

The Seth Woodroof Account Book is a handwritten, 72-page leather journal that documents the first and last names of more than 200 enslaved persons in Lynchburg, Virginia for the period 1834-1840. Manuscript 1047: the Seth Woodroof Account Book is held at Jones Memorial Library in Lynchburg, Virginia. The book is among the collection's original local history holdings. Entries in the book were made in English and in cursive handwriting in black ink. Seth Woodroof (a.k.a. Woodruff, Woodrough) was a known slave trader in Lynchburg, Virginia. Woodroof was born about 1805 and died in 1875. He is mentioned in advertisements and historical accounts, including Harriet Beecher Stowe's *A Key to Uncle Tom's Cabin*. Woodroof was also named in "Charley Mitchell's Story" documented by the Federal Writer's Project Slave Narrative Project. Within the account book, 206 individuals are listed including 135 sold persons and an additional 33 relocated (presumably enslaved) persons. Thirty-six buyers and two traders are listed. At least 36 of the enslaved persons were children under the age of 18. The account book documents the movement of enslaved persons from Lynchburg across the American South during the period known as the Second Middle Passage. Seventeen persons named in the book were transported to Mississippi for sale in 1834 and 1835. In addition, the account book includes an entry by Woodroof on page 71 regarding the transport of "33 Negroes from Lynchburg, Virginia to Natchez, Mississippi from 17 of January to 18th of February." The Seth Woodroof Account Book is a unique historical artifact which documents the slave trade in Lynchburg, Virginia. Containing the full names of enslaved persons, it provides a valuable bridge to meaningfully connect descendants with their enslaved ancestors for a full generation before the end of the Civil War and emancipation.