



**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 neice 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.  
Pringle, W. Alston (William Alston), 1822-1895.  
Pringle, William Bull, 1800-1881.  
Mitchell family.  
Pringle family.  
Concord (Ship)  
United States. Navy -- Sea life.  
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**

Charleston planter and Collector of the Collection. Deeds, leases, receipts, mortgages, bonds; estate, slave, legal, and plantation papers of JRp. Deed (1745) of William Bull land, Prince William Parish. Military commissions (1799, 1801) and resignation (1807) of James R. Pringle. Papers regarding James R. Pringle's admission into the Inner Temple (1804); land and business papers of James R. Pringle, John, James and Susannah McPherson; and William S. Bull. Also receipts, letters and bonds regarding H. Richardson, Park Rest Plantation regarding financial and crop disasters. Slave and land sales. Estate and legal papers of Bull et al vs. Edward Jenkins estate (1818-1828) regarding estate dispute between SC and London, Eng. With correspondence and accounts from Davidson & Simpson. Certificate of appointment of James R. Pringle as Collector of the Customs. Other Customs material including a ship's papers to sail in American waters (1823) signed by James Monroe & John Quincy Adams. Letters from William Drayton,

Washington, Susannah & James McPherson, T. Butler Philadelphia, William E. Heyward, Daniel E. Huger, S. Colleton Graves and others regarding slaves, business, family matters, and other material. Estate accounts (1819-1823) of Elizabeth M. Freeman.

**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, Madiera 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**

Georgetown planter. Letters, titles to land, bond, receipts, estate papers, legal papers, bills of sales for slaves of TRM and family. Correspondents include Thomas R. Mitchell, Benjamin Grier, Charlotte Mitchell, Samuel Wragg, Lewis Rutland, and others regarding disputed estate of Thomas Mitchell (d. 1785), Daniel Island plantation, Georgetown Co; land sales, timber sales, titles for land in Kingston, Georgetown Co. (1798). Also the will of Nanette Mitchell, a plat of land near the mouth of the Black River and other material. Some papers of Nelson Mitchell.

**11/323/22-30 Mitchell, Nelson, d. 1864**

**Correspondence, 1840-1859. Approx 125 items**

Charleston lawyer. Correspondence, cotton accounts, receipts, insurance policies, promissory notes, power of attorney, bonds, sale of slaves, receipts, mortgages, estate and other legal papers. Correspondents include FJ Moses, Sumter; William H. Trescot regarding politics and Nashville Convention (1850); JJP Smith regarding Langdon Cheves, politics and southern rights, Benjamin J. Wilson regarding Georgetown politics, Harriett P. Holbrook (1859, n.d.); John L. Manning, Manchester regarding social life, SC and national politics. Accounts of Nelson Mitchell and Charlotte Mitchell's Daniel Island Plantation, Georgetown Co. for cotton, groceries, plantation supplies, cattle, slave sales and other material. Estate matters of Emma G. Gadsden and will of Charlotte Mitchell. Legal matters regarding slaves and other matters of Leonard Dozier.

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. Grimbball 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.