



# SOUTH CAROLINA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

## **Baker family papers, 1683-ca. 1935** **SCHS 1138.00**

**Containers:** 11/538 - 539C, O/S Manuscript Box 1138.00, and O/S VMA Box 1138.00  
(previously # 33/025)

**Creator:** Baker family.

**Description:** 3 linear ft.

**Biographical/Historical note:** The Baker family became established in South Carolina in the 17th century when Richard Baker (d. 1698) emigrated from Barbados and acquired large land holdings along the Ashley River. His grandson, Richard Baker (d. 1752), married Mary Bohun (d. 1736), daughter of Nicholas Bohun (and granddaughter of Edmund Bohun, 1645-1699); their residence was at Archdale Hall Plantation in Dorchester County, S.C. Their son, Richard Bohun Baker (1736-1783), was the next owner of Archdale Hall; he married Elizabeth Elliott (d. 1771), the daughter of Barnard Elliott (d. 1758), whose other children were Amaranthea Elliott and Barnard Elliott (d. 1778). Richard Bohun Baker's children by Elizabeth Elliott were: William Bohun Baker (died young); Elizabeth Elliott Baker; Mary Bohun Baker; Charlotte Bohun Baker; and Richard Bohun Baker (1757-1837), the heir of Archdale Hall, who married Harriett Hyrne. Harriett Hyrne Baker was the daughter of Mary and Henry Hyrne of neighboring Tipseeboo Plantation. Archdale Hall was next inherited by Richard Bohun Baker (d. 1865), son of Richard Bohun Baker (1757-1837), who in turn devised it to his nephew Dr. Richard Bohun Baker (d. 1901). After his death Archdale Hall Plantation was acquired by Emma Drayton-Grimke, a great niece of Richard Bohun Baker (d. 1865). Emma Drayton-Grimke was the daughter of [Mr.] Sachtleben and Mary Bohun Baker; she married the Reverend John Drayton-Grimke, rector of St. Michael's Episcopal Church (Charleston, S.C.). Another son of Richard Bohun Baker (1757-1837), Barnard Elliott Baker (d. 1850), married Susan Wilson Drayton (d. 1866); their son, Barnard Elliott, died in 1864 in a hospital in Richmond (Va.).

**Scope and content:** Collection contains correspondence, business, legal, and estate papers, financial records, genealogical material, photographs, and other items pertaining to the Baker family and the related Bohun, Drayton, Elliott, and Hyrne families. Included are the papers of Richard Bohun Baker (1736-1785); letters of Alexander Garden (1730-1791); writings of Emma Drayton-Grimke, John Drayton-Grimke, and Augustus Sachtleben; and records (ca. 1889-1901) of the South Carolina Episcopal Diocese conventions.

**Preferred citation:** Baker family. Baker family papers, 1683-ca. 1935. (1138.00) South Carolina Historical Society.

**Search terms:**

Baker family.  
Bohun family.  
Drayton family.  
Elliott family.  
Hyrne family.  
South Carolina -- History.  
Estate records.  
Financial records.  
Genealogies.  
Legal documents.  
Letters (correspondence).  
Photographs.

**Brief Container and Series Summary:**

*1138.01 FAMILY DOCUMENTS SERIES*

11/536/01-22 Business and legal papers, 1795-1914 (75 items).  
11/537/01-28 Correspondence, 1700-1799 (50 items).  
11/537/29-45 Correspondence, 1800-1907 (100 items).  
11/538 Receipts, 1751-1900 (0.5 linear ft.).  
11/539/01-03 Miscellaneous Baker-Grimke legal, slave, and other papers, 1787-1844 (20 items).  
11/539/04-07 Genealogical and biographical papers, 1736-1930s (30 items).  
O/S VMA Box 1138.00 Photographs and drawings, undated (50 items).

*1138.02 PAPERS OF INDIVIDUAL BAKER FAMILY MEMBERS*

*1138.02.01 Baker, Richard Bohun, 1736 1783. Richard Bohun Baker papers, 1683-1791. 58 items.*  
11/535/01-55 Business and legal papers, 1683-1791 (58 items).

*1138.03 BAKER ALLIED FAMILIES*

*1138.03.01 Garden, Alexander, 1730 1791. Alexander Garden papers, 1758 1767. 30 items.*  
11/536/23-51 Medical and botanical-related letters, 1759-1767 (30 items)  
*1138.03.02 Sachtleben, Augustus.*  
11/539a/01-04 Essays, 1868-1884 (7 items).  
*1138.03.03 Drayton Grimke family. Drayton Grimke family papers, 1868 1924. Ca. 200 items.*  
*1138.03.03.01 Grimke, Emma Drayton, 1870-1924.*  
11/539/08-09 Plantation and family history, 1700-1924 (2 items).  
*1138.03.03.02 Grimke, J. Drayton, 1857-1895.*  
11/539a/05-18 Sermons and notes, 1882-1894 (70 items)  
11/539b-539c Episcopal Church of South Carolina, 1889-1901 (100 items).

## **Detailed container listing:**

### **Box 11/535/1-55**

#### **Richard Bohun Baker business and legal papers, 1683-1791**

Includes land grants, plats, permission for marriage, memos, indentures, “gift” of slave, leases, renunciation of dower, bonds, sheriff’s writs, wills, estate papers, and powers of attorney for Richard Bohun Baker (1736-1785), Richard B. Baker (1757-1837), Barnard Elliott, Amaranthea Elliott, Mary Guerin, Elihu Baker, William Percy, and others regarding Ashley River lands, legal, and business matters. Includes wills of Nicholas Bohun, William Bohun (d. 1718), William Bohun (d. 1785), Elihu Baker, Richard B. Baker (d. ca. 1752), Richard Bohun Baker (d. 1785) and Mary Hyrne. Also includes a 1778 land grant of Henry Middleton to the parish of St. James Goose Creek Chronologically arranged.

Note: File 11/535/55, containing a 1791 land grant (with illustrated plat) for a tract of land along the Ashley River to William Bohun Baker from Charles Pinckney has been moved to O/S Manuscript Box 1138.00, for more appropriate storage.

### **Box 11/536/1-22**

#### **Baker family business and legal papers, 1795-1914.**

Includes wills, letters, powers of attorney, affidavits, opinions, and other court documents (1795-1797) regarding a case on behalf of descendants of William Bohun of England. Other papers included bonds, grants of land, leases of John Drayton and others, plats, deeds of gifts, inventory of R.B. Baker’s home (1819), estate papers of Amaranthea Elliott, Revolutionary War claims of R.B. Baker (1828) and other material. Post-Civil War material includes papers of Augustus Sachtleben and the Rev. J. Drayton Grimke regarding estate, Episcopal priesthood, and other matters. Chronologically arranged.

### **Box 11/536/23-51**

#### **Alexander Garden medical and botanical letters, 1759-1767, n.d.**

Letters of Alexander Garden, Charleston physician and botanist, to Richard Bohun Baker regarding prescriptions and directions for medical care of family members (mostly children) and slaves. Also concerns seeds for trees and other plants, uses of bark as medicine, shrubs, flowers, herbs and other botanical and medicinal concerns. Also medical accounts of Baker family with Alexander Garden (1759-1763). Chronologically arranged. Transcripts and originals.

### **Box 11/537/1-28**

#### **Baker family correspondence, 1700-1799, and n.d.**

Correspondence (originals and transcripts) of Baker, Bohun, and Elliott families. Correspondents include Edmund Bohun (Charleston), to James Petiver, a London apothecary interested in South Carolina flora (1700-1701); William Bohun (Beccles, England); Elizabeth Barnard, and Amaranthea Elliott; Richard Bohun Baker (1736-1785); Richard Bohun Baker (1757-1837); Harriett Hyrne Baker; Louisa Ogier; Mary Anne Hyrne; the Reverend William and Catherine Elliott Percy; Elizabeth Mitchell Waring; Henry Ashley; Mary and J.W. Drayton. Letters are from Archdale Hall, London, Charleston and elsewhere and pertain to family and personal matters, slave sales, genealogy, and the 1795 Baker-Bohun estate dispute. Also a letter (1773) from colonial South Carolina Governor Lord Charles Montagu to Barnard Elliott regarding Montagu’s resignation as Governor and his voyage to London and possible war. Letters (1782)

**Box 11/537/1-28 (CONTINUED)**

**Baker family correspondence, 1700-1799, and n.d.**

from General Mordecai Gist and others regarding use of Richard B. Baker's vessel for war efforts and a letter (1781) from an "American soldier" addressing British tyranny and American independence. Chronologically arranged.

**Box 11/537/1-28**

**Baker family correspondence, 1700-1799, and n.d.**

**Box 11/537/29-45**

**Baker family correspondence, 1800-1907**

Letters to Richard Bohun Baker (1757-1836), Richard Bohun Baker (1786-1865), and Mary Butler Baker from James Simons, Thomas Parker, Thomas S. Grimke, James Hamilton, Jr., Thomas Pinckney, Henry W. DeSaussure, at Charleston and elsewhere regarding family and personal matters, landlord-tenant dispute of rental of Coosawhatchie farm land, Revolutionary War veterans claims, and the murder of a slave by another slave (1859). Also includes letters of Henry M. Parker (Norfolk, Va. and Washington, D.C.) to Richard Bohun Baker, Jr. regarding navy life, George Washington's birthday celebration in Norfolk (1800), and other matters. Letters (1863-1864) of Barnard E. Baker in the Confederate Army at Charleston, Petersburg, Va., and prison camp at Point Lookout, Md. to his family regarding camp life, family matters, Fort Sumter service, and Prisoner of War (P.O.W.) life. Other family letters, include correspondence of the Reverend J. Drayton Grimke regarding rector-ship of St. Michaels' Episcopal Church in Charleston (1890s). Chronologically arranged.

**Box 11/538**

**Baker family receipts, 1751-1900**

Receipts (1751-1900) of Richard Bohun Baker (1736-1785), Barnard Elliott and other family members. Includes are receipts from artists, barbers, boat wrights, booksellers, building suppliers, butchers, cabinetmakers, dry goods merchants, factors, government tax officials, gunsmiths, innkeepers, iron workers, laundresses, lawyers, newspapers, portrait painters, physicians, schoolmasters, tailors, and woodworkers. Other receipts concern cotton and corn sales, plantation supplies, slave purchases and rentals, and other items. Also includes tax receipts (1870s -1880s) of Richard B. Baker and miscellaneous expenses and receipts (1880s – 1895) of Rev. J. Drayton Grimke. On the reverse of a receipt dated 1787, there is a pencil sketch of a man who appears to be an African American boatman or sailor. Chronologically arranged.

**11/539/1-3**

**Miscellaneous legal, slave, and other papers, 1787-1844.**

Includes receipts and legal case summary book (1812-1822) of McCormick and Egan, later Grimke and McCormick, Charleston lawyers. Also included is a book used first by Richard McCormick, then by Thomas F. Grimke. Also listings of enslaved persons, slave births and deaths, supplies given to slaves and a sloop book fragment (1787) with lists of blankets given to slaves, cattle branded, sheep sheared, and supplies used in construction of a sloop, and other records of R.B. Baker. Also includes miscellaneous Baker family poems and prayers (1812).

**11/539/4-7****Genealogical and biographical papers, 1736-1930s**

Genealogical records, bible records, charts (many used in 1795 Baker-Bohun estate dispute), wills, letters, notes, and other material regarding Baker, Bohun, Drayton, Grimke, Elliott, Paine, Hynes, Bellinger, and Sachtelben families. Also biographical sketches of Henry Hyrne Baker, and Chief Justice Edmund Bohun. Newspaper article on Archdale Hall.

**11/539/8-9****Emma Drayton Grimke papers on plantation and family history, 1700-1865**

Papers author include both final and early drafts of manuscripts; chronicles of Archdale Hall (1924) by Emma Drayton Grimke regarding succeeding generations of Bakers, Elliotts, and other related families at Archdale Hall through wars, natural disasters, plantation life, marriages, and deaths.

**11/539A/1-4****Augustus Sachtelben essays, 1868-1894**

University of South Carolina and College of Charleston professor of languages and literature. Essays and lecture notes regarding classical, French and German literature including Goethe's *Faust* (1868), "The Troubadours and the Minnesingers" (1884), the romantic poetry of the Middle Ages, the games of the Roman amphitheater and the Roman circus, the demon of Socrates (1894), and other matters.

**11/539A/5-18****J. Drayton Grimke sermons and notes, 1882-1894.**

Grimke was assistant then rector of St. Michael's Episcopal church in Charleston. Includes sermons on various scriptural topics with notes for sermons, and some on the Bible for preparations of the sermons.

**11/539B and 11/539C****Convention papers of the Episcopal Diocese of South Carolina, 1889-1901**

South Carolina Episcopal Diocese convention papers include reports of the trustees of the Diocese, treasury, missionary, and other committee reports; expense and other accounts; constitution revisions; resolutions; Bishop's addresses; list of churches and parishes; Journals of the Council; letters; assessments of the churches; lists of clergy; certificates; receipts of meetings of the local vestry; petitions, and other local and state Episcopal material. Also includes much material on individual Episcopal churches in Charleston and throughout South Carolina.

**O/S VMA Box 1138.00 (previously 33/025)****Baker family photographs and drawings**

Includes photographs of Archdale Hall (Dorchester County) after the earthquake of 1886 and photos from portraits of many Baker-Elliott family members. Also included are unidentified watercolors, landscapes, still life, and animal studies and photos of Baker-Bohun family crest.

Note: As of March 04, 2019, all aforementioned artwork (excluding photography) is not in this box. Location of other listed materials is unknown.