



SOUTH CAROLINA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Simons family papers, 1790-1957 **SCHS# 1001.00**

Creator: Simons family.

Description: 1 linear ft.

Biographical/Historical Note: South Carolina family. Thomas Grange Simons (1843-1927), a Charleston, S.C. physician and educator, was the son of Thomas G. Simons (1818-1904) and Mary Ann Bentham, daughter of Robert Bentham (1790-1843). Dr. Simons married Serena Daniel Aiken, and among their children was noted architect Albert Simons (b. 1890).

Scope and Content: Papers consist of scrapbooks, commonplace books, correspondence, and other items pertaining to the related Aiken, Bentham, Martin, and Simons families of South Carolina.

Scrapbooks include a volume (1849-1883) of newspaper clippings on topics such as cholera, Charleston (S.C.) city council proceedings, and the Charleston Board of Firemasters; a scrapbook (ca. 1860-1880) mainly containing clippings of Civil War news, hymns, and poems; and scrapbooks (1865-1920, 1860-1922) of Serena D. Aiken (later Serena Simons) and Serena M. Martin containing clippings of poems, marriage announcements, obituaries, and articles on Thomas Grange Simons, Albert Simons, and others, interspersed with handwritten poems (1860, 1865) dedicated to Serena. A commonplace book (1845-1846) of Ellen D. Martin (later Ellen Aiken) contains handwritten poems, the Lord's Prayer in miniature lettering, and engravings. A commonplace book (1862-1863?) of Miss Anna M. Parker contains poems and prayers.

Correspondence includes letters (1821, 1836) from attorney Robert Bentham in Charleston (S.C.) and elsewhere to his wife Frances in Stateburg (S.C.) concerning the estate of Mrs. Radcliffe (a plantation owner) and others, personal and family matters, and a trip to Philadelphia (Pa.) and New York (N.Y.); letters (1849-1851) from Charles M. Bentham (son of Robert Bentham) in San Francisco (Calif.) and elsewhere to his family concerning a voyage by sea to Panama, a fire (Dec. 1849) in San Francisco, and family and business matters; and a letter (1874) from Johnson Hagood to [Mr.] Martin concerning his brother Col. Robert Martin (1835-1874?).

Other items include handwritten and typewritten notes (with index) for the book "Thomas Grange Simons: His Forebears and Relations" (1954) by Robert B. Simons; a ledger (1936-

1938) containing a record of payments for food, utilities, and other expenses; William Aiken Martin's passport book (1854-1857); Simons family history notes; a copy of the will (1840) of Robert Bentham; a "receipt for the epilepsy" (1790); and a cartoon (1851) depicting a frustrated lumber merchant "reading his account of sales from California."

Preferred Citation: Simons family. Simons family papers, 1790-1957. (1001.00) South Carolina Historical Society.

Note: Formerly known as: Aiken-Simons-Martin papers.

Search terms:

Aiken, Ellen Daniel Martin, 1829-1902.
Aiken, William Martin, 1855-1908.
Bentham, Charles Mayrant, 1823-1854.
Bentham, Robert, 1790-1843.
Hagood, Johnson, 1829-1898.
Martin, Robert, 1835-1874.
Martin, Serena M., 1844-1925.
Parker, Anna M.
Simons, Albert, 1890-1980.
Simons, Serena Daniel Aiken, 1850-1917.
Simons, T. Grange (Thomas Grange), 1843-1927.
Aiken family.
Martin family.
Bentham family.
Simmons family.
Simons family.
Charleston (S.C.)
Panama.
San Francisco (Calif.)
South Carolina -- History.
Commonplace books.
Letters (correspondence)
Passports.
Poems.
Prayers.
Scrapbooks.
Simons, Robert Bentham, 1888-1971.

Container listing:

11/14-15 Aiken-Martin family, 1845-1938

Scrapbook and misc. items, 1845-1938. 7 vols.

Charleston family. Scrapbooks of Aiken-Martin family, with clippings regarding family marriages or obituaries, poetry, woodcuts, other family news, Civil War news, cholera (1849), proceedings of Charleston City Council, fires and railroads. Also, passport of W. Aiken-Martin (1854). Poetry albums of Ellen D. Martin, Anna M. Parker, and Serena M. Martin. Also, ledger of household expenses (1936-1938).

11/15/5-7 Simons, T. Grange, 1843-1927

Genealogy notes and mss., n.d. Approx 400 pps.

Charlestonian. Typescript of T. Grange Simons- His Forebears and Descendants. Notes on genealogy regarding the Aiken, Cordes, Hume, Bentham, Lucas, Marion and Martin families.

11/15A/1-5 Bentham, Robert, 1790-1843

Letters, 1821-1836. 12 items

Charleston lawyer. Letters (1821) of Robert Bentham to his wife Frances Mayrant Bentham in Statesburgh regarding family matters, letter writings, and legal matters handled by RB including the disposition of the estate and sale of slaves of a Mrs. Radcliffe, who owned a plantation with 300 slaves; Letters (1836) of RB and his daughter Mary Anne Bentham. Also will of RB.

11/15A/6-7 Bentham, Charles M, 1823-1854

Letters, 1849-1852. 7 items

Charleston Forty-Niner. Letters (1849-1852) of CMB to his mother, Frances M. Bentham and sister Mary Anne Bentham Simons, regarding his trip to San Francisco CA (1849) and his experiences in the CA gold rush. Letters also regarding life aboard the ship (Thomas Bennett) that passed around Cape Horn and up the South American Coast to Panama, life in Panama, life in San Francisco with mention of Charlestonians in San Francisco and news from Charleston. Also a cartoon of a bewildered lumber merchant in California (1851). Letters printed in SCHM 57 (1956).

11/15A/8-9 Simons-Martin family, 1790-1874

Misc. papers, 1790-1874. 13 items

Charleston family. Genealogical material on the Simons family (1700s), a poem, engraving of James D. Simons and a sketch by Archdale Hall. Misc. letters including one from Johnson Hagood regarding his tribute to Col. Robert Martin's Civil War service and JH's fancy "that Col. Martin and himself were the first soldiers to volunteer in the Confederate Army" (1874), a cure for epilepsy (1790), a recipe for walnut catsup, and other misc. material.