Joseph Bryan Cumming papers

Descriptive Summary

Repository: Georgia Historical Society
Title: Joseph Bryan Cumming papers
Dates: 1787-1969
Extent: 0.5 cubic feet (1 box)
Identification: MS 0188

Biographical/Historical Note

Joseph Bryan Cumming (1893-1983) was an attorney in Augusta, Georgia.

Scope and Content Note

This collection consists of four series: genealogy, writings and speeches, letters, and Confederate Powder Works papers. The genealogy series includes materials on the Bryan, Cumming, Gairdner, Goode, Hammond, McKinne, Oldham, Pope, and Smith families. The letters include correspondence to and from members of the Cumming family. Correspondents include Thomas Cumming (1765-1834), first mayor of Augusta; Alfred Cumming (1802-1873), mayor of Augusta, sutler with General Zachary Taylor in Mexico, sutler at Jefferson Barracks Missouri, and Governor of the Utah Territory; Henry Hartfort Cumming (1799-1866), diplomatic attaché to Spain, aide de camp for Governor John Forsyth and Augusta lawyer; Ann Cumming (Mrs. Peter Sken Smith, 1805-1883); Joseph Bryan Cumming (1836-1922), major C.S. Army and Augusta lawyer; Joseph Bryan Cumming (1893-1983) and his grandson, Douglas Cumming. Other correspondents include Seaborn Jones, Richard H. Wilde, Governor George M. Troup, Major A.C.W. Fanning, Colonel Isaac Munroe St. John, Joseph Clay the younger, Governor James M. Smith, and Robert G. Stephens. Included in the miscellaneous papers series are a group of papers pertaining to the Confederate Powder Works in Augusta; a book containing copies of plans, specifications, letters; a pamphlet on the history of the Confederate Powder Works; ordnance lists; calculations and notes; and a letter pertaining to matters involving the Nitre and Mining District No. 8, C.S.A., under which the powder mills operated. An itemized list prepared by Joseph B. Cumming is included with the papers.

Index Terms

Augusta (Ga.)
Bryan family.
Confederate Powder Works.
Confederate States of America.
Confederate States of America. Nitre and Mining Bureau.
Construction drawings.
Cumming family.
Cumming, Alfred, 1802-1873.
Cumming, Henry H., (Henry Harford), 1799-1866.
Gairdner family.
Genealogies (histories)
Georgia Bar Association.
Georgia Railroad and Banking Company.
Good family.
Hammond family.
Jones, Seaborn, 1752-1815.
Letters (correspondence)
McKinne family.
Oldham family.
Pope family.
Smith family.
Smith, Charles Shaler, 1836-1886.
Smith, James Mongin, 1872-1877.
Speeches (documents)
Troup, George Michael, 1780-1856.
Wilde, Richard Henry, 1789-1847.

Administrative Information

Custodial History

Material was acquired from creator.

Preferred Citation

[item identification], Joseph Bryan Cumming papers, MS 188, Georgia Historical Society, Savannah, Georgia.

Acquisition Information


Restrictions

Access Restrictions

Collection is open for research.

Publication Rights

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Sponsorship

Encoding funded by a 2012 Documenting Democracy grant from the National Historical Publications and Records Commission.

Container List

Series 1: Genealogy

This series contains genealogical materials on the Cumming, Oldham, Gairdner, Smith, Bryan, Good, Hammond, Pope, and McKinne families.

Item
1 Sketch of descendants of David Cumming by Major Joseph B. Cumming

2 Oldham genealogy

3 Genealogical notes of Mary G. Cumming
   Regarding: McKinne, Gairdner & Smith families.

4 Genealogical notes of Bryan and Good families


6 Pamphlet entitled "Hammond:" Descendants of James Henry Hammond

7 McKinne genealogy. From public records prepared by Mell Ellis
   Includes Pope genealogy.

8 Thirteen pages torn from notebook containing genealogy of ancestors of Bryan Cumming.

9 Letter from George L. Radcliffe, President, Maryland Historical Society, dated, 1955 June 24
   Regarding William Cumming.

10 Record of Joseph Clay
   8 1/2 typewritten pages containing source material.

## Series 2: Writings and Speeches of Joseph B. Cumming

This series contains various speeches given by Cumming and papers written by him. Most materials are from
the 1950s.

Item

   Typescript (carbon copy).

Item

12 *Historic Augusta, Inc.*, v.1, no.2
   Containing "Preservation: Past and Present."

Item

13 History of the Georgia Bar Association, 1883-1893

Item

14 1966 April

Item

15 English History in Rhyme (1886-1967), 1886-1967
   Typescript (carbon copy).

Item

16 The Cumming-McDuffie Duels, published in *Georgia Historical Quarterly*, v.XLIV
   Typescript (carbon copy).

Item

17 Reprint of "The Cumming-McDuffie Duels"
   Containing picture of pistols.

Item

18 Speech: St. Andrews Society 209th Annual Meeting, 1959 November 30
   Typescript (carbon copy).

Item

19 History of Georgia Railroad and Banking Company
Role of the Psychiatrist in Criminal Trials, published in *The American Journal of Psychiatry*, v.115, no.6, 1958 December
Typescript (original).

**Series 3: Letters, 1787-1969**


**Item**

21-32 Miscellaneous letters from and to Thomas Cumming, Gov. Alfred Cumming and Henry H. Cumming and others, 1787-1837

**Item**

22 Thomas Cumming to Seaborn Jones. Augusta, 1789 April 11

**Item**

26 Thomas Cumming to Richard H. Wilde. Augusta, 1816 February 8

**Item**

27 Alfred Cumming to George M. Troup. Augusta, 1820 March 2

**Item**


**Item**

30 Joseph Clay to Ann Cumming. Fort Mitchell Creek Agency, 1831 October 18

**Item**

31 William Wallace to Ann Cumming. New York, 1837 May 4

**Item**

33-34 Exchange of letters between Major Joseph B. Cumming and Governor James M. Smith, regarding presentation of seal and resolution to Gov. Jenkins.
Copy of letter from Joseph B. Cumming to Congressman Robert G. Stephens, Jr., 1968 September 19

Item

Exchange of letters between Joseph B. Cumming and Douglas Cumming, 1969 June-July

Series 4: Confederate Powder Works papers

This series includes 11 items concerning the construction of the Confederate Powder Works in Augusta, Georgia, containing a book of water press copies of plans, a pamphlet, correspondence, and various notes.

Item


Item

Pamphlet entitled "History of the Confederate Powder Works" by Col. (General) Geo. W. Rains, late of the Confederate Army. On the cover of the pamphlet is written "Mary G. Smith" (the daughter of Charles Shaler Smith, referred to in the history." On the flyleaf, in ink in longhand are the words: "Compliment of the author"

Item

A four-and-a-half page letter captioned "Chattanooga - August 15, 1863" on stationery of Nitre and Mining District No.8, Confederate States of America, signed by "William Gabbett" (?) and directed to "Colonel" I.M. St. John. In the handwriting of Mrs. Mary G.S. Cumming, the daughter of Captain Charles Shaler Smith, and initialed by her, is the following notation: "Among Father's letters - I know nothing about it." The letter seems to pertain to matters involving the administration of the nitre and mining department under which the powder mills operated

Item

An undersignated list of ordnance and several other small pieces of blue paper containing memoranda and calculations and doodling sketches recognizable as having been made by Captain Smith - all of them found among the papers of Captain Smith. The papers pertain to Confederate Powder Works in Augusta

Item

A letter of recommendation of Charles S. Smith, signed by Edwin F. Gay, "C. Engineer," captioned "Philada May 30th, 1855"
A copy of a typewritten letter directed “Dear Mrs. Cumming,” signed “Maude B.,” quoting excerpts from various works in which the Augusta Powder Mill is referred to.