

A Guide to the Microfilm Edition of

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

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Series J

**Selections from the
Southern Historical Collection, Manuscripts Department,
Library of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill**

Part 14: Western North Carolina

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Martin Schipper**

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INTRODUCTION

The impact of the ante-bellum 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 ante-bellum 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 illuminate 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 all are 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, the number of available plantation records has increased significantly 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.

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NOTE ON SOURCES

The collections microfilmed in this edition are holdings of the Southern Historical Collection, Manuscripts Department, Academic Affairs Library of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Chapel Hill, North Carolina 27599. The description of the collection provided in this user guide is adapted from the inventories compiled by the Southern Historical Collection. The inventories are included among the introductory materials on the microfilm.

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, *Comprehensive Atlas*, 1835;
Robert Mills, *Atlas of South Carolina*, 1839; and
S. Augustus Mitchell, "A New Map of Alabama," 1847.

EDITORIAL NOTE

The Reel Index for this edition provides the user with précis of the collections. The précis provides information on family history and the many business and personal activities documented in the collection. Omissions from the microfilm edition are noted in the précis and on the microfilm. Descriptions of omitted materials are included in the introductory materials on the microfilm.

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 document or series of documents begins.

REEL INDEX

James Hervey Greenlee Diary, 1837–1902, Burke and McDowell Counties, North Carolina

Description of the Collection

Series 1 consists of the manuscript of James Hervey Greenlee's diary, which he kept on a daily basis for nearly fifty-five years. The diary comments chiefly on the weather, a variety of his farming and business activities, his family's social visits to neighbors and relatives, and his personal and religious thoughts. He recorded the daily tasks that he assigned to his slaves, some of whom apparently were skilled as coopers, cobblers, and tanners. He discussed his guarded support for abolition and the religious instruction of slaves. Also included are expense accounts and notes from various journeys through South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Alabama, and Kentucky, where the Greenlees visited the Louisville Exposition in 1883. In addition, shorter trips to nearby Salem, Salisbury, Statesville, Charlotte, Morganton, and Marion are mentioned.

Aspects of Greenlee's religious and spiritual life are extensively documented, including numerous references to church sermons, readings from the Bible and various religious tracts, camp meetings, religious instruction for his slaves, his contributions to religious organizations, circuit riders, and his confrontation with fellow church member John H. Greenlee (perhaps his brother) in 1853 about his excessive drinking. In addition, he recorded his grief over the deaths of his baby son in June 1854, of his first wife in 1857, and of his adult daughter in July 1866. The diary, however, only briefly comments on Greenlee's service as a delegate to the Old School Presbyterian Synod at Charleston, South Carolina, in 1859, and later as a delegate to the North Carolina state convention that voted to secede from the Union in 1861. Similarly, there is disappointingly little information in the diary about the Civil War. In May 1865, however, he did briefly record his and his slaves' reactions to the emancipation of the slaves.

Greenlee's diary also includes scattered entries written by his first and second wives, an extract from an 1882 Richmond & Danville Railroad prospectus, and his second wife's accounts of travel throughout the South in 1883. Her accounts are fuller than those of her husband. Folder 20 contains three items consisting of diary notes for late 1858; expense accounts for 1858, 1859, and 1862; and two enclosures inserted in the diary, one from March 1879 and another, undated.

Series 2 consists of seven volumes of typed transcription of the diary through 1867. Volume 7 contains two plates of photographs of James H. Greenlee, ca. 1861, and Turkey Cove, his family home at Marion, North Carolina.

Biographical Note

James Hervey Greenlee (1811–1902) was a planter, slaveholder, and Presbyterian evangelical of Burke and McDowell counties, North Carolina. Sometime in the 1830s or early 1840s, he assumed control of Turkey Cove, his father's Burke County farm (in present-day McDowell County), on which he raised wheat, corn, cotton, oats, a variety of other crops, hogs, and cattle. According to U.S. census records, the thirty-eight-year-old Greenlee owned twenty-six slaves and more than \$16,000 of real property in 1850.

Sometime before 1843, Greenlee married his first cousin, Mary Jane Greenlee (1822?–1857). The couple had at least four children, two boys and two girls, between 1844 and 1850. In 1845, Greenlee and his wife changed their membership from the Morganton Presbyterian Church to the newly established Marion Presbyterian Church of which he and his wife were charter members. He also served as a church elder between 1845 and 1886.

After his first wife's death in June 1857, Greenlee married a woman whose last name was Morrison. In 1859, Greenlee served as a delegate to the Old School Presbyterian Synod in Charleston, South Carolina, and, two years later, he served as a delegate to the North Carolina convention that voted to secede from the Union in May 1861.

He died in 1902.

Series 1. Diary, 1837–1902

The James Hervey Greenlee diary covers a period of nearly fifty-five years, with some gaps. Greenlee commented chiefly on the weather, a variety of farming and business activities, social visits to neighbors and relatives, his personal and religious thoughts, and travels throughout the South. Also included are scattered diary entries written by his first and second wives. These are generally longer and richer in detail than those of James. Beginning in 1847, entries are daily, with few exceptions, and are approximately 50 to 250 words in length, although some are considerably longer. Almost all of the daily entries conclude with a short prayer. The years 1855, 1860, and 1893 and considerable portions of 1861, 1862, 1885, 1886, 1887, 1888, 1889, 1892, 1894, 1899, and 1900 are missing. There are two pagination schemes in the diary. The first scheme, covering up through 1867, indicates both the year and the page number [for example, 1847/25]. Pages are numbered within each year, and begin again at page one on January 1 of the next year. In the second scheme, covering the period 1868 to 1902, pages are simply numbered from 1 to 2,139.

The diary for 1837 is an expense account and notes of a journey from Burke County, North Carolina, through South Carolina, Georgia, and Alabama, some

areas of which had recently been evacuated by the Cherokee Indians. Greenlee primarily described the weather, the geography and people of the region, and new settlements in Alabama. Beginning in 1847, Greenlee's entries mention a variety of business and farming activities, including planting and harvesting crops, butchering and dressing out hogs, branding horses and mules, and building a mill and a lime kiln. He also recorded the daily tasks assigned to his slaves, some of whom apparently were skilled as coopers, cobblers, and tanners. Greenlee frequently mentioned short trips to nearby Salem, Salisbury, Statesville, Charlotte, Morganton, and Marion, North Carolina, as well as more extended ones to Columbia and Charleston, South Carolina. In the spring of 1861, he served as a delegate to the North Carolina state convention that voted to secede from the Union, but diary entries for those days make little mention of the event, other than to comment briefly on a law that the convention enacted. Likewise, Greenlee had little to say in his diary about the Civil War. In May 1865, however, he did briefly record his and his slaves' reaction to their emancipation.

Greenlee devoted extensive space to writing about his religious life and spiritual well-being. The diary includes numerous references to church sermons, Sunday afternoons reading the Bible and various religious tracts, camp meetings, religious instruction for his slaves, his contributions to religious organizations, circuit riders, his confrontation with John H. Greenlee, a fellow church member and perhaps his brother, in 1853 about excessive drinking, and his service as a delegate to the Old School Presbyterian Synod at Charleston, South Carolina, in 1859. In late December 1848, Greenlee disclosed his guarded views about the eventual abolition of slavery. In addition, he expressed his support for proselytizing among slaves in order to free them and send them back to the African continent "as lights to their long-benighted brethren and in civilizing [*sic*] & Christianize [*sic*] them and place them under the guidance of the great author of all things among the Christians of the world." In 1857, Greenlee wrote extensively about his wife's lingering illness and her death and funeral in early June. He reflected on his grief and sorrow at "the loss of my dear wife" and asked the Lord to "sanctify this sore bereavement to a poor disconsolate husband & children...." He also recorded his feelings about the deaths of at least two of his children, an infant son in June 1854 and an adult daughter in July 1866.

Greenlee's diary also includes scattered entries written by his first and second wives. The 1848 diary contains some brief entries written in mid-February and early March by his wife and first cousin, Mary Jane Greenlee. The second Mrs. Greenlee described a February 1883 trip through South Carolina, Georgia, and Florida and an October 1883 trip to Kentucky, where the Greenlees visited the Louisville Exposition. Also included is an extract from an 1882 Richmond & Danville Railroad prospectus. Folder 20 contains three items. One item is a series of notes for the diary from September and November 1858, from which Greenlee apparently drew to write the longer entries for those dates. These notes also include expense accounts for 1858,

1859, and 1862. The other two items are enclosures inserted in the diary, one from March 1879 and another undated.

Series 2. Typed Transcription of Diary, 1837–1867

The seven volumes in this series cover the James Hervey Greenlee diary for 1837 and 1847 to 1867. The copies appear to be fairly accurate transcriptions of the diary's original content, spelling, and punctuation, although several small portions of the original were not entirely reproduced in the volumes. This appears to be true for only a handful of the irregular entries for the period 1858 to 1862. Volume 7 includes two plates of photographs of James H. Greenlee, ca. 1861, and Turkey Cove, his family home at Marion, North Carolina.

Reel 1

Introductory Materials

0001 Introductory Materials. 10 frames.

Series 1. Diary, 1837–1902

0011 Description of Series 1. 2 frames.
0013 Folder 1, 1837. 10 frames.
0023 Folder 2, 1847. 130 frames.
0153 Folder 3, 1848. 173 frames.
0326 Folder 4, 1849. 90 frames.
0416 Folder 5, 1 January 1850–5 November 1851. 118 frames.
0534 Folder 6, 6 November 1851–18 January 1853. 70 frames.
0604 Folder 7, 19 January 1853–10 November 1854. 96 frames.
0700 Folder 8, 3 March 1856–11 July 1858. 104 frames.
0804 Folder 9, 12 July 1858–7 November 1859 and 1861–8 February 1865.
133 frames.
0937 Folder 10, 9 February 1865–5 November 1867. 79 frames.

Reel 2

James Hervey Greenlee Diary cont.

Series 1. Diary, 1837–1902 cont.

0001 Folder 11, 6 November 1867–14 July 1870. 88 frames.
0089 Folder 12, 15 July 1870–8 December 1875. 170 frames.
0259 Folder 13, 9 December 1875–24 May 1880. 146 frames.
0405 Folder 14, 25 May 1880–6 February 1884. 163 frames.
0568 Folder 15, 7 February 1884–4 October 1887. 122 frames.
0690 Folder 16, 6 May 1888–30 June 1891. 120 frames.
0810 Folder 17, 1 July 1891–26 May 1895. 95 frames.
0905 Folder 18, 27 May 1895–9 March 1898. 97 frames.
1002 Folder 19, 13 March 1898–5 January 1902. 86 frames.
1088 Folder 20, Enclosures. 13 frames.

Reel 3

James Hervey Greenlee Diary cont. **Series 2. Typed Transcription of Diary, 1837–1867**

0001	Description of Series 2. 1 frame.
0002	Folder 21, Volume 1, 1837 and 1847–1849. 308 frames.
0310	Folder 22, Volume 2, 1850–1851. 356 frames.
0666	Folder 23, Volume 3, 1852–1853. 309 frames.

Reel 4

James Hervey Greenlee Diary cont. **Series 2. Typed Transcription of Diary, 1837–1867 cont.**

0001	Folder 24, Volume 4, 1854 and 1856. 232 frames.
0233	Folder 25, Volume 5, 1857–1858. 272 frames.
0505	Folder 26, Volume 6, 1859–1864. 288 frames.
0793	Folder 27, Volume 7, 1865–1867. 277 frames.

Hamilton Brown Papers, 1752–1907, Wilkes County, North Carolina, and Maury and Davidson Counties, Tennessee; also Alabama, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, South Carolina, and Virginia

Description of the Collection

This collection includes extensive and varied business and personal papers of John Brown, his son Hamilton of Wilkesboro, North Carolina, and members of related families in Tennessee, Georgia, and Alabama.

Family correspondence documents the activities of John Brown's sons in Tennessee, the mercantile and gold mining pursuits of the Gwyns and the Gordons in Georgia, and the settlement of the Finleys in Cherokee County, Alabama. It also includes letters written by several female family members.

Substantive business correspondence, accounts, and legal papers document the extensive business interests of Hamilton Brown, including land holdings as far west as Missouri. In addition to land acquisitions, papers pertain to planting, slaves, livestock, lumbering, merchandising, estates, and politics in Wilkes County, North Carolina, and elsewhere; military service in the War of 1812 and the Civil War; gold mining in Lumpkin County, Georgia; travels and settlement in Tennessee, Missouri, Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi, and Louisiana; business in Virginia, Georgia, and many locations in western North Carolina; and the local government of Wilkes County and Wilkesboro in the early nineteenth century. Other papers include letters and diaries from the 1850s of Hamilton Brown's sons at the U.S. Naval Academy at Annapolis and the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill; letters from students at other colleges; and a play and poems by a female family member.

The collection is arranged as follows: Series 1. Family Correspondence; Series 2. Business Materials—Subseries 2.1. Loose Papers (Subseries 2.1.1. 1752–1812 and Undated, Subseries 2.1.2. 1813–1870 and Undated, and Subseries 2.1.3. 1871–1907 and Undated [not included]) and Subseries 2.2. Volumes; Series 3. Other Materials—Subseries 3.1. Loose Papers and Subseries 3.2. Volumes.

Biographical Note

John Brown (1738–1812), Revolutionary War officer and state legislator, was born in County Derry, Ireland. He emigrated to Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, where he taught school. He married Jane McDowell (1750–1838), the sister of General Joseph McDowell and Major Charles McDowell. In 1772, they moved to Quaker Meadows, Burke County, with the McDowells. Soon afterwards, they moved to a farm on the north side of the Yadkin River, about four miles west of Wilkesboro.

Brown served under Colonel Benjamin Cleveland in the Revolutionary army at King's Mountain, probably holding the rank of captain. After the war, he was a member of the first board of magistrates when Wilkes became a county in 1778. The first Wilkes County Court was held at Brown's home. He became Wilkes County register of deeds in 1778 and served on a jury designated to lay out roads in the county. He represented Wilkes County in the North Carolina House of Commons for three years and also at the constitutional convention in Hillsborough in 1788. He was a prominent Mason.

Brown had eleven children, eight sons and three daughters. Two of his sons resided in Wilkes County and six moved to Maury County, Tennessee, where they obtained large land grants in the Duck River Valley in payment for negotiating treaties with the Indians. The elder Brown died in Wilkes County.

Hamilton Brown (30 September 1786–27 March 1870), planter, stockraiser, land speculator, and a resident of Wilkesboro, was the son of Jane McDowell and John Brown. Hamilton Brown served as a lieutenant with the Eighteenth Regiment, U.S. Infantry, in the War of 1812, and afterward was colonel of the Wilkes County militia. He served as county justice for a number of years and was sheriff from 1816 to 1818. He also served as overseer of a program to clear the Yadkin River in order to allow boats to reach the mouth of Buffalo Creek.

Brown inherited land in Wilkes and adjoining counties, and in Virginia and purchased additional land in North Carolina and Tennessee. He had business dealings in South Carolina, Georgia, Mississippi, and Texas. He inherited some slaves in Virginia from his mother's brother but was unwilling to separate the men—two of whom were skilled blacksmiths—from their wives. Being prevented by Virginia law from freeing them, he arranged for them to stay in Virginia under the supervision of a local resident.

Brown married Sarah Gwyn Gordon, widow of Major Nathaniel Gordon (d. 1829). They were the parents of two sons, Hugh Thomas (1835–1861), who graduated from the University of North Carolina and was killed in the Civil War,

and Hamilton Allen (1837–1917), who also served in the Confederate army. Brown's stepson, General James B. Gordon, was killed near Richmond in 1864. Brown and his wife were buried in the yard of St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Wilkesboro.

Hamilton Allen Brown (25 September 1837–9 April 1917), Confederate officer and planter, was born at Oakland, the old Gordon homestead in Wilkes County. He attended the U.S. Naval Academy at Annapolis as a member of the class of 1858 but was not graduated. On 3 June 1861, he became first lieutenant of Company B, First North Carolina Regiment. Because of his military training, he was detailed by Governor John W. Ellis to drill recruits and fit them for service. In the summer of 1862, when Colonel M. S. Stokes and other officers of his regiment were killed at Mechanicsville, Brown was placed in command. He was promoted to colonel in December 1863 and soon afterward took command of his regiment, which was then attached to the late General Stonewall Jackson's division. He was placed in command of the division's sharpshooters and is given credit for much of the fame of Jackson's division. It was related that Brown never ordered a man into battle but instead always said, "Follow me." He was wounded thirteen times but always stayed close to his men and returned to duty as quickly as possible.

Brown served in the battles of Gettysburg, Culp's Hill, Richmond, and Petersburg, as well as in the campaigns of the Wilderness, Spottsylvania, and the Valley. On 24 March 1865, at Fort Stedman, he and part of his command were captured by General Napoleon McLaughlin. Shortly afterward, McLaughlin was himself captured. Later, however, the Confederates were forced to surrender. Brown was taken to Washington and then to Johnson's Island and finally was confined at Fort Delaware until 24 June 1865, when he took the oath of allegiance.

Brown returned to Wilkes County and played a minor role in local events of the early Reconstruction period. In 1868, he married his cousin, Amelia Selina Gwyn of Green Hill. In about 1871, they, together with Brown's brothers and a sister, moved to Columbia, Tennessee, where they owned land. Brown increased his holdings and became a planter of modest means. He and his wife were the parents of four sons: Hugh Thomas, Hamilton, Gordon, and John. Brown was buried in St. Paul's Episcopal Church Cemetery, Wilkesboro.

Series 1. Family Correspondence, 1790–1890 and Undated

Letters are of the Brown, Gwyn, Gordon, Finley, and related families, chiefly from Tennessee, Georgia, and Alabama, to Hamilton Brown in Wilkesboro, North Carolina. The Brown brothers—John, Allen, Hugh, Thomas, and William—moved to Tennessee around 1809, stopping briefly in Cumberland County before settling permanently in Maury County near Columbia. The brothers addressed Hamilton Brown as "sir" and sent much information about their acquisition and maintenance of land, livestock, and slaves; crop conditions; financial markets; and family news. Letters also mention conditions in

the community around Columbia, including a cholera epidemic in 1834 and railroad construction in 1853. In the early 1850s, Hamilton's son, Hamilton Allen (called Allen by his mother), moved to Columbia to attend school and manage his father's landholdings. During this period, he received several rare letters from Sarah Brown, who was distressed when her son decided to enter the Naval Academy in 1854. Letters show that Allen's brother, Hugh Thomas Brown, studied law in Chapel Hill, North Carolina, during the 1850s. As early as 1821, letters from Tennessee document rising family tensions as the Brown brothers competed for control of land. These disputes, ultimately long and tortuous, were not settled in court until after the Civil War.

The Gwyns and the Gordons were related by an intricate series of marriages. Hamilton Brown's wife, Sarah Gwyn, had previously been married to Nathaniel Gordon. Her sister, Caroline, married James Harvey Gordon in 1823 and moved to Georgia, apparently accompanied by several other members of the Gwyn and Gordon families. From the late 1820s until about 1850, their letters from Georgia show that the Gwyns and the Gordons were primarily town merchants rather than plantation owners. James Gwyn wrote often about his mercantile business and family matters in Hillsboro, Georgia, while William Gwyn and George Gordon wrote about their stores in Forsyth, Georgia. In 1833, William and James Gwyn moved their families briefly to Auraria, a "lawless" gold rush town of "about 1,000 inhabitants" in Lumpkin County (23 April 1833). Several letters detail their miserable experience in the speculative employment of gold prospecting. By the end of January 1834, William had moved back to Forsyth to resume the somewhat more stable life of a small town merchant. A series of his letters in 1835 contains much information about arrangements he made to hire a slave couple near Macon. Larkin, "a class leader amongst the colored brethren in Macon," worked for a boat builder, and his wife, Sarah, earned money as a washerwoman (19 June 1835).

Finley family letters were chiefly written by two of Sarah Brown's daughters after they moved with their Finley husbands to Cherokee County, Alabama. When their aunt, Caroline Gordon, visited in 1853, she found it "truly a wild country where they live newly settled" (30 May 1853).

Few family letters discuss the Civil War. In fact, there are almost no materials relating to Hamilton Allen's illustrious military career. An exception is J. B. Gordon's announcement of the death of Hugh Thomas Brown, son of Hamilton Brown, in battle near Springfield, Missouri (19 August 1861). On the other hand, Reconstruction is well documented, especially in the letters of Caroline Gordon, who lived in Griffen, Georgia, after the war. In her letters, she discussed freedmen, Yankees, and Radicals in politics, and the efforts of her children to support themselves, including a daughter who opened her own school. Other significant Reconstruction information is contained in letters of Millie Brown (Amelia Selma Gwyn), young bride of Allen Hamilton. Her letters from Columbia discuss activities of the Ku Klux Klan in Maury County, Tennessee.

Also of interest is a letter from Rebecca McDowell about her efforts to learn the manta-making trade (16 December 1815); a letter from Hamilton Brown's former neighbor who migrated to Indiana, sending back details about crops, towns, commerce, and industry in that "easiest and best poor man's country" (4 August 1830); and a letter from Hugh Thomas Brown, describing a campaign speech Stephen A. Douglas delivered in Nashville (28 October 1860).

Series 2. Business Materials, 1752–1907 and Undated

This series includes financial and legal papers, business correspondence, account books, and other materials relating to John Brown, Hamilton Brown, members of the Gwyn and Gordon families, and others.

Subseries 2.1. Loose Papers, 1752–1907 and Undated This subseries includes business correspondence, deeds, bills for goods and services, receipts, tax lists, wills, work agreements, and other financial and legal papers of John Brown, his son Hamilton, and other related family members.

Subseries 2.1.1. 1752–1812 and Undated. This subseries consists chiefly of business papers of John Brown, primarily documenting his public service in several county positions, such as register of deeds for Wilkes County, and his work as administrator of various estates. Papers also document the expansion of the Brown family from North Carolina to Tennessee. There is little information about personal or household expenses of the Brown family in Wilkesboro. Acquisition of slaves is documented in bills of sale rather than by slave lists. Papers include land surveys, deeds, promissory notes, wills, bills for services and merchandise, inventories of estates, receipts, and some official records of Wilkes County, such as a 1796 list of taxable property. Papers for this period also pertain to members of the Lenoir, McDowell, Gwyn, and Gordon families and to various residents of Wilkes County.

Subseries 2.1.2. 1813–1870 and Undated. This subseries consists chiefly of business papers of Hamilton Brown, his brothers in Tennessee, members of the Gwyn and Gordon families, and others. Virginia papers chiefly relate to the estate of John McDowell. Disputes over land and slaves, which the Tennessee brothers played out in an extended court battle, are well documented in legal papers and accounts (see also family correspondence).

Many of the business papers during this period consist of substantive letters to Hamilton Brown from business agents and associates who discussed a wide range of topics: quality of land in various states where Hamilton owned or considered buying property; sale of crops and livestock; slave hire; collection of debts; and local and national political issues, such as nullification and the election of James K. Polk.

Hamilton Brown's involvement in the local government of Wilkes County is also well documented, including his service as sheriff and his work as commissioner for building the jail in Wilkesboro. Although Brown lived in Wilkesboro throughout this period, papers show that he accumulated land as far west as Missouri, and his business interests extended well beyond North Carolina to

Virginia, South Carolina, Tennessee, and Georgia. Papers also show that Brown considered buying land as far south as Florida. After the Civil War, Brown seems to have concentrated primarily on mercantile interests in Wilkesboro. By the mid-1850s, possibly because of health problems, Brown was turning over considerable business responsibility to his stepson, James Byron Gordon.

Of particular interest is a series of letters, 1835–1839, from Indiana residents responding to runaway slave notices published by Hamilton. These correspondents sent detailed instructions about how they would assist Hamilton in recovering his slaves, whom they believed to be working as freemen in nearby communities. Letters show that Hamilton owned many slaves who hired out in towns far from Wilkesboro. Several of these slaves wrote letters during the 1830s and 1840s to negotiate terms of hire. See, for example, the letter, dated 20 December 1832, requesting permission to open a blacksmith shop in Virginia.

Subseries 2.2. Volumes, 1785–1873 This series consists of nineteen volumes arranged chronologically by first date in the volume.

Volume 1: 1785–1802, 10 pp. “A List of the Date and No. of County Claims.” This list was apparently passed on to John Brown by Rice Coffey. Entries probably refer to Wilkes County transactions.

Volume 2: 1799, 7 pp. Notes on a survey in the Moravian claim on the Yadkin River.

Volume 3: 1812–1817, 20 pp. Hamilton Brown’s book containing records of goods purchased and a few notes about financial transactions and other matters.

Volume 4: 1812–1867, 28 pp. Hamilton Brown’s book containing records of his administration of the estates of John Brown and John McDowell. Also included are records of other financial and legal transactions with members of the Brown family and others, lists of notes and lands Hamilton Brown owned, records of the school expenses of Hugh Thomas and Hamilton Allen Brown, and a few miscellaneous accounts.

Volume 5: 1819, 12 pp. Hamilton Brown’s notebook containing records of expenditures on a trip to and from Charleston, South Carolina; a list of “Examinations & Judgements Delivered to Mr. Geo. Parkes, for Majr. John Finley & Waugh”; and records of a land survey.

Volume 6: 1820–1824, 6 pp. Hamilton Brown’s book recording expenditures on trips to Virginia to administer John McDowell’s estate.

Volume 7: 1821–1856, 42 pp. From 1821–1856, there are miscellaneous financial records of Hamilton Brown; records of legal and financial transactions involving Thomas P. and James Gwyn, members of the Brown family, and others; and a memorandum of cattle owned in Ashe County, North Carolina. For 1853–1856, there are records of a lumber business, including lists of planks sawed.

Volume 8: 1843, 1851–1853, 33 pp. For 1843, there are records of expenses for an unidentified mining company and of gold found. The names Brown, Finley, and Gwyn show up in these records, which may relate to gold mining activities of the Gwyns in Georgia. For 1851–1853, there are scattered entries of Hugh Thomas Brown's school expenses.

Volume 9: 1847–1854, 112 pp. Inventories of notes, judgments, and accounts belonging to Gwyn and Hickerson.

Volume 10: 1852–1853, 22 pp. Miscellaneous accounts, apparently of Hamilton and Hamilton Allen Brown, including notes on possessions in Tennessee and disputes among family members about them.

Volume 11: 1853–1860, 21 pp. Records relating to James Byron Gordon's store in Wilkesboro, North Carolina.

Volume 12: 1854, 36 pp. Hamilton Allen Brown's book containing records of expenditures at school in Tennessee.

Volume 13: 1860–1865, 50 pp. Notebook, owner unknown, containing miscellaneous financial accounts, including some records of money paid to military substitutes. There are also "mess" records.

Volume 14: 1861, 1872–1873, 25 pp. Notebook, probably belonging to Hamilton Allen Brown, containing records of arms issued to various Confederate army companies in 1861; memoranda of family expenses, 1872; records of bacon and lard consumed, 1872–1873; and part of a letter to "mother."

Volume 15: 1865–1866, 29 pp. Daybook, probably from the store kept by Hamilton Allen Brown in Wilkesboro.

Volume 16: 1869, 4 pp. Notebook containing records of expenses for a trip to Tennessee made by Hamilton Allen Brown and a few miscellaneous accounts.

Volume 17: 1869–1871, 121 pp. Hamilton Allen Brown's record of daily expenditures for traveling, merchandise, postage, etc. There are also a few entries detailing expenses at Meet Camp, the Browns' land in Watauga County, North Carolina.

Volume 18: 1871, 38 pp. Hamilton Allen Brown's record of expenses for a trip to Tennessee and of miscellaneous expenditures for goods and services.

Volume 19: 1871–1873, 38 pp. Hamilton Allen Brown's book containing a few entries relating to his account at the First National Bank in Columbia, Tennessee, and records of services purchased from various individuals, numbers of hogs slaughtered, and expenses for clothing and other articles.

Series 3. Other Materials, 1822–1917 and Undated

Subseries 3.1. Loose Papers, 1858–ca. 1917 and Undated This subseries consists of twelve items, including Hugh Thomas Brown's 1858 University of North Carolina diploma; two sermons, probably antebellum; a memorial to Hugh Thomas Brown, who died in 1861; an essay, dated 1871, on nature and art, author unknown; a typed copy of an address by William H. H. Cowles on James B. Gordon, 10 May 1887; "To a Sweet Pea," a poem written on the back of a form letter dated 1896, author unknown; a typed copy of "Colonel Hamilton

Allen Brown," by J. G. Hackette, ca. 1917; an undated address to the soldiers of the First North Carolina Regiment about tending the grave of Sydney Stokes, their first commander; and three recipes: 1835 directions to Mrs. Gordon for a tonic; an undated cure for "the yellow water"; and an undated "Indian Receipt for the Rheumatism."

Subseries 3.2. Volumes, 1822–1861 This subseries consists of four volumes arranged chronologically by first date in the volume.

Volume 20: 1822 and 1840, 100 pp. Undated play, author unknown; brief notes on a trip from Wilkes County to the Mississippi River, 1822; a note about payment to S. H. Brown in 1840; and other minor entries.

Volume 21: 1835–1837, 1850, and 1855, 52 pp. Album of Mary Ann Lenoir (1819–1899), who married James Gwyn in 1839, containing poems and notes on various subjects.

Volume 22: 1855–1859, 71 pp. Diary with brief entries, probably kept by Hamilton Allen Brown while a student at the U.S. Naval Academy. Entries describe cruises and trips to Portland, Boston, and Plymouth, Massachusetts. There are also a few miscellaneous financial accounts.

Volume 23: 1857–1858 and 1861, 39 pp. Journal kept by Hugh Thomas Brown while at the University of North Carolina studying law, 11 September 1857–25 April 1858. There is also one entry written at Camp Walker on 7 June 1861.

Omissions

A list of omissions from the Hamilton Brown Papers is provided on reel 8, frame 0283 and consists of Subseries 2.1.3. Business Material—Loose Papers, 1871–1907 and Undated.

N.B. Biographical information is drawn from three biographical sketches by Sarah E. Holeman in the *Dictionary of North Carolina Biography*, Volume 1, 1979.

A related collection among the holdings of the Southern Historical Collection is the James Gwyn Papers, included in this edition.

Reel 5

Introductory Materials

0001 Introductory Materials. 26 frames.

Series 1. Family Correspondence, 1790–1890 and Undated

0027	Description of Series 1. 1 frame.
0028	Folder 1, 1790–1819. 35 frames.
0063	Folder 2, 1820–1829. 47 frames.
0110	Folder 3, 1830–1831. 40 frames.
0150	Folder 4, 1832–1833. 45 frames.
0195	Folder 5, 1834–1836. 43 frames.
0238	Folder 6, 1837–1839. 23 frames.
0261	Folder 7, 1840–1842. 45 frames.
0306	Folder 8, 1843–1849. 26 frames.

0332	Folder 9, 1850–1853. 47 frames.
0379	Folder 10, 1854–1855. 63 frames.
0442	Folder 11, 1856–1859. 59 frames.
0501	Folder 12, 1860–1869. 50 frames.
0551	Folder 13, 1870–1890. 32 frames.
0583	Folder 14, Undated. 18 frames.

Series 2. Business Materials, 1752–1907 and Undated

Subseries 2.1. Loose Papers, 1752–1907 and Undated

Subseries 2.1.1: 1752–1812 and Undated

0601	Description of Subseries 2.1.1. 1 frame.
0602	Folder 15, 1752–1778. 37 frames.
0639	Folder 16, January–July 1779. 23 frames.
0662	Folder 17, August–December 1779. 26 frames.
0688	Folder 18, January–April 1780. 29 frames.
0717	Folder 19, May–December 1780. 33 frames.
0750	Folder 20, 1781. 7 frames.
0757	Folder 21, 1782–1783. 32 frames.
0789	Folder 22, 1784–1785. 34 frames.
0823	Folder 23, 1786–1790. 37 frames.
0860	Folder 24, 1791–1794. 45 frames.
0905	Folder 25, 1795–1796. 29 frames.
0934	Folder 26, 1797. 14 frames.
0948	Folder 27, January–September 1798. 23 frames.
0971	Folder 28a, October–December 1798. 18 frames.
0989	Folder 28b, 1799. 20 frames.

Reel 6

Hamilton Brown Papers cont.

Series 2. Business Materials, 1752–1907 and Undated cont.

Subseries 2.1. Loose Papers, 1752–1907 and Undated cont.

Subseries 2.1.1: 1752–1812 and Undated cont.

0001	Folder 29, 1800–1801. 35 frames.
0036	Folder 30, 1802–1803. 34 frames.
0070	Folder 31, 1804–1806. 46 frames.
0116	Folder 32, 1807–1808. 46 frames.
0162	Folder 33, 1809. 28 frames.
0190	Folder 34, 1810. 21 frames.
0211	Folder 35, 1811–1812. 29 frames.
0240	Folder 36, Undated, ca. 1752–1812. 48 frames.

Subseries 2.1.2: 1813–1870 and Undated

0288	Description of Subseries 2.1.2. 2 frames.
0290	Folder 37, 1813–1814. 32 frames.
0322	Folder 38, 1815. 17 frames.
0339	Folder 39, 1816. 14 frames.
0353	Folder 40, 1817. 37 frames.
0390	Folder 41, 1818. 34 frames.
0424	Folder 42, 1819. 27 frames.
0451	Folder 43, 1820. 43 frames.
0494	Folder 44, 1821–1822. 44 frames.

Subseries 2.1.2: 1813–1870 and Undated cont.

0538 Folder 45, 1823. 41 frames.
0579 Folder 46, 1824–1825. 49 frames.
0628 Folder 47, 1826–1827. 18 frames.
0646 Folder 48, 1828. 17 frames.
0663 Folder 49, 1829. 21 frames.
0684 Folder 50, January–August 1830. 21 frames.
0705 Folder 51, September–December 1830. 17 frames.
0722 Folder 52, 1831. 22 frames.
0744 Folder 53, 1832. 48 frames.
0792 Folder 54, January–July 1833. 34 frames.
0816 Folder 55, August–December 1833. 18 frames.
0834 Folder 56, 1834. 32 frames.
0866 Folder 57, 1835. 20 frames.
0886 Folder 58, 1836. 27 frames.
0913 Folder 59, 1837. 22 frames.
0935 Folder 60, 1838–1839. 35 frames.
0970 Folder 61, 1840. 16 frames.
0986 Folder 62, 1841. 25 frames.

Reel 7

Hamilton Brown Papers cont.

Series 2. Business Materials, 1752–1907 and Undated cont.

Subseries 2.1. Loose Papers, 1752–1907 and Undated cont.

Subseries 2.1.2: 1813–1870 and Undated cont.

0001 Folder 63, 1842. 19 frames.
0020 Folder 64, 1843–1844. 33 frames.
0053 Folder 65, 1845. 40 frames.
0093 Folder 66, 1846. 30 frames.
0123 Folder 67, 1847–1848. 36 frames.
0159 Folder 68, 1849. 35 frames.
0194 Folder 69, 1850–1852. 33 frames.
0227 Folder 70, 1853. 25 frames.
0252 Folder 71, 1854. 17 frames.
0269 Folder 72, 1855. 10 frames.
0279 Folder 73, 1856–1857. 20 frames.
0299 Folder 74, 1858–1859. 32 frames.
0331 Folder 75, 1860–1862. 68 frames.
0399 Folder 76, 1863–1865. 52 frames.
0451 Folder 77, 1866. 33 frames.
0484 Folder 78, 1867–1868. 65 frames.
0549 Folder 79, 1869–1870. 39 frames.
0588 Folder 80, Undated, ca. 1813–1870. 62 frames.

Subseries 2.2. Volumes, 1785–1873

0650 Description of Subseries 2.2. 2 frames.
0652 Folder 87, Volume 1, 1785–1802. 8 frames.
0660 Folder 88, Volume 2, 1799. 7 frames.
0667 Folder 89, Volume 3, 1812–1817. 17 frames.
0684 Folder 90, Volume 4, 1812–1867. 35 frames.
0719 Folder 91, Volume 5, 1819. 10 frames.
0729 Folder 92, Volume 6, 1820–1824. 7 frames.

0736	Folder 93, Volume 7, 1821–1856. 45 frames.
0781	Folder 94, Volume 8, 1843 and 1851–1853. 26 frames.
0807	Folder 95, Volume 9, 1847–1854. 61 frames.
0868	Folder 96, Volume 10, 1852–1853. 19 frames.
0887	Folder 97, Volume 11, 1853–1860. 15 frames.
0902	Folder 98, Volume 12, 1854. 21 frames.
0923	Folder 99, Volume 13, 1860–1865. 30 frames.
0953	Folder 100, Volume 14, 1861 and 1872–1873. 17 frames.
0970	Folder 101, Volume 15, 1865–1866. 19 frames.
0989	Folder 102, Volume 16, 1869. 8 frames.
0997	Folder 103, Volume 17, 1869–1871. 69 frames.

Reel 8

Hamilton Brown Papers cont.

Series 2. Business Materials, 1752–1907 and Undated cont.

Subseries 2.2. Volumes, 1785–1873 cont.

0001	Folder 104, Volume 18, 1871. 22 frames.
0023	Folder 105, Volume 19, 1871–1873. 23 frames.

Series 3. Other Materials, 1822–1917 and Undated

Subseries 3.1. Loose Papers, 1858–ca. 1917 and Undated

0046	Description of Subseries 3.1. 1 frame.
0047	Folder 106, 1858–ca. 1917 and Undated. 66 frames.

Subseries 3.2. Volumes, 1822–1861

0113	Description of Subseries 3.2. 1 frame.
0114	Folder 107, Volume 20, 1822 and 1840. 56 frames.
0170	Folder 108, Volume 21, 1835–1837, 1850, and 1855. 49 frames.
0219	Folder 109, Volume 22, 1855–1859. 39 frames.
0258	Folder 110, Volume 23, 1857–1858 and 1861. 25 frames.

Omissions

0283	List of Omissions from the Hamilton Brown Papers. 1 frame.
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James Gwyn Papers, 1653–1887, Wilkes County, North Carolina; also Mississippi

Description of the Collection

This collection consists of correspondence, property papers, and other papers of descendants and relatives of descendants of James Gwyn I (1768–1850).

A large part of the correspondence consists of family and social letters among members of the Gwyn, Lenoir, Hickerson, and related families. Financial and legal papers include deeds, tax receipts, wills, bills and receipts, contracts, estate settlements, and other items. The few twentieth century letters are family and social letters to Mary and Laura Gwyn and to Mrs. James (Annie Weaver) Hickerson.

The earliest items, dated 1653 and 1661, are typed copies. There are a number of typescripts and photocopies among the manuscripts.

The collection is arranged as follows: Series 1. Loose Papers, 1653–1860; Series 2. Loose Papers, 1861–1946 and Undated [not included]; and Series 3. Volumes—Subseries 3.1. Account Books [not included], Subseries 3.2. Diaries, and Subseries 3.3. Miscellaneous.

Biographical Note

James Gwyn I (1768–1850) married Amelia Lenoir (1765–1848). Their son, James Gwyn II (1812–1888), was a planter, clerk of court, and merchant of Wilkes County, North Carolina. He married Mary Ann Lenoir (1819–1899) in 1839, and, in 1852, they moved to Green Hill Plantation near Ronda in Wilkes County.

Amelia Gwyn, daughter of James Gwyn I, married Major Lytle Hickerson (1793–1884), a Wilkes County merchant, and lived at Roundabout. Hickerson and his brother-in-law, James Gwyn II, were business partners until about 1848, when Gwyn left the business to take charge of the plantation at Green Hill and look after his aging parents.

The fourteen Hickerson children included Dr. James Hickerson (1832–1918), who was the father of Thomas Felix Hickerson, the donor of these papers.

Series 1. Loose Papers, 1653–1860

Early papers in this series, 1653–1834, consist mostly of land grants; surveys; court summonses; reports of tax fees, fines, and forfeitures; and other financial and legal items chiefly pertaining to Hugh Gwyn, William Lenoir, and James Gwyn I. Included are typed transcriptions of Virginia court records dated 1653, 1661, and 1748. Some of the papers from the 1820s are of Walter R. Lenoir as clerk of the Superior Court for Wilkes County. Later papers, 1834–1860, consist mostly of correspondence of James Gwyn II, his wife Mary Ann Lenoir Gwyn, and his brother-in-law Major Lytle Hickerson.

Letters to Mary Ann Lenoir include many from James Gwyn, both before and after their marriage in 1839; from her cousin John Jones, a student at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, 1836; and from several of her school friends. Letters to James Gwyn include several from his friend Roland Jones and from M. S. Stokes, who was in the U.S. Navy and wrote describing visits to Brazil and St. Petersburg, Russia, 1837, including a visit to his ship by Czar Nicholas I (1796–1855); letters containing references to various schools, including Emory and Henry College in Virginia and Salem Academy and the Bingham School in North Carolina; and many letters, beginning in 1835, concerning North Carolina politics.

Other items include scattered accounts of the merchant firm of Gwyn and Hickerson, 1843–1856; bills of sale for slaves, 1844–1846; statements, 1846, of taxes, fees, and fines received by James Gwyn as clerk of the Superior Court for Wilkes County; a handwritten newspaper “The Nation State,” Wilkesboro,

North Carolina, 1856; accounts, 1859, pertaining to James Gwyn's activities as trustee for Philip Dowell; and other financial and legal items.

Series 3. Volumes, 1844–1904

This series consists of nine volumes, including account books, diaries, and a miscellaneous volume.

Subseries 3.2. Diaries, 1850–1878 This subseries includes five volumes and typed transcriptions.

Volume 4: 20 July 1850–31 August 1851, 284 pp. Diary of Hugh A. Gwyn, Wilkes County, North Carolina, kept while he was a student at Emory and Henry College and on vacation at home. The diary has rather full notes kept almost daily, dealing with college life, religious affairs, and other activities of a young man. Typed transcription of Volume 4, 205 pp.

Volume 5: March–June 1852, 31 pp. (typed transcription; location of original unknown.) Diary of Hugh A. Gwyn while he was teaching at Holly Springs, Mississippi, and looking forward to his marriage to Sallie Dickenson, which took place at Berlin, Tennessee, on 9 June. The diary contains details of Gwyn's daily life, including many quoted conversations.

Volume 6: 1852¹–1877, 274 pp. Section 1: "Remarkable events and other memorandums," a diary kept intermittently by James Gwyn in Wilkes County, North Carolina, recording personal and farm activity, 20 April 1852–27 February 1877. Section 2 (in the back of the volume, with the book reversed): James Gwyn's account book, 1 January 1852–2 March 1877; personal and plantation accounts, expenses, etc.

Volume 7: 9 April 1877–29 December 1884, 185 pp. Diary of James Gwyn continued from Volume 6 above. The first entry reviews the events of March 1877, when Gwyn noted that he did not keep his diary. Entries are frequent, but irregular, as in Volume 6. Typed transcription of Volume 7, 98 pp.

Volume 8: 1877–1878, 29 pp. Fragments of a "Sunday" diary, containing notes on religious and historical reading, commentary on sermons heard, and mention of Gwyn family members, especially Walter B. Gwyn (1853–1911). It may have been written by one of Walter's sisters at Green Hill or by a friend of the family.

Subseries 3.3. Miscellaneous, 1856–1887 This subseries consists of one volume.

Volume 9: 1856–1887. Section 1, 33 pp.: Stock register kept by James Gwyn, April 1856–1867, 1886–1887. Also included are newspaper clippings giving a chronology of military events of the Civil War, 1860–1861 and 1864. Section 2, 18 pp.: "Recipes and useful memoranda," cures for humans and animals, directions for making candles, wine, waterproofing, harness grease, and many other preparations for home and farm.

Omissions

A list of omissions from the James Gwyn Papers is provided on reel 9, frame 1009. Omissions include Series 2. Loose Papers, 1861–1946 and Subseries 3.1. Volumes—Account Books, 1844–1904.

N.B. Related collections among the holdings of the Southern Historical Collection include the Thomas Felix Hickerson Papers and the Lenoir Family Papers. Another related collection is the Hamilton Brown Papers, which precedes this collection in the present edition.

Reel 8 cont.

Introductory Materials

0284 Introductory Materials. 12 frames.

Series 1. Loose Papers, 1653–1860

0296 Description of Series 1. 1 frame.
0297 Folder 1, 1653–1822. 64 frames.
0361 Folder 2, 1823–1834. 111 frames.
0472 Folder 3, 1835–1836. 116 frames.
0588 Folder 4, 1837–1838. 120 frames.
0708 Folder 5, 1839. 93 frames.
0801 Folder 6, 1840–1842. 79 frames.
0880 Folder 7, 1843–1845. 82 frames.
0962 Folder 8, 1846–1849. 133 frames.
1095 Folder 9, 1850–1852. 95 frames.

Reel 9

James Gwyn Papers cont.

Series 1. Loose Papers, 1653–1860 cont.

0001 Folder 10a, 1853–1857. 123 frames.
0124 Folder 10b, 1858–1860. 84 frames.

Series 3. Volumes, 1844–1904

Subseries 3.2. Diaries, 1850–1878

0208 Description of Subseries 3.2. 1 frame.
0209 Folder 30, Volume 4, 20 July 1850–31 August 1851. 152 frames.
0361 Folder 31, Typed transcription of Volume 4. 207 frames.
0568 Folder 32, Volume 5, March–June 1852. 32 frames.
0600 Folder 33, Volume 6, 1852–1877. 142 frames.
0742 Folder 34, Volume 7, 9 April 1877–29 December 1884. 97 frames.
0839 Folder 35, Typed transcription of Volume 7. 100 frames.
0939 Folder 36, Volume 8, 1877–1878. 37 frames.

Subseries 3.3. Miscellaneous, 1856–1887

0976 Description of Subseries 3.3. 1 frame.
0977 Folder 37, Volume 9, 1856–1887. 32 frames.

Omissions

1009

List of Omissions from the James Gwyn Papers. 1 frame.

Thomas George Walton Papers, 1779–1860 Burke County, North Carolina

Description of the Collection

This collection includes extensive family correspondence, 1830s to 1890s, deeds, indentures, and other papers of Thomas George Walton, his wife Eliza Murphy Walton, and other members of the Walton and Murphy families. Also included are correspondence between Thomas George Walton and Eliza Murphy Walton while he was serving with the Confederate army in Virginia and Tennessee; earlier land grants, deeds, and family letters; postwar correspondence of Walton, concerning law and politics; and a typed copy of his historical sketch of Burke County, North Carolina, containing biographies of early pioneers.

The collection is arranged as follows: Series 1. Murphy Family and Thomas George Walton, 1779–1860 and Series 2. Walton Family, 1861–1897 and Undated [not included].

Biographical Note

Thomas George Walton (1815–1905) was the son of Thomas Walton, a Morganton, North Carolina, merchant. He married Eliza Murphy (1820–1886), daughter of John Hugh Murphy and Margaret Avery Murphy of Willow Hill Plantation, Burke County, North Carolina. For several years, he also served as the guardian of his wife's younger siblings, the grandchildren of Captain James Murphy.

Thomas George Walton was appointed president of the board of directors of the Morganton Branch of the Bank of North Carolina in 1859. During the Civil War, he served in the Confederate army in Virginia and Tennessee. After the war, he was appointed vice president of the North Carolina Agricultural Society in 1871, director for the Eastern Division of the Western North Carolina Rail Road in 1873, and trustee of the State Hospital for the Insane in 1897.

Lucy Walton, daughter of Thomas George and Eliza Murphy Walton, married the Reverend Neilson Falls.

Series 1. Murphy Family and Thomas George Walton, 1779–1860

This series includes deeds, indentures, and family letters of Thomas George Walton of Morganton, North Carolina; his wife Eliza Murphy Walton; and other members of the Murphy and Walton families. Early papers, 1779–1833, consist of deeds, records of land surveyed, land grants from the state of North Carolina, and other papers concerning property in Burke County. Most of these papers pertain to Captain James Murphy, grandfather of Eliza Murphy Walton.

Letters consist of those written to Eliza Murphy while a student in Pittsboro, North Carolina, mostly from her mother, Margaret S. Collett, and stepfather, John Collett; correspondence between Eliza Murphy and her sister Laretta, who married Alexander F. Gaston; letters, 1843–1847, from John H. Murphy at the University of North Carolina; correspondence among Eliza Murphy Walton, Thomas George Walton, and his sister Harriet, mostly concerning family news, the health of family members, and local events; and a few letters about state politics, 1859, to Thomas George Walton from Tod R. Caldwell, then serving in the state legislature.

Omissions

A list of omissions from the Thomas George Walton Papers is provided on reel 10, frame 0475, and consists of Series 2. Walton Family, 1861–1897 and Undated.

N.B. Related collections among the holdings of the Southern Historical Collection include the Eliza M. Walton Papers and the John M. Walton Diary.

Reel 9 cont.

Introductory Materials

1010 Introductory Materials. 9 frames.

Series 1. Murphy Family and Thomas George Walton, 1779–1860

1019 Description of Series 1. 1 frame.
 1020 Folder 1, 1779–1797. 35 frames.
 1055 Folder 2, 1798–1805. 35 frames.
 1090 Folder 3, 1806–1814. 26 frames.
 1116 Folder 4, 1815–1818. 46 frames.

Reel 10

Thomas George Walton Papers cont.

Series 1. Murphy Family and Thomas George Walton, 1779–1860 cont.

0001 Folder 5, 1820–1824. 55 frames.
 0056 Folder 6, 1825–1833. 49 frames.
 0105 Folder 7, 1834–1835. 72 frames.
 0177 Folder 8a, 1836–1840. 62 frames.
 0239 Folder 8b, 1841–1843. 50 frames.
 0289 Folder 9, 1844–1847. 57 frames.
 0346 Folder 10, 1848–1853. 60 frames.
 0406 Folder 11, 1854–1858. 38 frames.
 0444 Folder 12, 1859–1860. 31 frames.

Omissions

0475 List of Omissions from the Thomas George Walton Papers. 1 frame.

***Silas McDowell Papers, 1827–1961,
Rutherford and Macon Counties, North Carolina***

Description of the Collection

This collection consists chiefly of personal correspondence and published and unpublished writings, 1828–1895, of Silas McDowell, with some family papers and correspondence.

Series 1 consists chiefly of correspondence of McDowell, primarily with his friends and scientific contemporaries. Many of the letters were transcribed by Gary S. Dunbar of the Department of Geography at the University of California at Los Angeles in the course of his study of McDowell; these transcriptions are filed after the originals to which they correspond.

Series 2 consists chiefly of published and unpublished writings of Silas McDowell, 1827 to the late nineteenth century.

The collection is arranged as follows: Series 1. Correspondence of Silas McDowell; Series 2. Writings by and about Silas McDowell; and Series 3. Gary S. Dunbar's Research Notes on Silas McDowell [not included].

Biographical Note

Silas McDowell (1795–1879) was a tailor, farmer, writer, and scientific observer of Franklin, North Carolina. He was born in York District, South Carolina, in 1795 but was raised by his maternal grandfather in Rutherford County, North Carolina. From 1816 to 1846, McDowell worked as a tailor, first in Morganton and later in Macon County, North Carolina, where he also served as clerk of the superior court for nearly sixteen years. On his farm near Franklin, he raised and sold apples, fruit tree grafts, and rhododendrons. In addition, he served as a guide to John Lyon, Moses Ashley Curtis, and several other botanists touring and collecting specimens in western North Carolina.

McDowell was largely a self-taught scientist. He wrote extensively on a wide variety of scientific and literary subjects, including botany, horticulture, mineralogy, geology, zoology, and local and state history. He was particularly interested in the phenomenon of "thermal belts" in western North Carolina.

McDowell died on his farm near Franklin in July 1879.

Series 1. Correspondence of Silas McDowell, 1828–1895 and Undated

This series consists chiefly of personal correspondence, 1828–1895, of Silas McDowell with his friends and contemporaries in the scientific fields. The letters concern a variety of McDowell's scientific and literary interests, including botany, horticulture, mineralogy, geology, zoology, and the history of western North Carolina. Correspondents include Moses Ashley Curtis, Thomas Clingman, Lyman Copeland Draper, Asa Gray, Elisha Mitchell, David Lowry Swain, Jarvis Van Buren, and Joseph Wilcox. Interfiled within the series are Gary S. Dunbar's typewritten transcriptions of many of the letters.

Series 2. Writings by and about Silas McDowell, 1827–1961 and Undated

This series consists chiefly of published and unpublished writings of Silas McDowell, 1827 to the late nineteenth century, including historical and autobiographical sketches, scientific articles, romances, and poems. Several letters to newspaper and magazine editors are also included in this series. McDowell's interests ranged widely on such subjects as botany, horticulture, mineralogy, geology, zoology, and the history of western North Carolina. He wrote extensively on the phenomenon of "thermal belts" or "no frost zones" in western North Carolina. Included are copies of his manuscripts of "Above the Clouds," "Repentant Magdalene," "A Controversy with Woman," "A Spectre Cavalry Fight," and numerous others. Many manuscripts are undated. McDowell sometimes signed his articles "The Sage of Cullasaja" or simply "Cullasaja," a town and river in Macon County, North Carolina. Interfiled within this series are Gary S. Dunbar's typewritten transcriptions of some of the manuscripts. Also included are newspaper clippings about Silas McDowell and his contemporaries in the fields of botany, zoology, and geology.

Omissions

A list of omissions from the Silas McDowell Papers is provided on reel 10, frame 1108 and consists of Series 3. Gary S. Dunbar's Research Notes on Silas McDowell, 1833–1877 and 1959–1968.

Reel 10 cont.

Introductory Materials

0476 Introductory Materials. 11 frames.

Series 1. Correspondence of Silas McDowell, 1828–1895 and Undated

0487 Description of Series 1. 1 frame.
0488 Folder 1, 1828–1845. 49 frames.
0537 Folder 2, 1849–1856. 33 frames.
0570 Folder 3, 1858–1860. 38 frames.
0608 Folder 4, 1864–1870. 30 frames.
0638 Folder 5, 1871–1873. 55 frames.
0693 Folder 6, 1874–1876. 32 frames.
0725 Folder 7, 1877–1879. 25 frames.
0750 Folder 8, 1885–1895 and Undated. 29 frames.

Series 2. Writings by and about Silas McDowell, 1827–1961 and Undated

0779 Description of Series 2. 1 frame.
0780 Folder 9, 1827–1861. 54 frames.
0834 Frame 10, 1873–1879. 102 frames.
0936 Frame 11, Undated. 87 frames.
1023 Frame 12, Undated. 72 frames.
1095 Frame 13, Clippings. 13 frames.

Omissions

1108 List of Omissions from the Silas McDowell Papers. 1 frame.

