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Sadler Family Papers, 1836-1921

Richard Sadler (1815–1890), the third member of a York District family to bear that name, preserved his family’s letters, receipts, account books, and financial and legal documents and, as a result, created an archive of over four hundred manuscripts that illustrate the many facets of the lives of a prosperous Upcountry family during the nineteenth century. Although Richard Sadler’s grandfather, Richard Sadler I (1733–1809) moved to South Carolina from Pennsylvania in the late 1760s, there are no documents in the collection dated before 1836; however, a seven page “Record of the Sadler Family,” circa 1920, outlined the various branches of the family beginning with the first Richard and his wife, Jane Sadler (1736–1822), their four children, David (1762–1848), Richard II (1764–1834), Joseph (1766–1812), and Ellen [Helen] (1769–1839), and their descendants. Richard II married Mary Robertson (1774–1842) and they were the parents of fourteen children, including Richard Sadler III. Much of the correspondence in this collection was written to Richard III by his siblings, their spouses, and nieces and nephews, and by Richard or his wife, Mary Henrietta Williams (1818–1896), to their sons Kiah Price Harris (1842–1864), Oscar William (1845–1907), John Milton (1848–1908), and Rufus Earle (1850–1906). The more than five hundred financial records, primarily receipts, that were preserved for the years from 1836 to 1892 document the purchases the family made from local merchants in Rock Hill and Yorkville and the sales of cotton produced on Richard Sadler's two hundred thirty-two-acre farm and sold to cotton buyers in Columbia, Chester, and Rock Hill. A farm account book, beginning in 1883 and ending in 1891, showed not only money expended for supplies, but also included cash, or credit, received for the sale of produce and livestock. Other manuscripts and legal documents, including contracts, dated 1866–1870 and 1875, between Sadler and freed men and women who worked on his farm planting cotton, corn, and other crops, documented the transition from slavery to a sharecropping system. One manuscript, a record of births and deaths of enslaved people owned by Sadler, listed fourteen births from 1821 to 1864 and five deaths between 1842 and 1865, and was apparently updated with the ages of the formerly enslaved at the time of emancipation. Although none of the Sadler family members held elected political office, Rufus Sadler was involved in Democratic county politics during the late Reconstruction period, was a member of the Tilden & Hampton Club of Pride's Old Mill during the election of 1876, and was also on the roll of the Democratic Club of Pride's Old Mill during the 1878 political campaign. A draft of the constitution of the former club and minutes of five meetings of the latter, written by R.E. Sadler, secretary, along with eight ballots from the elections of 1876 and 1880, are present in the Sadler Family Papers.

When Richard Sadler II died in 1834, he left by his will all his property, both real and personal, to his wife Mary Robertson Sadler with the understanding that upon her death there would be a final division among his heirs then living. In her will, signed on 7 January 1842, Mary wrote that it was her "desire & will" that her executor, her son Minor Sadler, would sell all her property at public auction, including her "tract of land containing two hundred acres or upwards," with the "proceeds of such sale to be equally divided amongst all my children share & share alike." Soon after her death on 20 September of the same year, Minor Sadler qualified as administrator and began carrying out his mother's instruction; however, before he could complete the administration of her estate, he died on 23 January 1843. Richard Sadler, Minor's younger brother, applied to the Ordinary of York District on 13 February to administer the estate in place of his deceased brother and thus was appointed to complete the process. Thirty-two manuscript accounts, appraisals, inventories, and receipts detail the complicated legal procedures that were not completed until August of 1846 when the last of the legatees signed receipts acknowledging the payment of \$274.58 that each of the heirs received. The surviving children who received shares from the estate were Stanhope Sadler (1798–1879) who, as the administrator of Minor's estate, also received his deceased brother's share; Benjamin F. Sadler (1806–1849); Isaac N. Sadler (1802–1858); James Addison Sadler (1810–1881); John Milton Sadler (1812–1861); Richard Sadler (1815–1890); and Mary Sadler's two sons-in-law, Josiah Harris (1796–1858), the husband of Rosinda Sadler (1800–1899); and Kiah Price Harris, M.D. (1800–1869), the husband of Matilda Sadler (1795–1877).

Richard Sadler III apparently purchased the house and farm that his parents had owned from the estate of his mother and resided there with his family for the remainder of his life. When he died in 1890, the writer of his obituary, published in the *Yorkville Enquirer* on 21 May, noted that Sadler "died in the same house in which he was born and has lived for more than 75 years." The Sadler homestead was in the neighborhood surrounding Bethesda Presbyterian Church, established by the Scots Irish settlers who flooded into the area in the 1760s, which counted among its early members Richard's grandparents and parents. During the twenty years between 1760 and 1780, at least 140 families settled in an area approximately twelve miles by fourteen miles with the church at the center. Richard I built his house near the south fork of Fishing Creek, a few miles south of Bethesda Church, on land that he had been granted, or purchased, as early as 1770. Sadler's property adjoined William Bratton's land and was also adjacent to the site of the Revolutionary War battle of Williamson's Plantation, fought on 12 July 1780, in which Colonel Bratton's militia forces overwhelmed the British and loyalists in the first successful patriot engagement after the fall of Charleston the previous May. One of Sadler's sons, David (1762–

1848), was a teenaged participant in the July battle and three years later, in 1783, married Elsy Bratton (1766–1825), one of the daughters of Colonel Bratton and his wife Martha Robertson Bratton. When Richard I's grandson, Stanhope Sadler (1798–1879), died, his obituary, published in the *Yorkville Enquirer* on 2 October 1879, noted that he had been born on the Sadler farm "near Brattonsville, on the spot where the Revolutionary battle of Houck's [Huck's] defeat was fought." David Sadler, Richard I's eldest son, recounted his service during the Revolutionary War in his pension application in 1833 and noted that he was born in Pennsylvania in 1762, moved to South Carolina while still a young boy, and began his first tour of duty when he was sixteen years old. In addition to the battle at Williamson's plantation, he was also involved in other military campaigns and served in the militia for more than fifteen months. He was not the only Sadler to participate in the war. Both his father and brother Richard filed claims with the state of South Carolina for military service and for provisions supplied for the use of the local militia troops. The elder Sadler was a captain in the New Acquisition Militia as early as August 1775 when the Reverend William Tennent, while on his mission to the backcountry to persuade loyalist-leaning frontiersmen to embrace the patriot cause, dispatched letters "to Captains [James Martin] and Richard Sadler on Fishing Creek" to meet with him the next day on Sandy River. Captain Sadler continued to command militia troops for much of the rest of the war and, in 1783, was paid by the state for fifty-seven days of active duty in 1778 and for providing flour for the use of the troops during the expedition to Georgia. His son Richard was probably the "Mr. Richard Sadler" who was compensated for "8 days a private in the militia horse" in July 1782 and an additional sixty days as "a private in Orangeburgh" starting in December of the same year.

The earliest correspondence in the collection, dated 1845–1846, relates to family business affairs and the settlement of Mary Sadler's estate. Several members of the extended Sadler family had moved from York District to other states during the 1830s and 1840s, including Mary Sadler's son, John Milton Sadler (1812–1861), and her daughter Rosinda (1800–1899) and her husband, Josiah Harris (1796–1858). The Harrises moved to Alabama in 1836 and John M. Sadler followed soon after, settling in Lowndes County, where he married and pursued a career as a merchant. In a letter dated 3 January 1845 and written from Hayneville, a small village in Lowndes County named in honor of South Carolina politician Robert Y. Hayne by some of the area's earliest settlers, J.M. Sadler wrote to "Dear Brother," probably Stanhope Sadler, his older brother who was a merchant in Yorkville, with a promise that either he or another brother, "Dick," would repay him for settling a debt with "old Esqr. McKee." He also commented on his successful fall selling season but anticipated a difficult time in collecting the debts that the local farmers owed him because of the uncertainty over the price of cotton. "Our business last

year was very good [and] we have sold about \$5000.⁰⁰ since we Rec^d our new goods 16th Oct. [but] on account of the low price of cotton I fear Collections are going to be Bad tho if we can Collect 40 per ct on our a[count]s this spring we will be Safe." John also related family news that he thought would interest his brother. "I Rec^d a letter from J. Harris yesterday.... He said Allen & William Robertson Dined with him a fortnight since on their way to Mississippi."

Josiah Harris, the Sadlers' brother-in-law and a native of York District, had prepared for the Presbyterian ministry by attending Hampden-Sydney College in Virginia from which he graduated with an A.B. in 1820, and then continued as a student in the college's theology department. After he returned home, he was ordained and, when Bethel Presbytery was organized in 1824, he served as the minister of Ebenezer Presbyterian Church and Unity Presbyterian Church, both located in eastern York District. At the same time, he was a member of, and secretary to, the board of trustees of the Ebenezer Academy; however, in 1827, he and the congregations of his churches mutually agreed that he would be released from his ministerial duties. Eventually, he and his family moved west, and he taught in various educational institutions in Alabama, Mississippi, Tennessee, and Arkansas. When he wrote to "Brother Richard" Sadler on 17 October 1846, he was living in Wetumpka, Alabama where he found himself "disputing over school bills with a 'broke-down' people in a 'broke-down' Town." Harris had good reason for his attitude towards his profession and the place where he lived. In 1839, he had joined the faculty of a newly organized school named the Central Seminary, located six miles from the nearest town, Statesville, in Autauga County, where he also served as president until 1842 when the institution failed, and Harris was forced to file for bankruptcy. He then moved to Wetumpka, Alabama, a promising center for the cotton trade located on the Coosa River a few miles from another bustling town, Montgomery, which was designated the state's capitol in 1846. In Wetumpka, he, and his eldest daughter Mary Jane Harris (ca. 1826–1849), established a school for young girls which flourished for a time. When he received Richard's letter on 9 October, he was "on the eve of a departure for Memphis Tennessee; & I would have shipped for that place by this time, if I had been successful in collections; but failing in them, you can readily conceive how glad I was to receive your letter." Richard had informed him that he had completed the administration of Mary R. Sadler's estate and was prepared to send Josiah the share his wife Rosinda was due as one of Mary's children. Josiah signed a receipt, dated 17 October 1846, in which he acknowledged the receipt of \$274.58, with interest from 29 January 1846, another \$12.81, and enclosed it in his letter to Richard. Fearful, however, that the cash might be pilfered from the mail, Josiah insisted that Richard cut in half the bank bills, send the left halves in one letter postmarked in Yorkville and addressed to "George W. Jones Esq. Wetumpka Ala;" the right halves should be sent in

another letter, addressed to "Postmaster, Wetumpka Ala." "You will be careful," he cautioned, "to have the [envelope] superscripted by a different person and sent by the first mail afterwards." His excessive caution, he explained, resulted from the fact that "I have lost \$100 by the mail." Richard sent the first letter on 30 October, addressed to Jones, and retained a copy in case there was any problem with the prompt delivery of the cash. The money, he noted, he had enclosed in the letter in the presence of Stanhope Sadler and which he hoped "may reach you safe...." Richard also apologized for the delay in making the distribution, but he explained that "I have been compelled to collect some of the largest debts due the estate by Legal process and have incurred the great displeasure of some of our near Kin." The second letter, with the right halves of the bills, he mailed on 2 November as indicated by his retained copy. George W. Jones (1817–1877) was a druggist in Wetumpka who had married Harris' eldest daughter, Mary Jane, about 1844, and apparently the young couple moved to Memphis in 1846 with the rest of the family. Once in Memphis, Harris took charge of a parochial school associated with the First Presbyterian Church where he continued until January 1848 when he moved, along with his extended family, to northern Mississippi, a few miles east of Como, a small village about forty-five miles south of Memphis. While living in Mississippi, the family lost one of its members when Mary Jane Jones died. A newspaper in Wetumpka, Alabama noted her death: "Died, At Pleasant Mount [,] Panola county, Mississippi, on the 14th of May, Mrs. Mary Jane Jones, consort of Dr. G. W. Jones, late of Wetumpka, and daughter of Josiah and Rosinda R. Harris, formerly of Hayneville, Lowndes county."

Other relatives frequently corresponded with Richard Sadler, or other members of his family, and their letters comprise a sizeable portion of the Sadler archive. O[sborne] Minor Sadler (1842–1921), the son of Richard's brother James A. Sadler (1810–1881) and his wife Jane H. Little (1814–1886), wrote his cousin Kiah from his home in Charlotte, North Carolina, on 3 November 1857 with news about deaths that had recently occurred within their family circle. "Tell Uncle Dick that Mary Orr is dead. She died in Greensboro on Saturday morning...and was buried in the Charlotte Grave Yard on Sunday Evening...." Another relative, Abraham C. McRee, Jr., M.D., (1828–1900), who had married Minor Sadler's sister Margaret Rosinda (1834–1886), had lost his brother, Phifer McRee (1819–1857), who had emigrated to Lowndes County, Alabama years before, only a week before the doctor and his wife arrived in Alabama where they also intended to settle. Shortly after Minor's letter arrived, Dr. McRee wrote, on 10 November 1857, to his "Uncle Dick" from Hickory Grove, Alabama with details about his trip, his brother's death, and other news. "I have the sad intelligence to communicate to you of the death of my Brother C.P. McRee...[who] died a few days before we arrived, indeed it has been a severe blow to us all & the community in which he lived," he observed. While visiting with relatives in York District in

September before returning to Alabama, Dr. McRee and his wife experienced a similar "severe blow." A notice in the 17 September 1857 edition of the *Yorkville Enquirer* stated that "Died in this District on the 13th instant, at the residence of Mr. Richard Sadler, Franklin Davidson, infant son of Dr. A.C. and Margaret R. McRee." In ending his letter to "Uncle Dick," McRee, apparently with the two recent deaths in mind, reflected on the brevity of life. "The cold sod may cover us both ere we meet again, But if we never do, the remembrance of you & your family shall always be a pleasure to me & with heartfelt thoughts may I always recall the past."

In October 1858, Richard Sadler received a letter from Thomas H. Brem, a Charlotte, North Carolina merchant who owned a thriving dry goods and hardware store in which he employed two of Richard's nephews, James A. Sadler, Jr. (1836–1874) and Julius Sadler (1839–1861). Mr. Brem wrote, on 27 October, that James Sadler "wishes us to take one of your sons in the store as a clerk" because one of the clerks then employed planned to leave the following week. "You send him over this week that we may try him; if he suits us, we would like to keep him for a term of years," he continued. He then reminded Sadler that "My treatment of your nephews I suppose you know & would expect to treat him as I have done them." Sixteen-year-old Kiah, the oldest of the Sadler boys, agreed to accept the opportunity and had just started working in the store when he wrote his first letter home to his mother on 10 December 1858. "Cousin James and I arrived here safely on Monday evening but I did not go into the store till next morning," he explained. "When I got there Julius shewed what I had to do and I went right at it," he continued. "After working about a half an hour Mr. Brem came in and spoke to me, [but] the only thing he told me was, if I desired to be a merchant I must try." He also described his living and working situation: "There are three other clerks besides Julius & myself; all very stu[r]dy clever young men. We all sleep in one room which is large enough and tolerable convenient. The store is closed about 9 generally and after that we read until sleepy." Kiah's career as a clerk in the mercantile business was brief. Less than four months after he began working for Mr. Brem, he was forced to return home because of illness. When he wrote to his father on 31 March, he explained that he had lost "in weight about nine pounds since you were over & I think will fall off 9 or 10 more by June if I live. I am afraid my health will fail for my constitution cannot well bear the confinement which I am subject to." His cousin James had told him "that he & Mr. Brem think I cannot stand it," and he himself had decided that if working at the store would injure his health, he "would rather not stay." Before the end of April, Kiah had returned to his home and family on Fishing Creek in York District after his brief mercantile career ended.

While in Charlotte had written regularly to his mother and father and to other correspondents as well. A former schoolmate, J[ames] Spratt White (1841–1891), in response to Kiah's letters, wrote three times and visited at least once while his friend was away from home. Two letters were from Columbia where Spratt White had enrolled in the "Carolina High School" in January 1859. When he wrote to Kiah on 9 February, he related that "Warren & I came down here three weeks ago and are now attending the 'Carolina High School' under the supervision of the distinguished Messrs. Brumby and Davidson." He had "abandoned the idea of going to Davidson not long after I saw you last in Charlotte" and decided instead to attend the "excellent school" headed by Alexander Brevard Brumby (1831–1879) and James Woods Davidson (1829–1905), both graduates of South Carolina College. "I don't think there can be better teachers than they are." Another former classmate and cousin, Edward Dunlap Crawford (1842–1864) replied to a letter just received from Kiah on 22 April 1859, from Ebenezer, the location of Ebenezer Academy where he was a student. Edward was pleased to learn from Kiah's letter of "the hopeful recovery of your health, of your arrival home, and of your expected return to school which I hope will be here." He also added that "It is indeed a kind & an affectionate resolution of your father's that you should go to school. It is your essential employment and greatest happiness." Kiah received one other letter while in Charlotte that marked the beginning of a long-continued correspondence with Reverend John Stitt Harris (1832–1864), the minister of Bethesda Presbyterian Church from 1856 until 1863. The Harris family was connected to the Sadlers by several links. Kiah's uncle by marriage, Josiah Harris who had died in Prattville, Alabama, in October 1858, was the brother of Hugh Harris (1800–1839), John Stitt Harris' father. Another of the Harris brothers, Robert (d. 1824), had married Kiah's aunt, Matilda R. Sadler (1795–1877), who, after Robert's death, married as her second husband, Dr. Kiah Price Harris (1800–1869). The Reverend Harris wrote that he had learned that Kiah "wished some conversation" with him but found that he had gone to work in Charlotte when he visited his parents' house. "The purpose of this letter is more to make inquiries than to give advice. For until I learn your frame of mind I cannot advise to much profit." He was, however, "much gratified to know that you have been under deep religious impressions." Harris, and others, had a profound influence on Kiah religious awakening during the spring of 1859. In an essay written "At Home" on 29 June 1861, which he titled "A Short review of my 'School days,'" he recalled that he had "attended the instruction of Mr. B, [John M. Beaty (1824–1893)], a graduate of the S.C. College, a very good scholar, and a pretty good teacher." He then added: "It was at Rock Hill, while going to this last gentleman, that I first began to think *very* seriously on the subject of Religion. In that spring, on the 9th of May, I connected myself with the Presbyterian Church at Bethesda, one of the most important periods of my life." After that

commitment, he became a serious student of religion and recorded a list of biblical "Texts, from which I have heard preached," for the period 20 June–7 November 1859. When Spratt White received Kiah's letter which related his religious conversion, he responded in his letter written from Columbia on 11 June, with "Your letter, dear Kiah, conveyed to me intelligence, which filled my heart with exceedingly great joy. Tho' not *very much* surprised, yet I was rejoiced to hear you say that you had renounced the trifling things of this world and firmly declared, before the world, that you are on the Lord's side." Apparently, Kiah had mentioned Spratt's interest in the ministry as a future career, and his friend responded by declaring that "Whatever I feel to be my duty, of course, I will not shirk from it in the least. If God has called me to preach his Gospel, he will certainly make the way clear to my eyes."

Although Kiah's plans for his education were uncertain when he returned home, an opportunity soon developed that charted his course, and indirectly his younger brothers' futures as well. His uncle, Kiah Harris, in a letter to Richard Sadler dated 23 April 1859, and sent from his home in Concord, North Carolina, offered to assist with his namesake's college education. "If you should conclude to send your son to Davidson, he shall have the benefit of my scholarship without costing him one cent," he informed his brother-in-law. "I want it to be distinctly understood [that] I pay for his tuition." Kiah, however, was not certain that he was prepared to enter college. His formal schooling had started in the fall of 1851 when he spent a month under the tutelage of a teacher who lived "too far from home to walk," so he boarded while away. For the next five years, he studied with three different instructors who lived within walking distance of his home. After taking the spring and summer of 1857 to stay at home and work on the farm where, he recalled "I spent many happy days, 'ploughing the corn et ho[e]ing the cotton'" before he enrolled at the Rock Hill Academy in the fall of that year. "I had *seen* but one Acad., and therefore thought myself considerably honored by being a member of one," he wrote in his 1861 review of his school days. "Gen. A[lston] and his assistant were good instructors, the best to whom I'd ever gone, and by application, I made pretty fair progress in my studies, Arith., Geog. and Gram." General Alston, the principal, was John Augustin Alston (1809–1860), a former Yorkville lawyer who turned to education in his later years. While studying at the Rock Hill Academy during the years 1857 and 1858, Kiah later recounted that he had boarded with Mrs. Ann White, the widow of George P. White and Spratt White's mother, who had treated him "as one of her own children." In fact, both Kiah and his younger brother Oscar had lived in the White household while both were in school at Rock Hill. Receipts in the collection indicate that in December 1857, Richard Sadler paid Mrs. White five dollars per month for each son from 9 February until 5 June and from 6 July until 18 November, a total of \$84.50 for the year. Also on 21 December, Richard paid John A. Alston \$15.60 for tuition for each of his sons. On 9

December 1859, Richard settled his account with Mrs. White for boarding three of his sons, Kiah, Oscar, and Milton, from 5 July until 25 November, at the increased rate of six dollars per month, but because only Oscar and Milton boarded with her from during the first half of the year, from 21 February until 8 June, the total charge for the year was \$133.00.

Kiah finished his preparation for college at Ebenezer Academy, an institution that had flourished in the village of Ebenezer, about three miles north of Rock Hill, since 1819. He recorded in his "School days" essay that "in the first of 1860, I went to Ebenezer Acad. of which Mr. S-y, [John Rooker Shurley (1818–1863)] a very good instructor was principal. I enjoyed myself only tolerably well at that place; but by applying myself, I made very good progress in my studies, which were [:] (in Latin) Cicero, and Sallust, and some of Virgil, and (in Greek) the Reader and part of the Anabasis, and other minor branches." After attending the first session of 1860, which lasted from 9 January until early June, Kiah considered himself "Prepared for College" and, in late September, enrolled at Davidson College. In his first letter to his father from college, written on 22 September, he recounted his trip from Rock Hill and his first few days on campus. He had taken the train from Rock Hill to Charlotte on Wednesday, 19 September, and spent the night with his Uncle Jim Sadler's family, before riding up to Davidson with several fellow students who had hired a carriage for the trip; however, he eschewed the crowded carriage for "a seat in the baggage wagon which accompanied it." After his "very pleasant ride" seated on a trunk, the group "drove up to the College & soon heard the cry, Fresh! Fresh!! Fresh!!!" Although he and a friend, Bill Hanna (1838–1861), had agreed to room together, Bill's father had told him at the train station in Rock Hill, that "Bill had given out his intention of going to College," a decision that both surprised and disappointed him. As a result, Kiah spent his first few days as a college student seeking a roommate, arranging for furniture, and finding a boarding house where he could take his meals. The roommate issue was quickly solved when he encountered a fellow student, Alexander D. McLeod from Marengo County, Alabama, who had already secured a room but not a roommate, and Kiah agreed to room with him. They moved into the third-floor room "immediately & have bought the furniture very cheaply & have paid for it." Kiah then outlined the structure of a typical day: morning prayer was at 7:00 AM, followed by breakfast at 7:30; Greek recitation at 11:00, then Algebra; dinner at 12:30 PM; classes resumed at 2:00; Latin at 4:00, prayer at 5:00; and supper at 5:30. "The number of our class," he continued, "is 16; but will, perhaps, be increased to 25 or 30. Of the number of the other classes, I don't know [but] I suppose there are in all, about 100 students." Although he had a scholarship that paid for his tuition, courtesy of his uncle, there were other expenses he had to pay, he explained to his father. He had spent for "room-rent per session \$6, contingent fund \$3, servants hire \$1, which neither you nor I

expected to pay in advance....I have my room tolerably well furnished and have not yet spent \$15.00; therefore you will not complain at me for asking you to send me \$10.00 as soon as you write, if you can get it, as I have to pay for books which I have bought and for wood which we will need soon & for some other little things." When his father, mother, and brother Oscar each contributed to a family letter written on 20 and 23 October 1860, his father remembered his request for money and remarked that "I enclose you a ten dollar bill...."

In addition to the letters that Kiah wrote while a Davidson student, there are also a dozen essays preserved in the collection that he wrote as part of the school's requirement that all students participate in "exercises in composition and declamation in the forenoon of each alternate Saturday, throughout the year." The first extant essay was dated 6 October, a Saturday, 1860, two weeks after he began his college career. Kiah drew on his own experience as a member of a temperance society in the Bethesda community to discuss his views of the evils associated with "the use of strong drink" in a four-page essay titled "Intemperance." After acknowledging the "many objections that have been made against them by those who know nothing about them: that they were Secret Societies, soon fall through, do no permanent good and such groundless objections," but, he argued, as a person who had "belonged to one and know[s] something about them..., we must not dispense with Temperance Societies until we find some substitute which can destroy the Monster Intemperance which is the Destroyer of mankind." At the end of the fourth page, his Davidson College professor of belles-lettres had commented: "Very just sentiments, very well expressed—*V.C.B.*" Victor Clay Barringer (1827–1896), a graduate of the University of North Carolina and an attorney who had practiced law in Concord, North Carolina, before accepting an appointment at Davidson in 1860, read and commented on two of Kiah's essays that were written during the fall of 1860 and the spring of 1861. On 13 April 1861, Kiah submitted a three-page essay titled "The Influence of Custom upon Mankind." After enumerating the benefits of the transmission of positive practices upon humans, Kiah noted several examples of undesirable customs, including one that he found particularly obnoxious: "there is another custom...among us that is not only very expensive, but is unbecoming and injurious, which is the chewing of tobacco.... [because] its votaries defile many public places with it...." Professor Barringer judged that effort "Excellent." Kiah also received high marks in his other academic subjects during his first term at Davidson. In the "Final Standing Freshman Class," as recorded in the minutes of the college faculty on 11 February 1861, he scored 94% in math, 98.8% in Greek and 96.2% in Latin.

In addition to his comments about student life at Davidson, Kiah's letters home during the fall of 1860 and spring of 1861 also frequently included his observations about political issues and reflected his

growing concern over the increasingly strident language that sectional differences generated in public discourse. "The people of this state vote for President," he wrote in a letter to his brother Oscar on 10 November 1860, "and there has been a good deal of excitement among the students about the election. On Saturday night, the boys went about the Campus, beating a drum[,] ringing a bell (in honor of *Bell* of Tennessee)[,] sending up sky-rockets, and they made a great deal of noise; but they did no mischief, nor did they mean any; but they were reprov'd by the President for it." Before he finished his letter, he added that "By the news which has this evening arrived, we learn that Lincoln has carried most of the northern states and that his election is very probable; also, that South Carolina is almost in arms. I fear that we shall have troublous times. I think that my own dear state is very rash and that she may yet be humbled." In his next letter, written to his father on 17 November 1860, Kiah continued to express his concern about the divisiveness in the nation. "Father, what are you all doing down in S.C., since Lincoln has been elected?" he asked. "Are you going to secede? I wish you would tell me in your next letter; for not having any paper from S.C. to read, I hardly know what is going on." Against this backdrop of sectional controversy, Kiah also had difficulty in adjusting to certain aspects of campus life and relied upon advice from the pastor of his home church, the Reverend Harris, to help him navigate the new world he had entered. Harris was especially well-suited to provide needed support because of his own associations with Davidson College. He was a member of Davidson's class of 1852, then entered the Columbia (South Carolina) Theological Seminary in 1853 and went directly from the seminary to Bethesda Presbyterian Church in 1856 as the interim pastor and, on 17 April 1857, was installed as church pastor and was awarded an A.M. the same year by Davidson College. The following year, he was elected to the Davidson College board of trustees, a position he retained until 1861. On 11 December 1861, Harris responded to a long letter from Kiah "some weeks since." After apologizing for his delay in answering the letter, he observed that "You are evidently learning by experience the realities of college life and doubtless have found pleasures & hardships blended. Yours is not a peculiar experience, therefore be not discouraged." Upon enrolling at Davidson, Kiah had joined the Eumenean Society, one of the two literary societies that existed at the college. "Those difficulties in the society are very galling to a modest and timid spirit; but they have to be met, and will eventually be removed by practice," he advised. As a member of the same society while at Davidson, Harris knew well the advantages of membership: "It is fully half of a college education to enjoy all the privileges of the Society with *profit*." He also warned Kiah to "Beware of the habits of some students of neglecting their Christian character and Graces. It is not necessary to be making a vain show of your religion; but always act from Christian principles, and use every opportunity of adding to your religious knowledge and experience. Let your

intimate *companions* be of the right stamp, and the bad boys will soon cease to trouble you by their temptations." The remainder of his letter he devoted to news of the Bethesda community, including the recent birth of a son "added to my family within the last week." The previous Sunday he had preached at Bethesda "upon the 'duties of *masters & slaves*,' two sermons which seemed to excite some interest."

Kiah spent the two-week Christmas and New Years' holidays at home with his family and friends but was back at Davidson on 5 January 1861 when he wrote to inform his father that he had "arrived safely." He traveled by train to Charlotte where he "found Uncle Jim & family very well." To complete the trip to Davidson, "a crowd of us hired a baggage wagon, had a very pleasant ride, got here in 5 hours...[and] were met with a kind reception. Not much said about *Secession*." There was very little news to report from Davidson, he wrote, except the "Greek professor has arrived [but] Dr. Kirkpatric[k] has not arrived yet but is expected soon." After the resignation of the previous Davidson president, the Reverend Drury Lacy (1802–1884) in 1860, the members of the board of trustees offered the position to the Reverend John Lycan Kirkpatrick, D.D. (1813–1885), the pastor of the Glebe Street Presbyterian Church in Charleston from 1853 until 1860. In his 11 December 1860 letter to Kiah, the Reverend Harris, who was a Davidson trustee at the time, wrote, "I hope your new president elect (Dr. Kirkpatrick) will accept. He entertains it as yet favorably; but had not decided when I saw him last week in Charleston, at meeting of Synod. He is a noble man and will please you both as President and preacher." The newly elected professor of Greek and Ancient History was William Bingham Lynch (1833–1911), an 1859 graduate of the University of North Carolina. After returning to college in January, Kiah expanded his circle of correspondents to include several of his relatives who lived in Alabama. He had written to his cousin Ella Milton Sadler (1845–1930), the daughter of his uncle, John Milton Sadler, in Lowndesboro early in March. She replied to his "kind and interesting" letter on 14 March 1861 with news of the illness of her father who had "been confined to his bed about six weeks" with a persistent fever. Her mother feared that he had typhoid fever, she wrote. Sixteen-year-old Ella attended "a flourishing school" with "about 100 scholars and 50 music scholars and 5 teachers" where she studied "Latin, Rhetoric, History, Chemistry, Arithmetic, Grammar, Music, Reading and writing" which was "enough to keep her busy most of the time," she continued. "It has been dull here all winter [and] we have had no parties at all," she complained. "I hear of nothing scarcely, but *Secession*." On 18 March, only a few days after Ella sent her letter, another relative in Lowndesboro wrote to her Richard Sadler in Rock Hill in response to his letter to her. Gustavia Harris (1838–ca. 1905), the daughter of Richard's older sister Rosinda Sadler Harris, conveyed some of the same news to "My Dear Uncle" that Ella had included in her letter to Kiah. "I am sorry to tell you that Uncle Milt is not improving, and it is a wonder to us how he lives," Gus

related. Richard had "asked...many questions about the family" in his recent letter and Gus responded with a fulsome chronicle of the comings and goings of all her Lowndesboro relatives, including Milt's sons Claude and Harris who were away from home most of the time attempting to collect debts owed to their father's mercantile business which was in serious financial difficulty. "Claude and Harris pretend to be collecting all the time, but I do not think they collect more than they spend every week," she speculated. "Dr. [A.C.] McRee is here yet, and getting a very fair practice, but is almost too lazy to attend to it," she remarked. "He pays no more attention to the drug store than if it did not belong to him—never collects any money, and never pays any." After the family gossip, she turned her attention to politics and secession. "The ladies of Ala. talk politics more than the men do," she claimed. "I am a strong secessionist and would rather see all my friends die than submit to Black Republican rule. I do not boast but feel proud that our men are men of spirit." Gus also heartily approved of Jefferson Davis, the recently inaugurated Confederate president. "[W]e are all, down here, very highly pleased with our President, and his Cabinet. None of us could go to see him inaugurated, as the roads were so dreadfully bad."

After the beginning of hostilities between the North and South, occasioned by the bombardment of Fort Sumter by South Carolina troops that began on 12 April 1861, the letters the Sadlers received invariably reflected the realities of war. Jim Sadler wrote to his brother Richard from his home in Charlotte on 21 May with a request: "If the short sword which used to hang in our fathers bed room still is there do send it to me. I want to borrow it until the war is over." He also related another reality of the times. "This morning our dear boys...left for Richmond Va. When I shall see them again God knows, I hope soon." Julius (1839–1861) and Osborne Minor (1842–1921) had both enlisted in April in the "Hornet's Nest Riflemen," which became Company B, First Regiment, North Carolina Volunteers and were committed to six months service. A few days later, Richard received a similar joint letter from his sister Matilda and her husband Kiah Harris about the departure of their three sons for military service. "I felt so bad when the dear boys *all* left that I could not stand it," Matilda wrote from her home in Concord, North Carolina on 25 May. "Dick's wife and two children are staying with us [and] Jane is staying at home [with] her babe [who] was two weeks and five days old when Charles left," she explained. Kiah Harris provided the details of his sons' military service when he finished the letter his wife had started: "Charles is 1st Lieutenant in one of our companies and poor Kiah is a (little above that of a high private) corporal in the same company and Richard is 2d Lieut. in the other Co. both of which left here on the 21 of last April for the coast of North Carolina...." Charles F. Harris (1833–1875) and Kiah Price Harris (1839–1862) had enlisted in the "Cabarrus Guards," Company A, Twentieth Regiment, North

Carolina Troops (Tenth Regiment North Carolina Volunteers), and Richard Sadler Harris (1835–1911) joined Company B of the same regiment. Kiah had visited his sons earlier in the month and reported that "Dick's company is at Fort Johns[t]on [with] very comfortable quarters. Charles & Kiah...[are] about 4 miles down the coast on a barren sand bank without a shrub or spear of grass and where they went without a shelter. They have got up now some plank shanties and are engaged in throwing up a sand batter[y] called Radcliffs Battery and mounting cannon for their defense." Even though he was aware of the hardships his sons faced, Kiah commented to his brother-in-law that "I am proud mine are soldiers."

The Sadler family of Alabama also sent sons off to war in the spring of 1861. Ella Sadler wrote her uncle Richard from Lowndesboro on 28 May and explained that "I have felt so little like writing lately that I have neglected all my correspondents...[since] the death of my dear Father." Milton Sadler had died a few weeks before and Ella shared news of the family since that event. "Brother Harris left home for Virginia the day after Father died [and] we have received several letters from him since he left home," she informed her uncle. "Brother Claude left home last Wednesday to join the 3rd Regiment at Virginia [and] we have received one letter from him since he left. It was written from Montgomery." She also enquired about her young South Carolina relatives. "Does Cousin Kiah intend joining the army or will he continue his studies? Let me know in your next." Price Harris Sadler enlisted in Company H, Third Regiment, Alabama Infantry in Lowndesboro on 15 April and by the time Ella wrote her letter he was in Norfolk, Virginia where his regiment was sent after it was mustered into Confederate service on 4 May. His brother Claude apparently decided not to join the Third Regiment but later, on 5 September 1861, joined Company A, Seventeenth Regiment, Alabama Infantry as a second lieutenant.

All members of the extended Sadler family were saddened in late May when they learned of the death of Jim Sadler's son Julius as the result of an injury he received when he fell from an open railroad car while traveling from Richmond to Yorktown with his company. Jim Sadler wrote a long letter to his brother Richard on 28 May with a detailed narrative of the events that had resulted in his son's death. "The dear boy is dead," he began, "But knowing you feel very anxious to hear some of the particulars relative to the sad affair I merely can say he was on duty & *sober* [and] had been so for many days." He then outlined what he had learned about his son's accident, perhaps from Private Richard N. Tiddy who had accompanied his comrade's body from Richmond to Charlotte for burial: "He was doubtless at the time it occurred sleeping. He had not for two nights slept, was ordered with the rest of his regiment to go from Richmond to Yorktown, was transported on platform cars as the others, and it is supposed slept and fell from the car and was killed by the fall instantly. We did not open the coffin of the dearest boy. The gentleman who brought him home said it would be too unpleasant a sight for us.... We consented to

not see him & buried [him] yesterday in the presence of the greatest number of persons I have ever seen at a funeral in our place." Jim's daughter Laura added a note at the end of her father's letter. "Uncle, pa has got the sword and he says when you write please tell him all you know of it," but her own emotional state would not allow her write about her brother's death. "I cant write you now anything of our poor lost darling.... I felt like I must die when my poor darling boy was brought to me all boxed up."

Kiah Sadler faced a serious dilemma at the beginning of the summer of 1861. He had to decide whether he should continue to pursue the study of Latin and Greek at Davidson College until the end of the term while so many of his classmates and relatives had already volunteered for military service, or whether it his duty to leave college immediately and enlist. The letters he received during the months of June and July revealed his inner struggle over that decision. Kiah's classmate, John C. Faucette (1839–1864), wrote from his home in Alamance County, North Carolina on 7 June to thank Kiah for his "good letter" and apologize for his delay in responding which he blamed on "not knowing where to address you." He also acknowledged that "Since I left I have wished I had not been so hasty in leaving College. I have wished to be with you; but now I am happy that I am at home & with my relatives & friends." He was, however, "at the present despondent and driven to the conclusion that there is in the future history of America a protracted, civil and fratricidal war the most bloody, the most cruel on record.... We all feel that ours is a just & righteous cause & I fully believe that 'The Lord of hosts' will lead our armies on to victory. But every indication *now* is that the North are as determined as the South—hence, if a reconciliation be not effected, it will *be* a war of an[n]ihilation." Kiah was clearly wrestling with the same concerns. His friend and pastor at Bethesda, John S. Harris, wrote him on 13 June with a hurried reply to a letter Richard Sadler had "showed me...from you today, and asked me to answer it in reference to your leaving College for the purpose of 'Volunteering.'" Harris had told Kiah's father that it was his opinion that "you ought to remain quietly at College until the close of the session, and by that time affairs will have been developed so that *duty* may be more easily ascertained." After outlining four reasons that he believed buttressed his argument that Kiah should remain at Davidson, he presented a fifth that was perhaps his most persuasive: "If the war continues, there will still be a demand for volunteers and the educated young men will have abundant opportunities for discharge of patriotic duty. Until the country actually needs their services, they ought to remain at college...." Another Davidson classmate, Henry Alexander Chambers (1841–1925), had already joined a company of volunteers organized in his home county, Iredell, when he wrote Kiah on 26 June from "Camp Anderson (Near Garysburg, N C)." After detailing the movement of his company, the "'Saltillo Boys,'" which was in "the fourth regiment of N.C. State Troops,' from Statesville to Camp Anderson, located "about eight

miles from the Virginia line & four miles north of the Roanoke River," he listed three of his "old school-mates.... Geo. Andrews, J. P. Cowan, and Jas. Stinson of D. College acquaintance" who had left college. These former Davidson students were among those who had, according to the entry of W.B. Lynch, Davidson College Faculty clerk, in the faculty minutes for 3 May 1861, "left us on account of the threatened invasion of the South by the forces of the U.S. Government, and many other propose leaving to join the armies of the different states to which they belong."

Kiah apparently left Davidson by the middle of June, shortly after he received Harris' letter. The school's faculty and president decided not to require the usual examination at the end of the session and dispensed with graduation for members of the senior class, although the seniors were awarded their diplomas. None of the seventy-five students who had enrolled for the spring session were still on campus when the members of the college's board of trustees met on 9 July. On 14 July 1861, Kiah H. Sadler, no longer torn between volunteering or staying in college, joined "The York Guards," commanded by Captain John M. White at Camp Woodward, in Summerville, South Carolina, where the company was attached to the Sixth Regiment, South Carolina Infantry. Although the regiment had been organized the previous March under state authority and had been on duty in and around Charleston, three of its original companies resisted the effort to transfer the regiment to Confederate service; therefore, it was reorganized in early June with the addition of three new companies, one each from Greenville, Spartanburg, and York Districts. A report published in the *Yorkville Enquirer* on 11 July, noted that seventy-three members of "The York Guards" had been "mustered into Confederate service" on 2 July, but that Lieutenant Samuel L. Love (1822–1872) was in Yorkville on recruiting duty and "will be pleased to obtain a sufficient number of recruits to raise the company to one hundred." Two days after Kiah enlisted, his regiment was transported to Richmond, Virginia by train and his company arrived on 19 July. By the evening of 21 June, the Sixth Regiment, 983 soldiers strong, was on the Manassas battlefield, just in time to encounter the victorious Confederates pushing the last regiments of the defeated Federal army towards Washington.

Ever the inveterate correspondent, Kiah began writing letters to his family and friends as soon as he arrived in Virginia, but only thirteen survive in the collection, all written between 21 August and 23 December 1861. In his first extant letter to "Loved Ones at Home," headed "In Camp at Germantown Fairfax County Virginia," Kiah informed his family that "As usual, I have the blessed privilege of stating that 'I'm very well' and in fine spirits. Yest[erday] we moved out of that *swamp* (which would insult our S.C. hogs, if they were put into it in the Summer) from which I wrote my two last letters, into a good place just at Germantown." He acknowledged that "There is still a good deal of sickness, but if we

remain in this place for a while, I think the health of the reg't will improve. There are a considerable no. of cases of measles, and a good many to have them yet, but those sick with them are doing very well." Typical of all the letters Kiah wrote in the late summer and fall of 1861, this one included news about friends who were in the army, the weather, the quantity and quality of provisions provided by the commissary, and his constant need for money. "I now have a little over \$5, which will answer my purpose until I do draw some; but Father, if Cousin Baxter M. comes on soon send me about \$5 in one dollar bills or in as small change as you can *conveniently* get." He also mentioned one of the numerous marching orders the regiment received that turned out to be false alarms: "We've today rec'd intelligence that the enemy are making some movements & have rec'd orders to be ready to march at a moments warning, but it is possible that we shall not march at all." At the end of his letter, Kiah added a note dated 24 August in which he recounted another similar episode. On the day before, "our whole brigade (the 3^d. under Gen. Jones) advanced, and no doubt many others, for the report was that 63,000 were advancing on us....We were certain that we were marching into the field of Battle, but we went off with composure & confidence....Having marched about 2 1/2 miles beyond...the town of Fairfax C.H..., while in a narrow road, we rec'd the order, 'right-about, march!' In a moment, the whole brigade was marching back. I thought that we had ventured too near & were going back to an open field to form in a 'line of battle;' but in a short time we were informed that *the report* was untrue." The Sixth Regiment, South Carolina Infantry, commanded by Colonel Charles S. Winder (1829–1862), was brigaded with three other South Carolina infantry regiments: the Fourth, commanded by Colonel John B. Sloan; the Fifth, commanded by Colonel Micah Jenkins; and the Ninth, commanded by Colonel James D. Blanding.

In his letters home, Kiah offered frequent descriptions and observations that related to camp life, rather than military maneuvers or battles, because his regiment did not experience the reality of battle until near the end of the year. In his letter of 26 August 1861, he explained the difficulty of getting to know the men in the nine other companies that comprised the Sixth Regiment in response to an enquiry from his mother in a recent letter about "how Julius Howe is doing." He pointed out that "You are not aware of it, but it is a fact that in camp, it is a very hard matter to learn a persons character, without they are not only in your reg't & camp, but also in your mess.... A camp is like a town or city. We see men day after day, and dont learn or hear their names. I know very few men even in the nearest streets. (The tents of each comp are arranged into a street). Also it is a very hard thing to find a man here unless you know his reg't & comp. though he might be encamped very near." As an example, he mentioned that "Several weeks ago, Budjoe Sadler informed me that Cousin Milton S[adler] (Uncle Ben's son) was in the 'Lancaster Greys' of Blandings (the 9th) Reg't; but I've never gone to see him yet." In

another letter, however, this one addressed to his cousin Sue Sadler in Charlotte, North Carolina and written on 29 August and then forwarded by Sue to his family, Kiah recounted meeting his cousin Milton and, at the same time, he was also introduced to Sue's brother-in-law, her sister Sallie's husband, Martin P. Doby (1827–1883). Sue had previously written Kiah that her brother-in-law, only recently married to her sister, was in the Confederate army and near Kiah's camp. After he learned that both his cousin Mit and Doby were in the same company, he went in search of his relatives. "This morn I went over to...the 9th Reg't S. C. Vol., to see Mr. Doby & Cousin," he informed Sue. "I found Cousin Mit & made his acquaintance, but Mr. D. had gone over to the 5th Reg't..., but just as I was leaving the tent in which Cousin Mit was (Mr. Doby's), I met Mr. D. and formed his acqu[aintance]. Tell Cousin Sarah I was very favorably impressed with his appearance. He was dressed in nice clean clothes (very scarce in camp) and looked as much like a gentleman as any man I've seen in camp." Sue, in her letter, had asked Kiah how he liked "'Camp Life.'" He replied that "I like *home* & College life much better, of course; but knowing I am in the path of *duty*, and for my Country's sake, and for all its & my own interests, I am perfectly contented and like this kind of life as well as could be expected." Another reason that he was "contented" in the army was because two of his best friends, Edward Dunlap Crawford (1842–1864), who was also a cousin, and William Greene Steele (1844–1908) had joined "The Yorkville Guards" and the three friends were part of the same "mess." Steele had enlisted on 22 June and joined his company at Summerville, South Carolina on 2 July as a seventeen-year-old Second Corporal; Crawford, who had entered the freshman class at Wofford College in 1860, had, like Kiah, decided to enlist rather than return to college and joined his company on 15 July 1861, at Summerville, South Carolina. In a letter to his family dated 15 September 1861, Kiah wrote: "Perhaps, before this time, you've heard that we have been up near the Potomac as 'advanced pickets' and that we had a skirmish with the 'advanced pickets' of the Yankees? Yes that is all so; but every one of us has returned Safely, and as far as I know, all are well." Kiah did not have time to finish his letter before he was called out on guard duty and asked Ed Crawford to add a few more details the following morning. Ed addressed his short message to "Uncle Dick" and reported on the condition of several sick members of his company. Thomas C. Williams, who was Mary Williams Sadler's nephew, was "still at the hospital and was mending yet slowly when last heard from [and] Templeton Hall has returned home."

Kiah's letters written during the fall of 1861 were generally very positive and he often wrote about his plans after the war ended. On 11 October, he mentioned that in the last issue of the *Southern Presbyterian* he had noticed "that the exercises of...Davidson [College] have commenced, and that there are a few students. I tell you it makes me sad to think that our precious Country is in such a condition

that I cant be *there* to study & prepare myself for a life of usefulness." He felt, however, that it was his duty to fight for his country and, he continued, "I *know* that I would not be as happy at *College now*, as I am *here*." His hope was that "brighter times...for our land of the 'Sunny South'" would allow him "at some future period, [to] not only return to 'Loved ones at *Home*,' but also to *Davidson College*, and there to finish my Education."

In his 14 October 1861 letter, he was very pleased with the general state of health of the men in his regiment. "There are no serious cases of sickness in our comp[ny] and indeed very few in the reg't here in camp...[and] it is evident to all of us, that the health of the reg't is fast improving. We have got to playing ball upon the parade ground, as the weather is plenty cool, and camp is growing very lively." A few days later, Kiah headed his letter, which he began writing on 19 October, "In Camp (in the woods) near McLain's ford upon Bull run," which indicated that his regiment had moved from "our old home at Germantown." After following a circuitous route which involved a night march that covered fifteen or sixteen miles, the regiment finally arrived at their new camp site located about half a mile from Bull Run and immediately went to work. Using their "knives, axes, &c cutting down bushes [,] and saplings" the soldiers cleaned "off a place for an encampment." The move to McLean's Ford meant that the regiment was farther away from Washington and the Federal forces protecting the capitol; however, the men were still sent out on picket duty on a regular basis. "We have just got back from 'picquet' near the 'red barn' (hospital), and as it does you so much good to hear from me often, I will write immediately," Kiah informed his family in his 26 October letter which he headed "Camp Forest near McLain's ford upon Bull run Fairfax Co. Va." Although his company did not encounter any enemy soldiers while on duty there, Kiah and his comrades "went down to the 'Red barn,' and as all its sick have been sent away, we got some boards & plank out of it, and made us a snug little 'house' as we called it.... That night was very cold but I kept warm in our little shelter." In Kiah's next surviving letter to his family, written from a new camp at Centreville, Virginia on 27 November, he reported that "Nothing of great importance has occurred here since I last wrote." Although he did not expect an engagement with the enemy soon, he acknowledged that "There are a good many reports afloat about the 'advance' of the Yankees against this place, and it is expected by many that there will be a 'fight' here soon." He expected that his brigade would soon be ordered "into 'winter quarters' at this place," a prospect that pleased him, "for we are getting quite tired of these 'houses of cloth.'" Some troops at Manassas have built huts in which to spend the winter [and] I hope we will be comfortably quartered by the middle of next month."

The men of the Sixth Regiment did begin to cut trees and build their huts in preparation for the coming winter by the middle of December; however, a portion of the regiment was ordered during the

evening of 19 December to be ready to march out of camp early the next morning on a military expedition. Before dawn on the 20th, 315 soldiers from all ten companies of the Sixth Regiment joined with the Eleventh Regiment, Virginia Infantry, the Tenth Regiment, Alabama Infantry, the First Regiment, Kentucky Infantry, Cutts's Georgia artillery battery, and about 150 cavalymen, all under the command of Brigadier General J.E.B. Stuart, to serve as an escort for about 200 wagons that were detailed to forage for hay and corn for the army's horses and mules. The Sixth Regiment was commanded on that day by Lieutenant Colonel Andrew J. Secrest in the absence of Colonel Winder who was sitting as a juror in a court martial trial, and the second in command was Major Thomas W. Woodward (1833–1902). Major Woodward provided a detailed account of the events of 20 December in an address he delivered to the Survivors' Association of the Sixth Regiment at Chester in 1883. Major Woodward reminded the veterans who were present at Chester of the progression of events that led up to the unexpected battle that the Federal and Confederate troops stumbled into outside the village of Dranesville. Both armies were supporting foraging expeditions and, until their forward units saw their enemies, did not expect or plan for a battle; however, the commanders of the Federal forces, Union Brigadier General Edward O.C. Ord, ordered his troops to take up positions north of the Leesburg Pike and placed his artillery on an elevated site just east of the village, while J.E.B. Stuart, deployed his infantry regiments in line of battle in a densely wooded area south of the pike and positioned his four artillery pieces in the road leading into town. Confusion reigned on both sides during the initial maneuvers into position and the Sixth Regiment, South Carolina Infantry was mistaken for the enemy by soldiers from the First Regiment, Kentucky Infantry who then fired into the ranks of the Carolinians. Major Woodward counted six casualties among his men from friendly fire. The South Carolina troops, assigned to a position to the left of the road leading into town, confronted Lieutenant Colonel Thomas L. Kane's First Pennsylvania Rifle Regiment, known in the army as the "Bucktails" because of the symbol worn on the soldier's hats. Positioned on the top of a hill that looked down upon the advancing Confederates, the Pennsylvania troops were somewhat protected by the terrain and enjoyed another advantage: they placed their sharpshooters in a two-story brick house at the crest of the hill where they wreaked havoc upon the Confederate ranks. Kiah Sadler also described his experiences during the Battle of Dranesville, Virginia in a letter that he wrote to his family, probably on 23 December. Although the first portion of the letter is missing, in the three extant pages, Kiah related his first exposure to enemy fire which resulted in a serious injury to his leg. "I tell you the *opening volley* was terrible. We all, as if from instinct, fell down upon the ground that we might not be hewed down by the iron storm; but the bullets were making the dust & the little sticks fly. I lay upon the ground until after the first fire of the Yankees. I then raised up

and fired, and loaded my gun 3 or 4 times lying down; but I concluded that there was as little danger standing up as lying down, and I knew I could shoot better standing up; therefore I got up. While loading my gun, I rec'd a wound in my left leg. Having turned around to Lieut. Love, I remarked to him, 'Lieut. I am wounded.' He told me to retire to the rear. I started back, and having gone but a short distance, beginning to get weak, I threw down my gun; going a little further, I began to grow faint and I then pulled off my *overcoat*, containing my Bible, buckskin gloves, handk[erchie]f, knife &c....Having everything off except my uniform, I set out again; but I had not gone far before I fell down senseless. While lying there one of the Buckhead Guards (of our reg't) came to me and asked if he could do anything for me. I answered him, 'Water.' He gave me some and helped me up & gave me a start. After a little, I met Lewis [McElwee], who with another young man, helped me along until a Va. cavalryman seeing me, took me up behind him. He carried me a mile or so and then one of 1st Reg't N. C. Cavalry carried me several miles further to a store where there were other wounded men." It was then that his wound was dressed by Dr. Nye. Later, after he returned to camp, "our Reg't. Surgeon Dr. J.F. Bell" told him "That the ball went between the 2 bones of the leg." The day after he was wounded, "Ed and several of the boys came down to see me," he continued. He was then transported by ambulance to the regiment's camp where he "rece'd every attention." It was there that he also learned that "our comp. had 5 killed, and 11 wounded." Newspapers throughout the South printed an account of the battle and included a list of the Confederate casualties. "I heard the account of the battle read in the 'Richmond Dispatch' last night," he continued, but it "is not altogether correct, though it will do. It makes me mortally wounded which is a great mistake." After he gave a detailed description of the "Moore Hospital" at Manassas where he had been taken, along with Alfred F. Branch, another wounded soldier from his company, he assured his family that he was "getting on finely." He then asked his father, "did you receive the telegraphic dispatch sent you by Lieut. Love? If you haven't started, I had rather you wouldn't come for several weeks, until I get well enough to go home on furlough."

Richard Sadler had apparently received Lieutenant Love's telegram and, on the same day that Kiah had written his letter, 23 December, Mr. Sadler was at the office of the Charlotte and South Carolina Railroad Company in Charlotte on his way to Virginia. Sadler carried with him a letter of introduction from William Johnston (1817–1896), the president of the railroad company, addressed to "Col. Jones" in which he wrote "This will introduce to you my friend R Sadler Esq^r of So Car... [who] has a son wounded in the recent battle at Dranesville and desires to go and see him." By Christmas Day, Richard was in Richmond where he sent a telegram to his brother's family in Charlotte with news of Kiah which was forwarded to Kiah's mother by Laura Sadler, who informed her Aunt Mary that she would

enclose the message in her letter with the "hope it will do much in quieting your fears & uneasiness which was surely great and make your hope bright." Other relatives had also learned that Kiah had been wounded in battle. Kiah's cousin, Gus Harris, wrote to Kiah on Christmas night from her home in Lowndesboro, Alabama after she had read a newspaper account of the battle and saw his name listed among the wounded. "We all are distressed to night, having seen in the list of wounded at Dranesville the name of *H.K. Sadlier*," she began. Although his last name was misspelled, "a mistake of the printer," she believed, she recognized his company and regiment and knew that it was he who had been injured. "I hope you will let us know very soon, and if you have been wounded, we hope very slightly." Mary Sadler responded to a letter from her husband when she wrote on 31 December 1861 that she was delighted to know that "our dear boy [is] doing so well." She also encouraged her husband to remain with Kiah in Virginia until he was "able to come home with you."

Kiah and his father were still at Manassas, Virginia on 14 January 1862 when Kiah wrote to his mother that they would not be able to return as soon as they had hoped. "Father got back from Centreville this eve with my furlough; so that we are ready to go any time soon," he explained. "But Father feels wearied from his trip to camp and he thinks that it would be better for me not to start for a day or two yet; therefore don't expect us until the *last* of next week." According to his military service record, Kiah's furlough began the day he was wounded, 20 December and ended 11 April 1862, but he had not sufficiently recovered from his injury to return to his regiment by the latter date. While Kiah slowly recovered from his wound during the spring of 1862, he continued to correspond with his relatives and friends, and their letters, in response to his, provide a glimpse of Kiah's activities while at home and his plans for the immediate future. His former Davidson classmate, John C. Faucette, responded to Kiah's "long and interesting" letter on 28 March from Davidson College where he was attending classes. "It is more than three months till commencement," he observed, and "I expect to apply myself very closely if I am not called on to go to the 'wars.'" He admitted, however, that if he followed his "inclination," he would "soon be in the army." If he was called into military service, John wanted Kiah's opinion about the best branch for a volunteer. "Kiah, you have some experience in the matter; which would you prefer infantry, artillery, or cavalry?" He then turned to another subject that Kiah had apparently previously mentioned: "Do you still think of returning to college in May? I hope you will and that your brother will come too." When John Faucette wrote to Kiah on 30 May 1862, he was still at Davidson College, but had joined a company that included many college students and numbered "90 men...." "My mess mates are J.D. Browne, Payne, Walker, Donnell, Ras Thompson, Mable and A.A.W. Burkhead, an old student, graduated here two years ago," Faucette wrote. "We occupy the Blocks."

Kiah's plan to return to Davidson was postponed, probably because of his injury which still limited his mobility. Instead, he accepted a teaching position at a small school for boys near McConnellsville, in western York District. When his cousin Rosie Harris wrote to him on 28 June 1862 from Lowndesboro, Alabama, she noted that "Uncle's letter informed us that you were visiting Coz. Jno. Harris with the intention of taking a school. We are happy to hear you succeeded." She also commented that "You have a short walk to your school room—when your wound is better, it will be best to walk a longer distance." A former Davidson College classmate, Henry A. Chambers, also commented on Kiah's new vocation in a letter he wrote from Gordonsville, Virginia on 9 July 1862. "I am sorry your wound has proven so troublesome. I had hoped to hear of your entire recovery" he began. "However you have I think taken a most effective way to serve your country while unfit for military duty. In no other way do I imagine you could do so much lasting good, though you may not immediately see the effects of your labors." In a lighter tone, Chambers wrote "I can in fancy see you sitting in the teachers corner wielding the rod of authority over some seventy little urchins who cannot for the life of them imagine what mystery lies hidden in ab, ac, &c." In what is perhaps a draft intended for his cousin Rosie Harris, Kiah expressed his growing unhappiness with the drudgery and repetitiveness of his daily teaching responsibilities. He wrote from McConnellsville, where he boarded while away from home, on 26 July 1862 to his "Dear Cousin" with an apology for waiting "several weeks" before answering her last letter and an explanation for his tardiness: "You have an idea how confining my occupation is during five days in the week, in which I have very little time either for reading or writing.... Whenever [F]riday eve. comes, I feel like a 'bird out of cage.' I am restless and hardly feel contented unless I am on my way home or making a visit among my friends." He also explained that "On account of the heat, I suppose, my wound is not...improving. I can't walk any better than I could a month ago." He had, however, just had a minor operation that he hoped would change that situation. "Ever since I was wounded, I could feel some hard substance (which I thought was a fragment of bone) not far from the surface of the skin on the left side of my wounded (left) leg, parallel with the wound." When he had the wound opened and the substance removed, he realized that the object was "a small piece of the ball which passed through my leg, having been mashed off against one of the bones." The surgery apparently allowed the wound to heal properly, and, in the fall of 1862, Kiah once more entered the halls of Davidson College as a student.

Henry Chambers responded to the good news of Kiah's return to college in a letter written from Gordonsville, Virginia on 22 October 1862. "I must congratulate you on being once more at old Davidson. Oh! how I wish the war was over, an honorable peace established and I, with many others,

was at College," he exclaimed. "Such a situation as you now have would just be such as I would like: A good room and plenty of books." In his letter to Henry, Kiah had asked about the possibility of entering military service again, if he could do so and secure a job in an office that would not require the strenuous exertions of life in the field. Henry had been on detached duty from the Fourth Regiment, North Carolina Troops, and assigned to the office of the Provost Marshal for the District of Northern Virginia where he worked as a clerk in the passport office. Although Henry expected to accept a commission as a field officer which would mean he would likely "be away from here by the time you are able for service," he believed "if you could get detailed this would be a good place for you [because] it would no doubt suit you better than hard active service." Ironically, while Kiah was studying Greek, Latin and mathematics at Davidson College, his forty-seven-year-old father was called into active military service. "I have this day recd. orders to Report at Lightwood Knot on tuesday 18th with four days *Rations*, Bedding and clothing for 90 days on the coast," he wrote his son on 14 November 1862. "I must say that I dread it very much but my country calls me and I must do what I can," he explained. "[E]very man between the ages of 35 & 50 are ordered out." His regiment, the Sixth Regiment, South Carolina Reserves, was commanded by "Col Secrest your old Lieutenant-Col," he informed Kiah. Mr. Sadler's career as a soldier was short-lived, as he explained in a letter to Kiah written eight days later on 22 November: "On my way to the Rail Road met with Dr. Sandifer...[who] advised me to apply for a discharge but had no time to give me a certificate that morning but mailed one for me that day. I received it yesterday eve late [,] went to the Sergⁿ [Dr. John A. Walker] forthwith[,], was examined and *Discharged* in a few minutes." Before dawn the next day, he left Camp Hampton "& started for Columbia 5 miles [and] footed it all the way with your *Nap Sack* on my Back weighing 20 lbs. arrived there at day light [,] took the cars at eight[,], arrived this eve at 4 found all well but a little tired myself." In closing his message, Sadler assured his son that now that he was home to look after the farm, he wanted Kiah "to stay at D[avidson] as long as you can."

Kiah's time as a college student ended when he returned home for the Christmas holiday in December 1862. By the end of that month, he had determined that he would reenlist in the Confederate military and wrote his long-time friend and comrade from their days together in the Sixth Regiment, South Carolina Infantry, Greene Steele, seeking information about "the condition of our army" and advice about what would be needed in the way of clothing and equipment. Greene replied to Kiah's letter of 31 December 1862 on 22 January 1863 from his camp near Stephensburg in the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia. "It was with profound regret that I heard of your preparations for leaving 'sweet home,'" he wrote. "You may make up your mind if you return to the army soon to endure hardships

unparalleled in your previous experience, it matters not in what branch of the service you be in, but more especially in the infantry." Greene, after his service in the infantry, had joined a North Carolina Cavalry regiment and encouraged Kiah to "come to our com[pany]." He mentioned that their friend Ed Crawford "is trying to get to it and I mean to do all I can for him. I do so thirst for old associations and companionships." Although Kiah did not decide to rejoin his former comrade in the First Regiment, North Carolina Cavalry, he did choose the cavalry as his preferred branch of service. While Kiah was considering his military options, Joseph Gist Harlan (1822–1884), a former cavalryman in Hampton's Legion, organized an independent cavalry company in Union District which was mustered into state service in Columbia on 30 December 1862. In late January, the company was one of the units that were combined to create a new regiment, the Fifth Regiment, South Carolina Cavalry. On 3 February 1863, Kiah enlisted in Captain Harlan's company, which was designated Company K, of the recently created regiment. Although twenty-three letters written by Kiah between 21 March 1863 and 5 June 1864 survive in the collection, there are several gaps during the fifteen months he served in the cavalry in which his letters are missing; however, the extant letters document the movements of his company during that period and thus provide a detailed chronology for Company K. During 1863, Kiah's friends in the military, John C. Faucette, and Henry A. Chambers, sent him occasional letters with details about the situations in their respective regiments. Faucette was the regimental ordnance sergeant for the Fifty-Sixth Regiment, North Carolina Troops, and Chambers was captain of Company C, Forty-Ninth Regiment, North Carolina Troops. Another friend from Davidson College, John Alexander Kirkpatrick (1844–1915), the son of John Lycan Kirkpatrick, Davidson's president during the war years, who had matriculated in 1861, but like so many other students, had left college to enlist, wrote Kiah an interesting letter from Adams Run, South Carolina, on 23 January 1863. "I did not know you were going to leave Davidson as soon as you did or I should have written sooner," he apologized. He then explained the unique nature of the military company to which he belonged. "Our company is an independent one...in Gen Hagoods brigade; an independent company is one which is not attached to any brigade, regiment, or battalion, do not pay our own expenses but receive twelve dollars (\$12.00) and rations, have the privilege of electing their own officers[,] in fact it is nothing more than a volunteer artillery company...." Kirkpatrick had enlisted in the Washington Artillery, commanded by Captain George H. Walter (1820–1896), the previous November and noted in his letter that "the health of my company has been unusually good. [T]hey have been in service about two years and have not lost a man by disease, one only has been lost at all and he was drowned."

Kiah's most important correspondent during his second enlistment in the army, other than family members, was his pastor and mentor, the Reverend John S. Harris. Three of his letters to Harris during this period are preserved in the collection, perhaps because they were passed on to Kiah's parents by the minister who would have seen them at Bethesda Church on Sundays, as well as one letter from John Harris to Kiah. Kiah wrote from "Cavalry camp (near Pocotaligo, [South Carolina]) on 21 March 1863, with a request to "My Dear Pastor" that "you steal the opportunity of letting me hear from you through your *own* pen *occasionally*? If so, I shall endeavor to repay your kindness, in gratitude with my feeble pen." He had received "Through Capt. D. D. Moore...your excellent 'pastoral' letter, the perusal & reperusal of which affords me much comfort & consolation, not only on account of its *own merits*, but also because it is the expression of the feelings & sympathies of my dear pastor & my beloved church." Kiah devoted a portion of his ten-page letter to the state of the war and conditions within his company, Company K, Fifth Regiment, South Carolina Cavalry. "Affairs here on the coast now are very still & quiet [,] So much so that it *almost seems* that there will never be a battle here, though I think it is coming on. We are in fine spirits & confident of success & victory, if the God of battles be with us." In camp, he cited a few changes that had occurred since he last wrote: "[W]e are making some little improvements every day or two, making our tents, horse stalls &c more comfortable. Some have built & are living in huts of their own construction, while the rest of us, having built log pens about 2 ft high & covering them over with pine saplings, have pitched our tents upon top of them, making them more roomy, comfortable & healthy. We also have made good stalls for our horses, tables, benches & other conveniences & comforts. Being in pine woods, we have abundant materials." The camp was about a half mile from the Pocotaligo depot which allowed them to "get the Savannah news in the mor[ni]ng & the Charleston in the eve," he reported. "Several of us take the daily C[harlesto]n Courier which I like very much [and] For the last 2 weeks, the 'Presbyterian' has been coming to us a welcome visitor." There was in camp, he continued, "as much leisure as is profitable [because] Our drills are 1 battalion per week, one 'inspection' [a] day, and 2 other drills (company) every other day in the week, except Sunday when we (except the guard) have nothing at al[l] to do." As with most cavalry regiments, the companies in the Fifth were scattered at different locations. "[T]here are only 5 companies...here, the others being at Greenpond," he remarked as an explanation for why his regiment had no chaplain present. "So we have no preaching of our own, though the Rev. Stephen Elliott (an Episcopal minister) preaches over at the depot every Sunday." He also characterized his company as having "a respectable no. of good men in it & a good many bad ones, though it is much more respectable & intelligent than my former comp. None of our officers are professors of Religion, though they are moral clever men [and] I am highly

pleased with our York men." Although most of the men who enlisted in Captain Harlan's company during the war were from Union District, Harlan's home community, twenty-seven, including Kiah's cousins, Samuel N. and William B. Sadler, were residents of York District.

Harris did not reply to Kiah's first letter from camp, probably sent in late February, until 24 March 1863, because, he confided, he had "not been well for several weeks.... Am better this week." He acknowledged that immediately after he read Kiah's letter, he "had two copies of 'So[uthern] Presby[ter]ian' sent to the Boys from Bethesda" and congratulated Kiah on the letter he recently had published in that paper. It was, he noted, Kiah's "debut in the public print, and that too, over your own signature. Your letter will be very interesting to your large circle of friends." In fact, he continued, "It has effected something, for on Sabb[ath] three dollars were handed me for benefit of Capt. Harlan's company." However, Harris lamented the reality that in the army "ungodly officers too often throw all their influence, and official power against religion" and pointed out that "I know the inconsistencies of *one* of your officers, of whom we have a right to expect better things, will do more to prejudice ungodly minds against religion & its profession, than a half dozen of the most active Christians can remit & counteract." In closing, he mentioned that "Your father's family were all well on Sabbath" and commented on two of Kiah's Bethesda friends. "I saw Lieut. Jesse N. Moore yesterday—and Green Steele—both of whom were in custody of two young ladies and dashing along a la Jno H Morgan when after Yankees." Harris' health did not improve during the late spring and early summer, and he reluctantly took a leave of absence from Bethesda's pulpit to regain his strength. When Kiah wrote to him from the camp of the Fifth Regiment, South Carolina Cavalry in Charleston on 1 July, he added a postscript: "I direct to Gutheriesville not knowing your present address. On the envelope which remained with the letter, "Gutheriesville, York District" was marked through, and "Glenn Springs" written instead. Glenn Springs, in Spartanburg District, was a popular summer resort, especially for people looking to take advantage of the curative powers of its mineral water. "My chief object...in penning this to you is, not so much to give you the news from this part of the Army (for there is little or none), but to comfort & console you & remind you that Kiah has not forgotten you, your constant kindness towards & good advice to him," Kiah informed his friend. He also looked to the future when, after the pastor regained his health and returned to preach to the Bethesda congregation when he predicted, "they will appreciate you & your preaching more having been deprived of it so long." After having asserted that there was little news from his camp, Kiah proceeded to record the changes brought about by moving his company. "Well Mr. Harris, as a company we have not had many ups, nor many downs since we left Pocotaligo, but have been faring pretty much the same way, nearly all the time until

now. Ever since we came to the city, we have been having an 'easy time'...of it, having light picket duty & only light drills per day, besides camp guard." Even after all the infantry regiments in the city were ordered to James Island in late June, leaving only three companies of the Fifth Cavalry to perform guard duty, Kiah declared their increased responsibilities "not very hard, but it makes us idle & lazy; therefore, we don't like it." He also claimed that the "location of our camp is considered very healthy though it is very warm, being altogether in the sun. In the 3 comps. of my reg't here (the others are at Mt. Pleasant, on James Island, at McClellensville &c) there is not a single case of real sickness that I know." The major negative impact of the relocation of the Fifth Cavalry to Charleston was "to the state of Religion" among the soldiers, Kiah asserted. "The allurements & vices of 'city life' have seriously estranged our minds from attending to the 'one thing needful,'" he observed, and attendance at prayer meetings was down. "The duty of conducting the prayer meeting now devolves upon 'Parson' [Thomas Jefferson] Campbell (1821–1902) & myself. The 'parson' is a *good-meaning* man, but he, like so many of his Baptist Brethren is deficient in intelligence & education, and *worse*, he don't know it." Kiah feared that Campbell would apply "to Col. Jeffords...for the *Chaplaincy* of our reg't! I pray that he may not get it, though I don't think he will." Kiah closed his letter with "hoping that health may soon be restored to you & you to your home & congregation & that many days of usefulness are before you."

In early July 1863, Captain Harlan's company was ordered to Kenansville, a village located in Duplin County, North Carolina, about fifty-five miles north of Wilmington. By the time Kiah wrote to his mother on 25 July 1863, he had received only two letters from home "since I left Charleston," he complained, while "this makes my 5th letter." He then related that "a part of our company went on picket...in the direction of Newbern. Our duty was not to watch Yankees, but to act as couriers, to carry dispatches to & from the outposts," he explained. "Sam Sadler & another of my comp. were on post with me & we had a good house for ourselves & stables for our horses." Because the men received only "one dispatch to carry," they "had plenty of time to ride about the neighborhood & see the country." In his ramblings, he found that the "citizens were very kind to us, the ladies especially." He and his comrades were invited to meals with local families where they enjoyed the food and socializing. "The citizens down there in Onslow Co. are very much afraid of a Yankee raid & beg us to keep the vandals back if we can, which we will do of course if possible. There are some unionists in this country, but the people generally are social & kind & as far as good living is concerned, I care not how long we remain." Captain Harlan's company remained in camp near Kenansville until early December and, according to the seven letters, dated from 2 August through 1 December, that Kiah wrote to members of his family, he enjoyed his time in eastern North Carolina. His description of the way he spent his time during the

previous few weeks, included in a letter to his father dated 9 November, was typical of the contents of all his letters during the fall and early winter of 1863: "About all I can say of the time that has elapsed since my last [letter] is that it has passed away swiftly & pleasantly. One week I spent... on picket & the rest in camp. While in camp I visit among the citizens here a good deal, being acquainted with the Rev. Jas. M. Sprunt (Pres[byteria]n minister here) & family & several other highly respectable Pres[byteria]n & other families. What a blessing an Education is? With it & the way I have been raised, I can get into the best society wherever I go or at least have done so, so far.... I have... [as many] good friends in this town as I have anywhere." James Menzies Sprunt (1818–1884) was a native of Scotland and, after settling in North Carolina in 1840, he taught school in Duplin and Onslow counties. Principal of the Grove Academy in Kenansville from 1845 until 1860, he was also pastor of the Grove Presbyterian Church during the 1850s. When Kiah met him in the fall of 1863, he had recently resigned as chaplain of the Twentieth Regiment, North Carolina Infantry because of ill health after serving for two years in Virginia. Kiah frequently attended Sprunt's church and, in a letter written on 6 November 1863 to his brother Milton, he mentioned that he planned to attend "a protracted meeting" in the Presbyterian church where "Rev. Mr. Jas. M. Sprunt [,] the pastor[,] who is an excellent man and a splendid preacher, will preach...." He also wrote about Sprunt in a November letter to the Reverend John Harris. "During last week the Rev. J.M. Sprunt...preached at night [and] four ladies joined his church. He is a learned & pious man and a model preacher."

Early Sunday morning, 6 December 1863, "we left our half-finished cabins, near 'Huggins' farm, which we would have had nice & comfortable in a week or two" and after "a slow but pleasant trip from Onslow [county], we have arrived near Wilmington," Kiah informed his mother in a letter written 9 December from his "Camp in the woods." Captain Harlan, he continued, "reported to Gen. [William H. C.] Whiting today...[and] was ordered to report to the commandant of Fort Fisher, some 20 or 30 [miles] below Wilmington on the Cape Fear river; but he has been ordered to 'wait for further orders': so it is doubtful where we will go, though I think we will be in this vicinity somewhere." He concluded that "We will hardly have a rough time anywhere in N.C., but I never expect to have as nice & pleasant a time as I had in Duplin & Onslow." While he was in camp near Wilmington, Kiah learned of the death of his eighty-five-year-old maternal grandfather, Thomas G. Williams (1788–1863). In a letter to his mother, written on 18 December 1863, he explained how he heard the news the day after his grandfather died. "Brown G[arrison] arrived this mor[ning] & tells me the sad news of the death of old Grandfather.... [He] has been feeble so long that I was not very much surprised to hear of his death.... doubtless it was *hard* for you to *give him up!*" Kiah's grandmother, Sarah Moore Williams (1791–1875), survived her husband

and Kiah imagined that she "& our Turkey-creek relations are very much grieved." In fact, Kiah had just received a letter from two of his aunts, his mother's sisters, Gabriella and Emma, who had written before their father had died, and he requested that his mother "tell them I will answer as soon as I can." As one of the heirs of her father's estate, Mary Sadler, along with her brother, Daniel C. Williams, and her six sisters, each received a substantial inheritance. John Marion Moore (1817–1885), the husband of Jane E. Williams (1825–1900), was appointed administrator of his father-in-law's estate and was responsible for dispersing the assets to the heirs. Dan Williams wrote to his sister from Sullivans Island, South Carolina, where he was stationed as commissary sergeant of the Seventeenth Regiment, South Carolina Infantry, on 8 February 1864 about their father's estate. "I think the way you spoke of dividing the estate is the fairest and most equitable [,] in fact it is the only way that it can be done equally," he reasoned. "Tell Richard to go on and fix it to the best of his judgement." Although Richard was not the administrator, he was involved in the settlement process for many years. Included among the financial documents in the Sadler Papers, are three items that related to the Williams estate, including a copy of the bill of appraisement of the property owned by Thomas G. Williams at his death, dated 8 March 1864, and receipts signed by Gabriella C. Williams and D.C. Williams, in 1877 and 1878 for money paid to them by Richard Sadler from the proceeds "from sale of land sold to make partition among the heirs at law of T. G. Williams Dec^d."

Kiah's regiment remained in the eastern North Carolina area until the early spring of 1864, and he continued to send letters to his family at home. In his 24 December 1863 letter to his mother, he wished "'A Happy Christmas' to you and all our friends" and remarked that "York boys all well." When he posted another letter on 30 January 1864, he was "On the road between Wilmington and Onslow Co N.C.," he informed his brother Rufus. "You are doubtless surprised that we have left our 'camp near Ft. Fisher' where we were comfortable in good quarters & expecting to spend the winter, but it even so." Although he was uncertain about the reason for the expedition, he did know the destination. "At present we are on the march for Jacksonville the C[ourt] H[ouse] of Onslow, going with Gen. Martin's Brigade from Wilmington," he related. "It is surmised by some of our officers that we are going either to meet an expected advance of the Yankees or to make an attack on Newbern." When he next wrote home, on 15 February, he sent the letter to his brother Oscar and headed it "Camp Badger (near) Ft. Fisher, N.C." and included a brief account of the previous two weeks. "[F]or the last 15 days we have been on an expedition against the Yankees over in Carteret Co.," he explained. "We had a lively & exciting time & were successful." Company K of the Fifth Regiment, South Carolina Cavalry had been part of a mixed force that had included infantry, artillery and two cavalry companies that had marched

from Wilmington to Shepherdsville, North Carolina to create a diversion and protect the flank of another Confederate army, under the command of General George E. Pickett, whose objective was Newbern, a town thirty miles, north of Shepherdsville long occupied by Federal troops. The attacks on the Federal positions were successful and the two thousand troops, commanded by General James G. Martin, stormed two strong block houses that protected the Union soldiers housed nearby, and by the end of the day on 2 February 1864 had driven the defending Federals from the Newport Barracks. Kiah, however, missed the charge by his company that forced the enemy to abandon their defensive positions, because, as he recounted to Oscar, "being left as a courier on the road, I was about 2 hrs too late for the battle, but was in some exciting scouting afterwards." He did not provide many details of the encounter because he assumed that his family had "doubtless seen an account of it in the papers ere this."

Short notices of the battle of 2 February in Charleston newspapers and a much longer account of the entire campaign into northeastern North Carolina, written by a member of Kiah's company and published in the 9 March 1864 edition of the *Yorkville Enquirer*. Signed "E.M." and dated 24 February, after the company had returned to Camp Badger near Wilmington, this letter chronicled the role of Company K in the Newport Barracks engagement. The writer, First Lieutenant Edward Moore, prefaced his narrative with "Perhaps it would be of some interest to many persons in York District, to hear something of the expedition...against Shepherdsville, in which some of the boys of the District were engaged." After his detailed description of the skirmishes and the fall of the last Union stronghold, he ended his letter with "The day's work was done—gloriously done.... The boys then proceeded to treat themselves liberally to clothes, e[a]tables &c, which the Yankees had not time to burn in their hurry to get away from danger." On his return ride to Wilmington, Kiah admitted that he had "made it convenient to go by 'Haw branch' & Kenansville where we had so many pleasant h[ou]rs in the summer.... but did not see several of my friends I expected to see." In concluding his brief letter, Kiah gave his brother advice that he thought would be useful to him in his new life as a college student. In the fall of 1863, Oscar had enrolled at Davidson College, following in the footsteps of his older brother. There had been some concern within the family that he might be called into military service before the year ended, but he returned to school in January 1864. "Take care of your health, take exercise, keep good company & make the best of your time & opportunity. You have my best wishes for your success, welfare, happiness & usefulness." Kiah also asked to be remembered to "Dr. Kirk[patri]ck & family, Prof. R[ockwell] & lady, Prof. McIver & all my acquaintances among the boys." Oscar, however, was suspended from Davidson College in late February 1864 for three months when he and six other

students left campus without permission to travel to Statesville, North Carolina to hear North Carolina's governor, Zebulon Vance, make a speech. In early March, Oscar spent a few days with Kiah at Camp Badger before returning home.

Kiah and his comrades remained in camp near Wilmington until April 1864. When he wrote to his father on 30 March, he had just learned that his regiment had been ordered "to Va. instead of Charleston....Of course we are all disappointed about it, but the matter can't be helped & therefore I don't intend to fret about it." Although he had hoped to "get my horse home for several months to be rested & recruited," he would have little chance to do so, but he suggested, that "Mr. Guy, who goes home in a day or two for a horse, might bring your gray to me." In any case, he expected that when the time came to leave for Virginia, "the most of our comp. will probably go to Richmond by R[ai]l R[oa]d & a few [will] be detailed to drive our horses through [and] I will go with the horses through preference." The expected transfer of the companies to Virginia required more time than Kiah expected, and Company K did not complete the trip until May. In the meantime, nineteen-year-old Oscar Sadler had decided to join the Confederate army and he enlisted as a private in Company K, Seventeenth Regiment, South Carolina Infantry on 1 May in Columbia and joined the regiment in Virginia later that month. Four companies of the Seventeenth Infantry had been raised in York District and several of Oscar's relatives served in that regiment, including his uncle, Daniel C. Williams, who had acted as commissary sergeant for the regiment for several months in 1863 and 1864. Letters from both Kiah and Oscar, written to their father in early June, in which they described their experiences during the desperate struggle between the Confederate and Union armies on the front lines in Virginia, are present in the collection. Oscar's letter, written on 1 June and headed "Battle Field Chester Station," the site of an earlier battle fought on 10 May 1864, was the second he had written since his arrival at his regiment's camp near Petersburg. The Seventeenth Infantry held a position in the line of defenses near Petersburg during the last phase of General Benjamin F. Butler's failed Bermuda Hundred Campaign that ended with the Union forces bottled up south of Richmond and unable to advance. "I have no news of interest to report," Oscar wrote. "We have nothing to do with the Yankees except give them a few shells to break their slumber." The troops, he continued, "are in fine spirits and think in their breast works they can whip 5 to one. I believe so too." Oscar was well pleased with his military companions; "I am in a splendid Co[mpany] I think & also in a fine mess.... We still get corn bread & bacon." Oscar complained that he had not received a letter from home and was eager to learn the latest news from his family and friends. He wanted to know if Ned Crawford and Bill Sadler had returned to their regiments and asked, "When have you heard from Kiah?" When Kiah wrote a short note on 5 June, he was in camp near the Chickahominy

River southeast of Richmond and probably not more than twenty miles from his brother's camp. His last two letters, he wrote, "were occupied so much with the accounts of the battles of 'Haws Shop' & 'Cold Harbor' in which my reg't was engaged" and, as a result, "I said nothing about the clothing" he had asked his mother to send him. After describing the coat and pants he needed, he asked his father to "please have me a p[ai]r of boots made as soon as you can.... Boots are better for the cav. service here than shoes." He closed his brief letter, written on the verso of a letter he had received, with "We've not been in another fight since last Monday, but have been picketing or moving about every day." Just as Oscar had mentioned the food he ate each day, Kiah also referred to the daily ration that the members of his company, and their horses, received: "We get 5 [pounds] corn per day for our horses & graze them on clover once or twice per day [and] we get plenty of corn bread & bacon cooked & sent to us each day."

Four days after he wrote his 5 June 1864 letter, Kiah's regiment was ordered to join with the cavalry corps of General Robert E. Lee's Army of Northern Virginia in its pursuit of Union General Phil Sheridan's cavalry as the Federals raced westward from Cold Harbor, where General Ulysses S. Grant's army was concentrated, in an apparent attempt to cut Lee's supply line, the Virginia Central Railroad, which connected Richmond with the rich farm lands of the Shenandoah Valley. The Fifth Regiment, South Carolina Cavalry was in General Matthew C. Butler's Brigade with two other South Carolina cavalry regiments, the Fourth and Sixth, and was part of General Wade Hampton's Division. The Confederate cavalry shadowed Sheridan's men and, after two days on the road during which they covered forty-five miles, the troopers bivouacked near the village of Trevilian Station during the evening of 10 June. The next morning, Sheridan's cavalry brigades and Hampton's troopers clashed in the largest and bloodiest cavalry engagement of the Civil War. During the two days of fighting, 11 and 12 June, the Fifth Regiment, South Carolina Cavalry reported fifty-five casualties: six killed, forty-one wounded, and eight missing. Among the missing was Kiah Sadler. Some of the missing men had been captured and, in the months after the battle, Kiah was simply listed on the company's rolls as "absent, missing Battle of Trevilian June 11, 1864." By the war's end, Richard Sadler had accepted the fact that his son had been killed in battle and buried in an unmarked grave. On 29 December, he wrote to Charles G. Trevilian who lived at Trevilian's Depot, Virginia, to seek his help in locating his son's grave. Mr. Trevilian replied to his letter on 9 February 1866 and reported that "I can learn nothing definite about your son owing to the fact that few of the graves were marked, though there are a number of graves of South Carolinians in this neighborhood." He did, however, remember that "There was one South Carolinian buried near this

place by the yankees...[who] left a description of him which I think was about this: 'a Confederate soldier killed 11th of June [,] low in statue light hair & eyes & red whiskers.'"

After Kiah's death, the number of letters in the Sadler family collection decreases significantly; however, nine letters from Oscar, all written from the besieged city of Petersburg, Virginia and dated from 4 October 1864 until 20 March 1865, are present. Oscar suffered from recurring fever in early August 1864 and spent two weeks in a Richmond hospital before he was furloughed home for thirty days in late August. On 4 October, he wrote a brief letter to his brother Milton, but had very little news to convey. His company had "not been disturbed by shells for 2 days," he noted, and "hope the Yanks have found out the folly of shelling us at the distance they've been doing—mile & 1/2. They effected nothing during the days they shelled [e]xcept to frighten...[the] boys out of their wits." During the fall of 1864 and the winter of 1864/1865, the two armies faced each other from their protected fortifications and did little more than lob artillery shells at each other and employ sharpshooters to pick off soldiers in exposed positions. Oscar's letters reflect that reality for he rarely wrote about any military subjects, but instead related news about camp life, his comrades, and letters written and received. For example, in his 25 November 1864 letter to his mother, he expressed his concern that his brother Milton would be called into military service. "I heard today...that the young Militia of S Car have been ordered out. Is it so? Then it will catch Mit. I am sorry if he has to go But hope & know he will acquit himself gallantly." When he again wrote to his mother on 18 December, he had learned from her recent letter that Mit's regiment of State Troops had been ordered to Grahamville, South Carolina, the site of the 30 November Battle of Honey Hill. "He is perhaps seeing some strange sights," Oscar imagined. "I feel sorry for Mit and the rest of the boys if they are not getting enough to eat."

By the end of the month, Oscar was ill in the hospital and, on 13 January 1865, wrote to his mother and father from "Wallace's Brigade Hospl., Petersburg, Va." and blamed his continuing sickness on "eating while at the Hosp'l some extraordinary mean bacon." He also explained to his father that he had gone "before Johnson Division [e]xamining Medical Board and could get no satisfaction but know they'll give me light duty." In his next letter, headed "Anderson's Corps Hospital, Petersburg, Va." and written on 2 February 1865 to his brother Mit, Oscar recounted his efforts to gain an assignment that would not tax his strength. He had had hopes of "getting in the employ of the Board of the Central Association to carry boxes to Gen'l Lee's army & in fact to all parts of the Conf[ederacy] by rail road," but when his "papers came back approved by Gen'l Anderson" he found that he had been assigned "to Light Duty at Anderson's Corps Hospital...." His first impulse, he wrote, was "to go to my Co[mpany] forthwith and do all I could, which is very little for me, lying in the trenches around Petersburg having nothing to

do but go on picket & stand watch." A lieutenant in his company, however, persuaded him "to try the place to which I was assigned awhile and if I did not like it, I might come to my Co." After working in the hospital for a few days as ward master, he was "just tolerably pleased" and did not "expect to stay long if I can get away." On 5 March, when he again wrote to his mother, he was still at Anderson's Corps hospital, where, he confessed, he was "getting very much dissatisfied with my position here." Because he had been at his job in the hospital for "over a month," he had not had "as good a chance of hearing from home & my beloved state, as the boys in the trenches...." It had been almost a month since he had received a letter from home and, in the interim, he had learned that General William T. Sherman's army had occupied and burned much of Columbia, and then continued its march northeastward through the state. "Mother, my anxiety since Sherman's occupation has been intense on your account as well as the rest of the family," he confessed, and he was also conflicted because "in this my country's gloomy hour when she needs every man at his post [,] the idea of keeping out of the ranks—the post of honor & of danger—continually stings me." He planned to "ask Dr. Bedon for a discharge to my command soon [,] provided he can give me one & if not then I shall take French Leave."

When Oscar addressed his father by letter on 20 March, he had rejoined his company and had moved south of Petersburg toward the South Side Railroad with Anderson's Division. "At last Father our war-worn troops (I mean our Division) have gotten out of reach of minnis & mortars [and] They hardly know how to act, having been near ten months in constant danger of death from shell & minni ball." Oscar was also pleased because he had learned that Sherman's soldiers had turned toward the northeast in their trek across South Carolina and, as a result, the "Yanks" did not pass "through 'Old York.'" Other upstate towns, however, had experienced the wrath of Sherman's troops. Oscar was concerned about his Sadler relatives who lived in Lancaster and asked his father, "Did the Enemy take Lancasterville?" Richard Sadler probably responded to that question with an account of the situation in Lancaster and the fate of the Sadlers who lived there from the pen of someone who had been present there when elements of the Union army appeared. The Reverend Elias James Meynardie (1826–1890), a Methodist minister who had served as the chaplain in two different South Carolina regiments during the first months of the war, had written to Oscar's father from Chester, South Carolina on 8 March 1865, with his eye-witness report. "I was at Lancaster last week while Kilpatrick's cavalry were there, and witnessed the plundering of the people," he recounted. "They were literally stripped of every thing they had to subsist upon & when I left were dependent upon the scraps of provisions they could gather from the Yankee camp." He had seen Bettie Sadler, the widow of Richard's brother, and she was, Meynardie, observed, "among the suffering." He had visited her just before he left Lancaster and had found her

"well, but like the rest of the community [,] in distress. She had her house rifled & was cursed and threatened." Her daughter, Jennie, had requested that Meynardie write to her uncle on her behalf. "She asks you to send over some articles of food, if you can do so, for to use her language, 'The Yankees have taken everything.'" Meynardie also warned about the danger from Confederates as well as Sherman's men: "[I] fear Wheeler's plunders have been near you. They have faithfully imitated the Yankees wherever they have gone in committing depredations upon property." Oscar, however, may not have received that information from his father because, before a reply to his letter of 20 March 1865 could have been delivered, Oscar had been captured and sent to a prisoner of war camp on Hart Island, New York. According to his Confederate service record, he was captured on 3 April when Federal troops had broken through Petersburg's southern defenses along the line of the South Side Railroad. By 7 April, Oscar was at Hart Island where, on 16 June, he signed an oath of allegiance to the United States and was released from prison and allowed to return to his home.

Although only four letters, dated April 1865 through 1869, from the years immediately after the Civil War survive in the collection, twenty-three other manuscripts—receipts, contracts, and agreements—document the Sadler family's transition to the post-war world. During the war, Richard Sadler, with the labor of the enslaved workers on his farm, had continued to grow crops, primarily corn, hay, cotton, molasses, and peas, and tend his livestock, according to a statement he submitted to the Confederate tax-in-kind assessor for York District on 19 January 1865. With emancipation and the end of the war, the newly freed men and women of York District discovered that their lives had changed very little. On 23 December 1865, two men and six women signed a receipt with their marks and acknowledged that "Recd this day of Richard Sadler our former master fifty four Bushels of corn six Bushels of peas and twenty five gallons of Syrup for our services this year[.] [H]e has also furnished us with sufficient clothing & shoes pays our Dr Bill &c." The document was witnessed by two of Sadler's neighbors, marked "ap[p]roved By the Boa[r]d" and signed by Capt. M. Boyce. Michael Boyce (1813–1898) was the commander of Company K, Fifteenth Regiment, Maine Infantry, the contingent of Federal troops stationed in Yorkville from November 1865 until April 1866, and in that capacity assumed many of the responsibilities for governing the district while the state was under martial law. Among his duties was the approval of labor contracts and agreements between landowners and freedmen and women. Two residents, attorney J. Bolton Smith and hotel owner William E. Rose, served on the board and, along with Boyce, "Examined & approved" the agreement. Among the eight freedmen and women who worked on Sadler's farm until the end of 1865, were two men, Gladman and Alexander, and six women, Juliet, Sarah, Harriet, Adaline, Jane, and Eliza—all of whose names appear on the list of births and

deaths of enslaved men and women preserved in the Sadler Family papers. Gladman, who later assumed the surname Cooper, was born 1 May 1831 and Alexander, who took his former master's surname, was born in July 1844. During the Civil War, both men had been "furnished for labor on the Coast" as attested by two receipts, one for "Gladden," dated 5 May 1863, who was thus employed for two months, and the other for Alex, dated 21 September 1863, who was in the service of the state for three months.

Richard Sadler also employed freedmen and women in the post-war years who had not been part of his enslaved work force. On 8 January 1866, he signed an agreement by which "the following Freedmen, formerly belonging to R.G. McCaw, viz. Charles, Bob, Limus, & Silas, along with the wives of Charles and Bob, and Jinny, the mother of Limus and Silas, "agree to work as laborers on the farm of...R. Sadler, for the term of one year, commencing the first day of January 1866." In exchange for their labor, Sadler agreed "to pay to the said laborers one fourth of all the cotton, corn, oats, wheat, fodder, peas, & syrup that may be raised on the place during the term mentioned." The four men accepted the terms of the contract and each one signed with his mark; however, apparently the agreement did not meet the standards required by Captain Boyce for his approval and a revised document, longer and more detailed, was signed by the same individuals, who were listed as "Bob McCaw & his wife and Limas McCaw and his family." The freedmen had adopted the name of their former owner, Robert Gadsden McCaw (1821–1870), who, in the 1860 census, had claimed 126 enslaved individuals as his property. Captain Boyce accepted this contract and wrote on the verso of the final page, "Office Com of Labor, Yorkville S.C. Mar 16th, 1866. Approved by order of the Board, M. Boyce, Chairman." The Sadler collection also includes five later contracts with other freedmen. Three of them were dated February 1875 and were marked "approved at Rock Hill March 20, 1875, C.J. Pride, Trial Justice." Cadwallader Jones Pride (1828–1904), as a trial justice appointed by the governor, was charged with the approval of such contracts under South Carolina law in the years after the military courts and the Freedmen's Bureau no longer existed.

The thirty-four letters in the collection dated during the 1870s relate primarily to family news from Richard and Mary Sadler's nieces and nephews who had moved away from South Carolina. There are a few letters present from Mit Sadler, who after his three-month tour of duty in the State Troops near the end of the Civil War, returned home to work on his father's farm and briefly attended school before moving to Bradley County, Arkansas, where he studied medicine with James T. Meek (1842–1886). York District born, Dr. Meek enlisted in the Fifth Regiment, South Carolina Infantry as a private soldier in 1861 and in 1863 was promoted to assistant surgeon in the Confederate army. After the war, he joined other members of the Meek family, as well as others from York District who had settled in

Bradley County, Arkansas. Apparently because the Sadlers had been neighbors of the Meeks before they moved west and certainly were acquainted with Dr. Meek, Mit decided to join him in Johnsville, Arkansas. In November 1871, John M. Sadler entered the Medical Department of the University of Louisiana at New Orleans (later Tulane University Medical School) and listed Dr. James T. Meek as his preceptor and gave his address as Johnsville, Bradley County, Arkansas. On 15 March 1873, after spending two terms, each of which began in November and ended in March, in New Orleans, Mit Sadler was one of forty-six graduates awarded an M.D. Dr. Sadler then joined Dr. Meek and practiced medicine in Arkansas until 1880. A few letters from both Dr. Meek and Mit survive in the collection. In his letter of 3 February 1875, Dr. Meek asked Richard Sadler "to get me some more of the ladies' shoes you sent me, through your son Mit, when he returned from Carolina. I feel ashamed to ask this of you, when I have not yet paid for the first, but I will very soon send the amt. already due, & also to pay for this lot...." In addition to the shoes, Dr. Meek also wanted "some chewing Tobacco for my own use. I expect you will think strange of my sending for the tobacco, but I cannot get such an article, even in New Orleans, as you have there." In addition to the tobacco for himself, Dr. Meek also wanted Sadler to purchase, at a cheaper price, tobacco "for the freedmen.... If you think...that you could deliver me one hundred or one hundred & twenty five lbs. of sound cheap tobacco in New Orleans for 50 cents per lb. please send it."

The day after Dr. Meek wrote to Richard Sadler, Mit sent a four-page letter to his younger brother Rufus, who still lived at home and worked on his father's farm, in which he discussed his recent trip through Arkansas during which he looked for "a good location for the practice of medicine." Although his trip had been cut short by bad weather and roads, he planned to visit other areas in the spring or summer because, he wrote, "I have not as yet found a location that I am sure will pay me well enough to leave here, for in leaving here I will necessarily lose a great deal that I will get by staying." Mit also considered leaving Arkansas for another state where his income might increase. "[B]ut at the present I am strongly in the notion of going to Texas next year," he related. While on his trip, Mit traveled through Monticello, Arkansas and visited with some of his friends from York County who had moved to Arkansas in the years after the Civil War in search of economic opportunity. John R. Hall's family lived in the country near Monticello, Mit wrote, and, after discussing the six Hall siblings that Rufus had known, he remarked that "I don't think any of the family are pleased with Ark[ansas]." Another former York District resident, Frank Barron, was "also living in Monticello this year—I don't think he is making any money." Mit, however, was optimistic about Arkansas's future and predicted that "now with her good government and good crops this year, she will soon commence improving [and] with a good crop this year we can make some money and with a bad one we will make at least expenses

for we intend to drop a large portion of our practice and don't intend to cheat the devil out of his dues any longer." An improving Arkansas economy had allowed Mit to repay much of his outstanding debt in two years, as he explained to his father in a letter dated 3 July 1877. "I am out of debt and have something over, [or at least] one hundred dollars will cover all I owe at this time including this years expenses up to date, which I will settle up in a few days." A few years earlier, he claimed, "I was in debt over a thousand dollars [and even if] I have not made half as much as I ought to have done, [I] have quit fretting about it." In fact, he planned to collect as much of the money owed to him by his patients "as possible," and believed that he would "get enough to locate myself somewhere else, if I can find a suitable location."

Eventually, Mit Sadler did relocate to improve his financial situation and living and working conditions. In 1880, he moved to Uniontown, a village in Perry County, Alabama, situated in the "Canebrake" region of the state. Dr. Meek had already relocated to Ennis County, Texas and Mit found the opportunities in Perry County more attractive than other locations he had investigated. On 18 February 1883, he wrote a letter to Rufus Sadler on the letterhead of the drugstore that he co-owned, Long & Sadler, in response to the "long and interesting letter" he had just received from his brother. After congratulating him on his success in "last years farming operation" he observed that "You have done as well as any one that I know of even in this fine country and a great deal better than a great many." Perhaps as a point of comparison, Mit related his own experience as a part-time farmer. "I have succeeded as well as could be expected considering I had no funds to run a farm and living the distance I did from it." He expected his revenue from the sale of his cotton and corn crops and the income from his "rent cotton" to exceed \$700 for the year. "But now I think I am done with farming until I can make a surplus of money or get 'busted' in the drug business," he concluded. Much of the rest of his eight-page letter was focused on his past life in Arkansas and written in reply to a comment Rufus had made in his letter. "Ruf [,] you are mistaken about my past life having been a very pleasant one with but a few exceptions," he asserted. "The nine years in Ark was a perfect dog's life—no pleasure or comforts. It was the best part of my youth devoted to hard work under great disadvantages in order to get a profession and money enough to locate elsewhere." He devoted two pages to the recitation of the hardships he had endured attending to his patients in Arkansas: "I took many risks to life and health that you never dreamed of. I have swam creeks at night when it was so dark I couldn't see ten feet before me.... I have been exposed to enough cold to have killed almost any one. I have spent a many an hour on the ground in the swamps asleep at night, so completely exhausted that I couldn't ride without falling off my horse.... The majority of doctors in the swamps become opium eaters and drunkards from disease and

exposure." He also recalled his own situation when he left home and cautioned Rufus to "never let a son of yours go west to read or practice medicine with only \$145 in his jacket when he leaves Rock Hill." And he admitted that "I have never felt permanently settled and fear I never will. I have no idea when I will marry—may never." Although there are no other letters in this collection from Mit Sadler, other sources document his later life. Three years after he wrote to his brother Rufus, Mit married, on 9 February 1886, Etta Key, the daughter of William Ogle Key (1823–1874) and his wife Virginia Coleman (1832–1900). Both of Etta Key's parents were from prominent families: her father, from Leonard Town, Maryland, was Francis Scott Key's distant cousin; and her mother, Virginia Coleman (1832–1900) was the daughter of John George Pegram Coleman (1811–1871), a prominent planter of Marengo County, Alabama. Etta and her widowed mother lived in Uniontown when Dr. Sadler moved there in 1880 and the couple continued to live there after their marriage. Four children were born to them: Etta Key Sadler (1888–1892), Clarence Milton Sadler (1890–1951), Key Sadler (4 January 1893–11 February 1893), and Eloise Sadler (1894–1991). In 1895, the family moved to Montgomery, Alabama where Dr. Sadler continued his medical practice until his death in 1906.

Other post-Civil War letters in the collection are concentrated in the years from 1870 until 1884, with a few scattered later letters. Most of the letters were written by relatives who had moved away from South Carolina and, in several cases, continued a chain of correspondence that had started in the 1850s or 1860s. For example, the sons of Kiah P. Harris, Charles Franklin Harris (1833–1875) and Richard Sadler Harris (1835–1911) wrote to their "Uncle Dick" on occasion with family news, especially the state of their mother's health. Gus Harris, Dick's niece who lived in Lowndesboro, Alabama, and who, along with her sister Rosie and cousin Ella Sadler, had often corresponded with Kiah Sadler while he was in the army, conveyed news of the Alabama Sadlers, McRees, and HARRISES in a letter dated 30 December 1883. Several relatives who were not previously correspondents began to exchange letters with Richard Sadler in the 1870s. William Washington Carothers (1819–1886), a Presbyterian minister who had married Mary Lytle Sadler (1825–1914), the eldest daughter of Minor Sadler and his wife Sarah Lytle Sadler, wrote to Richard Sadler, his wife's uncle, on 6 May 1871, from Marion, Alabama, the first of seven letters that he, or a member of his family, sent in the 1870s. Carothers and his family had just moved from York County where he had served as pastor of an Independent Presbyterian church, Beth Shiloh from 1853 until early in 1871. During the Civil War, he was, for a brief period in October and November 1863, chaplain for the Seventeenth Regiment, South Carolina Infantry before he resigned his chaplaincy on 4 December. Although his letters focused primarily on news of his family, he also included observations about his new home in Alabama, farming conditions in Perry County, his ministry, the state

of religion in his area, and the political situation in both South Carolina and Alabama. In his first letter, Washington Carothers described his new community: "We live 5 miles from the town of Marion, in a sandy and broken country, almost, if not altogether as hilly as the Turkey Creek country [in York County, South Carolina], and the people here consider this a very healthy section." In another letter, this one written on 23 November 1872, Carothers commented that "We are still pleased with our Alabama home. Our neighborhood is, in many respects, one of the most pleasant & desirable ones I have ever known." His only concern about his ministry at the Fairview Presbyterian Church was that "My congregation is small, and there is not in the community, *material* from which to expect any considerable growth in the Church." On the other hand, he considered his "ministerial Salary here...much better than it was in S.C., but living here is more expensive than there, and the only gain in this respect is that I am not forced to teach constantly, as I was there." While living in York District, Carothers supplemented his pastoral income by also working as a teacher. He was principal of the Yorkville Male Academy in the years before the Civil War, and after the war he taught at the Yorkville Female College in 1868 and 1869 and was also president of the college's board of trustees during the same period. Just before he moved to Alabama, he was principal of the Rock Hill Academy for one term.

Another relative who had moved to Mississippi also began to correspond with Richard and Mary Sadler in 1872. Minor and Sarah Sadler's youngest daughter, Louisa Minor (1841–1876) who, after her father's death had been placed under the guardianship of her uncle Richard in 1854, a role he continued until 1862 when Louisa reached the age of twenty-one. As guardian of his niece and her property, it was Richard's duty to account for all expenditures made on her behalf to the Ordinary of York District. Richard retained the receipts for money paid to settle all her accounts and, because of that requirement, most of the receipts, a total of fifty, preserved in the Sadler Family Papers during the years from 1854 until 1862, were for expenditures for Louisa's benefit. When the guardianship ended, Louisa signed a receipt for \$749.11 "received of Richard Sadler my late Guardian...in full the amount due by him to me" on 5 August 1862. On 13 December 1866, Louisa married John T. Parker, M.D. (1837–1913) at her mother's home in York District and, at the same time and place, her older sister, Eliza (1832–1908), married Samuel Neely Miller (1821–1872), and the sisters' brother-in-law, the Reverend Washington Carothers, performed the ceremonies. Both couples remained in York until 1872, the year that the Parkers, with two young children, Margaret, and Victor, along with Sarah Lytle Sadler, Louisa's mother, moved to their new home in Buena Vista, Mississippi. On 30 September 1872, six months after she and her family arrived in Mississippi, Louisa wrote to her uncle and aunt. "You have doubtless heard through others of the diminutive cabin which gave us shelter when we reached the wilds of the far west,

and the disappointment and rather discontent we experienced that all was not as we would wish it to be." For her mother, "with the weight of years to leave the hallowed spot she so long called home...was indeed a sore trial," but with the passage of a few months she reported that "we are satisfied and contented and feel that it may be all...for the best that this change came upon us." Although Louisa found that the "people here lack much of the refinements we have been accustomed to, they are kind & obliging & the majority wealthy." She also believed that in Mississippi "Professional characters can make money...easier than in the old state," a fact that greatly encouraged her husband, the "new doctor" in town. The only other doctor in Buena Vista was "an old resident, who has amassed a considerable fortune & lives in much style," but her husband was already "making quite a reputation and [was] very popular with all classes," she noted. "If our lives are spared, I doubt not we will make more here in a much shorter time than we could at home, & for that reason alone we decide[d] on a permanent home here." Louisa also expressed her deep concern for her sister Eliza and for her future because her husband, Samuel N. Miller, had died suddenly the previous May, just after the Parkers and Mrs. Sadler had moved away from York County. "Hers has been a sad, sad, bereavement, and we feared for a time she would sink under the blow, but lately her letters are not so desponding," Louisa observed. Eliza's mother and the Parkers wanted her "to come here to live, but we think she should first come on a visit before making any decision," she concluded.

Louisa continued to correspond with her uncle and aunt, conveying news of her family and comments about the differences she observed between the genteel South Carolina society that she had known and the less sophisticated Mississippi culture. From Buena Vista, she wrote on 10 November 1873 that "The people are kind in *their way*, but we find very little of that genuine hospitality & honorable principle which seems so much a part of the nature of Carolinians. Society is too much mixed here—young ladies of the first families will dance with young men who in So Ca, (at least in my day) would be considered unworthy [of] the notice of a *respectable servant girl*." She did, however, admit that "we have some excellent young men & intelligent nice girls & women, and we find it more *politic* to be agreeable to all classes." The people of Buena Vista apparently welcomed the doctor and his family and, as a result, "John is still doing a large practice," Louisa noted. "His popularity is as great as we could desire." His success had allowed the family to purchase land and begin construction of a new and larger house. "Our new house we hope will be completed by Christmas and we can once more claim a comfortable as well as a very pretty home," she added. In her letter, Louisa also commented on the marriage announcement of Richard and Mary's son Oscar, published in the 6 November 1873 edition of the *Yorkville Enquirer*: "You may imagine our surprise when we saw the notice of Cousin Oscars

marriage. We had never heard the rumor at all. Mary Russell was a warm friend of my girlhood, and I hope calculated to bring happiness to your home if they are there." The wedding, according to the newspaper announcement, took place near Blairsville, which in western York County, and had, on 21 October, united "Oscar W. Sadler, Esq., Attorney at Law, and Miss Mamie H., daughter of the late Rev. Robert Y. Russell, all of this county." Oscar Sadler had been admitted to the South Carolina Bar in November 1869, apparently after reading law with a local attorney and, beginning in December of that year, advertised his law partnership with Major James Franklin Hart in the Yorkville newspaper; however, after his marriage to Mary "Mamie" Russell (1843–1923), he abandoned the law, moved to the Bulloch Creek community near his wife's former home, and farmed for the rest of his life. Together, the couple had four children, but only one, Richard Sadler (1881–1960) lived to adulthood.

Although correspondence preserved in the Sadler Family papers significantly decreases by the end of the 1870s, other records provide a narrative of the family's involvement in the affairs of York County. Rufus Earle Sadler (1850–1906), the youngest of Richard and Mary's four sons, remained on his father's farm after his marriage, on 12 December 1877, to Lillie Emily Crawford (1855–1892), and in 1885 he assumed total responsibility for the farm's operation. As a young man, he became interested in local and state politics and was active in the Tilden and Hampton Club, which met at Pride's Old Mill, in York County in the months before the controversial election of 1876 when the York County Democrat party supported Samuel J. Tilden for president of the United States and Wade Hampton for governor. A manuscript titled "Constitution of the Tilden & Hampton Club" with R.E. Sadler's name on the verso of the final page is present in the collection. After that election, Sadler joined another similar group, The Democratic Club of Pride's Old Mill, and served as secretary during the summer and early fall of 1878. Minutes of five meetings, held from June through September, along with a list of the names of seventy-four club members, are also among the papers. Rufus was also probably responsible for preserving eight York County ballots from the elections of 1876 and 1880 that list candidates for various county, state, and national offices for the Democratic, Republican and National Greenback-Labor Party.

An account book in the collection, labeled "Farm Book," was Richard Sadler's "Yearly Account Book Beginning with 1883," in which he recorded "Accounts and expenses of all kinds for the year," and which he continued until April 1885, when Rufus Sadler began to make the entries which continued until 1892. Both father and son included the same information: dated entries for purchases made from various Rock Hill merchants, including R.T. Fewell and Company, W.L. Roddey and Company, and A. Friedheim & Bro.; sale of farm products; and the increase of livestock. Another similar farm account book, titled "Book of [accounts] of hands beginning with 1886 [and] continued [through] 1891" was

used by Rufus Sadler to list the names of the farm hands he employed for wages, the charges for food, clothing, and other items he supplied each hand, and the terms of each worker's employment. In 1888, for example, four wage hands worked on Sadler's farm, each for "the seven crop months, January through July." Frank Caldwell and Boots Stevens each worked for \$8.50 plus board per month, while Sam Stevens started at \$6.00 plus board, but saw his monthly pay increased until June when he earned \$8.00. Gus Stevens, who received \$4.00 for the first three months of his term, was paid \$7.00 for July, the last month of his employment. After the expiration of the seven months agreement, each hand was paid only for the task assigned, and Rufus noted the amount of time that each worker ploughed, bundled fodder, pulled corn, or picked cotton. By 1891, Rufus Sadler had decided to build a house for his wife and family in Rock Hill and in the same account book he devoted a page to "Expenses of house building in Rock Hill." Beginning in November 1891 and continuing through February 1892, he listed the payments he made to various individuals who supplied lumber, shingles, and brick and to those who worked on the structure. During the same period, he accumulated receipts, also preserved in the collection, for other items he purchased for the house. The 2 March 1892 issue of the *Yorkville Enquirer*, in a column headed "Rock Hill Happenings," noted that "Mr. R.E. Sadler will move to his new house on Johns[t]on Street this week." On 19 March, shortly after Rufus and his wife Lillie and their six children moved into their new house, Rufus Earle Sadler, Jr. (1892–1949) was born, and just over a month after his birth Lillie Sadler died of pneumonia after a short illness. Rufus Sadler continued to live in his Rock Hill home until his death in 1906.

After Rufus Sadler moved to Rock Hill from the family farm in the Bethesda community, he joined the mercantile firm W.L. Roddey and Company. William Lyle Roddey (1834–1909) began his career as a Rock Hill merchant soon after the end of the Civil War as a partner in Wylie, Roddey & Augurs, a wholesale, and retail business that sold dry goods, hardware, and groceries. Rufus Sadler had been a regular customer of Roddey's as early as 1870, as attested by the receipts for purchases that are preserved in the Sadler Family collection and continued to patronize Roddey's business after he established W.L. Roddey and Company in the late 1870s. Shortly after Rufus Sadler joined the company, William L. Roddey decided to change the structure of his business by obtaining a charter of incorporation from the South Carolina General Assembly which would allow the new corporation to issue stock. Early in 1893, the Roddey Mercantile Company was organized with a six-member board of directors which included William L. Roddey, his son, William J. Roddey, his nephew, John E. Roddey, and three associates from the former company, A. Fletcher Ruff, Samuel L. Reid, and Rufus E. Sadler. Rufus remained active in the Roddey Mercantile Company until ill health forced him to retire about a year

before his death which occurred at his home in Rock Hill on 30 November 1906. His funeral service was held in the First Presbyterian Church in Rock Hill with burial in the cemetery of the Bethesda Presbyterian Church where four generations of Sadlers had preceded him. In May 1909, "Stony Fork," the 191-acre farm that had been in the family for over a century, was sold and the proceeds divided among the seven surviving children of Rufus and Lillie Emily Sadler. The house on Johnston Street, however, remained in the family and, the Sadler children, except for the eldest daughter, Mary Crawford Sadler (1879–1950), who graduated from Winthrop College in 1899, taught school for two years, married Daniel Calvin Stevenson on 10 October 1901, and moved to Gaffney for a few years, and the eldest son David Hope Sadler (1882–1931), who had spent four years at Clemson College, continued to live in their father's house. The younger sisters, Lillie Earle (1884–1954), Margaret Lee (1886–1954), Etta Milton (1888–1948), and Caroline Allison (1890–1974), all attended Winthrop College and remained at home. The youngest son, Rufus, was still in high school when his father died and continued to reside in the family home. When the 1910 census was taken, all the Sadler siblings, except for David Hope who had married Margaret Williams Hardee 30 December 1908 and moved to another section of the city, had returned to live in the Johnston Street home.

Three letters in the collection, one each from 1909, 1911, and 1921, were all addressed to Rufus Earle Sadler, Jr. (1892–1949). On 24 April 1909, Walter L. Lingle, pastor of the First Presbyterian Church in Atlanta, Georgia wrote "Just a day or two ago I learned that you and Maggie Lee and Etta are all at Clemson [and] I believe I will write you a line for the whole crowd." Lingle (1868–1956) had been the minister of the First Presbyterian Church in Rock Hill from 1902 until 1907 and had known the Sadlers who were members of his congregation and was especially fond of Rufus's father. "I hope you are going to make as good a man as your father," he wrote. "I never knew a better man than he was. I always had a real affection for him." Rufus Sadler, Jr. attended Clemson College for only one year before he decided to pursue a career as a pharmacist. He graduated from the South Carolina Medical College's Department of Pharmacy in Charleston and in March 1916, passed his examination to practice pharmacy as a licensed druggist. In 1917, he and William Owens established a drug store in Clinton, South Carolina. Although Rufus spent only one year as a Clemson College student, the family had other, closer connections to the college. David Hope Sadler starred as a football player and was the team captain on coach John Heisman's stellar teams of 1902 and 1903. After he graduated with a degree in electrical engineering in 1903, he worked as an engineer before eventually pursuing a career with an insurance company in Charlotte, North Carolina. Perhaps it was Hope's connection with Clemson that led two of

his sisters, Maggie Lee, and Etta, to the campus where both held jobs as secretaries at the time Lingle wrote his letter to Rufus and his siblings.

Shortly after Rufus Sadler established his drug store in Clinton in 1917, the United States entered World War I and, as required of all young men, Rufus registered for the draft on 5 June 1917; however, during the summer he applied for admission to the Second Officers' Training Camp, which began on 28 August and ended on 27 November, and was accepted. He was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the Infantry after completing training at Camp Greene, near Charlotte, North Carolina, and was eventually assigned to Company D, 321st Machine Gun Battalion, which sailed for England in May 1918 where it trained for a month, and then landed in France in June 1918, along with other units from the Eighty-second Division. His battalion was heavily engaged in the Meuse-Argonne offensive in October 1918 and, after the armistice was proclaimed on 11 November, remained in France until late April 1919, when the soldiers boarded the *USS Martha Washington* which sailed from Bordeaux and docked in Newport News, Virginia, on 7 May. Two documents and one letter that relate to his military service are included in the collection. In the first document, dated 16 April 1919, his battalion commander, Major Fonville McWhorter, recommended him for promotion from second to first lieutenant. The attached undated record of a physical examination performed by a medical officer was required for any officer recommended for promotion. The letter, dated 24 April 1919, was addressed to "2nd Lieut. Rufus E. Sadler", and was signed by Lieutenant Colonel George E. Roosevelt, Chief of Staff, who conveyed the Eighty-second Division commander's desire "that each of the officers recommended for promotion before the Division left the Bordeaux area, receive his recommendation. This will serve as a souvenir, and as proof of the fact that your services were appreciated."

The final letter in the collection was addressed to Rufus E. Sadler after he was mustered out of the army and had returned to Clinton to resume his practice of pharmacy. Dated 22 March 1921, it is an invitation from Rufus's sister, Margaret Lee Sadler (1886–1954) for him "to come over on Sunday and spend the day." "Peg," as she signed her name, worked as the secretary for Clemson College's president W.M. Riggs' and had used his official letterhead stationery for the note. "Leave Clinton early in the morning in your old Anderson and stay all day with us," she suggested. "We will surely be glad to have you, and besides seeing your wife, you will get to see your namesake, who is well worth a trip over." Rufus had married Julia Hodges Owens (1896–1987) of Clinton on 20 November 1920 and she was visiting, probably for the first time, with her husband's two sisters, Peg, and Etta. The "namesake" that Peg mentioned was Rufus Earle Sadler Henry (1920–1944), the first child born to Etta Sadler Henry and her husband Professor David Hill Henry (1878–1932) who had married in 1914. While Julia was in

Clemson, she was the honoree at several parties, Peg advised Rufus. "Etta and I are giving her a party tomorrow afternoon. Miss Trescot is going to give her one next week, and so is Mrs. Riggs [and] several other ladies whom you don't know are going to give her parties too." **Gift of Ms. Nancy Sadler.**