



# SOUTH CAROLINA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

## **Rivers family papers, 1825-1883** **SCHS# 1094.00**

**Creator:** Rivers family.

**Description:** 0.75 linear ft.

**Biographical/Historical Note:** South Carolina family. John Elijah Rivers (1793-1850) was a plantation owner of James Island, S.C. His second wife was Sarah H. Rivers, and their children included Elias Lynch Rivers (1838-1911) and John Edward Rivers (1819-1878), a Charleston attorney. George Lamb Buist (1838-1907), a Charleston, S.C. attorney and South Carolina legislator, was related to the Rivers family through the marriage of his daughter Eliza Ingraham Buist to Moultrie Rutledge Rivers (their son was George Lamb Buist Rivers, 1896-1963).

**Scope and Content:** Papers consist of estate and trust records, legal documents, slave records, financial records, correspondence, and other items. Included are the papers of John Edward Rivers (1819-1878).

Papers of Elias Lynch Rivers (1838-1911) include affidavits and two letters (1864) concerning William W. McLeod's claim against the state of South Carolina for the loss of a slave named Charles, who was put to labor at the fortifications on Sullivan's Island (S.C.) and died there; also included are trial justice and militia commissions (1877-1883) of C.H. Rivers.

Papers of George Lamb Buist (1838-1907) as the executor of the estates of Edward Candler, Elizabeth Groves, Caroline M. Kortman (nee Bladen), and Mary Leader, include bills, affidavits, receipts, accounts, correspondence, wills, and letters testamentary and other legal documents; there is also a marriage certificate (1817) of Frederick Kortman and Caroline M. Bladen Kortman issued in Georgia, and a poem (1835) written to her from her son Edward in Philadelphia (Pa.) entitled "In Parting." In addition, there are estate papers (1853-1865) of Charles Legare, a free person of color of Charleston (S.C.) and a landlord; these papers consist of receipts, an insurance policy, Legare's will, letters testamentary, accounts, a bond, and other items. Other papers of George Lamb Buist include his notary public commission (1859), promissory notes, a letter (1862) from the Confederate Treasury regarding the redemption of defaced currency, and other items.

Papers (1825-1849) of John Woddrop, Jr., a Charleston (S.C.) merchant, include letters to him from his father, John Woddrop, Sr. (1756-1828), regarding his salary at Woddrop, Sr.'s

mercantile firm and a gift of Madeira wine; letters to him from Robert Scot, a cousin in Scotland, regarding family financial matters; a letter to Woddrop at Drakie Plantation (on the Savannah River) from Beckman McCall regarding Woddrop's debt to a Mrs. M. Smith of Sullivan's Island (S.C.) and other matters; receipts; bills; a power of attorney (1827) from John Woddrop, Sr. to his son; and a document (1849) transferring John Woddrop's power of attorney for Ann Sophia Woddrop McCall to Claudian B. Northrop.

**Preferred Citation:** Rivers family. Rivers family papers, 1825-1883. (1094.00) South Carolina Historical Society.

**Search terms:**

Buist, George Lamb, 1838-1907.  
Kortman, Caroline M.  
Legare, Charles.  
McLeod, William Wallace, 1820-1865.  
Rivers, Elias Lynch, 1838-1911.  
Woddrop, John, 1756-1828.  
Woddrop, John.  
Rivers family.  
Decedents' estates -- South Carolina.  
Freedmen -- South Carolina -- Charleston.  
Slaves -- South Carolina.  
Confederate States of America -- Claims.  
South Carolina -- History.  
Commissions.  
Estate records.  
Financial records.  
Legal documents.  
Letters (correspondence).  
Poems.

11/361/1-2 Rivers, John E. Jr., 1819-1878

Plantation papers, 1829-1850. 40+ items

James Island, Charleston Co. planter. Bonds, receipts, bills, letters, accounts, and mortgages kept by JER, JR. in handling plantation and household finances of father, John Elijah Rivers Sr. Includes construction expenses for house on JER Sr.'s plantation at Johnsonville, slave mortgages and sales accounts and tax receipts. Chronologically arranged.

11/361/3-11 Rivers, John E. Jr., 1819-1878

Estate and trust papers, 1848-1865. 2 ms. vol. and 80+ items

James Island, Charleston Co. lawyer. Account book and papers (1848-1859) regarding estate and plantation of JER Jr.'s father, John Elijah Rivers, Sr. Includes bond holdings, slave sales and mortgages, and guardianship accounts for Elias Lynch Rivers and other siblings of JER, Jr. Also receipts, accounts, letters to JER Jr., inventories, memoranda, and probate court documents (1848-1865) regarding estates or finances of JER Jr.'s mother, younger sisters, and other members of the Rivers family. Includes account book (1848-1853) regarding trust for Angeline M. Rivers Edings, conveyance (1852) of some Rivers family land on James Island, and a bankbook for the estate of William Horace Rivers. Papers (1848-1865) regarding John E. Rivers, Sr. estate separately arranged from alphabetically arranged papers regarding estates or finances of other members of the Rivers family.

11/361/12-27 Rivers, John E. Jr., 1819-1878

Estate and trust papers, 1847-1874. 7 ms. vol. and 60+ items

James Island, Charleston Co. lawyer. Receipts, accounts, letters, inventories, memoranda, probate court documents, and a ledger regarding estates, trusts, investments or personal finances of Axson, Burch, Cooper, Edings, Hughes, Jeffords, Michel, Reynolds, Rivers, Seabrook, and Thayer families of Charleston Co. Includes papers regarding slave sales and mortgages (1847-1865); land transactions, especially from the Seabrook family purchase and development (1852-1854) of a Wadmalaw Island plantation formerly owned by a member of the Rivers family; debt collections; earnings from bonds, mortgages, and rentals; and list of slaves (1848-1863). Variousy arranged.

11/362/1-3 Rivers, John E. Jr., 1819-1878

Personal and legal papers, 1847-1864. 20+ items

James Island, Charleston Co. planter and lawyer. Bonds, receipts, mortgages, letters from Spartanburg, also Augusta and Thomasville, GA; bankbook (1859-1863) mostly regarding debts owed JER, Jr. and other personal matters, including friends' and acquaintances' military and civilian experiences in 1862-1863. Also, similar papers regarding debt collections for William Henry Trescot and other clients. Personal and legal papers separately arranged in chronological order.

11/362/4-5 Rivers, Elias Lynch, 1838-1911

Personal and magistrate papers, 1864 and 1877-1883. 11 items

Charleston magistrate, trial justice, and SC militia officer. Letters and depositions (1864) regarding death (1863) of an enslaved man named William W. McLeod, while he was working on Sullivan's Island fortification. But mostly ELR's state militia commissions and judicial certificates of appointment (1877-1883) signed by Governor Wade Hampton, III.

11/362/6 Buist, George L. 1838-1907

Estate papers, 1853-1865. 40+ items

Charleston lawyer and Charleston Co. Ordinary. GLB's papers as self-appointed executor of the estate of Charles Legare (d. 1861), a freedman who was a landlord in Charleston. Accounts, receipts, and other papers regarding Legare's city real estate holdings on Calhoun Street and elsewhere, including indentures, releases, tax receipt, burial expenses, debts, payments to Legare's widow and niece and copies of probate records with GLB's official signature. Also includes Legare's will (1853) and fire insurance policy.

11/362/7-10 Buist, George L. 1838-1907

Estate papers, 1835, 1860-1865. 60+ items

Charleston lawyer and Charleston Co. Ordinary. GLB's papers as self-appointed executor of the Charleston estates of Edward Candler (d. 1860), Elizabeth Groves (d. 1862), Caroline M. Hortman (Bladen, d. 1861) and Mary leader (d. 1861). Papers regarding funeral, medical, and household expenses; debts to Charleston merchants and others; occasional estate inventories and inquirer from interested parties; probate records, including wills and other documents with GLB's official signature. Also includes a poem (1835) from Hortman's dying son in Philadelphia, PA. Arranged alphabetically.

11/362/11 Buist, George L., 1838-1907

Personal papers, 1855-1865. 8 items

Charlestonian and CSA major. Letters from Confederate officials and others in Richmond, VA and Orange Co., NC regarding GLB's wartime furnishing of wagons and teamsters, request to CSA Treasury for redemption of defaced currency (included here) and postwar reconciliation with the federal government. Also includes papers regarding debts to GLB and photocopy of an

anonymous letter with rejoinder by CSA Captain Henry Buist in the Savannah Republican (1862) regarding battles at Pocotaligo, Coosawatchie, and Bee's Creek Hill, Beaufort Co. (1862).

11/362/12-13 Woddrop, John Jr. b. 1806

Household and business papers, 1825-1849. 30+ items

Charleston merchant. Receipts, accounts, letters, and other papers, mostly regarding household or personal expenses, including sundries and furniture. Some papers regarding JW, JR.'s involvement in factorage firm of father, John Woddrop Sr., including expenses for shipping cotton. Also includes bills, accounts, and receipts (1835) regarding legal services of Henry Alexander DeSaussure for Woddrop Sr.'s estate and other papers (1842-1849) regarding JW Jr's collection of debts as trustee in sister's marriage settlement.