

Edwin Parsons collection

Descriptive Summary

Repository:	Georgia Historical Society
Creator:	Parsons, Edwin.
Title:	Edwin Parsons collection
Dates:	1759-1862
Extent:	0.15 cubic feet (3 folders)
Identification:	MS 0608

Biographical/Historical Note

The papers in this collection were originally in the Israel K. Tefft autograph collection. Tefft, one of the founders of the Georgia Historical Society in 1839, amassed one of the largest collections of autographs in the world. The collection was sold at auction in New York in 1866. George Parsons bought a portion of that collection. Parsons lived in New York and was an executive of the City and Suburban Railway Company of Savannah.

Scope and Content Note

This collection consists of correspondence and various documents relating to many notable Georgians and Georgia businesses, such as Howell Cobb, Joseph Clay & Co., Lachlan McIntosh, Joseph Habersham, Joseph Clay, John Macpherson Berrien, Levi Sheftall, and Samuel Elbert. Included in this collection is a list of stations of officer of the Quarter Master's department in Savannah; a letter to Lachlan McIntosh describing the condition and activities of Fort Barrington; A letter from Joseph Habersham to Joseph Clay on the death of Clay's son, James, and commenting on Col. Benjamin Hawkins and the Indian situation; correspondence regarding the Georgia Historical Society and the Society of the Cincinnati; a letter from Eliza Logan lamenting the yellow fever epidemic in Savannah; and a number of wood engravings.

Originally part of the Tefft Autograph Collection, many of these papers are in the original folders of the Tefft Collection and all of them have numbers from the catalog of the sale, *Catalogue of the Entire Collection of Autographs of the Late Mr. I.K. Tefft of Savannah, Ga.*, Leavitt, Streigh & Co. Auctioneers (N.Y.: 1867). This collection is arranged according to the original catalog numbers

Index Terms

Berrien, John Macpherson, 1781-1856.
Clay, Joseph, 1741-1804.
Cobb, Howell, 1815-1868.
Elbert, Samuel, 1740-1788.
Fort Barrington (Ga.)
Georgia Historical Society.
Habersham, Joseph, 1751-1815.
Hawkins, Benjamin, 1754-1816.
Indians of North America.
Joseph Clay and Company (Savannah, Ga.)
Letters (correspondence)
McIntosh, Lachlan, 1725-1806.
Parsons, Edwin.
Photographs.
Quartermasters.
Sheftall, Levi, 1739-1809.
Signatures (names)

Society of the Cincinnati.
Tefft, I. K., (Israel Keech), 1794-1862.
Wood engravings (prints)
Yellow fever--Georgia--Savannah.

Administrative Information

Custodial History

George Parsons bought the papers at auction. Inherited by his son, Edwin Parsons, then passed to Edwin's daughters, Mrs. William H. Prioleau and Mrs. William M. Means.

Preferred Citation

[item identification], Edwin Parsons collection, MS 608, Georgia Historical Society, Savannah, Georgia.

Acquisition Information

Gift of Mrs. William H. Prioleau and Mrs. William M. Means, 1963.

Restrictions

Access Restrictions

Collection is open for research.

Publication Rights

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Publication Note

A portion of the collection published in *Collections of the Georgia Historical Society: Selected Eighteenth Century Manuscripts*, v.20 (1980).

Sponsorship

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

Container List

Fldr Item

- | | | |
|---|---|--|
| 1 | 1 | #202: Fanny Kemble Butler to Mrs. Theodosius Bartow, undated (3.0 p.)
Declining an invitation; written in third person as Mrs. Pierce Butler. |
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Fldr Item

- 1 2 #238: Trueman Cross to Hugh McCall at Savannah. Quarter Master Generals Office, Washington, 1819 July 14 (1.0 p.)
Encloses list of stations of officers of Quarter Master's Department; no enclosure.

Fldr Item

- 1 3-4 #266: Howell Cobb. 1.) Committee to Cobb. Savannah, Ga., 2.) Cobb to the Committee, Savannah, 1851 May 6, 1851 May 13 (1.0 p.)
Welcome to Savannah and invitation to a public dinner to be held on May 8. Signed by members of the Committee. Accepting dinner invitation.

Fldr Item

- 1 5-8 #276: Arthur Carney. 1.) Carney to John Houstoun. 2.) Receipt for Joseph Clay & Co. on account of Messrs. William and John Le Conte. Savannah, On verso is a receipt to Joseph Clay & Co. by William Feaster. Savannah, 3.) Carney to Lachlan McIntosh. Turtle River, 4.) Scrap of a letter to Lachlan McIntosh, 1773 July 22-1774, 1776 September 13, 1776 March 24, 1776 September 10 (2.0 p.)
Regarding purchase of cattle from a Mr. Helveston. Regarding difficulties of recruiting and of preventing the driving of cattle to East Florida, wants part of his company converted to horsemen; mentions several persons. Bears list of names in McIntosh's hand. signed by Arthur Carney. Covering note in McIntosh's hand.

Fldr Item

- 1 9-10 #281: 1.) Thomas Chisholm to Lachlan McIntosh. Fort Barrington, 2.) John Copp to Major John Habersham. Savannah, 1776 November 5, 1788 March 31 (2.0 p.)
Regarding activities and condition of fort; mentions several members. Note on verso in McIntosh's hand. Regarding his right to membership in the Society of the Cincinnati.

Fldr Item

- 1 11 #371: N.G. Dufref (Dufret?) to Messrs. Petit & Reingear, 1804 November 28 (2.0 p.)
Regarding subscribers in Savannah for his French and Spanish dictionary. In French.

Fldr Item

- 1 12-13 #411: 1.) Warrant to John Cooper for Lot No. 93 in Hardwick, 2.) Pay bill for His Majesty's boat Prince George, 1759 February 7, 1759 November 29 -1760 May 27 (2.0 p.)
Signed by Gov. Henry Ellis. Survey attached, signed by Henry Yonge and William De Brahm, Surveyors. Boat was stationed at Frederica for the use of detachments from the three Independent Companies of South Carolina; names of crew listed. Certified and signed by Gov. Henry Ellis, August 30, 1760.

Fldr Item

- 2 14- #417: 1.) The Public of Georgia in account with Levi Sheftall. Savannah, 2.) Samuel
15 Elbert to Joseph Habersham. Washington, 1776 June 15, 1811 July 30 (1.0 p.)

For beef supplied the *Liberty* schooner and "some Indians." Says he has drawn on Habersham's account and will repay.

Fldr Item

- 2 16- #743: Thomas Sidney Jesup. 1.) Jesup to Major N. Mason at Fort Columbus. Qr. Master
18 Genl. Office, Washington, 2.) Jesup to Hugh McCall at Savannah. Qr. Master Genl.
Office, Washington, 3.) Jesup to Hugh McCall. Qr. Master Genl. Office, Washington,
1823 September 25, 1824 January 9, 1824 April 13 (2.0 p.)

Regarding turning over property to the Assistant Quartermaster at New York. Authorizing McCall to make repairs to Store House and Gun Sheds; instructions for accounting. Authorizing McCall to dispose of unnecessary or damaged property; hospital stores to be sent to Charleston.

Fldr Item

- 2 19- #855: Eliza Logan. 1.) Eliza Logan to an unidentified gentleman. Nashville, 2.) Full length
20 photograph of Eliza Logan, 1854 September 28

Expressing sorrow over the yellow fever epidemic in Savannah; has sent "a mite" to help.

Fldr Item

- 2 21 #865: Robert Lenox to Jacob Read at Savannah. New York, 1811 March 27 (1.0 p.)

Advising Read that his bill had not been accepted; times difficult; "concerns" of the Bank of the U.S. called in.

Fldr Item

- 2 22- #1104: Willard Preston. 1.) Preston to I.K. Tefft and Solomon Cohen. Savannah, 2.)
23 Willard Preston to I.K. Tefft and Solomon Cohen, 1841 September 23 (1.0 p.)

Declining the invitation to give a lecture before the Georgia Historical Society. Congratulating Tefft on his advancement. Pasted on second sheet of above letter.

Fldr Item

- 2 25- #1223: Alexander A. Smets. 1.) Smets to I.K. Tefft. Newport, 2.) Anthony Porter to
29 Judge Charles Seton Henry [Savannah]. 3.) Obituary of A.A. Smets from the *Savannah Republican*, 4.) Undated clipping from the Savannah Republican of the biographical sketch of Smets from *De Beer's Review*, 5.) Wood engraving of A.A. Smets, 1837
October 17, 1862 May, 1862 May 13, 1862 July ? (2.0 p.)

Says he has met Dr. William Buel Sprague and Mr. and Mrs. Balmino; comments on their autograph collections and his travels. Notifies Judge Henry that he and I.K. Tefft are to prepare an address for the Georgia Historical Society on the life and career of the late Smets.

Fldr Item

- 3 30- #1360: George M. Dallas. 1.) George M. Dallas to I.K. Tefft. Philadelphia, 2.) Wood
31 engraving of G.M. Dallas, 1842 February 12 (1.0 p.)
Acknowledging his diploma as an Honorary Member of the Georgia Historical Society.

Fldr

- 3 #1431: Joseph Habersham. 1.) Habersham to Joseph Clay. Philadelphia, 1798 June 22 (4.0 p.)
Sympathy on the death of Clay's son, James; comment son French demands for Louisiana and the Florida's, on Col. Hawkins and the Indian situation, and on Talleyrand and his insinuations against Gen. Pinckney.

Fldr Item

- 3 34- #1504: John Macpherson Berrien. 1.) Berrien to I.K. Tefft. Washington, 2.) Wood
35 engraving of J.M. Berrien, 1842 April 4 (1.0 p.)
Reports that the Judiciary Committee has acted favorably on Tefft's claim and the Senate will act upon it; tells him how to send a letter to Professor Charles-Christian Rafyn.

Fldr Item

- 3 36 #1598: Josiah Tattnall to the Committee of the Union and States Rights Party, undated
Regrets that he cannot dine with the Party.

Fldr Item

- 3 37 #1789: Christopher C. Yates to I.K. Tefft. New York, 1832 October 1 (1.0 p.)
Says he is sending a copy of the 2nd ed. of his pamphlet *Observations on the Epidemic cholera Now Prevailing in the City of New York & C.* (N.Y.: 1832); comments on probably cause of the disease.

Fldr Item

- 3 38 #1832: Commodore Andrew Barclay to Captains Inglis and Wardell at Savannah. On Board the *Hinchinbrook* in Savannah River, 1776 March 3 (2.0 p.)
Regrets that they have been taken prisoners; is assured of their innocence.

Fldr Item

- 3 39 #2364: The Rev. Theobald Mathew to the Rev. J.F. O'Neill. Augusta, 1856 January 21
Looking forward to meeting O'Neill in Savannah; mentions several persons.