Porcher-Dinnies family papers, 1820-1957
SCHS 1264.00
Containers 28/539 - 540A

Creator: Porcher family.

Description: ca. 1 linear ft.

Biographical/Historical Note: Residents of Darlington County and Mars Bluff, S.C.

Scope and Content: Correspondence, slave census reports, Confederate tax forms, tax receipts, sharecropper contracts (1882-1884), and other items of or relating to the Porcher family, including Dr. Edward Porcher (1814-1874); his father, Isaac Porcher (1777-1849); wife, Elizabeth Ashby (Shackelford) Porcher (d. 1904); daughters, Julie Elizabeth (Porcher) Ashby (1837-1873), Mary Belle Stevens (Porcher) Gregg (1841-1863), and Claude Cherigny (Porcher) Gregg (1848-1919); son-in-law, Thomas Gregg (fl. 1861-1865); and Laura Dutch Townsend; together with letters of Anne Peyre Dinnies (1805-1886) to her sister, Elizabeth Porcher, concerning her husband, Clifford Dinnies, life in St. Louis, Mo., and New Orleans, La., and family matters. Other persons represented include Caroline Gilman, Hiram Powers, and Oscar Wilde. Topics include social life, health cures at springs in North Carolina and Virginia, Porcher plantations, Confederate troops on Edisto Island (1861), refugee life in St. Matthews (1862), and the education of Porcher's daughters at South Carolina Female Collegiate Institute, near Columbia, S.C.

Preferred Citation: Porcher family. Porcher-Dinnies family papers, 1820-1957. (1264.00)
South Carolina Historical Society.


Search terms:
Dinnies, Anne Peyre, 1805-1886.
Dinnies family.
Gregg family.
Porcher family.
African Americans -- Census.
College students -- South Carolina.
Health resorts -- North Carolina.
Health resorts -- Virginia.
Plantations -- South Carolina.
Refugees -- South Carolina.
Slaves -- United States.
Springs -- North Carolina.
Springs -- Virginia.
Taxation -- Confederate States of America.
Universities and colleges -- South Carolina -- Colombia.
Women -- Education -- South Carolina.
Women college students -- South Carolina.
Women's colleges -- South Carolina.
Darlington County (S.C.)
Edisto Island (S.C.)
Louisiana -- History -- 19th century.
Louisiana -- Social life and customs.
Mars Bluff (S.C.) -- History.
Mars Bluff (S.C.) -- Social life and customs.
Missouri -- History -- 19th century.
Missouri -- Social life and customs.
New Orleans (La.) -- History.
New Orleans (La.) -- Social life and customs.
Saint Louis (Mo.) -- History.
Saint Louis (Mo.) -- Social life and customs.
Saint Matthews (S.C.) -- History.
South Carolina -- History -- 19th-20th centuries.
South Carolina -- History -- Civil War, 1861-1865.
South Carolina -- Social life and customs.
United States -- History -- Civil War, 1861-1865.
Soldiers -- Confederate States of America.
Tenant farmers -- South Carolina.

Container listing:

28/539/1 Porcher family
Letters, 1820-1829. 141 letters
SC Lowcountry family. Mostly correspondence of Isaac Porcher and his two daughters Julia
Elizabeth Porcher and Catherine Richebourg Porcher regarding fever in Charleston & Pineville
(1827-1828), the death of Izaac’s wife Mary Stevens Porcher (1824), a description of actor
Edmund Kean in Charleston (1824) and a description of a Moravian Settlement in Salem, NC
(1829).

28/539/2-3 Porcher, Elizabeth A. Shackleford, d. 1904
Letters, 1830-1844. Approx 50 items.
Wife of Dr. Edward Porcher of Mars Bluff, Darlington District. Mostly letters to Elizabeth A.
Shackleford Porcher and her husband from family members. Including letters from her sister,
Anna Peyre Dinnies regarding married life (1831-1844) to Clifford Dinnies in St. Louis with
mentions of fashion, Carolina Gilman’s Rose Bud Magazine (1832) with a poem regarding a
black nurse, comments on books and writers, including John Heyward Payne (1835) and
Fredrika Bremer (1843). Also including her comments (1841) on the roles of housewives and merchants, and on her conversion (1838) to Catholicism. With letters of Isaac Porcher to son Edward Porcher regarding slaves sold (1836, 1842); Including letter (1842) of Elizabeth A. Shackleford Porcher’s brother in law W.W. Harlee and one from C.E. Gasden (1844) regarding minister and church in Mars Bluff. With a tailor’s bill (1844).

28/539/4-6  Porcher, Elizabeth A. Shackelford, d. 1904
Correspondence, 1845-1854. Approx 100 items
Wife of Dr. Edward Porcher of Mars Bluff, Darlington District. Mostly letters to Elizabeth A. Shackelford Porcher from her sister Anna Peyre Dennies regarding her removal (1846) to New Orleans, LA her practice of the Catholic religion, social life, gardening, fashion & domestic decoration, death of her daughter and possibly of adoption (1854); with mentions (1849) of sculptor Hiram Powers (his “Greek Slave”) and Will Lorshay. With letters of Isaac Porcher regarding cotton crops in Pinopolis (1847), Augustine Porcher regarding courtship (1847) and selling slave (1852), and Martha Shackelford Harlee regarding death of child (1847). With mentions of tilting tournaments and visits (1851) to Mexico and Ophir plantations. With frequent references to Porcher family health and medicinal matters and deaths of various family members. With dentist’s bill (1848-1850) and physician correspondence of Dr. Edward Porcher.

28/539/7  Porcher, Elizabeth A. Shackelford, d. 1904
Correspondence, 1855-1854. 35 items.
Wife of Dr. Edward Porcher of Mars Bluff, Darlington District. Mostly letters to Elizabeth A. Shackelford Porcher and her husband; with many from her sister Anne Peyre Dinnies regarding social life in New Orleans; and from her daughters, Julia & Mary (Belle) Porcher at SC Female Collegiate Institution, Barhamville; with letters from its principal, Dr. Elias Marks. Including physician correspondence of Dr. Edward Porcher and letters to him from H.L. Stevens regarding planting cotton (1857-1858).

28/539/8-9  Porcher Family
Receipts, 1850-1859. Approx 100 items
SC Lowcountry family. Receipts for payments to Miss Murdin’s School (1850), to SC Female Collegiate Institute at Barhamville, SC (with report cards, 1854-1857), Florence Steam Mill (1858). Charleston Medical Journal & Review (1851), a blacksmith, Kerrison & Co., and numbers of other Charleston & SC mercantile firms for school supplies, household goods, dig goods, clothing, hardware, books, lumber, building supplies, etc. With physician correspondence and bills of Dr. Edward Porcher.

28/539/10  Porcher, Elizabeth A. Shackelford, d. 1904
Correspondence, 1860-1865. Approx 75 letters
Wife of Dr. Edward Porcher. Letters to Elizabeth A. Shackelford Porcher and her husband from her daughter Mary (Belle) Gregg regarding her travels in Beaufort (1861), NC and this Springs in VA trying to regain her health & her use of morphine (1861); from Elizabeth A. Shackelford Porcher’s daughter Julia Ashby; from Elizabeth A. Shackelford Porcher’s sister Anna Peyre Dinnies regarding war life in New Orleans with Confederate recipes; from Laura (“Dutch”) Townsend regarding Confederate troops on Edisto Island 91861) and refugee life in St. Matthews (1862) from Walter Gregg to brother Thomas regarding Battle of Manassas, July 1861
with data regarding Shackelford family; and one letter (1864) of George Trenholm. With references to family life, house servants and comet (1861).

21/539/11 Porcher family Papers, 1860-1865. Approx 60 items
Darlington District, Mars Bluff and Charleston family. Receipts for ice (1860), medical bills, payments to a school run by Mrs. Sosnowski, confederate tax receipts and estimates for confederate tax to be paid for in percentage of agricultural crops. Including a list of slaves owned by Dr. Edward Porcher (1863) and a census, arranged by family groups of slaves owned by W.H. Wingate, 1860.

21/539/12-14 Porcher, Elizabeth A. Shackelford, d. 1904 Correspondence, 1866-1876. Approx 130 items
Wife of Dr. Edward Porcher of Mars Bluff, Darlington District, SC. Mostly letters to Elizabeth A. Shackelford Porcher from her sister Anna Peyre Dinnies regarding contemporary writers, books, artists, social life in New Orleans and misc. regarding genealogy of Peyre, Gaillard, and Shackelford families. With letters of Thomas Ashby (1868), receipts and tax forms (1866-1867) of Dr. Edward Porcher with misc. regarding his estate (1874-1876), letters (1867) of G.A. Trenholm, Jr. of T.L. Ogier (1870) in health matters, letters of Julia Porcher Ashby and other members of Porcher family regarding family deaths, religions, health & domestic matters, etc. With cotton receipts (1870-1874).

21/540/1-5 Porcher, Elizabeth A. Shackelford, d. 1904 Correspondence, 1877-1957. Approx 225 items
Widow of Dr. Edward Porcher of Mars Bluff, Darlington County. Elizabeth A. Shackelford Porcher from her sister Anna Peyre Dinnies in New Orleans regarding her practice of Catholicism, her reading and commentary on contemporary writers & social life. With frequent references to the New Orleans Grunewald family and the Shackelford family. With letter (1880) from ER White regarding cutting tombstone, sharecropper cotton contracts (1882-1884) between Elizabeth A. Shackelford Porcher and John Saunders and Henry C. Davis. Letter include mentions of Laura ("Dutch") Townsend and many to and from Elizabeth A. Shackelford Porcher’s daughter, Claude Porcher Gregg and her descendents on the Gregg family. Including letters of Anne Guerry to Elizabeth A. Shackelford Porcher discussing the topics of growing old and an 1884 description of an unidentified flying object.

21/540/6-10 Porcher family Correspondence, n.d. (ca. 1820-ca. 1900) Approx 250 items
Charleston & Mars Bluff, Darlington District family. Undated & fragmented correspondence of various Porcher family members, including Isaac Porcher, Dr. Edward Porcher, Peter Porcher, Julia Porcher [Ashby], Elizabeth A. Shackelford Porcher and her sister, Anna Peyre Dinnies, whose letters detail social life in New Orleans including a mention of Oscar Wilde’s visit. Topics include family, health, and domestic matters.

28/540A/1-2 Porcher family Genealogical data, ca. 1690-ca. 1930. Approx 100 items
SC Lowcountry family. Abstracts of bible records, trial charts tributes, obituaries, clippings, locks of hair, and miscellaneous items regarding Porcher and related Shackleford, Gregg, Erwin, Harlee, and other families.

28/540A/3-4  Dinnies, Anne Peyre, 1805-1886

Writings, ca. 1820-1886. Approx 200 pp.

Writer. Copies of occasional writings, essays against dueling, and poetry by Anne Peyre Dinnies. With her copies of works of other writings, as well as miscellaneous writings of her kinfolks, including a case history (ca. 1840s) by Dr. Edward Porcher and a history of Christ Church, Darlington District by Elizabeth A. Porcher.