

South Caroliniana Library Report of Acquisitions

Volume 2022

Article 12

2022

Letter, 22 May 1816, Georgetown, John Hiddleston to Augustus Cook, Middletown, Connecticut

South Caroliniana Library

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Recommended Citation

Library, South Caroliniana (2022) "Letter, 22 May 1816, Georgetown, John Hiddleston to Augustus Cook, Middletown, Connecticut," *South Caroliniana Library Report of Acquisitions*: Vol. 2022, Article 12. Available at: <https://scholarcommons.sc.edu/uscsar/vol2022/iss1/12>

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Letter, 22 May 1816, written by John Hiddleston (1796–1854) from Georgetown to Augustus Cook (1766–1866) in Middletown, Connecticut describes his trip to South Carolina from Connecticut and his taking possession of several enslaved individuals apparently through inheritance. After a nineteen-day trip to Georgetown via New York and Charleston, the young Hiddleston arrived at the house of his “Aunt Smith,” where he learned the details of his inheritance. He informed Cook that “one of them is a carpenter...one is a Taylor...one by the name of George learning the Shewmakers trade, and one more learning the Carpenters trade and 5 I have on the Plantation.” Although Hiddleston apparently owed money to Cook, he informed that he had been advised that the “best thing...to do” rather than sell these individuals would instead be to “buy a Plantation about 90 Miles from Georgetown.” He closed by assuring Cook that he would return to Middletown in June or July the following year “upon some surtein business.”

A native of Connecticut, Hiddleston apparently remained in Georgetown and operated a mercantile establishment. He died at the age of fifty-four years and is buried in Wallingford, Connecticut. **Acquired for the Library by the University South Caroliniana Society.**