



Lucas family papers, 1758-1902 SCHS 477.00

Creator: Lucas family

Description: .25 linear ft.

Biographical/Historical note: South Carolina family of English descent. Jonathan Lucas (1754-1821) was a millwright who emigrated from England to Charleston, South Carolina about 1790. He invented new types of rice pounding mills and water mills and installed them throughout the rice regions of South Carolina. In 1817 either he or his son, Jonathan Lucas (1775-1832), built the first steam rice mill.

Scope and content: Collection consists of correspondence, receipts, land documents, and clippings pertaining to the Lucas family.

Papers of Jonathan Lucas (b. 1754- d.1821), the millwright who emigrated from England, include letters from Robert Hume, John Hume, Plowden Weston, Anthony Simons, Mary Middleton, Joseph Manigault, J. Bowles, W. Washington, and J. Bowman. Most letters concern construction of “threshing machines” for rice on various plantations and solicit advise and expertise from Lucas.

Papers of William Lucas include letters from Christopher Baring (Newport, Rhode Island), Thomas Wrench Naylor (Cheshire, England), Peter Sherwen, Thomas Pearce, Jane [Lucas] Beatty, and James L. Cordes. Also included is a bill of lading for four mill stones. Most correspondence deals with shipment of mill construction supplies overseas from England and rice production.

Papers of Alexander Hume Lucas (b. 1838-d. 1914) include correspondence from Christopher E. Memminger, Theodore Marsden, Thomas F. Porcher, William Jervey, Edward Mazyck, Thomas Pinckney of Warrenton, Virginia. Letters pertain to Lucas’ painting, the Civil War, and access to scholarships at Porter Military Academy endowed by the Pinckney family in memory of “the two boys we have lost.” Also included is a teaching certificate for Charleston County made out for A.H. Lucas and a photo of the “Old Lucas Home, Now the Riverside Infirmary” (286 Calhoun St.).

Also included are land documents pertaining to Indian Hill Plantation from the 1840s, correspondence of cousins Jonathan Lucas and Alexander Hume Lucas from 1881-1885 concerning the history of rice cultivation and rice mills in South Carolina, several letters of the Doar family of McClellanville, and several miscellaneous items including the tobacco pouch of “Grandfather Lucas” and a handwritten chart of the “Linnaean System of Botany as Divided into Classes and Orders.”

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Search terms:

Lucas, Jonathan, 1754-1821
Lucas, Jonathan, 1775-1832
Lucas, Alexander Hume, 1838-1914
Christopher Memminger
Weston, Plowden, 1739-1827
Dorr family.
Lucas family.
Baring, Charles, 1774-1865.
Lucas family
Doar family
Indian Hill Plantation
Confederate States of America. -- Army --Officers --Correspondence.
Mills and mill-work--South Carolina.
Rice--South Carolina--Milling.
Charleston (S.C.) --History--Sources.
Orangeburg (S.C.) --History--Sources.
South Carolina--History--Sources.
South Carolina--History--Civil War, 1861-1865--Sources.
Letters (correspondence) --aat

Folder listing:

477/01/01 Jonathan Lucas papers, 1758 – 1802

Includes letters from Robert Hume, T. Fuller, Plowden Weston, John Hume, Anthony Simons, Edward Lynah, Mary Middleton, Joseph Manigault, J. Bowles, W. Washington, William and Joseph Bell, and J. Bowman. Topics of discussion include acquisition of goods such as “Negro cloth,” flour, and sugar; remedies for fever such as bark and wild hoar hound tea; construction of rice mills on various rice plantations; and lands located at Haddrick’s (Haddrill’s) Point. Several letters also discuss the purchase and shipment of goods such as iron castings and mill stones used to construct rice mills from Liverpool, England.

Also includes a receipt (1791) for four wheels and nuts purchased by Mr. William Noble from Spedding, Hicks, Senhouse, & Co. in Whitehaven.

477/01/02 William Lucas papers, 1819-1869

Includes letters from Christopher Baring of Newport, R.I., Thomas W. Naylor of Cheshire, England, Peter Sherwen, Thomas Pearce, Jane Beatty, James L. Cordes, and J. Hume Lucas. Correspondence (1819) from Christopher Baring of Baring & Co. discusses erecting an experimental threshing machine (for rice) and discussion of accounts and shipment of rice to London and Hamburg. Baring also inquires about rice crops in the Santee region compared to

those on the Combahee and Pon Pon rivers. Five letters from Thomas W. Naylor, an agent in London with whom William Lucas apprenticed, contain information on both personal and business matters. In a letter from 1820, Naylor congratulates Lucas on his recent marriage to Charlotte Hume. Other letters from Naylor discuss business matters with the Sherwen and Pearce families and expenses accrued for the purchase and shipment of cast iron wheels used in the construction of rice mills. Naylor also indicates that he received a “very rude and uncivil letter from Eliza [sister of William Lucas], abusing [him] without a cause in the most scurrilous manner and at which [he] [was] much hurt.” A letter (1822) to William from his sister Jane Beatty in Liverpool requests money from their father’s estate and congratulates William on his marriage. A letter from James L. Cordes of London addresses the will of Jonathan Lucas, Sr. A letter (1849) to “My Dear Father [William Lucas] from J. Hume Lucas at Hopsewee Plantation discusses business at Blackwood and Indian Hill Plantations and Murphy Island. Another letter (1869) to “William” from William Lucas gives detailed instructions and advice for cultivating and thrashing rice and also mentions working with freedmen, whom the author believes “like their ease more than they care of filling their pockets.”

Also included is a letter (1820) from an unknown person to William Lucas which contains a detailed sketch of “the situation of Georgetown to give you my ideas of the risk in navigating boats.” Landmarks on the sketch include Winyah Bay, Sampit River, Black River, Waccamaw River, Waccamaw Neck, and Bush Landing as well as the location of rice mills and their respective property holders.

Also included is a ledger of accounts between Jonathan Lucas, Esq. and Thomas Wrench Naylor, 1820-1821; a receipt (1820) for shipment of cast iron spur wheels on the ship “Margaret Ann” to Charleston from Liverpool; and a bill of lading (1823) for mill stones.

477/01/03 Land documents pertaining to Indian Hill Plantation, 1840 – 1843

Includes a conveyance (c. 1840) of Indian Hill Plantation by the executrix and executors of the estate of John Hume to Alexander Mazyck and a title to real estate for Indian Hill Plantation, 1843.

477/01/04 Alexander Hume Lucas papers, 1849-1902

Includes letters from C.E. Memminger, Theodore Marsden, Thomas F. Porcher, William Jervey, Edward Mazyck, Thomas Pinckney, and J. J. Lucas.

Letter from Christopher Memminger (1860) praises A.H. Lucas for his work and assures him that he will “always feel a warm interest in your advancement and happiness.” Several letters thank Lucas for paintings and portraits that were gifted. Letter (1860) from Theodore Marsden also mentions concern of “fanatical abolitionism of the North” souring commercial relations with South Carolina. A letter (1893) from Thomas Pinckney of Warrenton, Virginia offers A.H. Lucas access to the endowed scholarships at Porter Academy in honor of the “two boys I have lost.” A letter (1902) from J.J. Lucas of Society Hill, South Carolina, writes of his sorrow and grief following the deaths of his son and wife from “malarial fever” and stroke.

Series also includes three letters (1862-1863) written by Alexander Hume Lucas from Corinth, Mississippi and Georgetown, South Carolina while serving in the Confederate Army during the Civil War. Lucas is optimistic in a letter from Christmas day of 1862 in which he writes that he “trusts that the efforts of our enemies may be brought to naught and another year shall have passed, all will be peace again.”

Also included is a teacher's certificate (1889) for A.H. Lucas from Charleston County; clippings; and a photograph of "the old Lucas Home, now the Riverside Infirmary," Charleston, S.C. (286 Calhoun St.).

477/01/05 Jonathan Lucas correspondence with Alexander Hume Lucas re: family history and the history of rice cultivation and rice mills in South Carolina

Consists of 21 letters from Jonathan Lucas to his cousin A.H. Lucas in which rice culture and the history of the Lucas family in South Carolina are discussed in great detail.

477/01/06 Doar family letters

Series consists of five items including a letter to Stephen Doar from Edward Mazyck regarding payment for land and books recently acquired. Mazyck also expresses surprise "to hear he [Doar] had any books – I thought the Negroes and Yanks had torn them all up." A letter (1869) to Stephen Doar from Mary Doar informs him that "Mr. Morrison's boat has not come yet – the plat says one thousand and thirty two acres of land – on our part – and the Kensington three hundred acres on the W.H. Doar's part."

477/01/07 Miscellaneous items

Includes a chart of the "Linnean System of Botany as divided into classes and orders" and a plat (1879) of a "tract of pine land situate in St. James Santee containing 100 acres granted to John Deas in April 23, 1763 with a resurvey at the request of William Lucas . . ."