SCOPE AND CONTENTS
The Brown Papers consist of around 500 items covering a period from 1800 to 1865. The papers contain both personal and business correspondence of Jacob Jennings Brown and his family and the accounts of Edmond Kirby, the son-in-law of Jacob Brown. The papers give a clear picture of pioneer life in Northern New York as well as a sense of the military life of the time.

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BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH
Jacob Jennings Brown was born in Pennsylvania in 1775. In 1799 he purchased several thousand acres of land on the shore of Lake Ontario in northern New York and founded the village of Brownville. In 1809 Brown was made a colonel in the militia and in 1810 he was advanced to brigadier-general. At the outbreak of the War of 1812, Brown's troops repelled the British attack on Ogdensburg where his headquarters was located. In the spring of 1813, he assumed command at Sackett's Harbor and on May 29th of that year he defeated a superior force when the British attacked the harbor. In July 1813, Brown was appointed brigadier-general in the regular army and in 1814, he was placed in command of the army of Niagara with the rank of major-general. In that same year Brown took possession of Fort Erie and on July 5 he gained another victory at Chippewa.

At the close of the war Brown was retained in command of the northern division of the army and in 1821 he became general-in-chief of the U.S. Army, a position he held until his death in 1828.

Edmond Kirby was born in Litchfield, Connecticut, in 1794 and entered the army in 1812. He served as an aid to General Jacob Brown and later married his daughter Eliza. He became captain in May of 1824 and paymaster in August of the same year. He served on the staff of General Zachary Taylor at Monterey and of General Winfield Scott in the Valley of Mexico. Edmond Kirby died in Brownville in 1849.
ABBREVIATIONS

a.l.   autograph letter.   a.l.s. autograph letter, signed.  
a.d.s. autograph document, signed.   a.d.s. autograph document, signed. 
m.s. manuscript, signed.  
m.s. manuscript, signed.   a.m.s. autograph manuscript, signed.  
E.K. Edmond Kirby.  

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Lord and Stebbins

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Palmer, Eddie

Patrick, (?)

Peikell, John

Pierce, David

Rice, Clarke

Richards, G.N.

Richards, G.W.

Ricketts, Fanny

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Vinton, Hammond

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Williams, James

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## PERSONS RECEIVING CORRESPONDENCE

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DESCRIPTION OF SERIES

I. Correspondence.

A. Brown

1. Jacob Jennings Brown.

1 1 1812 Mar.18. a.l.s. (copy) J.B. to P. Riggs and B. Skinner. About the appointment of a new sherriff and banking issues.

1814  Extract from a letter written by J.B. reporting the conduct of the American Army at Chippewa.

1820  Aug.23. a.l.s. R.M. Kirby to J.B. Detroit. Requests that charges against General Macomb be returned to Col. Smith as soon as possible.

1825  Apr.1. a.l.s. J.B. to E.K. [Washington] About the mortgage on his farm held by the Bank of America.


1827  Feb.11. a.l.s. J.W. Vinton to J.B. Milledville, Geo. 2 leaves.


2 1825 "Correspondence of George W. Strong with the clerk of Jefferson County about Jacob Brown's mortgage to the Bank of America and others about judgements against General Brown in the Supreme Court." These papers were bound together with a label reading as above. Label enclosed.

2. Samuel Brown


1823 Jun.20. a.l.s. E.K. to S.B. Washington. Kirby has received the journals. Also, political news about Mr. Adams. "He is cold + repulsive in his intercourse in society."

1823 Jul.21. a.l.s. E.K. to S.B. Washington. About the mortgage on Hounsfield Farm. Also about rent on a lot occupied by a hospital.


1824 Jan.25. a.l.s. E.K. to S.B. Washington 2 leaves. Expresses concern over a court case in which Brown is involved. Also about New York politics and how the state will vote in the up-coming election.

1824 Jun.9. a.l.s. E.K. to S.B. Washington. About the health of General Brown. Also about the up-coming election. "He [Adams] ought to be the man-- I for one do not desire to have a HICKORY President..."


1824 Oct.2. a.l.s. E.K. to S.B. Utica. Asks about a desk that he would like sent to Utica.


1825 Jan.1. a.l.s. E.K. to S.B. Utica. About a draft applied to a note.


1825 Feb.7. a.l.s. E.K. to S.B. Washington. Political news. Also about his pending marriage to Eliza Brown, the General's daughter.


1825 Apr.7. a.l.s. E.K. to S.B. Utica. About insurance on a store. Also family news.
1825  Apr.13. a.l.s. E.K. to S.B. Utica. Family news. Eliza is planning to visit Brownville.

1825  Apr.22. a.l.s. E.K. to S.B. Utica. Kirby sends a draft for a thousand dollars.

1825  May 11. a.l.s. E.K. to S.B. Canal Boat Ohio. 2 leaves. Kirby is en route from Niagara to Utica. Writes of his concern for Brownville: "...the exceedingly depressed state of real property there-the stagnation of business- the bankruptcies which have recently occurred there-that Watertown has gained the entire ascendancy over all the villages in that county & will maintain it- That next to Watertown, businesses will center at-Sackets [sic] Harbor while B'ville will be left entirely in the background--".

1825  May 30 a.l.s. E.K. to S.B. Utica. Kirby has just returned from Washington and plans to go to Brownville.


1825  Aug.1. a.l.s. E.K. to S.B. Utica. 2 leaves. About mutual friends and about sending a person named Thompson to West Point.

1825  Aug.12. a.l.s. E.K. to S.B. Inquires about the travel expenses of Major Brown from New York to Brownville; offers to pay them.

1825  Sept.18. a.l.s. E.K. to S.B. Utica. 2 leaves. About the sale of some horses.

1825  Sept. 18. a.l.s. E.K. to S.B.

1825  Sept.25. a.l.s. (copy) E.K. to S. B. Utica.


1825  Oct.5. a.l.s. E.K. to S.B. Utica. 2 leaves. Kirby plans to attend the sale in Brownville. Informs Brown of what he intends to bid on the property. Asks Brown to make the bid for him if he should, for any reason, be unable to attend the sale.

1825  Oct.13. a.l.s. E.K. to S.B. Utica. 2 leaves. Inquires about accommodations with Brown while attending the sale in Brownville.

1825  Nov.1. a.l.s. E.K. to [S.B.] New York. Brief note. Kirby is waiting for "the Bank to act upon my new position...". Also, "Old Shylock has almost crucified me-he takes the pound of flesh & the heart blood."

1825  Nov.8. a.l.s. E.K. to S.B. Utica. Financial. Kirby is trying to settle the title on the Brown property in order to get financing for it.

1825  Nov. 15. a.l.s. S.B. to [E.K.] Brownville. About the title to the Brown property.


1826  Jan.27. a.l.s. E.K. to S.B. Utica. About the taxes mentioned in the previous letter.
1826  Feb.8. a.l.s. E.K. to S.B. Utica.  2 leaves.  Expresses enthusiasm about the idea of an Episcopal minister going to Brownville.

1826  Feb.10. a.l.s. E.K. to S.B. Utica.  2 leaves.  About a court martial in Niagara and about other places.


1826  Mar.23. a.l.s. E.K. to S.B. Utica. In support of "Bradley" who is interested in Sara [S.B.'s daughter].


1826  Jul.17. a.l.s. E.K. to S.B. Utica. About the new parson. "I would advise you to have the church cleaned & fumigated & take down & break up the old cracked Bell at the School House."

1826  Aug.1-3. a.l.s. E.K. to S.B. Utica. 2 leaves.  Hopes for a "...permanent establishment of an Episcopal Domine at Bville." Also, family news.


1826  Aug.25. a.l.s. E.K. to S.B. Buffalo. About a trial in which S.B. is involved. "God speed you & send you a happy deliverance from all your enemies & especially from that ______ & ungrateful old rascall Uncle Sam."

1826  Nov.14. a.l.s. E.K. to S.B. Utica.  2 leaves.  E.K. has received a fish that has been "... more then a week out of water." Asks S.B. what his feelings on state politics are. Also, news of Jacob Brown's health.

1826  Nov.16. a.l.s. E.K. to S.B. Brief note acknowledging the receipt of a package.

1826  Nov.29. a.l.s. E.K. to S.B. Utica.  2 leaves.  About curing hams. Also about Mr. Clay's interfering in the last election.

1826  Dec.11. a.l.s. E.K. to S.B. Expresses disgust over "... the delays that have taken place in arranging your affair at the ____ auditors office."

1826  Dec.26. a.l.s. E.K. to S.B. About the above mentioned case.


2. Brown Family


1835 Aug.25. a.l.s. S.B. to E.K. Asks what his chances are of finding employment in the Custom House in New York.

1835 Oct.27. a.l.s. R. Jones to William S. Brown. Washington. Refuses to accept Brown's resignation but gives him permission "...to defer joining your Regiment until the 31st of December.


1860 Nov.2. a.l.s. "Your aff. Mother" to [Marvin Kirby]. New York. 2 leaves. Mrs. Kirby is in New York and writes about her visit.

1862 May 11. a.l.s. E.Kirby to "My dear brother. Camp near West Point, Va. "...we are the advance of the Army of the Potomasc."


1863 May 9. a.l.s. "Your Mother" to Marvin Kirby. New York. About "Eddie" who has been seriously wounded and will loose a leg.

1863 May 10. a.l.s. "Your Mother" to Marvin Kirby. About the amputation of Eddie's leg.


1865 Feb.19. a.l.s. Pamela Brown to [Marvin Kirby?] New York. Supports his choice of the ministry as a career. Also about family and friends.


2 7

**B. Kirby**

1. **Edmond Kirby**


1825 Apr.18. a.l.s. J.A. Dix to E.K. New York. 2 leaves. About negotiations with the Bank of America over the Brownville property.


1825 Apr.27. a.l.s. T.P. Andrews to E.K. Washington. More about a change in station from Utica to Brownville.


1825 Nov.3. a.l.s. George Brown Jr. to E.K. Brownville. About a deed for a lot.

1825 Dec.27. a.l.s. Arthur Bronson for Isaac Bronson to E.K. New York. 2 leaves. Outlines the arrangement with the Bank of America.

1826 Mar.21. a.l.s. E.K. to Dr. Lawrence. Utica. Sends a note about Sacketts Harbor and surplus water.

1825 Aug.1. a.l.s. J. Ballard to E.K. Brownville. Acknowledges receipt of payment on a note. Also about harvesting crops.


8 1830 Apr.11. a.l.s. D.H. Vinton to E.K. Fort Independence. 2 leaves. About a military trial. Vinton apparently disagrees with the court's decision.


1831 Feb.20. a.l.s. D.H. Vinton [initialed] to E.K. More about a position elsewhere. He does not want Kirby to think that "...I am so reckless of future to abandon a comfortable office for something very uncertain as O? Service may prove to be -- unless there were urgent reasons for my so doing."

1832 Jan.11. a.l.s. [?] to E.K. York, Upper Canada. About a railroad from the Mohawk River to the St. Lawrence.


1835 Jul.27. a.l.s. W.S. Brown to E.K. Utica. 2 leaves. Expresses concern about a trunk which has been sent but has not arrived at its destination. Also about finances and a survey he is conducting.

1835 Aug.7. a.l.s. J.B. to E.K. Hancock Barracks, Me. 2 leaves. Expresses interest in going into business in Brownville. Does not want to go into engineering.

1835 Aug.11. a.l.s. David Pierce to E.K. Watertown. About a patent infringement on a "Revolving horse Rake."


1835 Aug.17. a.l. (Capt. Mordicar?) to E.K. Frankford Arsenal. About a "stoppage" of an account. (incomplete)


1835 Sept.23. a.l.s. James Williams to E.K. About the building of the Erie Canal and its relationship to the Black River.

1835 Sept.25. a.l.s. L.(R--) to E.K. Albany. About a contract with the Utica Railroad Company.

1835 Sept.28. a.l.s. I.S. Gallagher to E.K. About his pay.


1835 Oct.22. a.l.s. William Brown to E.K. Utica. 2 leaves. Financial matters. Also mentions a demonstration against the abolishinists.


1836 Nov.11. a.l.s. J. Demick to E.K. Bennington. About closing his account before he moves to Florida.

1836 Nov.30. a.l.s. J. Bronson to E.K. Watertown. 2 leaves. About a legal decision. Also about a lead mine.


1837 Feb.2. a.l.s. James W. Williams to E.K. Utica. 2 leaves. Political letter about a tariff. Note added Feb.5.

1837 Mar.2. a.l.s. D.H. Vinton to E.K. Tallahassee. About the possibility of Vinton and Pamela's living with Kirby.

1837 Mar.7. a.l.s. D.D. Tompkins to E.K. Fort Dade. Asks that his pay be sent to his wife in Albany. Also about the Indians in Florida.

1837 Mar.18. a.l.s. John Peikell to E.K. Baltimore, Md. 2 leaves. Business letter about a share in a factory and in the "Dexter property". Also about his other business dealings and his interest in women.

1837 Mar.22. a.l.s. John Peikell to E.K. Baltimore, Md. More about his desire to find a wife.


1840 Aug.19. a.l.s. D. Brigham to E.K. New York. Business letter about the sale of some cloth. Business is bad and he does not think he can sell the cloth.

1840 Aug.21. a.l.s. D. Brigham to E.K. New York. Business has improved and he thinks that he can sell the cloth.


1840 Sept.1. a.l.s. A. Turnbull to E.K. Baltimore. About the sale of cloth.


1840 Sept.19. a.l.s. A. Turnbull to E.K. Baltimore. About the sale of cloth. Ledger sheet enclosed is made out to Jefferson Woolen Co.


1840 Nov.29. a.l.s. S. Newton Dexter to E.K. Whitestown. Praises the quality of the cloth that Kirby is selling.


1840 Dec.28. a.l.s. J. Boynton to E.K. South Coventry. About renewing a note. Also about some equipment.


1841 Mar.24. a.l.s. Lord and Stebbins to E.K. New York. They do not agree to accept wool in return for goods.


1843 Aug. 25. a.l.s. S. Newton Dexter to E.K. Financial, about the payment of a note.


13 [n.d.] a.n. General Brown's thank you note to a class of cadets.


15 The contents of this folder were found bound together with a note that read "Correspondence with Isaac Bronson Esq. relative to the Brownville property & my responsibilities to him."

15 The contents of this folder were found bound together with a note that read "Correspondence pending my negociation [sic] with the Bank of America for purchasing of the Brownville property."

2. Jacob Brown Kirby

16 1836 June 21. a.l.s. E.K. to J.B.K. Tallahassee, Fla. Tells of his journey to Florida and his hopes of returning home. Also news of friends he has seen.

1851 Oct. 2. a.l.s. P. Clayton to J.B.K. About back pay due to E.K. at the time of his death.

1852 Jan. 29. a.l.s William Shimmway to J.B.K. About a payment due.


1852 Feb. 25. a.l.s. P. Clayton to J.B.K. Treasury Dept. About settling the accounts of E.K.

16 1852 Apr. 16. a.l.s. P. Clayton to J.B.K. More about the accounts of E.K.


C. Miscellaneous

16a 1813 Nov.21. a.l.s. W. Stockton to "Dear Sir." Princeton. Acknowledging the payment of interest on a bond.


II. Legal Papers

A. Brown

1. Jacob Brown

3 17 1800-1841 Legal papers.

18 [n.d.] Legal papers.

2. John Brown

19 1828-1832 Legal papers.

3. Nathan Brown

20 1857 Legal papers.

B. Kirby

1. Edmond Kirby

4 21 1823-1827 Legal papers.

22 1829-1837 Legal papers.

23 1839-1843 Legal papers.

24 1846-1857 Legal papers.

25 Legal papers, "Bonds and Mortgages." 1847-57

26 Legal papers, "Brownville Farm." 1822-27

27 Legal papers, "Contracts." 1836-57

28 Legal papers, Deed. 1936-52

29 Legal papers, Deeds. 1841
30 Legal papers, "Heirs, Deed." 1836
31 Legal papers, "Jefferson Manufacturing Co. Stock."
32 Legal papers, "Kirby estate." 1850-60
33 Legal papers, "Land contracts." 1830-1846
34 Legal papers, "Leases." 1833-1852
35 Legal papers, "Littlefield transactions." 1842-1848
36 Legal papers, "Mortgages."
37 Legal papers, "Old Lease on Farm." [stored in R.B.R. flat drawer #6]
38 Legal papers, "Oswego Papers."
39 Legal papers, "Plank Road."
40 Legal papers, "Plank Road, Repairs-Receipts."
41 Legal papers, "Levi Torry's survey and Diagram of lots."
42 Legal papers, "Utica Papers."
43 Legal papers, "Watertown and Cape Vincent Rail Road Stock notes."

2. Edmond Kirby--Heirs.
44 Legal papers, "Applications to purchase." 1845-1855

3. Jacob Brown Kirby.
45 Legal papers, "Administrators letters." 1849-1855
46 Legal papers, "Michigan property."
47 Legal papers, "Power of Attorney."

III. Accounts

A. Kirby

1. Edmond Kirby
48 "Bills of the Heirs of Kirby-Estate."
49 "Bills of the Heirs of Kirby-Estate." (continued)
50 "Bills of the Heirs of Kirby-Estate." (continued)
51 1835-1847 Bills and Receipts.
52 1849 Bills and Receipts.
53 1850 Bills and Receipts.
54 1851 Bills and Receipts.
55 1852 Bills and Receipts.
56 1853 Bills and Receipts.
57 1854 Bills and Receipts.
58 1855 Bills and Receipts.
59 1856 Bills and Receipts.
60 1842-1854 Bills Receivable.

2. Jacob Brown Kirby.
9 61 1850-1854 Account sheets -"Estate of Edmond Kirby."
   62 "Memo of accounts."

3. Kirby family.
9 63 1813-1857 Accounts.
   B. Dexter Village Company.
64 1835-1849 Accounts.
65 1857 Bills and Receipts.
66 1858 Bills and Receipts.

IV. Miscellaneous
9 67 Miscellaneous material relating to this collection. Among the items in this folder is Jacob
   Brown's appointment as Brigadier General of the Militia. [Stored in R.B.R. flat
   drawer #6]