

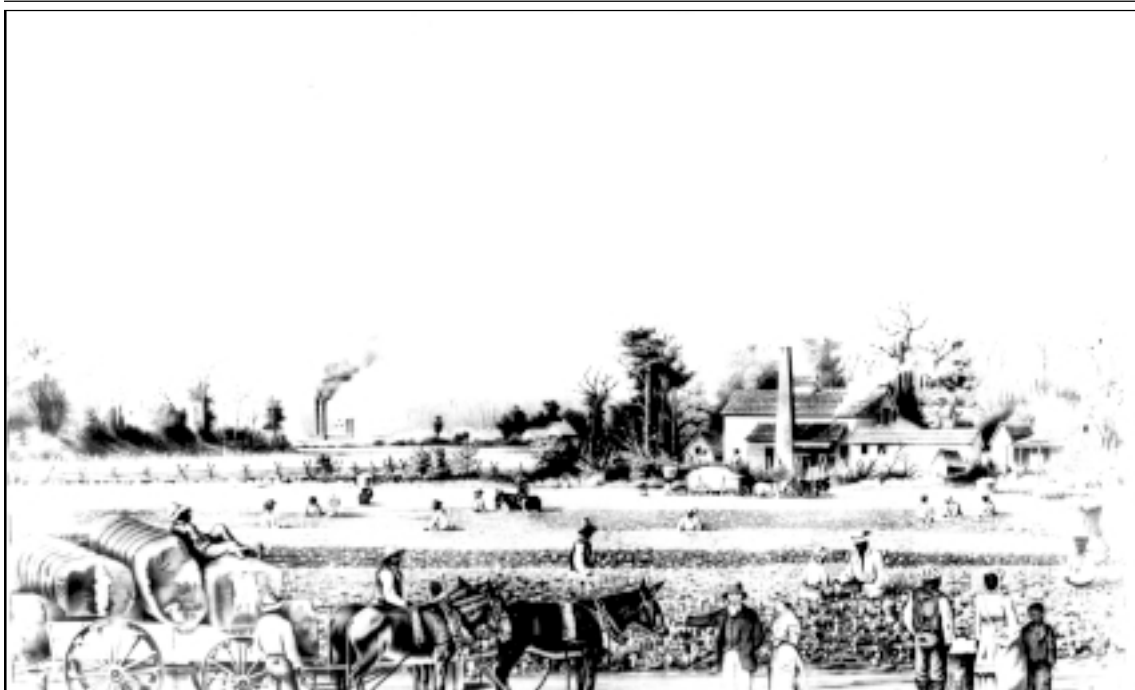
A Guide to the Microfilm Edition of

**RECORDS OF ANTE-BELLUM
SOUTHERN PLANTATIONS
FROM THE REVOLUTION THROUGH
THE CIVIL WAR**

Series F

**Selections from the Rare Book, Manuscript, and Special
Collections Library, Duke University**

Part 5: William Patterson Smith Collection



UNIVERSITY PUBLICATIONS OF AMERICA

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A Guide to the Microfilm Edition of

Records of Ante-Bellum Southern Plantations from the Revolution through the Civil War

General Editor: Kenneth M. Stamp

Series F

**Selections from the Rare Book, Manuscript, and Special
Collections Library, Duke University**

Part 5: William Patterson Smith Collection

**Associate Editor and Guide compiled by
Martin Schipper**

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INTRODUCTION

The impact of the antebellum southern plantations on the lives of their black and white inhabitants, as well as on the political, economic, and cultural life of the South as a whole, is one of the most fascinating and controversial problems of present-day American historical research. Depending upon the labor of slaves who constituted the great majority of the American black population, the plantations were both homes and business enterprises for a white, southern elite. They were the largest, the most commercialized, and on the whole, the most efficient and specialized agricultural enterprises of their day, producing the bulk of the South's staple crops of tobacco, cotton, sugar, rice, and hemp. Their proprietors were entrepreneurs who aspired to and sometimes, after a generation or two, achieved the status of a cultivated landed aristocracy. Many distinguished themselves not only in agriculture but in the professions, in the military, in government service, and in scientific and cultural endeavors.

Planters ambitious to augment their wealth, together with their black slaves, were an important driving force in the economic and political development of new territories and states in the Southwest. Their commodities accounted for more than half the nation's exports, and the plantations themselves were important markets for the products of northern industry. In short, they played a crucial role in the development of a national market economy.

The plantations of the Old South, the white families who owned, operated, and lived on them, and the blacks who toiled on them as slaves for more than two centuries have been the subjects of numerous historical studies since the pioneering work of Ulrich B. Phillips in the early twentieth century. The literature, highly controversial, has focused on questions such as the evolution and nature of the planter class and its role in shaping the white South's economy, culture, and values; the conditions experienced by American blacks in slavery; the impact of the "peculiar institution" on their personalities and the degree to which a distinct Afro-American culture developed among them; and, finally, the sources of the tension between the proslavery interests of the South and the "free labor" interests of the North that culminated in secession and civil war.

Research materials are plentiful. Census returns and other government documents, newspapers and periodicals, travelers' accounts, memoirs and autobiographies, and an abundance of polemical literature have much to tell historians about life on antebellum plantations. The autobiographies of former slaves, several twentieth-century oral history collections, and a rich record of songs and folklore are significant sources for the black experience in slavery. All the historical literature, however, from Phillips to the most recent studies, has relied heavily on the enormous collections of manuscript plantation records that survive in research libraries scattered throughout the South. These manuscripts consist of business records, account books, slave lists, overseers' reports, diaries, private letters exchanged among family members and friends, and even an occasional letter written by a literate slave. They come mostly from the larger tobacco, cotton, sugar, and rice

plantations, but a significant number survive from the more modest estates and smaller slaveholdings whose economic operations tended to be less specialized.

Plantation records reveal nearly every aspect of plantation life. Not only business operations and day-to-day labor routines, but family affairs, the roles of women, racial attitudes, relations between masters and slaves, social and cultural life, the values shared by members of the planter class, and the tensions and anxieties that were inseparable from a slave society are all revealed with a fullness and candor unmatched by any of the other available sources. Moreover, these records are immensely valuable for studies of black slavery. Needless to say, since they were compiled by members of the white master class, they provide little direct evidence of the inner feelings and private lives of the slave population. But they are the best sources of information about the care and treatment of slaves, about problems in the management of slave labor, and about forms of slave resistance short of open rebellion. They also tell us much about the behavior of slaves, from which historians can at least draw inferences about the impact of slavery on the minds and personalities of its black victims.

Deposited in southern state archives and in the libraries of many southern universities and historical societies, significantly more plantation records have become available in recent decades. Our publication is designed to assist scholars in their use by offering for the first time an ample selection of the most important materials in a single microfilm collection. Ultimately it will cover each geographical area in which the plantation flourished, with additions of approximately four new collections annually. A special effort is being made to offer the rarer records of the smaller slaveholders and to include the equally rare records of the plantations in the last quarter of the eighteenth century; however, the documentation is most abundant for the operations of the larger plantations in the period between the War of 1812 and the Civil War, and their records will constitute the bulk of our publication.

Kenneth M. Stampp
Professor Emeritus
University of California at Berkeley

NOTE ON SOURCES

The collections microfilmed in this edition are holdings of the Rare Book, Manuscript, and Special Collections Library, Duke University, Box 90185, Durham, North Carolina 27708-0185. The description of the collection provided in this user guide is adapted from inventories and indexes compiled by the library.

Historical maps, microfilmed among the introductory materials, are courtesy of the Map Collection of the Academic Affairs Library of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Maps consulted include:

Thomas G. Bradford, *A Comprehensive Atlas: Geographical, Historical, & Commercial*, 1835.

EDITORIAL NOTE

The Reel Index for this edition provides the user with a précis of the collection included. The précis gives information on family history and many business and personal activities documented in the collection.

Following the précis, the Reel Index itemizes each file folder and manuscript volume. The four-digit number to the left of each entry indicates the frame number at which a particular folder begins.

REEL INDEX

Reel 1

William Patterson Smith Papers, 1791–1943, Gloucester County, Virginia; also North Carolina

This collection consists of the personal and business papers of William Patterson Smith (1796-1878), merchant and planter. A large portion of this collection pertains to the business activities of William Patterson Smith and Thomas Smith regarding their mercantile firm in Gloucester and a grain trade throughout the Chesapeake area. Business records include correspondence, bills and receipts, bills of lading, orders, sales accounts, chancery court records, writs, estate papers, account books, indentures, wills, inventories, bank books, stock certificates, and bonds. In addition, there are documents related to the Smith families' interest in land speculation in Texas, Arkansas, and West Virginia; infrastructure improvements in Virginia and North Carolina; banks and banking; property and fire insurance; and improvements in agricultural machinery, fertilizers, and farming methods.

This collection includes the personal correspondence of William Patterson Smith with his wife, Marion (Seddon) Smith, his brother and sisters, his children, his grandchildren, and numerous other relatives. There is also the correspondence of the Bruce and Seddon families, related through Marion (Seddon) Smith, and of Judge Beverly Randolph Wellford, Jr., also related through the Seddon family. There are also papers related to the Lewis and Sparks families of Gloucester County, whose estates were administered by Thomas Smith (1785-1841), brother of William Patterson Smith.

The collection as a whole contains information on a variety of social, economic, political, and military topics relating to the states of Virginia, North Carolina, and Texas, and regionally, the South, between 1800 and 1875. These topics include: recreation and amusements; religious life; slavery; free Negroes; the county militia system; agricultural implements; economic panics of 1819 and 1837; cultivation of cotton, corn, wheat, barley, oats, and sugar cane; academies and colleges; the Seminole War, Mexican War, and the American Civil War; the annexation of Texas; the California gold rush; Virginia state politics; manufacturing and manufactures; Union occupation and Reconstruction; coal lands in the Kanawha Valley and phosphate mining in Tennessee.

N.B. A related collection among the holdings of the University of Virginia Library is the Bruce Family Papers, 1746-1900, included in UPA's *Records of Ante-Bellum Southern Plantations from the Revolution through the Civil War*, Series E, Part 3. Another related collection is Mssl SE247a, Seddon Family Papers, 1831-1882, included in idem, Series M, Part 4.

Correspondence

0001 Box 1, Folder 1, 1804–1817. 211 frames.
0212 Box 1, Folder 2, January 1818–December 1820. 119 frames.
0331 Box 1, Folder 3, January 1821–May 1822. 121 frames.
0452 Box 1, Folder 4, June 1822–June 1823. 114 frames.
0566 Box 1, Folder 5, July 1823–December 1825. 190 frames.
0756 Box 2, Folder 1, 1826. 150 frames.
0906 Box 2, Folder 2, 1827. 172 frames.

Reel 2

Correspondence cont.

0001 Box 2, Folder 3, January 1828–June 1828. 68 frames.
0069 Box 2, Folder 4, June 1828–December 1828. 117 frames.
0186 Box 2, Folder 5, January 1829–July 1829. 111 frames.
0297 Box 2, Folder 6, August 1829–February 1830. 102 frames.
0399 Box 2, Folder 7, March 1830–August 1830. 104 frames.
0503 Box 2, Folder 8, September 1830–December 1830. 62 frames.
0565 Box 3, Folder 1, 1831. 162 frames.
0727 Box 3, Folder 2, January 1832–March 1832. 142 frames.
0869 Box 3, Folder 3, April 1832–December 1832. 140 frames.

Reel 3

Correspondence cont.

0001 Box 3, Folder 4, January 1833–June 1833. 200 frames.
0201 Box 3, Folder 5, July 1833–December 1833. 88 frames.
0289 Box 3, Folder 6, 1834. 210 frames.
0499 Box 4, Folder 1, January 1835–March 1835. 92 frames.
0591 Box 4, Folder 2, April 1835–December 1835. 203 frames.
0794 Box 4, Folder 3, January 1836–March 1836. 156 frames.
0950 Box 4, Folder 4, April 1836–October 1836. 127 frames.

Reel 4

Correspondence cont.

0001 Box 4, Folder 5, November 1836–March 1837. 134 frames.
0135 Box 4, Folder 6, April 1837–June 1837. 56 frames.

0191 Box 4, Folder 7, July 1837–December 1837. 129 frames.
 0320 Box 5, Folder 1, January 1838–May 1838. 102 frames.
 0422 Box 5, Folder 2, June 1838–December 1838. 96 frames.
 0518 Box 5, Folder 3, January 1839–April 1839. 62 frames.
 0580 Box 5, Folder 4, May 1839–August 1839. 98 frames.
 0678 Box 5, Folder 5, September 1839–December 1839. 90 frames.
 0768 Box 5, Folder 6, Speeches of William Patterson Smith, 1839–1840.
 53 frames.
 0821 Box 5, Folder 7, January 1840–March 1840. 73 frames.
 0894 Box 5, Folder 8, April 1840–July 1840. 93 frames.
 0987 Box 5, Folder 9, August 1840–December 1840. 101 frames.

Reel 5

Correspondence cont.

0001 Box 6, Folder 1, January 1841–February 1841. 86 frames.
 0087 Box 6, Folder 2, March 1841–May 1841. 73 frames.
 0160 Box 6, Folder 3, June 1841–November 1841. 64 frames.
 0224 Box 6, Folder 4, December 1841. 29 frames.
 0253 Box 6, Folder 5, January 1842–March 1842. 72 frames.
 0325 Box 6, Folder 6, April 1842–October 1842. 92 frames.
 0417 Box 6, Folder 7, November 1842–December 1842. 40 frames.
 0457 Box 6, Folder 8, January 1843–February 1843. 45 frames.
 0502 Box 6, Folder 9, March 1843–June 1843. 108 frames.
 0610 Box 6, Folder 10, July 1843–October 1843. 92 frames.
 0702 Box 6, Folder 11, November 1843–December 1843. 45 frames.
 0747 Box 7, Folder 1, January 1844–March 1844. 92 frames.
 0839 Box 7, Folder 2, April 1844–June 1844. 90 frames.

Reel 6

Correspondence cont.

0001 Box 7, Folder 3, July 1844–October 1844. 72 frames.
 0073 Box 7, Folder 4, November 1844–December 1844. 43 frames.
 0116 Box 7, Folder 5, January 1845–June 1845. 73 frames.
 0189 Box 7, Folder 6, July 1845–December 1845. 86 frames.
 0275 Box 7, Folder 7, January 1846–July 1846. 109 frames.
 0384 Box 7, Folder 8, August 1846–December 1846. 61 frames.
 0445 Box 8, Folder 1, 1847. 142 frames.
 0587 Box 8, Folder 2, January 1848–December 1848. 173 frames.
 0760 Box 8, Folder 3, January 1849–June 1849. 96 frames.
 0856 Box 8, Folder 4, July 1849–December 1849. 82 frames.
 0938 Box 8, Folder 5, January 1850–May 1850. 88 frames.

Reel 7

Correspondence cont.

0001 Box 8, Folder 6, June 1850–December 1850. 77 frames.
0078 Box 8, Folder 7, January 1851–May 1851. 69 frames.
0147 Box 8, Folder 8, June 1851–December 1851. 106 frames.
0253 Box 9, Folder 1, January 1852–June 1852. 65 frames.
0318 Box 9, Folder 2, July 1852–December 1852. 76 frames.
0394 Box 9, Folder 3, January 1853–June 1853. 96 frames.
0490 Box 9, Folder 4, July 1853–December 1853. 89 frames.
0579 Box 9, Folder 5, January 1854–May 1854. 93 frames.
0672 Box 9, Folder 6, June 1854–December 1854. 126 frames.
0798 Box 9, Folder 7, January 1855–June 1855. 104 frames.
0902 Box 9, Folder 8, July 1855–December 1855. 109 frames.

Reel 8

Correspondence cont.

0001 Box 10, Folder 1, 1856. 180 frames.
0181 Box 10, Folder 2, 1857. 168 frames.
0349 Box 10, Folder 3, 1858. 206 frames.
0555 Box 10, Folder 4, 1859. 234 frames.
0789 Box 10, Folder 5, 1860. 223 frames.

Reel 9

Correspondence cont.

0001 Box 10, Folder 6, 1861–1862. 157 frames.
0158 Box 10, Folder 7, 1863–1864. 247 frames.
0405 Box 10, Folder 8, 1865. 170 frames.
0575 Box 10, Folder 9, 1866. 184 frames.
0759 Box 10, Folder 10, 1867. 174 frames.

Reel 10

Correspondence cont.

0001 Box 11, Folder 1, 1868. 223 frames.
0224 Box 11, Folder 2, 1869. 138 frames.
0362 Box 11, Folder 3, Undated, ca. 1860s. 79 frames.
0441 Box 12, Folder 1, 1870. 126 frames.
0567 Box 12, Folder 2, 1871. 161 frames.
0728 Box 12, Folder 3, 1872. 174 frames.
0902 Box 12, Folder 4, 1873. 197 frames.

Reel 11

Correspondence cont.

0001 Box 12, Folder 5, 1874. 255 frames.
0256 Box 12, Folder 6, 1875. 172 frames.
0428 Box 13, Folder 1, 1876. 127 frames.
0555 Box 13, Folder 2, 1877. 249 frames.
0804 Box 13, Folder 3, 1878–1879. 66 frames.
0870 Box 13, Folder 4, 1882–1903. 148 frames.

Reel 12

Correspondence cont.

0001 Box 13, Folder 5, Undated. 155 frames.
0156 Box 13, Folder 6, Undated. 232 frames.

Legal Papers

0388 Box 14, Folder 1, 1780–1815. 45 frames.
0433 Box 14, Folder 2, 1819–1828. 98 frames.
0531 Box 14, Folder 3, 1829–1831. 75 frames.
0606 Box 14, Folder 4, 1832. 30 frames.
0636 Box 14, Folder 5, 1833–1834. 26 frames.
0662 Box 14, Folder 6, 1835–1836. 32 frames.
0694 Box 14, Folder 7, 1837–1839. 54 frames.
0748 Box 14, Folder 8, 1840–1841. 81 frames.
0829 Box 14, Folder 9, Undated. 17 frames.
0846 Box 15, Folder 1, 1773. 6 frames.
0852 Box 15, Folder 2, 1816. 2 frames.
0854 Box 15, Folder 3, 1842. 54 frames.
0908 Box 15, Folder 4, 1843. 52 frames.
0960 Box 15, Folder 5, 1844. 60 frames.

Reel 13

Legal Papers cont.

0001 Box 15, Folder 6, 1845–1849. 80 frames.
0081 Box 15, Folder 7, 1850–1855. 41 frames.
0122 Box 15, Folder 8, 1856–1865. 97 frames.
0219 Box 15, Folder 9, 1866–1877. 15 frames.
0234 Box 15, Folder 10, Canceled Checks, 1868–1869. 80 frames.
0314 Box 15, Folder 11, Undated. 22 frames.

Business and Financial Papers

0336 Box 16, Folder 1, 1789–1816. 144 frames.
0480 Box 16, Folder 2, 1816–1828. 204 frames.
0684 Box 17, Folder 1, 1797–1817. 158 frames.

- 0842 Box 17, Folder 2, 1818–1820. 77 frames.
- 0919 Box 17, Folder 3, March 1820–December 1820. 44 frames.
- 0963 Box 17, Folder 4, 1821–June 1822. 62 frames.

Reel 14

Business and Financial Papers cont.

- 0001 Box 17, Folder 5, July 1822–June 1823. 41 frames.
- 0042 Box 17, Folder 6, July 1823–1824. 68 frames.
- 0110 Box 17, Folder 7, 1825. 44 frames.
- 0154 Box 17, Folder 8, 1826. 73 frames.
- 0227 Box 18, Folder 1, January–July 1827. 101 frames.
- 0328 Box 18, Folder 2, August 1827–May 1828. 54 frames.
- 0382 Box 18, Folder 3, July 1828–July 1829. 67 frames.
- 0449 Box 18, Folder 4, August 1829–December 1830. 85 frames.
- 0534 Box 18, Folder 5, 1831. 69 frames.
- 0603 Box 18, Folder 6, 1832. 91 frames.
- 0694 Box 19, Folder 1, 1833. 69 frames.
- 0763 Box 19, Folder 2, 1834–1835. 142 frames.
- 0905 Box 19, Folder 3, January–March 1836. 31 frames.

Reel 15

Business and Financial Papers cont.

- 0001 Box 19, Folder 4, April 1836–March 1837. 136 frames.
- 0137 Box 19, Folder 5, April 1837–June 1837. 93 frames.
- 0230 Box 19, Folder 6, July 1837–December 1837. 112 frames.
- 0342 Box 20, Folder 1, January 1838–May 1838. 50 frames.
- 0392 Box 20, Folder 2, June 1838–December 1838. 112 frames.
- 0504 Box 20, Folder 3, January 1839–April 1839. 66 frames.
- 0570 Box 20, Folder 4, May 1839–August 1839. 76 frames.
- 0646 Box 20, Folder 5, September 1839–December 1839. 135 frames.
- 0781 Box 20, Folder 6, January 1846–March 1846. 31 frames.
- 0812 Box 20, Folder 7, April 1840–July 1840. 36 frames.
- 0848 Box 20, Folder 8, August 1840–December 1840. 65 frames.
- 0913 Box 21, Folder 1, January 1841–February 1841. 54 frames.

Reel 16

Business and Financial Papers cont.

- 0001 Box 21, Folder 2, March 1841–May 1841. 65 frames.
- 0066 Box 21, Folder 3, June 1841–November 1841. 81 frames.
- 0147 Box 21, Folder 4, December 1841. 67 frames.
- 0214 Box 21, Folder 5, January 1842–March 1842. 65 frames.
- 0279 Box 21, Folder 6, April 1842–October 1842. 106 frames.
- 0385 Box 21, Folder 7, November 1842–December 1842. 63 frames.

0448 Box 21, Folder 8, January 1843–March 1843. 30 frames.
 0478 Box 21, Folder 9, March 1843–June 1843. 97 frames.
 0575 Box 21, Folder 10, July 1843–October 1843. 63 frames.
 0638 Box 21, Folder 11, November 1843–December 1843. 67 frames.
 0705 Box 22, Folder 1, January 1844–March 1844. 86 frames.
 0791 Box 22, Folder 2, April 1844–June 1844. 114 frames.
 0905 Box 22, Folder 3, July 1844–October 1844. 74 frames.
 0979 Box 22, Folder 4, November 1844–December 1844. 55 frames.

Reel 17

Business and Financial Papers cont.

0001 Box 22, Folder 5, January 1845–June 1845. 91 frames.
 0092 Box 22, Folder 6, July 1845–December 1845. 100 frames.
 0192 Box 23, Folder 1, January 1846–July 1846. 93 frames.
 0285 Box 23, Folder 2, August 1846–December 1846. 80 frames.
 0365 Box 23, Folder 3, 1847. 116 frames.
 0481 Box 23, Folder 4, January 1848–December 1848. 121 frames.
 0602 Box 23, Folder 5, 1849. 114 frames.
 0716 Box 23, Folder 6, Small Books from 1840s (no specific date). 43 frames.
 0759 Box 24, Folder 1, January 1850–May 1850. 58 frames.
 0817 Box 24, Folder 2, June 1850–December 1850. 65 frames.
 0882 Box 24, Folder 3, January 1851–May 1851. 67 frames.
 0949 Box 24, Folder 4, June 1851–December 1851. 63 frames.

Reel 18

Business and Financial Papers cont.

0001 Box 24, Folder 5, January 1852–June 1852. 80 frames.
 0081 Box 24, Folder 6, July 1852–December 1852. 96 frames.
 0177 Box 24, Folder 7, January 1853–June 1853. 63 frames.
 0240 Box 24, Folder 8, July 1853–December 1853. 90 frames.
 0330 Box 25, Folder 1, January 1854–May 1854. 49 frames.
 0379 Box 25, Folder 2, June 1854–December 1854. 91 frames.
 0470 Box 25, Folder 3, January 1855–June 1855. 63 frames.
 0533 Box 25, Folder 4, July 1855–December 1855. 84 frames.
 0617 Box 25, Folder 5, 1856. 127 frames.

Reel 19

Business and Financial Papers cont.

0001 Box 25, Folder 6, 1857. 141 frames.
 0142 Box 25, Folder 7, 1858. 128 frames.
 0270 Box 26, Folder 1, 1859. 103 frames.
 0373 Box 26, Folder 2, 1860. 108 frames.
 0481 Box 26, Folder 3, 1861–1862. 120 frames.

0601 Box 26, Folder 4, 1863–1865. 63 frames.
0664 Box 26, Folder 5, 1866. 76 frames.

Reel 20

Business and Financial Papers cont.

0001 Box 26, Folder 6, 1867–1868. 87 frames.
0088 Box 26, Folder 7, 1869. 65 frames.
0153 Box 27, Folder 1, 1870. 61 frames.
0214 Box 27, Folder 2, 1871–1872. 89 frames.
0303 Box 27, Folder 3, 1873. 52 frames.
0355 Box 27, Folder 4, 1874. 67 frames.
0422 Box 27, Folder 5, 1875. 73 frames.
0495 Box 27, Folder 6, 1876. 63 frames.
0558 Box 27, Folder 7, 1877–1878. 76 frames.
0634 Box 27, Folder 8, Undated. 82 frames.

RECORDS OF ANTE-BELLUM SOUTHERN PLANTATIONS

From the Revolution
through the Civil War

- Series A. Selections from the South Caroliniana Library,
University of South Carolina**
- Series B. Selections from the South Carolina Historical Society**
- Series C. Selections from the Library of Congress**
- Series D. Selections from the Maryland Historical Society**
- Series E. Selections from the University of Virginia Library,
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