

estate of his brother John Christopher. The bulk of Ernst's papers are at the Historical Society of Pennsylvania.

**JOHN FROST** (1800-1859) was an educator and editor in Philadelphia who spent the final decade of his life compiling popular pictorial histories and biographical works. His folder holds letters from six men, mostly literary colleagues, but also those mentioned in his works such as Daniel Webster. A letter from president-elect Zachary Taylor thanked Frost for sending him a copy of his recent book (possibly *The War and its Warriors; Comprising a Complete History of all the Operations of the American Armies in Mexico* of 1848) about which Taylor wrote "I am proud to feel that I owe quite as much to the able literary labors of my friends in placing my name prominently before the country as to any services of my own."

**ABEL HUMPHREYS** (also spelled Humphrys) was a merchant in Philadelphia. The son of George Humphreys, he made his first appearance in Philadelphia directories in 1798 in partnership with his brother George Jr. (d. 1799). He remained listed as a merchant in the directories through 1807, with the exception of 1805 when he did not appear.

Humphreys appears to have had a personal and business relationship with John P. DeGruchy, a merchant in Northumberland, PA. The collection holds four letters from DeGruchy, and each contain remarks on various matters in both spheres. The first, from December 1804, encouraged Humphreys to accept a supercargoship to the East Indies, if he could be discharged from his creditors, so he could then return "as a new man & with fresh vigour to your spirits" to again start a business in Philadelphia. The second welcomes him back from his "boisterous voyage" and acknowledges Humphreys' intention "to remain at home for 2 or 3 months." The last of the letters is written from DeGruchy, who was visiting Philadelphia, to Humphreys in Havana, where purportedly his "prospects & advantages are so promising." Remarks are also made about the Havre de Grace Company in Maryland, in which Humphreys was involved through the estate of his father or brother. A single letter from Hannay & Logan solicits Humphreys' business, and the remaining three items in the collection concern personal estates in which Humphreys was either a debtor or creditor. There are four folders of engraved bills of exchange issued between Humphreys and British firms.

Some of the topics mentioned in DeGruchy's letters suggest that Humphreys may have had family ties to Northumberland. An obituary published in the May 8, 1821, issue of *Poulson's American Daily Advertiser* would as well: "DIED, in February last, after a few days of illness, in Manchester, (England,) greatly lamented by all who knew her, Mrs. JANE HUMPHREYS widow of the late Mr. Abel Humphreys of Philadelphia, and for several years an inhabitant of the town of Northumberland in this State."

**JACKSON CLUB OF PHILADELPHIA** material dates from 1827 and 1828, and consists of three folders of invoices documenting the club's expenses for dinners, printing, theatre tickets, and transportation during that period. After Andrew Jackson lost the President's office to John