

# Mercer family papers

## Descriptive Summary

<b>Repository:</b>	Georgia Historical Society
<b>Creator:</b>	Mercer family.
<b>Creator:</b>	Mercer, George Anderson, 1835-1907.
<b>Creator:</b>	Mercer, Hugh Weedon, 1808-1877.
<b>Title:</b>	Mercer family papers
<b>Dates:</b>	1848-1965
<b>Extent:</b>	2.0 cubic feet (4 boxes, 1 volume)
<b>Identification:</b>	MS 0553

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## Biographical/Historical Note

Hugh Weedon Mercer (1808-1877) was born in Fredericksburg, Virginia. He married Mary Stites Anderson Mercer (1812-1855) on February 5, 1834. One of their children was George Anderson (1835-1907). Hugh Mercer moved to Baden Baden, Germany, for his health and died there in 1877. George Anderson Mercer married Ann Maury Herndon (1841-1885) on October 23, 1861 in Fredericksburg, Georgia. Their son, George Anderson Mercer (1868-1940) was the father of the famous songwriter, Johnny Mercer.

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## Scope and Content Note

This collection contains diaries and scrapbooks belonging to George Anderson Mercer, 1851-1907, family correspondence, 1848-1913, and genealogies and biographical sketches with correspondence pertaining to them, 1949-1965.

Two of G.A. Mercer's diaries cover the Civil War period. The remainder concerns his personal life, notes on wildlife, philosophy, literature, and politics. Two scrapbooks and a volume of case notes are originals.

All of the correspondence is original. They are largely family letters, most of them from Gen. Hugh Weedon to his wife, 1848-1851, and to his daughter, Mary (wife of Gen. Henry H. Walker), 1848-1875. Earlier letters are written from Savannah, while later ones are from Baden-Baden, Germany, where he went for his health and where he later died. The letters contain family news and items of local interest. Two of them (March 20, 1849 and May 28, 1959) mention his friend, Col. Robert E. Lee. One letter, December 1, 1868, tells of his second marriage (to Mrs. Bessie Cuyler) and others mention the child of that marriage. The remaining letters are to and from other members of the family as well as various friends.

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## Index Terms

Baden Baden (Germany)  
Diaries.  
Families--Georgia.  
Genealogies (histories)  
Georgia--History--Civil War, 1861-1865.  
Lee, Robert E., (Robert Edward), 1807-1870.  
Letters (correspondence)  
Mercer family.  
Mercer, George Anderson, 1835-1907.  
Mercer, Hugh Weedon, 1808-1877.  
Savannah (Ga.)  
Scrapbooks.

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## Location of Originals

Originals of some materials in the Southern Historical Collection, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, N.C.

Original autograph album of George A. Mercer in the Princeton University Library, Princeton, N.J.

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## Administrative Information

### Custodial History

Most of the material was acquired from the creating family. Letter purchased from Schindler's Antique Shop in Charleston, South Carolina.

### Preferred Citation

[item identification], Mercer family papers, MS 553, Georgia Historical Society, Savannah, Georgia.

### Acquisition Information

Gift of George A. Mercer, Jr., 1928 (Diaries 1-2, 1 scrapbook, 1864 letter); Hugh and John H. Mercer, 1961-1965. Purchased, 1952 (1862 letter).

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## 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.

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## Container List

### Box

1-2                    George Anderson Mercer's diaries and scrapbooks

### Box      Volume

1	1	Scrapbook, Diary, 1851, 1855-1960, 2 volumes in one.
	2	Diary, Historical notes and Diary, 1862-1863, 1864-1865

3            Diary, 1860 June 15-1865 December 17, 2 copies.

**Box      Volume**

2            4            Diary, 1866 January 7-1885 June 21, 2 copies.

5            1st case notes, undated

6            Scrapbook, Local Matters, 1868-1903  
              Contains some of his speeches.

**Volume**

7            Scrapbook, 1905-1907  
              *Outside box.*

**Box**

3            Correspondence, 1848-1913

Correspondents, 1848-1855, 20.0 items.

Hugh W. Mercer to his wife, one to his son, two to his daughter, one to his sister, one to Charles C Walden. The letter of March 29, 1849 mentions Col. Robert E. Lee.

Correspondents, 1857-1868, 22.0 items.

Hugh W. Mercer to his daughter, including a deed to Oregon property of Henry H. Walker; George A. Mercer to his mother and to his sister; Louisa Mercer to her daughter, Mary; Thomas Jordan to Gen. Mercer, 1862, regarding instructions to obstruct the Altamaha River; Hugh W. Mercer to Jefferson Davis, 1864, introducing Col. John McMillen; George H. Elliott to Gen. Walker; Sallie Duc to Nellie; Hugh W. Mercer to his wife, September 17, 1868, regarding a political convention and describing Gen. Wade Hampton; — to Nella. The letter of May 28, 1859 mentions Col. Robert E. Lee.

Correspondents, 1871-1895, 15.0 items.

Confirmation of Mary Steward Walker, Trinity Church, N.Y., April 16, 1870; George A. Mercer to his father and sister; Hugh W. Mercer to his daughter; Same to Gen H.H. Walker; Summons to heirs of Hugh W. Mercer (named) to appear in Surrogate Court in New York City, April 3, 1891; George A. Mercer to Gen. H.H. Walker; W.M. Hughes to Mrs. H.H. Walker; Mary Ann Walker to her sister.

Correspondents, 1902-1913, 27.0 items.

Robert A. Boit to Mary M. Walker; Robby to his sister; Harry Walker to his mother; Edmund S. Ruffin to Gen. H.H. Walker enclosing George M. Harrison vs. Mary M. Harrison, final decree of divorce; E. Nichols to Gen. H.H. Walker, promissory note, Mary S. Walker to George A. Mercer; report on property in estate of Mary S. Mercer; Virginia S. Fendrick to Mrs. H.H. Walker; Alice to her sister; Duer DuP. Breck to Mrs. H.H. Walker; Mercer Walker to his mother.

Correspondence and miscellaneous, undated, 6.0 items.

Hugh W. Mercer to his daughter, Mary; R.N. Anderson to Mary M. Walker; M.M. Cox to Mary M. Walker; "Account of tramping trip taken by W.W. Gordon, Jr., R.L. Mercer, Jr., George Haskell and G.A. Gordon through the mountains of Georgia and North Carolina," by G.A. Gordon, 1890, copy also in Gordon family papers.

George A. Mercer's autograph album, 1854

Photocopy of original in Princeton University Library. Verses, sentiments, etc. from fellow students and friends at Princeton.

## Box

### 4 Genealogies

Letters to Hugh Mercer regarding his membership in various societies, 1959-1963, 14.0 items.

Anderson family, 1.0 items.

correspondence and other papers regarding Anderson family.

Bertrand family, 2.0 items.

Bethune family, 1.0 items.

Boit family, 4.0 items.

Griffin and Stewart (Stuart) of Tarquier family, 33.0 items.

Griffin and Stewart (Stuart) of Tarquier family, 17.0 items.

Pedigrees, pamphlets, photographs, etc.

Hardy, Harrison, and Herndon families, 11.0 items.

correspondence and other papers.

Kirk and Maury families

correspondence and other papers.

George Anderson Mercer I and II, 13.0 items.

biographical sketches, photographs, etc.

Gen. Hugh Mercer, 38.0 items.

correspondence, genealogies, and other papers about him.

Gen. Hugh Mercer, 24.0 items.

clippings, pamphlets, photographs, etc.

Gen. Hugh Mercer, 30.0 items.

places named for.

Gen. Hugh Mercer: Fredericksburg, Va., 12.0 items.

Hugh Weedon Mercer, 8.0 items.

correspondence and other papers about him.

Other Mercers, 36.0 items.

correspondence and other papers.

Munroe (Monroe), Patton families, 5.0 items.  
correspondence and other papers.

Stringfellow, Tucker families, 5.0 items.  
correspondence and other papers.

Waller, Walter families, 5.0 items.  
correspondence and other papers.