



Henry Pinckney Walker family papers, 1836-1957
SCHS 1223.00
Container 24/274

Creator: Walker, Henry P.

Description: 0.5 linear ft.

Biographical/Historical Note: British consul at Charleston, S.C. An English attorney, in 1839 he moved to Charleston, where he practiced law (until 1862) and entered the consular service, serving from 1856 to 1886. He was the son of Rev. Henry Walker and Jane Pinckney Walker, daughter of Hopson Pinckney (d. 1794). Hopson Pinckney, a native of England, owned Cypress Pond Plantation in [Charleston] County, S.C. After his death his daughter Jane returned to England to live with relatives there, and his other daughter Mary Elizabeth remained in South Carolina, marrying Samuel Ashe, and second, Daniel C. Edwards. In 1844 Mary E. Edwards conveyed ownership of Cypress Pond Plantation to her nephew Henry P. Walker, who subsequently acquired the neighboring Mt. Pleasant and Dog Swamp plantations and in 1858 sold all these properties. Henry P. Walker married Dorothy Modd Box in 1841; they owned a home in Summerville, S.C., where he died. The children of Henry P. Walker included Charles E., Henry P., Edith E., George R. (1847-1882), Edwin, and Anna.

Scope and Content: Papers consist of correspondence, legal documents, and other items. Correspondence (1836-1906) includes Henry Pinckney Walker's correspondence (1836-1857) with his mother, father, and sisters in England regarding his travels in America, friends and acquaintances in Charleston (S.C.), his stay at the home of Mary E. Edwards, his acquisition of Cypress Pond Plantation (1844), family and personal matters, a yellow fever epidemic (November 1849), financial concerns, and other matters; typewritten transcriptions of Walker family correspondence throughout the Civil War; and additional Walker family correspondence (ca. 1860-1887). Topics of letters of 1860 to 1865 include secession, national politics, the bombardment of Fort Sumter, the service of two of Walker's sons in the Confederate Army, a younger son (George) being sent back to England, and the Federal shelling of the city and other wartime events and conditions in Charleston, including blockade running. In a letter of Jan. 18, 1861, Henry P. Walker comments on the seceding Southern states: "The glorious union...is at an end. The people of the North, for 50 years past, have amused themselves at the expense of the Southerners...Millions upon millions have the South unjustly paid under the Northern protective tariff system. With secession this tribute payment ceases; there is no wonder that the Northerners are union men, and denounce the impropriety of secession. It occasions them pecuniary loss." In the same letter, Walker states that Europeans are getting news of America only from Northern newspapers, and are being "grossly misled."

Letters of 1865 and beyond concern conditions in Charleston just after the war (during military occupation), the 1886 earthquake and 1893 hurricane in Charleston, Episcopal Church affairs, family members in Texas, art, and British consular affairs. Letters are from Charleston, Summerville, New York (N.Y.), England, and elsewhere. A letter dated Feb. 1 [1866?] from Mrs. Henry P. Walker to "Nan" mentions an incident on James Island (S.C.) in which some Northerners were threatened by "armed negroes." She also describes conditions in Charleston: "We are living under iron rule and our commanding general's two brothers both keep common taverns! So you may fancy what poor old Charleston is reduced to. Theiving, robbery, murder, stabbing continues nightly and though we have an immense police force it cannot be put a stop to."

Papers (1888-1889) concerning a legal dispute between Henry P. Walker and the South Carolina Railroad Co. include correspondence, clippings, plats, and legal documents. Other items include mortgages (1860,1861); a copy of an official opinion (1857) of the U.S. attorney general on the authority of foreign consuls regarding the arrest and extradition of persons accused of crimes; poems and stories; a warrant (1890) for the appraisalment for executors of Henry P. Walker's estate; shipping records; greeting cards; and photographs.

Preferred Citation: Walker, Henry Pinckney, 1816-1890. Henry Pinckney Walker family papers, 1836-1957. (1223.00) South Carolina Historical Society.

Search terms:

Edwards, Mary Elizabeth.

Walker, Henry Pinckney, 1816-ca. 1890.

Walker family.

South Carolina Railroad.

Blockade.

Consuls -- Confederate States of America.

Diplomatic and consular service, British -- United States.

Military occupation.

Natural disasters -- South Carolina -- Charleston.

Plantations -- South Carolina -- Berkeley County.

Secession.

Yellow fever -- South Carolina -- Charleston.

Charleston (S.C.) -- Earthquake, 1886.

Charleston (S.C.) -- History.

Charleston (S.C.) -- History -- Civil War, 1861-1865.

Charleston (S.C.) -- History -- Siege, 1863 -- Personal narratives.

Charleston (S.C.) -- Hurricane, 1893.

Cypress Pond Plantation (S.C.)

South Carolina -- History.

Summerville (S.C.)

United States -- History -- Civil War, 1861-1865 -- Causes.

United States -- History -- Civil War, 1861-1865 -- Economic aspects.

Letters (correspondence)

Legal documents.

Photographs.

Writings.
Consuls.

**24/274/1-17 Walker, Henry Pinckney, 1816-ca. 1890
Family Papers, 1840-1890's, ½ ft.**

British consul in Charleston, original and partial typescripts of correspondence (1840-1890's) of Henry P. Walker and his wife, Dorothy M.B. Walker, his parents Jane and Rev. Henry Walker Sr. and his 8 children including Carrie, Henry Pinckney III, Edith, George, Anna N.M.F. and others. Letters from Charleston, Summerville, New York, NY, London England, and elsewhere regarding life in Charleston, visits to Pendleton, New York and Europe, secession, the Civil War in Charleston, Port Royal, and VA, blockade running, children's education in England during the war, the Charleston earthquake (1886) and hurricane (1893), Epsicopal Church affairs, properties in Charleston, Summerville, and New York, insurance policies, family in Texas, paintings and drawings seen and created, bought and sold, domestic matters, health and British Consular affairs. Also receipts, legal papers, and misc. family writings. Also correspondence (1868-1889) of Henry P. Walker, Thomas W. Bacot and others regarding the SC Railroad Co's British creditors and debt settlement.