



SOUTH CAROLINA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Rhett family papers, 1804-1892

SCHS #: 1090.00

11/344

Creator: Rhett family.

Description: 0.25 linear ft.

Biographical/Historical Note: South Carolina family. The sons of James Smith (1761-1835), among them Robert Barnwell and Albert Moore, changed their surname to Rhett in order to perpetuate their mother's ancestral name. Albert Moore Rhett was a lawyer who practiced in Charleston and Beaufort, S.C. and a state legislator. He married Sarah Cantey Taylor (1808-1884), daughter of S.C. governor John Taylor, and their children included John T. Rhett (1836-1892), an attorney and the mayor of Columbia, S.C.

Scope and Content: Papers consist of legal documents, correspondence, financial records, and other items. Included are the papers (1856-1892) of John T. Rhett.

Family papers include a marriage settlement deed (1831) conveying in trust to James H. Taylor 29 slaves (named in document) on behalf of Harriet Chesnut Taylor and Franklin H. Elmore; a letter fragment (1804) concerning national politics; a marriage settlement deed (1835) of Albert M. Smith (later Rhett) and Sarah C. Taylor for 30 slaves; receipts, accounts, and invoices of F.H. Elmore [Jr.] (1850s); Robert B. Rhett's account of his brother Albert M. Rhett's sickness, last conversations and prayers concerning his salvation, and his death in Charleston (1843); a letter (ca. 1830) from Albert M. Rhett to his brother regarding fights with students at Yale and his dismissal from the college; letters (1858-1860) of Albert Rhett; recipes; a poem "On the Death of Governor Taylor" by "M.M." and an obituary (1832) of John Taylor; and a draft of an article (n.d.) addressed to [T.] Pinckney criticizing him for his political stance.

Papers of John T. Rhett include a few letters (1861-1865) from him to his mother written during his military service in the Civil War; notarized notes of protest for non-payment of bank drafts (1870); a few legal documents; invoices, receipts, accounts, and letters, mostly pertaining to John T. Rhett's legal cases, including letters addressed to W.A. Harris (1865) regarding the case of Noah A. Moses v. Francis W. Fickling; John T. Rhett's commission (1877) as regent of the [S.C. State] Asylum; and two typewritten letters (1887, 1889) to Rhett from John C. Calhoun in New York concerning personal and business matters.

Also included is a printed letter (1878) to [Sallie Rhett] from William S. Plumer acknowledging condolences and describing the last hours of Mrs. W.S. Plumer of Columbia (S.C.); a posthumous tribute (1892) to John T. Rhett; and genealogical information on the Smith and Rhett families and related families.

Preferred Citation: Rhett family. Rhett family papers, 1804-1892. (1090.00) South Carolina Historical Society.

Search terms:

Elmore, F. H. (Franklin Harper), 1799-1850.
Elmore, Harriet Chesnut Taylor, 1803-1865.
Fickling, Francis Wellman, 1811-1887.
Plumer, William S. (William Swan), 1802-1880.
Rhett, Albert Moore, 1810-1843 -- Religion.
Rhett, John Taylor, 1836-1892.
Rhett, Robert Barnwell, 1800-1876.
Taylor, John, 1770-1832.
Rhett family.
Smith family.
Taylor family.
Yale College (1718-1887) -- Students.
Slaves -- South Carolina.
Charleston (S.C.)
Columbia (S.C.)
South Carolina -- History.
Financial records.
Genealogies.
Legal documents.
Letters (correspondence)
Marriage settlements.
Recipes.
Slave records.
Writings.
Lawyers.

11/344/1-4 Rhett family, 1804-1858

Misc. papers, 1804-1854, n.d. 25 items

Columbia family. Family material includes a letter (1804) regarding US politics, deeds for slaves (1835), marriage settlement (1835) for Sarah E. Taylor and Albert M. Smith and a statement (1843) regarding the last illness of Albert Rhett. Receipts (1853-1854) regarding guardianship of Franklin H. Elmore. Undated material includes letter of Albert M. Smith regarding his dismissal from Yale College (ca. 1830), recipes for deserts, verses on the death of Gov. John Taylor, and draft of letter to the Hon. Thomas (?) Pinckney regarding criticism of Pinckney's stance on a political issue; and an essay regarding lawyers.

11/344/5-9 Rhett, John T., 1836-1892

Papers, 1856-1892. Approx 75 items

Columbia attorney. Letters, legal and business papers of JTR and others. Included are JTR's diplomas (1856-1857), letters of Albert Rhett Jr. in Paris (1858) and Gainesville, FL (1860) regarding family matters. Letters of JTR to relatives (1862-1865) regarding Civil War matters. Also letters to W.A. Harris regarding F.H. Fickling vs. N.A. Moses (1865) regarding slave matters. Vouchers, protest notes, legal papers, stamped receipts, U.S. of JTR. Promissory notes (1872-1878) of Wade Hampton III, JTR certificate, letter (1883) regarding Civil War dead, a memorial to JTR and other business papers.

11/344/10-12 Rhett Family, n.d.

Genealogy notes, n.d. 4 items

SC Family. Genealogy and family history notes of the Rhett family and related families including Smith, Heyward, Barnwell, Frankland and others.