



# SOUTH CAROLINA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

**Arthur Ravenel, Jr. papers, 1838-2015**  
**SCHS #: 0591.00**

**Description:** 3 linear ft. (8 boxes)

**Biographical/historical note:** Arthur Ravenel, Jr., a businessman and politician from Charleston, S.C., was born in 1927. He attended St. Andrews High School and the College of Charleston, and from 1945 to 1946 he served in the U.S. Marine Corps. He began his political career as a Democrat in the S.C. House of Representatives, serving from 1953 to 1959. Soon afterward, he changed his party affiliation to Republican and ran for office in multiple elections, including a run for the governorship of South Carolina. He was elected to the S.C. Senate in 1980, where he served until winning election to the U.S. Congress in 1986, completing several terms in that office. In 1996, Ravenel was elected again to his old seat in the S.C. Senate, serving there until 2005. A new bridge that replaced the old bridges between Charleston and Mt. Pleasant in 2005 was named in his honor.

**Scope and content:** This collection consists of correspondence; papers relating to Confederate and French Huguenot heritage, Ravenel family history, and the Arthur Ravenel, Jr. Bridge; personal and political papers; papers of Rose Pringle Ravenel; photographs; and miscellaneous items. Correspondence includes letters to and from Arthur Ravenel during his service in the Marine Corps in 1945 and 1946. Papers relating to Confederate heritage include clippings, correspondence, speeches, miscellaneous items, dvds documenting Confederate Memorial Day services at the Huguenot Church in Charleston, and transcripts of diaries, one of which is "The Diary of a Wounded Prisoner" by Charles Bernard Foster of Summerville, S.C. Papers relating to Huguenot heritage include programs, clippings, by-laws of the church, historical writings, and books of liturgy and hymns. Papers relating to Ravenel family history include "Recollections" by Agnes Ravenel Gant, clippings, genealogies, correspondence, genealogies of the Boykin and Whitridge families, and records pertaining to a Ravenel family reunion in France in 2006. Papers relating to the Arthur Ravenel, Jr. Bridge include invitations, clippings, programs, histories, media, and memorabilia. Political papers include campaign literature, correspondence, clippings, and memorabilia. One group of papers (1964-1972) pertains to the restoration and sale of the Faber House in Charleston. Personal papers of Arthur Ravenel include school records, a scrapbook (1937), and clippings. Miscellaneous items include clippings about Hampton Plantation, and a notebook (1838-1848) kept by Rev. Elias Lynch Fraser, a Presbyterian minister, which includes copies of his correspondence. Papers of Rose Pringle Ravenel include a composition book and a scrapbook containing her writings as well as clippings, and sketches.

Artifacts include two medals awarded to William Davie DeSaussure and Sergeant Eldridge P. Alexander for their service in the Mexican War, and an antebellum silver spoon that belonged to William Ravenel.

NOTE: Photographs have been removed to the SCHS Visual Material Collection. Artifacts have been removed to the SCHS Artifact Collection.

**Preferred Citation:** Ravenel, Arthur. Arthur Ravenel papers, 1838-2015. (0591.00) South Carolina Historical Society.

**Search terms:**

Foster, Charles Bernard, 1842-1862.  
Fraser, Elias Lynch, 1809-1851.  
Gant, Agnes Ravenel, 1892-1990.  
Ravenel, Arthur.  
Ravenel, Rose P.  
Boykin family.  
Ravenel family.  
Whitridge family.  
635 East Bay Street (Charleston, S.C.)  
French Protestant Church of Charleston, S.C.  
Bridges -- South Carolina -- Charleston County.  
Confederate Memorial Day.  
Historic buildings -- Conservation and restoration -- South Carolina -- Charleston.  
Huguenots.  
Legislators -- South Carolina.  
Marines -- United States -- Correspondence.  
Mexican War, 1846-1848 -- Medals -- South Carolina.  
Politicians -- South Carolina.  
Presbyterians -- Clergy -- South Carolina.  
Prisoners of war -- Confederate States of America.  
Arthur Ravenel Junior Bridge (Charleston, S.C.)  
Hampton Plantation (S.C.)  
South Carolina -- Politics and government -- 20th century.

**Container List:**

BOX 1

Correspondence:

- 1 Family correspondence, 1960-2013, and undated.
- 2 Miscellaneous correspondence (constituents, friends, etc.), 1943-2014, and undated.
- 3 Political correspondence, 1953-2007, and undated.
- 4 Correspondence relating to bridges in Charleston, 2001-2015.

- 5 Military correspondence, 1945.
- 6 Military correspondence, 1946-1947, and undated.
- 7 Pocket New Testament with metal sheath on front cover, presented to Arthur Ravenel by his mother, 1945.

Papers Relating to Confederate Heritage:

- 8 Confederate diaries, including a typescript of "The Diary of a Wounded Prisoner" by Charles Bernard Foster (1842-1864; Co. D, 27<sup>th</sup> SC Volunteers) of Summerville, S.C.; *A Diary Depicting the Experiences of DeWitt Clinton Gallagher*, published in 1945 (two copies), recounting the wartime experiences of D. C. Gallagher (1845-1926) of Virginia; and a copy of the pamphlet *Two Diaries From Middle St. John's Berkeley, South Carolina* (1921) by Susan R. Jervey and Charlotte St. Julien Ravenel.
- 9 Clippings from newspapers, 1983-2010.
- 10 Correspondence, 1983-1992, and undated.
- 11 Confederate Memorial Day address, programs, etc.
- 12 Miscellaneous items.
- 13 Pamphlet: *Conformity to God's Requirements*, 1870, sermon preached at the Huguenot Church after the death of Robert E. Lee.
- 14 Media: three cds or dvds, 2007-2008, relating to Confederate Memorial Day services at the Huguenot Church.

BOX 2

Papers relating to the French Protestant Church (Charleston, S.C.), and Huguenot heritage:

- 1 Papers pertaining to the Huguenot (French Protestant) Church in Charleston, S.C.
- 2 Program for a Christmas service, 1983.
- 3 Papers mainly relating to financial matters of the church.
- 4 Church by-laws, 2004.
- 5 Psalms and hymns of the Huguenot Church, Charleston, S.C., 1870.
- 6 Liturgy of the Huguenot Church, Charleston, S.C., [1886].
- 7 Liturgy (in French).

- 8 Papers relating to Huguenot history.
- 9 Pamphlet (reprint, 1962): *A Contribution to the History of the Huguenots of South Carolina*, by Samuel DuBose and Frederick A. Porcher, originally published 1887.
- 10 Booklet relating to Huguenots in London, 1978.
- 11 Huguenot material in French.

### BOX 3

Papers relating to the Ravenel family and Ravenel genealogy:

- 1 “Recollections of Agnes Ravenel Gant” (Agnes Moffett Ravenel Gant, 1892-1990). Pertains to her family, ancestry, etc. She was the daughter of Henry Edmund Ravenel (1856-1939) and Agnes Moffett Adger Ravenel (1852-1924).
- 2 Clippings and other material about Ravenel family members including Dr. Mazyck P. Ravenel (1861-1946) and Dr. Samuel F. Ravenel (1898-1976).
- 3 *Ravenel Records*, 1898. Annotated, with clippings tipped in. This annotated copy of the book "Ravenel Records" (1898) includes newspaper clippings and, on the last page, a handwritten note by Elizabeth McPherson Ravenel dated 1907. Her note relates recollections by her father, Dr. William Ravenel (1806-1888), concerning Peter Desvernay's revelation about a slave insurrection (led by Denmark Vesey).
- 4 Loose items removed from *Ravenel Records*.
- 5 Correspondence, 1974-2004, some of which was removed from *Ravenel Records*, relating to Ravenel family genealogy.
- 6 Supplements, E and G, to *Ravenel Records*.
- 7 Memorials to Dr. St. Julien Ravenel (1819-1882), 1882.
- 8 Pamphlet: *In Memoriam, William Ravenel and Col. Peter Charles Ravenel*, 1889.
- 9 Booklet: “Descendants of Allen Jones Boykin and Elizabeth Chardon Courtney” [2001]. Traces progeny of Allen Jones Boykin (1854-1937).
- 10 Material relating to Joshua Barker Whitridge (1789-1831) and his family history.
- 11 Miscellaneous Ravenel family papers.
- 12 Papers relating to Ravenel family origins in France, and a family reunion in France in 2006.

## BOX 4

Papers mainly relating to the Arthur Ravenel, Jr. Bridge:

- 1 Papers relating to the Grace Memorial Bridge and the Arthur Ravenel, Jr. Bridge.
- 2 Papers relating to the groundbreaking ceremony for the Arthur Ravenel, Jr. Bridge, 2001.
- 3 Groundbreaking ceremony booklet, "Continuing the Journey."
- 4 Invitations to the dedication and opening of the AR Bridge, 2005.
- 5 Booklet, 2005: "Arthur Ravenel Jr. Bridge" issued by the SCDOT.
- 6 Speech, "The Arthur Ravenel, Jr. Bridge," presented by Edward P. Perrin, Nov. 15, 2005.
- 7 Photocopies of newspaper clippings about the bridge, 2005.
- 8 Clippings about the bridge, 2005.
- 9 Photocopies of clippings, 2013-2015.
- 10 Audio cd: "Three Hungryneck Racoons and the New Cooper River Bridge." A play (puppet show) written and produced by Kathy Sanders, 2005.
- 11 Two VHS tapes: "Cooper River Bridge Push to Completion" (2004), and one labeled "Extreme Engineering Under Construction (EE2) 'Cooper River Bridge.'"
- 12 Bridge memorabilia, including a hand fan from the 2005 bridge opening ceremony.

## BOX 5

Political papers:

- 1 Political papers, 1952-2004, including campaign literature.
- 2 Political correspondence, 1983-1984.
- 3 Political papers, 1982-1984.
- 4 Photocopies of clippings, 1982-1984.
- 5 Photocopies of political clippings, 1961-[2005].
- 6 VHS tape: "Ravenel for U.S. Senate Campaign Video" [1985?].
- 7 Political memorabilia and campaign literature.

Papers relating to the Faber House:

- 8 Clippings, photographs, correspondence, and other papers pertaining to the restoration and sale of the Faber House, a historic property at 635 East Bay Street (formerly 71 Bay Street). Photographs have been removed to the Visual Material Collection.

Personal papers:

- 9 School records and memorabilia, 1940-2000, including report cards and a yearbook, 1941, for St. Andrew's Parish High School.
- 10 Scrapbook, 1937, with clippings and illustrations relating to wildlife and hunting.

BOX 6

Personal papers:

- 1 Diary of a trip to Africa, [1991], kept by Mrs. Arthur Ravenel?
- 2 Clippings of articles by and about Arthur Ravenel.
- 3 Arthur Ravenel's essay and poem about cats, 1984.

Miscellaneous papers:

- 4 Miscellaneous items, including clippings of articles by Anthony Harrigan.
- 5 Miscellaneous items, including information about the St. John's Hunting Club and Black Oak Cemetery.
- 6 Papers relating to two Mexican War medals. One is a gold medal of William Davie DeSaussure, who served in the Palmetto Regiment during the Mexican-American War. (The Palmetto Regiment formed in 1846 and fought in the Battles of Churubusco, Chapultepec, and Mexico City.) A Churubusco battle scene is embossed on the reverse of this medal. In 1848 the South Carolina legislature awarded medals to the Palmetto Regiment veterans. Later, De Saussure (1819-1863) was a colonel in the Confederate Army and was killed at the Battle of Gettysburg. The second medal is a silver medal awarded to First Sergeant Eldridge P. Alexander (died 1847). These items are kept in the safe in the SCHS Artifact Collection.
- 7 Papers, including correspondence, 1993, relating to the grave of Major Majoribanks and Wantoot Plantation.
- 8 Clippings of a series of articles about the history of Hampton Plantation, 1989, with a related letter.
- 9 Book: *Amy Oakly; or, The Reign of the Carpet Bagger* (1879), by Florella Meynardie Hunter. The covers and some pages are missing.

- 10 Notebook, 1838-1848, of Rev. Elias Lynch Fraser (1809-1851), a Presbyterian minister. This small notebook contains a few cash book entries and records of cotton sales (1838); some personal diary entries, accounts and notes (including one noting that Redding Thompson “commenced business as overseer” on Dec. 31, 1838); a recipe for “Tomato Catsup;” and copies of ten letters, 1843-1848, written by Fraser. Correspondents include Simon Beckham, Bishop James Andrew (Red Hill, Kershaw District), Rev. Williamson Howze, John G. Bowman (Hanging Rock, S.C.), Charles Hay (Ervington, Barnwell District), Benjamin Coleman, George W. Mayhew, and Mr. Tillman. A letter (Dec. 1843) to Simon Beckham relates to church business, and Fraser’s claims that his “character as steward” is being impugned by another clergyman. A letter (April 1844) to John G. Bowman relates to a “deep laid scheme” on the part of Rev. R. Pickett to damage Fraser’s reputation. A letter (30 June 1845) to George W. Mayhew, who is identified as the executor of the will of James T. Williamson, “late of Mississppi,” relates to estate matters.

Papers of or pertaining to Rose Pringle Ravenel:

- 11 Media: Ravenel’s *Piazza Tales* on cd and floppy disks. The cd contains a revised edition edited by Elizabeth R. Harrigan, 2002.
- 12 Composition book of Rose P. Ravenel chiefly containing some anecdotes and notes about the Ravenel family.
- Scrapbook (disbound) of Rose P. Ravenel, presented to Arthur Ravenel, Jr.: contains newspaper clippings, photographs, drawings, and writings.
- 13 Loose items removed from scrapbook: copies of newspaper clippings, 1930-1945.
- 14 Loose items removed from scrapbook: newspaper clipping, n.d., of a eulogy for “The Late General Stephen Elliott” by William Henry Trescot.
- 15 Items removed from scrapbook: botanical print.
- 16 Scrapbook: drawing of a hand bell, with a penciled inscription: “This bell is at the farm.”
- 17 Scrapbook: pencil sketches of business signs in Charleston, inscribed “the Confederate War.” One sign reads “Joe Cole & Wife, Shrimps.” Another sign is for a white washer and a bricklayer.
- 18 Scrapbook: pencil sketch of a building and sign (“Milk Cow Dep. Charleston”), inscribed “After the Confederate War.”
- 19 Scrapbook: pencil sketch of Wampee Plantation house, St. John’s Berkeley Parish.
- 20 Scrapbook: pencil sketch of “The Old Guard-house, on the South-western corner of Broad & Meeting Streets.”

21 Scrapbook: pencil sketch of a silver dish or urn.

### BOX 7

- 1 Scrapbook: typescripts of writings by Rose P. Ravenel. Subjects include Hanover Plantation, Pompion Hill Chapel, Eutaw Springs, Eutaw House, and Fenwick Hall.
- 2 Scrapbook: typescripts of writings by Rose P. Ravenel. These are mainly family anecdotes, and anecdotes about life during the War Between the States.
- 3 Scrapbook: typescript writings collected or transcribed by Rose P. Ravenel. These include "From All the Days of My Life" by Amelia E. Barr; a poem, "The Twelfth of April;" "A Ballad to Beauty: 'Bill's Tree' at Farmfield" by Maude Waddell; a poem about Rose P. Ravenel by Maude Waddell; and an article about Rose P. Ravenel by Reed Sarratt ("Charlotte News Staff Writer").
- 4 Scrapbook: handwritten transcript of a "Letter of Genl Lee to his Sister" (April 20. 1861).
- 5 Scrapbook: holograph writings by Rose P. Ravenel. Subjects include "The Old Family Servant," General Beauregard, ivory, alium trees, Gen. Francis Marion, and Susanna Miles (Mrs. John McPherson).
- 6 Scrapbook: holograph writings by Rose P. Ravenel. Subjects include Daniel Ravenel of Wantoot, and Lafayette.
- 7 Scrapbook: holograph writing by Rose P. Ravenel. The subject is Rene Ravenel.
- 8 Scrapbook: story entitled "Ben Wasp."
- 9 Scrapbook: miscellaneous printed material.
- 10 Scrapbook: miscellaneous items, including post cards and a calling card.

### BOX 8

Photocopy of the Rose P. Ravenel scrapbook.

### ARTIFACTS (removed to the SCHS Artifact Collection)

- Gold medal awarded to William Davie DeSaussure for Mexican War Service



- Silver medal awarded posthumously to First Sergeant Eldridge P. Alexander for service in the Mexican-American War.
- SCV Commendation Medal awarded to Arthur Ravenel, 2008
- Commemorative pen and case inscribed “Ravenel Bridge, July 2, 2001, SCDOT – PBC”
- Bronze commemorative medal inscribed “Arthur Ravenel, Jr. Bridge Over the Cooper River, Opening Celebration, July 9<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup>, 2005”
- Round silver box inscribed “The Confederate Home and College, In Appreciation, Arthur Ravenel, Jr., February 5, 2008”
- Two pin buttons with ribbons commemorating the groundbreaking ceremony of the bridge, 2001
- Fabric belt with a silver buckle with monogram “RPR” (Rose Pringle Ravenel)
- Silver spoon with the monogram “WR” (commissioned in England in the 1850s by William Ravenel)