



SOUTH CAROLINA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Harriott Ravenel Smythe Family Papers, 1758-1943

SCHS # 0725.00

Description: 0.75 linear ft. (2 boxes)

Biographical/Historical Note: Harriott Ravenel Buist Smythe (1890-1976) was the daughter of Henry Buist (1863-1946) and Frances Gualdo Ravenel Buist (1865-1950) of Charleston, South Carolina, and the wife of Augustine Thomas Smythe (1885-1962). She was the granddaughter of Dr. St. Julien Ravenel (1819-1892) and Harriott Horry Rutledge Ravenel (1832-1912), who wrote a biography of her forebear Eliza Lucas Pinckney (1723-1793). Eliza Lucas Pinckney was the mother of Harriott Pinckney Horry (1748-1830), who was the wife of Daniel Huger Horry (1737-1785), and they were the parents of Harriott Pinckney Horry (1780-1858), who married Fredrick Rutledge (1771-1824). One of their daughters, Harriott Pinckney Rutledge (1802-1863), married Dr. John Edwards Holbrook (1794-1871). One of their sons, Edward Cotesworth Rutledge (1798-1860), was the father of Harriott Horry Rutledge Ravenel, who was the mother of Frances Gualdo Ravenel Buist.

Scope and content: This collection, originally owned by Harriott Ravenel Buist Smythe, chiefly consists of correspondence of the Pinckney family of South Carolina and of the descendants of Harriott Pinckney Horry (1748-1830), the daughter of Eliza Lucas Pinckney, who married into the families of Rutledge and Holbrook. There are a few letters between Eliza Lucas Pinckney and her daughter Harriott dating in the 1760s and 1770s, and several letters from Charles Cotesworth Pinckney (1746-1826), the son of Eliza Lucas Pinckney, to his sister Harriott, two of which were written in 1780 while he was a prisoner of war. Among his other letters is one to Edward Rutledge concerning diplomatic negotiations with France in 1797, and another to Timothy Pickering, a draft written in 1798 which mentions the treatment of American prisoners of war being held in France, and diplomatic matters. Correspondence of Thomas Pinckney (1750-1828), son of Eliza Lucas Pinckney, includes a copy or draft of a letter, 1797, from Pinckney to George Washington honoring the latter's character and merits as he leaves office; letters to him from his sister Harriott; and a letter, 1828, from the Marquis de Lafayette. Correspondence of Harriott Pinckney Horry includes a copybook, of letters, 1759-1769, that are mostly addressed to her brothers. Of note in the later family correspondence is a letter of Harriott Pinckney Rutledge Holbrook (1802-1863), the daughter of Harriott Pinckney Horry Rutledge

(1780-1858) to her brother Edward Cotesworth Rutledge, which describes a plotted slave insurrection. Writing from Charleston, she describes the fate of the conspirators and attributes the “mischief” to “Northern clergymen, who have distributed incendiary pamphlets among them.” A letter, 1838, from Eliza Lucas Rutledge in New York to her brother Edward C. Rutledge in Charleston concerns the “dreadful calamity” of the loss of their brother Thomas and his wife, and their sister Maria, in the sinking of the steam packet *Pulaski*. Also of note is a letter, 1863, to Eliza Lucas Rutledge from Caroline Gilman in Greenville (S.C.) offering condolences on the death of her sister Harriott Pinckney Rutledge Holbrook, mentioning Mrs. Holbrook’s “good heart and glorious intellect.” Other items in the collection include a few property records; genealogical records; a list of nine slaves, 1859; and bookplates of Edward Rutledge (1749-1800).

Preferred Citation: Harriott Ravenel Smythe Family Papers, 1759-1838 (bulk 1760-1838). (0725.00) South Carolina Historical Society.

Search terms:

Gilman, Caroline Howard, 1794-1888.
Holbrook, Harriott Pinckney, 1802-1862.
Horry, Harriott Pinckney, 1749-1830.
Pinckney, Charles Cotesworth, 1746-1825.
Pinckney, Eliza Lucas, 1722-1793.
Pinckney, Thomas, 1750-1828.
Rutledge, Edward, 1749-1800.
Rutledge, Edward Cotesworth, 1798-1860.
Pinckney family.
Rutledge family.
Pulaski (Steamboat)
Prisoners of war
Shipwrecks
Slave rebellions -- South Carolina
France -- Foreign relations -- 1792-1815

BOX 1

- 1 Letter fragments, consisting of parts of undated letters from Mrs. Harriott Pinckney Horry (1748-1830), the daughter of Eliza Lucas Pinckney. One dated likely dating to 1769 is to her brother Thomas Pinckney (1750-1828) and concerns family and social matters.
- 2 Two conjoined letters from Harriott Pinckney Horry. One dated 5 November 1773 is addressed to Mrs. Blake, and another dated April 1774 is to Mrs. Trapier.
- 3 Letter, 8 July 1774, from Eliza Lucas Pinckney to “My Dear Child” mentioning family matters as well as planting indigo at Southward, and a first planting lost by drought and insects.

- 4 Letter, [5] December 1774, from Harriott Pinckney Horry to her cousin Miss Trapier (Mrs. Edward Martin) mainly discussing family matters. Elizabeth Trapier (1745-1817) was the wife of Edward Martin (1735-1786).
- 5 Letter, 30 December 1778, from Harriott Pinckney Horry at Hampton Plantation to her mother Eliza Lucas Pinckney in Charleston. Letter discusses movements of the Continental Army and British navy, and family matters.
- 6 Letter, 24 September 1780, from Charles Cotesworth Pinckney (1746-1825) at Christ Church [Parish] to his sister Harriott Pinckney Horry (Mrs. Daniel Huger Horry) in Charleston, written while he was a prisoner of war.
- 7 Letter, 8 October 1780, from Charles Cotesworth Pinckney at Christ Church [Parish] to his sister Harriott Pinckney Horry in Charleston, written while he was a prisoner of war. He recommends books for her son, mentions his wounded brother, and inquires about his wife and children being “turned out of my house” and whether his possessions have been seized.
- 8 Letter (copy), 29 August 1781, from Thomas Corbett in England to “Sir” (probably Charles Cotesworth Pinckney) regretting that he cannot take on the tutelage of his sons. Thomas Corbett (died 1792) was a Charleston attorney who was elected to the state House of Representatives in 1749 but did not serve, sailing for England in 1750.
- 9 Letter, 10 November 1785, from Charles Cotesworth Pinckney at “Santee Hampton” to his mother Eliza Lucas Pinckney in Charleston. Topics include the health of his brother-in-law Daniell Huger Horry (1737-1785) and the distribution of “Negroe Cloaths.”
- 10 Letter, 11 February 1787, from W[illiam] Collier at Trinity College, Cambridge (England) to “James Poias” (Poyas) in London concerns “the money affairs of Mr. Horry” at college. James Poyas, formerly a Charleston merchant, died in England in 1799.
- 11 Letter, 5 October 1790, from Louisa Carolina Graves at Hembury Fort (England) to Harriott Pinckney Horry in Charleston concerning a change of residence and other matters. Mrs. Graves (1763-1822), the wife of Admiral Richard Graves, was a native of South Carolina.
- 12 Letter (copy or draft), 10 January 1797, from Thomas Pinckney in Charleston to General George Washington honors Washington’s character and merits as he leaves office.
- 13 Letter, 17 January 1797, from Charles Cotesworth Pinckney in Paris to his sister Harriott Pinckney Horry written while he was the U.S. Minister to France. Topics include financial and family matters, his inability to leave France, and Napoleon’s Italian campaign.
- 14 Letter, 7 May 1797, from Charles Cotesworth Pinckney at The Hague to his sister Harriot Pinckney Horry mainly concerns trade and financial matters, and looming war in Europe.

15 Letter, 16 November 1797, from Charles Cotesworth Pinckney in Paris (France) to Edward Rutledge (1749-1800) in Charleston concerning diplomatic negotiations with the government of France.

BOX 2

1 Letter, 28 May 1798, from Charles Cotesworth Pinckney in Lyons (Lyon, France) to Edward Rutledge, mentions the health of his daughter Eliza, travels in France, and his “disagreeable mission” in Europe.

2 Letter (draft), 12 August 1798, from Charles Cotesworth Pinckney on a ship in the Bay of Biscay to Colonel [Timothy] Pickering, the U.S. Secretary of State discusses his departure from France, Captain Jones’ offer to accommodate Pinckney and his family on his ship, the treatment of American prisoners of war being held in Fort du Ha in Bordeaux, and diplomatic matters.

3 Letter (copy), 13 June 1801, from H. M. Bird in London (England) to Harriott Pinckney Horry in Charleston, relates to a shipment of garden seeds and a cow, and the price of her shipment of rice being affected by imports from India.

4 Letter, 12 December 1810 (or 1816?), from Charles Cotesworth Pinckney to his sister Harriott Pinckney Horry at “Hampton Santee” about some financial matters. The letter mentions a Mr. Gilchrist, who is likely Adam Gilchrist of the Charleston branch of the Bank of the United States.

5 Letter, 23 January 1811, from Rev. James Dewar Simons (1785-1814) to Major Pinckney (Thomas Pinckney, 1750-1828) asking his assistance in preparing a funeral sermon for Chancellor Rutledge (Hugh Rutledge, 1750-1811).

6 Circular letter, 18 February 1822, from Anthony Dey (1776-1859) in New York enclosing a sample of “unwretted” flax prepared in his “new machine” which he hopes to exhibit soon in Washington.

7 Letter, 5 August 1822, from Harriott Pinckney Rutledge (1802-1863) in Charleston to her brother Edward Cotesworth Rutledge (1798-1860) which begins by lamenting some deaths and illnesses in the family, and mentioning some literature. The rest of the letter concerns a planned slave insurrection which was revealed by “Col. Prioleau’s servant, who had been told that by cutting his master’s throat he would acquire “liberty & wealth.” She describes the fate of the conspirators and attributes the “mischief” to “Northern clergymen, who have distributed incendiary pamphlets among them,” mentioning in particular a Mr Sitgreaves (Samuel Sitgreaves, an Episcopal priest from Pennsylvania who ministered in South Carolina in the early 1820s, and who died in 1830).

8 Letter, 17 July 1825, from [T.] P. R. at “North Hampton” to Miss Rebecca Lowndes (Rebecca Motte Lowndes Rutledge, 1810-1893) in Charleston. The writer is a young male cousin (Thomas Pinckney Rutledge) attending the Round Hill School in Northampton, Massachusetts.

- 9 Letter, 15 December 1825, from E. L. Rutledge (Eliza Lucas Rutledge, 1810-1893) in Charleston to Miss Rebecca Lowndes mainly concerns family matters and mentions a party given by Mrs. Lowndes in honor of the duke of Saxe Weimar.
- 10 Letter, 28 April 1826, from Thomas Pinckney (1750-1828) at Santee to Mr. King. This is a letter of introduction for Arthur Parker (Arthur Middleton Parker, 1800-1827), a grandson of Henry Middleton, who is traveling abroad for his health, to Rufus King (1755-1827), the U.S. Minister to the Court of St. James.
- 11 Letter, 29 June 1828, from the Marquis de Lafayette in Paris (France) to “Major General Thomas Pinckney” in Charleston. Lafayette mentions his old friends in South Carolina such as the Izards, Heywards and Manigaults, and wishes “we were all reunited at La Grange” (his country home). There is also a brief reference to “the political state of Europe.”
- 12 Letter, 11 August 1829, from “Harriott P. H.” (Harriott Pinckney Rutledge Holbrook, 1802-1863) in Charleston to Rebecca Motte Lowndes Rutledge (Mrs. Edward C. Rutledge) at Ballston Springs (New York) concerns the death and funeral of Miss Julia Pringle (1807-1829) and other news of family and friends.
- 13 Letter, 8 October 1829, from “L.” in Charleston to Rebecca Motte Lowndes Rutledge in New York. Although the letter writer signs herself “your affectionate friend L.” this may be Mrs. Lowndes’ sister-in-law Eliza Lucas Rutledge (called Lu?), who mentions her “brother Edward.” Letter mostly concerns family matters.
- 14 Letter, 10 September 1832, from Harriott Pinckney Horry Rutledge (1780-1858) to her son Edward C. Rutledge expressing concern for him while he is on a sea voyage.
- 15 Letter, 17 May 1833, from Harriott Pinckney Horry Rutledge in Charleston to her son Lieutenant Edward C. Rutledge on the U.S. ship *St. Louis*. She relates family news and planting at Mottefield, Tranquility, Henrietta, and Hampton plantations. Mrs. Rutledge mentions Henrietta Middleton Rutledge’s distress over her sister Mrs. Blake (Emma Middleton Rutledge Blake) who has been diagnosed with a “hopeless case” of mental derangement “over religious subjects.”
- 16 Letter, 17 July 1833, from Harriott Pinckney Rutledge Holbrook in New York to her brother Edward C. Rutledge “US Navy, New York.” Mrs. Holbrook announces that “we are just setting off for Saratoga [Springs]” for Dr. Holbrook’s health.
- 17 Letter, 10 April 1838, from Harriott Pinckney Rutledge Holbrook in Charleston to her brother Edward C. Rutledge at Hampton [Plantation] mainly concerning their mother’s health.
- 18 Letter, 21 April 1838, from an unnamed lady at Palmetto Lodge to “my dear Cousin.” Palmetto Lodge was a Pinckney family plantation. The writer relates that she will be traveling with Mrs. W. Lowndes (Elizabeth Brewton Pinckney Lowndes, 1781-1857?) and others for

health reasons, and asks her cousin's advice about a carriage and the best routes. There seem to be initials at the end of the letter which are difficult to decipher.

19 Letter, 25 June 1838, from Eliza Lucas Rutledge in New York to her brother Edward C. Rutledge in Charleston grieving the "dreadful calamity" of the loss of their brother Thomas and his wife, and their sister Maria, in the sinking of the steam packet *Pulaski*.

20 Letter, 5 July 1838, from [Harriott Pinckney Rutledge Holbrook?] in Philadelphia to Edward C. Rutledge concerning their mother's grief over the loss of family members in the shipwreck.

21 Letter, 12 August 1838, from Harriott Pinckney Rutledge Holbrook in Boston to her brother Edward C. Rutledge in Charleston mainly concerning family travels.

22 Letter, 9 October 1838, from Harriott Pinckney Rutledge Holbrook in Fredericksburg, Virginia, to her brother Edward C. Rutledge in Charleston. She writes of traveling by railroad with her mother (and possibly others), and a visit to Washington, D.C.

23 Letter, 22 October 1838, from Harriott Pinckney Rutledge Holbrook in Cheraw to her brother Edward C. Rutledge in Charleston concerning difficulties traveling in South Carolina and their mother's health.

24 Letter, 1840, from Harriott Pinckney Horry Rutledge (1780-1858) to her son Edward C. Rutledge at Hampton [Plantation] mainly concerns a lawsuit and family matters.

25 Letter, 7 December 1863, from Caroline Gilman in Greenville, South Carolina, to Eliza Lucas Rutledge in Columbia, offers condolences on the death of her sister Harriott Pinckney Rutledge Holbrook, who died in October 1863, mentioning Mrs. Holbrook's "good heart and glorious intellect." Mrs. Gilman also relates news about the weddings of some friends. The envelope included is addressed to "Miss E. Lucas Rutledge, care of St. Julien Ravenel, M.D., Columbia, S.C." Note: In a letter of 1865, Mrs. Gilman mentions writing to "Lucas R." about the "recovery of her [Rutledge] family portraits" which were in her possession when "raiders" in Greenville vandalized them.

26 Letter, 18 March [1902?], from Harriott Horry Rutledge Ravenel (1832-1912) in Charleston to "Mrs. Rose." Mrs. Ravenel answers inquiries about her grandmother Eliza Lucas Pinckney and her family.

27 Letter transcripts, 1943. A letter, 1943, to Herbert Ravenel Sass in Charleston from Harriet R. Holman at Winthrop College transmits a collection of typewritten transcriptions of "the letters of Harriott [Pinckney] Horry Rutledge" (1841 and undated), the originals of which were at Duke University.

28 Undated letter, 3 July [1758?] from Eliza Lucas Pinckney to "my dear Child." The letter may date to 1758, when her husband Charles Pinckney returned to South Carolina from England

and died soon afterward. It is likely addressed to her son Thomas Pinckney, who was in school in England. Mrs. Pinckney expresses some concerns about his handwriting and spelling in a recent letter, and mentions numerous family members.

29 Undated letter (in fragments) from [Mrs. Harriott Pinckney Horry, 1748-1830] to [Mrs. Trapier]. The letter, which likely dates to 1769, mentions concerns over the health of an infant son, possibly Charles Lucas Pinckney Horry (1769-1828). Mrs. Trapier may be Elizabeth Rothmahler Trapier (1746-1817), the wife of Paul Trapier (1749-1778), who was the son of Paul Trapier (1716-1793) and Magdalen Horry Trapier (1715-1767).

30 Undated letter [ca. 1840?] from Mrs. Harriet Lowndes Brown (1765-1850) in Red Hook, New York, to her niece Mrs. Edward Rutledge (Rebecca Motte Lowndes Rutledge) in New York. Mrs. Brown was the wife of Major Joseph Brown (1759-1833). The letter is addressed care of "Major Rawlins Lowndes" (who was born in 1801 and died in 1877).

31 Undated letter [ca. 1840?] from Harriott Pinckney Rutledge Holbrook in Charleston to Rebecca Motte Lowndes Rutledge in New York relates to the disastrous marriage of "Helen R." who had separated from her husband (C.R.), a "man of drunken habits," and mentions news of other friends and family members.

32 Undated letter [1767] from Harriott Pinckney (later Mrs. Daniel H. Horry) to Mrs. Blake. The letter mentions news of family and friends, including the marriage of David Guerard to "Judy St. Julien." They were married in 1767.

33 Copybook, 1759-1769, of Harriott Pinckney Horry. These are contemporary copies of letters that are mostly addressed to her brothers. Her first letter describes the appearance of "two great men in Town, the chief of the Cherochee's & Quataber nations."

34 Property records, 1799-1813. The earliest item is a contemporary copy of a 1792 survey (with plat inset), 1799, of five thousand acres of land on the Elk River (North Carolina) surveyed for "John Rutledge assignee of John Lewis Gervais." The second item, 1813, is a plat of 795 acres of land on the Congaree River two miles above McCord's Ferry (Richland District, S.C.) belonging to Mrs. Rebecca Motte.

35 Court of Honor opinion, 9 August 1826. "Copy of the opinion of the Court of Honor, present Genl Thomas Pinckney, Major [Garden], Capt [Butler], Major Hamilton and Dr. M. Reid." A court of friends renders an opinion on a quarrel between "Lieut. P" and Mr. Legare involving a personal insult.

36 List of slave births, 1859. Lists the names of nine persons and the birth dates of five ranging from 1762 to 1845.

37 Statement on filial love, [ca. 1845?]. This is a quotation copied from a piece in a newspaper about the importance of a man's love for his mother.

38 Lists of family papers and heirlooms. These include a “List of Old Letters, Papers, Etc., Belonging to the Estate of Mrs. St. Julien Ravenel” compiled by St. J. R. Childs, [1912?]; a list of letters (dating 1832-1833) to Edward Cotesworth Ravenel belonging to Anna Ravenel Sass; and a list of items including books, furniture, and dishware, given to various individuals.

39 Papers relating to family history and genealogy. These include a biographical sketch of Rene Ravenel; Pinckney family charts; and clippings of death notices.

40 Miscellaneous items, including two bookplates of Edward Rutledge (1749-1800) with his family coat of arms; a photographic reproduction of a portrait of Harriott Pinckney Horry (1748-1830); a fragment of a document, 1769, conveying “Negroes and premises” from Eliza Lucas Pinckney to her daughter Harriott Pinckney Horry; and a South Carolina fractional currency note for 25 cents, 1863.