

Bought from Case Auctions, Inc., January 25, 2014, and
Donated to the South Carolina Historical Society, June 16,
2015.

Robert W. Trezevant, September 2016

I cannot personally vouch for the provenance of these items before their sale by Case Auctions. However, it seems clear to me that the items came from a person with direct connections to the Trezevant family, probably a descendant or other relative of Peter Trezevant (1768-1854) and his wife Elizabeth Willoughby Farquhar (1772-1845). Case Auctions could not divulge the name of the seller of the materials. I sent a letter through Case to the seller but got no response.

I also cannot know who wrote the descriptions for each item in the auction catalog. The genealogical and biographic information related to the three miniature portraits in the sale is based on the Trezevant family genealogy book of 1914. The seller included other documents related to each miniature. However, the description of the "SC document archive, Trezevant family" is very sketchy and provides no context for the significance of each document. I will elaborate that context below.

The total number of items in the sale was eleven, which were divided into five lots. I could purchase only one of the five lots, Lot 287. Lot 45 was the miniature portrait of Dr. Daniel Heyward Trezevant (1796-1873); 46 was the miniature portrait of Dr. Octavius Undecimus Trezevant (1810-1866); and 47 was the miniature portrait of Theodore Mathias Trezevant (1806-1868). These three men were sons of Peter and Elizabeth Trezevant. The miniatures were purchased by private collectors. Lot 38, Peter Trezevant's copy of David Ramsay's *History of South Carolina from its First Settlement*, was also purchased privately.

I purchased Lot 287, "SC document archive, Trezevant family," which contained seven items. Below, I have taken the Case Antiques description of each item and then elaborated on its historic context.

Item 1 - the 1814 will of John Farquhar, executed 1814. Farquhar died in 1826. Recipients include John Fraser and others associated with the East India company, Bengal. John Farquhar was involved in the production of gunpowder and became the sole agent to the Government.

The title of this document is "Copy of the Will of John Farquhar Esq. Executed in India date of 7th March 1814"

John Farquhar was the brother of Robert Farquhar of Charleston, whose biographical sketch appears on my Trezevant family website. Robert Farquhar's daughter, Elizabeth Willoughby Farquhar, married Peter Trezevant in 1789. In 1826, as one of John's seven nieces and nephews, she inherited a portion of his vast estate. Securing her inheritance involved a ten-year period of litigation in English courts, managed by Peter Trezevant. Elizabeth and her husband Peter then spent the rest of their lives in London. See their biographic sketch for details.

Item 2 -John Farquhar General Details of Facts for information of counsel for execution of will in 1826. (See "General Details of Facts" in this Addendum)

Elizabeth Farquhar Trezevant challenged the will of her uncle John Farquhar and had to take her six English first cousins to court. The label of this document is "John Farquhar Esq'r. deceased, General Details of Facts for the information of council" (14 pages). It contains background information used by Peter Trezevant during the litigation

Item 3 - Table of Events Documents, Trezevant vs. Mortimer. Document with a timeline of events covering 1769 to 1789. Begins with Robert Farquhar coming to America in 1769, gift of slaves to Mrs. Farquhar in 1771, British Parliament approves confiscation of American property in 1775, 4th July 1776 - Congress de-

clared the Independence of the American Colonies at Philadelphia, W. Farquhar obtains certificate of his having taken the oath of allegiance in 1784 and was killed on a voyage to Savannah aboard the Vepel, Peter Farquhar marries W. Trezevant in 1789. (See "Table of Events" in this Addendum)

This undated document, "In Chancery *Trezevant v Mortimer* Table of Events" (3 pages), begins, "1769 Robert Farquhar went to America," and ends in 1797. It presents a timeline of Farquhar's life in South Carolina. It, too, was prepared as background for the litigation in England.

Robert Farquhar was killed in a boating accident in Savannah in 1784. Some goods that he was transporting from the Caribbean to Charleston in 1777 for use by the military in South Carolina during the Revolution had been commandeered in Savannah by representatives of the state of Georgia. From 1777 to 1784 Farquhar tried to get reimbursed by the state of Georgia, to no avail. The executor of Farquhar's will was Alexander Chisholm of Charleston. When Peter Trezevant realized at the time of his marriage to Elizabeth Farquhar in 1789 that Chisholm had done nothing to further Farquhar's claims against Georgia, Trezevant got Chisholm to file suit against that state. He eventually took the suit *Chisholm v Georgia* to the Supreme Court of the United States, which decided in Farquhar's favor in 1793. However, that ruling was overturned in 1795 by the Eleventh Amendment to the United States Constitution, forbidding a citizen of one state from suing another state.

Item 4 - Peter Trezevant deposition - married Elizabeth W. Farquhar in September 1789. Discusses Captain Farquhar's claims on the State of Georgia. (See "Peter Trezevant Deposition" in this Addendum)

The title of this document is "Deposition for J.L. Petigru date 15 June 1840" (2 pages). It is the text of a deposition by James L. Petigru of Peter Trezevant. Even after the passage of the Eleventh Amendment in 1795, Peter Trezevant persisted in challenging the state of Georgia to pay the

amount due to the estate of Robert Farquhar. This deposition of Trezevant would have been part of that process, which was not settled until 1847.

Item 5 - 1838 account from South Carolina Charleston titled, "The State of Georgia to the Estate of Robert Farquhar" listing mostly textile items (cloth, sewing silk). (See "October 1777 List" in this Addendum)

The title of this document (1 page) is also difficult to read but does contain the date 15 February 1838 and was used by Peter Trezevant in his case against Georgia. It is an official list of those items commandeered from Farquhar in October, 1777, with monetary values assigned at an unspecified date. It was payment of the total amount by Georgia to the estate of Robert Farquhar that Peter Trezevant worked so long to achieve.

Items 1-5 are the only ones in this lot that relate directly to Trezevant family history.

Item 6 - Charleston September 12th 1825 letter from James McElhenny in Charleston to John Berkley in Paris, France. McElhenny discusses the poor cotton crop, the death of their friend Adamson, death of Charles Cotesworth Pickney, and other domestic matters.

There is also a handwritten outline of this later that was clearly done at a later date. Its title is "A letter from James McElhenny from Charleston, SC dated September 12, 1825[;] letter is to John Berkley Grimball Esq."

Item 7 - Invitation to Captain Parson from General Washington (possibly Captain William Parsons of Third Continental Light Dragoons, Virginia). Invitation to Captain Parsons from General Washington. Possibly Captain William Parsons (?) He enlisted in the Revolutionary Army on the 6th day of February, 1777, in the 3rd Regiment, Light Dragoons, Continental troops; he was commissioned Lieutenant Nov. 1, 1777; then commissioned Captain, after the battle of Eutaw, South Carolina, by order of the War Department, and served under this commission for

the balance of the war. In recognition of his services he was allotted three hundred acres of land and six hundred dollars.

The invitation is not actually signed by Gen. Washington.

Prior to my purchase of Lot 287 from Case Antiques, I had bought an original copy of a printed document titled "Report of the Commissioners on the Petition of Peter Trezevant Milledgeville 1842." It is a 42-page compilation of documents submitted to Georgia by Peter Trezevant and of official state replies between 1777 and 1842.

R.W.T. September 2016