Daniel Cannon Webb plantation journals, 1817-1850
SCHS 1154.00
Container 11/581
microfilm 45-335

Description: 6 volumes.

Biographical/historical note: Daniel Cannon Webb purchased 310 acres called Chatsworth on the Ashley River (South Carolina) and, nearby, two tracts of land called The Key containing 318 and 200 acres. These properties were located in Colleton District (in an area which is now most likely part of present day Dorchester County). The Webbs lived on the plantation for only two months of the year, moving there for Christmas and the month of April. The rest of the year they lived in Cannonsborough in Charleston, S.C.

Scope and content: The journals (1817-1832, 1838-1850) begin with the purchase of Chatsworth and The Key. Webb notes the times of planting, first bloom, and harvest, any circumstances of weather or pests which affected his crops of oats, peas, corn, rice, and cotton. Apparently cotton was the money crop for there is no mention of the other produce being sold. The livestock is inventoried once each year. Overseers were usually in residence on the plantations. Each entry carries a comment upon the weather, prevailing winds, and, after July, 1840, thermometer readings. Unusual gales are described at some length, particularly those of 1822 and 1846. The health and welfare of the slaves, cloth distribution each November, occasional outbreaks of measles and fevers, and births and deaths are also noted.

     Daniel Webb wrote frequently of the members of his family, but rarely recorded public events. Among the few noted are General Lafayette's visit in 1825, the deaths (1826) of Thomas Jefferson and John Adams, the double July 4th celebration of rival parties during the nullification agitation of 1831, and the great fire of 1838. In the early years of the journals, trips were recorded separately in a volume now missing. Events in later years are more fully described especially a visit to Graniteville in 1849, which includes an inspection of the industrial development there, and Webb's travels to Virginia springs and eastern cities in 1850.

Note: Volumes in fragile condition; use microfilm, SCHS 45-335.

Note and provenance: Originally there were seven plantation journals, but the third volume was missing when the collection was donated to the Historical Society.

Preferred citation: Webb, Daniel Cannon, 1782-1850. Daniel Cannon Webb plantation journals, 1817-1850. (1154.00) South Carolina Historical Society.

Search terms:
Adams, John, 1735-1826.
Jefferson, Thomas, 1743-1826.
Lafayette, Marie Joseph Paul Yves Roch Gilbert Du Motier, marquis de, 1757-1834.
Webb, Daniel Cannon, 1782-1850.
Webb family.
Farm management -- South Carolina.
Fires -- South Carolina -- Charleston.
Fourth of July celebrations -- South Carolina.
Nullification (States' rights)
Plantations -- South Carolina -- Colleton District.
Slave records -- South Carolina -- Colleton District.
Slaves -- South Carolina -- Colleton District.
Charleston (S.C.) -- Climate.
Charleston (S.C.) -- Fire, 1838.
Charleston (S.C.) -- History -- 1775-1865 -- Sources.
Chatsworth Plantation (S.C.)
Graniteville (S.C.) -- History -- Sources.
South Carolina -- History -- 1775-1865 -- Sources.
The Key (Plantation : S.C.)
Journals (accounts).
Plantation journals (accounts).

Container listing:
11/581/1-6   Webb, Daniel, d. 1850
Plantation journal, 1817-1850   . 6 ms. vols.

Colleton Co. planter at Chatsworth and the key plantations. Journals (1815-1850) of Daniel Webb vol. 1-7 except vol. 3 which was missing before collection came to SCHS. Included are notes on cotton, potatoes, corn and other crops, notes on livestock, weather conditions; births and deaths, notes on slaves including blanket and clothing distribution, the Webb family, social matters, mention of Charleston and Cannonsborough, mention of Lafayette's visit to Charleston (1825) and the deaths of Thomas Jefferson and John Adams (1826), vaccinations and sickness including yellow fever (1827)