



Yates family correspondence, 1820-1882
SCHS 1120.00
Container 11/478

Creator: Yates family.

Description: 0.5 linear ft.

Biographical/historical note: South Carolina family. Mrs. Elizabeth Ann Yates was the daughter of David Saylor. In 1802 she married Joseph Yates (d. 1822), a Charleston, S.C. businessman, the owner of a cooperage. After her husband's death she lived in Philadelphia (Pa.) for a few years and then returned to Charleston. Her daughter Mary Amarinthia Yates wed Dr. William Snowden in 1857. He died while serving as a surgeon in the Confederate Army. During the Civil War Mary A.Y. Snowden's war work included organizing groups of women to help feed and clothe Confederate soldiers. In 1866 she organized the Ladies Memorial Association, and she was a principal founder of the Confederate Home and College in Charleston, S.C.

Scope and content: The major portion of the correspondence is directed to or connected with Elizabeth A. Yates. Early letters to her are from her children, sisters, brothers-in-law, friends, and her husband's executor Jeremiah Yates. After her return to Charleston in 1825 her correspondence is chiefly with friends in the North and in Scotland. Letters concern family and estate matters, slaves, a storm in Charleston (Oct. 1822), a runaway slave (July 1823 and Aug. 1824), and other matters. Included is a series of letters (June and July 1828) to her from her son Jeremiah D. Yates in New York (N.Y.) giving daily reports on the progress of his brother William's recovery from an operation for the removal of a tumor on his clavicle by Dr. Valentine Mott. Other correspondents include David S. Yates, W.L. Porter, James L. Petigru, Margaret Mitchell, Julius E. DuBose, and Sarah R. Threadcraft. Included is a typewritten transcription of a letter (1820) from Elizabeth Yates in Charleston (S.C.) to Harrison Gray Otis, U.S. Senator from Massachusetts, expressing her abhorrence of slavery; and a letter (1840) to Mrs. Yates from James Sanderlin, a convict in the Charleston County jail seeking her assistance in obtaining a pardon and release.

After 1837, most of the letters center around Mary Amarinthia Yates Snowden. Some are from her suitor (and later her husband) Dr. William Snowden regarding courtship, family matters, and their lives during the war. There are also love letters (1830s) to her from M.R. Singleton, a suitor in ill health, from Columbia (S.C.) and elsewhere. Other letters (1840-1882) of Mary A.Y. Snowden includes correspondence with cousins, brothers, sisters, and other relatives, including cousin Richard Yeadon Dwight (writing about his military service, and his engagement and marriage to Nina Ravenel), concerning family matters and their lives during the War Between the States. An undated wartime letter to her from Richard Y. Dwight mentions

casualties in Press Smith's company and the danger he is in. "Should I fall in the contest comfort Nina for me. I am not afraid to die, but with so much to make life happy when peace comes, it is hard to be willing to die. But nothing could tend so much to reconcile me to it as the fact that our cause is so sacred a one." Letters are from Pineville (S.C.), Charleston (S.C.), Beaufort Battery (Sullivan's Island, S.C.), and elsewhere.

Preferred citation: Yates family. Yates family correspondence, 1820-1882. (1120.00) South Carolina Historical Society.

Provenance: W. Harry Simons; gift.

Search terms:

DuBose, Julius Edward, 1829-1896.
Dwight, Richard Yeadon, 1837-1919.
Mott, Valentine, 1785-1865.
Otis, Harrison Gray, 1765-1848.
Sanderlin, James.
Singleton, M.R.
Snowden, Mary Amaranthia Yates, 1819-1898.
Snowden, William.
Yates, Elizabeth Ann, b. 1787.
Yates, Jeremiah Atmar.
Yates, Jeremiah Dennison, 1804-1873.
Yates, William Black, 1809-1882.
Yates family.
Fugitive slaves.
Marriage -- South Carolina.
Medicine -- New York (State)
Operations, Surgical -- New York (State)
Prisoners -- South Carolina -- Charleston -- Correspondence.
Slavery -- South Carolina.
Slaves -- South Carolina.
Soldiers -- Confederate States of America -- Correspondence.
United States -- History -- Civil War, 1861-1865.
Genre Letters (correspondence)
Love letters.

Container list:

**11/478/1-23 Yates, Elizabeth A., 1789-1868
Family letters, 1820-1836. Approx. 125 items.**

Charlestonian. Letters (1820-1836) to Elizabeth Ann Yates from her children, relatives and others. Includes typescript of 1820 letter regarding Elizabeth Ann Yates' abhorrence of slavery. Correspondents include Jeremiah A. Yates, Jeremiah D. Yates, David S. Yates, William B. Yates, Isabella S. Yates, W.L. Porter, James Mitchell, Anna Porter, Margaret Mitchell, John R.

Rogers, James L. Petigru (1822, 1825), Sarah R. Threadcroft. Letters mostly from Charleston, but also from Philadelphia PA, Gladsgow, Scotland and elsewhere. Letters regarding family matters, weather, slaves, estate matters, and much more material including Charleston storm (10/26/1822), runaway slaves (7/31/1823 and 8/20/1824), daily letters from Jeremiah D. Yates in New York regarding his brother William B. Yates's operation and recovery for the removal of a tumor (6-7/1828), yellow fever (1824) and life in Charleston (1820-1836).

**11/478/24-35 Snowden, Mary A.Y., 1819-1898
Letters, 1837-1882. Approx 75 items.**

Charleston letters to Mary A.Y. Snowden & her mother Elizabeth A Yates. Many letters (1837-1839) to Mary A.Y. Snowden from W.R. Singleton, Columbia regarding his love for Mary A.Y. Snowden, his problems & dancing (4/30/1838). Letters (1840) to Elizabeth Ann Yates from a convict in the Charleston jail attempting to get a pardon. Letters (1856-1863) of William Snowden, his wife, Mary A.Y. Snowden regarding family and Civil War matters. Other letters (1840-1882) from Mary A.Y. Snowden cousins, brothers, sister and others regarding family, the Civil War, and personal matters from Pineville, Charleston, and Beauregard's Battery, Sullivan's Island.