



SOUTH CAROLINA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Edward R. Ball family papers, 1773-2014 (bulk 1890-1990) SCHS# 0631.00

Description: 5 linear ft. (10 boxes + 2 scrapbooks + flat file)

Biographical/Historical Note: Edward Robbins Ball (1928-2019) was a Charleston realtor. Born in Summerville, S.C., he was the son of John Coming Ball (1885-1973), also a realtor, and Annie Arden Jervey Ball (1887-1975), who was the daughter of Francis Johnstone Jervey (1857-1895) and Ida Morris Jervey (1861-1938). Edward R. Ball's twin brother, Thomas Moultrie Ball, died in an accident in 1946. In 1952, Edward R. Ball married Joan Alward (1931-2014), the daughter of Ernest E. Alward (1899-1987) and Phoebe Chapman Alward (1899-1974).

Scope and content: Collection contains correspondence and papers of Edward R. Ball, his father John Coming Ball, and other members of the Ball family and the related families of Jervey, Alward, and Moultrie. Papers of John Coming Ball include business and personal correspondence, as well as records relating to his work as a realtor. Papers of Edward R. Ball consist of mostly personal correspondence, including letters to his parents and his wife Joan, military records, diaries, poems, reminiscences, newspaper clippings, records relating to his homes at 127 Bull Street and 112 Beaufain in Charleston, and papers pertaining to his work as a realtor. Other property records pertain to Dixie Plantation, Quinby Plantation, the Gibbes house on Grove Street (better known as Lowndes Grove), 36 Broad Street, Wappoo Heights, and other properties in the Charleston area and Summerville.

Papers of Joan Alward Ball include correspondence, school records, and papers relating to her involvement in historic preservation in Charleston. Papers of Charlotte Ingraham Ball, the sister of John Coming Ball, include writings and a travel diary documenting a trip to the Netherlands in 1934. Moultrie family papers, 1773-1969, include a small note documenting financial transactions dated 1771 to 1773; and a deed of gift, 1861, conveying "a negro slave named Abby" from John Harleston to his niece Sarah Moultrie. Jervey family papers consist of correspondence and financial records of Ida Morris Jervey, estate records of Francis Johnstone Jervey, including records relating to his partnership in the Valk & Murdoch Iron Works, and a letter, 1864, of G. S. Jervey pertaining to the last illness and death of Ann Simons Jervey (1851-1864), who passed away on 15 May 1864.

Ball family papers include letters and writings pertaining to African Americans, among them a letter, 1927, from P. Henry Martin, a former slave of the Ball family, to Isaac Ball; a letter (copy), 1930, from "Henry R. Martin" (P. Henry Martin?) lamenting the death of Isaac Ball; a letter, 1928, from Carrie Laurens (or Lawrence), a former slave and nurse to the children of John Coming Ball; and reminiscences, 1934, of Carrie Lawrence. There are also estate records of

Annie Arden Jervey Ball; letters and postcards, 1940s. of Thomas Moultrie Ball, written to his family from summer camps in North Carolina and from the Adventure School in Summerville; and genealogical information on the Ball family and related families.

Note: Photographs have been removed to the Visual Material Collection. They include images of Ball and Alward family members, Bluff Plantation on the Cooper River, Brooklands Plantation on Edisto Island, New Cut Plantation on Wadmalaw Island, Lowndes Grove, and numerous houses in Charleston and Summerville. A Ball family Bible is also available.

Preferred Citation: Edward R. Ball family papers, 1773-2014 (bulk 1890-1990). (0631.00) South Carolina Historical Society.

Search terms:

Ball, Charlotte Ingraham, 1890-1975
Ball, Edward Robbins, 1928-2019
Ball, Isaac, 1844-1933
Ball, Joan Alward, 1931-2014
Ball, John Coming, 1885-1973
Jervey, Ann Simons, 1851-1864
Jervey, Francis Johnstone, 1857-1895
Jervey, Ida Morris, 1861-1938
Valk, Charles Robert, 1848-1937
Alward family
Ball family
Jervey family
Moultrie family
Adventure School (Summerville, S.C.)
112 Beaufain Street (Charleston, S.C.)
Valk & Murdoch Iron Works
Camps -- North Carolina
Camps -- South Carolina -- Summerville
Death -- Religious aspects
Historic preservation -- South Carolina -- Charleston
Iron industry and trade -- South Carolina -- Charleston
Real estate agents -- South Carolina -- Charleston
Slave narratives -- South Carolina
Slave records -- South Carolina
I'On (Mount Pleasant, S.C.)
Netherlands -- Description and travel

Container listing:

BOX 1

1 Isaac Ball correspondence, 1927-1928. Letters between Isaac Ball and his son John Coming Ball.

- 2 Correspondence of John Coming Ball and Annie Arden (Jervey) Ball, 1904-1965, and undated. Includes letters between John C. Ball (“Aff”) and Annie Arden Ball (“Dody”).
- 3 Correspondence, 1911-1912, mostly consisting of love letters from John C. Ball to Annie Arden Jervey.
- 4 Correspondence, 1950-1951, consisting of a series of mostly carbon copies. Principally correspondence of John C. Ball.
- 4a Originals of John C. Ball typescript correspondence, 1946-1956.
- 5 Correspondence and papers of Annie Arden Ball (Mrs. John C. Ball), 1903-1965.
- 6 Baby books kept by Mrs. John C. Ball, 1920s.
- 7 Correspondence of Mr. and Mrs. John C. Ball, 1914-1967.
- 8 John C. Ball personal papers, 1940s-1960s.
- 9 Estate records of Annie Arden (Jervey) Ball, 1971-1979.
- 10 Papers of Charlotte Ingraham Ball, 1959-1960 and undated.
- 11 Writings by Charlotte I. Ball, mostly undated, including essays and short stories.
- 12 Charlotte I. Ball travel diary, 1934, documenting a trip to the Netherlands. Includes drawings and photographs.

BOX 2

- 1 Miscellaneous Ball family papers. Includes a bond, 1827, Christopher Jenkins to Elizabeth S. Ball (Elizabeth St. John Ball, 1770-1850?); clippings of obituaries removed from a Ball family Bible.
- 2 Alward family papers, 1923-1990. Includes genealogical information on the Alward and Chapman families.
- 3 Moultrie family papers, 1773-1969. Includes a small note documenting financial transactions dated 1771 to 1773; a deed of gift, 1861, conveying “a negro slave named Abby” from John Harleston to his niece Sarah Moultrie; and a biographical sketch of Dr. John Moultrie, Jr. (1729-1798). Sarah Moultrie was probably Sarah Harleston Moultrie (1838-1910), who married Henry Laurens Ingraham.
- 4 Postcards, 1939-1951, from Edward Robbins Ball to his family (mainly his parents). These were mailed from Asheville, N.C., Columbia, S.C., Sewanee, Tenn., etc.
- 5 Letters, 1946-1948 and undated, from Edward R. Ball to his parents.
- 6 Correspondence, 1934-1985, of Edward R. Ball.

- 7 Correspondence, 1990-2014, of Edward R. Ball.
- 8 Cards and love poems, mostly undated, Edward R. Ball and Joan Alward Ball.
- 9 Correspondence, 1976-2004, and undated, of Mr. and Mrs. Edward R. Ball.
- 10 Correspondence and papers, 1995 and undated, pertaining to portrait artist John Seibels Walker.
- 11 Correspondence, 1945-1949, of Joan Alward Ball.
- 12 Correspondence, Feb. – Sept. 1950, mostly Edward R. Ball to Joan Alward.

BOX 3

- 1 Correspondence, October 1950, mostly Edward R. Ball to Joan Alward.
- 2 Correspondence, Nov. – Dec. 1950, mostly Edward R. Ball to Joan Alward.
- 3 Correspondence, Jan. – March 1951, mostly Edward R. Ball to Joan Alward.
- 4 Correspondence, April – July 1951, mostly Edward R. Ball to Joan Alward.
- 5 Correspondence, Aug. – Dec. 1951, mostly Edward R. Ball to Joan Alward.
- 6 Correspondence, Jan. – March 1952, mostly Edward R. Ball to Joan Alward.

BOX 4

- 1 Correspondence, April – Oct. 1952, mostly Edward R. Ball to Joan Alward.
- 2 Correspondence, undated, mostly Edward R. Ball to Joan Alward.
- 3 Correspondence, undated, mostly Edward R. Ball to Joan Alward.
- 4 Greeting cards, undated, mostly Edward R. Ball to Joan Alward Ball.
- 5 Correspondence, 1963-1987, and undated, of Joan Alward Ball. Includes greeting cards.
- 6 School records, 1950-1951, and undated, of Joan Alward, mostly for Catawba College in Salisbury, N.C.
- 7 Miscellaneous papers of Joan A. Ball, 1942-1951, and undated.
- 8 Wedding and shower gift register, 1952.

BOX 5

- 1 Papers of Joan A. Ball, including papers relating to her involvement in historic preservation.
- 2 Papers of Joan A. Ball, including an autograph album and a Catawba College handbook.
- 3 Postcards, 1937, John C. Ball, Jr. to his brothers and his parents Mr. and Mrs. John C. Ball, written from Middletown, Delaware.
- 4 Postcards and letters, 1945 and undated, Edward R. Ball to his family, written from Camp Adventure at Lake Junaluska, N.C., and elsewhere.
- 5 Letters, 1945, from Thomas Moultrie Ball at Camp Carolina, Brevard, N.C., to his parents.
- 6 Postcards, 1945, from Thomas Moultrie Ball to his family, written from Camp Carolina in Brevard, N.C.
- 7 Postcards and letters, 1945, to Thomas M. Ball, mostly from his parents.
- 8 Correspondence, 1944-1946, relating to Edward and Thomas Ball at the Adventure School in Summerville, S.C.
- 9 School reports, 1944-1946, mostly for Thomas and Edward Ball at the Adventure School, Summerville, S.C.
- 10 Adventure School (Summerville, S.C.) records, 1945-1946.
- 11 Printed material, 1945 and undated, pertaining to the Adventure School in Summerville, S.C. and Camp Adventure at Lake Junaluska, N.C.
- 12 Papers, 1946, relating to the death of Thomas Moultrie Ball.
- 13 Papers, 2011, relating to the death of Edward Robbins Ball, Jr.
- 14 Papers, 1958-1993, relating to Arden Alward Ball Meyer.

BOX 6

- 1 Diary, 1940-1944, of Edward R. Ball.
- 2 Military papers, 1951-1968.
- 3 Diaries of Edward R. Ball, consisting of a 1964 diary that includes a list of family birthdays; a "Diary of First European Trip"; and a travel diary dated 1998.
- 4 Papers of Edward R. Ball, 1960s-2000s, and undated, including newspaper clippings.
- 5 Papers of Edward R. Ball, 1940s-1970s.
- 6 Papers of Edward R. Ball relating to his work as a realtor.

- 7 Biography and reminiscences of Edward R. Ball.
- 8 "A Look through the Eyes of Edward Ball" 2004. Interview.
- 9 Records relating to homes of Mr. and Mrs. Edward R. Ball at 127 Bull Street (Charleston) and at 1101 East Atlantic Avenue (Folly Beach).
- 10 Records relating to the home of Mr. and Mrs. Edward R. Ball at 112 Beaufain Street.
- 11 Papers relating to Harleston Village in Charleston.

BOX 7

- 1 Poems and other writings by Edward R. Ball, A. J. Stoney, and others.
- 2 Poems by Edward R. Ball.
- 3 Poems by Edward R. Ball.
- 4 Papers, 1897-1965, and undated, relating to John C. Ball's real estate and insurance business (later J. C. Ball & Son). Includes papers relating to Dixie Plantation, Quinby Plantation, the Gibbes house on Grove Street (better known as Lowndes Grove), and 36 Broad Street.
- 5 Abstract of title, 1854, for a lot on Broad Street.
- 6 Abstract of title, 1878, for a lot on the west side of Rutledge Street.
- 7 Abstract of title and other records, 1920, pertaining to a lot in Summerville at the corner of Sixth Street South and Magnolia Street.
- 8 Records relating to Wappoo Heights, 1924. Includes historical information and reminiscences by residents.
- 9 Papers relating to John C. Ball & Son and Edward R. Ball's real estate work.
- 10 Miscellaneous papers relating to Edward R. Ball's real estate work. Includes information on I'On (in Mount Pleasant), and Middleton Place (a development in Dorchester County).
- 11 Papers of Edward R. Ball relating to various properties and developments, including 160 Broad Street, Daniel Island, and Middleburg Plantation.

BOX 8

- 1 Speeches and speech notes by Edward R. Ball.
- 2 Miscellaneous newspaper clippings.

- 3 Correspondence, poetry, and other writings pertaining to African Americans. Includes a letter (copy?), 1927, from P. Henry Martin, a former slave of the Ball family, to Isaac Ball; a letter (copy), 1930, from "Henry R. Martin" (P. Henry Martin?) lamenting the death of Isaac Ball; a letter, 1928, from Carrie Laurens (or Lawrence), a former slave and nurse to the children of John Coming Ball; reminiscences of Carrie Lawrence, 1934; a letter, 1955, by J.C. Ball relating an anecdote about a "negro preacher;" a newspaper article, 1954?, about school desegregation; and lyrics of Gullah spirituals.
- 4 Papers relating to Ball family genealogy.
- 5 Papers relating to Ball family genealogy.
- 6 Papers relating to the genealogy of the Jervey and Morris families.
- 7 Papers relating to the genealogy of the Ball, Ingraham, Moultrie, and Simons families.
- 8 Jervey family papers, 1887-1939. Includes papers relating to Ida Morris Jervey and Theodore Dehon Jervey, and property records pertaining to 125 Broad Street.
- 9 Letters from Francis Johnstone Jervey to Ida Morris Jervey, 1884.
- 10 Letters from Francis Johnstone Jervey to Ida Morris Jervey, 1885.
- 11 Letters from Francis Johnstone Jervey to Ida Morris Jervey, 1886.

BOX 9

- 1 Letters from Francis Johnstone Jervey to Ida Morris Jervey, 1887-1891, and undated.
- 2 Letters from Francis Johnstone Jervey to his brother Theodore Dehon Jervey, 1893-1895.
- 3 Ida Morris Jervey correspondence, 1898-1936.
- 4 Correspondence of Annie Arden Jervey Ball, 1919-1938.
- 5 Miscellaneous Jervey family papers, 1864-1921. Mostly correspondence, including a copy of a letter dated 1864.
- 6 Original letter, 1864, [Grace Sarah Jervey, 1807-1896] to "Mrs. Johnstone" pertaining to the last illness and death of Ann Simons Jervey (1851-1864), who passed away on 15 May 1864. She was the daughter of Theodore Dehon Jervey (1817-1893) and Ann Hume Simons Jervey (1818-1862). Her brothers were Lewis Simons Jervey (1848-1927), Arthur Postell Jervey (1854-1883), and Theodore Dehon Jervey (1859-1947). Grace Sarah Jervey was the sister of Theodore Dehon Jervey (1817-1893) and Laura Susan Jervey Smith (1823-1889). Transcription below:

Walhalla June 9th 1864

Dear Mrs. Johnstone,

There was so much of interest in our dear little Annie's illness that we felt it was due you to know from us some of the particulars [aware] that if only through servants it will be talked of [&] you will now be able to know what is true. If I should again mention anything of which you have already been informed you must excuse me, for there were so many to whom to write that we cannot remember all that has been said. Saturday 19th March after entering fully into the spirit of several new games which Lewis' wife was teaching them all, Annie retired early without telling us good night, saying to me only she had headache, & she [bathed her feet], the next morning was very bright, & that night she really looked beautiful. We occasionally had some of the children from [the] reading school to meet here Sunday night & sing & particularly that night Annie enjoyed it very much. On Monday in the [course] of the morning her head again ached & when Lewis & Caroline were going to the R.R. they all went into the chamber to bid her goodbye, as she was lying down, there did not appear to be anything to make us anxious until the next Sunday she dressed & then crossed the passage way coming into our room & asked if she could stay In our room as she was tired & minded the noise of the children. Edward directly came up to her & said she must go to bed. He pronounced it a Typhus fever. On Wednesday she was ill, & now we feared before her dear father could reach us, she would either be at rest or not know him, but "he who giveth us more than we either ask or desire" answered our prayers & the dear little one had many talks with him whom she loved most on earth. The 1st blister which was put on did not draw well but after that, each one drew as well as we desired & after the 3rd had drawn, the tongue began to clear off but the breathing very hard & the cough very troublesome. Wednesday she had a long talk with Theodore (he arrived Monday night). She then took leave of each one of us, thanked us most sweetly for all we had done for her, & asked us to forgive whatever she had done to displease us, & then put up a sweet simple little prayer for us, she kissed each child & gave a few words of parting advice except to Laura's two little ones who could not have understood & then told me afterwards that was her reason. To each servant a few most appropriate words were spoken & messages given for the absent. That day at dinner time I was alone with her. She named each of her uncles & aunts then her cousins, particularly naming three or four of them (among them Pink & [Constance]) & said give my love & tell them all goodbye & that I hope to meet them with Jesus. She then said you know Aunt Grace if I do not die there is no use to give these messages but if I do please tell them. To Grandma send my love & tell her I am sorry to hear how sick she is. We asked if she was willing to die. She said if it is God's will I am willing to die & if it is his will I should stay I am willing to stay. I love you all but I love Jesus more. She said she had been very happy here. Now to us her work seemed done. She slept no more, talked incessantly, but not to be understood. Only a few words of some text or hymn could we distinguish. After [night] on Friday she sung most sweetly one verse of my shepherd. During this interval she knew whoever spoke to her & always answered correctly. She would sometimes asked to be sung to. From that time the improvement though slow was steady. Soon after this Edward succeeded in procuring some medicine. He [dosed] & her cough yielded. Now everything seemed to point to her speedy recovery. I left her, promising to return as soon as she was strong enough to make some little trips, possibly in about a month. Sunday marked her changes. She went to bed Easter Sunday, sat up for the first time on Sunday, was carried down in Edward's arms on Sunday & the next Sunday (Whitsunday) fell asleep in Jesus.

Martha's letter has already informed you of the few last days of her life. Her respectful obedience was a marked feature in her character, her patience in her illness wonderful, no word of [murmur] was heard to escape her lips, many a dear little one will be induced to swallow a nauseous dose or submit to a painful remedy, sure of being rewarded by at least a parents smile, but her conduct was just as sweet before that parent arrived, nor was it changed after he left her. Often [yes] very often did she pray for patience when so [weak] that she [feared] she would forget her prayers she would ask us to let her repeat them with us. I do not think I shall ever forget my feelings the first time she repeated "Ere on my bed my limbs I lay."

She had several times expressed a desire to be confirmed & asked if we thought the Bishop would allow her when the opportunity offered. So much did her thought dwell on the subject that she asked if we thought when we went to Anderson [Mr.] John Elliott would let her join his confirmation class. The day of her death I had read her something about the day & very pleasant were some of the answers I received [so] I really had the pleasure of teaching my little Sunday school scholar the last day of her life. She would have been the sunshine of her father's house, but our merciful high priest has been kind to her in [numbering] her early with his jewels & we feel it a privilege that we were allowed to watch over & minister to her comfort. To her dear Father this additional blow so unexpected too must have been a great shock but he [bears] it with true Christian resignation. He seemed most happy when he reached us just to sit & hear all we could tell about her. Little Theo talks a great deal of her. He is a most affectionate child & helped to cheer our dear Brother. The boys have had very bad [sores]. A & T's hands & arms were [worse]. A's knees, they were almost stiff, the discharge from them has [pulled] them down. T had been looking better.

Our Laura is very much of an invalid. We feel anxious about her. The climate suits none of us. Our love to the [girls] & much to yourself from each of us. The boys send love to [all].

Yours sincerely,

G. [S.] Jervey

[P.S.] Whatever of this you choose to send to your Brothers families of course I do not object. Lewis is spending his vacation with us & sends his love.

- 7 Papers of Ida Morris Jervey, 1900-1909, mostly bills and invoices.
- 8 Papers of Ida Morris Jervey, 1903-1904: checks and receipts.
- 9 Miscellaneous Jervey family papers, mostly undated.
- 10 Francis Johnstone Jervey estate records: copy of his will.
- 11 Francis Johnstone Jervey estate records: correspondence, 1892-1895.
- 12 Francis Johnstone Jervey estate records: correspondence, 1896-1913.

- 13 Francis Johnstone Jervey estate records: papers, 1872-1891, relating to patents on railroad equipment.
- 14 Francis Johnstone Jervey estate records: business and financial records, 1883-1901, including a letter, 1892, concerning the financial affairs of the Valk & Murdoch Iron Works.
- 15 Francis Johnstone Jervey estate records: financial records, 1884-1898, including records relating to the Stoney Landing Company.
- 16 Francis Johnstone Jervey estate records: Valk & Murdoch Iron Works records, including a declaration and an indenture, 1886, relating to the establishment of the company.
- 17 Francis Johnstone Jervey estate records: correspondence, 1891-1895, of Francis J. Jervey and Charles R. Valk.
- 18 Francis Johnstone Jervey estate records: Valk & Murdoch financial records, 1886-1902, including balance sheets.

BOX 10

Index card file listing persons to whom invitations were sent for the wedding of Edward R. Ball and Joan Alward, 1952.

OVERSIZE ITEMS

Two scrapbooks, located on top shelf above collection. Volume 1 is marked "Do You Know Your Charleston?" It contains newspaper clippings of this column about historic houses and buildings in Charleston, as well as articles about historic lowcountry plantation properties. This volume includes an index. Volume 2 also contains clippings about historic houses and buildings in Charleston, as well an article about South Carolina plantations owned by northerners. Both volumes are mostly undated, but some articles are marked with dates in the 1940s.

Located in vault flat files:

Zone map of Charleston, 1975.

Map of "Proposed Building Height Restrictions" in peninsular Charleston, 1974.

Aerial photographs (paper copies) of the Anchorage Plantation [Wadmalaw Island].

U.S. Geological Survey maps, 1970s, of Charleston and surrounding areas as well as portions of the Francis Marion National Forest.

Plat, 1990, of lots in Middleton Place (a subdivision in Dorchester County).

“The Grand Plan of I’On, 1997”

A color aerial depiction of Middleton Place (on the Ashley River).

Plans and specifications for a house at 29 Eastlake Road in I’On (Mt. Pleasant).

Plat, 1933, of a lot on the Stono River belonging to C. S. Dawson.

A Moultrie family chart: “Moultrie of Seafield” (copy).

Copy of a map “Charleston & Its Suburbs, c. 1800.”