



Ravenel family papers, 1776-1933
1027.00
Containers 11/131-133

Creator: Ravenel family

Description: Ca. 900 items.

Biographical/historical note: South Carolina family. The Ravenel family was allied with the Ford family of Morristown, New Jersey and South Carolina through several intermarriages. Dr. Edmund Ravenel (1797-1871) married Charlotte Matilda Ford, daughter of Timothy Ford (1762-1830) and Sarah Amelia DeSaussure. After Charlotte's death, Dr. Ravenel married another daughter of Timothy Ford, Charlotte's half-sister Louisa Catherine Ford (1805-1886). Her mother was Timothy Ford's second wife, Mary Magdalen Prioleau.

Scope and content: Papers consist of correspondence, financial records, plantation and estate papers, speeches and other writings, genealogical material, the records of the law firm of DeSaussure & Ford, and other items. Included are the papers of Dr. Edmund Ravenel (1820-1871) and Timothy Ford (1762-1830).

Estate papers include those of Louisa Catherine Ravenel (1805-1886), which consist of tax returns and receipts, a mortgage, a copy of the will (1834, proved 1849) of Louisa Catherine Ravenel's cousin Catherine Cordes Prioleau (d. 1849), accounts, a fire insurance policy, and other documents.

Genealogical material (1777-1933) includes epitaphs, a Bible record of births and deaths, a family chart, and family history notes pertaining to the Ravenel, Ford, and Prioleau families.

Ravenel family papers include plats (ca. 1923) of Ravenel property in Charleston (S.C.) and a conveyance of title to Farmfield Plantation from James Reid Pringle Ravenel (nephew of Dr. Edmund Ravenel) to other members of the Ravenel family.

Preferred citation: Ravenel family. Ravenel family papers, 1776-1933. (1027.00) South Carolina Historical Society.

Biographical/historical note: South Carolina family. The Ravenel family was allied with the Ford family of Morristown, New Jersey and South Carolina through several intermarriages. Dr. Edmund Ravenel (1797-1871) married Charlotte Matilda Ford, daughter of Timothy Ford (1762-1830) and Sarah Amelia DeSaussure. After Charlotte's death, Dr. Ravenel married another daughter of Timothy Ford, Charlotte's half-sister Louisa Catherine Ford (1805-1886). Her mother was Timothy Ford's second wife, Mary Magdalen Prioleau.

Search terms:

Prioleau, Catherine Cordes, d. 1849 -- Will.
 Ravenel, James Reid Pringle, 1840-1930.
 Ravenel, Louisa Catherine, 1805-1886 -- Estate.
 Ford family.
 Prioleau family.
 Ravenel family.
 Plantations -- South Carolina.
 Real property -- South Carolina -- Charleston.
 Farmfield Plantation (Charleston County, S.C.)
 South Carolina -- History.
 FORDEstate records.
 Financial records.
 Letters (correspondence)
 Plats.

Brief container listing:

1027.01 Family Document Series

- 11/133/08 Land papers, 1923 (3 items).
- 11/133/09-13 Family history and genealogical papers, 1777-1933 (40 items).

1027.02 Papers of Individual Ravenel family members

- 1027.02.01 Ravenel, Edmund, 1797 1871. Edmund Ravenel papers, 1820 1871. Ca. 575 items.
 - 11/132/01-03 Estate papers, 1831-1850 (100 items).
 - 11/132/04 College faculty papers, 1829-1835 (22 items).
 - 11/132/05 Scientific papers, 1831-1859 (20 items).
 - 11/132/06 Medical correspondence, 1847-1859 (14 items).
 - 11/132/07-08 Medical papers, 1829-1867 (46 items).
 - 11/132/09-11 Plantation papers, 1833-1863 (100 items).
 - 11/132/12 Plantation letters, 1836-1854 (16 items).
 - 11/132/13 Land and personal letters, 1833-1871 (20 items).
 - 11/132/14-15 Land and plantation papers, 1833-1867 (80 items).
 - 11/133/01 Personal and household papers, 1830-1862 (17 items).
 - 11/133/02 Personal receipts, 1820-1869 (19 items).
 - 11/133/03-04 Household bills and receipts, 1833-1867 (90 items).
 - 11/133/05-06 Writings, 1846-1870 (22 items).
- 1027.02.02 Ravenel, Louisa Catherine, 1805-1886.
 - 11/133/07 Estate papers, 1865-1894 (26 items).

1027.03 Ravenel Allied families

- 1027.03.01 Ford, Timothy, 1762 1830. Timothy Ford papers, 1776 1830. ca. 275 items.
 - 11/131/01-04 Plantation and land papers, 1790-1826 (50 items).
 - 11/131/05-20 Family correspondence, 1776-1830 (100 items).
 - 11/131/23 Diary, 1785-1786 (1 bound volume).
 - 11/131/21-22 Personal papers, 1783-1830 (17 items).

- 11/131/24-26 Speeches, 1826-1829 (13 items).
- 11/131/27-28 Letters, 1812-1829 (19 items).
- 11/131/29-34 Legal papers, 1792-1829 (50 items).
- 11/131a-131b Records for DeSaussure & Ford, 1786-1821 (5 v.)

Detail Container/folder listing:

11/131/1-4 Ford, Timothy, 1762-1830

Plantation and land papers, 1790-1826. 50+ items

Charleston planter. Conveyances, bills of exchange, bills of sale, promissory notes, receipts, accounts, and other papers regarding sale of enslaved persons, cotton sales, and land purchases. Some transactions involve the Prioleau family. Correspondents include Thomas Pinckney and Nathaniel Russell.

11/131/5-20 Ford, Timothy, 1762-1830

Family correspondence, 1776-1830. 100+ items

Charleston lawyer. Personal letters from Ford's family in NJ, especially brother Gabriel Hogarth (1765-1849). Topics include settlement of the estates of Ford's father and paternal grandfather over land disputes in NJ and family life. Included are wills of Jacob Ford (1738-1777) and Theodosia Ford, mother of For. Also includes a contemporary Federalist view of diplomacy of Naval War with France (1798-1799) of Thomas Jefferson (1743-1826) and of Jefferson's embargo of 1807, as well as discussion of a student rebellion at Princeton (1807).

11/131/21-22 Ford, Timothy, 1762-1830

Personal papers, 1782-1830. 17 items

Charleston lawyer and landlord. Letters (1809-1826) regarding debts to Izard family, medical use of arsenic, and one of Ford's speeches. Mostly receipts and state lottery tickets regarding building repairs, household goods, and Ford's financial support (1823) for the SC Academy of Fine Arts, the Literary and Philosophical Society, and the Southern Evangelical Intelligencer. Also includes (1783-1800) commissions, certificates of appointment, other personal documents, and an assignment (1798) of a medicinal patent from CN's resident Elisha Perkins. Correspondents include Charles Cotesworth Pinckney, Daniel Ravenel, and Henry Izard.

11/131/23 Ford, Timothy 1762-1830

Diary, 1785-1786. 1 bd. Vol.

Charleston lawyer. Diary (1785-1786) of Ford regarding voyage from Morristown NJ to Charleston by sea. Includes comments on politics and other matters. Also some records of Ford family deaths.

11/131/24-26 Ford, Timothy, 1762-1830

Speeches, 1826-1829. 13 items

Charleston civic leader. Mostly drafts of Ford's eulogy (1826) on John Adams (1735-1826). [See printed version, "Eulogy on John Adams Delivered September 14, 1826 in St. Michael's Church" in SCHS pamphlet collection.] Includes preparatory notes and correspondence. Also, a corrected draft of Ford's historical address (1829) at Moultrieville regarding Battle of Ft.

Moultrie 91776) and speeches (1829) regarding Ford's theories of US Supreme Court and American republican government.

11/131/27-28 Ford, Timothy, 1762-1830

Personal, land, and legal letters, 1812-1829. 19 items

Charleston attorney and landowner. Personal, land, legal and political letters from Ford's partner and brother-in-law in Columbia, SC Chancery Court Chancellor Henry William DeSaussure. Topics include health, family life, and joint debts; land purchases, sales and rentals in Charleston, GA, and elsewhere; client accounts; legislature's reorganization of state courts (1824); DeSaussure's interest in an insurance company affected by settlement of French spoliation claims (1824); settlement of estates of Daniel and Mary DeSaussure; aborted slave uprisings in Camden and trail of ringleaders (1816); DeSaussure's judicial decisions and plans for editing and publishing Reports of Cases Argued and Determined in the Court of Chancery... From the Revolution to June 1813 (in 4 vols., 1817-1819); and Ford's and DeSaussure's interest in holding various public offices.

11/131/29-34 Ford, Timothy, 1762-1830

Legal papers, 1792-1829. 50+ items

Charleston attorney and partner of Henry William DeSaussure in law firm of Ford & DeSaussure. Correspondence, memoranda, bonds, receipts, and other papers regarding law practice. Clients include Thomas Pinckney.

11/131A-131B DeSaussure & Ford, 1786-1821

Law firm records, 1786-1821. 5 ms. vols.

Charleston law firm of Henry W. DeSaussure and Timothy Ford. Cash and day books (1786-1821) of D&F with accounts of the firm. Also accounts for building a house on Sullivan's Island and students taken into the law firm. Some accounts from Columbia and Camden and a history of subscribers to a Presbyterian Church in Columbia in vol. 5. vol. 1: Cashbook (1786-1795), Vol. 2: daybook (1790-1792), Vol. 3: Cash book, (1797-1801), Vol. 4: cash book, (1804-1820), Vol. 5: cash book (1812-1821).

11/132/4 Ravenel, Edmund, 1797-1870

College faculty papers, 1829-1835. 22 items

Charleston professor and dean at SC Medical College. Ravenel's correspondence with various college officials, a student committee, the SC Medical Society and the Charleston Library Society regarding college administration, Ravenel's appointment to the faculty of rival medical school, his resignation (1835) from the SC Medical College and subsequent efforts to recover laboratory apparatus, and loan of other laboratory equipment from the Library Society. Also a protest (1831) drafted by Ravenel on behalf of college faculty discussing early history of SC Medical College, professor's sacrifices and demanding more power for faculty; Ravenel's draft of faculty paper criticizing SC Medical Society. But includes notes for lecture on nitrous oxide before Literary and Philosophical Society and Ravenel's valedictory address as a student.

11/132/5 Ravenel, Edmund, 1797-1870

Scientific papers, 1831-1859. 20 items

Charleston scientist. Letters from F. Wurdeman and John Bachman (1790-1874) regarding conchology and a new process for producing sugar [printed in SCHGM, 26: 145-150]. Ravenel's notes on conchology. Letter from Lewis R. Gibbes regarding books available on conchology and research findings on echinodermata (1838-1848). List (1859) of fossils from Albany, NY. Ravenel's research notes indexing Sowerby's Genera of Recent Fossils, and draft of a paper on oceanography. Letters from E. Geddings, a professor at the U. of Maryland, soliciting articles for his Baltimore and Medical Surgical Journal, and from others soliciting advice on constructing laboratory apparatus. Also a letter appointing Ravenel to the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia.

11/132/6 Ravenel, Edmund, 1797-1870

Medical correspondence, 1847-1859. 14 items

Charleston and Sullivan's Island physician. Letters of remittance from the US Treasury Dept. and Ravenel's correspondence with US Surgeon-General HL Heiskell and Congressman Isaac Edward Holmes (1796-1867) regarding compensation for Ravenel's medical services (1848) to the hospital at Ft. Moultrie during the Mexican War. Correspondence (1857-1859) with Congressman William Porcher Miles (1822-1899) and others regarding compensation for Medical Services at Ft. Moultrie during Yellow Fever epidemic of 1858.

11/132/9-10 Ravenel, Edmund, 1797-1870

Plantation bills, receipts and letters. 1833-1863. 80+ items

Charleston and Sullivan's Island planter. Mostly bills and receipts with some accounts and letters regarding carting and sale of briefs from Ravenel's plantation; purchase of lime, hardware, cattle, fruit trees, and oak wood and rental of slave labor for Ravenel's plantation. Includes accounts (1847-1853) with Eleazar Phillips for Ravenel's purchases of cattle and oak wood and statements (1850s) from Charleston factors Ravenel & Co. showing costs and proceeds from sale of Ravenel's rice.

11/132/7 Ravenel, Edmund, 1797-1870

Medical bills, accounts, and letters, 1833-1867. 16 items

Charleston physician. Bills from New York medical supply firm J&JF Trippe and Cautier & Harper and from Charleston druggists E.M. Carey, W.G. Trott and A.W. Eckel & Co. Ravenel's accounts with patients. Letters inquiring about SC legal requirements for licensing physicians and from James C. Ayer advertising one of his drugs. Also includes a letter from a patient.

11/132/8 Ravenel, Edmund, 1797-1870

Medical bills and receipts, 1829-1859. 30 items

Charleston physician. Bills and receipts for drugs or other medical supplies from DG Haviland & Co., Dawson & Blackman, Haviland, Stevenson & Co. of Charleston, and J&JF Trippe of New York. But includes accounts of collections for Ravenel by agent Archibald Whitney (1829-1830) and later (1855) by Alexander H. Mazyck.

11/132/11 Ravenel, Edmund, 1797-1870

Plantation papers, 1835-1866. 21 items

Sullivan's Island planter. Letters, bills of sale, mortgages, price lists and name lists of Ravenel's slaves. Also includes Ravenel's labor contract (1867) with freedmen.

11/132/12 Ravenel, Edmund, 177-1870

Plantation letters, 1836-1854

Brick manufacturer, Planter. Mostly letters (1846) to Ravenel from Baltimore, MD inventor Nathan Sawyer and manufacturers Francis H. Smith and W.S. Shoemaker regarding Sawyer's brick-making machine. Also includes assignments of patent (1836-1839) for earlier model from Sawyer to Ravenel and a patent (1828) for brick-making machine from Charleston inventor B.H. Brown. But includes letters (1846-1854) from NY business representative James Plant of L. Bostwick and Co. regarding a threshing machine and Baltimore firm of George Page & Co. regarding mortising machinery.

11/132/1-3 Ravenel, Edmund, 1797-1870

Estate papers, 1831-1850. Approx 100 items

Charleston planter and administrator of estates of Timothy Ford, Charleston lawyer and planter (1762-1830) and Mary Magdalen Ford (d. 1835). Estate inventories, memoranda, accounts, receipts, bonds, wills, insurance policies, and probate court orders regarding guardianship of Mary Theodosia Ford (d. 1847), household expenses, taxes, and debt payments. But also regarding business expenses, including Timothy Ford's stock shares in South Carolina Railroad Company (1830).

11/132/13 Ravenel, Edmund, 1797-1870

Land and personal letters, 1833-1871. 20+ items

Charleston landlord and Berkeley Co. planter. Letters to Ravenel from Henry A. DeSaussure, Louis Daniel DeSaussure, Daniel Ravenel, and others regarding rentals of Ravenel's Charleston property, payment of Ravenel's debts, Ravenel's purchase (1851) of Brabant plantation from William Mason Smith. Includes letter (1859) from Alexander H. Mazyck about mortgage of property in Charleston and other arrangements to pay Ravenel's debts. But includes statement (1858) of bond owed by William Jervey to estate of R.H. Lucas and a letter from New York (183) regarding state of American culture and society, scientific apparatus, and southern suspicions of the North.

11/132/14-15 Ravenel, Edmund, 1797-1870

Land and plantation papers, 1833-1867. 80+ items

Charleston landlord and Berkeley Co. planter. Mostly bills, accounts, and receipts with letters from Ravenel's agents Archibald Whitney and Alexander Mazyck regarding rent collection and payments for building repairs for tenants. Some bonds, letters, and accounts and a bill of sale from William and Henry Ravenel, James L. Petigru, Mazyck, and Samuel G. Barker regarding purchase and repair of schooner (1852) for shipping plantation products to Ravenel's customers, sale of Ravenel's rice, and supplies for Ravenel's Grove Plantation. Also a letter (1851) from Thomas Capers regarding Ravenel's purchase of Brabant Plantation and lease to Ravenel (1863) of Oakland Farm, Barnwell District from Isaac Dunlin Parkinson.

11/133/1 Ravenel, Edmund, 1797-1870

Personal and household papers, 1830-1862. 17 items

Sullivan's Island resident. Bills, receipts, accounts and letters regarding household purchases, sale of Ravenel's house and lot on Sullivan's Island and collection of subscriptions for Sullivan's Island Poor Fund (1858) and resignation as Intendant of Moultrieville.

11/133/2 Ravenel, Edmund, 1797-1870

Personal receipts, 1820-1869. 19 items

Charleston resident. Receipts for tax payments on property in Charleston, for stock in SC Railroad Company, St. Michael's pew rent, and subscriptions to Charleston Library Society.

11/133/3-4 Ravenel, Edmund, 1797-1870

Household bills and receipts, 1833-1867. 90+ items

Charleston and Sullivan's Island resident. Misc. bills and receipts for furnishings, clothing for enslaved persons, household repairs, carriage horses, repairs, and supplies; dancing lessons, coal, and insurance.

11/133/5 Ravenel, Edmund, 1797-1870

Writings, 1846-1860. 12 items

Sullivan's Island resident, physician. Mostly Ravenel's drafts of letters and other papers to Charleston Courier and Mercury, B.G. Johnson, Benjamin I. Johnson, and others regarding Drunken Dick, Bowman Dyke, dredging of Moffitt Channel, problem of beach erosion along Ft. Moultrie since 1830, and a community meeting (1860) to exclude oyster boats for trading with negroes. Also, certificate of appointment (1846) to SC advisory commission on federal request for new cession of Ft. Moultrie, typescript of Ravenel's recommendations for that Fort's preservation, and drafts of proposals (1858) to restrict dram shops on Sullivan's Island and to alleviate the danger of yellow fever and malaria outbreaks.

11/133/6 Ravenel, Edmund, 1797-1870

Writings, ca. 1860-1870. 10 items

Charleston and Berkeley Co resident. Mostly fragments, including draft of resolution by Ravenel regarding Episcopal church, Beresford's Bounty, Abraham Lincoln vs. cotton

11/133/7 Ravenel, Louisa Catherine, 1805-1886

Estate papers, 1865-1894. 26 items

Second wife of Charleston, Charleston Co. and Berkeley Co. physician, planter, businessman, and landlord Edmund Ravenel. Mostly L.C. Ravenel's tax returns and receipts. Also includes mortgage on property in Radcliffeborough on Charleston Neck; copy of will of Catherine Prioleau (b. 1782) regarding LCR's share of Prioleau estate; bond to Henry Ravenel, balance sheet of account with Daniel Ravenel and John Ravenel, executors of Prioleau estate; fire insurance policy, and probate court certificates regarding appointment of executor for Ravenel's estate.

11/133/8 Ravenel Family

Land papers, ca. 1923. 3 items

Charleston family. Plats of Ravenel property in Charleston and transfer of title to Farmfield Plantation, St. Andrew's Parish from James Reid Pringle Ravenel to other members of the Ravenel family.

11/133/9-13 Ford-Ravenel-Prioleau families

Family history and genealogical papers, 1777-1933. Approx 40 items

Charleston and NJ families. Mostly epitaphs, a bible record, a family chart, and other family history or genealogical notes regarding Timothy Ford's family and descendants of Jacob Ford, John Ravenel, Prioleau family. Also tombstone inscription of related families.