



**Barnwell Family Papers, 1824-1898**  
**SCHS 1250.00**  
**25/184-186**

**Description:** ca. 1.5 linear ft.

**Creator:** Barnwell family.

**Scope and Content:** Chiefly correspondence of Rev. William H. Barnwell (1806-1863), his wife, Catherine Osborn Barnwell (1809-1886), their son, Rev. Robert Woodward Barnwell (1831-1863), and his wife, Mary Singleton Barnwell (1837-1863); together with examinations, ordination papers, broadside, family photos, and other papers. Topics include Episcopal Church in South Carolina, religious instruction for blacks, temperance, abolitionism and emancipation, South Carolina College (now University of South Carolina), South Carolina and U.S. politics, the Confederate Congress, the War Between the States, Reconstruction, travels to New York, Virginia, Germany, and Europe, and family matters. Other persons represented include Capt. Edward Barnwell (1785-1860), Edward Barnwell (1813-1885), Sen. Robert Woodward Barnwell (1801-1882), Thomas Osborn Barnwell (1815-1879), and Robert Barnwell Rhett (1800-1876).

Collection includes two bound volumes containing typewritten transcripts of Barnwell family correspondence dating from 1708 to the 1880s. Early letters pertain to John Barnwell ("Tuscarora Jack"). Wartime correspondence includes a letter (5 March 1865) from Miss C. Jordan relating her experiences during the burning of Columbia (S.C.). She writes that a soldier told her that "the city will be burned tonight." After being burned out she spent the night "on the Green" and her blanket was stolen from her by a Union soldier. Collection also includes some genealogical information and miscellaneous items.

**General Note:** In part, transcripts (typewritten)

**References:** Described in: South Carolina Historical Magazine 85 (Oct. 1984): 336-337

**Preferred Citation:** Barnwell family. Barnwell family papers, 1824-1898. (1250.00) South Carolina Historical Society.

## Collection inventory:

### Brief container listing:

- 25/184** Correspondence (originals), 1824-1840 (some fragile items)  
**25/185** Correspondence (originals), 1841-1863 (some fragile items)  
**25/186** Correspondence (originals), 1868-ca. 1880  
Miscellaneous items  
Letterbooks (typescripts)  
Vol. 1: 1708-1863  
Vol. 2: 1826-1874

### Detailed Container listing:

- 25/184/1-10 Correspondence, 1824-1840. Approx 100 letters.**  
SC Lowcountry family, Letters to Catherine Osborn Barnwell from father, Captain Edward Barnwell mentioning Sugar mill in Darien, GA (1828) and floods in Augusta GA (1840); from brother, Thomas Osborn Barnwell regarding schooling at West Point and wanting to help impoverished Poles (ca. 1830); from brother Edward Barnwell regarding July 4th celebration, states' rights and economic depression in Charleston (1831); from her husband Rev. William H. Barnwell regarding religion and preaching to slaves (1835); from Mary Welfare, Salem NC, asking for charity and mentioning Calhoun family (1833); from Julia Lowndes, Isabella Means, Mary Moxey, Esther Hutson Barnwell and Elizabeth Barnwell Fuller regarding social, domestic, health and family matters in Beaufort and Charleston. Letters to Rev. William H. Barnwell from C.C. Pinckney regarding St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Pendleton (1832) and from Paul Trapier regarding studying for seminary (1832). With letters of Stephen Elliot. Arranged chronologically.
- 25/185/1-6 Correspondence. 1841-1858. Approx 120 letters.**  
Letters to Catherine Osborn Barnwell from father Edward Barnwell regarding visit to US Senate Chamber, Washington, D.C. mentioning John C. Calhoun & Robert Barnwell Rhett, regarding Peak's Museum, Philadelphia (1841) and Saratoga Springs, NY (1848); from husband Rev. William H. Barnwell, minister St. Peter's Episcopal Church, Charleston, regarding trips (1842, 1844) and Philadelphia, Boston, and To NYC for seminary meetings with references to religious dogma; from Son Rev. Robert Woodward Barnwell regarding childhood visit to Monticello and Natural Bridge, VA (1845, 1851-1852, 1857), describing life there and mentioning President John Tyler (1845); with his letters on student life (1848-1850) at South Carolina College (now University of SC) and regarding the study and travel (1854-1855) in Berlin and other German and European cities. With letters of Ann Barnwell, Elizabeth Fuller

Barnwell and others regarding health, births, marriages, death, family and social life in Charleston and Beaufort.

- 25/185/7-9**     **Barnwell, Robert Woodward, 1831-1863**  
**Correspondence, 1861-1863. Approx 75 letters**  
Episcopal minister and college professor. Letters of R. W. Barnwell (“Robbie”) to his wife, Mary Singleton Barnwell (“Minnie”), with many of her replies, regarding their separation, refugee life, and Barnwell’s work as supplier and minister to Confederate Hospital in Petersburg, VA and his movements elsewhere. Many printed Moral philosophy and evidence of Christianity examination papers from South Carolina College (now USC) used as stationary. With letters of D.H. Trezevant, AC Haskell, Dr. JC Cabell and Barnwell family members regarding the deaths of Barnwell and Mary Singleton Barnwell.
- 25/186/1-3**     **Correspondence and miscellaneous, 1830-c. 1880, n.d.**  
Undated correspondence of various Barnwell family members, including Edward Barnwell, Mary Bower Barnwell, Rev. Robert Woodward Barnwell, and others regarding social and family life in Beaufort and Charleston. Including some family photographs, ordination papers (1856) of Rev. Robert Woodward Barnwell, his SC College report card (ca. 1850), clippings, etc.
- 25/186/4**     **Barnwell, Catherine Osborn, 1835-1920**  
**Barnwell Family Correspondence. 1708-1863. Volume 1**  
Compiler. Typed transcripts (1898) of letters by and about the Barnwell family members, including correspondence (1708-1709) of John Page and John Harleston regarding “Tuscarora” John Barnwell, with correspondence (1832-1838) of Rev. William H. Barnwell regarding religious instruction of negroes, temperance (with a poem regarding Charleston Total Abstinence Society), abolitionism, emancipation, his calling and life as minister at St. Peter’s Episcopal Church, Charleston. With correspondence of his wife, Catherine Osborn Barnwell, freed servant Will Barnwell, and many Barnwell family members and friends regarding social affairs and family life in Columbia, Charleston Beaufort, Laurel Bay and Bay Point Plantations. Including description of Lafayette’s visit (1825) to Beaufort by Esther Hutson Barnwell. Indexed by correspondent.
- 25/186/5**     **Barnwell, Catherine Osborn, 1835-1920**  
**Barnwell Family Correspondence, 1826-1874. Volume 2**  
Compiler. Typed transcripts (ca. 1848) of correspondence of many Barnwell family members, including Rev. William H. Barnwell, Ann Barnwell, Rev. Stephen Elliott, Elizabeth Barnwell Fuller and others. With letters of Sen. Robert Woodward Barnwell regarding service in Washington during nullification (1834) as President (1835-1841) of South

Carolina College, service in Montgomery, AL (1861) at Confederate Constitution Conventions and in Richmond, VA (1862-1865) in the Confederate Congress. With letters regarding civilian life in Civil War, letters of Robert Barnwell Rhett (1833) regarding his religious beliefs, a description (1830) by Esther Hutson Barnwell of Race Week in Charleston; data regarding social and family life (1826-ca.1859) in Charleston, Beaufort, and Columbia. Indexed by correspondent.