

# Smith and McRae families papers

## Descriptive Summary

<b>Repository:</b>	Georgia Historical Society
<b>Creator:</b>	McRae family.
<b>Creator:</b>	Smith family.
<b>Title:</b>	Smith and McRae families papers
<b>Dates:</b>	1837-1858
<b>Extent:</b>	0.05 cubic feet (1 folder)
<b>Identification:</b>	MS 1660

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## Biographical/Historical Note

The Smith and McRae families of Tattnall County, Georgia were joined by the marriage of Alexander McRae and Dorcas Smith. Alexander McRae was born Sep. 26, 1811 to Duncan and Jennett McRae. Duncan McRae emigrated from Kintail, Scotland to Fayetteville, North Carolina sometime around the time of Alexander's birth. (The 1850 census states Alexander McRae's place of birth was Great Britain.) Alexander later moved to Tattnall County along with several members of his family. Around 1842, he married Dorcas Aborn Smith, the daughter of Nicholas/Nicholus Peck Smith (1787-1867) and Smith's second wife, Urania Aborn Sheldon (1798-1841). According to the 1850 census, most of the Smith family (including Dorcas) were born in Rhode Island with younger family members born in Tattnall County starting in the 1830s. Nicholas Smith was a planter and merchant in Perry's Mills, Tattnall County.

Prior to her marriage, Dorcas Smith attended Erasmus Hall Academy in Tattnall County and later attended a girls school in Warren, Rhode Island. Following the marriage, Alexander and Dorcas McRae lived in Reidsville, Georgia where Alexander opened a store and became one of the town's leading citizens. He died May 30, 1855 and was buried in the cemetery at the Smith Plantation in Perry's Mills. When Dorcas McRae died in 1910, she was also buried in this cemetery.

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## Scope and Content Note

This collection contains thirteen letters written to and by members of the Smith and McRae families. The letters discuss primarily family news. Local events and weather are occasionally mentioned as well.

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## Index Terms

Georgia--Social life and customs.  
Letters (correspondence)  
McRae, Alexander, 1811-1855.  
McRae, Dorcas Smith, (Dorcas Aborn Smith), 1824-1910.  
Tattnall County (Ga.)

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## Administrative Information

### Custodial History

Unknown.

### Preferred Citation

[item identification], Smith and McRae families papers, MS 1660, Georgia Historical Society, Savannah, Georgia.

## Acquisition Information

Unknown.

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## 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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## Container List

### Fldr Item

1 1 Sarah S. Smith to Dorcas A. Smith, Warren, Rhode Island, 1837 January 21

### Fldr Item

1 2 Unknown author, Pawtuxet to Dorcas A. Smith, Perry's Mills, Georgia, 1842 July 26.

### Fldr Item

1 3 Unknown author, Pawtuxet to Dorcas A. Smith, Perry's Mills, Georgia, 1843 April 14

### Fldr Item

1 4 Aunt Lillian Robertson, New York to Andrew McRae, Perry's Mills, Georgia, 1843 April 26

### Fldr Item

1 5 [indecipherable] Harrison, Hinchville, Georgia to Dorcas A. Smith, Perry's Mills, Georgia, 1844 March 30

**Fldr Item**

- 1 6 [indecipherable] Tyler, Providence, Rhode Island to Dorcas A. McRae, Perry's Mills, Georgia, 1845 January 30

**Fldr Item**

- 1 7 Unknown author, Brooklyn, New York to Mrs. Dorcas A. McRae, Perry's Mills, Georgia, 1846 November 16

**Fldr Item**

- 1 8 Aunt Lillian Robertson, Lancaster, Ohio to Mrs. Dorcas McRae, Reidsville, Georgia, 1850 January 24

**Fldr Frame**

- 1 9 Aunt Lillian Robertson, Lancaster, Ohio to Mrs. Dorcas McRae, Reidsville, Georgia, 1850 August 28

**Fldr Item**

- 1 10 Aunt Lillian Robertson, Ohio City Cleveland to Mrs. Dorcas McRae, Reidsville, Georgia, 1851 June 6

**Fldr Item**

- 1 11 Donald McRae, Achnagart, Scotland to Mrs. Dorcas A. McRae, Perry's Mills, Georgia, 1856 April 4

**Fldr Item**

- 1 12 Donald McRae, Achnagart, Scotland to Mrs. Dorcas A. McRae, Perry's Mills, Georgia, 1857 August 4

**Fldr Item**

- 1 13 Donald McRae, Achnagart, Scotland to Mrs. Dorcas A. McRae, Perry's Mills, Georgia, 1858 January 1