

## Southern Historical Collection

Manuscripts collecting at the University of North Carolina began with the work of the North Carolina Historical Society in 1844. The Society collected manuscripts until it ceased operation early in the twentieth century. The University Library inherited the Society's holdings. By 1915, history professor Dr. J. G. de Roulhac Hamilton began inquiring about materials to add to the library's collection of historical manuscripts. By the mid-1920s, he was corresponding about his idea of establishing at Chapel Hill "a great library of Southern human records," and he traveled across the South in his "faithful Fords" seeking and acquiring materials.

The University officially established the Southern Historical Collection (SHC) on 14 January 1930, with Dr. Hamilton as director. Sarah Graham Kenan provided an initial endowment. When Hamilton retired in 1951, the SHC held approximately 2,140,000 manuscript items. Today the total has grown to over 15 million items organized in more than 4,600 discrete collections.

The SHC is open for research in the Wilson Library on the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill campus. Materials in the SHC are non-circulating. Researchers must register to use SHC materials, but no appointment is necessary. Please bring picture identification.

The Manuscripts Department is open 9:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m., Monday-Friday, and 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. on Saturday. Please note that we cannot page new material after 5:30 on weekdays and after 12:30 on Saturdays. The Department is closed on University holidays. On Saturdays, limited reference service is available. Researchers are encouraged to make prior arrangements for use of materials on Saturdays. We regret that we cannot offer same-day photocopying of materials contained in our collections. Please plan accordingly.

### Location and Contact Information:

Manuscripts Department  
4th Floor  
Wilson Library CB# 3926  
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill  
Chapel Hill, NC 27514-8890  
Telephone: 919-962-1345  
Fax: 919-962-3594  
Online Inquiry Form:

<http://www.lib.unc.edu/mss/mailref.html>

## Materials Relevant to Caswell County, North Carolina

### 1. Caswell County (N.C.) Primitive Baptist Church Records, 1923- 1928

Minutes, 1923-1928, of the Oak Grove Primitive Baptist Church, Yanceyville, N.C.; and History of the Primitive Baptist Church of Historic Caswell County, N.C., by J. Burch Blaylock, which includes the location, founding dates, and history of the Primitive Baptist congregations in Caswell County, N.C.

Source:

[http://www.lib.unc.edu/mss/inv/c/Caswell\\_County\(N.C.\)Primitive\\_Baptist\\_Church.html](http://www.lib.unc.edu/mss/inv/c/Caswell_County(N.C.)Primitive_Baptist_Church.html)

### 2. Charles Iverson Graves (1838-1896) Papers

Charles Iverson Graves, son of John Williams (d. 1847) and Martha Hinton Graves (fl. 1838-1854) of Newton and Floyd counties, Ga., and Caswell County, N.C., attended the U.S. Naval Academy; served as a commissioned officer in the U.S. Navy and then as an officer in the Confederate Navy; taught school and operated a vegetable farm near Rome, Ga.; spent three years in Egypt as a lieutenant-colonel in the Egyptian army, 1875-1878; and worked as a civil engineer on construction of the Georgia Pacific and Memphis & Vicksburg railroads, 1881-1884. Charles's wife Margaret Lea Graves (fl. 1860-1898) was the daughter of William (d. 1856) and Mary Lea (fl. 1850-1868). Charles and Margaret had five children: Charles Iverson, Jr., William Lea, Mary Hinton, Robert William, and Anne Parke. Chiefly correspondence of Charles Iverson and Margaret Graves especially documenting his military career in the U.S. and Confederate navies, and his civilian engineering career, particularly his service in Egypt, but also his work on the Georgia Pacific and Memphis & Vicksburg railroads. The pair exchanged several hundred letters from 1875 to 1878 detailing his experiences in Egypt and her life at Locust Hill, Caswell County, N.C., where she tried to raise five children with limited economic resources. There is also correspondence relating to the Charles Iverson Graves's time at the U.S. Naval Academy; to the Graves's courtship; to Graves's visit to Italy while in the U.S. Navy, including contact with Giuseppe Garibaldi; to the couple's independent struggles-- he in active duty and she on the home front at various places, including Mobile, Ala.-- during the Civil War; and to the operation of the Graves's farm in Rome, Ga. Other letters contain information about the experiences of other family members, particularly members of the Lea family, who moved to Alabama and Mississippi before the Civil War and those of a relative in California after the war. Also included are genealogical materials about the Graves, Lea, and related families, reminiscences by Margaret Lea Graves, and Charles Graves's writings on Egyptian culture. There are also other writings, notes, and pictures, including materials relating to a book on Civil War veterans in Egypt by William Best Heseltine.

Source:

[http://www.lib.unc.edu/mss/inv/g/Graves,Charles\\_Iverson.html](http://www.lib.unc.edu/mss/inv/g/Graves,Charles_Iverson.html)

### 3. William Bethell Williamson Papers

Chiefly correspondence and notes, 1890s-1930s, of genealogist William Bethell Williamson concerning the Williamson, Davidson, Lea, Jeffreys, and related families (Bethell, Davidson, Edwards, Eaton, Graves, Haralson, Jeffreys, Lea, McLean, Slade, Vance, and Williamson). Also included is a 74-page diary, 1842-1848, of George Washington Jeffreys, farmer and Methodist preacher, of Caswell County, N.C., and Pittsylvania County, Va., concerning his religious thoughts and church and farming activities.

Source:

[http://www.lib.unc.edu/mss/inv/w/Williamson,William\\_Bethell.html](http://www.lib.unc.edu/mss/inv/w/Williamson,William_Bethell.html)

### 4. Philip Flynn Meroney Papers, 1826-1884; 1921-1964

Letters received by Meroney, tailor of Mocksville, N.C., from his relatives in Caswell and Mecklenburg counties, N.C., Walker County, Ga., Camden, S.C., and Decatur, Miss., mainly concerning family news but occasionally touching on business affairs. Twentieth-century letters (21 items) are to Lillie Brown Meroney in High Point and Winston Salem, N.C., granddaughter of P. F. Meroney, from a cousin, Mrs. Murphy, in Philadelphia, Pa., and concern family history.

Source:

[http://www.lib.unc.edu/mss/inv/m/Meroney,Philip\\_Flynn.html](http://www.lib.unc.edu/mss/inv/m/Meroney,Philip_Flynn.html)

### 5. Jacob Doll Diaries, 1848-1876 and Undated

Jacob Doll was born in North Carolina in 1812, and died 27 April 1878. Doll was installed at Bethesda Church in Caswell County, N.C., 1 November 1866, and organized the First Presbyterian Church in Reidsville in 1875. The collection consists of eight diaries belonging to Jacob Doll and several enclosures. The diaries date from 1848 to 1876 and document daily events in 19th-century Caswell County, N.C., including marriages, deaths, and sermons preached, social events and holidays, weather, church events, and anniversaries. They also include lists of letters written and visits made on church business. National events are occasionally noted, most prominent among them the Civil War. Doll recorded the dates of major battles and the wounding or deaths of soldiers from the community. One diary entry discusses the murder of Republican North Carolina state senator John Walter Stephens by the Ku Klux Klan in the Caswell County courthouse on 21 May 1870. The enclosures consist of several undated notes written by Doll's granddaughter, Mrs. J. M. McCord. The notes point out events in the diaries that McCord found of particular interest.

Note the following from *When the Past Refused to Die, A History of Caswell County, North Carolina 1777-1977*, William S. Powell (1977) at 436:

The third oldest Presbyterian church [in Caswell County], Bethesda Church, was organized about 1765 as Hart's Chapel, probably named for the donor of the site. It is located in the western part of the county near Locust Hill and at one time was also known as Cobb's Chapel. An early missionary society, perhaps the first in Orange Presbytery, was organized here. The Rev. Jacob Doll, Bethesda pastor, organized the First Presbyterian Church in Reidsville in 1875. Other Bethesda pastors are said to have organized churches at Wentworth and at Leaksville. The old wooden church at Bethesda, which may have been built in 1815, burned in 1943, and it was replaced by a large brick church of impressive design, with stained glass windows and an organ.

Source:

<http://www.lib.unc.edu/mss/inv/d/Doll,Jacob.html>

6. John Reid Papers, 1816; 1845; 1847; 1929

John Reid and his wife, Keziah Simpson Reid, lived in Caswell County, N.C. Five letters, January-May 1816, to John Reid and his wife, Keziah Simpson Reid, in Caswell County, N.C., from their son, John B. Reid, and two from Keziah Reid's brother, Richard Simpson, both in Madison County, Ky., about John B. Reid's studies and struggle with measles, from which he died; four letters, 1845 and 1847, from Richard Simpson in Jackson County, Mo., to his sister Keziah and her family about family and community activities; and one letter, 1929, inquiring as to whether John Reid was the aide to General Andrew Jackson (he apparently was not).

Source:

<http://www.lib.unc.edu/mss/inv/r/Reid,John.html>

7. Watkins Family of Caswell County Papers

Watkins family of Caswell County, N.C., including farmers Daniel Gunn Watkins (1857-1937) and Lydia Ann Powell Watkins (1865-1960) and their daughter, Mabel A. Watkins (1903- ), an Army nurse before and during World War II. Genealogical records of the Watkins and Powell families; items collected by Major Mabel A. Watkins, when she was an Army nurse at the 1st Army Evacuation Hospital and other hospitals in the South Pacific before and during World War II; an autograph book belonging to Lydia Powell, 1880; and photographs of Watkins family members, including travel pictures. Most of the genealogical information was collected by Wilbur Watkins (1886-1975), son of Daniel and Lydia Watkins.

Included are a typed genealogical materials of the Watkins and related families (Powell, Woodson, Dupuy, and Gunn) with a brief introduction about information sources; photocopies of labeled photographs of ancestors; writings about the Huguenot line of the family and the family's relations with American Indians; Wilbur Watkins's second-hand

account of Chicken Stevens, who was assassinated by the Ku Klux Klan in 1870; and lists of family members and name origins. Also included are lists of marriage dates, copies of memorial speeches, family trees, and Mabel Watkins's personal and family history.

Mabel Watkins's collection of hospital directories and histories. Included are a 1927 Student Nurse Annual; a World War II First Evacuation Hospital directory; Army and Navy hospital directories and annuals, 1947 and 1949-1950; and a booklet outlining the history of the U.S. Army Nurse Corps. Photographs of military personnel, hospitals, people, and scenes in Augusta, Ga.; New Guinea; Rockhampton, Australia; the Philippines; and Guam. Family photographs and images of the family homes and church. Tintype of Susan Ann Watkins, 1852.

Source:

[http://www.lib.unc.edu/mss/inv/w/Watkins\\_Family.html](http://www.lib.unc.edu/mss/inv/w/Watkins_Family.html)

#### 8. Thomas W. Burton Papers

Thomas W. Burton and his wife Nancy lived in Yanceyville, Caswell County, N.C., from about 1850 to 1908. Photocopies of correspondence between Burton and family members in Mississippi, Georgia, and Alabama; the correspondents report to one another on the health of members of their families, the weather, the price of crops, the price of slaves, and the progress of the Civil War. The remainder of the papers is financial and legal documents that trace family crop sales and farm purchases; these documents end with a 1908 listing of Burton's personal property.

Source:

[http://www.lib.unc.edu/mss/inv/b/Burton,Thomas\\_W.html](http://www.lib.unc.edu/mss/inv/b/Burton,Thomas_W.html)

#### 9. Thomas Clarence Stone Papers, 1943-1945; 1955-1965

Stone represented Rockingham County in the North Carolina House of Representatives, 1935-1947, and Rockingham and Caswell counties in the North Carolina Senate, 1955, 1961, and 1963, and served as president of the Senate in 1963. Legislative files of Stone, consisting of correspondence with constituents, speeches, bills, budgets, reports, and other materials.

Source:

[http://www.lib.unc.edu/mss/inv/s/Stone,Thomas\\_Clarence.html](http://www.lib.unc.edu/mss/inv/s/Stone,Thomas_Clarence.html)

10. Bedford Brown Papers, 1779-1906

Bedford Brown was a United States senator from Caswell County, N.C. The collection includes scattered papers of the family of Brown and of his son, Livingston Brown, whose wife was a daughter of John Bullock Clark (1802-1885), United States and Confederate congressman of Fayette, Mo. Papers include Brown and Clark family letters, beginning in 1836; political correspondence of Bedford Brown only in 1860, and of Livingston Brown, 1866-1876; and Caswell County deeds and miscellaneous papers.

Source:

<http://www.lib.unc.edu/mss/inv/b/Brown,Bedford.html>

11. Miscellaneous Student Notebooks, 1820-1921

Miscellaneous school notebooks, including: class notes of Thomas Glaskins, a student at Hampden-Sydney College, Va., 1830-1831, on the lectures of college President Jonathan P. Cushing in chemistry, physics, and arithmetic; two volumes, 1838-1840, of Eliza Ann Orr, a student in Caswell County, N.C., including poems, arithmetic exercises, and sermon texts; an 1820 volume kept by Augustus Moore (1803-1851) of Edenton, N.C., of lectures by Denison Olmsted (1791-1859) at the University of North Carolina; four notebooks, 1920-1921, of Robert H. Wettach, a student at Harvard Law School; two student notebooks, one on geology and the other on Darwinism, of Harry Legare Watson (1876-1956), who was graduated from the University of North Carolina in 1899 and went on to careers in law and journalism, chiefly in Greenwood, S.C.; and two ciphering books, one apparently used around 1829 by Sidney O'Briant at the Whitefield School in Person County, N.C., and the other apparently the work of James W. O'Briant. In addition to mathematical instructions, this volume also contains notes on family history, the weather, land purchases, and other information. The latest entry in this book is dated 1860.

Source:

[http://www.lib.unc.edu/mss/inv/m/Misc.Student\\_Notebooks.html](http://www.lib.unc.edu/mss/inv/m/Misc.Student_Notebooks.html)

12. Edwin Michael Holt Papers, 1841-1854

Edwin Michael Holt was a pioneer textile manufacturer of Alamance County, N.C. The collection contains a typescript copy of Holt's diary, 1844-1854, containing brief daily entries relating mostly to weather, farming, and personal matters, but occasionally giving insight into his varied business activities. Also included is a letter, 1841, from G. James Farish concerning a visit to Philadelphia and proposed trip to New York to buy goods for his mercantile business in Caswell County, N.C.

Source:

[http://www.lib.unc.edu/mss/inv/h/Holt,Edwin\\_Michael.html](http://www.lib.unc.edu/mss/inv/h/Holt,Edwin_Michael.html)

13. Marcus A. Turner Papers, 1787-1886

The collection includes family correspondence, accounts, lists of household goods, and other items of Marcus A. Turner and other members of the Turner family of Caswell County, N.C., mostly during the Civil War. Seven letters are from Thomas J. Turner, serving in the Confederate army in Isle of Wight County, Va., and retreating toward Richmond, 1861-1862; he discussed camp conditions, local flora and fauna, and speculations about impending military movements.

Source:

[http://www.lib.unc.edu/mss/inv/t/Turner,Marcus\\_A.html](http://www.lib.unc.edu/mss/inv/t/Turner,Marcus_A.html)

14. John Kerr Connally Genealogical Papers, 1948 and Undated

Genealogical papers, 1669-1948, of the Williams family of Caswell County, N.C., and Halifax, Va., including a genealogical table, 1948, tracing the descent of John Kerr Connally from John Williams; ten letters, 1948, from Mrs. Oliver (Connally) Posfay about her family history; and the family Bible of John Kerr Connally, containing birth and death records of Williams family members.

Source:

[http://www.lib.unc.edu/mss/inv/c/Connally,John\\_Kerr.html](http://www.lib.unc.edu/mss/inv/c/Connally,John_Kerr.html)

15. Lea Family Papers, 1797-1934

William Lea (1777?-1873), was a merchant of Leasburg, N.C. He had three sons: Willis M., who became a physician and settled in Mississippi; Lorenzo, Methodist minister and teacher in Tennessee and Mississippi; and Solomon (1807-1897), Methodist minister and schoolmaster at Boydton, Greensboro, and Leasburg. Solomon's six daughters included Adeline, Lilianne, Eugenia, and Wilhelmina (1843-1936). The collection includes letters, 1812-1820s, consisting of family correspondence of William Lea (1777?-1873) and his brothers, Vincent and James, all merchants, writing from Leasburg, N.C., Petersburg and Norfolk, Va., and New York City, chiefly about business matters, prices, economic conditions, debts, current news, and other topics. Letters, 1820s-1850s, are chiefly between William Lea and his children and among the children. Willis M. Lea wrote from Philadelphia, where he was studying medicine, and later from Holly Springs, Miss. Solomon Lea was a student at the University of North Carolina and later lived at Boydton, Farmville, and Greensboro, N.C. Letters from 1861 onwards are chiefly correspondence of the daughters of Solomon Lea, most written by Wilhelmina from the various places where she taught school, including Louisburg, Olin, and other places in

North Carolina and Murfreesboro, Tenn., and at the Marshall Institute in Mississippi. Volumes are ledgers, 1797-1803, of William Lea (1751-1806), merchant of Leasburg and uncle of William (1777?-1873); school accounts, 1853-1862, of Solomon Lea, who taught at Somerville Seminary and founded Somerville Female Institute in Leasburg and was president of Greensboro College, 1846-1857; and reminiscences and a 19-volume diary, 1872-1934, of Wilhelmina Lea.

Source:

[http://www.lib.unc.edu/mss/inv/l/Lea\\_Family.html](http://www.lib.unc.edu/mss/inv/l/Lea_Family.html)

#### 16. Iveson Lewis Brookes Papers, 1785-1868

Iveson Lewis Brookes was born in Rockingham County, N.C., in 1793, one of five sons of Jonathan and Annie Lewis Brookes. At some point, Brookes's parents moved to Caswell County, N.C. Brookes began his studies at the University of North Carolina in 1816 and received an A.B. degree in 1819. While in school, he preached in local Baptist churches, particularly at the Mount Carmel Baptist Church near Chapel Hill. After graduation, Brookes taught briefly at Greensboro Academy in Greensboro, N.C., and then, employed by the Itinerant Board of the Baptist Church, left North Carolina for a domestic mission tour through South Carolina.

In 1821, Brookes became rector of Eatonton Academy in Eatonton, Ga. On 22 September 1822, he married Lucine Walker. In 1831, their son, Walker I. Brookes, inherited plantation land and slaves in Jasper and Jones counties, Ga., from his mother's family. Brookes managed this property as guardian for his son until 1846. Sometime in early 1830s, presumably following the death of his first wife, Brookes took a second wife, Sarah J. Myers, widow of James Myers. Sarah brought to the marriage plantation property in Edgefield County, S.C. About 1831, Brookes seems to have moved to Woodville, located just outside Hamburg in Aiken County, S.C., where he lived when not visiting one or the other of his plantations. In 1842, Brookes was named principal of the Penfield Female Academy in Penfield, Ga. By 1845, however, he was back in Woodville, contemplating opening an academy there. These plans never came to fruition, and Brookes spent the rest of his life managing various properties and preaching in various churches. His plantation holdings must have been considerable; an 1861 list includes the names of 66 slaves who appear to have been employed on one of his properties.

Brookes was active in local and national Baptist affairs and vocal in defending the institution of slavery. In 1850, he published "A Defense of the South Against the Reproaches and Incroachments of the North: In Which Slavery is shown to be an Institution of God" (available in the Southern Pamphlets Collection, Rare Book Collection), a pamphlet that justifies slavery on biblical grounds. Besides his son Walker, Brookes appears to have fathered at least four daughters. Evidence of their activities is sketchy in these papers, as is information on the fate of his wives. Brookes died in 1865.

Iveson Lewis Brookes, teacher, Baptist minister, and planter, was born in Rockingham County, N.C. Brookes, an 1819 graduate of the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, N.C., amassed, through marriage and purchase, considerable holdings of land and slaves in Jasper and Jones counties in Georgia and Edgefield County and other locations in South Carolina. He also worked in schools for much of his life (teacher at Greensboro Academy, Greensboro, N.C., 1819; rector of Eatonton Academy, Eatonton, Ga., 1820s; principal of Penfield Female Academy, Penfield, Ga., 1840s), employing overseers to manage his plantations while he taught and preached at various Baptist churches. He was also active in national and local Baptist affairs and was a staunch defender of slavery. This collection consists chiefly of correspondence of Iveson Lewis Brookes. Most of the letters were written to Brookes by business associates, either about plantation or church business. There is, however, a considerable amount of family correspondence. Also included are about 15 letters, 1816-1819, written by Brookes to his father when he was a student at the University of North Carolina. There is also a small group of papers relating to Iveson Brookes's affairs and another to the property of Jesse Rountree of Edgefield County, S.C., and, after 1814, to James Myers. These papers continue through the early 1830s, when Brookes married Sarah J. Myers, widow of James Myers, who brought the Edgefield plantation property to the marriage. Also included are sermon fragments and notes in Brookes's hand and a few other items.

Source:

[http://www.lib.unc.edu/mss/inv/b/Brookes,Iveson\\_L.html](http://www.lib.unc.edu/mss/inv/b/Brookes,Iveson_L.html)

#### 17. M. Ruth Little Collection

County Research Files, 1980-1982: Caswell County

Architectural historian Margaret Ruth Little (Stokes) was born in 1946 in Tacoma Park, Md., and completed her Ph.D. degree with a major in art history and a minor in folklore at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in 1984. Little has been involved in many projects within North Carolina, including a number of historic architectural surveys, the creation of nominations for National Register of Historic Places registrations, and cemetery surveys. A resident of Raleigh, N.C., she consults with the state's Historical Preservation Office and has her own firm, Longleaf Historical Resources. M. Ruth Little was awarded the Harriette Merrifield Forbes Award in 2001 by the Association for Gravestone Studies for "an outstanding contribution to the field of gravestone studies" through her book, *Sticks and Stones: Three Centuries of North Carolina Gravemarkers* (University of North Carolina Press, 1998).

Survey information, photographs, and other items relating to the National Endowment for the Humanities-funded North Carolina Cemetery as Cultural Artifact Project, 1981-1982, directed by Professor Terry Zug of the Curriculum in Folklore at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill with M. Ruth Little as the principal investigator. The Project supported Little's 1984 doctoral dissertation, later published as *Sticks and Stones: Three*

Centuries of North Carolina Gravemarkers (University of North Carolina Press, 1998) with photography by Tim Buchman.

The Project was intended to be "the first investigation in the state of historic cemeteries and graveyards as cultural benchmarks with aesthetic characteristics and iconographical content," and focused on photographic documentation, recording, and cataloging of cemeteries in three counties: Cumberland County, N.C.; Davidson County, N.C.; and New Hanover County, N.C. The intensive survey covered Cumberland, New Hanover, and Davidson counties completely, and Lincoln County, N.C., and Catawba County, N.C., on a selective basis. Other counties were added for comparison. Intended to link demographic and cultural traits with regional practices, one of the Project's primary focus points was to identify gravemaker artisans and carvers throughout the region and to trace their movements within, and influences over, the carving tradition.

Included are master cards with cemetery survey information and topographical maps used in the research and identification process. Each master card contains the cemetery name; location; inclusive dates; topography; landscaping; boundaries; marker descriptions and design motifs; an overall site plan; and a brief history, if known. Photographic materials include black-and-white prints, negatives, and color slides, most relating to specific master cards. Many of the images are of cemeteries or gravemarkers. Also included are research notes; keysort cards; grant materials; audiotapes of an interview with gravestone carver J. Thomas McLean of Lincolnton, N.C.; and other items.

Source:

<http://www.lib.unc.edu/mss/inv/l/Little,M.Ruth.html>

#### 18. Johnston Family Papers, 1745-1979

The collection includes typed transcriptions, photographic copies, and microfilm copies of papers relating to the Johnston/Johnstone family including an obituary of Lancelot Johnston, Caswell County, N.C., 1832; a letter from William Johnston of Madison, Ga., 1849; items relating to Gilbert Johnstone (1725-1794) of South Carolina and his family history; and family photos and clippings.

Source:

[http://www.lib.unc.edu/mss/inv/j/Johnston\\_Family.html](http://www.lib.unc.edu/mss/inv/j/Johnston_Family.html)

#### 19. Bartlett Yancey Papers, 1800-1828

Bartlett Yancey was a lawyer and politician of Caswell County, N.C., U.S representative, 1813-1817, and member and speaker of the North Carolina Senate, 1817-1828. The collection includes frequent letters to Bartlett Yancey from Nathaniel Macon, Romulus Mitchell Saunders, and Lewis Williams, and scattered letters from John C. Calhoun,

William H. Crawford, Willie P. Mangum, Archibald D. Murphey, Thomas Ruffin, and other prominent men, particularly concerning the preliminaries of the elections of 1824 and 1828, reflecting the viewpoint of the Old Republican group which supported William H. Crawford for the presidency in 1824 and Andrew Jackson in 1828. Many of the letters have been published in several volumes of the James Sprunt Historical Publications and in the North Carolina Historical Review.

Source:

<http://www.lib.unc.edu/mss/inv/y/Yancey,Bartlett.html>

20. Richard Don Wilson Poem, circa 1842

The Visionary, a lyric love poem of forty-six verses, written by Richard Don Wilson of Caswell County, N.C., while he was a student at the University of North Carolina.

Source:

[http://www.lib.unc.edu/mss/inv/w/Wilson,Richard\\_Don.html](http://www.lib.unc.edu/mss/inv/w/Wilson,Richard_Don.html)

21. Hairston and Wilson Family Papers, 1800-1906

Colonel George Hairston (1750-1827) built Beaver Creek Plantation in 1776 just outside Martinsville, Henry County, Va. In 1781, he married Elizabeth Perkins Letcher (died 1818), widow of William Letcher. They had twelve children: Robert (1783-1852), George (1784-1863), Harden (1786-1862), Samuel (born 1788), Nicholas Perkins (born 1791), Henry (born 1793), Peter (1796-1810), Constantine (born 1797), John Adams (born 1799), America (born 1801), Marshall (1802-1882), and Ruth Stovall (1804-1838). Elizabeth also had a daughter by her first husband. This daughter, Bethenia Letcher, married David Pannill and was the maternal grandmother of Jeb Stuart (1833-1864).

Marshall Hairston, eleventh child of George and Elizabeth, married his cousin, Ann Hairston, and they lived at Beaver Creek with their four children: John A., who was killed at Williamsburg in 1862; Elizabeth (Bettie) Perkins, who married J. T. W. Hairston, son of Harden and Sallie Staples Hairston, of Crawfordsville, Lowndes County, Miss.; Ann Marshall, who never married; and Ruth Stovall, who married Robert Wilson of Danville, Va. Robert Wilson was the son of Robert and Catherine Pannill Wilson. Beaver Creek descended to the children and grandchildren of Ruth Hairston Wilson.

Marshall's brother, John Adams Hairston, married Malinda Corn and lived with their five children in Yalabusha County, Miss. Bettie Perkins Hairston visited them often there.

J. T. W. Hairston was the seventh son of Harden and Sallie Staples Hairston. He was a graduate of Virginia Military Institute, a major in the Confederate Army, and a planter in

Lowndes County, Miss. In 1873, he married his cousin Bettie. They had two children: Marshall, who died in infancy, and Watt H. Hairston (1876-1916), who never married.

The bulk of the collection consists of letters to Elizabeth (Bettie) Perkins Hairston Hairston; thus there is more information about her correspondents' lives than her own. These correspondents include her mother, Ann Hairston Hairston, who wrote chiefly from the family plantations near Martinsville, Va.; her sister, Ruth Stovall Wilson, who wrote from Danville, Va., where she lived with her husband, Robert Wilson; her brother, John A. Hairston, who wrote from school in Staunton, Va.; her cousin, Jeb Stuart, who wrote to her from West Point and Texas. After 1873, there are also letters from her husband, J. T. W. Hairston, who wrote to her often from Crawfordsville, Lowndes County, Miss.

Other significant family correspondence documents the westward movement of various Hairston family members and includes some papers of Colonel George Hairston, who established the family plantations in Virginia. Scattered papers of Robert Wilson contain information about his business interests.

In addition to correspondence, several account books document Hairston family involvement in at least two stores in Virginia from 1800 to 1829; and a household account book, 1831-1869, gives detailed information about weaving, livestock raising, gardening, and other household production. Other financial and legal materials include scattered bills, receipts, depositions, slave lists, and labor contracts between Robert Wilson and various freedmen. These materials chiefly document family business in Virginia.

Source:

[http://www.lib.unc.edu/mss/inv/h/Hairston\\_and\\_Wilson\\_Family.html](http://www.lib.unc.edu/mss/inv/h/Hairston_and_Wilson_Family.html)

22. Gaston D. Cobb Appointment, 1847

Appointment, 3 February 1847, of Gaston D. Cobb of Caswell County, N.C., as a surgeon in the United States Army, signed by James K. Polk.

Source:

[http://www.lib.unc.edu/mss/inv/c/Cobb,Gaston\\_D.html](http://www.lib.unc.edu/mss/inv/c/Cobb,Gaston_D.html)

23. Susie Sharp Papers, 1900-1997

Folder 455: Caswell County Courthouse Dedication, July 1976

Susie Marshall Sharp (1907-1996) of Reidsville, N.C., attorney and jurist, was elected chief justice of the North Carolina Supreme Court in 1974, becoming the first woman elected chief justice of a state supreme court in the United States. A graduate of the North

Carolina College for Women and the University of North Carolina School of Law, Sharp began the practice of law in Reidsville in 1929. She served as Reidsville city attorney, 1939-1949; North Carolina superior court judge until 1962; and as supreme court justice, 1962-1979. The collection documents Susie Sharp's professional career and personal life through correspondence, subject files, speeches, and other material, chiefly 1920s-1990s. Subject files contain clippings, memoranda, and correspondence about judicial and personal matters. There are also speeches, chiefly on judicial topics, that Sharp delivered beginning in the 1950s; notebooks in which she defined legal terms and cited precedents; and memoranda, opinions and other materials related to cases she decided.

Correspondence, speeches, and other materials document Sharp's 1974 campaign as Democratic Party candidate for the chief justiceship, and there are related letters from friends and associates after her election and her selection as one of twelve 1975 Time magazine Women of the Year. Some of the materials relate to William Haywood Bobbitt, whose retirement as chief justice made way for Sharp's election, and to professors, particularly Albert Coates, and students at the University of North Carolina School of Law and the North Carolina College for Women (now the University of North Carolina at Greensboro). Topics include judicial reform and procedures, particularly relating to discipline of judges; women in the judiciary; women lawyers; women's rights, including the Equal Rights Amendment; and prisoners' rights. Much of the personal correspondence is with Sharp family members. The Addition of April 2008 contains correspondence between Susie Sharp and her siblings discussing trials and family affairs, postcards from various Sharp family members, a photograph of Sharp's father James Merrit Sharp, a scrapbook compiled by Sharp's mother Annie Britt Blackwell Sharp, clippings, and a music lesson book.

Source:

<http://www.lib.unc.edu/mss/inv/s/Sharp,Susie.html>

#### 24. Thomas Ruffin Papers, 1753-1898

Thomas Ruffin, planter, jurist, and politician, was born 17 November 1787 at Newington in King and Queen County, Va. His parents were Sterling and Alice Roane Ruffin. Sterling Ruffin was a planter in Essex County, Va., who subsequently moved to North Carolina and died in Caswell County.

Thomas Ruffin was educated at Warrenton Academy, 1801-1803, in Warrenton, N.C. He attended Princeton University, 1803-1805, and received his A.B. He read law in Petersburg, Va., under David Robertson, 1806-1807, and in North Carolina under Archibald D. Murphey, 1807-1808. Ruffin was admitted to the bar and moved to Hillsborough, N.C., in 1809.

Ruffin married Anne McNabb Kirkland (1794-1875) on 7 December 1809. Anne Kirkland was the daughter of William Kirkland, a Hillsborough merchant, and Margaret Scott Kirkland. Thomas and Anne Ruffin had fourteen children--Catherine Roane, William Kirkland, Anne, Alice Roane, Sterling, Peter Browne, George McNeill,

Elizabeth, Thomas, Susan Mary, Jane Minerva, Martha (Patty) Phebe, John Kirkland, and Sarah (Sally) Nash Ruffin. Anne Ruffin's nephew, Duncan K. MacRae, lived with the Ruffins for several years after his mother died.

For most of his adult life, Ruffin owned two plantations--one in Rockingham County and the Hermitage in Alamance County, N.C. Ruffin was an agricultural innovator and a pioneer in scientific farming. He planted a variety of crops, looked for new ways to improve his soil through fertilizers, and maintained close contact with his cousin Edmund Ruffin, a noted antebellum agricultural reformer. He served as President of the North Carolina Agricultural Society from 1854 until 1860.

While living in Hillsborough, Ruffin served, 1813-1815, in the House of Commons. He was a presidential elector on the Monroe ticket in 1816. He was elected Judge of the Superior Court, 1818; reporter of the Supreme Court of North Carolina, 1820-1822; candidate for presidential elector on the Crawford ticket, 1824; and again as Judge of the Superior Court in 1825. Ruffin resigned from the bench and became President of the State Bank of North Carolina in 1828. His tenure as bank executive was short-lived. He was elected Judge of the Supreme Court of North Carolina in 1829 and became Chief Justice in 1833.

As a jurist, Ruffin was renowned for adapting established English common law standards to the constantly changing judicial conditions in the new United States. Some of his most famous decisions were *Hoke v. Henderson*, *Raleigh and Gaston Railroad Company v. Davis*, and *State v. Mann*. *State v. Mann* was Ruffin's most notorious case. Ruffin's decision stated that "the power of the master must be absolute to render the submission of the slave perfect."

Ruffin retired from the bench in 1852. In 1858, the state legislature again elected him chief justice, but Ruffin resigned after one year.

A Unionist, Ruffin was a North Carolina delegate to the Washington Peace Conference in February 1861, where he sought to avert war. After the failure of this last effort at compromise, Ruffin was a delegate to the North Carolina Secession Convention, where he supported secession based on the right of revolution rather than the right of secession. Once secession was a fact, Ruffin strongly supported the Confederate cause.

After the war, Ruffin moved from the Hermitage to Hillsborough and remained there until his death on 15 January 1870.

For additional information on the Ruffin family and related families, see the Cameron Family Papers (#133) and the Ruffin, Roulhac, and Hamilton Family Papers (#643) in the Southern Historical Collection and Jean Bradley Anderson, *The Kirklands of Ayr Mount*.

(Biographical information sources: Sean Christopher Walker, "The Lawyer may be altogether sunk in the Farmer: Thomas Ruffin, Planter of Antebellum North Carolina" (Unpublished Honors Thesis, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, 1994): 66-67;

William S. Powell, ed. *Dictionary of North Carolina Biography, Volume 5* (Chapel Hill, N.C.: The University of North Carolina Press, 1994): 266-268).

Correspondence, financial and legal papers, and other papers of Thomas Ruffin and correspondence and financial records of his father, Sterling Ruffin. Major topics are family concerns, especially relating to women; work on plantations in Rockingham County, N.C., Caswell County, N.C., and Alamance County, N.C.; Ruffin's legal practice; borrowing and lending money; the State Bank of North Carolina; Ruffin's other business ventures, including a slave-trading partnership; and his brother's business in Alabama. There is considerable correspondence with merchants in Petersburg, Va., Hillsborough, N.C., and Fayetteville, N.C., about debt collection and legal business. Letters about national politics appear particularly around the War of 1812 and the Civil War. Also included are letters from two of Ruffin's sons who were officers in the Confederate army, and letters about political and economic conditions in the Confederacy. There are letters as well from family members who were students at the University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill, 1813 through the 1840s. Among the correspondents are Ruffin's father-in-law, William Kirkland; his sons-in-law, J. B. G. Roulhac and Paul Carrington Cameron; and friends and business associates, including Archibald De Bow Murphey, Duncan Cameron, and George Badger.

Source:

<http://www.lib.unc.edu/mss/inv/r/Ruffin,Thomas.html>

25. William Stevens Powell Papers, 1880s-2007

Box 16: Caswell County history

Box 37: Forest Home, Caswell County, 1992-1993

Box 121: Caswell County History (A & H)

William Stevens Powell is an author, historian, and professor of history emeritus at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. The collection includes correspondence, research materials, speeches, writings, and other papers relating to William Stevens Powell's professional activities and to North Carolina history. Included are materials relating to the History Department of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill; to historical organizations, such as the Historical Society of North Carolina, the North Carolina Literary and Historical Organization, the Roanoke Island Historical Association, and local historical societies; and to Powell's research and writing about the history of North Carolina, especially colonial North Carolina. Among other books, Powell was the author of *When the Past Refused to Die: A History of Caswell County North Carolina 1777-1977*, William S. Powell (1977).

Source:

[http://www.lib.unc.edu/mss/inv/p/Powell,William\\_Stevens.html](http://www.lib.unc.edu/mss/inv/p/Powell,William_Stevens.html)

26. Miscellaneous Letters, 1786-1982

Folder 87: Sarah E. F. Womble, Caswell County, N.C., to John Womble, Richmond, Va., 5 January 1855

The collection is single or very small groups of unrelated letters, many from the 19th century, to and from various persons, especially southerners who were prominent in the literary and political areas. Topics include family life; travels in North Carolina and other parts of the South; social life and customs; plantation life; slavery and slave sales North Carolina, Maryland, and other places; local and national politics; the Civil War, both military action and the home front in Louisiana, North Carolina (including blockading the coast and attacking Fort Fisher), Mississippi, and other parts of the South; the University of North Carolina; World War I; literature; and other topics. Among the correspondents are Abiel Abbott, Henry Ward Beecher, Alfred Holt Colquitt, Sherman Converse, Peter Early, Frank Porter Graham, Sam Houston, Washington Irving, Andrew Jackson, Laura Riding Jackson, North Carolina governor Samuel Johnston, Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, John Milledge, Margaret Mitchell, Wilson Cary Nicholas, North Carolina writer William S. Pearson, Isaac F. Shepard, Edward Stanly, Edward Telfair, Albion W. Tourgée, Martin Van Buren, Abraham Bedford Venable, and Daniel Webster.

Source:

<http://www.lib.unc.edu/mss/inv/m/Misc.Letters.html>

27. Elizabeth Brooks Interview (2 October 1974)

Elizabeth Brooks discusses her role in the UNC Food Workers' Strike of 1969. Originally from Caswell County, Brooks had lived in Hillsborough since 1949. Prior to working for food services at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Brooks spent her time raising nine children. The job at UNC was her first, and she had only recently started to work in Lenoir Dining Hall when the first stage of the strike began in February of 1969. Although she was a new employee, Brooks was one of the leaders of the strike. Here Brooks focuses on the workers' grievances regarding the unexpected firing of employees, low wages, unrealistic demands on workers' time, and withheld back pay. After failed negotiations with the administration, Brooks and some of the other workers organized the strike with the help of Preston Dobbins and the Black Student Movement at UNC. Within a month, the initial demands of the strikers had been met, but Brooks's interview ends by looking towards the beginning of the second strike that occurred after SAGA took over food services for the university.

Source:

[http://www.lib.unc.edu/mss/sohp\\_interviewee/interviewNum\\_results.html?Interview\\_Num=E-0058](http://www.lib.unc.edu/mss/sohp_interviewee/interviewNum_results.html?Interview_Num=E-0058)

28. Gladys Avery Tillett Papers, 1700s-2000

Folder 1103: 5th District: Caswell County

Gladys Avery Tillett of Charlotte, N.C., was vice-chair of the Democratic National Committee, 1940-1950; co-director of Frank Porter Graham's senatorial campaign, 1950; United States delegate to the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women, 1961-1968; proponent of the Equal Rights Amendment; and activist for other political and social causes. The collection includes correspondence, speeches and writings, press releases, news clippings, photographs, sound recordings, and other materials documenting Gladys Avery Tillett's work for the Democratic Party, the Frank Porter Graham campaign, the United Nations, the women's movement, the Young Women's Christian Association, and other causes. Significant correspondents include Molly Dewson and Lorena A. Hickock, with whom Tillett worked in the Women's Division of the Democratic Party; friend, teacher, and fellow Democrat Harriet Elliott; Eleanor Roosevelt; and Tillett's husband, lawyer Charles Walter Tillett.

Source:

[http://www.lib.unc.edu/mss/inv/t/Tillett,Gladys\\_Avery.html](http://www.lib.unc.edu/mss/inv/t/Tillett,Gladys_Avery.html)

29. Bartlett Yancey Malone Diary, 1862-1865

Microfilm Only. Diary kept by B. Y. Malone of Caswell County, N.C., private and sergeant in Company H, 6th North Carolina Regiment, when he was fighting in Virginia and imprisoned at Point Lookout, Md.

Source: [http://www.lib.unc.edu/mss/inv/m/Malone,Bartlett\\_Yancey.html](http://www.lib.unc.edu/mss/inv/m/Malone,Bartlett_Yancey.html)

30. Polk, Badger, and McGehee Papers

Limited entry on page 10 of this PDF document.

Source: <http://www.lib.unc.edu/mss/anrep0708.pdf>

31. Glencoe Mill Records, 1837-1978

Limited Caswell County materials.

Source:

[http://www.lib.unc.edu/mss/inv/g/Glencoe\\_Mills.html](http://www.lib.unc.edu/mss/inv/g/Glencoe_Mills.html)

### 32. Cameron Family Papers, 1757-1978

Volume V-133/153: 1798-1800 Court expenses and legal fees. Contains names of clients and fees charged. Occasional brief notations about nature of case. Organized according to location and term of court, e.g., Guilford, Caswell, Rockingham. 64 pages.

Volume V-133/161: 1801-1803 Fee book. Caswell County. Includes names of clients and fees charged with occasional brief notations about nature of case. 38 pages.

5.3. Military, 1807-1865. About 70 items. Arrangement: chronological. Chiefly troop returns sent to Duncan Cameron when he was a colonel in the North Carolina Militia in 1812, and after his subsequent promotion to major general in 1813. Troop returns, also called statements, list the officers, enlisted men, staff, arms, and supplies of the companies and regiments of infantry and cavalry of the 6th and 16th brigade which made up the 3rd division of the North Carolina Militia. This division consisted of regiments representing Person, Orange, Granville, Caswell, and Chatham Counties. Also included is John A. Cameron's letter of appointment which named him adjutant of the Hillsborough District Regiment of Cavalry of the North Carolina Militia in 1807. There is also some material documenting Paul Cameron's appointment in 1863 as an agent of Orange County to purchase corn for families of soldiers serving in the Confederate Army. See Subseries 6.1 for volumes relating to military affairs. See Subseries 2.9 for Paul Cameron's presidential pardon for his support of the Confederacy.

3.2. Dockets and Memoranda, 1798-1837 and undated. About 300 items. Arrangement: chronological. Court dockets and memoranda listing the trials in which Duncan Cameron was involved as a lawyer or as a judge. The terms docket and memorandum were sometimes used interchangeably but usually docket is used to refer to a formal document which lists all the cases between being heard at a particular court and memorandum refers to an informal list which includes only the cases involving a particular lawyer. Dockets and memoranda dating from 1798 to 1813 document Duncan Cameron's service as a lawyer to clients whose cases were being heard at various courts in Piedmont North Carolina, including the Salisbury, Guilford, Caswell, and Orange county courts. Dockets from 1814 to 1816 document cases that Duncan Cameron presided over as a superior court judge in eastern North Carolina. During this period he heard cases in Chowan, Bertie, Halifax, and other coastal counties. Also included are a few dockets from other courts. A single docket from 1837 lists Paul Cameron as a lawyer. A few dockets appear to have been drawn up for William Norwood and for Frederick Nash, Duncan Cameron's nephew, both whom were also lawyers. See Subseries 6.10 for bound dockets.

Cameron family of Orange and Durham counties and Raleigh, N.C. Among antebellum North Carolina's largest landholders and slave holders, the Camerons also owned substantial plantations in Alabama and Mississippi. Prominent family members included Richard Bennehan (1743-1825), merchant; Duncan Cameron (1777-1853), lawyer, judge, banker, and legislator; and Paul C. Cameron (1808-1891), planter, agricultural reformer, and railroad builder. The bulk of the collection consists of correspondence, financial and legal documents, and account books. In addition, there are speeches, writings, printed

material, pictures, and miscellaneous other types of personal papers. Included is extensive information about Richard Bennehan's store at Stagville, N.C., and the Stagville and Fairtosh plantations, including crop and slave records. Family correspondence details the familial relationships and social behavior of a wealthy planter family, particularly the women. In addition to documentation about Duncan Cameron's legal career, there is also information about the State Bank of North Carolina and the banking industry, the education of the Cameron children at various schools, the development of the University of North Carolina, the state militia, the Episcopal Church, railroads, and state government.

Source:

[http://www.lib.unc.edu/mss/inv/c/Cameron\\_Family.html](http://www.lib.unc.edu/mss/inv/c/Cameron_Family.html)

33. North Carolina Fund Records, 1962-1971

Folder 3466: Original Proposals Caswell County

The North Carolina Fund, an independent, non-profit, charitable corporation, sought and dispensed funds to fight poverty in North Carolina, 1963-1968. Governor Terry Sanford and other North Carolinians convinced the Ford Foundation to grant \$7 million initial funding for a statewide anti-poverty effort aimed at rural and urban communities. This money--plus additional funding from the Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation; the Mary Reynolds Babcock Foundation; the U.S. Dept. of Labor; U.S. Dept. of Health, Education, and Welfare; U.S. Dept. of Housing and Urban Development; and the Office of Economic Opportunity--enabled the Fund to support a broad program of education, community action, manpower development, research and planning, and other efforts to fight poverty. Administrative and financial records (about 32,000 items), including policy statements; Board of Directors minutes and other records; correspondence, speeches, and other files of Executive Director George Hyndman Esser (1921- ) and other staff members; records of meetings and conferences; proposals and grants; materials documenting the Fund's relationship with the Ford Foundation, the Office of Economic Opportunity, the Foundation for Community Development, the Low-Income Housing Development Corporation, and other organizations; subject files; clippings, audit reports; and financial correspondence and other financial records. There is also material about Congressmen Jim Gardner and Nick Galiafianakis's 1967 attacks on Fund activities in Durham, N.C., and earlier controversies over political activity of staff members in areas served by Nash-Edgecombe Economic Development and Craven Operation Progress. Other material relates to "How North Carolina Whites and Blacks View: Each Other, Government and Police, Housing, Poverty, Education, and Employment," an opinion poll conducted by Oliver Quayle & Company in 1968. Also included are proposals and grant applications for housing, education, community development, job training, leadership, and rural development programs; the North Carolina Voter Education Project; and proposals from the State of Franklin Health Council, Inc.

Source:

[http://www.lib.unc.edu/mss/inv/n/North\\_Carolina\\_Fund.html](http://www.lib.unc.edu/mss/inv/n/North_Carolina_Fund.html)

34. Caswell County (N.C.) Papers, 1701-1905

The collection includes unrelated business and legal papers and books of several generations of Caswell County, N.C., residents, including papers, 1701-1905, relating to pension claims, bonds, mortgages, real estate, and other legal matters; and volumes, 1807-1873, including general merchandise daybooks and ledgers, and blacksmiths' accounts, 1807-1850, of William Lea and Company; other merchants' accounts, 1853-1859, with the common schools; and county court accounts, 1872-1873.

Extent: About 1550 items (3.0 linear feet).

Source:

[http://www.lib.unc.edu/mss/inv/c/Caswell\\_County.html](http://www.lib.unc.edu/mss/inv/c/Caswell_County.html)

---

Compiled 29 October 2008  
Caswell County Historical Association