



# SOUTH CAROLINA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

## **James Butler Campbell papers, 1814-1897** **SCHS Call # 1015.00** **Containers 11/097-102j**

**Creator:** Campbell, James B. (James Butler), 1808-1883

**Description:** 7 linear ft.

**Biographical/Historical Note:** Charleston, S.C. attorney, businessman, and politician. Born in Oxford, Mass., Campbell came to Edisto Island, S.C. in 1826 as a teacher. He studied law and was admitted to the bar in 1832, settling in Charleston. He married Anna M. Bennett, and they had two daughters, Mary B. and Celia Campbell. Campbell served as director of the Savannah and Charleston Railroad Co., the Edisto and Ashley Canal Co., and other companies. Beginning with the nullification controversy, Campbell became active in politics. A Unionist, he served as a confidential agent and correspondent in Washington, D.C. for the Union committee of South Carolina. He served in the both the S.C. House of Representatives and Senate, and also as a U.S. Senator.

**Scope and content:** Papers chiefly consist of legal documents and correspondence of James Butler Campbell, but also include his personal financial records and other items.

Legal papers (1837-1883), including writs, affidavits, petitions, conveyances, indentures, trial minutes, and case-related correspondence and accounts, concern numerous civil and criminal cases, real estate transactions and disputes (many in Charleston, S.C.), bankruptcies, business partnerships and incorporations, estate settlements, slave sales and trials, violations of Confederate law, and other matters. Companies and individuals represented include William C. Bee & Co., the Cannonsboro Mill and Wharf Co., and Robert Adger. A group of documents (1851-1880) pertaining to the cotton trade and confiscations include a case involving Evan James Lide, a Darlington District (S.C.) plantation owner whose cotton was confiscated by the U.S. Treasury as Confederate contraband. Another group of documents (1863-1881) concern the operations and legal affairs of the Savannah and Charleston Railroad Co. and other railroad companies. There are also papers (1861-1862) regarding sequestration of the property of "alien enemies" during the Civil War. Among the estate records are papers (1861-1865) pertaining to the estate of Paul Remley, including slave records, correspondence, and family history data.

Professional and personal correspondence (1833-1883) concerns family matters, politics, the Civil War, legislative affairs, legal cases, business interests, nullification, the career of Joel R. Poinsett, and other matters. Correspondents include Joel R. Poinsett, C.G. Memminger, Daniel Webster,

William H. Trescot, and many others.

**Preferred citation:** Campbell, James B. (James Butler), 1808-1883. James Butler Campbell papers, 1814-1897. (1015.00) South Carolina Historical Society.

**Search terms:**

Adger, Robert, 1814-1891.  
Campbell, James B. (James Butler), 1808-1883.  
Lide, Evan James, 1802-1882.  
Memminger, C. G. (Christopher Gustavus), 1803-1888.  
Poinsett, Joel Roberts, 1779-1851.  
Remley, Paul, 1797-1861 -- Estate.  
Trescot, William Henry, 1822-1898.  
Webster, Daniel, 1782-1852.  
Cannonsboro Mill & Wharf Co.  
Savannah and Charleston Railroad.  
W.C. Bee & Co. (Charleston, S.C.)  
Attachment and garnishment -- Confederate States of America.  
Contraband of war.  
Estates (Law) -- South Carolina.  
Law -- Confederate States of America.  
Lawyers -- South Carolina -- Charleston -- Correspondence.  
Nullification (States' rights)  
Railroads -- South Carolina.  
Real property -- South Carolina -- Charleston.  
Slaves -- South Carolina.  
South Carolina -- History.  
South Carolina -- Politics and government.  
United States -- History -- Civil War, 1861-1865.  
Legal documents.  
Letters (correspondence).

**Container listing:**

11/097-098	Financial litigation, 1845-1883 (ca. 1 linear ft.)
11/099-101	Estate litigation, ca. 1850-1883 (ca. 1.5 linear ft.)
11/102/01-13	Land litigation papers, 1837-1976 (ca. 150 items)
11/102/14-18	Cotton litigation, 1851-1880 (ca. 100 items)
11/102a-102b	Miscellaneous legal case papers, 1848-1881 (ca. 500 items)
11/102b-102d	Railroad litigation papers, 1863-1881 (ca. 400 items)
11/102d-103e	Business papers, 1850-1874 (ca. 250 items)
11/102e/04-12	Correspondence, 1833-1859 (ca. 100 items)
11/102f/01-13	Correspondence, 1860-1869 (ca. 300 items)
11/102g-102h	Correspondence, 1870-1897, 1909 (ca. 1 linear ft.)
11/102i/01-15	Miscellany, 1814-1887 (ca. 50 items)
11/102i/06-07	Sequestration legal papers, 1861-1862 (ca. 60 items)

11/102j                      Personal receipts and financial papers, ca. 1834-1883 (ca. 400 items)

**11/97-98            Financial litigation, 1845-1883. 1 ft.**

Charleston lawyer. Complaints, summonses, writs, affidavits, decrees, correspondence, court orders, printed matter, reports of referees, grounds for appeal, receipts, accounts, exhibits, notes, indentures, abstracts of title and trail minutes, bankbooks, mortgages, leases and other legal material. Also litigation and client work of James Butler Campbell for Robert Adger & Co; Baring Brothers, London, England; Isaac Bennett and other Bennett family members; Theodore M. Cater vs. Bank of Charleston; the Charleston Gaslight Co.; James Fraser & Co.; Josephine and Thomas N. Gadsden; Willis & Chisholm; papers are regarding various financial matters including bankruptcy, creditors, currency (worth of Confederate money); personal finances, trust dispute over a woman believed incapable of handling her own finances (Maria L. Deane), Charleston wharves (including Atlantic Wharf), bank matters, civil and criminal litigation over Yankee Robinson's Circus and other matters. Also papers regarding William C. Bee Co. and litigation with E.B. Heyward regarding plantations and blockade running (1863). Arranged alphabetically by case. See also James Butler Campbell's correspondence series.

**11/99-101           Estate litigation, 1850-1883. 1 ½ ft**

Charleston lawyer. Estate clients papers of James Butler Campbell including referees reports, affidavits, decrees, writings, notices of appeal, wills, bonds, accounts, letters, lists of creditors, complaints, subpoenas, briefs, inventories of estates, marriage settlements, mortgages, conveyances, warrants and other material concerning the litigation and execution of the estates of Jacob Barrett, John E. Carew, Colburn family, W.B. Eustis, Wm. C. Gatewood, James Kirkpatrick, Thomas B. Chaplin vs. R.L. Baker regarding estate of Isabella Field, Edmund A. Gibbes vs. Juliet G. Elliott, Alex Glennie vs Francis Weston, Gourdin vs. Shrewsbury regarding estates of Stephen Shrewsbury, and James and Sarah L. Moultrie, Legare family, Ann Lehre, James Levy, MR Singleton vs. CT Lowndes; Beall vs. C.T. Lowndes and others regarding disputed estate of TA Coffin; Thomas B. Lucas, James McGuin, Robert Martin, John B. Mathews, Daniel Mixon, Jonah Murrell, John Ostendorff, John S. Palmer, James B. Poyas, Paul Renley, William P. Shingler, Wm. C. Smith vs. Benj. Hunt, John Trescott, Edmund Whaley, John White and John B. Womack. Cases concern disputes over the executors interpretations of divisions of estate, the actual divisions of the estates, or the lawyer's handling of estates. Arranged alphabetically by case. Also see James Butler Campbell general correspondence.

**11/102/1-13       Land litigation papers, 1837-1876. Approx 150 items**

Charleston lawyer. Conveyances of land, indentures, titles, letters, bills, orders, grounds for appeal, depositions, writs, notes, opinions, receipts, accounts, release of dower, mortgages and other legal and land papers of the clients of James Butler Campbell. Clients and litigants include Alex W. Black vs. Wm. Kelly; Chichester & Co. vs. Wm. S. Hastie, James P. Earle; Robert Lucas; Robert S. Millar; Otis Mills

regarding the Atlantic Wharf, Charleston and libel cases; Simon Morrison, Wm. C. Murray, Thomas O'Brien vs. Charleston City Council; Otto Schivitzer vs. John G. Milnor (includes letter from J.L. Petigru) and William Wescott land papers. Cases regarding land disputes, purchases, and sales of mostly Charleston lands. Arranged alphabetically by case.

**11/102/14-18 Cotton Litigation, 1851-1880. Approx 100 items**

Charleston lawyer. Letters, affidavits, accounts (1865-1866) from Charleston and Washington DC regarding cotton of Evan J. Lide, Darlington District, which was confiscated by the US Treasury as alleged Confederate Contraband. Includes letters to Hugh McCollough, Secretary of Treasury. Legal papers (1865-1866) regarding Alex McCord vs. George W. Clark regarding confiscation of cotton by US treasury. Powers of attorney, answers, notices of suits, exhibits and letters regarding suits against George W. Williams regarding cotton business and the New York Cotton Exchange (1880). Misc. cotton invoices for shipments of cotton to Liverpool, England (1851). Arranged by case.

**11/102A-102B Misc. legal case papers, 1848-1881. Approx 500 items**

Charleston lawyer. Misc. case papers of James Butler Campbell including affidavits, letters, wills, bill of sale for slaves, bonds, petitions, legal writings, and other scattered material. Cases include David Lopez vs. Charleston Board of Trade (1866) regarding Board's corporate existence; William J. Whipper vs. Jacob P. Reed (1876-1877) regarding validity of election of a black circuit judge; and the legal matters of Abraham Wilson, Turkey Hill, regarding his estate, his slaves, and his son's sanity. Also material concerning slaves sales and the maintenance of Joseph A. Sasportas' slaves (1852-1862); James Dunlap, Camden and the theft of a young slave (1848-1850); and misc. slave papers including a flyer for sale of slaves and a list of slaves put on trial and the verdict. Misc. criminal cases (1861-1867) regarding trespassing, various confederate gov't law violations, including a confederate counterfeiter case. Petitions, letters and circulars regarding attempt of Charlestonians to repeal taxes levied during the Civil War (1872-1881). Petitions for amnesty to President Andrew Johnson from various Charlestonians including Wm. C. Bee, Soloman Legare, James P. Earle and William Warne. Correspondence of E. Ezekiel, Orangeburg, regarding request for exemption from confederate service (1864). Much miscellaneous legal cases and papers of James Butler Campbell.

**11/102B-102D Railroad litigation papers, 1863-1881. Approx 400 items**

Charleston lawyer and director of the Savannah & Charleston Railroad Co. Stockholder lists, conveyances, much correspondence, opinions, indentures, bonds, accounts, notes, petitions, bills of foreclosure, trial minutes, and other material regarding the litigation and operations of S&C RR (1863-1881) including Daniel Hand vs. S&C RR. Also SC vs the Greenville and Columbia Railroad Co (1867-1870) with letters of DH Chamberlain and the City Council of Charleston vs. Enterprise Railroad Co. (1872-1873).

**11/102D-102E Business papers, 1850-1874. Approx 250 items**

Charleston lawyer, businessman. Correspondence, accounts, legislation, bills of foreclosure, memos of agreement, affidavits, power of attorney and other business and legal material regarding the Coosaw Mining Co. (1870-1879) and phosphate mining litigation; the Cannonsboro Mill and Wharf (1850-1865) with application for restoration of company property after the Civil War, slave lists and investment in the company; James Butler Campbell's client Robert Adger and litigation regarding a special partnership in wholesale, exporting with a New York, NY firm headed by Edward W. Bancroft (1860-1874) and business and legal affairs of James Butler Campbell's involvement with the ships and shipping of Robert and James Adger, Charleston (1860-1866). Some misc. papers regarding the Adgers. Also see James Butler Campbell general correspondence.

**11/102E/4-12 Correspondence, 1833-1859. Approx 100 items**

Charleston lawyer. Correspondence and letterbook of James Butler Campbell, much from Joel R. Poinsett (see SCH&GM vol. 42-43) in Georgetown Co. and Washington DC; Mary B. Campell, Springfield MA; Daniel Webster, Boston MA; William Drayton, Philadelphia PA; CG Meminger, Thomas Bennett, D.E. Huger, F.W. Pickens, J.L. Petigru, and others regarding James Butler Campbell's ancestral suitability to marry Margaret Bennett, family matters, SC and national politics, nullification, the Unionist movement, the political career and opinions of Poinsett, some discussion of SC flora. Some correspondence regarding the enlistment of Daniel Webster to investigate James Butler Campbell's past. Also legal and business matters. Chronologically arranged except for the letterbook (1839-1841) which is at the end of the box.

**11/102F/1-13 Correspondence, 1860-1869. Approx 300 items**

Charleston lawyer. Correspondence of James Butler Campbell. Correspondents include Robert Adger, Henry Ward Beecher (1869, regarding accusation that he stole SC family bible), George Bliss, Henry Buist, John Caldwell, William A. Courtney, C. Cushing, Alfred Ely, Hamilton Fish, C.M. Furman, Isaac W. Hayne, Alfred Huger, O.H. Marshall, CG Memminger, Wm. Porcher Miles, James L. Orr, F.W. Pickens, R.B. Rhett Jr., regarding Fort Sumter, H.S. Stone, and William Henry Trescott from New York, NY, Charleston, Augusta GA, Pendleton, Columbia, Washington DC, and elsewhere regarding politics, military, and the Civil War; legal claims, business affairs of James Butler Campbell's clients, legislative affairs, James Butler Campbell's election to the Senate (1866) and his reasons for running; family matters, railroads, claims and counterclaims by the US government and James Butler Campbell's clients over property and business after the Civil War. Also see James Butler Campbell's legal case section. Arranged chronologically.

**11/102G-102H Correspondence, 1870-1897, 1909. 1 ft.**

Charleston lawyer. Business, legal, and personal correspondence of V.

Correspondents include Robert Adger, George Bliss, George and Henry Buist, Mary B. Campbell, D.H. Chamberlain, W.C. Butler, John Caldwell, William E. Earle, W.B. Gulick, Samuela J. Higgins, Timothy Hurley, James P. Lesesne (1874 to JB Whaley regarding an alleged insult made by James Butler Campbell), CT Lowndes, David Lopez, Edward McCrady Jr., C.G. Meminger, Ed. Morgan & Co., FJ Moses, Samuel W. Melton, AG MAgrath, P. Phillips, Washington DC; JP Reed, Frederick A. Sawyer, Benjamin Silliman, Simons & Simons, Charles H. Simonton, RS Stone, William Henry Trescott, BJ & William Whaley and HE Young from Charleston, Washington DC, New York, NY, Spartanburg, Columbia, Wilmington DE (re railroads) and elsewhere regarding local, state and national politics, railroad business and litigation, banking, shipping, and wharf business, legal and property affairs. Many WH Trescott letters regarding Washington political scene and diplomacy. Chronologically arranged. Also material regarding James Butler Campbell and other family estate matters.

**11/102I/1-5 Misc, 1814-1887. Approx 50 items**

Charleston lawyer. Misc. legal documents including certificate of election of James Butler Campbell to the US Senate (1867); Campbell family passports (1869) and other passports and foreign travel documents in German and French (1814-1867). Printed matter of James Butler Campbell and family including sermon delivered at the death of Maj. Archibald Campbell (1818); SC State Senate Journals (1866); James Butler Campbell's circular letter in defense of his state senate candidacy (1878) and other open letters regarding the Bank of the State of SC (1874); James Rose vs. the Bank of the State (1848); James Butler Campbell's resignation as solicitor for the People's Bank, Charleston (1855); a flyer for the young ladies school of Mary B. Campbell. Memorials to Celia Campbell (1887) and clippings regarding the death of James Butler Campbell (1883). Listing of mostly literature and history titles in James Butler Campbell's library. Cookbook of Mary B. Campbell (1847).

**11/102I/6-7 Sequestration legal papers, 1861-1862. Approx 60 items**

Charleston lawyer. Petitions for sequestration, writs of garnishment, court papers, correspondence (1861-1862) of JBC and others regarding sequestration of "alien enemies" land during the Civil War

**11/102J/1-12 Personal receipts & financial papers, ca. 1834-1883. Approx 400 items**

Charleston lawyer. Misc. financial records of James Butler Campbell including account book (1834-1836), business accounts (1837-1853), account and bank books (1856-1876), financial accounts with J. Fraser Mathews (1872-1873); and many receipts of Charleston merchants for coachmakers, grocers, dry goods, taxes, law book publishers, coal, tailors, apothecaries, and other goods (mostly 1880s but includes 1850s-1883).