

Item

Title Letter from Sam Houston to Henry Clay Davis, 1860, fractional
Author Sam Houston
Published 1860
Format Paper
I.D. Number 2017/052
Department Archives

Treatment Overview

Start Date	March 1, 2019	Estimated Hours	4.00
End Date	March 31, 2019	Actual Hours	6.00
Conservator	Sarah Norris	Pieces Treated	1

Treatment Objective

Remove from housing, mend; consider phytate treatment

Item Background

Item was donated in 2016

Item Description

Primary Support

Dimensions (cm)
Height 23.30
Width 19.40

Materials
• paper

Paper Manufacture
• machine-made

Paper Style
• wove

Connection to Secondary Support
• adhered at edges

Paper Color
• cream

Secondary Support

Dimensions (cm)
Height 28.70
Width 21.70

Materials

- paper

Support Color

- cream

Image Area

Media

- iron gall ink

Housing

Housing

- folder

Notes

Letter is enclosed in a plastic pocket with a blue backing board. The plastic pocket may be adhered to the document. The document may also be folded in half in the pocket with only the top page visible.

The plastic pocket is adhered at the right edge to a leaf from a commercial album. The leaf of cream-colored, wove paper has a flexible plastic covering adhered at its outer (non-hole-punched) edge on both sides. This plastic sheet is draped over the document and its containing pocket on the recto.

Item Condition

Primary Support

Primary Support Damage

- accretions
- cockled
- tears

Image Area

Media Damage

- iron gall corrosion

Notes

It is unclear from initial examination whether or how much the enclosing plastic pocket may be adhered to the document inside. Unidentified silver accretions appear at the head and foot. A small piece of thread pierces the document in the lower right corner.

Treatment Performed

Primary Support

Primary Support Treatment

- aqueous deacidify
- remove lamination
- size
- wash
- mend (20)

Image Area

Media

- iron gall chelation (calcium phytate)

Housing

Folders

- mylar sleeve

Notes

1. Release recto lamination with ethyl acetate.
2. Remove verso lamination mechanically.
3. Release three paper leaves in back.
4. Calcium phytate treatment
5. Deacidify in calcium carbonate solution.
6. Resize in gelatin.
7. Mend with tissue & wheat starch paste.
8. Rehumidify and flatten three leaves.
9. House in mylar sleeve.

Materials Used

Materials

Adhesives / Consolidants

- wheat starch paste
- gelatin

Tissue

- Tengujo

Chemicals

- ammonium hydroxide
- calcium carbonate
- ethyl acetate
- phytic acid

Mylar

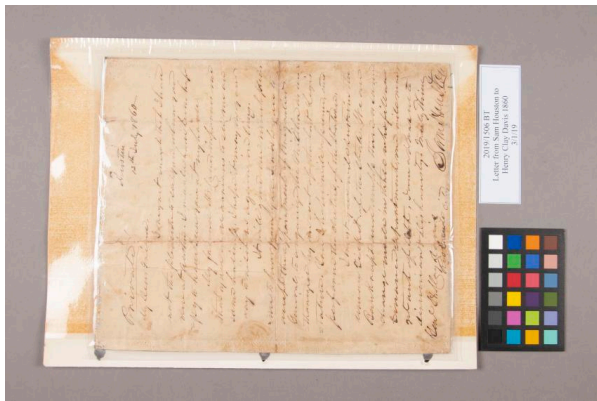
- .003

Water

- type 2 lab water

Treatment Photographs

Before Treatment



Plastic pocket hinged to album leaf



Verso, album leaf



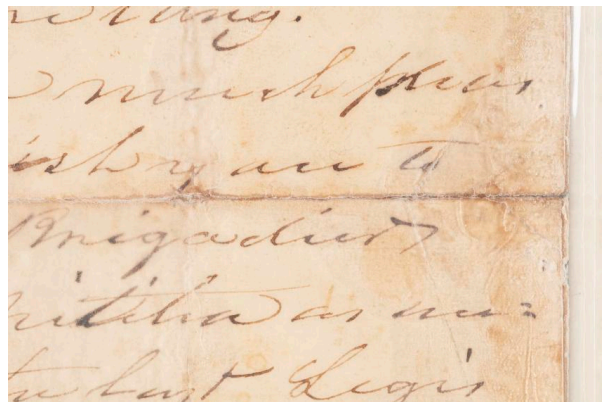
Backing board inside hinged plastic pocket



Plastic pocket hinged to album leaf



Silver accretions and thread



Gapping plastic, possible plastic...

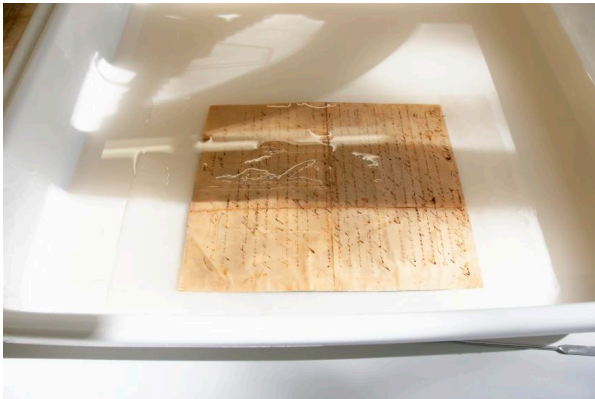
During Treatment



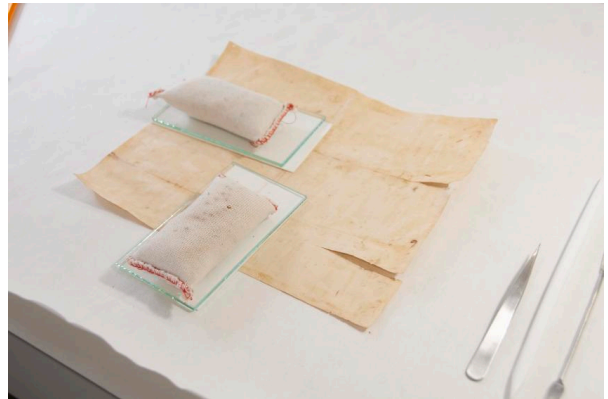
Removing lamination with ethyl acetate



Lamination removed from top right



Washing to separate layers



Mending

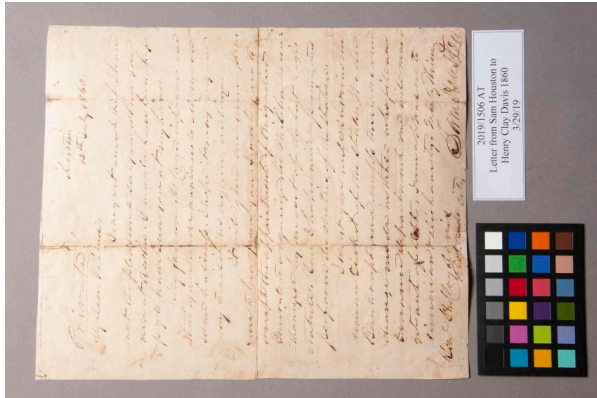
After Treatment



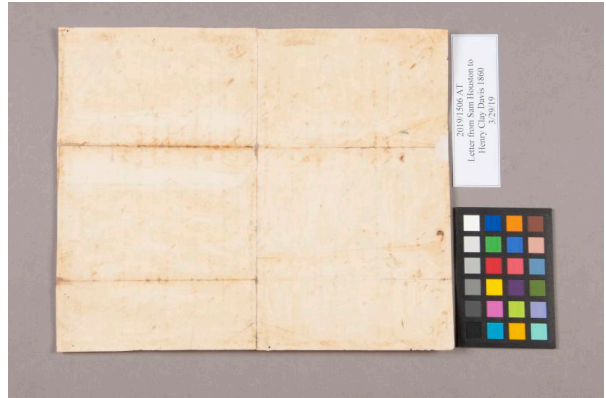
three delaminated leaves



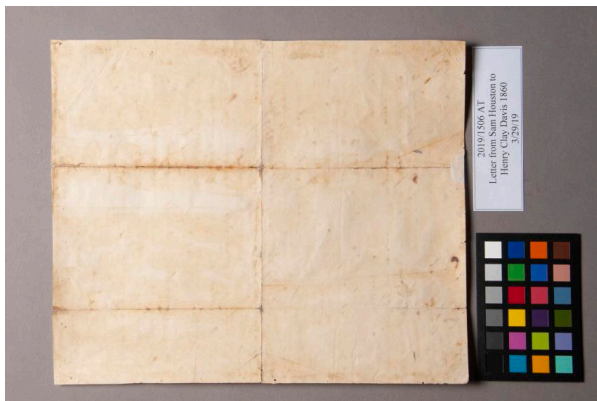
recto



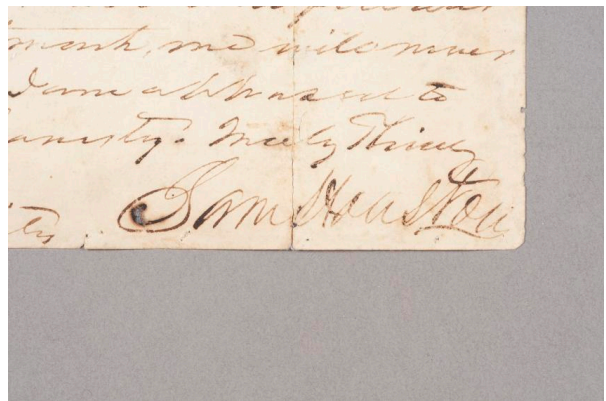
recto



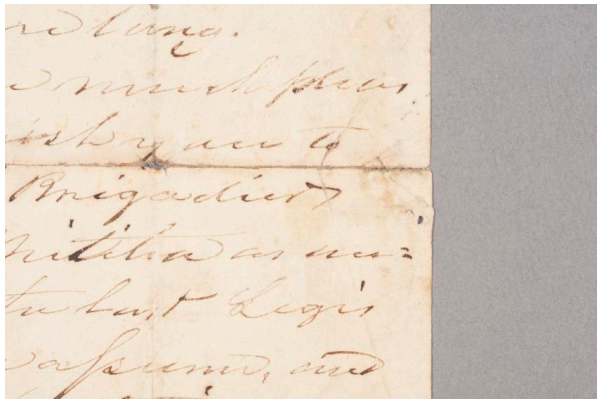
verso



verso



signature



recto, right center