



SOUTH CAROLINA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Hart Family papers, 1765-1954 (bulk 1790-1850)
SCHS# 0489.00

Creator: Hart family.

Description: 2.5 linear feet (2 boxes, one of which is an oversize flat box)

Biographical/Historical note: Family of Orangeburg District, South Carolina. William Hart (1784-1854), whose second wife was Irene Bull Hart (1805-1876), was the father of at least ten children including Elizabeth Louise Hart, who married Adam J. F. Shuler, Hamilton Sinclair Hart, and David E. C. Hart, who married Elizabeth Susan V. Avinger. The Harts owned property at or near Four Hole Swamp, an area which overlaps into the present day counties of Orangeburg, Dorchester, and Berkeley.

Scope and content: Collection consists of correspondence, financial records, property records, estate records, and other documents (some of which are in an oversize flat box). Much of the correspondence consists of love letters (1847-1851) from David E. C. Hart to Miss Elizabeth Susan V. Avinger. In a letter of 6 Oct. 1850, he writes to her: "I love you as the first Adam did when paradise was made an eden by the first Eve." In another letter of 19 Oct. 1851, he writes of building a house in anticipation of their marriage. There is also a letter containing two poems, one concerning Methodists, the other about "Miss Susan Avinger." Other correspondence includes a letter (1836) from Thomas Lehre in Charleston (S.C.) to William Hart in Orangeburg District regarding the estate of Hamilton Hart; a letter (1845) from R. Cathcart & Company in Columbia (S.C.) to William Hart concerning the sale of a mule; a letter (1854) from William M. Hutson at Orangeburg Courthouse to Hamilton and Eliza Hart pertaining to legal matters; and a letter (1954) from John Avinger in Washington (D.C.) to Sinclair Hart of Holly Hill (S.C.) concerning Hart family history.

Financial records include receipted invoices (1796-1860) for purchases or sales of cotton, groceries, hardware, fabric, and farm equipment; receipts for payment of taxes, tuition (one for "Holly Hill Academy"), medical care, and legal services; and miscellaneous items such as promissory notes and a bill of sale for a horse. Estate records include receipts, bills, and other documents pertaining to the estates of William Hart (died 1854), Hampton Hart, Hamilton Hart (died 1826), and Caroline Hart. There are also estate records for Rev. Moses Murray, including renunciations of dower and inheritance signed by family members. Slave records (1821-1833) include a bill of Dr. James G. Jenkins, for medical care and prescriptions for slaves; and several

bills of sale. Printed material consists of a handbill (1826) notifying "Travellers on the State Road" about road maintenance; copies of a notice (1820s) issued by the road commissioners regarding the suspension of tolls until the road is properly maintained; and a broadside (ca. 1830?) headed "Directions For Using the Grist Mill reversed."

Property records (1765-1854), some of which are oversized, mostly consist of conveyances, leases and plats of plantation lands in St. James Goose Creek Parish, St. Matthews Parish, and Orangeburg District. Many concern land identified as being in the area of Four Hole Swamp and Target Swamp. Included is a conveyance (1815) by Anthony Fogle of St. Matthews Parish to Samuel Warnock, of 120 acres in St. James Goose Creek Parish, on the northwest side of a "branch known by the name of Targate branch waters of Four Hole Swamp;" a conveyance (1824) by Driggers family members of St. James Goose Creek Parish (heirs of Elijah Driggers) to Moses Murray of St. Matthews Parish, of 100 acres in St. James Goose Creek Parish "on the new road leading from Charleston to Columbia;" a conveyance (1847) by David Bull of Orangeburg District to John F. Jackson, of two plantations in Orangeburg District "on Gunstock Bay;" and a royal grant (1770) to Oliver McCalister (McAlister?) of 100 acres in (old) Berkeley County at "Targett Swamp four hole waters" (with plat). Other names appearing in the property records include John Durr, James Sweatman, John Bunch, William Mims, John Oliver, Jacob M. Dantzler, Edward Tonge, Robert Fullwood, Benjamin Gibson, Stephen Mitchum, William Heatly (or Heatley), Lewis Linder, Rev. Robert Smith, Joseph Mims, John McCormick, Benjamin Singletary, John Ohern, William Hart, Thomas Huff, and Samuel Shuler.

Preferred citation: Hart family. Hart family papers, 1764-1954 (bulk 1790-1850). (489.00) South Carolina Historical Society.

Search terms:

Hart, David Ellison Churchwell, 1830-1887.
Hart, Elizabeth Susan V. Avinger, 1830-1883.
Hart, Hamilton, 1776-1826.
Hart, William, 1784-1854.
Murray, Moses, 1771-1837.
Hart family.
Holly Hill Academy.
Gristmills -- South Carolina.
Plantations -- South Carolina -- Orangeburg District.
Plantations -- South Carolina -- St. James Goose Creek Parish.
Plantations -- South Carolina -- St. Matthew's Parish (Orangeburg District)
Roads -- South Carolina -- Orangeburg District.
Slaves -- South Carolina -- Orangeburg District.
Four Hole Swamp (S.C.)
Holly Hill (S.C.)
Target Swamp (S.C.)
Dantzler, Jacob Miller, 1804-1857.

Container List:

BOX 1

- 01 Correspondence: love letters to Elizabeth Susan V. Avinger, 1847-1851. In a letter of Oct. 6, 1850, David E. C. Hart writes to her: "I love you as the first Adam did when paradise was made an eden by the first Eve." In the last letter, dated Oct. 19, 1851, he writes of building a house in anticipation of their marriage. There is also a letter containing two poems, one concerning Methodists, another about "Miss Susan Avinger." The poet's initials appear to be W. C. N.
- 02 Correspondence: letters, 1836-1854. This group of correspondence includes a letter, 1836, from Thomas Lehre in Charleston to William Hart, Sr. in Orangeburg District regarding the estate of Hamilton Hart; a letter, 1845, from R. Cathcart & Company in Columbia to William Hart concerning the sale of a mule; and a letter, 1854, from William M. Hutson at Orangeburg Courthouse to Hamilton and Eliza Hart pertaining to legal matters.
- 03 Letter, 1954. Letter from [John Avinger] in Washington, DC, to Sinclair Hart, Holly Hill, SC, regarding Hart family history.
- 04 Financial records: bills and invoices, 1836-1851. These records include invoices for the sales and purchases of cotton, groceries, hardware, fabric, and farm equipment.
- 05 Financial records: bill of sale, 1812, Nancy Ohern of St. Matthew Parish, to Samuel Thomas, for cattle.
- 06 Financial records: receipts, 1796-1853. Receipts for payments of taxes, tuition for various children, medical care, legal services, etc., including a receipt, 1852, for tuition for Capers Hart at "Hollyhill Academy."
- 07 Financial records: miscellaneous items, including memos, promissory notes, and an agreement, 1827, between William Hart and Sampson Bannister, to sell a bay mare.
- 08 Estate records: Hart family estate records, 1834-1854. These include receipts, bills and other documents pertaining to the estates of William Hart (died 1854), Hampton Hart, Hamilton Hart (died 1826), and Caroline Hart.
- 09 Estate records of Moses Murray. These include an undated list of notes (debts), with related memo; a renunciation of dower and inheritance, 1837, signed by the heirs of "the late Revd. Moses Murray;" and two additional renunciations of dower and inheritance, 1837, with attached color plats. Signers include Margaret Murray, Ann Bunch, John Durr, and John Wimberly. These records relate to other documents in the property records.

- 10 Miscellaneous: inventory of farm equipment, livestock, and crops (no date).
- 11 Printed material, consisting of a handbill, 1826, notifying “Travellers on the State Road” about road maintenance; several copies of a notice (1820s) issued by the road commissioners regarding the suspension of tolls until the road is properly maintained; and a broadside (ca. 1830?) headed “Directions For Using the Grist Mill reversed,” printed by S. Weir, Columbia. There are photographic reproductions of the first two items.
- 12 Slave records, 1821-1833. These include a medical bill, 1833, of Dr. James G. Jenkins, for medical care and prescriptions for slaves; and bills of sale.
- 13 Property records, 18th century: agreement, 1768, between John Stephenson of St. Matthew Parish, and Joseph Douglas, to sell a tract of land.
- 14 Property records, 1800-1828:
- 1800: plat of 202 acres, part of a grant of 390 acres granted to Morris Ohern in Charleston District, near “Targate” branch of Four Hole Swamp.
- 1805: plat for William Mims, of 400 acres on the northeast side of Four Hole Swamp.
- 1806: sworn statement by Dennis Gilmore concerning a destroyed deed of gift of land in Orangeburg District. Witnessed by David Rozer (Royer?).
- 1806: conveyance, David Rozer of St. Matthew Parish to William Hart, of 300 acres in Orangeburg District on Four Hole Swamp.
- 1807: conveyance, [Morris Ohern] to Moses Murray, of 100 acres in Orangeburg District.
- 1809: conveyance, John McCormick of St. Matthew Parish, to Benjamin Singletary, of 250 acres on the north side of Four Hole Swamp.
- 1811: plat of 372 acres “part of a tract of 926 acres of land, sold & conveyed from Edward Tonge to Joseph Mims; surveyed by Dennis Gilmore.
- 1813: conveyance, John Stoutamire of St. James Goose Creek Parish to John Durr, of 75 acres on the north side of Four Hole Swamp. Damaged and fragile condition.
- 1814: conveyance, John Durr, blacksmith of St. Matthew Parish, to William Hart, of 70 acres in St. Matthew Parish.
- 1815: conveyance, Anthony Fogle of St. Matthew Parish, to Samuel Warnock of St. James Goose Creek Parish, of 120 acres in St. James Goose Creek Parish on the northwest side of a “branch known by the name of Targate branch waters of Four Holes Swamp.”

1816: conveyance, Stephen Mitchom (Mitchum?) of St. James Goose Creek Parish, to Drury Mims, 7 ½ acres (formerly estate of James Bunch, deceased) in St. James Goose Creek Parish.

1816: conveyance, Isaac Lynes (Lyons?) of Orangeburg District to Laford Bunch, of 50 acres in St. James Goose Creek Parish on “Targate Branch.”

1818: conveyance, John Durr of St. James Goose Creek Parish to Joseph Mims, of 150 acres on “Targate Branch” waters of Four Hole Swamp.

1818: conveyance, Moses Murray to William Hart, of 354 acres, north side of Four Hole Swamp.

1818: conveyance, Benjamin Singletary to Moses Murray, of 500 acres on Four Hole Swamp.

1818: conveyance, Moses Murray of St. James Goose Creek Parish to Joseph Mims, 150 acres on “Targate Branch.”

1818: conveyance, John Durr, blacksmith of St. Matthew Parish, to William Hart, of 657 acres in St. Matthew Parish.

1821: conveyance, Moses Murray of Orangeburg District to John Ohern, of 50 acres in Orangeburg District, north side of Four Hole Swamp.

1821: Rial Meatchum (Mitchum?) of Sumter District to William Hart, of 33 acres in Orangeburg District on Four Hole Swamp.

1828: plat made at the request of Jacob Dantzler, of 263 acres in Charleston District on “Targate Branch” waters of Four Hole Swamp.

15 Property records, 1830s:

1831: release, Jacob M. Dantzler of St. Matthew Parish, to Moses Murray, of 263 acres on the east side of “Target branch waters of the Forehole Swamp” in St. James Goose Creek Parish.

1831: plat, surveyed by Washington Bridwell, of 281 acres at Four Hole Swamp. An earlier plat (1795?) in poor condition is attached.

1833: conveyance, Moses Murray to William Hart, of 100 acres in Charleston District.

1833: conveyance, Moses Murray to William Hart, of 100 acres in Charleston District.

1834: plat, of 418 acres in St. James Goose Creek Parish, on Four Hole and “Targate” swamps. Requested by William Hart, and surveyed by Thomas [I. or J.] Mellard.

1835: conveyance, Samuel Shuler and wife Rebecca, to John Lewis, of 63 acres in Goose Creek Parish.

1835: conveyance, [Lodic] P. Murray of Charleston District, to John Durr, of 130 acres in Orangeburg District near Four Hole Swamp and Edisto River.

1837: renunciation of dower by the heirs of Rev. Moses Murray, to 230 acres in Orangeburg District on Gunstock Branch “waters of Four Hole Swamp.” Plat dated 1837 is attached.

1838: conveyance, William Hart of Orangeburg District to Joseph Inabinit (Inabinett?) of Colleton District, of about 592 acres in Orangeburg District on the northeast side of Four Hole Swamp. Plat dated 1838 is attached.

1839: conveyance, Benjamin Godfrey and Middleton G. Hart of Colleton District, to Charles S. Austin of Orangeburg District, of 74 acres in Charleston District on the State Road near Four Hole Swamp, with plat.

16 Property records, 1840-1854.

1840: conveyance, [Pherisly] Warnock et al., to William Hart of Orangeburg District, of 290 acres on Targate Branch. A plat dated 1839 is attached.

1840: plat, requested by Jacob H. Way, of two adjoining tracts totaling 210 acres, “called the Mitchum land.”

1843: conveyance, Jacob H. Way of Charleston District to John H. Blewer, of 150 acres in Orangeburg District on the north east side of Four Hole Swamp.

1847: conveyance, David Bull of Orangeburg District to John F. Jackson, of two plantations of a total of 165 acres in Orangeburg District “on Gunstock Bay or Branch waters of Four Holes Swamp.”

1848: conveyance, Grecian Murray and Barbara E. Murray of Charleston District, to William Hart, of 124 acres in St. James Goose Creek Parish on “Targate Branch.”

1848: plat of 150 acres in St. Matthew Parish, Orangeburg District, near Four Hole Swamp, made at the request of [G.] Middleton Bull.

1849: conveyance, J. F. Jackson of Charleston District to William Hart, of 165 acres in Orangeburg District on Gunstock Bay or branch waters of Four Hole Swamp.

1851: conveyance, by members of the Bunch family, and Swinton C. Warnock, to William Hart, of land belonging to the heirs of Laford Bunch in St. James Goose Creek Parish.

1853: conveyance, J. K. Blewer of Orangeburg District to William Hart, of 160 acres in both Orangeburg and Charleston districts, north east side of Four Hole Swamp.

1854: conveyance in trust, land from the estate of William Hart, Sr. (223 acres on the north east side of Four Hole Swamp), to William Hart, Jr. and Ellison Hart.

17 Property records, undated:

Plat of two tracts of land, including 100 acres of [Mr.] Bunch, surveyed by Josiah Furman. Fragile condition; use photocopy.

Plat of 1000 acres “granted to Jno. Stewart, Four Hole Swamp.”

Plat of several tracts of land bounded by lands of David Murray, J. Durr, J. Bunch, Samuel Warnock, and others.

18 Property records, fragments. These include fragment of a grant, 1764, with an attached plat, pertaining to 350 acres on Four Hole Swamp surveyed for William Heatly; an indenture, 1774, between Lewis Linder and wife Ann, and Rev. Robert Smith, regarding 300 acres in old Berkeley County, on the north side of Four Hole Swamp; an indenture, 1765, between William Heatly of old Berkeley County and John Bunch; land grants to John Oliver, John Bunch, and William Heatly; a conveyance of 200 acres with a plat (mentioning the name of Joseph Huff); and unidentifiable fragments of other 18th century documents.

BOX 2

Oversize property records:

Folder 1: 18th century property records, 1765-1795.

1765: release, William Heatly (Heatley?) to John Bunch, of 250 acres in old Berkeley County, on Four Hole Swamp.

1767: indenture and release, John Oliver of St. Johns Berkeley Parish, and John Bunch of St. Matthew Parish, of a plantation of 150 acres on the north side of Four Holes Swamp.

1770: royal grant (George III) to Oliver McCalister (McAlister?), of 100 acres in old Berkeley County, at “Targett Swamp four hole waters,” with attached plat. Damaged and fragile condition.

1774: lease, Lewis Linder and wife, to Rev. Robert Smith, of 300 acres at Four Hole Swamp.

1774: renunciation of dower and [quitclaim], Mrs. Anna Linder (wife of Lewis Linder) to Rev. Robert Smith, to 300 acres located on the north side of Four Hole Swamp. Fragile and damaged condition.

1786: grant of 390 acres in Charleston District to Morris O. Heron. A plat dated 1785 is attached.

1786: conveyance, Joseph Douglas and wife Elizabeth of Orangeburg District, to Benjamin Gibson of Camden District, of 100 acres on a branch of Four Hole Swamp.

1788: lease, Rev. Robert Smith to Edward Tonge, of 300 acres on the north side of Four Hole Swamp.

1788: release, Rev. Robert Smith and his wife Anna, to Edward Tonge of St. George Parish, of 300 acres in St. Matthew Parish on the north side of Four Hole Swamp; plat attached.

1790: lease, John Bunch of St. Matthew Parish to William Mims, of a tract of 400 acres in St. Matthew Parish on the north side of Four Hole Swamp.

1790: release, John Bunch to William Mims, of 400 acres in St. Matthew Parish.

1792: deed of conveyance, Robert Fullwood of Camden District, to James McCann (McCaw?), of a tract of land on or near Four Hole Swamp in St. Matthew Parish, Orangeburg District, with attached plat. Damaged and fragile condition.

1793: indenture, John Bunch of Charleston District to Elijah Driggers, regarding 100 acres on the "Targate Branch," "being part of the tract originally granted to Joseph Huff."

1795: indenture, between James Sweatman of St. Matthew Parish and Charleston District, planter, and Samuel Warnock of Charleston District, planter, regarding a plantation of 125 acres on the north side of Four Hole Swamp.

Folder 2: 19th century property records, 1800-1839:

1800: conveyance, [Morris Ohern or Oheran] of Charleston District, to Jacob Dantzler of Orangeburg District, of 202 acres "on the District Line."

1802: conveyance, Morris Oheran [sic] of Charleston District to Jacob Dantzler of Orangeburg District, of 150 acres on "Targate Branch," waters of Four Hole Swamp.

1804: release, Edward Tonge of St. Pauls Parish, Colleton District, to Joseph Mims of St. James Goose Creek Parish, of "926 acres at Pee Dee Lake on 4 Holes Swamp, Parish of St. James Goose Creek." Includes an attached plat.

1821: conveyance, Moses Murray of Orangeburg District to Joseph Mims, of 50 acres on the north side of Four Hole Swamp.

1824: conveyance, Driggers family members, St. James Goose Creek Parish, heirs of the late Elijah Driggers, to Moses Murray of St. Matthew Parish, of 100 acres in St. James Goose Creek Parish “on the new road leading from Charleston to Columbia,” “on that branch called Targe.”

1829: conveyance, Jane Mitchum of Charleston District to William Hart, 33 ½ acres in Orangeburg District “on fore hole swamp bounded on the District line...”

1831: release, Jacob M. Dantzler to William Hart, of 390 acres on the north side of “Targate branch” waters of Four Hole Swamp.

1831: conveyance, James and William McMims (Mims?) of St. James Goose Creek Parish, to Lafred Bunch, of 780 acres in St. James Goose Creek Parish.

1833: conveyance, Albert Mims of Tennessee to William Hart, of 316 acres in St. James Goose Creek Parish on north side of Four Hole Swamp.

1838: conveyance, John Durr of Orangeburg District to William Hart, of 480 acres in St. Matthew Parish.

1839: conveyance, Joseph Inabinett of St. George (Dorchester) Parish, Colleton District, to Jacob Way of Orangeburg District, of a plantation in Charleton District, in St. James (Goose Creek) Parish, waters of Four Hole Swamp.