

CIVIL WAR AND RECONSTRUCTION: THE MAKING OF MODERN AMERICA
Series One: The Papers of Jay Cooke (1821-1905)
from the Historical Society of Pennsylvania
Part 1: General Correspondence, 1843-April 1865

DETAILED LISTING

(Most letters are addressed to Jay Cooke, unless otherwise indicated below).

REEL 1

Dates: January 1843-December 1856

Principal and most interesting correspondence:

- to and from his brother Henry David Cooke, in Washington DC, especially letters from Henry D. Cooke, dated Washington DC, 26 November 1854, and 22 March 1856, on his arrival at the Cooke family home in Sandusky, Ohio, with business and family news.
- many letters from his brother, Pitt Cooke, in New York; also frequent letters from Pitt when he is staying at Sandusky, in Ohio; also many letters documenting Pitt's business trips throughout America, especially Illinois, Iowa, Ohio, Pennsylvania and Kentucky.
- from Edward W. Clark (of the Banking House, E. W. Clark & Company, where Jay Cooke worked between 1836 and 1857).
- from J. K. Moorhead, Member of the House of Representatives.
- from Rory S. Russell.
- from S. J. Attwood, in Detroit.
- from H. Dyer, No. 11 Bible House, Astor Place, New York.
- from William Chapin, Principal of the Institute for the Blind.
- from L.C. Clark and Edward Dodge, colleagues at E.W. Clark & Company.
- from Thomas Haslam.
- from Eleutheros Cooke (his father), from Sandusky, Ohio.
- from Salmon P. Chase, 20 June 1856, regarding sales of Pacific Railroad Bonds
- from Samuel Marks and from Rice Harper.
- from William J. Barney, Western Land Agent based in Chicago.
- from E. T. H. Gibson, regarding certificates of stock in the Vermont Central Railroad Company.
- from Jonathan G. Camp.

Key topics include:

- News regarding various banks, business and financial matters.
- Lots of letters from his brother Pitt, enabling scholars to see the web of contacts he was already building throughout many States.
- Philanthropic activity.
- The selling and buying of land, e.g. Pitt's long letter to Jay Cooke, 4 June 1855, from Fort Dodge, Iowa (9 folios; see brief extract below).
- Westward expansion.

- Sales of bonds.
- Railroads.

Extract from Pitt's long letter to Jay Cooke, dated 4 June 1855, from Fort Dodge, Iowa

"... Dubuque, Iowa, June 11 '55. We reached this City late Saturday evening and are satisfied from all we have seen that our Entries already made, were well selected, and could not be better made; it is said here that General Sargent frequently enter large tracts from the general reputation of the Country & from the Surveys but we shall make no Entries of lands we have not personally inspected. It may be that Genl. Sargent & Cooke do not do this but it is said they make bold Entries and have seldom missed fire, in fact, after having travelled over a good part of the Northern half of Iowa we can say, there is no waste land in it. It is all good, some choice, - timber is valued on the Rivers at 10 \$ per acre and good prairie near at 4 & 5 \$ - I trust we shall not be disappointed in the result of our operations. I feel more sensitive about making locations that might not pay, than if I was using my own funds, as I am acting in a fiduciary capacity - & entering for those whom I consider my friends & it would be extremely mortifying to me hereafter should we be disappointed in our anticipations ..."

Extract from letter to Jay Cooke from Rice Harper, dated Sandusky, Ohio, 4 August 1855

"... if we could spend sometime before the land sales commence in these New Land Districts we could probably assist the Settlers and get their friendship and about 40 per cent well secured which would be a very safe investment and at the same time we could select good locations for future entry ..."

REEL 2

Dates: January-December 1857

Principal and most interesting correspondence:

- from his brothers Henry D. Cooke & Pitt Cooke (lots of letters from Pitt, from Sandusky, and many from Pitt whilst he is on his travels is in the Interior).
- from William Banning.
- from Edward Dodge.
- from George W. Paine.
- from Eleutheros Cooke (his father), from Sandusky, Ohio.
- from Jonathan G. Camp.
- from William J. Barney, Secretary of the Dubuque Gas Light & Coke Co. who also heads up W. J. Barney & Co. Exchange and Banking House, and Land Agency. He is a Western Land Agent based in Chicago. See extract from one of his letters below.
- from Sarah E. Cooke
- from William Chapin.
- from Henry Getz (& Caroline E. Getz).
- from the Office of E. W. Clark, Dodge & Co.
- from Hade Frame (?) of the Banking House: Cook & Sargent.
- from sister Wendy (?) in Nice, France.
- from A. B. Fretteur (?) - signature difficult to decipher.
- from S. B. Dalrymple, Rector of St. Pauls Church, Lockhaven, PA.
- from Richard Newton, friend and pastor in Lausanne.

- from George Harrison, Pennsylvania Steam Sugar Refinery.
- from W. J. Chesney of the American Sunday School Union.
- from J. C. Harris, Samuel Harris & Sons, Baltimore.
- from Rice Harper, relating to possible land purchases.
- from J. K. Moorhead, Member of the House of Representatives.
- from E. T. H. Gibson regarding the Vermont Central Railroad Company and other business matters.
- from H. Dyer, No. 11 Bible House, Astor Place, New York.

Key topics include:

- Land development, purchasing of land (especially in Iowa and Missouri).
- Sales of bonds, banking and finance.
- Projected railroads & westward expansion (e.g. Southern Pacific Railroad Company).
- News on crops & commodities.

Extract from letter to Jay Cooke from W. J. Barney of W. J. Barney & Co. Exchange and Banking House, and Land Agency, dated 7 May 1857

“We are & have been doing all in our power to hurry the business connected with deeds. You must recollect that we do not live in the East where Railroads annihilate space & where the rumbling of the old fashioned Stage coach has forever ceased. Here the latter is the only conveyance we possess. Yet we hope soon to finish off some of our projected Rail Roads & then to travel into the Interior will be no task. Your Eastern friends can have their deeds recorded etc in double quick time ...”

Extract from brother Pitt’s letter dated 14 July 1857 from Planters House, St Louis

“Dear Bro Jay

John got here last night. Today we have called on Post Master Armstrong who took us to the Surveyor General’s Office & we have been paid ourselves up fully. He handed me yours of 7th. As to Crops I hear not once word of grumbling. Southern Illinois wheat is coming in & Missouri of fine quality and they say the largest crops for years. Corn has improved very much in the last ten days & all report it as doing well, oats, potatoes etc are an unprecedented crop. The weather is very warm, good for corn, but I have had 2 days confinement to my room with Diarrhea - better now - John having arrived I feel better every way. Judges, Collecton, Bart Martens are all calling on Jno. He stands high among the National Officials. I attended Unitarian Church Sunday with Mr Chase, dined with him same day. He has treated me very kindly & Mrs Chase received me very cordially and made me feel quite at home. She and Mr Chase expressed great regret that you did not come to see them - they lost a beautiful child this last Spring, 2 years old & still feel it very much. The Torrey likes his place much - we expect to leave here tomorrow & will write you constantly. In Tony ---?---’s dispatch to me he says Brodhead (?) has been elected President of the Caribbean & Atlantic ...”

REEL 3

Dates: January-December 1858

Principal and most interesting correspondence:

- from Pitt Cooke (Jay Cooke's brother) - the most frequent and longest letters, written on his numerous travels or from the family home in Sandusky.
- from Salmon P. Chase.
- from E. T. H. Gibson, Commission Merchant, and Dealer in Railway, City and County Bonds, 54 William Street, New York.
- from John C. Knox (Attorney General's Office) to E. W. Clark & Co., Harrisburg PA.
- from Henry S. Getz.
- from L. C. Clark (Office of E. W. Clark, Dodge & Co.).
- from Eleutheros Cooke - especially long letter to his son, dated Sandusky, 27 March 1858; also long letter of 30 August 1858.
- from J. K. Moorhead (Member of the House of Representatives).
- from William H. Williams & Co. Bankers (from Pittsburgh).
- from John W. Reid.
- from Edward Dodge (Office of Clark, Dodge & Co.) and from Edward W. Clark.
- from Samuel Marks.
- from S. C. Harbert.
- from Moss Brothers' Banking House.
- from W. C. Crosby.
- from Thomas Chambers, Office of the Montour Iron Co.
- quite a few letters from Henry C. Fahnestock (from Harrisburg Bank; later he was Henry D. Cooke's partner in Washington DC) - see extract below from letter of 13 April 1858.
- from A. B. Fretteur (?) - signature difficult to decipher.
- from J. W. Roseberry.
- from D. P. Rupert, New Orleans.
- from D. S. Miller, Frankford, Philadelphia regarding "*the Frankford Mission and the other labors in which I am engaged for the physical and spiritual interests of the poor people among whom my lot is cast...*" (letter of 24 April 1858 and a number of further letters about missionaries and financial aid).
- from R. Bethell Claxton.
- from Lizzie (dated the Cedars, 24 May 1858).
- from A. J. Jones, Harrisburg.
- from F. Humphreys, New York.
- from the Office of the Morris Canal and Banking Company, most signed by E. Marsh.
- from W. J. Barney, Dubuque, Iowa.
- from Samuel Hepburn, Carlisle, PA.
- from Jonathan G. Camp, Wells Fargo & Co., New York.
- from the Banking House of Cook & Sargent.
- from William H. Smith, Pittsburgh.
- from E. R. Biddle, No. 35, Wall Street.
- from D. C. Wilder, of the Office of the Southern Pacific Railroad Company.
- from Jephtha Fowlkes, President, Office of the Southern Pacific Railroad Company.
- from the Office of the Sunbury and Erie Railroad Company.
- from H. W. Nichols, Pottsville.
- from Jay Cooke to his brother Henry D. Cooke.
- from Henry D. Cooke to his brother Jay Cooke.

- from John A. Gamble, President, Office of the West Branch and Susquehanna Canal Co.

Key topics include:

- Bonds, land development, purchase of land.
- Railroads (e.g. Vermont Central Railroad Bonds mentioned in letters of 13 February 1858 and 14 April 1858, from E. T. H. Gibson to Jay Cooke; e.g. Southern Pacific Railroad Company).
- Banking.
- Exploration of Land in the Interior, quite a lot of letters relating to St Louis and proposed trip to Tennessee.
- Canal companies.

Letter from Henry C. Fahnestock to Jay Cooke dated 13 April 1858 from Harrisburg

“Dear Sir

Your favor of yesterday received. My broad brimmed friend appears to have the fidgets, and is down again today to see me. His first proposition was to give the chattel bonds & take them up in one and two years. I can now bring him to this - to give the 10% bonds as per circular, and with them the individual guarantee of Kimber and Harries to pay in fourths, three months apart, or thirds four months apart (i.e. \$333 every y. sum).

I have no knowledge of Kimber’s personal responsibility. If he arranges in this way can I depend upon his fulfilment of the contract?

The amount is not large, but I am desirous to get the thing into good shape before surrendering the notes. Think I shall not have to trouble you again about it, if you tell me how far I can rely upon Mr Kimber in as individual contract such as this will be to some extent.

Yours truly

H.C. Fahnestock’

REEL 4

Dates: January-July 1859

Principal and most interesting correspondence:

- from Pitt Cooke to his brother Jay Cooke (again very frequent, and many long, detailed letters) - the first instance of Pitt writing on the P. Cooke & Co. letterhead (Successors of Henderson and Cooke) Forwarding & Commission Merchants, Sandusky City, Ohio, is on 20 April 1859.
- letters from clients and business contacts to Messrs. E. W. Clark & Co.
- from E. T. H. Gibson, Commission Merchant, and Dealer in Railway, City and County Bonds, 54 William Street, New York, including letters concerning the Great Western Railroad Company.
- from George W. Quigley to E. W. Clark & Co.
- from A. J. Jones, Harrisburg.
- from A. Armstrong.
- from the Resident Engineer’s Office, Pennsylvania Railroad to Messrs. E. W. Clark & Co.
- from D. S. Miller, Frankford, Philadelphia regarding missionary work.

- from G.R. Messersmith, Cashier at the Bank of Chambersburg, to E. W. Clark & Co., Bankers.
- from Willoughby H. Reed & Co. regarding Patent for Hoop Skirts.
- from J. W. Reid of Harrisburg Bank.
- from James Mill.
- from James Mason.
- from Harris C. Fahnestock, Harrisburg, regarding banking and railroad matters.
- from John G. Camp, Wells Fargo & Co., New York.
- from John Rowe.
- from B. S. Russell.
- from E. R. Biddle, No. 35, Wall Street.
- from Henry S. Getz.
- from O. N. Luce, Cumberland Valley Railroad - Superintendent's Office.
- from his father, Eleutheros Cooke.
- from P. McMartin.
- from Joseph Leeds.
- from Samuel Marks.
- from J. K. Moorhead, Member of the House of Representatives.
- from A. B. Fretteur.
- from his brother, Henry D. Cooke.
- from the Office of William H. Williams & Co., Bankers, Pittsburgh.
- from E. Marsh, Office of the Morris Canal & Banking Co.
- from L. C. Clark and D. Crawford Jr., in New York.
- from Thomas Chambers in New York.
- from C. C. Townsend, missionary, from Orphans' Home of Industry, Iowa City.
- from Jephtha Fowlkes, President of the Southern Pacific Railroad Company, concerning railroad troubles.
- from E. R. Hard with advice on legal matters.

Key topics include:

- Sale of bonds.
- Banking business.
- Railroads, especially the Great Western Railroad Company, the Cumberland Valley Railroad, the Vermont and Central Railroad, the Franklin Railroad Company, and the Sunbury and Erie Railroad Company.
- Railroad stock and bonds.
- Land development, purchase of land.
- Corporate legal matters.
- Canal companies.

Extract from Pitt Cooke's letter to Jay Cooke, dated 31 January 1859, from Sandusky

"... Wm G. left this morning with Nicki for Kenyon, he will reach Pittsburgh Tuesday Evening & Philadelphia Wednesday or Thursday. The death of Uncle Henry saddened our holiday re-union, but still Wm says he never left Sandusky with more pleasant recollections. His visit has been quiet but he seemed to enjoy it, & so expressed himself. He told me before he left that he would put what I owe him \$1400 down from 10% to 7%, this is very generous & kind in him,

*I did not ask it. He proposed it himself. He is a generous & good Br. is he not!
 I paid him a little, & offered him more but he refused it, saying he knew my taxes etc.
 had put me on sufficiently short allowance. He has also examined into my affairs & says
 he has a plan (in connection with getting supplies of flour etc. on to the Mountain portions of the
 S & Erie R. R.) by which he thinks I can make enough to pay off the debt to Kenyon, which is my
 heaviest load, I have just paid one instalment of the Int. from June to the 27th & I had to
 scratch to raise it, which I did through "Moss" - Wm G knows if I could sell I could soon pay
 what I owe & have enough left, but that nothing can be realised towards paying debts from
 Property in S. - & therefore he is satisfied that the Int. & taxes etc. will eat it all up unless I do
 do something - & hence he is going to put me in the way. - Now about the Mansfield R R matter,
 Bueha & I have had our cogitations over it & your letter - we come back that on the whole the
 best thing to be done is to keep all we have got, & get as much from the Receiver of the Bal. due
 as we can. In that shape we have concluded hereafter to treat with him if it meets your
 concessional. - He would not Entertain your proposition a moment, yet we shall Submit it to him
 - the Bonds are not a Special Bond & do not come in before the 1,290,000 - they are like the
 Notes of the Co. yet they are due so soon, that Everybody here regards them as good & the
 Receiver thinks them nearly same as cash ..."*

Letter from D. Crawford Jr., to Jay Cooke, dated 12 April 1859 from New York

"Dear Jay C,

*Yours of yesterday to L.C.C. rec'd, as his eyes are not well enough to admit of his writing much,
 he has requested me to reply to it. - We have sold all our Minnesota ° but #31,000, but if your
 parties wanted enough to make up say #50,000 or even a few more the St Louis Office will sell a
 few to make up the lot. - We ask #105 and accrued interest for ours & will allow you a liberal
 commission off & give you the time required - say 60 days at 7% & if they desire it will take the
 July coupons as Cash less interest for the time they run. - Illinois 6 ° are about 104½.
 Ohios 102 a 108½ according to time they run. - Georgia's 101½ bid, Louisianas 96 bid -
 Michigan about 102½ & Iowa 7 ° are held at 110. - So you will see that the Minnesota 8 ° are the
 cheapest on the list. - They have the money now on hand for next coupons. - We sold last lot of
 30,000 at 106½ & interest not for currency. Virginia's, Tenn ° & others are below par.
 North Carolinas 100½ - if we can do anything for you let me know soon as we have several
 parties trying to make arrangements for their currency so as to take balance of our Bonds.
 We had rather sell to you at lower rates than send them out ourselves for currency although it
 pays better.*

Yours truly

D. Crawford Jnr. "

REEL 5

Dates: August 1859-July 1860

Principal and most interesting correspondence:

- from his brother, Pitt Cooke.
- from his brother, Henry D. Cooke.
- from Samuel Marks regarding the American Sunday School Union and other Church matters.
- from John G. Camp, Wells Fargo & Co., New York.
- from A. Armstrong.

- from J. K. Moorhead, Member of the House of Representatives.
- from Abel Bench, Iowa City.
- from O. N. Luce, Cumberland Valley Railroad - Superintendent's Office.
- from S. P. Bankson.
- from G. R. Messersmith, Cashier at the Bank of Chambersburg.
- from his father, Eleutheros Cooke.
- from E. T. H. Gibson, Commission Merchant, and Dealer in Railway, City and County Bonds, 54 William Street, New York, including letters concerning the Great Western Railroad Company.
- from Amos Chapman.
- from Charles H. Willson regarding Sunday School and New Union Hymn Books.
- from W. J. Cheyney, American Sunday School Union, Philadelphia.
- from the Office of William H. Williams & Co., Bankers, Pittsburgh.
- from Joseph Leeds.
- from Harris C. Fahnestock, Harrisburg regarding banking and railroad matters.
- from Edwin Mitchell at the Office of the Western Mining and Manufacturing Company.
- from D. C. Wilder, Secretary of the Southern Pacific Railroad Company.
- from Henry S. Getz.
- from the Banking House of Clark, Cheney & Co., Boston.
- from the Office of B. S. Russell & Co., Bankers, Iowanda, PA.
- from W. L. Banning & Co., Banking House, St Paul, Minnesota.
- from the Office of Clark, Dodge & Co.
- from E. R. Hard on legal matters.
- from E. W. Clark & Co., Bankers.
- from Robert Earle.
- from John C. Campbell.
- from Simon Stevens.
- from D. S. Miller about missionary work.
- from Morris Buckman.
- from his brother, William G. Cooke, long letter of 25 November 1859 from the Tavistock Hotel, Covent Garden, London.
- from William Chapin, Pennsylvania Institute for the Blind.
- from C. J. Sturdevent.
- from J. C. Henry.
- from James McAuley, President of the Iron City Bank, Pittsburgh, to J. K. Moorhead.
- from E. A. Strong about Patrons and Friends of Free Education for the Ministry at Kenyon College
- from Algernon and John S. Gilliat in London.
- from J. M. Pinkerton, Boston.
- letters from the General Land Office.
- from W. W. White, Burlington, Iowa, about town affairs, business and financial matters.

Key topics include:

- Railroads, especially the Great Western Railroad Company, the Lehigh Luzerne Railroad, the Vermont and Canada Railroad Company, the Vermont Central Trustees, the Southern Pacific Railroad Company, and the

- Franklin Railroad Company.
- Stock and bonds.
- Westward expansion; dealings of Land Agencies; sale of lands.
- Banking business.
- Politics in Washington DC, e.g. Henry D. Cooke's letters about the contest for the Speakership, December 1859 to January 1860, described by Henry as being absolutely crucial:
"my dear brother, my whole future life hangs upon the result", in a letter of 16 January 1860. Henry is frustrated by how long the election process takes - please see text of his letters of 12 and 14 December 1859, below.

From Henry D. Cooke to his brother, Jay Cooke dated 12 December 1859 from Washington DC

"My dear Jay,

I have not written before because I have been hoping that each day would close the contest for the Speakership. It is now definitely ascertained that Mr Sherman will be the Speaker; but the Administration are determined to stave off this (to them) unpleasant result as long as possible. You will notice Harvey's correspondence in the North American which will give you a correct idea of the position of the parties. The Republican vote is some 15 ahead of the Locofoco vote; outside of these two parties there are some 23 "Amn" votes, and three or four doubtful votes, by combining with which the Administration still hopes to defeat Sherman; but our friends regard such a combination as impossible, since the South Americans are even more hostile to the Democrats than they are to the Republicans. I send you a check on the Clinton Bank of Columbus for \$75, for which I wish you would send me the money. I found Willards too expensive, so I have taken private rooms, and board at the Kirkwood house. It costs me only half as much as at Willards. Please forward any letters that you may have received for me, since you sent the last package. Address me at the Kirkwood House, and I will get the letters promptly. Should there be a prospect of a prolonged contest, like that which resulted in Banks' election, I shall leave here; this will be determined by Wednesday or Thursday. I am rejoiced to hear that Lizzie is improving. Lollie sent her much love in the letter which you forwarded. - Last week was one of intense anxiety to me. I hope I shall not soon have to pass such another. I am taking it more philosophically now. Let me hear from you by return mail.

As ever your Affec. Bro. Henry.

Best & warmest love to Lizzie, and the little ones all."

From Henry D. Cooke, Reporters' Gallery, House of Representatives, Washington DC to his brother, Jay Cooke, 14 December 1859.

"Dear Jay

Yours enclosing a check on Riggs for \$75 was received this morning, and I hasten to acknowledge its receipt. Sherman's prospects are brightening. The Administration gives it up, and it is now a mere question of time. It will be impossible for the South Amns and Anti-Lecomptonists to unite in sufficient numbers upon Boccock, (or upon any other man who will be satisfactory to the Administration), to secure him a plurality over Sherman.

If the contest shall be protracted, I shall come over to Philadelphia and await the result there. A day or two more will determine this. I am heartily tired of this delay, anxiety and uncertainty. - and I am homesick besides. I want to see the wife and babies. Give Lizzie my best love. I am glad to hear she is so rapidly improving. I will telegraph you, on the morning I start for Philadelphia. Ever affectionate Your Bro. Henry D. Cooke."

REEL 6

Dates: August 1860–April 1861

Principal and most interesting correspondence:

- many letters to and from his brother, Pitt Cooke, most frequently from Sandusky, Ohio, often relating to personal land issues.
- to and from his brother, Henry David Cooke, in Washington DC, especially regarding the potential for the sale of Treasury Bonds.
- from J. M. Pinkerton, Boston, attorney and bondholder.
- from G. R. Messersmith, Bank of Chambersburg.
- from Abel Beach, State Bank of Iowa.
- from J. Weir, Bank of Harrisburg.
- from John S. Gilliat.
- from Charles Vose.
- from L. C. Clark and Edward Dodge, colleagues at E. W. Clark & Company.
- from Lizzie, dated Rockwood, 17 & 21 September 1860.
- from Eleutheros Cooke, from Sandusky, Ohio.
- to and from Salmon P. Chase, Secretary of the Treasury, regarding Bonds and advising Treasury, especially letter of 20 April 1861.
- from Henry S. Getz.
- from Edward W. Clark, the Banking House, E. W. Clark & Company.
- from J. K. Moorhead, then President of Chartier Valley Railroad Co.
- from E. T. H. Gibson.
- from J. Morris, Balto.
- from E. Dodge.
- from J. G. Sidney.
- from Col. B. Roberts, regarding expenses for Railroad construction.
- from H. Gregson.
- from George W. O'Malley.

Key topics include:

- Issues surrounding the outbreak of Civil War: Fear for safety, unsettled financial situation, strong support for the North and Lincoln.
- Correspondence between S. P. Chase, Henry Cooke and Jay Cooke regarding the raising of Treasury notes and Bonds for the war effort.
- Legal proceedings.
- Banking business and financial matters especially with Banks of Harrisburg (J. Weir) and Chambersburg (GR Messersmith). Start of Jay Cooke & Co.
- The selling and buying of land, for personal interests and railroads.
- The tax issues and payments for those lands.
- Family Life and Christmas, especially from Lizzie, Pitt, Henry and Eleutheros.
- Railroads: Competing claims, bonds, trustees, raising finance, costs

- for companies such as Chartier Valley, Vermont Central, Vermont & Canada, Cleveland, Painsville & Ashtabula and Steubenville & Pittsburgh
- Requests for Philanthropic works and Charity

Extract from Eleutheros Cooke letter to Jay Cooke, dated 26 November 1860, from Sandusky, Ohio

“... You complain that Pitt and I don't write often enough – the fact is, the panic affects us here as well as in other kindred (?) cities: and since I last wrote you it has extended as far south as Cary – afflicting the Gormans (?) with its spasms. Our understanding was all perfected with them to go down with me to examine the lands with a view to purchase or permanently lease them – But the secession movement in the south has so frightened them that they have utterly abandoned the idea. They fear lynching for no other cause than they are from the north ...”

Extract from Henry Cooke to his brother Jay, dated 9 April 1861, from Washington D.C. regarding potential Treasury Bond deal

“...[Private – Harrington tells me that all the indications are that ? will be as high as any bids will reach. Should a larger amount than that ... be bid for it will be distributed pro-rata. Among the bidders Chase does not expect the sum of bids to be above that figure – though he intimated that some fraction might be as high as a quarter. It is not for me to advise you what to do but I give the facts as I get them, from which I infer that a bid at ? would be successful. If you can't get the Banks generally to go in; I should think you could induce some of them ...”

Extract from Pitt Cooke to his brother Jay, dated 13 April 1861, from Sandusky, Ohio

“... I see by the Tribune of the 12th that you succeeded in your bid for the \$200,000 treasury notes, I was delighted. It was patriotic and I trust will be profitable. Our Government now that they have commenced the war at Charleston must be sustained at all Hazards. There is no half way about it ...”

REEL 7

Dates: May–December 1861

Principal and most interesting correspondence:

- many letters to and from Pitt Cooke, most frequently from Sandusky, Ohio, often relating to personal and financial issues.
- to and from his brother, Henry David Cooke, in Washington DC.
- from H. D. Moore, State Treasurer, Pennsylvania.
- to and from Salmon P. Chase, Secretary of the Treasury regarding Bonds and advising Treasury.
- from A. G. Curtin, Governor, Pennsylvania.
- from J. M. Pinkerton, Boston, attorney and bondholder.
- from H. C. Fahnestock, partner of J. Cooke & Co.
- from J. Weir, Harrisburg.
- from A. Armstrong.
- from J. J. Cisco, New York, Bond Dealer and future Assistant Treasurer of New York.
- from Townsend Cooke, nephew, Sandusky.
- from G. R. Messersmith.

- from Eleutheros Cooke, from Sandusky, Ohio.
- from G. W. Harrington, Treasury Department, Washington DC.
- from H. M. Murray, Exchange Bank, Pittsburgh.
- from J. K. Moorhead.
- from W. G. Moorhead, partner in Jay Cooke & Co., Philadelphia.
- from F. Sellers, Citizens Bank, Pittsburgh.
- from J. W. Cook, Allegheny Bank, Pittsburgh.
- from E. T. H. Gibson, New York.
- from H. S. Getz.
- from J. Childs, Pittsburgh.
- from G. B. Ayers, Chambersburg, with end of year reports on Railroad passengers and freight.

Key topics include:

- Early skirmishes of the Civil War: Anti-Southern rhetoric.
- Correspondence between S. P Chase, Henry Cooke and Jay Cooke regarding the raising of Treasury notes and Bonds for the war effort, most notably J. Cooke & Co. officially appointed subscription agent for Treasury and promotion of “seven thirties”. Jay Cooke meets President Lincoln (August).
- The Pennsylvania State Loan conducted by J. Cooke & Co. and Drexel & Co.
- Banking business and financial matters. Numerous contacts with regional banks regarding loan issues.
- The pushing and promotion of loans, helped by J. Weir and H. Fahnestock.
- Initial problems of getting State loans to be taken up in difficult financial circumstances. In a letter to his brother Henry on 13 June 1861, Jay Cooke describes the eventual success as an achievement “as great or as greater than Napoleon crossing the Alps”. See extract below of State Governor’s gratitude.
- Sharp contrast to pre-war years with very little Railroad correspondence as summed up by E. T. H. Gibson’s extract below.
- Payroll issues for troops.
- Land Patents and problems with property in the South.
- The tax issues and payments for those lands.
- Family Life, especially from Pitt.
- Requests for charity and favours to provide work.

Extract from E. T. H. Gibson’s letter to Jay Cooke dated 9th July 1861 from New York

“... I want to try and get my old matters in such shape that I shall be able to do something when the war is over: and in the mean time, only expect to subsist ...”

Extract from A.G. Curtin’s letter to Jay Cooke dated 14 June 1861 from Pennsylvania

“... In the midst of painful circumstances alluded to by you, I feel the triumph which, through the exertions of yourselves and the present invaluable State Treasurer, the good old Commonwealth has achieved. I trust that the day is not distant when the names of those who exerted themselves in procuring the “sinews of war” will stand recorded, if not on a page as glorious, certainly as enduring, as that of those who have gone forward to seek upon the field of fame a name in their country’s history ...”

Extract from S. P. Chase's letter to Jay Cooke dated 4 September 1861 from Washington DC

"... Sir, you are hereby appointed a Subscription Agent for the National Loan...and will receive herewith your instructions, with forms of bond, certificates and advertisements, and a blank book for subscriptions.

Your high character and known devotions to the public welfare inspires a confident belief that you will perform the required duty with the utmost fortitude and fidelity ..."

REEL 8

Dates: January-June 1862

Principal and most interesting correspondence:

- many letters to and from his brother, Henry David Cooke, in Washington regarding new banking house, and city railroad. See extract below.
- from H. D. Moore, State Treasurer, Pennsylvania.
- to and from Salmon P. Chase, Secretary of the Treasury, regarding Treasury Loans. Cooke and Chase have by now struck up a strong friendship. See extracts below.
- from J. M. Pinkerton, Boston, attorney and bondholder.
- from H. C. Fahnestock (now often called "Farney" or "Harris"), Washington DC.
- to and from Pitt Cooke, most frequently from Sandusky, Ohio, often relating to personal and financial issues.
- from J. Weir, Harrisburg.
- from R. Clarkson, new clerk at Jay Cooke and Co., Washington DC.
- from J. J. Cisco, New York.
- from W. J. Barney, attorney/bond agent from Dubuque, long letter dated 19 to Pitt and 24 February to Jay Cooke regarding tax and land issues.
- from G. R. Messersmith, Chambersburg.
- from Eleutheros Cooke, from Sandusky, Ohio.
- from Lizzie.
- from H. M. Murray, Exchange Bank, Pittsburgh.
- from J. K. Moorhead.
- from W. G. Moorhead, partner in Jay Cooke & Co., Philadelphia.
- from F. Sellers, Citizens Bank, Pittsburgh.
- from J. W. Cook, Allegheny Bank, Pittsburgh.
- from E. T. H. Gibson, New York.
- from H. S. Getz.
- from J. Childs, Pittsburgh.
- from O. A. Lull, Cumberland Valley Railroad. In letter of 7 January he is threatening legal action because he hasn't been paid.
- from B. S. Russell, Towanda Christ Church Sunday School.

Key topics include:

- Credit problems for the Treasury, cash shortages, currency issues, depreciation fears. Public accountability e.g. S. P. Chase's letter to Jay Cooke on 29 April 1862 highlighting how he cannot benefit from any dealings in public property.

- Correspondence between S. P. Chase, Henry Cooke and Jay Cooke regarding the raising of “Certificates of Indebtedness”, “Demand notes”, Bonds etc. for the war effort. Telegraph correspondence sent in cipher.
- Jay Cooke & Co. open new banking house in Washington DC, opposite Treasury Building, to deal in national loans. Henry D. Cooke and H. C. Fahnestock take control. Other partners were J. Weir and W. G. Moorhead.
- Henry Cooke takes control of Washington and Georgetown Street Railroad Co. and helps steer the appropriate Bill through congress, in order to build the first street railroad in Washington DC.
- Banking business and financial matters. Numerous contacts with regional banks regarding loan issues. Continued pushing and promotion of loans.
- Various matters concerning Civil War. e.g. post being stopped (Henry to Jay on 27 February 1862), conditions at the front including requests for 1000 prayer books.
- Land and tax issue.
- Family life.
- Requests for charity and favours to provide work, Church matters.

Extract from Jay Cooke’s letter to S. P. Chase dated 31 January 1862 from Philadelphia

“... Demand notes are plenty and banks refuse to use them, except as they need to pay up to the Treasury. After they pay up the balance I fear they will decline to take the government notes – if so they will be sure to go to a discount – cannot something be done at once to stop this bad state of affairs? I have my own ideas and see my way clear – but I am afraid you don’t agree with me! We could probably arrange the finances in ten days if you let me act as mediator between yourself and the banks of the three cities. Unless something is done speedily I am fearful that it will be too late ...”

Extract from Jay Cooke’s letter to S. P. Chase dated 1 May 1862 from Philadelphia

“... in about ten days I am going up Pennsylvania for a few days trout fishing ... I shall only fish ... I need rest and I know you do also – won’t you go along incog? I will guarantee a good time ...”

Extract from Henry D. Cooke’s letter to Jay Cooke dated 2 June 1862 from Washington DC

“... I found Farney [H.C. Fahnestock] and Gideon ‘at the ranche’ this morning on my arrival. We talked Railroad matters at breakfast and agreed upon a plan of action. Things look squally and decidedly as if we were ‘in the lion’s mouth’ ...”

REEL 9

Dates: July–October 1862

Principal and most interesting correspondence:

- This reel is dominated by letters from Henry David Cooke, in Washington DC, to Jay Cooke regarding the changing events of the Civil War. Henry has “several sources of information” in the War Department and especially through S. P. Chase who, as Secretary of the Treasury, had direct access to the President. Most notable and detailed letters are dated 9 July, 30 & 31 August, 2 & 23 September when McClellan’s forces were crossing the Potomac River.

- to and from Salmon P. Chase, who in close contact with Jay Cooke regarding the national finances and his own.
- from H. C. Fahnestock (“Farney”), Washington DC.
- to and from Pitt Cooke, most frequently from Sandusky, Ohio, often relating to personal and financial issues.
- from J. G. Camp, Wells & Fargo & Co., New York, requesting \$100,000 capital for Minnesota Railroad and land.
- from R. Clarkson, new clerk at Jay Cooke and Co., Washington DC.
- from R. Maxwell, Philadelphia, accusing J. Cooke of holding back small currency. See letter dated 16 September.
- from W. J. Barney, Dubuque.
- from O. H. Wheeler, Hudson River Bank.
- from G. R. Messersmith, Chambersburg.
- from Eleutheros Cooke, from Sandusky, Ohio.
- from H. D. Moore, State Treasurer, Pennsylvania.
- from H. Johnston, Baltimore.
- from J. M. Pinkerton, Boston, attorney and bondholder.
- from Judge Hepburn, regarding Railroad business.
- from W. G. Moorhead, Philadelphia.
- from J. Weir, Harrisburg.
- from E. T. H. Gibson, New York.
- from H. S. Getz.

Key topics include:

- The course of events at the front and the impact they had in Washington DC, e.g. the fear that the government was “drifting to certain destruction upon the rocks of petty jealousies and rivalries” (Henry Cooke’s letter to Jay dated 2 September 1862). S. P. Chase’s dislike and distrust of General McClellan provides the focal point, see extract below.
- Correspondence between S. P. Chase, Henry Cooke and Jay Cooke regarding national loans, banking business and financial matters. Numerous contacts with regional banks regarding loan issues. Continued pushing and promotion of loans. In a letter dated 20 October 1862 Henry Cooke reveals the public debt to be \$650,768,243 on the 17 October. The figure had grown by \$5,000,000 in the preceding three days.
- Washington and Georgetown Street Railroad Co. begins running and is soon earning \$400 per day. See extract below.
- Land and railroad matters.
- Family life.
- Church matters.

Extract from Henry Cooke’s letter to Jay Cooke dated 12 July 1862 from Washington DC

“... The President visited McClellan to see for himself the position of affairs. He returned much cheered and brings glowing accounts of the splendid condition and enthusiasm of the troops ... Governor C. [S. P. Chase] has told me very fully the result of the President’s observations. The President is impressed with the skill displayed by McClellan in his change of base of operations (and Gov. C. unites in giving him credit to that extent) but both the President and Gov. C. are far

from being satisfied that the movement itself – however well executed – was one that ought to have been made ... The blunder of McClellan in the estimation of the Governor Chase (and in this the Gov. thinks the President agrees with him) was two fold, firstly stretching out his lines so far and not leaving his divisions within closer supporting distance ... secondly when he found that Paster [General Fitzjohn Paster] could whip the enemy if he had reinforcements, he made a great mistake in persisting in his original plan ...”

Extract from Henry Cooke’s letter to Jay Cooke dated 12 July 1862 from Washington DC

“... Our railroad is progressing finally – on yesterday evening, Wharton and I with Farney and Harding; and one or two other newspaper men tried it for the first time running cars from the capital to Willands and back. The track is splendid ...”

REEL 10

Dates: November 1862-March 1863

Principal and most interesting correspondence:

- Letters to and from Henry David Cooke, in Washington DC.
- to and from Salmon P. Chase, who in close contact with Jay Cooke regarding the national finances and his own.
- from H. C. Fahnestock (“Farney”), Washington DC.
- to and from Pitt Cooke, most frequently from Cincinnati, Columbus and Sandusky often relating to personal and financial issues. A fascinating series dated 21, 26 November and 1 December to Jay Cooke and including Pitt’s (15 November) and G. O’Harra’s (18 November) letters to G. Scott, relate to a plan to buy Cotton from the Southern States, smuggle it through the Northern lines and export it. Jay Cooke had provided \$30, 000 before he realised the dubious nature of the scheme, at which point he had to request his money back. By 1 December, a reassuring Pitt had only recovered \$20,500. Henry Cooke was also involved and his letter to Jay dated 18 November states that the cotton operation is in “abeyance for the time being” following the death of one of their contacts. See extract below.
- from R. Clarkson, now employed as a travelling agent promoting national loans and assessing the mood of cities in the West. See extract below.
- from W. J. Barney, Dubuque.
- from J. W. Drexel, Drexel & Co.
- from O. H. Wheeler, Hudson River Bank.
- from G. R. Messersmith, Chambersburg.
- from J. R. Young, The Press, Philadelphia.
- from Eleutheros Cooke, from Sandusky, Ohio.
- from H. D. Moore, State Treasurer, Pennsylvania.
- from J. M. Pinkerton, Boston, attorney and bondholder.
- from Judge Hepburn, regarding Railroad business.
- from J. Weir, Harrisburg.
- from E. T .H. Gibson, New York.
- from H. S. Getz.
- from J. Bell, Hollidaybay, Penn.

Key topics include:

- The course of events at the front and the impact they had in Washington DC, e.g. the resignation and quick reinstatement of Seward and Chase in December 1862, and the removal and reinstatement of McClellan.
- Correspondence between S. P. Chase, Henry Cooke and Jay Cooke regarding national loans, banking business and financial matters, especially the “five-twenty” loan and “seven-thirties”. In November 1862 Jay Cooke owed the Government \$1,500,000 for bonds. The passage of National banking Bill, designed to reform the national banking system, strongly supported by the Cookes.
- Strong speculation in the Gold market in early 1863, due to currency fears. In a letter dated 24 February 1863 R. Clarkson described the ‘excitement in gold today baffled description’. The market was steadied as Government stocks were supported by Jay Cooke.
- Private land deals and trading, especially through Pitt Cooke e.g. on 12 December 1862 he reported to his brother Jay that he had purchased “all the beans in Milwaukee”.

Extract from G. O’Harra’s letter to G.Scott dated 14 November 1862 from Louisville

“... We are in connection with Gen. Rosencranse, confidential spy who is here and returns with us ... he has told us where the most cotton is ... he goes all through the Confederate lines and in these camps and can be of much benefit to us, he will tell us when the Army is going to move and in what direction, and where to find cotton ...”

Extract from R. Clarkson’s letter to Jay Cooke dated 7 December 1862 from Columbus. Ohio

“... there is growing disposition to have Ohio take care of herself, and the murmurs are by no means concealed that while the war is employing the machinery and capital of the Eastern States the West is left in the cold, with communication entirely cut off., the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad left almost criminally out of use and goods and freight of all descriptions lying on the sidings for want of cars and transportation. The loco foco element do not pour any oil on the troubled waters, but point to the fact that New England and New York and Pennsylvania are gaining all, and that the Northwest had better join the Southern Confederacy than see things continue this way ...”

REEL 11

Dates: April-September 1863

Principal and most interesting correspondence:

- to and from Henry D. Cooke, in Washington DC.
- to and from Salmon P. Chase, Secretary of the Treasury, Washington DC.
- from H. C. Fahnestock (“Farney”), Washington DC.
- from Pitt Cooke, Cincinnati and Sandusky, relating to personal and financial issues. Pitt’s letters are less frequent than in previous reels. On 22 April 1863, he reported the Cincinnati “ five-twenty” loan agent being very busy and assuming this meant that Jay Cooke would be also, he resolved to keep his correspondence brief.

- from R. Clarkson, Jay Cooke & Co., Philadelphia. On 28 May 1863 he reported an incident of attempted forgery in Eastern Pennsylvania.
- from W. J. Barney, Dubuque.
- from W. S. Huntington, Cashier for Jay Cooke & Co., Washington DC.
- from G. Harrington, Assistant Treasurer, Washington DC.
- from G. R. Messersmith, Chambersburg.
- from W. G. Moorhead, Philadelphia.
- from Eleutheros Cooke, Sandusky, Ohio.
- from H. D. Moore, State Treasurer, Pennsylvania.
- from H. Fisk, Fisk & Hatch Bond Agents, New York.
- from A. S. Hatch, Fisk & Hatch Bond Agents, New York.
- from Judge Hepburn, regarding Railroad business.
- from J. Weir, Harrisburg.
- from S. M. Davis, loan agent. See extract below.
- from R. J. Parvin, Pastor at Gettysburg, with first-hand account of the battle. See extract below.
- from H. S. Getz.
- from G. Scott, Cincinnati.
- from H. M. Murray, Exchange Bank, Pittsburgh.
- from S. Marks, Huron, regarding church matters.

Key topics include:

- Correspondence between S. P. Chase, Henry Cooke and Jay Cooke regarding national loans, banking business and financial matters, especially the “five-twenty” loan. The 5-20 loan dominates reels 11 and 12 with most correspondence relating to it. Key issues include:
 - Jay Cooke’s mobilization of publicity through travelling agents, posters and newspapers.
 - The resulting demand outstrips the Treasury’s physical ability to supply e.g. on 1 April 1863 Henry Cooke at last welcomed the introduction of a third printing plate but still had to complain of long delays in fulfilment of their orders.
 - Accusations of corruption and favouritism, especially from banking interests in New York who resent Jay Cooke & Co.’s appointment as the Treasury’s sole agents for the loan.
 - S. P. Chase, in an attempt to defend accusations of corruption, and to create a better deal for the war effort consistently pushes Jay Cooke to keep control on the allocation of commission which is sub-agents use and the overall commission paid to Jay Cooke. A patriotic Jay Cooke strongly resents such accusations and what he sees as an extremely small commission package. See extracts below.
- The setting up of various National Banks. Henry Cooke elected president of the 1st National Bank of Washington DC Jay Cooke placed on the board of the 1st National Bank of Philadelphia. Large capital and share holdings held by Jay Cooke, Henry Cooke, W. G. Moorhead and H. C. Fahnestock.
- The Civil War; news from the front at Gettysburg and Washington DC coming under threat in June and July.
- Private land deals, trading and tax.
- Church matters.

Extract from R. Parvin's letter to Jay Cooke dated 9 July 1863 from Gettysburg

"... Scenes of suffering beyond description are around about this place. The wounded by hundreds and by thousands are lying in the woods and in their little shelter tents, & very many in the mud along the river bank. The Churches, Farmhouses Barns and Sheds etc. are full. The government are sending them away daily ..."

Extract from Henry Cooke's letter to Jay Cooke dated 14 May 1863 from Washington D.C.

"... The governor sent for me yesterday evening about 5 o'clock; and I found him greatly excited by the pressure brought to bear upon him by parties wanting to sell bonds and get the ¼% commission. He said he was hit by very numerous – daily – complaints while on his Eastern trip because he had given you and the agents appointed by you "the monopoly" in selling the bonds; and on his return he was beset by letters of similar import. He says your agents have been indiscreet in letting the impression get out that they received ¼ commission- that he had repeatedly told parties it was not so and that their commission was only ? ..."

Extract from S. M. Davis's letter to Jay Cooke dated 3 June 1863. No location is provided

"... I fear the Secretary of the Treasury does not appreciate the effect produced through the Loyal States, by carrying out with the vigor you have, the program you adopted for making the 5-20 loan a popular one.

I shall act on the assumption that he has good and sufficient reasons for the course he has taken and shall co-operate with you to the extent of my ability to carry the loan to another hundred million ... whether I get a commission or not, for the little I make is as nothing compared to the good I think I am doing...for every dollar taken of this loan is not only a blow against the Rebellion, but is cementing the people by the tie of interest to the General Government ..."

REEL 12

Dates: October-December 1863

Principal and most interesting correspondence:

- to and from Henry D. Cooke, in Washington DC.
- to and from Salmon P. Chase, Secretary of the Treasury, Washington DC.
- to and from H. C. Fahnestock ("Farney"), Washington DC e.g. Fahnestock's letter to Jay Cooke on 20 October 1863 states that the Washington DC office had "sold all the Railroad stock held by the Philadelphia and Washington Houses" and then joked that Jay would not be charged commission as long as he forwarded his holiday photos!
- from Pitt Cooke, Sandusky, relating to personal and financial issues.
- from R. Clarkson, Jay Cooke & Co., Philadelphia.
- from W .J. Barney, Dubuque.
- from W. S. Huntington, Cashier for Jay Cooke & Co., Washington DC.
- from F .J. Loes, travelling agent, Cleveland, Milwaukee. See extract below.
- from G. R. Messersmith, Chambersburg.
- from H. C. Storms, travelling agent for Jay Cooke & Co., Cincinnati, Columbus, Dayton, Sandusky, Springfield, Bannersville and Lancaster.
- from G. A. Bassett, travelling agent, Chicago, Indianapolis.
- from W. B. Hubbard, travelling agent, Columbus.
- from T. Shewell, travelling agent, Chicago.

- from W. I. Poulterer, travelling agent, Flint, Michigan, Detroit and Grand Rapids. See extract below.
- from C. Sherman, Quartermaster's offices, Portsmouth, Virginia.
- from J. Rambo, McGregor, Iowa, church matters.
- from J. J. Cisco, Assistant State Treasurer, New York.
- from Eleutheros Cooke, Sandusky, Ohio.
- from H. D. Moore, State Treasurer, Pennsylvania.
- from H. Fisk, Fisk & Hatch Bond Agents, New York.
- from A. S. Hatch, Fisk & Hatch Bond Agents, New York.
- from E. B. Judson, 1st National Bank, Syracuse, New York.
- from J. Weir, Harrisburg.
- from S. M. Davis, loan agent, Philadelphia.
- from M. F. Field, Assistant Secretary to the Treasury, Washington DC.

Key topics include:

- Correspondence between S. P. Chase, Henry Cooke and Jay Cooke regarding national loans, banking business and financial matters, especially the "five-twenty" loan. The 5-20 loan sales peaked on 29-31 October 1863 with incredible daily figures. See extract below.
- Jay Cooke's mobilization of publicity continued apace through travelling agents who provided regular updates on their progress. Newspapers were targeted not just for advertisements but also positive editorials. See extracts below.
- The continued growth and promotion of the National banking system. Jay Cooke's support for the proposed setting up of the 4th National Bank of New York and talks with English Bankers. Henry Cooke's letter of 26 October 1863 highlights Jay Cooke's strong reputation in England.
- The Civil War and the progress of the army under U.S. Grant.
- Private land deals, trading and tax.
- Family matters.

Extract from W. I. Poulterer's letter to Jay Cooke dated 18 October 1863 from Flint, Michigan
"... I left Detroit Friday Oct. 16. at 8 a.m. – spread circulars through the cars – arrived at Pontiac 9 ½ o'clock – visited the two banking houses, and opened to them the advantages of the National System, found both well disposed but short of capital – urged that they should promote the sale of 5-20s among friends and customers - getting them to join their investments for the establishment of National Banks. Having made satisfactory progress with the bankers, I called on the Post Master and other officials and prominent men to enlist them in the Cause - distributed circulars freely, and at 1 ½ 0'0 P.M. started in a hired conveyance for Romeo ..."

Extract from F.S. Loes' letter to Jay Cooke dated 21 October 1863 from Cleveland
"... We have been here since Saturday night, the Convention adjourned today. As far as we have been able to see the proprietors and editors, who were represented but very slimly in this convention they seem to be mostly in favor for the position in question of our particular friend. Those who were decidedly favorable to our project have promised what we asked of them, and we will keep up a correspondence with them on the subject. We shall receive copies of their papers and will take care of them until we return to Philadelphia ..."

Extract from Henry Cooke's letter to Jay Cooke dated 31 October 1863 from

Washington DC.

“... At half past seven I am here at the office after the biggest days work on record – too tired to give you anything but a summary...the office was besieged inside and out. Scores had to wait and wait, although we had four subscription tables at full blast. Local sales to customers amounted to \$1,800,000. Our orders from the west etc. were about \$1,600,000 and the subscriptions from New York and Boston, Baltimore etc., were a trifle over \$10,000,000, making a total of between 13 and 14 millions. We sold bonds until we had not a single bond left on hand ...”

REEL 13

Dates: January-March 1864

Principal and most interesting correspondence:

- to and from Henry D. Cooke, in Washington DC.
- to and from Salmon P. Chase, Secretary of the Treasury, Washington DC, especially Jay Cooke's long letter dated 16 January 1864 in which he outlines the success of the 5-20 loan but details why it should be stopped.
- to and from H. C. Fahnestock (“Farney”), Washington DC whose letters become more frequent from February 1864 through Henry Cooke's ill health and subsequent trip to Europe.
- from Pitt Cooke, Sandusky, relating to personal and financial issues e.g. his letter dated 13 January 1864 in which he is annoyed at a tax decision by the Supreme Court of Iowa and states that “such is always the case in the new States of the West, where legislation is always changing”.
- from R. Clarkson, Jay Cooke & Co., Philadelphia.
- from W. J. Barney, Chicago.
- from W. S. Huntington, Cashier for Jay Cooke & Co., Washington DC.
- from George S. Coe, president of American Exchange Bank, New York. His letter on 18 January 1864 highlights the need for the old State banks to establish a foothold in the National system.
- from G. R. Messersmith, Chambersburg. Banking and an interesting land deal between himself Jay Cooke, W. G. Moorhead and a Mr Biddle. See his letter to Jay Cooke dated 7 January 1864.
- from H. Murray, Pittsburgh.
- from Mary Cooke, Sandusky on 12 January refers to Pitt's ill health and being confined to bed.
- from W. G. Moorhead, Philadelphia, especially his letter dated 8 January 1864 in which he requests Jay Cooke use his influence with Governor Chase to allow the movement of another potential cotton deal in Florida.
- from S. M. Fellow, Philadelphia, Washington and Baltimore Railroad Co. His letter dated 18 January 1864 explains how they could take no responsibility following Jay Cooke's complaint that his friends had missed their connection.
- from Jay Cooke to J. K. Moorhead dated 5 February 1864 complaining about the poor postal service.
- from L. Clark, Clarke & Dodge.
- from Jesse Mann, East Greenwich.

- from Joshua Hann, Pittsburgh.
- from W. Evans, London, England, Jay Cooke's representative promoting government bonds.
- from Eleutheros Cooke, Sandusky, Ohio.
- from Emma Mills, Sandusky.
- from H. Fisk, Fisk & Hatch Bond Agents, New York, especially long letters to Jay Cooke dated 13, 14 and 15 January 1864 regarding government loan business.
- from H. Dyer. New York, Church matters.
- from J. Weir, Harrisburg.
- from Abel Beach, Washington.
- from J. Sexton, J. Cooke & Co., Philadelphia.
- from S. A. Bronson, Sandusky. His letter dated 21 January 1864 provided details of a new chapel.

Key topics include:

- Correspondence between S. P. Chase, Henry Cooke and Jay Cooke regarding national loans, banking business and financial matters. The 5-20 loan comes to an end and is heralded a great success, see extract below. Chase and the Jay Cooke disagree on whether to extend the loan period, with Chase eventually giving way. Its replacement, the 10-40 loan, offered a lower return and Jay Cooke refused to participate as he did with the 5-20.
- The continued growth and promotion of the National banking system. Jay Cooke helps the financing of the 4th National Bank of New York under the directorship of G. Opdyke.
- S. P. Chase's desire to run against Lincoln in the Presidential elections is supported particularly by Henry Cooke, but it eventually comes to nothing. There were accusations that Chase's relationship with Jay Cooke was a factor. See extracts below.
- The promotion of bond sales in England through W. Evans in London.
- Private land deals, trading and tax.
- Church matters,

Extract from Henry Cooke's letter to Jay Cooke dated 4 March 1864 from Washington DC

"... The Secretary will probably let the public understand shortly that he is not seeking a nomination against Mr. Lincoln. He is content to leave the choice to the people. If they prefer Lincoln he will make no effort to supplant him in that preference. If on the other hand they manifestly prefer him he would not feel at liberty to decline the nomination, if tendered ..."

Extract from Henry Cooke's letter to Jay Cooke dated 13 January 1864 from Washington DC

"... the Govn. showed me an anonymous note reading (as near as I can remember, as follows - 'the action of the Philadelphia Union League in declaring for Lincoln is the result of your connection with Jay Cooke, such men as McMichael, Carey and others see through it' - ... the Governor said that it was only one of many attempts, anonymous and open, of the same character ..."

Extract from Jay Cooke's letter to S. P. Chase dated 16 January 1864 from Philadelphia

"... In conclusion allow me to congratulate you, upon the final success of this loan – a loan which in the option reserved by the government as to the time of payment, and consequent uncertainty of the period of the investment, presented to the purchaser a strongly objectionable feature, which at the outset materially distracted from its popularity, but which, not

withstanding, has since met with a degree of popular favor never before accorded to any similar loan, in this or any other country ...”

REEL 14

Dates: April–June 1864

Principal and most interesting correspondence:

- to and from H.C. Fahnestock (“Farney”), Washington DC who writes almost daily due to Henry Cooke’s absence from the Washington office. Pitt Cooke’s letters are also absent from this reel because he was too ill to write.
- to and from Salmon P. Chase, Secretary of the Treasury, Washington DC.
- from Jay Cooke to Henry Cooke in Europe, dated 14 April 1864. See extract below.
- from W. B. Shattuck, advertising agent, New York.
- from W. J. Barney, Chicago.
- from W. S. Huntington, Cashier for Jay Cooke & Co., Washington DC.
- from G. Opdyke, Director of 4th National Bank of New York, appealing for Jay Cooke’s help in sorting out serious boardroom problems. See letter dated 3 April 1864.
- from G. R. Messersmith, Chambersburg.
- from W. Vermilye, bankers and dealers in government securities, New York.
- from J. Blackburn, to S. P. Chase and Jay Cooke concerning nickel mines on the shore of Lake Heron. He includes letters from J. Wharton, J. Sheppard and C. Ogdens. The letters are dated between 15 March and 11 May 1864.
- from W. G. Moorhead, Washington DC.
- from J. Dallett, Philadelphia, complaining of the unfair privileges used by New York dealers in the Gold market. See his letter dated 5 April 1864.
- from J. K. Moorhead, Washington DC.
- from L. Clark, Clarke & Dodge.
- from T. Chambers, New York.
- from J. Rambo, Fayette, Iowa regarding Church matters.
- from W. Evans, London, England, Jay Cooke’s representative promoting government bonds.
- from Eleutheros Cooke, Sandusky, Ohio.
- from H. D. Moore, Philadelphia.
- from J. J. Cisco, New York.
- from H. Townsend, Waverly, Iowa, regarding church business.
- from J. Weir, Harrisburg.
- from B. J. Hannah, Washington DC.
- from Albert Nicholay, Columbia Gold Mining Co., New York, offering stock options. See letter dated 8 June 1864.
- from R. A. Parrish, Philadelphia, see latter dated 8 April 1864 regarding potential land deal.
- from Z. Fuller, editor of United States journal, Philadelphia, who expresses his desire to see S. P. Chase “on the road to the presidential chair” and states “who knows but one day Jay Cooke will be a member of his cabinet”. See his letter dated 27 May 1864.

Key topics include:

- Correspondence between S. P. Chase, H. C. Fahnestock and Jay Cooke regarding national loans, banking business and financial matters. Continued concerns with the slow progress of the 10-40 loan.
- Fluctuations in the gold market. With the high price of gold having a depreciating effect on the government's paper money, Jay Cooke secretly enters the market, on Chase's behalf, to sell off government gold reserves in order to force the price down. See extract below.
- The continued growth and promotion of the National banking system. Jay Cooke's concerns about the upheaval at the 4th National Bank of New York.
- S. P. Chase's disagreements with Lincoln, particularly over the appointment of a new Assistant Treasurer in New York. Chase resigns on 29 June 1864. See extract below.
- The promotion of bond sales in England through W. Evans in London.
- Private land deals, railroads, coal and nickel mines.
- Church matters.

Extract from Jay Cooke's letter to S. P. Chase dated 6 April 1864 from New York

"... I have had interviews yesterday and today with Mr O [G. Opdyke] and with the investors & have conferred with the largest stockholders here as to the best course to pursue. – two sides to all questions – after looking all over the ground I decide that we were unfortunate in choice of Directors and President. Mr O really has a hard time of it but the fault lies not entirely with the Directors. They all have – it appears to me - allowed childish and wicked feelings to distract the harmony of action & to jeopardise the best interest of this Bank and the National System....six out of the eight Directors went to the bank today prepared to dethrone Mr O ..."

Extract from Jay Cook's letter to Henry Cooke dated 14 April 1864 from New York

"... I had my orders and you can see results of first days work – it opened at 89 – and closed off at 74 ½. I sold about 2 million ... I have just left the 4th National meeting and they voted to require Board and President to resign ..."

Extract from Jay Cooke's letter to S. P. Chase dated 30 June 1864 from Philadelphia

"... For our dear country's sake I am deeply pained to learn of your resignation. How may it be possible to leave the helm of finance in the midst of this great storm? The reasons must be mighty and all powerful! And knowing your patriotism and self sacrificing spirit I have certain confidence that these reasons will satisfy you - God keep us! ..."

REEL 15

Dates: July-September 1864

Principal and most interesting correspondence:

- to and from H. C. Fahnestock ("Farney"), Washington DC. who writes almost daily due to Henry Cooke's absence from the Washington office until early September. Interesting letters dated 10, 11 & 26 July and 4 August 1864 relate to fighting around Washington DC. Also Fahnestock's views on slavery and the North's war aims. See extract below. Fahnestock's letter to Jay Cooke dated 12 September 1864 is also very

- interesting in its defence of Henry Cooke's financial acumen and role in the Washington banking house. Pitt Cooke's letters are absent from this reel due to illness.
- to and from Salmon P. Chase, most notable regarding the shortcomings of his replacement as Secretary of the Treasury, W. P. Fessenden. See letter dated 3 August 1864.
 - to and from Henry Cooke, Paris and Washington D.C. Henry's letters of 28 July and 13 September 1864 promote the idea of European loans.
 - from Jay Cooke to W. P. Fessenden, especially long letter dated 21 July 1864 making recommendations regarding the nation's finances.
 - from W. S. Huntington, Cashier for Jay Cooke & Co., Washington DC.
 - from G. R. Messersmith, Chambersburg, especially regarding the burning of Chambersburg. See extract below.
 - from G. Scott, New York.
 - from T. Chambers, New York, especially letters dated 7 & 8 July promoting an investment of \$100,000 in an Indian estate. Chambers urged Cooke to visit the sight now he was "relieved from the necessity of daily helping your friend Chase".
 - from R. Remington, advising that T. Chambers was not a man to trust.
 - from J. Rambo, Fayette, Iowa regarding Church matters.
 - from William Evans, London, England, Jay Cooke's representative promoting government bonds.
 - from A. Peacocke, P. Smith and J. Westward, Prisoner of War camp, Elmira, New York, requesting clothing and tobacco. See letter dated 10 August 1864.
 - from H. D. Moore, Harrisburg, especially letter dated 4 August urging Jay Cooke to help provide extra railroad cars for the coal mine at South Mountain in order to make up the losses in production following a strike.
 - from J. B. Banking, office of North Clear Creek Gold & Silver Mining Co., New York.
 - from W. J. Spencer, Vineland, New Jersey, regarding Trinity church appeal.
 - from Rev. H. Townsend, Waverly, Iowa, regarding church business.
 - from J. Weir, Harrisburg.
 - from J. Mills Kendrick, Put in Bay, regarding church matters.
 - from A. M. Kurn, Philadelphia, regarding church matters.
 - from J.K. Moorhead, Hassington.

Key topics include:

- Correspondence between S. P. Chase, H. C. Fahnestock and Jay Cooke regarding national loans, banking business and financial matters. By 1 September the Treasury required \$150,000,000 to pay 1.2 million troops. Fessenden's loans and his financial ability are questioned. Fessenden requests Jay Cook's advice but he does not get involved with Cooke as S. P. Chase did. See extracts below.
- Henry Cooke supports the proposal for European loans.
- The Civil War. The fighting reaches Washington DC and the southern armies burn Chambersburg.
- President Lincoln's request to see Jay Cooke on 12 August 1864 and three letters in particular from H. C. Fahnestock dated 28 July, 16 & 19 August 1864 which reflect the debate over the North's war aims, slavery and the clash of McClellan against Lincoln. See extract below.
- Private land deals, railroads, mines.

- Church matters.

Extract from H. Fahnestock's letter to Jay Cooke dated 23 July 1864 from Washington D.C.

"... I have not been able to talk with G. H. [George Harrington, Assistant Secretary] today but have seen Fd. [Fessenden] may see former this evening. The appeal to the people is still on and the Secretary took it home with him this p.m. to further digest it. Meanwhile he remains at sea regarding many points of policy and I handed him his * recommendations in writing today. He discovers he's not on a bed of roses and said to I today * 'I wish the President would do some damned outrageous thing that would force me to resign'. Getting along fast, isn't he?
* Private! ..."

Extract from Jay Cooke's letter to S. P. Chase dated 20 September 1864 from Philadelphia

"... He [Fessenden] expressed to me at our interview in Washington a sentiment that has hurt me ever since and to this effect: that he thought it right to say to me that he could not think of engaging in any business negotiations with our firms. As such matters had in the past been animadverted upon so constantly by the press and various parties disadvantageously to the Treasury (as I interpreted it) he thought it would be best to steer clear of anything that could be found fault with ... I thought it cruel after all my hard night and day services, which as far as I know my heart was as disinterested and patriotic and pure as earth ever saw ..."

Extract from G. R. Messersmith's letter to Jay Cooke dated 31 July 1864 from Chambersburg

"... It is with great sorrow I inform you that our beautiful town is a ruin...Personally I have lost everything and myself and my family barely escaped with our lives with nothing but clothing we had on. The wretches did not give us five minutes notice, but fired the entire circle of buildings in the diamond simultaneously. I know not what to do. I am appalled with the distress and ruin around me. My little family is scattered, the remaining part of the town is crowded to excess and what to do for the future I know not ..."

Extract from H. Fahnestock's letter to Jay Cooke dated 19 August 1864 from Washington DC

"... I have received your scolding letter of yesterday ... I hate slavery and regard its baneful influence upon Southern society as the root of all our troubles, yet it must be remembered that it is as old as the nation, and extends through every portion of every Southern state and underlies the whole industrial system and the social life of the community ... I hate slavery. It is intrinsically wrong and disgraceful to the nation, yet in demolishing it we must be careful not to inflict a greater injustice upon its victims. Have you seen any extensive disposition in the northern states to invite negro settlement in the north? Do you think that even Massachusetts would relish an importation of 10, 000 of them? Will it not take along time to so care for the poor creatures that habits of systematic industry and self support can be taught them, and, during all this transition state, must not all that are freed become a great burden to their emancipators? Just now it is convenient to put them into our armies and make them do our fighting (and their own), but after a while they will have to be returned to civil life and its going to be no small undertaking. If I am coppery Mr Lincoln is. Dig up and read his letter to Horace Greely in '62 when he said if he could save the Union with slavery he would do it, and if he could save the Union without slavery he would do it, and if he could save it half and half he would do it ... now dear Jay, if the Union can be restored before we have entirely wiped out slavery let it be done for we can't afford to fight a day longer than we absolutely must and after the war we want to harmonize and be brothers again just as soon as possible ..."

REEL 16

Dates: October–December 1864

Principal and most interesting correspondence:

- to and from Henry Cooke, Washington DC.
- to and from Salmon P. Chase, Cincinnati and Cleveland, especially regarding the appointment of Chase to the position of Chief Justice. See Chase's letter to Jay Cooke dated 16 November 1864 requesting support from his influential friends.
- to and from H. C. Fahnestock ("Farney"), Washington DC.
- to and from W. P. Fessenden, Secretary of the Treasury, Washington DC. Most notable is Fessenden's letter of 18 November 1864, outlining what he wanted from Jay Cooke and M. Ketchum. This reel also contains Jay Cooke's long official response of 19 November and the original draft that Jay Cooke has annotated in great detail.
- to and from Morris Ketchum, New York, competing with Jay Cooke for the major role as the Treasury's bond agent.
- from H. D. Cooke to M. Ketchum, especially letter dated 26 November 1864.
- from H. D. Cooke to S. P. Chase. See extract below.
- from W. S. Huntington, Cashier for Jay Cooke & Co., Washington DC.
- from G. R. Messersmith, New National Bank of Chambersburg.
- from D. Crawford Jr., Clark & Dodge, New York.
- from W. Liegerson, St Louis. His letter dated 7 November 1864 looked forward to the end of the Civil War and predicted that "the great pacific railroad will be built".
- from T. Chambers, New York, especially letter dated 1 October 1864 promoting the investment of \$50-100,000 in Oil.
- from J. B. Bunting, J. B. Bunting & Co. Dealers in Metal and Tin Plates, New York, regarding mineral rich land.
- from W. S. Cadwallis, Philadelphia, Oil matters.
- from William Evans, London, England.
- from H. D. Moore, Treasury Department, Harrisburg, relating potential profits of his and Jay Cooke's coal mine investments. See extract below.
- from J. W. Sexton, Jay Cooke & Co., Philadelphia.
- from John A. Stewart, Treasury Department, Washington DC especially his letter to Jay Cooke, dated 1 December 1864, in which he urges Jay to go to the capital to close his 7-30 negotiations because 'K. [M. Ketchum] is laid out'.
- from H. P. Rutter, Office of Preston Coal Co., Philadelphia.
- from Joseph Wharton, Camden Nickel Works, New York.
- from J. B. Murray, petroleum company, New York.
- from J. Gulliver, Philadelphia, who enclosed a prospectus for a 'superior' oil company. See his letter dated 19 October 1864.
- from L. E. Chittenden, Fisk & Hatch, New York.
- from J. W. Schuckers, ex- private secretary to S.P. Chase, Albany, New York, who made a successful request for Jay Cooke to help fund him through Law School.
- from G. Bassett, Washington D.C. regarding land and oil.
- from J. Weir, the new National Bank of Harrisburg.
- from J. Mills Kendrick, Put in Bay and Sandusky, regarding church matters.
- from A. M. Bancroft, Hononk, regarding church matters.

- from Jesse B. Mann, East Greenwich.
- from Bishop Potter, Philadelphia.
- from H. S. Getz.
- from E. T. H. Gibson, New York.

Key topics include:

- Correspondence between W. P. Fessenden, H. D. Cooke and Jay Cooke regarding national loans, banking business and financial matters. The Treasury required \$2m per day to cover the war effort. See H. D. Cooke's letter dated 10 October 1864. A new 5-20 loan issue is launched. Jay Cooke and Fessenden's relationship is promoted by J.A. Stewart and Cooke takes on \$3m of the new loan himself. See H. D. Cooke's letter's dated 7, 8 and 9 November 1864.
- The rivalry between the Houses of Jay Cooke and Maurice Ketchum to establish themselves as the Treasury's sole agent for distributing the new loan. The negotiations are detailed in Henry Cooke's letters to Jay Cooke dated 14, 24, 25, 26 and 28 November 1864.
- S. P. Chase's appointment to the position of Chief Justice which is strongly promoted by the Cookes. See extract below.
- Jay Cooke receives many offers regarding private land deals, railroads, mines, oil, minerals and tax.
- The Civil War and Lincoln's re-election. Henry Cooke continues to use his contacts in Washington to keep up to date with the progress of the war. See extract below.
- Church matters.
- Death of Jay Cooke's father, Eleutheros.

Extract from H. D. Cooke's letter to S. P. Chase dated 22 November 1864 from Washington DC

"... We have been taking steps to get an expression from home of our leading banks, and financial men, showing how your appointment would confirm and strengthen the gov't.'s credit and the public confidence in the present system of National Banks, the currency and the revenue system etc.

These are all your children and as Chief Justice of the Court of ultimate appeal, it is fact that no future effort to impair their validity and efficiency or to bring about upudiation of any point of the interest on our bonds ..."

Extract from H. D. Cooke's letter to Jay Cooke dated 20 October 1864 from Washington DC

"... We enclose clip from our 'Extra' Evening papers which is authentic and fully reliable except that it didn't tell quite the whole truth. The fact is that during Sheridan's absence(he was here on Monday) Longstreet severely defeated his army – breaking up Gask's cavalry and capturing twenty piecon of artillery – He was driving Sheridan's forces (which were bewildered and demoralized in a perfect route towards the Potomac, when Sheridan met them, on his return from Washington. He at once stopped their stampede, massed them, put them 'face about', and hurling them with sudden impetuosity upon them...whipped them in detail, and before they could conciliate, they were a broken, flying mob. He retook the 23 guns, the prisoners etc. etc. hitherto captured from us and in addition 20 guns from Longstreet's army, the 2000 prisoners, as reported, and at last accounts was in hot pursuit. This is reliable ..."

Extract from H. D. Moore's letter to Jay Cooke dated 13 October 1864 from Harrisburg

"... I am writing a few lines about Preston – My object is to say to you, that my confidence in the ultimate value of the stock is not only unimpaired, but strengthened, and to give you my reasons for it – I yesterday made a calculation of the probable proceeds of our property for the coming year from the 1st of January next. And I want to show it to you to let you see what a valuable property we have got... We would yet get out 228, 000 ton – Our net profit per ton for the last few months was about \$3.27 say \$3 on 228, 000 ton this would be \$684, 000 or more than 20 % of our Capital ... without including the royalty from the mine we rent, and the income from the sale of lots ... from this view of it you can understand why I have such implicit confidence in the value of the stock. I am told that some of the stock is offered at £35 in the market. If I had the money I would buy every dollars worth I could get at that price and even up to \$40 ..."

REEL 17

Dates: January 1865

Principal and most interesting correspondence:

- to and from Henry Cooke, Washington DC.
- to and from H. C. Fahnestock ("Farney"), Washington DC, especially his letter dated 3 January which confirms the annual profit of the Washington house as \$241,000.
- to and from W. P. Fessenden, Secretary of the Treasury, Washington DC. See letter dated 28 January 1865 confirming Jay Cooke's appointment as Treasury's sole agent.
- from Morris Ketchum, New York, competing with Jay Cooke for the major role as the Treasury's bond agent. See his letter to Jay Cooke dated 31 January 1865 in which he declines to participate in the new loan following his failure to secure a primary role in its administration.
- from Pitt Cooke, Sandusky, especially regarding the death of Eleutheros Cooke and his own ill health. See his letter to Jay Cooke dated 7 January in which his wife, Mary had to finish and 16 January in which he continues to discuss financial matters despite being bedridden.
- from Mary Cooke, Pitt's wife, Sandusky. See her letter dated 14 January in which she describes the 'oppressive pain' in Pitt's lungs.
- from Margaret G. McClellan, New York. See her letters dated 4, 13 and 26 January in which she is complaining about an administrative error in the issuing of her bond by Jay Cooke & Co.
- from G. Stewart, Christian Commission, Philadelphia.
- from S. P. Chase, Cincinnati.
- from W. S. Huntington, 1st National Bank, Washington DC.
- from T. Chambers, New York.
- from F. H. Evans, London.
- from G. S. Scott, New York.
- from S. B. Caldwell, New York.
- from H. D. Moore, Treasury Department, Harrisburg.
- from T. Maclean, Philadelphia, promoting the cause of 'colored' people in Barbados who want to emigrate back to Liberia, Africa.

- from J. Rambo, Fayette, Iowa.
- from Morris Buchman, Philadelphia, especially his letter dated 17 January promoting investment in lands ‘now that the government are well out of the woods’.
- from J. K. Moorhead, House of Representatives, Washington DC.
- from A. G. Miller, Farmers and Mechanics Bank, Shippensburg, Pennsylvania. See letter dated 24 January in which he states that the bank will not be entering the National system.
- from J. Camp, Louisville, Kentucky, regarding land issues.
- from J. Weir, the new National Bank of Harrisburg.
- from J. Mills Kendrick, Put in Bay, regarding church matters.

Key topics include:

- Correspondence between W. P. Fessenden, H. D. Cooke and Jay Cooke regarding national loans, banking business and financial matters. Fessenden gives notice of his resignation in order to become a Senator, although he does not leave until March 1865. His eventual replacement, Hugh McCulloch, is discussed.
- The bond sales through the Treasury are not as successful as hoped and Fessenden appoints Jay Cooke as the official sole agent over M. Ketchum. See extracts below.
- Land and family matters. In particular, the ill health of Pitt Cooke and Henry Cooke’s son, Harry.
- Church matters.
- Many letter’s of condolence following the death of Jay Cooke’s father.

Extract from Henry Cooke’s letter to Jay Cooke dated 12 January 1865 from Washington DC

“... The subscription to the 7-30 loan today can only be \$500,000. The Secretary is not satisfied with this, and says he will wait a few days longer, and then if there is no improvement- or if they don’t come up to the mark, he will resort to the Agency. We want to get up a good showing in what we have done in getting subscription to the new 7-30s and 10-40s through our two houses, and the National Banks of Philadelphia and Washington. In order that the statement may be complete, please send in the footing of the subscription of the Philadelphia national tomorrow without fail. We can make a bigger showing than any other two or three parties in the U.S ...”

Extract from W. S. Fessenden’s letter to Jay Cooke dated 28 January 1865 from Washington DC

“... Having this day been appointed the fiscal agent of this Department, you will prepare yourself to assume the duties of general agent for the disposition of the 7.30 loan, and commence your operations on the 1st February next.

The necessities of the treasury require that at least two millions of dollars shall be daily realized from the sale of 7-30 notes, and it is expected that, after sufficient time shall have elapsed to enable you to complete the arrangements, this sum will be the minimum amount of daily sales. When this loan was first put on the market, the several national deposit banks were made agents therefore, and the commission allowed was one-fourth of one per cent ... the department assuming all the expenses of advertising and otherwise necessary in making the loan known to the people.

My expectations have not been realized, as a further stimulus all banks and banking associations and other persons or parties were invited to act as agents of this department, and the maximum

commission offered was increased to one half of one per cent. The amount of daily sales, I regret to say, falls short of the necessities of the treasury ...”

Extract from Henry Cooke’s letter to Jay Cooke dated 20 January 1865 from Washington DC

“... I can only send you a line today. I was up all last night with Harry – Laura and I worked over him as we would a cholera patient. His fever culminated and left him suddenly – He began to sink rapidly – his pulse almost gone, and cold at his extremities. We rubbed him with hot whiskey and forced some brandy down his throat, and this brought about a reaction – Thank God!! ...”

REEL 18

Dates: February 1865

Principal and most interesting correspondence:

- to and from Henry D. Cooke, Washington DC.
- to and from H. C. Fahnestock (“Farney”), Washington DC., especially regarding complaints about commission rates. See extract below.
- to and from W. P. Fessenden, Secretary of the Treasury, Washington DC.
- from Pitt Cooke, Sandusky, regarding his health, and Jay Cooke’s offer of Pitt opening a New York office of Jay Cooke & Co. See letter dated 3 February.
- from Mary Cooke, Pitt’s wife, Sandusky. See letters dated 5, 10 and 13 February.
- from Michael Hennessy, editorial rooms, New York Times, keen to promote Jay Cooke and the government loans. See extract below.
- from Alfred Galliner, West Chester, especially his letter dated 9 February regarding the cost of advertising space.
- from C. R. Cornwell, New York, promoting Newspapers in support of Jay Cooke.
- from Samuel Wilkeson, journalist and promoter of the 7-30 loan and Jay Cooke, New York Tribune.
- from Fisk & Hatch, New York. See letter dated 1 February in which they report that ‘we are with you heart and soul in the seven-thirty arrangement’.
- from G. S. Bowdon, New York. His letter dated 7 February is a typical response from many bond agents happy to comply with Jay Cooke’s terms and conditions to selling the 7-30 loan.
- from H. C. McCulloch, Treasury Department, Washington DC, with a copy of P. H. Myers & Co.’s letter complaining about commission rates given to them compared with Jay Cooke’s preferred sub-agents. See letter dated 10 February.
- from P. Barker, 1st National Bank, New Bedford, complaining about commission rates in letter dated 27 February.
- from D. Crawford Jr., Clarke & Dodge, New York.
- from W. M. Vermilye, Banker and Dealer in Government securities, New York.
- from W. S. Huntington, 1st National Bank, Washington DC, especially his letter dated 27 February in which he complains that ‘oilmen’ are using his name as their agent.
- from T. Chambers, New York.
- from J. W. Sexton, Jay Cooke & Co., Philadelphia.

- from G. B. Smith, Detroit, promoting a fair for aiding ‘freedmen and other refugees from the South’. See his letter dated 6 February.
- from H. D. Moore, Treasury Department, Harrisburg, offering his services to Jay Cooke in the promotion of the 7-30s.
- from F. H. Evans, London, promoting to Jay Cooke the potential for a London ‘European House’ of Jay Cooke & Co.
- from Isaac H. Steever, travelling agent, New York.
- from H. C. Storms, travelling agent, Cincinnati.
- from G. A. Bassett, Committee of Ways & Means, House of Representatives, Washington DC. See letter dated 24 February regarding the potential drugging of his brother.
- from J. K. Moorhead, Washington DC.
- from J. A. Stewart, Treasury Department, Washington DC.
- from D. H. Rust, New York, regarding a silver mine in California.
- from J. Hough, Indiana Land Company.
- from J. Weir, the new National Bank of Harrisburg.
- from Jesse B. Mann, East Greenwich.
- from Rev. H. Townsend, Waterloo, Iowa.
- from H. Dyer, New York, church matters
- from G. H. Halin, on behalf of Pitt Cooke and the Sandusky Petroleum Oil & Mining Co. on 2 February.
- from Mr Noarse, Washington DC, regarding land on 2 February.
- from R. Irvine, Philadelphia.

Key topics include:

- Correspondence between H. D. Cooke and Jay Cooke regarding national loans, banking business and financial matters. As newly appointed sole agent for the 7-30 loan, the Cookes re-launch the publicity machine which they used to promote the 5-20 loan. National banks, travelling agents, circulars and in particular the Press are all used to push the loan. S. Wilkeson was hired by Jay Cooke, from the New York Tribune on a salary of \$6,000. See Henry Cooke’s letter to Jay Cooke dated 6 February 1865.
- The sale of the bonds becomes a great success. In the seven months prior to Jay Cooke’s appointment \$133m of bonds were issued. The six months after Jay Cooke’s appointment saw the issue of \$830m. The initial success of the bonds can be seen in Henry Cooke’s letters dated 15, 16 and 17 February 1865. See extract below.
- Commission issues continued to between the Secretary of the Treasury and Jay Cooke, and in turn between Jay Cooke and his sub-agents. See extract below.
- Land and family matters. In particular, the ill health of Pitt Cooke.
- Church matters.

Extract from H. C. Fahnestock’s telegram to Jay Cooke dated 11 February 1865 from Philadelphia
“... Tenth New York, Central Cincinnati and Fremont Boston, asking better terms. In order to quiet dissatisfaction, everywhere growing out of injudicious allowances of past occasions, I think you should consider at once policy of allowing measure to all banks selling specific sum, say \$2m per month ...”

Extract from Michael Hennessy’s letter to Jay Cooke dated 13 February 1865 from New York

“... Financial men here are pleased to say that my articles in it [the Union newspaper] are well adapted to promote the interests of the Government, which is my main design in writing them. I would ask you to read them, if you should have time to do so, but I fear you have too many other and more important duties to attend to. The Union circulates to the extent of 15-18,000 copies in Brooklyn, and freely in financial circles here. I mention my connection with it to you in confidence. If it were known who writes its money editorials, the writer would be less at liberty to ‘speak out’ ...”

Extract from Henry Cooke’s letter to Jay Cooke dated 15 February 1865 from Washington DC

“... Horace Greeley [editor of New York Tribune] came in to see us to-day and sat for over an hour. He was very curious to know how we got up the furore and I showed him our circulars, hand bills, advertisements, etc., etc., and explained the whole system to him ... He asked a good many questions about this and I am sure got a full insight into the glorious workings and results of the popular agency system. He said at the close of our talk ‘If you succeed, as you will, you will save the government at least half a million dollars a day in its purchases,’ and he promised the earnest and cordial aid and support of the Tribune in the good work ...”

REEL 19

Dates: March 1865

Principal and most interesting correspondence:

- to and from Henry Cooke, Washington DC.
- to and from H. C. Fahnestock (“Farney”), Washington DC.
- to and from Hugh C. McCulloch, Secretary of the Treasury, Washington DC.
- from Pitt Cooke, Sandusky and Washington, especially letters dated 8 and 9 March outlining an invitation from General J.K. Moorhead from the Cooke family to join him and General Grant on a steamer provided by the Secretary of War.
- from Michael Hennessy, editorial rooms, New York Times, keen to promote Jay Cooke and the government loans.
- from Whitelaw Reid. See his long letter dated 23 March which detailed his investigation into charges against J. O’Conner and the 4th National Bank, Pittsburgh. Various witness statements are included alleging the payment of commissions to individuals purchasing 7-30s.
- from J. O’Conner, President of 4th National Bank, Pittsburgh. Several letters which protest his good character, citing General Moorhead as a friend, and desire to continue in the business following corruption allegations.
- from Samuel Wilkeson, New York, Boston, Lavell. His letters are numerous, entertaining and outspoken. See extract below.
- from Fisk & Hatch, New York.
- from D. Crawford Jr., Clarke & Dodge, New York.
- from W. S. Huntington, 1st National Bank, Washington DC.
- from T. Chambers, New York.
- from J. W. Sexton, Jay Cooke & Co., Philadelphia.
- from Julian Jones, Philadelphia.
- from H. D. Moore, Treasury Department, Harrisburg, regarding the price of Gold.
- from F. H. Evans, London.

- from W. Evans, London.
- from Isaac Steever, travelling agent, Colombia, Harrisburg, Shippensburg.
- from H. C. Storms, travelling agent, Ohio.
- from A. Robb, travelling agent, Meadville and Pittsville Pennsylvania.
- from E. Sacket, travelling agent, Wisconsin. See letter dated 8 March in which he requests \$15 per day expenses and regularly provides details of banks visited.
- from Julian Brewers, travelling agent, Baltimore.
- from E. Rowana, travelling agent, Kentucky and Louisville, reporting delays in receiving bonds.
- from J. K. Moorhead, Washington DC.
- from J. A. Stewart, Treasury Department, Washington DC.
- from G. C. Thomas, Jay Cooke & Co., Philadelphia.
- from J. W. Schuckers, Albany, New York.
- from J. W. Weir, the new National Bank of Harrisburg.
- from S. M. Pettengill, Newspaper advertising agency, New York.
- from H. Dyer, New York, church matters.
- from E. Wheelan, Philadelphia. See his letter dated 2 March acknowledging receipt of \$30,000 in 10-40 coupons, for the foundation of the professorship in the school of the Protestant Episcopal Church, under the conditions named by Jay Cooke.
- from J. Rambo, Fayette, regarding church matters.

Key topics include:

- Correspondence between H. McCulloch, H.D. Cooke and Jay Cooke regarding national loans, banking business and financial matters. Gold prices and bond sales fell heavily in mid March due largely to an expected end to the Civil War. Jay Cooke was authorized by the new Secretary of the Treasury to secretly buy gold and their own bonds with underwritten government funding to prop up the value of gold and demand for bonds. See in particular correspondence between numerous parties dated 16-22 March. See extract below.
- The Continued promotion of the loan through the press and numerous travelling agents who regularly reported back on their progress.
- Commission issues continued to between the Secretary of the Treasury and Jay Cooke, and in turn between Jay Cooke and his sub-agents.
- Land and family matters.
- Church matters.

Extract from S. Wilkeson's letter to Jay Cooke dated 3 March 1865 from New York

"... I can't get out of these Seven Thirty Wall St. men, more than monosyllables chucked in between scrutiny of notes, receiving of whispered communications, sending of messages, conferences with co-partners, signing of papers, and all the perfectly absorbed work of their half insane life. Very polite, very willing, but wholly unable to command their time. And Mr Cooke, I have found out that the whole crowd of them put together don't know as much as you and Fahnestock about the business, nor half as much as you about the resources of the nation ..."

Extract from H. McCulloch's letter to Jay Cooke dated 21 March 1865 from Washington DC

“... In order to arrest the further decline of government securities which under what appears to be a panic, caused by the rapid depreciation in the price of coin, threatens to derange the financial plans of this Department by stopping the subscriptions to the seven-thirties I hereby authorize you to purchase five-twenty and ten-forty bonds and seven-thirty notes in such proportions, not exceeding in the aggregate ten millions of dollars ... I have authorized the Asst. Treasurer to redeem from you such an amount of these securities as you may wish to have so redeemed upon an invoice being presented him therefore at the rates which you have been compelled for them.

You will use the utmost discretion in making these purchases and it is expected that, through the earnest co-operation of such of your several agents in New York as you may confide this matter to, the objects in view may be accomplished without the expenditure of the whole sum thus authorize ... The utmost caution must be observed to prevent the fact of the government agency in this matter being known to the public. Two millions in currency will be transmitted to New York by this evening's express and other amounts will follow as may be necessary ...”

REEL 20

Dates: April 1865

Principal and most interesting correspondence:

- to and from Henry Cooke, Washington DC.
- to and from H. C. Fahnestock (“Farney”), Washington DC. See correspondence between 2 and 4 April which relate the fall of Richmond, surrender of General Lee and the following celebrations: “all Washington was drunk yesterday. You never saw the like of it anywhere”.
- from Jay Cooke to S. P. Chase dated 22 April regarding the ‘terrible events of the past few days’ from Philadelphia.
- letters to and from Hugh McCulloch, Secretary of the Treasury, Washington DC.
- from Pitt Cooke, New York and on board a steamer in the ‘Caribbean sea’, en route to San Francisco. See 20 page letter dated 29 April 1865.
- from Whitelaw Reid, Hamburg.
- from J. O’Conner, President of 4th National Bank, Pittsburgh. Several letters outlining the progress of business at the bank. See letter dated 1 April in which he requests Jay Cooke to recommend a new Cashier following the resignation of his own due to a ‘lack of courage and backbone’ to cope with demand.
- from Samuel Wilkeson, New York, His letters are numerous, entertaining and outspoken. See extract below.
- from Fisk & Hatch, New York.
- from D. Crawford Jr., Clarke & Dodge, New York.
- from W. S. Huntington, 1st National Bank, Washington DC.
- from. T. Chambers, New York.
- from J. W. Sexton, Jay Cooke & Co., Philadelphia.
- from J. U. Orvis, 9th National Bank, New York.
- from H. D. Moore, Treasury Department, Harrisburg.
- from F. H. Evans, London.
- from P. Dorvis, New York, promoting 5-20s in France.

- from J. Tucker, Commission merchant, Paris , France. His letter dated 1 December 1864 was forwarded by G. W. Fahnestock on 11 April 1865, to H. C. Fahnestock looking for business when the war is over.
- from Isaac Steever , travelling agent, Colombia, Harrisburg, Shippensburg.
- from H. C. Storms, travelling agent, Dayton Columbus, Ohio, and Parkesburg, Virginia.
- from A. Robb, travelling agent, Indianapolis and La Fayette.
- from E. Sacket, travelling agent, Milwaukee. See letter dated 8 March in which he requests \$15 per day expenses and regularly provides details of banks visited.
- from Julian Brewers, travelling agent, Rockville and Washington DC.
- from E. Rowana, travelling agent, Kentucky and Louisville.
- from M. Field, Assistant Secretary to the Treasury, Washington DC.
- from J. A. Stewart, Treasury Department, Washington D.C.
- from P. C. Calhoun, President of 4th National Bank, New York.
- from J. H. Miller, travelling agent, Cincinnati.

Key topics include:

- Correspondence between H. C. McCulloch, H. D. Cooke and Jay Cooke regarding national loans, banking business and financial matters. Commission and market speculation remained high on the agenda, especially after Lincoln’s assassination.
- Fall of Richmond, Surrender of General Lee, and the Assassination of President Lincoln. The Washington house forwarded the last cheque issued by them to John Wilkes Booth (Lincoln’s assassin) to Jay Cooke. A copy is included in this reel.
- Lincoln is replaced by Andrew Johnson, which heralded further political machinations as highlighted by Henry Cooke on 17 and 18 April 1865.
- The Continued promotion of the loan through the National banking system, the press and numerous travelling agents who regularly reported back on their progress.
- Church matters.

Extract from S. Wilkeson’s letter to Jay Cooke dated 1 April 1865 from New York

“... Mr Greeley is dead 'agin' the holding up by Government of the price of Gold. He declares it to be unlawful in fact, impolite in finance, unjust to agriculture and all interests which suffer from high wages and that it will accomplish nothing in the end but an interference ... Mrs Lincoln is reported here as saying that Grant promised Olde Abe yesterday that he should be in Richmond in 48 hours ...”

Extract from Henry Cooke’s letter to Jay Cooke dated 15 April 1865 from Washington DC

“... A night of horrors and a day of impenetrable gloom! I was aroused in my sleep last night about half past one o'clock by the fearful tidings of murder and assassination. Huntington came over to tell me the President was dying and that Seward and his son Frederick, the assistant secretary, were not expected to live till morning. I slept but little after he had gone. I cannot dwell upon the details of this stupendous tragedy. The newspapers will tell you all about them ... Facts enough are already developed to show that there was an organized conspiracy to assassinate the President and his whole cabinet, together with the Vice-President. The murderer of the President was Booth beyond all doubt. He is in custody, although the fact is kept from the public for fear of violence. Johnston was sworn in this morning by Chief Justice Chase in the presence of McCulloch, Dennison and Speed ...”

Extract from Henry Cooke's letter to Jay Cooke dated 17 April 1865 from Washington DC

"... A violent effort is being made by an immensely strong combination, embracing all the radicals, to oust the President's cabinet root and branch. We – that is, Colfax, Defrees, Wilkeson, Huntington, Thurlow Weed, myself and others – have (judiciously) blocked the game, at least for the present; and in any event I think there is no doubt of McC.s [McCulloch] being retained. It is a fight between the two factions – the radicals and the conservatives – and fortunately for McC. He has not been a politician enough to be obnoxious to either party ... Great confidence is shown in the new President, who has displayed admirable qualities in his new position already. We haven't been idle, but have kept in the background. In any event, our agency will not be disturbed ..."