



# SOUTH CAROLINA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

## **Elsworth family papers, 1785-1954** **SCHS# 0671.00**

**Description:** 0.75 linear ft. (2 boxes)

**Biographical/Historical Note:** Theophilus Elsworth, Jr. (1748-1838) was a native of New York and a Revolutionary War veteran. He lived in Charleston, South Carolina for many years, and, after the death of his first wife Susannah Smith in 1827, he moved to Chenango County in the state of New York. His second wife was Dieodama (or Deidamia) Elsworth (1792-1846). He was the father of John Theophilus Elsworth (1781-1863) and other sons and daughters.

John Theophilus Elsworth (1781-1863) married Ann Elizabeth Severance Boulger (1782-1843?), the widow of John E. Boulger, in 1802. She was the daughter of John Severance (died 1798) and Charlotte Severance, who died in 1836. John T. Elsworth was a gauger employed by the custom house in Charleston. One of his sons was Isaac Stockton Keith Elsworth (1824-1891), who married Elizabeth Mary McMillan (1825-1911). Children of I. S. K. Elsworth included Susan Smith Elsworth Patterson (1849-1930), I. S. K. Elsworth, Jr. (1859-1936), and Martha (Mattie) O. Elsworth Prescott (1866-1929). Susan Smith Elsworth Patterson was the wife of Jesse C. Patterson, and one of their children was Victoria A. Patterson, who married Aiden A. Morrison (1873-1959).

**Scope and content:** Collection chiefly consists of estate and financial records, correspondence, photographs, and genealogical records and notes. Included are estate records for Theophilus Elsworth (1748-1838), John Severance, John Edward Boulger, John Theophilus Elsworth (1781-1863), and Isaac Keith Stockton Elsworth. Also included is the will (1785) of Thomas Humphreys (or Humphrys) of St. John's Parish, Colleton. Among the estate papers of John Severance are legal notes documenting that that in 1787 John Severance conveyed to his daughter Ann Elizabeth a piece of land in Christ Church Parish called Lempriere's Point (later known as Remley's Point). Papers relating to the estate of Theophilus Elsworth include correspondence between John Theophilus Elsworth with his niece's husband Richard J. Browne in Georgia. The papers of John Theophilus Elsworth include bonds as well as letters relating to his work as the gauger for the port of Charleston, his dealings with the Keckley family, and other matters. His estate papers include a copy of his will (1863), in which he mentions bequests to his daughters Charlotte Severance Keckley, Abigail Jones, and Ann Elizabeth Hauck, as well as his son Isaac S. K. Elsworth. The will directs that his "servant" Molly be "treated with great kindness" and that in the sale of "my negroes" (named in document) "they be sold in families and not divided." Papers of Isaac Stockton Keith Elsworth include a sharecropping agreement

(freedmen's contract, 1866) between him and Toby Matthews to work a plantation in Christ Church Parish. Genealogical information includes correspondence, family Bible records, obituaries, and contemporary research.

Photographs have been removed to the Visual Material Collection (671.00 VM). Included are images of Elizabeth Mary McMillan Elsworth, Mattie Elsworth Prescott, Mattie Prescott Kelly, Susan Smith Elsworth Patterson, Victoria Patterson Morrison, Aiden Morrison, and members of the families of Elsworth, McMillan, Prescott, Wimberly, and Moon. Most of the photographs depict unidentified persons.

**Preferred citation:** Elsworth family papers, 1785-1954. (0671.00) South Carolina Historical Society.

**Search terms:**

Boulger, John Edward, -1801.

Elsworth, Isaac Keith Stockton, 1824-1891.

Elsworth, Theophilus, 1748-1838.

Elsworth, John Theophilus, 1781-1863.

Severance, John, -1798 -- Estate

Ellsworth family.

Kackley family.

McMillan family.

Prescott family.

United States Division of Customs -- South Carolina -- Charleston

Freed persons -- South Carolina -- Christ Church Parish

Port districts -- South Carolina -- Charleston -- Employees

Ships -- Cargo -- South Carolina -- Charleston

Slaves -- South Carolina -- Charleston District

Plantations -- South Carolina -- Christ Church Parish

Shipping -- South Carolina -- Charleston -- 19th century

**Container listing:**

BOX 1

- 1 Papers relating to the estate of John Severance (or Saverance): Will, 1785, of Thomas Humphreys (or Humphrys) of St. John's Parish, Colleton, recording many bequests of slaves (named in document) and other property to his wife Ann and his children. (It is not clear how or whether this will is related to the Severance estate papers.)
- 2 Papers relating to the estate of John Severance: Articles of agreement, 1797, between John Edward Boulger, and John Severance (or Saverance) and his daughter "Miss A. E. Saverance" relating to marriage of Ann Severance and John E. Boulger
- 3 Papers relating to the estate of John Severance: Legal opinion, 1805, by attorney Thomas Winstanley of Charleston, relating to the estate.

- 4 Papers relating to the estate of John Severance: Letter of administration, 1806, granting the management of the estate of John Severance to John Theophilus Elsworth of Charleston.
- 5 Papers relating to the estate of John Severance: Legal opinion and synopsis by the firm Yeadon, Macbeth & Ford (1850s?) about the estate, as well as a copy of the 1806 estate inventory listing slaves and other property.
- 6 Papers relating to the estate of John Severance: various legal research and notes on the estate. One document notes that John Severance died intestate in 1798, and that John E. Boulger died intestate in 1801; it also mentions John Severance's widow Charlotte. Another document listing pertinent events chronologically notes that in 1787 John Severance conveyed to his daughter Ann Elizabeth a piece of land (in Christ Church Parish) called Lempriere's Point (later known as Remley's Point), and documents her marriage to John E. Boulger and later John T. Elsworth.
- 7 Papers relating to the estate of John Edward Boulger (died 1801): writ of summons, 1803, to "Charlotte Soverins" (Severance) pertaining to a complaint of debt by Hance Fairley, a cabinet maker, with an attached receipt (1801) for the making of a coffin and the repair of a table; and, letters of administration (1806) granted to John Theophilus Elworth, for the estate of his wife's late husband, John E. Boulger.
- 8 Papers of Theophilus Elsworth (died 1838): bond, 1822, Theophilus Elsworth to Patrick Duncan.
- 9 Papers relating to the estate of Theophilus Elsworth (died 1838): These papers chiefly pertain to claims of Ann S. Browne (or Brown), daughter of Susan Austin (Susanna Austin, 1790-1817?), on the estate of her grandfather Theophilus Elsworth (1748-1838). Included is an acknowledgment and receipt (1832) of a sum due to "William Shephird" (Shepherd) and his wife Susan (daughter of Susan Austin, and a granddaughter of Theophilus Elsworth), witnessed by William A. Shepherd, R. J. Browne, and Frederick S. Elsworth. There is a similar document (1831) pertaining to R. J. Browne and his wife Ann S. Browne. The remainder of these documents mostly consist of correspondence (1839-1843), mainly letters of Richard J. Browne in Georgia and elsewhere to Theophilus Elsworth (1781-1863), and one letter to Elsworth from his niece Ann S. Browne in Augusta, Ga. Two letters of Richard J. Browne dated 1839 mention an outbreak of yellow fever in Augusta, which he writes "may truly be called the City of the Dead." There is also a draft of a power of attorney (to a Mr. Vanhouten and wife) relating to money due to "the grandchild and legatee of Theophilus Elsworth," deceased; and a power of attorney (1839) appointing John T. Elsworth as the lawful attorney for his son-in-law Edward [J.] Jones (the husband of Abigail Elsworth Jones) to handle matters relating to the estate of Theophilus Elsworth (died 1838).
- 10 Papers relating to the estate of Theophilus Elsworth (died 1838): photocopy of his will (dated 1827; proved 1838); and photocopies of legal documents (1839) and estate records pertaining to the case of William A. and Susan Shepherd v. John T. Elsworth, executor of

Theophilus Elsworth et al. A decretal order mentions the wife of the deceased, Mrs. Deidamia Elsworth and a farm in New York.

- 11 Papers of John Theophilus Elsworth (1781-1863): These mainly consist of correspondence and other documents (1835-1852) relating to Elsworth's work as the gauger for the port of Charleston. They include an affidavit or certification (1835) about gauging a cargo on the brig *Homer* (D. Myers, master); and a copy of a receipt (1841) for payment for work done by Elsworth in 1840. Correspondence includes a letter (1836) from Elsworth to Henry Laurens Pinckney concerning his work and salary as a customs official; and a draft of a letter (1852) to William J. Grayson, the port collector, concerning Elsworth's request to employ an assistant gauger.
- 12 Papers of John Theophilus Elsworth (1781-1863): Includes a letter, 1837, from R. E. Cunningham in Jefferson County, Kentucky, to John T. Elsworth regarding the latter's offer to purchase two lots in Charleston; a document (1843) in which Elsworth attests that he has received payment in full from Thomas J. Keckley and his wife for loans and services; and a similar document dated 1846. There also two copies of a deposition (1843) by Edward Jones pertaining to a dispute arising over personal insults. The deposition mentions Jones' brother-in-law Thomas Keckley. In addition, there is a statement (1855) by John T. Elsworth granting to his son Isaac S. K. Elsworth the management of his plantation in Christ Church Parish, and "the negroes thereon."
- 13 Papers of John Theophilus Elsworth (1781-1863): bonds dating 1819 to 1844.
- 14 Papers relating to the estate of John Theophilus Elsworth (1781-1863): These include a copy of his will (1863), in which he mentions bequests to his daughters Charlotte Severance Keckley, Abigail Jones, and Ann Elizabeth Hauck, as well as his son Isaac S. K. Elsworth. The will directs that his "servant" Molly be "treated with great kindness" and that in the sale of "my negroes" (named in document) "they be sold in families and not divided." Also included are receipts, one of which (1863) is for advertising an obituary in the *Mercury*; and estate accounts and miscellaneous estate records.
- 15 Papers relating to the estate of John Theophilus Elsworth (1781-1863): receipts, accounts, and other records (1863-1875) relating to heirs in the Keckley family, principally Charlotte Severance Keckley. Included is a receipt (1865) for a funeral notice placed in the Charleston *Courier* for Frederick S. E. Keckley.
- 16 Papers relating to the estate of John Theophilus Elsworth (1781-1863): receipts, accounts, and other documents relating to heirs, namely Ann E. Hauck, and Abigail and Edward Jones. These include receipts for "negroes" and a title deed (1864) for a plantation of 251 acres in Christ Church Parish, conveyed by Edward J. Jones and his wife Abigail to Isaac S. K. Elsworth.
- 17 Papers of Isaac Stockton Keith Elsworth (1824-1891): These include receipts (1863-1885); a sharecropping agreement (1866) between Elsworth and Toby Mathews; and a

title abstract for property on Reid Street in Charleston, to be conveyed to I. S. K. Elsworth.

- 18 Papers relating to the estate of Isaac Stockton Keith Elsworth (1824-1891): These include a copy of his will (1890); and two receipts for funeral expenses.
- 19 Miscellaneous 19<sup>th</sup> century documents: these include fragments of accounts.
- 20 Papers of Mrs. Elizabeth Mary McMillan Elsworth: these consist of correspondence, 1886-1899, between Mrs. I. S. K. Elsworth in Charleston and Mrs. J. A. Read and C. B. Read in Arlington, New Jersey, relating to “Ellsworth” family history.
- 21 Genealogical records: these consist of family Bible records, obituaries, and notes. Family names appearing in the Bible entries include McMillan (or MacMillan), Wallace, Elsworth, and Prescott. Also included is a letter (1886) from John [Galletly] in Edinburgh, Scotland, to D. Campbell in Glasgow concerning the estate of “the late Mr. Edward MacMillan” who died between 1849 and 1850; a copy of the will (1930) of Ann Elsworth Hauck Ashley (daughter of John Theophilus Elsworth and his wife Susannah Smith Elsworth) of Barnwell County, S.C.; and a typescript sworn statement (1954) by Mattie (or Martha) Patterson attesting to family history facts found in the papers of her grandfather I. S. K. Elsworth in her possession, with a related letter.
- 22 Genealogical research: recent research on the Elsworth family and related lines by a family descendant. These papers include photocopies of a memorial (1777) from the “freemen” of Liberty County, Georgia, to the Continental Congress in Philadelphia, which includes the signature of “Theophilus Elsworth”; and a photocopy of a memorial (1782) to the president of the U.S. Congress relating to “diverse captive citizens ... in prison at Plymouth.” (John Theophilus Elsworth, 1748-1838, was captured during the Revolutionary War and transported to a prison in Plymouth, England.)