



**DeSaussure Family Papers, 1716-1938**  
**SCHS 1022.00**  
**Containers 11/121-125**

**Creator:** DeSaussure Family

**Description:** 1.75 linear ft.

**Biographical/Historical Note:** South Carolina family. Daniel DeSaussure (1736-1798), a merchant of Charleston and Beaufort, S.C., was the father of Henry William DeSaussure (1763-1839), a judge and politician. Henry William DeSaussure's son was Henry Alexander DeSaussure (1788-1865), who was the father of Wilmot Gibbes DeSaussure (1822-1886).

**Scope and Content:** Papers consist of correspondence, genealogical and biographical material, and other items. Included are the papers of Henry William DeSaussure (1763-1839) and Wilmot G. DeSaussure (1822-1886), and a letter (1740) of James Edward Oglethorpe (1696-1785).

Correspondence includes letters (1889-1938) of Henry A. DeSaussure (1851-1903) and other family members concerning family matters and the genealogy of the DeSaussure and related families; and letters (1783-1799) of Daniel DeSaussure (1736-1798), including his correspondence with Edmund Randolph regarding the distribution of federal money to Saint-Domingue (Haiti) refugees, and his correspondence (1770-1799) with relatives in Switzerland concerning family matters, business, DeSaussure genealogy, and politics.

Genealogical materials (1716-1904) include copies of wills, epitaphs, Bible records, obituaries, and other sources pertaining to the history and genealogy of the DeSaussure family and related families, as well as notes on the DeSaussure, D'Antignac, Gaillard, and Gourdin families and other DeSaussure family connections, with related correspondence. Biographical materials include a scrapbook (1868-1904) containing clippings about Peter Gourdin DeSaussure (1857-1904), a scrapbook and biographical sketch about Wilmot G. DeSaussure (1822-1886), biographies and biographical notes concerning Henry W. DeSaussure (1763-1839) and others, and memoirs (1904) of William Gourdin Young (1830-1907) mainly concerning his service in the Palmetto Guard and the surrender of F [subsequent text is missing on catalogue]

Papers (1846-1881) of Louis Daniel DeSaussure consist of military commissions; military orders and reports (1863-1865); correspondence, mainly with Jefferson Davis concerning Davis's book (1881) about the Confederate government; and photocopies of handbills (1860) advertising slave sales in Charleston (S.C.).

Other items include sermons, speeches, and other writings, as well as bonds, receipts, and accounts.

**Preferred Citation:** DeSaussure family. DeSaussure family papers, 1716-1938. (1022.00)

**Search terms:**

DeSaussure, Daniel, 1736-1798.

DeSaussure, Henry Alexander, 1851-1903.  
 De Saussure, Henry William, 1763-1839.  
 DeSaussure, Louis Daniel, 1824-1888.  
 DeSaussure, Peter Gourdin, 1857-1904.  
 Davis, Jefferson, 1808-1889.  
 Young, William Gourdin, 1830-1907.  
 D'Antignac family.  
 DeSaussure family.  
 Gaillard family.  
 Gaylord family.  
 Gordon family.  
 South Carolina. Militia. Regiment, 17th. Palmetto Guard.  
 Genealogy -- South Carolina.  
 Refugees -- Saint-Domingue.  
 Slave records -- South Carolina -- Charleston.  
 Fort Sumter (Charleston, S.C.)  
 South Carolina -- History.  
 United States -- History -- Civil War, 1861-1865.  
 Genre Financial records.  
 Genealogies.  
 Letters (correspondence).  
 Military records.  
 Writings.

**Series outline with container references:**

**1022.01 FAMILY DOCUMENTS SERIES**

- 11/122/03-17 Genealogical and family correspondence, 1889-1938 (110 items).
- 11/122/18 Miscellaneous writings, 1860-1894 (30 items).
- 11/122/19-20 Genealogies, 1903 (2 v.).
- 11/122/21 Family history and genealogical notebook, undated (1 v.).
- 11/124 Genealogical notes, 1823-1929 (320 items & 1 v.).
- 11/123/02 Annotated family history, undated (1 v.).
- 11/123/07-08 Biographical notes on Wilmot Gibbes DeSaussure, 1901 (1 v.).
- 11/123/09 Biographical notes on Peter Gourdin DeSaussure, 1904 (1 v.).
- 11/123/03-06 Biographical notes on individual DeSaussure family members, 1889-1903 (1 v. and 4 items).
- 11/125/11-15 Genealogical notes on allied families (19 items.).

**1022.02 PAPERS OF INDIVIDUAL DESAUSSURE FAMILY MEMBERS**

- 1022.02.01 *DeSaussure, Daniel, 1735-1798.*
  - 11/121/03-04 Letters, 1770-1799 (36 items).
  - 11/121/05 U.S. government correspondence, 1794-1795 (3 items).
- 1022.02.02 *DeSaussure, Henry William, 1763 1839. Henry William DeSaussure papers, 1795 1838. Ca. 80 items.*
  - 11/121/06 U.S. Government correspondence, 1795 (6 items).
  - 11/121/07-12 Correspondence, 1795-1838 (70 items).

- 11/123/01 Autobiography and family history notes, 1836 (1 v.).
- 1022.02.03 *DeSaussure, Henry Alexander, 1788-1865.*
  - 11/121/13 Papers, 1810-1822 (10 items).
  - 11/121/14 Addresses, 1848 (2 items).
  - 11/121/15 Conveyance, 1845 (1 item).
- 1022.02.04 *DeSaussure, Wilmot G. (Wilmot Gibbes), 1822-1886. Wilmot Gibbes DeSaussure papers, 1838-1885. Ca. 80 items.*
  - 11/121/16-26 Papers, 1838-1885 (80 items).
- 1022.02.05 *DeSaussure, Louis Daniel, 1824-1888.*
  - 11/121/27-31 Military papers, 1846-1881 (15 items).
  - 11/121/32 Handbills, 1860 (14 items).
- 1022.02.06 *DeSaussure, Henry Alexander, 1851-1904.*
  - 11/122/01-02 Addresses, 1894-1903 (xx items).

### 1022.03 DESAUSSURE ALLIED FAMILIES

- 1022.03.01 *Gourdin family.*
  - 11/125/01-08 Genealogical research notes, 1716-1904 (3 v.)
  - 1022.03.01.01 *Gourdin, Robert Newman, 1812-1894.*
    - 11/125/09 Collects, 1866-1894 (20 items).
- 1022.03.02 *Young, William Gourdin, b. 1830.*
  - 11/125/04 Military memoir, 1904 (1 v.).
- 1022.03.03 *D'Antignac family.*
  - 11/125/10 Genealogical notes, 1892-1897 (11 items).

### 1022.04 DESAUSSURE-RELATED RECORDS

- 1022.04.01 *Oglethorpe, James Edward, 1696-1785.*
  - 11/121/01 Letter: to Colonel Vanderdussen, 1740 July 13. 1 item.

### Container listing:

#### 11/121/1 Oglethorpe, James Edward, 1696-1785

##### Letter, 1740. 1 item.

Governor of GA. Letter to Charleston merchant Richard Hill from Ft. San Diego regarding military operations against the Spanish in FL.

#### 11/121/3 DeSaussure, Daniel, 1735-1798

##### Letters, 1770-1781. 16 items.

Beaufort Co and Charleston merchant, planter, patriot officer, and politician. Personal, legal, business and political letters from relatives in Switzerland, chiefly DD's uncle Cesar DeSaussure regarding family matters and political views on the American Revolution. Also includes a petition from refugees to British military authorities during the occupation of Charleston (1780-1782). Burt includes memoranda regarding DeSaussure genealogy and family history and a 1777 notarized copy of a French military and political commission (1519) for Mengin DeSaussure.

#### 11/121/4 DeSaussure, Daniel, 1735-1798

##### Letters, 1783-1799

Beaufort Co. and Charleston merchant and planter. Personal and business letters from relatives in Laussane, Switzerland, including his uncle Cesar DeSaussure (fl. 1760's-1780's) regarding family and business matters. Also includes Daniel D's business accounts and last will and testament (1798).

**11/121/5 DeSaussure, Daniel, 1735-1798**

**US Government Correspondence, 1794-1795. 3 items.**

Charleston civic leader and President (1793-1798) of the Bank of the United States at Charleston. Letters to and from US Secretary Edmund Randolph (1753-1813) regarding distribution of federal money through DD or local organizations to refugees from Saint Domingue. Letter from US Secretary of War Timothy Pickering regarding physical condition and official status of Ft. Johnson and need for loan from DD for repairs to the fort.

**11/121/6 DeSaussure, Henry William, 1763-1839**

**US Government Correspondence, 1795. 6 items.**

US Director of the Mint and Charleston lawyer. Letters among HWD and US Secretary of State Edmund Randolph regarding HWD's appointment to and resignation from office. Also includes draft of letter from HWD to President George Washington regarding his resignation and a note regarding an autograph letter of President Washington to HWD.

**11/121/7-12 DeSaussure, Henry William, 1763-1839**

**Correspondence, 1795-1838**

Charleston and Columbia lawyer, landlord, politician, Chancellor of SC Circuit Court of Equity and Courts of Appeal (1808-1837) and Unionist. Letters among HWD, his son Henry Alexander, Robert Y. Hayne, and John C. Calhoun regarding slavery and the Missouri Compromise (1820-1823) and the Nullification Crisis (1832). Also letters and broadsides regarding Charleston's opposition to the antislavery movement (1830's). Land and legal correspondence and accounts regarding, among other things, HWD's partnership with fellow Charleston lawyer Timothy Ford. Letters to and from American and Swiss DeSaussures regarding family life and history.

**11/121/13 DeSaussure, Henry Alexander, 1788-1865**

**Papers, 1810-1822. 10 items**

Lawyer and Treasurer of SC Society of the Cincinnati. Legal correspondence, business accounts, and addresses to patriotic societies. Includes HAD's bond to the Society upon appointment to office (1816) and ms. "Oration before the Cincinnati & Revolution Societies on the 4th of July 1817." Also includes address of Cincinnati Society Vice-President Alexander Garden welcoming HAD as a member.

**11/121/14 DeSaussure, Henry Alexander, 1788-1865**

**Addresses, 1848. 2 items**

Charleston politician. Corrected draft of HAD's address at the dinner (1848) for General James Shields (1806-1879), commander of the Volunteer Regiment during the Mexican War. Also notes for an address on slavery.

**11/121/15 DeSaussure, Henry Alexander, 1788-1865**

**Muniment. 1845. 1 item**

Draft of conveyance to HAD and the Rev. John Forrest of land in Moultrieville for relocation of the First Presbyterian Church.

**11/121/16-26 DeSaussure, Wilmot Gibbes, 1822-1886**

**Correspondence, 1838-1885. 80+ items.**

Charleston lawyer, politician, state legislator, Whig, and CSA officer. Letters among WGD, his father, Henry Alexander, American and Swiss branches of the family, Alfred F. Ravenel, John W. Lewis and others regarding state and national politics, presidential election of 1848, DeSaussure genealogy, and experiences of the family during the Civil War on the home front and battlefield. Also letters from WGD's nephew Henry William DeSaussure (1843-1897) regarding political, social, and economic conditions, especially race relations in Charleston in 1865 at the end of the war. Will (1864) and inventories (186) of estate of Henry Alexander DeSaussure. Genealogical letter (1885) regarding Edward Ford family.

**11/121/27-31 DeSaussure, Louis Daniel, 1824-1888**

**Military papers. 1846-1881. 15 items.**

Captain, CSA. Correspondence, warrants, and commission regarding service in SC militia (1846-1849) and during the Civil War (1861-1865). Includes brief letters from Gen. PGT Beauregard; order and reports regarding pickets, outposts, and other matters at Pocotaligo and McPhersonville and in NC; and orders regarding surrender (1865) of Gen. Joseph E. Johnston. Also photocopied letters (1881) between LDD and Jefferson Davis regarding inaccuracies in Davis' Rise and Fall of the Confederate Government (1881).

**11/121/32 DeSaussure, Louis Daniel, 1824-1888**

**Handbills, 1860**

Charleston lawyer. Photocopied handbills for slave sales handled by LDD as executor for various estates.

**11/122/1-2 DeSaussure, Henry Alexander, 1851-1904**

**Addresses and broadside, 1894-1903**

Charleston resident. Drafts of address (1894) on early English poetry. Broadside annotated by HAD regarding commencement at College of Charleston (1903).

**11/122/3-17 DeSaussure family**

**Genealogical and family correspondence, 1889-1938. 110+ items.**

Charleston family correspondence regarding family life and genealogy, wedding invitations, death certificates, and accounts and receipts regarding family estates. Letters to and from Isabelle, Martha, and Henry Alexander DeSaussure, and Hugh R. Garden regarding Kelsall, Macbeth, and Gibbes families. Includes biographical information on Alester Garden, born Alester Garden Gibbes.

**11/122/18 DeSaussure family**

**Miscellaneous writings, ca. 1860- ca. 1894. 30+ items.**

Charleston family ms. poems, notes regarding Charleston Port Society, stories, negotiations, sermons and essays from the Civil War and afterward written or gathered by Isabelle DeSaussure. Mostly regarding social life.

11/122/19-20 DeSaussure family  
Genealogies. Ca. 1903. 2 ms. vols.

Charleston, Columbia, Beaufort Co. and Camden family. Typescript carbon copy annotated by Henry and Isabelle DeSaussure of a ms. family history and genealogy of the American branch of the DeSaussure family compiled by Wilmot Gibbes DeSaussure. Includes transcriptions of tombstone and church memorial inscriptions. Also, an incomplete ms. copy.

**11/122/21 DeSaussure family**

**Family history and genealogical notebook, n.d. 1 ms. vol**

Charleston family. Genealogical notes on Swiss and American branches tracing ancestry to France in 1460. Also includes verbatim ms copy of pages regarding DeSaussure family from a French publication, *Le Vie Protestante* (1859) and also from *Notices Genealogiques sur les Familles Genevoises*.

**11/123/1 DeSaussure, Henry William, 1763-1839**

**Autobiography and family history, 1836, 1 ms. vol.**

Charleston and Columbia attorney, politician, US Director of the Mint, and Chancellor of SC Courts of Equity and Appeals. Ms. copy probably by HWD's grandson, Wilmot Gibbes DeSaussure, of HWD's autobiographical "Memoir of the American Branch of the family of DeSaussure" (1836). Briefly discusses lives of HWD's father, grandfather, uncles, Swiss ancestry and other family, mostly from Beaufort Co. and Charleston. Another copy included in 11-122-20.

**11/123/2 DeSaussure family**

**Annotated autobiography and family history, n.d 1 ms. vol.**

Beaufort Co., Charleston and Columbia family. Annotated ms. version by John Moore or others. Henry William DeSaussure's autobiographical "Memoir of the American Branch of the Family of DeSaussure" (1836). Differs only slightly from 11-123-1.

**11/123/3-6 DeSaussure family**

**Biographical sketches and notes, ca. 1889-1903. 1 ms. vol. and 4 items**

Beaufort Co., Charleston, Columbia and Switzerland family. Elizabeth Holmes' brief biographies of ancestor SC Court of Appeals Chancellor Henry William DeSaussure (1763-1839), attorney and genealogist Henry Alexander DeSaussure (1851-1903), and Swiss geologist, explorer and physicist Horace Benedict DeSaussure (1740-1799). Also biographical notes regarding Chancellor DeSaussure including transcriptions of addresses by William Blanding before the Charleston Literary and Philosophical Society, editorials, state government and Society of Cincinnati resolutions.

**11/123/7-8 DeSaussure family**

**Biographical papers, 1886-1901. 1 scrapbook and 3 items**

Biographical sketch, outlines and scrapbook regarding Civil War military service, historical addresses, and political activities of CSA officer, Charleston civic leader, and SC legislator Wilmot Gibbes DeSaussure. Prepared by DeSaussure's son, Henry Alexander (1851-1903).

Includes newspaper obituaries and resolutions regarding WGD from various religious and civic organizations.

**11/123/9 DeSaussure family**

**Biographical scrapbook, 1868-1904. 1 ms. vol.**

Obituaries and contemporary newspaper clippings, regarding SC Medical College professor and Charleston and New York physician Peter Gourdin DeSaussure. Mostly regarding DeSaussure's medical service and research in Charleston, during the yellow fever epidemics in Memphis (1878) and at Camp Detention and Brunswick (1893). Also regarding DeSaussure's addresses (1893-1894) on Negro health and mortality (1880-1894) in Charleston.

**11/124 DeSaussure family**

**Genealogical and family history, notes, and sources, 1823-1929. 300+ items**

Genealogical and family history notes and sources mostly regarding DeSaussure family and occasionally regarding Kelsall, Ford, and other related families. Includes Bible record (1823) of Susan Boone DeSaussure, Henry William DeSaussure's family register (ca. 1830), notes regarding DeSaussure coat-of-arms, a DeSaussure family tree, and inscriptions (1821-1842) on a family monument in Columbia. Includes information on DeSaussures in France (1460-1570) and Switzerland (1570-1799) and Charleston (1760-1929).

**11/125/1-3 Gaillard-Gourdin families**

**Genealogical notes and sources, ca. 1893-1897. 1 ms. vols. and 13 items**

Charleston and Berkeley Co. families. Family registers and notes mostly regarding Gaillard and related families. Includes legal memorandum regarding will of Elizabeth Gaillard (d. 1835), wife of Theodore Gourdin II (1764-1826, and order of succession to 1893. Also, biographical notes on Louis Isaac Gourdin (1809-1832) and Berkeley Co. physician William Doughty Gourdin.

**11/125/4 Young, William Gourdin, b. 1830**

**Military memoir, 1904. 1 ms. vol.**

CSA Soldier. Ms. "Reminiscences of a Confederate Veteran Camp 315" regarding SC political opinion before the war (1860-1861) and service with the Palmetto Guard, 17th Regiment SC Militia during capture of Fort Sumter (1861) with related reminiscences of Edmund Ruffin, Louis Trezevant Wigfall, General PGT Beauregard, and Major Robert Anderson. In same volume as Gourdin Wills and other genealogical sources.

**11/125/4-5 Gourdin family**

**Genealogical sources, 1716-1904. 1 ms. vol.**

Berkeley, Charleston, Georgetown and Williamsburg Co. family. Mostly copies of wills and other papers regarding Gourdin family history, mostly by Robert N. Gourdin in 1889 and subsequently by Isabelle DeSaussure, with occasional comments. In same vol. as William Gourdin Young's "Reminiscences of a Confederate Veteran Camp, 315." Gourdin wills partially published in Peter Gaillard Gourdin, *The Gourdin Family* (1980).

**11/125/6-7 Gourdin family**

**Genealogical notes and sources, ca. 1880s- 1890s. 1 scrapbook and 18 items**

Charleston family. Wedding announcements, obituaries, registers, tombstone inscriptions, and other papers regarding members of the Gourdin family and other Charlestonians. Includes information regarding graves in St. Stephen's Church and transcriptions of the Bible record of Peter Gaillard Gourdin (1794-1836). Partially published in Peter Gaillard Gourdin IV *The Gourdin Family* (1980).

**11/125/8 Gourdin family**

**Historical letter, 1902. 1 item.**

Mimeographed copy of letter to editor of the Charleston News and Courier from Edward McCrady Jr., regarding Civil War military service of wartime companion and CSA captain and adjutant general Louis Gourdin Young during capture of Ft. Sumter (1861); Seven Days' Battles and other actions around Richmond, Culpepper, and Mechanicsville, VA (1862) and the battle of Gettysburg, PA (1863).

**11/125/9 Gourdin, Robert Newman, 1812-1894.**

**Collects, ca. 1866-1894. 20+ items.**

Senior elder of the Huguenot Church in Charleston and President of the Huguenot Society. Sermon-commentaries on the collects for three Sundays in ms. notebook form, presented at the Huguenot Church as lay-addresses. Includes "Second Sunday in Advent," "Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany," "Easter," "Third Sunday after Easter," "Sunday after Ascension," "Whitsunday," and "Second Sunday after Trinity."

**11/125/10 D'Antignac Family**

**Genealogical and historical correspondence and notes, 1892-1897. 11 items.**

Mostly letters to Hariss d'Antignac from US State Dept and copies of notarized statement regarding descent from Louis John Baptiste d'Antignac, Georgia resident and US Revolutionary War officer. Includes information from State Dept. records re LJB d'A's military service for France (ca. 1760's) and subsequently for US, under General Horatio Gates.

**11/125/11-15 DeSaussure family**

**Genealogical and biographical notes and sources, ca. 1834-1900. 19 items.**

Mostly family history or genealogical notes on Bacot, Barker, Clarkson, Fayssoux, and Singleton families with information regarding ties to DeSaussure, Ferguson, or Hutson families and to William Gilmore Simms. Includes fragment of a Clarkson family register (1834-1871). Also biographical notes on Charleston patriot and US Surgeon General Peter Fayssoux, a founder (1773) of the Charleston Museum. Arranged alphabetically by family.