



George Walton Williams family papers, 1849-1959 (bulk 1870s-1890s)
SCHS 1306.00
Containers 28/723-726

Creator: Williams, George Walton, 1820-1903.

Description: 2.5 linear ft.

Biographical/historical note: Charleston, S.C. merchant and banker. Williams spent his youth in Nacoochee Valley, Ga. and began his career as a merchant in Augusta, Ga. In 1852 he established the wholesale grocery firm of George W. Williams & Co. in Charleston, S.C. and became a prominent merchant and banker of the city. His son George W. Williams (1860-1923) was a Charleston businessman and banker.

Scope and content: Papers consist of business and financial records, scrapbooks, correspondence, and other items.

Correspondence of George W. Williams, Sr. includes a letter (1862) from John L. Wightman regarding Rev. W.B. Yates' accusation that Williams was hoarding food supplies; a letter (1878) from a nephew concerning the sale of lands in Nacoochee (Ga.); letters (1865) from Williams to E.C. Williams discussing problems with freedmen, financial affairs, and other matters; and family correspondence.

Papers of George W. Williams, Sr. include receipts (1849-1852) of the firm of Hand & Williams; Williams' private "ledger" (1875-1880) containing accounts for bonds, servants' wages, and real estate; a "Guardian and Trustee Ledger" (1879-1880); a volume containing cotton sales accounts for Hand, Williams & Wilcox, balance sheets, profit and loss statements, and other financial records of George W. Williams & Co., and records of Taylor Iron Works Manufacturing Co. and other business concerns; legal documents and letters (1856-1891) including a conveyance of land (1862) in White and Habersham counties (Ga.) and articles of partnership (1866) of George W. Williams, Sr. and Edwin J. Scott; and clippings.

Papers of George W. Williams, Jr. include a photocopy of a travel diary (1871); three volumes (1900-1923) containing personal and business accounts; receipts and invoices (1915-1919) including an invoice for repairs on a Franklin automobile; business letters (1890-1922); and papers (1949-1956) pertaining to the Carolina Savings Bank including correspondence, pension records, clippings, and printed material.

Also included is a scrapbook (1855-1891) of Mrs. George W. Williams, Sr. (Martha F. Williams) which includes an evaluation (1869) of her phrenological character; a volume containing minutes (1858-1869) of the Book and Tract Society and records of George W. Williams & Co.; and other scrapbooks (1877-ca. 1900) containing clippings and printed material concerning charities and the business enterprises of George W. Williams Sr. and Jr. including the Carolina Savings Bank and Charleston Iron Works.