Pringle family papers, 1745-1897
SCHS 1083.00
Containers

Creator: Pringle family.

Description: 1.75 linear ft.

Biographical/historical note: South Carolina family descended from Robert Pringle (1702-1776), a native of Scotland. His sons included Robert Pringle (1755-1811) and John Julius Pringle (1753-1843). Robert Pringle (1755-1811) was the father of James Reid Pringle (1782-1840), who married Elizabeth Mary McPherson. John Julius Pringle (1753-1843) was the father of William Bull Pringle (1800-1881). William Bull Pringle, a plantation owner of Charleston (S.C.) and Prince George Parish (S.C.) and a South Carolina state Representative, married Mary Motte Alston; among their children were John Julius Pringle (1824-1901) and William Alston Pringle (1822-1895).

Scope and content: Papers consist of correspondence, legal documents, estate records, plantation papers, property and financial records, slave records, and other items. Included are the papers of James Reid Pringle (1782-1840) and William Alston Pringle (1822-1895), and the papers of two members of the related Mitchell family, Thomas Rothmahler Mitchell (1783-1837) and Nelson Mitchell.

Letters (1840-1856) of U.S. Navy midshipman John Julius Pringle (1824-1901) to his parents William Bull Pringle and Mary Motte Alston Pringle, and his brother William Alston Pringle, are written from Norfolk (Va.), Boston (Mass.), Brazil, and Uruguay. Letters discuss navy life, drunken sailors, Montevideo, Rio de Janeiro, the slave trade in Bahia (Brazil) and Portuguese Mozambique, the wreck of the U.S.S. Concord in 1843, and family and personal matters.

Papers of Mary Motte Alston Pringle (1803-1884) include letters to her from her niece Sarah M. Middleton at Crowfield Plantation (S.C.) regarding family matters and the plantations of her husband John Izard Middleton; letters from Jane Pringle at Greenfield Plantation (S.C.) regarding family matters and social life; and letters from Mary Pringle Mitchell and her husband Donald Mitchell at Edgewood Farm (Connecticut), Paris (France), and elsewhere regarding travel and other matters. There are also two school notebooks, one belonging to John McPherson Pringle, containing essays and notes on European and American history.

Preferred Citation: Pringle family. Pringle family papers, 1745-1897. (1083.00) South Carolina Historical Society.
Search terms:
Middleton, John Izard, 1800-1877.
Middleton, Sarah McPherson, d. 1878.
Mitchell, Donald Grant, 1822-1908.
Mitchell, Mary Frances Pringle, 1831-1901.
Pringle, Jane Lynch, 1811-1896.
Pringle, John Julius, 1824-1901.
Pringle, John McPherson, 1811-1837.
Pringle, Mary Motte Alston, 1803-1884.
Mitchell family.
Pringle family.
Concord (Ship)
Midshipmen -- United States -- Correspondence.
Plantations -- South Carolina.
School prose -- South Carolina.
Sailors.
Shipwrecks.
Slave records -- South Carolina.
Slave trade -- Brazil.
Slave trade -- Mozambique.
Montevideo (Uruguay)
Rio de Janeiro (Brazil)
South Carolina -- History.
Estate records.
Financial records.
Legal documents.
Letters (correspondence).
Notebooks.
Property records.

11/322/1-18 Pringle, James R., 1782-1840
Business papers, 1745, 1799-1829. 133 items

11/322-323 Pringle, James R., 1782-1840
Business papers, 1830-1850. Approx 175 items
Charleston planter and Collector of the Customs. Correspondence, receipts, bonds, mortgages, slave lists, and accounts of James R. Pringle. Letters and receipts regarding Charleston Custom House from resigning employers including James B. Campbell (1839), Secretary of the Treasury, Levi Woodbury; and receipt for freight, Madera Wine and the disposal of abandoned goods. Memo book, accounts and letters from overseer J.K. Munnerlyn and others regarding North Santee Plantation, Georgetown Co., and Rest Park Plantation, Beaufort Co.; regarding slaves, sales and blankets, rice and other crops. Receipts from the Union Insurance Co. and a medical bill (1838). Also letters regarding sale of Rest Park (1838). Bond of Charles Fraser (1834), Plantation and estate matters of Susannah and James McPherson. Other correspondents include William Drayton, Washington, regarding invitation for President A. Jackson to visit Charleston, James Hamilton regarding peace and security in Charleston (1831), Winfield Scott, Savannah GA (12/2/1832) regarding potential hostilities from nullifiers and his upcoming visit to Charleston; E. Estes, Armenia regarding plantation matters, slaves, and his possible emigration to Miss; John Gadsden regarding nullification, Joel R. Poinsett regarding financial affairs concerning his marriage; IE Holmes, Washington, regarding politics; and J.B. Lynch, Montgomery Co., Tenn. Regarding plantation and business accounts for rice and cotton and stock of his children after J.B. Lynch’s emigration to TN and some material on nullification, Texas and other political matters. Tributes on James R. Pringle at his death and some estate papers.

11/323/14-21 Mitchell, Thomas R., 1783-1837
Business papers, 1798-1839. Approx 75 items

11/323/22-30 Mitchell, Nelson, d. 1864
Correspondence, 1840-1859. Approx 125 items
Financial papers of Nelson Mitchell include papers regarding Palmetto Loan and Building Association (1858); a charity drive for the South Carolina Asylum for the Insane, Columbia (1859), a fire insurance policy and list of subscribers to the Charleston Clubhouse building fund (1853).

11/324/1-6 Mitchell, Nelson, d. 1864
Correspondence, 1860-1865. Approx 50 items
Charleston lawyer. Correspondence, tax returns (1860-1861), many grocery and other receipts, cotton accounts for Daniel Island plantation, insurance policies, plats and other material of Nelson Mitchell. Letters from John L. Manning, Manchester regarding secession and war; Robert Munro regarding death of a soldier; Thomas Highland Jr., Richmond VA regarding family and legal matters, H.P. Holbrook regarding political situation (1862); James Simons, Manchester, James L. Petigru, Charleston; J. Johnston Pettigrew regarding the war, Aug Augener, Walhalla regarding legal and personal matters; James Tupper, Columbia, regarding sale of slaves E.J. Porter, Kingstree regarding service in the Confederate States of America army for men over 35; Charlotte Mitchell, William H. Trescot regarding legal matters and a judgeship; F.J. Moses, Sumter regarding legal matters and a letter to Jefferson Davis from Thomas L. Bayne regarding arrest and release of Frederick L. Childs who was in charge of some munitions; letters from Northern POW in Charleston jail. Other material regarding legal cases handled by Nelson Mitchell and misc. financial matter. Also estate papers of Nelson Mitchell with letters of Ann E. Mitchell (1864-1865).

11/324/7-12 Mitchell, Nelson, d. 1864
Legal cases, 1844-1860. Approx 50 items
Charleston lawyer. Legal case papers (1844-1859) of Nelson Mitchell includes estate papers (1844-1853) of Peter Walker; Benjamin H. Wilson vs. PJ Maxwell, Georgetown regarding disputed ownership of runaway slaves (1847-1857); Bank of the State of SC vs. the Bank of Charleston (1857-1860) with correspondence of the law firms Petigru & King and Hayne & miles; Francis Whitehead vs. executor of the estate of Joseph Lawton (1858-1860); bonds, printed arguments, lists of slaves regarding executors of Thomas B. Lucas vs. Mary C. Lucas (1859).

11/324/13-20 Mitchell, Nelson d. 1864
Legal case papers, 1860-1864. Approx 100 items
Charleston lawyer. Legal case papers (1860-1864) of Nelson Mitchell regarding sequestration hearings and slave ownership disputes and other matters. Litigation and list of slaves of Arthur Blake, ex-patriot during the Civil War. Also listing of slaves of Frederick Rutledge that joined Northern forces. Sequestration proceedings (1862) of JG Stevens by the Bank of Georgetown; against Elizabeth N. Springs (1862-3) and Mordecai Solomon and Catlin, Leavitt & Co. Also legal papers regarding W. Woodward’s loss of money of the Bank of the State of SC (1862) with James L. Petigru letter; C. Grimball v. George W. Gregor regarding Confederate bond larceny (1862-1863); Graniteville Manufacturing vs. the tax collector (1863); And misc. legal notes and papers.

11/324/21 Mitchell, Nelson, d. 1864
Papers, 1863. 3 items.
Charleston lawyer. Correspondence between Nelson Mitchell and Charleston Bishop Patrick N. Lynch with transcript of related correspondence (1863) regarding marriage of 16 year old Protestant boy, William H. Scarboro, Columbia to a 21 year old Irish Catholic girl. Letters included charges of misconduct by J.J. O’Connell, the priest who married the couple and countercharges of lies by the boy and religious prejudice by Columbians who believed O’Connell acted wrongly in marrying the couple and that the boy had temporarily lost his mind while courting her.

11/324/22-24 Mitchell, Nelson, d. 1864
Transcript and letters, 1853, 1862. 172 pp.
Charleston lawyer. Transcript of CSA Army Court of Inquiry, Charleston (1862) regarding conduct of Alfred M. Rhett in the duel and killing of W.R. Calhoun. Some material regarding Fort Sumter. Nelson Mitchell was the attorney for the friends of WRC. Also drafts and copies of letters (1853) regarding “difficulty” or dispute between Alfred M. Rhett and Isaac M. Dwight over the publication of an offensive article in a Charleston newspaper.

11/325/1-5 Pringle, John J. 1824-1901
Letters, 1840-1856. 22 items
US Naval officer. Letters (1840-1856) of JJP, from Norfolk VA, Brazil, Uruguay and Boston MA to William B., Mary A., and William A. Pringle regarding navy life (1840-1844), drunken sailors Montevideo, Rio de Janiero, the slave trade in Bahia Brazil (9/14/1841) and Portuguese Mozambique, the ship wreck of the USS Concord in 1843 and family and personal matters.

11/325/6-13 Pringle, Mary Alston, 1803-1884
Letters, 1842-1862. Approx 70 items
Wife of William B. Pringle. Letters (1842-1862) to Mary Alston Pringle, Charleston from her niece Sarah M. Middleton, Crowfield Plantation and elsewhere in Georgetown Co., regarding family matters and the plantations of her husband, John Izard Middleton; from Jane Pringle, Greenfield Plantation, Georgetown Co. and Greenville regarding family matter and social life; from Mary P. Mitchell and her husband Donald Mitchell, Edgewood Plantation, Georgetown Co. at sea, in Paris France and elsewhere in Europe regarding the birth of a child, travel and family matters. Other correspondence mostly family members regarding personal and family matters. Two bound volumes, one of John M. Pringle, of school notebooks regarding European and American history.

11/325/14-22 Pringle, W. Alston, 1822-1895
Legal papers, 1854-1897. Approx 150 items
Charleston lawyer. Legal papers of William Alston Pringle including bonds, insurance policies, estate matters, court proceedings, letters, and other material. Included are the estate papers of James Missroon (1856-1870) and James H. Ladson (1872). Letters of J. Motte Alston regarding legal matters. Receipts for freight carried by the Philadelphia & Charleston Steamboat line (1872). Mortgage of John L. Manning to J. Motte Alston (1860). Misc. papers include pardon of J. Welsman (1865) and legal papers.