



SOUTH CAROLINA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Palmer Family Papers, 1784-1886 SCHS# 0661.00

Description: 0.25 linear ft. (1 box)

Biographical/Historical Note: The Palmer family members represented in these papers were likely the sons of Thomas Palmer of Union District, whose 1804 will mentions sons Jeffrey, Elias, Daniel, William, Elisha, and Daniel, and daughters Mary “Prewit” (Pruitt) and Frances “Prewit” (Pruitt). Mary Pruitt’s will of 1827 mentions a son named Aaron, and a son-in-law named James Smith. Frances Palmer Pruitt (1763-1818) was the wife of Alexander Pruitt (1755-1821). Another substantial group of records relates to Arthur Jefferson Dillard (1811-1864), the son of George Dillard (1776-1846) and Mary Elizabeth (Polly) Garrett (1782-1862). Among the siblings of A. J. Dillard was his sister Elvira Dillard (1815-1849). In later generations, the families of Palmer, Dillard, and Walker became further linked through two marriages, that of Adaran (“Addie”) Ophelia Dillard (1850-1936), the daughter of Arthur J. Dillard, to Benjamin Franklin Walker (1832-1920); and the marriage of their daughter Addie Talula (“Lula”) Walker (1868-1953) to Robert Ellis Palmer (1866-1915).

Scope and content: Papers chiefly consist of property records, legal documents, estate and financial records, and correspondence mostly pertaining to the related families of Palmer, Dillard, and Walker.

Most of the property records pertain to land on or near Sugar Creek in Union District (later Union County), the earliest being part of a land grant and plat, 1784-1785, to Thomas Blassingame. Other persons named in conveyances and other property records include Robert McCrary, Jeffrey Palmer, Aaron Pruet (or Pruitt), Mills Sumner, James Smith, Moses Batey, A. J. Dillard, Ulysses Williams, B. F. Walker, Samuel Puckett, Adam Cromer, and Elvira Dillard. A copy of a deed of gift (1829) documents that Daniel Palmer gave his son Jeffrey Palmer a tract of land as well as a number of slaves (named in document). A smaller group of records relate to property in Pinckneyville and Boganville (Bogansville?) Township, and persons named in this group include Mrs. A. O. Walker, Elizabeth Bankhead, Jefferson M. Sumner, William A. Nicholson, William McConnel (or McConnell), Joseph Gist, John W. Bynum, Nancy Gallant (widow of Daniel Gallant of North Carolina), William McGowan, and Thomas C. Taylor.

Correspondence consists of two personal letters, 1858, to A. J. Dillard from Jasper Mays, one of which is written from Lagrange [Mississippi]; a letter, 1859, to Dillard from Elisha Palmer in Louisiana relating to the property lines and ownership of a tract of land in Union District which

is involved in a lawsuit; and a letter, 1859, to Jefferson Dillard from H. D. Floyd in Jonesville, S.C., asking Dillard to use his influence “at the next meeting of Commissioners of Roads” against petitions to “retail spirits.” Slave records consist of an undated slip list of names; and records (1864) relating to laborers impressed into Confederate service (“coast duty”) during the war.

Estate records pertain to the estates of Phoebe Garrett, Nancy Howard, and John Johnson. Financial records include promissory notes, receipts, and a bond (1874), Jefferson M. Sumner to Mrs. A. O. Walker. Arthur J. Dillard was a magistrate judge, and some of the legal documents and other papers in this collection may be unrelated to the family papers.

Preferred citation: Palmer family papers, 1784-1886. (0661.00) South Carolina Historical Society.

Search terms:

Dillard, Arthur Jefferson, 1811-1864.

Dillard family.

May family.

Palmer family.

Pruitt family.

Summers family.

Walker family.

Slave labor

Slave records -- South Carolina -- Union District

Bogansville (S.C.)

Pinckneyville (S.C.)

South Carolina -- History -- Civil War, 1861-1865

Union County (S.C.) -- History -- Sources

Union District (S.C.) -- History -- Sources

Container listing:

BOX 1

Property records:

- 1 Fragment of a land grant, 1785, of 111 acres to Thomas Blassingame, and an attached plat, 1784, showing land located on Sugar Creek.
- 2 Bond, 1818, Daniel Palmer to Jeffrey Palmer, relating to 100 acres off Sugar Creek, Union District.
- 3 Plat, 1819, of 83 acres of land “on Sugar Creek, waters of Fairforest,” surveyed for Jeffery Palmer.
- 4 Plats, including a plat, 1824, of land on both sides of Sugar Creek; a plat, 1827, of 100 acres, which appears to be copy of a 1770 plat found on a grant to James Bedenton of 100 acres of land “in Craven County” on a branch of Sugar Creek, “water of Fair Forest”

- (Creek); and an undated plat of land “originally granted to Col. Robt. McCrary and by him conveyed to James Wright by Jas. Wright to John A. Elmore.”
- 5 Copy of a deed of gift, 1829, in which Daniel Palmer gives to his son Jeffrey Palmer a tract of land “whereon I now live,” as well as his personal estate including a number of slaves (named in document).
 - 6 Grant, 1836, to “Aaron Pruet” of 7 ½ acres in Union District “on Sugar Creek waters of Fairforest.” Includes a plat.
 - 7 Renunciation of dower, 1840, by Jane Sumner, wife of Mills Sumner, Union District, and by Mary Sumner, the mother of Mills Sumner; and a conveyance, 1840, Mills Sumner of Union District to Jefferson Dillard, of about 178 acres “on both sides of Sugar Creek” in Union District.
 - 8 Conveyance, 1842, James Smith and his wife Oney Smith of North Carolina, to Aaron Pruet, of land in Union District in the vicinity of Sugar Creek; a conveyance, 1842, Aaron Pruet to Adam [Cromer], of a tract of about 206 acres in Union District; and a renunciation of dower, 1844, by Mary Pruet, wife of “Aron Pruet,” to Adam Cromer, Union District.
 - 9 Conveyance, 1845, Moses Batey of Union District to A. J. Dillard, of about 51 ½ acres in Union District; conveyance, 1846 (sheriff’s sale), of 500 acres of land on Sugar Creek in Union District formerly belonging to Daniel Palmer, sold to A. J. Dillard; conveyance, 1847, of 83 acres on Sugar Creek to A. J. Dillard, relating to a levy on the property of Jeffrey Palmer; and a conveyance, 1848, of 71 acres on Sugar Creek, sold by Joseph Robinson of Union District to Caswell Bogan.
 - 10 Conveyance, 1860, of about 81 acres in Union District, sold by Ulysses Williams to A. J. Dillard; a conveyance, 1866, of 9 acres in Spartanburg District, sold by Anthony [C.] Shands of Spartanburg District to B. F. Walker of Union District (includes a renunciation of dower by M. E. Shands, wife of A. C. Shands; and a quitclaim, 1860, in which Samuel Puckett of Laurens District releases his interest in in the estate of “the late Miss Elvira Dillard” and Mrs. Susan Johnson (“deceased”), for a sum paid to him by Mrs. Martha Dillard, James B. Dillard, and Arthur [J.] Dillard.
 - 11 Conveyance, 1874, of 211 acres in Union County, sold by A. O. Walker of Union County to Jefferson M. Sumner; conveyance, 1878, of about 211 acres, sold by J. M. Sumner of Union County to Mrs. A. O. Walker; and a mortgage, 1886, Mrs. A. O. Walker to William A. Nicholson, on real property in Bogansville Township (with acknowledgment of satisfaction dated 1899).
 - 12 Fragment of a conveyance, n.d., documenting the sale of about 47 acres in the vicinity of Sugar Creek, sold by William R. Briggs of Union District to Asa Smith.
 - 13 Conveyance, 1809, of nine lots in the village of Pinckneyville, sold by Elizabeth Bankhead, executrix of the estate of James Bankhead, to Thomas C. Taylor.

- 14 Conveyance, 1821, of a house and lots in Pinckneyville, sold by William McConnel of Union District to Daniel Gallant of Mecklenburg County, North Carolina (includes a renunciation of dower by Sarah Jefferies McConnel, wife of William McConnel); conveyance, 1823, of a lot (in Pinckneyville?), sold by Joseph Gist of Union District to Thomas C. Taylor of Pinckneyville; indenture, 1829, North Carolina, conveying title to a “house and lot” in the village of Pinckneyville, Union District, S.C., conveyed by John W. Bynum and his wife Nancy, the widow of Daniel Gallant of North Carolina, to William McGowan of Pinckneyville; and a conveyance, 1831, of John McEntire’s share in a house and lot in Pinckneyville to Thomas C. Taylor of Union District.

Legal documents:

- 15 Printed writ of levy, 1842, Laurens District, S.C., against Elihu Golightly; printed subpoena, 1844, Union District, to Samuel Sumner; printed notice, 1868, relating to the bankruptcy of Sandford D. Briggs; and an affidavit, 1858, Union District, by John Palmer and others relating to some land formerly owned by Thomas Palmer being cleared and cultivated by Samuel Sumner and others, and affirming that Samuel Sumner is physically superior to Elisha Palmer, son of Thomas Palmer, and that he could “overcome and frighten” Palmer.

Estate records:

- 16 Receipt, 1839, for a share of the estate of Phoebe Garrett, received by [Jesse] Garrett; receipt, 1845, relating to the Garrett estate; accounts [1845] relating to the estate of Nancy Howard; and a promissory note, 1858, for \$68 plus interest, for payment by A. J. Dillard and others, to the estate of John Johnson, deceased.

Financial records:

- 17 These include promissory notes; receipts; promissory notes; and a bond, 1874, Jefferson M. Sumner to Mrs. A. O. Walker.

Slave records:

- 18 These consist of an undated slip of paper which appears to include a list of slaves; a printed circular letter, 1864, addressed to [A.] J. Dillard (“Fair Forest”), issued by R. B. Johnson, “Agent of the State of South Carolina,” relating to the “arrest” of slave laborers who are the property of defaulting owners; and a “List of hands to coast duty,” 1864, listing the names of slave owners and the “credits due them.”

Correspondence:

- 19 Two personal letters, 1858, to A. J. Dillard from Jasper Mays, one of which is written from Lagrange [Mississippi]; a letter, 1859, to A. J. Dillard from Elisha Palmer in Louisiana relating to the property lines and ownership of a tract of land in Union District which is involved in a lawsuit; and a letter, 1859, to Jefferson Dillard from H. D. Floyd in Jonesville, S.C., asking Dillard to use his influence “at the next meeting of Commissioners of Roads” against petitions to “retail spirits.”

Miscellaneous:

- 20 Note, 1847-1848, listing amounts of cotton and corn; and undated surveyor's notes giving land measurements.