

Hopkins family collection of Whitehall Plantation records

Descriptive Summary

Repository:	Georgia Historical Society
Creator:	Hopkins, Anna Meuer, 1894-1970.
Creator:	Hopkins, William Lathrop, 1895-1944.
Title:	Hopkins family collection of Whitehall Plantation records
Dates:	1759-1903
Extent:	0.15 cubic feet (3 folders)
Identification:	MS 0863

Biographical/Historical Note

William Lathrop Hopkins (1895-1944) was born in New Jersey, the son of Richard Hopkins. In 1921 he inherited Whitehall Plantation in Savannah, Georgia, from his father, Richard Hopkins. He married Anna Katherine Meuer (1894-1970) in 1925.

Whitehall Plantation, located 6 miles north of Savannah, belonged to a number of well-known Georgians during the 18th and 19th centuries. John Musgrove's widow sold the plantation to William Francis, a large landowner, before 1754. He died in 1763 and willed 559 acres of the plantation to his brother, John Francis, with the stipulation that Francis must move to Savannah; should he not, the land would pass to James Port. Port inherited the land and sold it to Isaac Young. Young's widow, Martha, and her son, Isaac, sold most of their share of the plantation to John Morel, James Seagrove, and Nathaniel Pendleton, all trustees for Ann Valleau. Valleau married Peter Morel and they lived on the plantation for nine years. In 1800, the Morels sold their land to Thomas Gibbons (1757-1826). After Gibbons' death, his son, William Gibbons (1794-1852) inherited Whitehall Plantation. During his ownership of the land, William had a canal constructed in Pipemakers Swamp in order to straighten Pipemakers Creek on the boundary of Whitehall Plantation. Upon his death, the land passed to Gibbons' son, William Heyward Gibbons, who then passed the land to his nephew, William Gibbons Lathrop. Per William Heyward Gibbons' will, his brother, Francis, became owner of the estate upon the early death of William Gibbons Lathrop. Francis Gibbons died in 1909 and left the plantation to his sister, Louise. When Louise died, she left Whitehall Plantation to her cousin, Richard Hopkins. (*Savannah River Plantations*, Georgia Historical Society: 1947).

Whitehall Plantation incorporated many tracts of land under different names, including Grantham, Orange Valley, Fairlawn, Shaftesbury, Argyle Island, and Caton. The entirety became known as Whitehall Plantation while under the ownership of the Lathrop family.

Scope and Content Note

This collection consists of records pertaining to the ownership of Whitehall Plantation throughout the 18th and 19th centuries. Included are deeds, leases, mortgages, surveys, and an agreement for cutting a canal at Pipemakers Creek. A large portion of the documents are deeds for land sold to William Gibbons. Individuals named in these documents include William Francis, Joseph Gibbons, James Port, John Barnard, Isaac Young, Martha Young, Josiah Bryan, John Morel, James Seagrove, Nathaniel Pendleton, King George II, Joseph Woods, Francis Davies, Daniel Course, Peter Deveaux, Edward Lloyd, Thomas Gibbons, John Irvine, Thomas Norton, Hannah Houstoun, Joseph Bryan, William Dotson, George W. Evans, Elizabeth Course, Caroline Course, James Morrison, Eliza Morrison, James J.W. Spencer, Charles Gregory, Thomas G. Davies, Richard Dotson, Edward Keller, Levicey Keller, Margaret Keller, John Keller, Thomas Wolf, Hiram Roberts, William Gibbons, William Dotson, Ann E. Spencer, Paul Keller, James B. Hunks, George J. Zipperer, Thomas Wolf, Catherine E. Wolf, Ebenezer Jencks, Francis Lathrop, and Sarah T. McAllister.

Index Terms

Agreements.

Canals--Georgia.
Deeds.
Hopkins, Anna Meuer, 1894-1970.
Hopkins, William Lathrop, 1895-1944.
Leases.
Mortgages.
Plantations--Georgia.
Surveys (documents)
Whitehall Plantation (Ga.)

Administrative Information

Custodial History

The Hopkins family owned Whitehall Plantation at the time of the acquisition of materials.

Preferred Citation

[item identification], Hopkins family collection of Whitehall Plantation records, MS 863, Georgia Historical Society, Savannah, Georgia.

Acquisition Information

Gift of William Lathrop and Anna Meuer Hopkins, date unknown.

Restrictions

Access Restrictions

Collection is open for research.

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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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