



Ravenel family papers, 1695-1925
SCHS 1171.00
Containers 12/313-320

Description: 4 linear ft.

Biographical/Historical note: Berkeley County, S.C. family descended from Rene Louis Ravenel (b. 1694), a Huguenot emigre. His son, Henry Ravenel (1729-1785), was the owner of Hanover Plantation. Children of Henry Ravenel (1729-1785) included Henry Ravenel (1751-1823), Rene Ravenel (1762-1822), Paul de St. Julien Ravenel (1765-1820), and Stephen Ravenel (1770-1818), who was South Carolina Secretary of State from 1795 to 1799. Henry Ravenel (1790-1867), a physician and plantation owner (Pooshee Plantation), was the son of Rene Ravenel (1762-1822), and his children included Henry William Ravenel (1814-1887) and Thomas Porcher Ravenel (1824-1898). Thomas Porcher Ravenel, Jr. (1850-1936) was an attorney in practice in Savannah (Ga.); he married Emily Howard in 1887.

Scope and content: Ravenel family papers consist of correspondence, diaries, financial and estate records, slave and property records, minute books, plantation and meteorological journals, pamphlets, almanacs, property records, genealogical material, and other items. Included are the papers of Henry Ravenel (1790-1867) and Thomas Porcher Ravenel (1824-1898), a South Carolina Secretary of State daybook attributed to Peter Freneau (1757-1813), and records of the Black Oak Agricultural Society (St. John's Berkeley Parish, S.C.).

Correspondence concerns family matters, business, politics, and other matters, and includes many Civil War letters of Thomas Porcher Ravenel (1824-1898), who served in the Charleston Light Dragoons.

Diaries of Henry Ravenel (1790-1867), Thomas Porcher Ravenel (1824-1898), and other family members concern family and social life, plantation affairs, weather conditions, militia activities, horse races at Pineville (S.C.), Thomas Porcher Ravenel's military service during the Civil War, the occupation of Pineville by Union troops, and other matters.

Provenance: Miss Emily Guerard Ravenel and Mrs. Mary Ravenel Gignilliat inherited these papers from their father, Thomas Porcher Ravenel (1850-1936), and donated them to the Society through Henry R. Dwight.

Preferred citation: Ravenel family. Ravenel family papers, 1695-1925. (1171.00) South Carolina Historical Society.

Search terms:

Ravenel family.
St. John's Parish (Berkeley County, S.C.)
Plantations -- South Carolina -- Berkeley County.
Slave records -- South Carolina -- Berkeley County.
Berkeley County (S.C.) -- History.
South Carolina -- History.
Almanacs.
Diaries.
Estate records.
Financial records.
Letters (correspondence)
Minutes.
Pamphlets.
Property records.

Series and container listing:

1171.01 FAMILY DOCUMENTS SERIES

12/314/01-02 Miscellaneous bound volumes, 1753-1808 (4 items).
12/315/10-11 Letters, 1728-1793 (8 items).
12/315/16-18 Family letters (Civil War, etc.), 1861-1903 (75 items).
12/316/15-17 Political and militia papers, 1830-1867 (35 items).
12/315/05-09 Genealogical and account books, 1812-1906 (x items).
12/316/20-25 Genealogy and estate matters, 1757-1903 (40 items).
12/316/01-04 Business and land matters, 1746-1899 (40 items).
12/316/06-14 Land papers, 1695-1880s (25 items).
12/318/01-43 Pamphlets, 1831-1915 (43 items).

1171.02 PAPERS OF INDIVIDUAL RAVENEL FAMILY MEMBERS

1171.02.01 Ravenel, Henry, 1790 1867.
Henry Ravenel family papers, 1731 1867. Ca. 100 items.
12/313/01-04 Diaries and account books, 1731-1867 (5 items).*
12/313/05-13 Daybooks and account books, 1806-1855 (9
volumes).
12/315/12-15 Family and business letters, 1809-1859 (75 items).
12/316/05 Business papers, 1838-1843 (10 items).
*see also 34-322

1171.02.02 Ravenel, Thomas Porcher, 1824 1898.
Thomas Porcher Ravenel papers, 1810 1904. Ca. 60 items.
12/314/04-06 Diaries, 1845-1903 (3 volumes).
12/314/07-08 Plantation books, 1845-1865 (2 items).
12/315/01-04 Papers, 1841-1865 (4 items).
12/316/18-19 Miscellaneous items, 1810-1899 (15 items).
12/317-317A Almanacs, 1827-1904 (34 items).

1171.03 RAVENEL-RELATED RECORDS

1171.03.01 Freneau, Peter, 1757 1813.

12/314/03 Secretary of State daybook, 1788 1789. 1 v.

1171.03.02 Black Oak Agricultural Society.

Black Oak Agricultural Society records, 1842 1925. 9 v. 7 items.

12/319/01-04 Records, 1842-1861 (6 items + 2 volumes).

12/320/01-08 Meteorological journals, 1845-1925 (7 volumes).

Detailed container listing:

12/313/1-4 Ravenel, Henry. 1790-1867

Diaries/ Account books, 1731-1867. 5 items.

Berkeley Co. planter. Diaries, account books, a receipt book, slave lists apparently of Rene Louis Ravenel (b. 1694), Henry Ravenel (1729-1785), Henry Ravenel (1752-1823), Rene Ravenel (1762-1822) and Dr. Henry Ravenel (1790-1867). Diaries (1731-1860) and (1785-1851) include lists of slaves, birth and death rates and blankets supplied, livestock, family history, weather reports, including mention of 1811-1812 earthquakes, rice crop progress, travel into Charleston, family health and deaths and other personal material. Henry Ravenel (1752-1823) receipt book for taxes and other personal expenses. List of slaves born on Ravenel Plantation (1771-1867). Also an oversized ledger (1750-1783) of Henry Ravenel (1729-1785) and corresponding day book (1744-1777) of Henry Ravenel (1729-1785) regarding accounts of food and sundry items purchased and estate accounts of Rene Ravenel, Jr. and others. (The oversized ledger is located in 34-322).

12/313/5-13 Ravenel, Henry 1790-1867

Daybooks/ account books, 1806-1855. 9 bound vol.

Berkeley co. physician and planter. Day book, letter books, estate accounts, a medical account book, crop book and listing of slaves of Henry Ravenel. Daybook (1806-1822) mentions weather, family events, Pineville theatre (9/24/1833) with a list of slaves and their descendants. Includes a typed transcription. Letter book (1810-1818) of Henry Ravenel contains copies of letters from Charleston, Philadelphia, PA, New Haven CT, and elsewhere from Alexander W. Garden, Horatio S. Waring, and other regarding personal matters, medical studies, and the vestry of St. John's Parish, Berkeley Co. Also some Ravenel family history in back of letter book. Medical day and account book (1816-1834) of medical visits and prescriptions for family and slaves. Estate account book (1827-1837) kept by Henry Ravenel for estate of Paul D. Ravenel with list of sheet supplied to slaves (1839-1841). Account book (1822-1833) of purchases of goods by slaves and accounts of various members of the Dubon and Porcher families for personal goods. Crop book and notes on cotton and other crops (1830-1832) with slave list (1835-1843). Daybooks with daily plantation expense accounts (1845-1852) and (1852-1855).

12/314/1-2 Ravenel Family, 1753-1808

Misc. bound vol., 1753-1808. 4 items

Berkeley Co. family. Extracts of vestry minutes, Monck's Corner, apparently St. John's Parish (1753-1808) mostly regarding appointments of ministry. Original and typed copy. Book of arithmetic rules (n.d.) of Stephen Ravenel (1771-1818). Also at back, notes on history of Black Oak Chapel (1819-1879) in the hand of Thomas P. Ravenel. Also travel diary of attributed Stephen Ravenel regarding travels in Ma, VA, NC, and Washington DC, visit with Thomas Jefferson, description of the US capitol, and other buildings, landscapes, people and weather.

12/314/3 Freneau, Peter. 1756-1813

Secretary of States Account Book, 1788-1789. 1 vol

SC Secretary of State. "Secretary's Office day book," (1788-1789). Apparently the account book of PF of fees for title searches, copying of documents for prominent lawyers and politicians with many payments to PF.

12/314/4-6 Ravenel, Thomas P. 1824-1898

Diaries, 1845-1903. 3 bound vol.

Berkeley Co. planter. Diaries (1845-1903) of Thomas P. Ravenel at Pineville; Pooshee and Indian field in St. John's Parish. Included is an extensive register of personal and community events, birth, deaths, marriages, weather, politics, elections, Pineville horse races, social life, family life, and slavery. Also some on militias before and after the Civil War and Thomas P. Ravenel's service during the War in Charleston area and description of the occupation of Pineville by Northern Troops (1865). Also views on freedman labor and earthquakes (8/1886-3/1887). Families mentioned throughout include Deas, Dubose, Gadsden, Gaillard, Hayward, Porsher, Ravenel, Snowden, Stevens, Wilson and others.

12/314/7-8 Ravenel, Thomas P. 1824-1898

Plantation books, 1845-1865, 1874. 2 items.

Berkeley Co. planter. Plantation books (1845-1874) of Thomas P. Ravenel regarding planting, picking, sorting, and ginning of cotton, planting and harvesting of potatoes, corn, oats, peas, rice and other crops at Indian field, Woodboo and other plantations with comments on the weather and the harvest. Some material regarding slaves. Also war notes regarding final days of the Confederacy, occupation by Northern troops and the effects of troops (1865) and "return of property" (1874).

12/315/1-4 Ravenel, Thomas P. 1824-1898

Papers, 1841-1865. 4 items.

Berkeley Co. planter. Diaries, slave lists, and a club book of Thomas P. Ravenel. Papers (1841- ca. 1860) regarding Ravenel family horses. Bound vol. regarding constitution, list of members, and minutes of the Spring Party Club, Pineville (1855-1858). Slave lists

(1860) of parents and slaves with measles or whooping cough. Civil War diaries and memos of Thomas P. Ravenel (1861-1865).

12/315/5-9 Ravenel, Thomas P. 1824-1898

Genealogical and Account books, 1812; 1888-1906

Berkeley Co. planter. Thomas P. Ravenel's copy of Robert Wilson's :Wilson and Allied families. Manuscript volume with Thomas P. Ravenel's genealogy notes and with Mary Porcher's anecdotes (1812) regarding the Irish, blacks, women and bachelors. Account book of the Black oak Church regarding contributions (1888-1902). Memo books (1894-1895) of Thomas P. Ravenel regarding daily events and William Ravenel memo books (1899) of accounts paid and Emily Ravenel account book (1900-1906).

12/315/10-11 Ravenel Family, 1728-1793

Letters, 1728-1793. 8 items.

Berkeley Co. family. Letters to Mazyck and Ravenel families including a letter to Paul Mazyck regarding family and shipment of flour, military situation in Charleston and the colonies (1758); from Henry Ravenel (1729-1785), St. John's Parish, regarding accusation and rebuttal of criminal charges (1767), to Betty Mazyck regarding family matters (1789); John Hume, Charleston (1753) to Paul Mazyck in Ireland regarding economic and planting conditions in SC. Daniel Ravenel in England regarding travel to his brother Rene Ravenel (undated). Chronologically arranged.

12/315/12-15 Ravenel, Henry, 1790-1867

Family and business letters, 1809-1859. Approx. 75 items

Berkeley Co. planter and businessman. Letters to Henry Ravenel, Thomas P. Ravenel and other family members (1808-1859) includes letter book (1808-1809) with copies of letters to Henry Ravenel from William A. Bull, M.W. Smith, Stephen Ravenel and others at Charleston, Columbia, and elsewhere regarding family matters and student life. Letters from William Chisolm and Thomas Gaillard regarding rental of house in Pineville (1819); S.M. Stevens to Maria Ravenel regarding sickness, marriage, birth and drunkenness in Pineville (1826); Thomas Gaillard and James L. Petigru regarding nullification (1834). Letters and receipts (1831-1843) from John B. O'Neill and J. Gregg, Columbia; William Murray; and T.M. Dawkins, Union and others regarding operations and finance of Limestone Springs Company Resort near Spartanburg. Other correspondents include Charles W. Rice, Edgefield (1838) relating tall tales of SC backwoods; Daniel Ravenel, Kitty Crocker, Caroline Mazyck, Henry W. Ravenel regarding family matters. A. Mazyck, Aiken (1856) regarding political election. James Porcher regarding canal investments (1843). William A. Bricknell, New Orleans, LA regarding Henry Ravenel's medical school and youth (1858). Chronologically arranged.

12/315/16-18 Ravenel, Thomas P., 1824-1898

Civil War and Other Letters, 1861-1903. Approx 75 items

SC Soldier and Berkeley Co. planter. Letter (1861-1864) of Thomas P. Ravenel at Camp Simons, Sullivan's Island, Port Royal area, Camp Hugnenin, James Island and elsewhere, to his wife Elizabeth W. Ravenel with almost daily reports (Sept. –Nov. 1861) and weekly reports (July-Oct. 1863) regarding bombardment, war matters, movements of the Charleston Light Dragoons, contact with Northern troops, family matters, and instructions regarding work on plantations. Some letters to Henry Ravenel from Thomas P. Ravenel and some from James M. Wilson, Columbia to Elizabeth W. Ravenel. Post-war letters regarding business, family matters including Thomas P. Ravenel to his mother, Elizabeth P. Ravenel. Also letters (1878) from Frederick A Porcher answering requests for auto-biographical notes. Chronologically arranged.

12/316/1-4 Ravenel Family, 1793-1864

Business and Land Matters, 1746-1849. Approx 40 items

Berkeley Co. family. Ravenel and Mazyck families' receipts (1746-1798). Henry Ravenel receipt book (1823-1854), tax receipts (1862-1864). Receipts of Thomas P. Ravenel (1850-1899) with sales accounts for cotton (1854-1859). Slave mortgages, sales and lists with some Ravenel estate matters (1793-1860). Chronologically arranged.

12/316/5 Ravenel, Henry, 1790-1867

Business papers, 1838-1843. 10 items

Berkeley Co. businessman. Business papers regarding Limestone Spring Company resort near Spartanburg (1838-1843, see also Henry Ravenel correspondence).

12/316/6-14 Ravenel Family, 1695-1880's

Land papers, 1695-1880's. Approx. 25 items

Berkeley Co. family. Grants, bonds, memos, history of land transfers, stock certificates, letters testamentary, marriage settlement, indentures, conveyance of real estate and plats regarding Ravenel lands in Berkeley Co. (1695-1880's) includes grants, (1695) to Henry LeNoble, bonds (1753-1760) of Henry Ravenel; history and many of the papers regarding Pooshee plantation, Berkeley Co. And other land and business papers of Dr. Henry Ravenel and Thomas P. Ravenel.

12/316/15-17 Ravenel, Thomas P. 1824-1898

Political-militia papers, 1830-1867. Approx 35 items

Berkeley Co. planter. Political and militia papers of Thomas P. Ravenel and his father, Henry Ravenel, including political doggerel by John Lyde Wilson, regarding satire of SC politics (ca. 1830-1850); notes on nullification and how districts voted on nullification; SC roads dispute and legislation (1852-1858); Vigilance Association Meeting regarding secession with signers of a petition, St. John's, Berkeley (1860); Southern Rights Association (1851-1856), St. John's regarding contributions; subscription list to help Kansas emigrants with list of contributions paid to James Simons (1856). Also includes printed matter including broadside "Epitaph on the USA regarding Secession" (1860) and

pocket manual for Devotion (1863). Also map showing location of the Charleston and Savannah Railroad routes, (1856) Annotations by Thomas P. Ravenel for locating batteries during Civil War (in 47-21). Chronologically arranged.

12/316/18-19 Ravenel, Thomas P. 1824-1898

Misc. 1810-1899. 15 items

Berkeley Co. planter. Census of unnamed village (1832) probably near St. John's, Berkeley; subscription list to the National Intelligence (1850's); Pineville Library Society share (1855); list of contributors, Pineville Horse Races (1855); list of beef distributed by Pinopolis Mess (1858); List of members of the St. John's Hunting Club (1813-1861) with lists of names and death dates of members. An account of the Pinopolis Nitre Works regarding making of salt peter during the Civil War; ms. Of the Universal Prayer paraphrased in prose; history of St. Thomas and St. Stephen's parish social club (1860). "The Friends of Whitmarsh Seabrook," regarding SC judgeship (1848). Eulogy of unnamed person (pre-1820) manuscript regarding "Objections against Providence." Report of visit to a soothsayer by Dr. Henry Ravenel (ca. 1810). Manuscript regarding writings of General Francis Marion's men. Confederate bonds and misc. notes and clippings.

12/316/20-25 Ravenel, Thomas P. 1824-1898

Genealogy and estate matters. 1757-1903. Approx 40 items

Berkeley Co. planter. Genealogical research and papers including Ravenel coat of arms and "Some Recollections of Pooshee" Plantation at Christmas and other times (1903) by Samuel W. Ravenel. Also wills of Daniel Ravenel (1774), Elizabeth M. Ravenel, Elizabeth Ravenel (1786), Dr. Henry Ravenel, James Ravenel (1779), Maria Ravenel, Mary Ravenel (1759), Rene Ravenel, Paul D. Ravenel and Mary M. Broughton and Frederick B. Simmons. Estate papers of Catherine Taylor (1757) with inventory and accounts.

12/317-317A/10-44 Ravenel, Thomas P., 1824-1898

Almanac's, 1827, 1862-1904. 34 items

Berkeley Co. planter. Almanacs of Thomas P. Ravenel. Notes in almanacs regarding births, deaths, and marriages in Berkeley Co., planting of crops, weather reports and division of beef and other livestock among townfolk. Much of this material was transferred to Thomas P. Ravenel's diaries and crop books. Individual almanacs have been catalogued separately.

12/318/1-43 Ravenel, Thomas P., 1824-1898

Pamphlets, 1831-1915. 43 items

Berkeley Co. Planter. Pamphlets of Thomas P. Ravenel collections indexed individually.

12/319/1-4 Black Oak Agricultural Society, St. John's, Berkeley Co.

Records, 1842-1861. 2 ms. vols, 6 items

St. John's Berkeley Agricultural Society. Minute book (1842-1861) of the BOAS including resolutions, reports on crop experiments, membership, reports on crops and Constitution. Also volume of Treasurer's accounts (1842-1844) and loose papers including minutes of 4/24/1861 meeting and a report of rice crops on Cooper River plantation (8/1848). Records kept by Henry Ravenel and Thomas P. Ravenel. Typescript of minute book available.

12/320/1-8 Black Oak Agricultural Society, St. John's, Berkeley Co.

Meteorological journals, 1845-1925. 7 ms. vols

St. John's Berkeley Co. Agricultural Society. Daily meteorological journals (1845-1925) recorded by secretaries Henry W. Ravenel, Thomas P. Ravenel, and Elizabeth P. Ravenel. Includes records of wind, rain, and other weather happens. Also Smithsonian Institution printed form for recording meteorological observations completed for April, Sept., Oct., and Nov. 1861 and a letter from the Smithsonian to Thomas P. Ravenel (3/10/1860). Library has printed journal (1848-1860); call #PAM 551.5