

counselor for the Bank, had forwarded his case file to Langdon Cheves. Also of note is an unrelated letter from J.N. Reading about campaign fraud and the possible forgery of a letter from Nicholas Biddle.

The series holds applications from trade and craftsmen seeking commissions from the Bank. Several commercial engravers contacted the officers during the first years of operation: the firms of John Meer and Murray, Draper, Fairman & Co. included banknote samples with their letters, while Rogers & Esler sent their own engraved trade card with their application. In addition to engraved specimens, the folder for Tanner, Kearny & Tiebout contains letters they sent to Pierce Butler and William Jones asking for their support for a contract. William Thornton (1759-1828), architect, inventor, and Superintendent of the U.S. Patent Office, mailed in his personal suggestions for improving the engraving on banknotes. Another application came from Joshua Gilpin (1765-1840) and Thomas Gilpin Jr. (1776-1853), promoting their capability in manufacturing paper for the Bank; their folder also holds a copy of the reply from the Bank's "Committee for the procuring of engravings, paper, &c." Personnel issues appear as well: two men, Thomas J. Husband, and Thomas Truxton Swift, wrote to ask for administrative situations with the Bank, and letters recommendation are on file for William P. Gaw, Joseph L. Harper, Thomas Henderson, Michael Mansfield, James S. Walker, and Edward Harden (the latter two suggested for positions at the branch bank in Savannah, and recommended by John C. Calhoun and a group of congressmen); because these letters were signed by more than one person, they have been filed under the applicant's name. Records related to the construction of the Bank of the United States' building on Chestnut Street are filed in Series III. Second Bank: Documents.

Other notable correspondents in the collection are British naval officer Basil Hall (1788-1844), author of the three-volume *Travels in North America in the Years 1827 and 1828* (1829), who wrote from New Orleans, Portsmouth, New York, Philadelphia, and Cincinnati in 1828, and George Rapp (1757-1847), the leader of the religious community of Harmonists, who built a cooperative town at Economy, in western Pennsylvania; a letter from his son Frederick (1775-1834) is filed in Series IV. There is a single letter from J.P.R. Bureau, one of the eighteenth-century French colonists who founded the community of Gallipolis in what is now Ohio.

Series III, Second Bank, Philadelphia: Documents (1816-1841), is arranged in three subseries: Building Committee Records; Financial Instruments; and Reports and Resolutions.

The Building Committee Records is special set of papers that serves to document the Bank's building on Chestnut Street between Fourth and Fifth streets, which remains one of Philadelphia's most prominent structures. The subseries contains two estimates for plasterwork, one invoice for lumber, and four folders of manuscript drafts issued by the committee to the vendors, craftsmen, supervisors, and laborers constructing the building. Dating from June 9, 1820, through December 21, 1821, the checks cover a full variety of individual expenses, from the salaries of the architect William Strickland, clerk of the works Thomas P. Roberts, and other supervisors, to specific building materials including marble for the portico (Hitner & Dager),