



Henry Wemyss Feilden papers, 1851-1949
SCHS 1025.00
Container 11/129

Creator: Feilden, H. W. (Henry Wemyss)

Description: Ca. 200 items.

Biographical/Historical Note: Army officer. After serving in the British Army in India, he resigned his commission and volunteered for the Confederate Army, serving on Gen. Beauregard's staff in Charleston, S.C. He married Julia McCord, daughter of David J. and Emmeline Wagner McCord of Columbia, S.C., in October 1864. After the war he returned to England. Reinstated in the British Army, he served as naturalist to the British Polar Expedition of 1875-1876.

Scope and Content: Papers chiefly consist of correspondence (1863-1921) of Henry W. Feilden and his wife Julia with each other and with family members and friends. In addition, there is later correspondence (1932-1949) of David McCord Wright, David Rankin Barbee, and Susan Bennett concerning Henry W. Feilden and his personal papers.

Civil War correspondence (1863-1865) mainly consists of letters from Henry W. Feilden to his fiancée (later wife) Julia McCord concerning personal matters, family and friends, his military duties, conditions in Charleston (S.C.), skirmishes on sea islands near Charleston, and other events of the war. Letters are from Charleston (S.C.), Savannah (Ga.), and elsewhere. Included are letters (1864) from Feilden in Lake City (Fla.) describing his trip through Florida and conditions there; a letter (April 1863) from Feilden concerning the ironclad attack in Charleston harbor and misrepresentations about it in New York (N.Y.) newspapers (includes a diagram showing forts and ships); and letters (1864) to Henry W. Feilden from Gen. Beauregard concerning, among other things, an official report about military operations on Morris Island (S.C.). Feilden describes the evacuation of Charleston in February 1865, and his participation in the Battle of Bentonville (N.C.), serving with General Hardee, and comments on Gen. Sherman's destructive march through the state, and plunder by Federal troops ("I am staggered when I think how God can permit such villains as these Yankees to wander over our country, burn our cities and turn out our women and children to perish of starvation.") There is frequent mention of the Cheves family and Jacob K. Sass and George Herbert Sass ("Herbert").

Later correspondence (1878-1921) includes that of Henry and Julia Feilden in Sussex (England) with family members and others in the United States concerning family matters, North Pole expeditions, events of World War I, the Battle of Stono Ferry (S.C.) during the American Revolution, death of Julia Feilden, and other topics. Included is a letter from Julia's sister C.L. Cheves concerning the death of Dr. Langdon Cheves (d. 1878); letters (1890) to Henry W. Feilden from John Johnson mainly regarding Johnson's book about the defense of Charleston harbor; and two notes (1912, 1920) to Feilden from Rudyard Kipling.

Other items include clippings; a copy of Civil War reminiscences (1920) by Henry W. Feilden; and photographs, including portraits of Henry W. and Julia Feilden; and a piece of a flag.

Preferred Citation: Feilden, Henry Wemyss, 1838-1921. Henry Wemyss Feilden papers, 1863-1949. (1025.00) South Carolina Historical Society.

Provenance: Dr. David McCord Wright; gift; 2570.

Note: Formerly known as Fielden-Smythe papers.

Note: Typewritten transcriptions of some letters available. Available in microfilm.

Search terms:

Barbee, David Rankin, 1874-1958.

Beauregard, G. T. (Gustave Toutant), 1818-1893.

Bennett, Susan Smythe.

Feilden, H. W. (Henry Wemyss), 1838-1921.

Feilden, Julia McCord, 1837-1920.

Hardee, William Joseph, 1815-1873.

Johnson, John, 1829-1907.

Kipling, Rudyard, 1865-1936.

Sass, George Herbert, 1845-1908.

Sass, Jacob Keith, 1813-1865.

Sherman, William T. (William Tecumseh), 1820-1891.

Wright, David McCord, 1909-1968.

Cheeves family.

Confederate States of America. Army -- Officers.

Bentonville, Battle of, Bentonville, N.C., 1865.

Sherman's March through the Carolinas.

World War, 1914-1918.

Charleston (S.C.) -- History -- Civil War, 1861-1865.

Florida -- Description and travel -- 19th century.

Lake City (Fla.) -- Description and travel.

South Carolina -- History.

Sussex (England)

United States -- History -- Civil War, 1861-1865 -- Participation, British.

United States -- History -- Civil War, 1861-1865 -- Personal narratives, Confederate.

Genre Clippings.

Letters (correspondence)

Photographs.

Subject Officers (military officers)

Container listing:

11/129/1-9 Fielden, Henry W. 1838-1921

Civil War Letters, 1851, 1863-1868. Approx. 100 items

Confederate and British Army officer. Correspondence (1851, 1863-1868) of HWF, his wife Julie Smythe Fielden, General PGT Beauregard and others regarding the Civil War. Letters mostly of HWF, officers on Beauregard's staff in Charleston, Savannah, and Lake City, FL (9/1864). Letters of HWF regarding daily events of the war, family matters, events in Charleston (1863-1864), James Island Skirmishes, mention of many Charlestonians, including much mention of Jacob K. Sass, action in Charleston harbor (1863) and scattered references to slaves. Letters (1863-1864) from General PGT Beauregard regarding general war matters and HWF's report on Morris Island. Typescript of letters and civil war reminiscences of HWF.

11/129/10-24 Fielden, Henry W., 1838-1921

Papers. 1878-1949. Approx. 100 items

Confederate and British officer. Correspondence (typescripts and originals) of HWF, his wife and former Charlestonian Julie Fielden, in Sussex, England. Correspondents include Gerald Smythe, Louisa Smythe, Mrs. Anton P. Wright, (VA), J. Adger Smythe and others. Three notes (1912, 1920, 1932) of Rudyard Kipling to HWF and Susan Bennett. Also letters of John Johnson regarding his book Defense of Charleston Harbor, and with John Bennett regarding the battle and a painting of the Battle of Stono (1779). Letters regarding HWF's many reminiscences of Civil War battles and personalities (in Charleston and elsewhere), the first World War, family matters, Artic exploration (ca. 1900-1910) and other matters. Also correspondence (1948-1949) of Susan Bennett, David R. Barber and David McC. Wright (VA) regarding the acquisition of the Fielden papers.