher your children can go and I can be with you uncle Peter wants to send his children to you

Mary A Pendleton

(Above appears to be postscript to preceding letter 6-27-1868.)

Jan. 24, 1899.

Dear Grandpa:

According to promise I will write you a few lines to let you know how I am getting along.

I entered the Freshman Class partly, and partly the Sub Freshman. Geometry & English being in the former and, as I was not regularly advanced, Latin & History falling in the latter.

I have only fifteen recitations per week but even at that I have all the work I can do. In History we recite only twice a week but have so much reading to do that nothing is lost by this. The reading consist of tracing different authors on the same subject, and by this means we ought to be well informed. The history we are studying is the History of Rome by Allen.

I have been getting well ever since I arrived here. The young man who was to come with me, (Graham) failed to come, but I got a roommate, after waiting a few days. His name is Hagins, from Lincoln Mo. He is 16 yrs. old & in the Preparatory Dept. He has been sick to-day with the LaGripe and was not able to meet his classes. I think the worst thing that ails him is that he is homesick. I have not caught that yet and am going to try to avoid it.

My Instructors are Prof. Geo. G. Millar a brother of the President, and Prof. J. H. Reynolds, and Prof. A. J. Flanders of Georgia. I the privilege of reading any thing in the Library and am trying to avail myself of the opportunity -

*A. P. Reynolds*

*George M. Pendleton Papers*  
State of Ark.

County of Union

This agreement, between J. H. Howell, J. S. Frost,  
 and J. S. Brown as Directors of School District No 59 in the County  
 of Union, State of Ark. and G. M. Pendleton who agrees to teach a  
 Common School in said District is as follows; The said Directors agree  
 ..... in consideration of the covenants of said Teacher here-  
 inafter contained, to employ the said G. M. Pendleton to teach a Common  
 School in said District, for the term of one month, commencing on the  
 29th day of August, A. D. 1887; to pay therefor in the manner, and out  
 of the funds provided by the law the sum of \$37.00 Dollars for the one  
 school month. Said Directors further agree that all the steps required  
 or allowed by law to be taken by said District and its officers, to secure  
 the payment of teachers' wages, shall be so had and taken promptly,  
 and the requirements of the law, in favor of the teacher complied with  
 by said District. The Teacher on his part, agrees to keep said school  
 open 8 hours each school day; keep carefully the Register required by  
 law; preserve from injury to the utmost of his power, the District  
 property, give said school his entire time and best efforts during  
 school hours; use his utmost influence with parents to secure a full  
 attendance of scholars and generally to comply with all the require-  
 ments of the laws of this State in relation to Teachers ....

his ability.

August 13, 1887

Signatures  
 J. S. Frost  
 J. S. Brown  
 G. M. Pendleton  
 Teachers

(013) 40  
Jefferson March 7th 1868

[ My Dear little wife

I would have written you before this but for want of paper to do so. I arrived here safe (but with an extreme bad cold) on the evening of the fourth day after I left all that is sacred to me. I opened my school on Monday last with only five students but it is a little better now from what I can learn these Texas folks although they are good pay are generally very remis in sending to school but I have long since learned that people who do not intend to pay their tuition are the most punctual to send and also the hardest to give satisfaction too but they tell me it is not so with this people, ] they are easily pleased and good pay my students are progresing rapidly my Alphabet Clas got to baker last evening. Your father was the worst cut down man I ever saw when he learned that Wm did not send him his money. he is still sick he has reduced considerably in flesh and his wife is very low with Bronchitis They have nothing to eat but a scant supply of bread and meat and he says he has nothing to buy more with. I never knew him to live so hard hauling is flat he mad: out to get to Jefferson the other day and in his extreme want which no one believed made enemies of his heretofore friends by telling them that his family was nearly on starvation and that he wanted them to pay him something to go upon before their contracts were due and they refusing so to do caused him to act very imprudently. Tell Wm he ought to send him his money

Jefferson May 16 1868

My Little wife,

Yours of the first of April came to hand eight days ago but I thought I had written six times and as such would wait a few days. I am thankful my little family is well, I enjoy fine health for which let us return our mutual thanks to that Giver of all good things exchange your flour if you want too and sell all your corn you can spare so that the weevil will not eat it. of course keep enough to do you until October tell Billy to ask Combs what is the fraction about his note and that he is not got to personate me in any way about the note because I let him make the settlement and knock off what he called lost time which I thought was doing me wrong but I said nothing and wrote it just as he said the amount was. you said nothing about old Wood, s law suit. You done right in giving Brother an order, but I am sorry you took the note back and I want you never to take back during life any note that I shall dispose of. Brother would have been very clear of bringing it back if he had not heard something was coming to me in Virginia. he could have sued Combs better than I way out here. My school is in such a condition that I cannot tell whether I am making any thing or not at any rate after this session I expect to go farther west. If my children was here going to school I would be satisfied and could make money by waiting until the end of the year for pay but my terms are to pay every twenty days and I collect very slow so slow that I am trying to get a school at Douglasville or rather near there <sup>Major</sup> ~~Major~~ <sup>Woosley</sup> says it will be worth one hundred dollars

a month in gold If I get the school he took my articles up yesterday to show you whether they like me here as a teacher or not five of my scholars will go to me up there. the people says I excell every school they have any knowledge of. questions are often asked about me by men at a distance how it is that I advance my pupils so fast and reply general is he understands his busines and is not too lazy to purform it. My alphabit Clas has been through their book three times. they have spelled through by heart the last time Peter and Ben Goza are two of that Clas, my whole school is progresing finely. I shall do my duty if I get nothing but my board for it. ] I have spent about twenty two dollars in Clothes, tobacco & C. lease my place to Jim Welch for four or five years if you can and If not I will sell It when I come home in August. If I can see that there is a fair prospect out here for me I shall move you anyway. If I could hear that you had leased I would buy teams at once for you. They do not ask more than two thirds what Billy did. I mean no harm to any body for any thing I write but my spirit is grieved and broken. Ben is off wagoning and has been for several weeks past Sally is now a gras widow, she and your folks send their best love to you. Kis my little family for me and tell Billy to be a father to them. If I cannot do anything else I expect to bring the girls out here next session and buddy if you will let him come tell him I will bring him some boots when I come I am sorry Coon has to sell her labor for Clothes.

Your devoted Husband

For the El Dorado Eagle.

June 19, 1877

Mr. Editor: I had the misfortune on Saturday the 16th Inst of witnessing one of the most disgusting scenes that I have any recollection of since the war. It was a farce or rather a fatal and mournful event in the Public school interest. In the first place I must confes that the school district which I visited on that day is well represented in its Directory. But - "Where ignorance is blis, It is fully to be wise." What can a conscientious directory do unaided by the patronage of said schools. The Directory was not willing to asume the responsibility of locating the schools or employing the teachers and as such left the same to be decided by the voters of the district. The amount of funds in the Treasury belonging to said district for school purposes not being sufficient (as the Directory thought) to employ first clas teachers they (the Directory) suggested the Idea of not having but one school this year instead of three and only two next year thereby enabling them to employ well qualified teachers which suggestion was treated with contempt. A creature in human form representing a perfect personification of Ignorance as far as Book knowledge is concerned spring from his seat and remarked that that would never do they ought to and must have three schools that he could furnish two number one teachers for one hundred dollars each their board included for the term of three months. He knew them to be number one from the fact that he had tried them. The above described creature is a nice type to set in judgment on the learned world; and when he took his seat to my utter surprise a gentleman

92

whose brain is well stored with knowledge got up and remarked that as to the grade of teacher It did not amount to a straw that grade three was as good to advance children as any other and as such regardless of what grade an applicant for a school held he advocated the plan of not giving one grade any more than another that is a bright thought emanating from such a brain. He furthermore stated that fifty, sixty an seventy five dollar school teachers were merely fancy prices more after the money than any thing else. I well remember that he taught school as long as he could get seventy five dollars per month and that when the county was flooded with spurious school teachers and the wages greatly reduced he respectfully withdrew from the profession. As long as such well stored minds will take a stand on the side of low grade teachers we cannot reasonably expect any country to advance in prosperity. And old adage, is an "Idle brain is the Devils workshop" is true as far as my knowledge extend to illustrate there are two families living near me that have scarcely any education at all and to hear those people talk one might possibly believe that the whole world was a gang of thieves and liars. I have not heard one of them speak a kind word about any neighbor for the past nine years. Their whole conversation is a tirade of abuse relative to somebody. They cannot read and as such have not anything to talk about relative to important events. I once asked the old man why It was that he had and still was raising his family in such profound ignorance. He replied that he could make

better slaves of them by so doing. Bright Idea.

I do not know on what principle our present Examiner weighs the brain of an applicant but one thing I do know according to Capt. Miller, s modus operandi that a meritorious third gradeschool teacher was not qualified (as Veritas says of Justinian) to teach the young Ideas how to shoot in South Africa.

El Dorado

George M Pendleton

June 19th 1877