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for DELMARVA HISTORY and CULTURE
at Salisbury University

John Luke Porter papers

0.25 linear foot; 1 quarter-manuscript box
2002-2003

Edward H. Nabb Research Center for Delmarva History and Culture, Salisbury University,
Salisbury, Maryland

Finding aid written by Joel Henry, September 2016.

Accession Number:	2006.040
Creator:	James Trader
Acquisition:	The John Luke Porter papers were donated to the Edward H. Nabb Research Center by James Trader in 2003.
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Related Materials:	Allison Morris Stickney papers, 2013.059 Brent Conner collection, 1999.023 Jim Trader Family History and Land Records collection, 2006.177

Biographical History: John Luke Porter was born on September 13, 1813 in Portsmouth, Norfolk County, Virginia. He grew up on his father's shipyard and gained a familiarity with naval engineering. At the age of 18, his father died and he took over his family's shipyard on the North side of the Elizabeth River. In 1834, he married Susan Naylor Buxton and had six children, over their 59 year marriage. John was employed by the United States Navy and was named Full Naval Constructor in 1859. A week after the attack on Fort Sumter, he resigned from the U.S. Navy. He joined the Confederate States of America Navy and was named Chief Constructor. John Luke Porter was known for his design of the first ironclad ship, the C.S.S. VIRGINIA, which was reconstructed from the frame of the MERRIMAC. After Robert E. Lee's surrender in 1865, he continued his maritime vocation in Norfolk and Berkley, Virginia until his retirement in 1888. He died on December 14, 1893 in Portsmouth, Virginia and is buried in Cedar Grove Cemetery.

Scope and Content Note: The John Luke Porter papers consist of genealogy of the Trader, Bailey, and Porter families, as well as excerpts, and correspondence about the naval battle between the C.S.S. VIRGINIA and the U.S.S. MONITOR. The research was conducted by James Trader, Maryland Eastern Shore local, he traced his genealogy back to the 17th century Virginia; these papers reflect that research from 2002-2003. He found that he was related to several military figures, such as John Luke Porter, the architect of the C.S.S VIRGINIA.

Arrangement Statement: Folders are listed by their location in each box; any given subject may be dispersed throughout the entirety of the collection.

Subject Terms:

General Terms

- Bailey Family
- Porter Family
- Trader Family

Corporate Names

- C.S.S. VIRGINIA/MERRIMAC
- U.S.S. MONITOR

Personal Names

- Bailey, Aurelia Porter
- Porter, John Luke
- Trader, James

Box 1

1. Genealogy, John Luke Porter Family, 2002-2003
2. Genealogy, Porter Family, 2002 August 2
3. Genealogy, Bailey and Porter Genealogy, 2002-2003
4. *Virginia Magazine*, The True Story of the VIRGINIA and the MONITOR, Photocopy, Circa 2002
5. Excerpt, C.S.S. VIRGINIA (MERRIMAC) Story of her Construction and Battles, John L. Porter, Photocopy, 2002 August 2
6. Excerpt, John L. Porter: Naval Constructor of Destiny by Alan B. Flanders, Photocopy, Circa 2002
7. Correspondence, re: Iron Clad Ships, 2003 August- December