



SOUTH CAROLINA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Charles Family Papers, 1809-2016 SCHS # 720.00

Description: 1.5 linear feet (4 boxes)

Biographical/Historical Note: The Charles family of South Carolina descends from Andrew Charles (1765-1812), a native of Pennsylvania who came to Charleston, South Carolina, in the 1790s and became a merchant and partner in a shipping business. His wife was Sarah Kelso (1770-1831) of New Jersey. They were the parents of at least nine children including Andrew Blackwood Charles (1798-1818), Edgar Wells Charles (1801-1876), William Wells Kelso Charles (1804-1829), Robert Fraser Charles (1807-1843), and Hopkins Gardner Charles (1809-1884). Hopkins Gardner Charles married Louisa Margaret DuBose (1814-1884), the daughter of Isaiah DuBose (1781-1861) and Gilly Hinton Benton, in 1833. They lived in Darlington District and were the parents of at least eleven children including William Edwin Charles, Robert Kelso Charles (1841-1903), Edgar W. Charles (born 1846), Eva Cassel Charles, and Kimbrough DuBose Charles (1843-1936). Kimbrough DuBose Charles, who later lived in Florence County, married Elizabeth Lucretia Keith and was the father of Harry Gardner Charles (1887-1958). Harry Gardner Charles married a widow, Lillian Murrell Rogers, and was the father of Hopkins (Harry) Gardner Charles, Jr. (1921-2016). Hopkins (Harry) G. Charles was born in Florence and later lived in Myrtle Beach with his wife Jane Dinmore Bentley Charles (1926-2007), where they were active in civic life and the arts. After retiring as a full colonel from his service in the U.S. Air Force as a JAG officer, Harry Charles served as Solicitor for the 15th Judicial Circuit in South Carolina and then as a councilman on the Myrtle Beach City Council. He was a cousin of Elizabeth (Betsy) Pettigrew Lake (1921-2003), daughter of Abbott and Juanita Farmer Lake of Florence. In 1946, Betsy married Sidney B. Waugh, a sculptor and designer for Steuben Glass. Waugh served as a Monuments Man during World War II. After his death Betsy married Donald Pollard (1924-1994), a Steuben Glass designer, and they eventually made Myrtle Beach their home.

Scope and content: This collection consists of correspondence and other papers of several generations of the Charles family of South Carolina, as well as papers of Elizabeth Pettigrew Lake Pollard. Principal early correspondents include Hopkins G. Charles (1809-1884) and Louisa DuBose Charles. Of note is a letter of April 1822 from William Wells Kelso Charles at Platt Spring Academy describing an unpleasant incident and conditions at a boarding house or school; a letter of September 1822 from William to his mother in Morristown, New Jersey,

which mentions the Denmark Vesey “insurrection” sympathetically; a letter of 1876 concerning the death of Edgar W. Charles, Jr. (the son of Hopkins G. Charles); and an undated letter from Robert Toombs in Washington, Georgia, to Louisa DuBose Charles, relating to the death of his wife Julia (Louisa’s cousin) in September 1883. Of note in other Charles family papers is a roster, 1848, listing the names and ranks of officers in the 29th South Carolina Militia Regiment; and a list, [1834], of “negroes given to LMC [Louisa DuBose Charles], KCD [Kimbrough Cassels DuBose] and JHD [James Henry DuBose] supposed to have been drawn [up] by Mrs. J.H. DuBose.” There are also genealogical records, most of which were likely compiled by Hopkins (Harry) G. Charles (1921-2016), relating to the Charles family and the related families of Benton, Bentley, DuBose, Keith, and others. The papers of Robert Kelso Charles, a Confederate officer, include a few wartime letters relating to Second Manassas (Bull Run) and the Battle of Seven Pines, as well as military records including countersigns (passwords), two of which are datelined Battery White.

Papers relating to Austin Bull Rogers (1914-1961), the half-brother of Hopkins Gardner (Harry) Charles, include clippings relating to his experiences as a prisoner of war held in a Japanese prison camp during World War II and on the Bataan Death March. Papers of Harry and Jane Charles, 1938-2016, include correspondence and newspaper clippings.

Papers, 1913-2005, of Betsy Pollard include a few papers of the Farmer and Lake families, as well as correspondence and other papers of Sidney B. Waugh and Donald Pollard, and records relating to their art works.

Photographs have been removed to the Visual Material Collection (0720 VM).

Container List:

BOX 1

1 Correspondence, 1817-1842, chiefly of the Charles family. The earliest letter, 1817, is from Andrew Blackwood Charles to his mother Sarah. A letter of April 1822 from William Wells Kelso Charles at Platt Spring Academy describes an unpleasant incident and conditions at a boarding house or school. A letter of September 1822 from William to his mother in Morristown, New Jersey, mentions the Denmark Vesey “insurrection” sympathetically. Other topics of correspondence include the estate of Andrew Charles (1765-1812) and other family matters. Correspondents include John M. Hopkins, Edgar Wells Charles, Lucius Bellinger, Robert Fraser Charles, and Hopkins G. Charles. There is also a letter, March 1827, from Nicholson [H.] Morgan in Springville, SC, to Miss Louisa M. DuBose in Columbia; and a letter, June 1837, to Isaiah DuBose in Cheraw from Robinson & Caldwell, Charleston factors. A letter, 1833, to Rev. Rufus W. Bailey (1793-1863) at Barhamville from Mrs. Dorothy Gardiner Gold (1788-1859) in Pittsfield, Massachusetts, mainly concerns the death of a woman who was their “beloved friend.” Correspondence of the 1840s include letters between Hopkins G. Charles in Darlington and his friend William Henderson McCarter (1813-1880), a Presbyterian minister.

- 2 Copies and transcriptions of some of the letters in folder 1, 1817-1829.
- 3 Charles family correspondence, 1850-1865, mainly concerning family matters. Correspondents include Hopkins G. Charles, Louisa DuBose Charles, William H. McCarer, and William Edwin Charles. Of note is a letter, January 1845, from Martha Juliana (Julia) DuBose Toombs (wife of Robert Toombs, 1810-1885) to her cousin (Louisa DuBose Charles). A letter, 1861, to Hopkins G. Charles from Thomas Frean (1793-1861) in Columbia concerns the latter's health condition that may be terminal if he does not "quit business and seek repose of mind," and that he has "left the key of the office and bank book with Dr. Fisher at the branch bank." Frean was an officer of the state Treasury Department in Columbia.
- 4 Copies and transcripts of two letters from Julia Toombs to her cousin Louisa Charles.
- 5 Charles family correspondence, 1870-1883, mainly concerning family matters. Included are two letters, 1875, from Hopkins G. Charles to his brother Edgar W. Charles, writing from "Pine Tree" regarding his health as well as business and family matters. A letter of 1876 concerns the death of Edgar W. Charles, Jr. (the son of Hopkins G. Charles). An undated letter from Robert Toombs in Washington, Georgia, to Louisa DuBose Charles, relates to the death of his wife Julia in September 1883.
- 6 Copies of Charles family letters, 1876-1884.
- 7 Charles family correspondence, 1903-1933, which begin with a letter, 1903, to Eva Charles from Mary Blakeney Zemp in Camden, South Carolina, regarding the death of Eva's brother Robert Kelso Charles. Another letter, 1904, to Eva Charles from a cousin in Camden concerns two relatives who committed suicide, namely Eugene Capers Zemp (1854-1903), and Elias Miller Boykin (1851-1903). Letters of Harry G. Charles (1887-1958) were written while he was serving in the U.S. Army in New Mexico in 1916, and in France in 1918.
- 8 Charles family invitations, 1832-1852, and a guest list (?).
- 9 Charles family financial and business records, 1809-1881. These include an account of cotton sales; an account statement of cotton sales from Samuel Benton to Isaiah DuBose, 1814; an account statement of Sarah [P.] Smith for Miss Julia DuBose, 1828, for purchases of books, gloves, and other goods and services; receipts; and tax records.
- 10 Charles family legal and property records, 1812-1884, and undated. These include a fragment of a conveyance, 1812, of 35 acres in Darlington District sold to Isaiah DuBose by John Pearce; and the will, 1884, of Hopkins G. Charles (1809-1884).
- 11 Charles family writings, ca. 1830s-1884, and undated. Mostly poems.
- 12 Charles family military records, 1848. A roster listing the names and ranks of officers in the 29th South Carolina Militia Regiment.

13 Charles family slave records, [1834]. A list of “negroes given to LMC [Lousia DuBose Charles], KCD [Kimbrough Cassels DuBose] and JHD [James Henry DuBose] supposed to have been drawn [up] by Mrs. J.H. DuBose.” Also included in this folder is a photocopy of a sharecropping agreement, 1866, between Hopkins G. Charles and the freedmen on his plantation.

14 Miscellaneous family papers. These include school records, 1830-1831, of Hopkins G. Charles at the University of Virginia.

15 Genealogical papers: Benton family. These include a 19th century “Genealogy of the Births, Marriages and deaths of the family of Col. Leml. Benton,” and biographical sketches of Col. Lemuel Benton and Thomas Hart Benton.

16 Genealogical papers: Charles family. These include a description, 1971, of Charles family papers at the South Caroliniana Library.

17 Genealogical papers, DuBose. These include a letter in French, 1884, from E. Constant in Nice, France, concerning the DuBose family in France, as well as a “Dossier de la Famille DuBose,” 1896.

18 Robert K. Charles papers: correspondence, 1861-1898. His first letter, 15 April 1861, to “Dear Sir,” concerns conditions in Charleston. “I think Charleston is now safe and I may say So[uth] Ca[rolina] & I look for Lincoln to back out after a while in spite of his war proclamation.” Letters of 1862 concern the Battle of Second Manassas (Bull Run), and the Battle of Seven Pines. His correspondence also includes letters of recommendation, 1868-1870; a letter from E. Constant in Antibes concerning a deceased uncle; and a letter, 1877, from state senator Martin W. Gary.

19 Robert K. Charles papers: military records, 1862-1863. These include four small pieces of paper folded into triangles which are special orders conveying a countersign (password). Two are datelined Battery White. There is also a cloth patch inscribed “R.K. Charles, Kirkwood Cavalry, Longstreet’s Head Quarters, Virginia.” Also included is a fragmentary “Subscription to furnish tracts and religious papers to the ‘Inglis Light Artillery’” listing names and amounts subscribed.

20 Robert K. Charles papers: papers relating to his military service, 1896-1906. These consist of writings, including articles published in the *Confederate Veteran Magazine*, and a typescript account, “A Private Commands in a Battle.” Also included is a copy of a newspaper article responding to Robert K. Charles’ published criticisms of General Robert E. Lee as a military leader that appeared in a Charleston newspaper on August 20, 1902.

21 Robert K. Charles papers: miscellaneous papers. These include a foreclosure complaint, 1885; and a patent, 1890, for improvements in a cotton harvester.

22 Papers relating to Austin Bull Rogers (1914-1961), who was the half-brother of Hopkins Gardner (Harry) Charles, and the son of Lillian Murrell Rogers and Austin Bull Rogers, Sr.

These include clippings relating to his experiences as a prisoner of war held in a Japanese prison camp during World War II and on the Bataan Death March, as well as correspondence, 1942-2002, and official documents concerning efforts to claim compensation to his mother for his death, and the posthumous award of the Bronze Star.

BOX 2

- 1 Papers of Harry G. Charles, Sr. And Lillian Murrell Charles: correspondence, 1938-1958; and miscellaneous papers including financial, business, and estate records. Also included are some miscellaneous family papers.
- 2 Papers of Harry G. and Jane Charles: correspondence, 1944-1974.
- 3 Papers of Harry G. and Jane Charles: correspondence, 1975-2006.
- 4 Harry G. Charles papers relating to his military service as well as his work in legal and political spheres, 1975-2005, and undated.
- 5 Jane Charles papers, 1944-2007. These include newspaper clippings and papers relating to her work in advertising and art, including the creation of a batik banner for her church.
- 6 Papers of Harry G. and Jane Charles: miscellaneous items, 1954-2000, including newspaper clippings.
- 7 Charles family genealogical papers: Bible records.
- 8 Charles family genealogical papers, including information on the related families of Young, Kulp, and others.
- 9 Charles family genealogical papers: "Descendants of Thomas Charles."
- 10 Charles family genealogical papers: "The Charles and Bentley Families" (2005), which details the descendants of Lemuel Benton.
- 11 Charles family genealogical papers: records of a Charles family reunion, 2016, at Litchfield Beach, S.C.
- 12 Charles family genealogical papers: DuBose family.

BOX 3

- 1 Charles family genealogical papers: copies of photographs from the "Lizzie Keith Photograph Album" which includes images of members of the DuBose and Charles families.
- 2 Charles family genealogical papers: genealogical research and correspondence of Harry G. and Jane Charles about the Charles family and related lines including the families of Keith, Bator, Pendergrass, DuBose, and Benton, 1980s-2000s.

3 Charles family genealogical papers: genealogical research and correspondence of Harry G. and Jane Charles about the Charles family and related lines including the families of Keith, Bator, Pendergrass, DuBose, and Benton, 1980s-2000s.

BOX 4

1 Betsy Pollard papers: papers of the related Lake and Farmer families, 1913-1970, including the marriage certificate and book of Abbott Lake and Juanita Farmer, who were married in Florence, S.C. in 1913.

2 Betsy Pollard papers: marriage certificate and book of Sidney Biehler Waugh and Elizabeth Pettigrew Lake, 1946.

3 Betsy Pollard papers: Sidney B. Waugh letters, 1936-1958, mostly to Betsy.

4 Betsy Pollard papers: Sidney B. Waugh writings, including a poem and a speech, 1935.

5 Betsy Pollard papers: biographical information on Sidney B. Waugh.

6 Betsy Pollard papers: book 1948, about Waugh's sculpture.

7 Betsy Pollard papers: letters to Betsy Waugh, 1948-1963.

8 Betsy Pollard papers: letters to Betsy Waugh, undated (probably 1950s).

9 Betsy Pollard papers: correspondence, 1959-1994, of Donald and Betsy Pollard.

10 Betsy Pollard papers: papers removed from a binder relating to Donald Pollard and his career in Steuben Glass design.

11 Betsy Pollard papers: miscellaneous papers of Donald Pollard, including a family tree.

12 Betsy Pollard papers: papers of Don and Betsy Pollard, including their marriage certificate and book, 1965, and a book about Don Pollard's designs, *The Four Seasons*.

13 Betsy Pollard papers: travel diaries of Betsy Waugh (Pollard), 1950s and undated.

14 Betsy Pollard papers: clippings, 1960s-1990s mainly relating to Don and Betsy Pollard; also her grandmother Mrs. R. H. Farmer (Leila E. Pettigrew Farmer).

15 Betsy Pollard papers: estate records of Don and Betsy Pollard, 1994-2005.

16 Betsy Pollard papers: miscellaneous papers of Don and Betsy Pollard including passports and clippings.