Saint Catherines Island (Ga.) property records and maps

Descriptive Summary

Repository: Georgia Historical Society
Creator: Unknown.
Title: Saint Catherines Island (Ga.) property records and maps
Dates: 1784-1943
Extent: 1.1 cubic feet (1 box, 7 oversize folders)
Identification: MS 1696

Biographical/Historical Note

St. Catherines Island, off the coast of Georgia, is approximately 50 miles south of Savannah. Currently owned and regulated by the St. Catherines Island Foundation, St. Catherines Island (14,640 acres) is home to Georgia's oldest known church, Mission Santa Catalina de Gaule (1595-1680). The St. Catherines Island Foundation aims to advance conservation of natural resources, the endurance of endangered species, and the preservation of historic sites on the island.

Previous to the Foundation's ownership, the island had a long chain of owners, renters, and the like dating back to the late 1700s. Prior to the time period in this collection, the island had been inhabited by Native Americans, the Spanish, and then owned by the King of England. Some of the previous residents of St. Catherines Island are well known figures in Georgia history such as Mary Bosomworth (1700-1766) and Button Gwinnett (1732-1777).

Scope and Content Note

This collection consists primarily of indentures documenting the chain of ownership of Saint Catherines Island, starting with Mary Bosomworth and ending in 1943 with New York businessman Edward J. Noble. Some indentures are originals however, quite a number of them are "true and exact" contemporary copies from the Secretary of the State of Georgia or clerks from Chatham and Liberty counties. Several of the older documents are too fragile for use. Also in the collection are contains two maps related to St. Catherine's Island. One map shows the whole of St. Catherine's Island and distinguishes marsh land from vegetation. The second map is exceptional because of its handwritten explanation. These notes, written by James McHenry Rauers, detail land divisions and give the names of those who own or lease particular properties.

The folders containing maps are noted as "VM" (visual materials) in the collection inventory.

Index Terms

Bosomworth, Mary Musgrove Matthews, 1700-1766.
Bosomworth, Thomas, approximately 1720-1782.
Brown, Charles E.
Brownson, Nathan, 1742-1796.
Conveyancing--Georgia--Saint Catherines Island.
Deeds.
Golden Isles (Ga.)
Gwinnett, Button, approximately 1735-1777.
Indentures.
Islands--Georgia.
Johnston family.
Kollock family.
Land subdivision--Georgia--Saint Catherines Island.
Land surveys.
Letters (correspondence)
Maps (documents)
Owens family.
Rauers family.
Rauers, James McHenry, 1885-1948.
Rodriguez, Anna M., active 1876.
Saint Catherines Island (Ga.)
Saint Catherines Sound (Ga.)
Waldburg, George M., 1795-1856.

Physical and Technical Access Restrictions

Due to their fragile condition, some documents are restricted from use.

Administrative Information

Custodial History

Unknown.

Preferred Citation

[item identification], Saint Catherines Island (Ga.) property records and maps, MS 1696, Georgia Historical Society, Savannah, Georgia.

Acquisition Information

Unknown.

Restrictions

Access Restrictions

Collection is open for research.

Physical Access Restrictions

Due to their fragile condition, some documents are restricted from use.

Publication Rights

Copyright has not been assigned to the Georgia Historical Society. All requests for permission to publish or quote from manuscripts must be submitted in writing to the Division of Library and Archives. Permission for publication is given on behalf of the Georgia Historical Society as the owner of the physical items and is not intended to include or imply permission of the copyright holder, which must also be obtained by the researcher.

Separated Material

My First Deer Hunt, Christmas, 1922 by Chas E. Brown has been separated from the collection and cataloged with the rare pamphlets.

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

Container List

Indenture documents

Box Fldr

1 1 Mary Bosomworth to Robert Porteous, 1800-1899
2 Thomas Bourke, 1793-1800, undated
3 Waldburger to Rauers, 1807-1893, undated
4 Rodriguez to Rauers, 1874-1938, undated
5 Correspondence, General R. Toombs, General A.R. Lawton, Waldburg, and K.K. Stevenson, 1869-1870
6 Moss Island, quit claim deed, Lancaster King to Jacob Rauers, 1893
7 Indenture of St. Catherines Island to Button Gwinnett, Photostat copy made in 1925
8 Correspondence to John J. Rauers, 1927-1928
9 Regarding sale of St. Catherines Island to Edward J. Noble from the estate of Jacob Rauers (deceased), 1942-1943
10 Abstracts of Ownership, undated

Indentures

Box Oversize_Folder

1 1 Signed by Nicholas Long, Philip Clayton, James Armstrong, Josiah Tatnall, Cunningham Newell, Michael Burke, Thomas Bourke, etc., June 1, 1796
1 Mary Helen Johnston, the State of Georgia, and Phineas M. Kollock, March 31, 1853
1 Mary Bosomworth from the King of England for 6,200 acres of land in St. John's Parish (true and exact copy), July 6, 1891
1 Thomas Bourke and O'Brien Smith, October 13, 1790
Division of St. Catherines by the Commissioners appointed by authority... recorded, February 15, 1792

Writ of partition in behalf of Nathan Brownson, Esquire, November 13, 1785

Indenture to David Johnston and James Johnston, April 13, 1812

Chain of ownership lists, July 8 and June 27, 1800

Grant to Ashmore and Jackson for 800 acres of land in Liberty County attached to map with a seal, August 17, 1883

Indenture from Phineas M. Kollock and George G. Johnston to Jacob Waldburg, January 21, 1857

Survey for Joseph Law, April 10, 1801, and indenture to Joseph Law from Governor John Milledge for 23 acres "in an Island Hammock," December 23, 1802

Indentures

Box Oversize_Folder

Elizabeth L. Waldburg, Houston M. Clinch, Thomas M. Cunningham, and Anna M. Rodriguez, December 5, 1872

James R. Johnston, Phineas M. Kollock and George Jones, December 9, 1841

Mary Bosomworth and the King of England (true and exact copy), January 19, 1888

George Jones to P.M. Kollock, June 3, 1842

David Johnston, September 27, 1811

James Eppingin and Hazrn Kimball, May 5, 1819

Phineas M. Kollock and George H. Johnston to Jacob Waldburg, January 21, 1857

Owen Owens and David Johnston, July 1m 1797

Josiah Tatnall, Nicholas Long, Philip Clayton and Thomas Bourke, February 14, 1796

Owen Owens and David Johnston, March 16, 1812

Abraham Ravott, Hugh Lawson, and Hepworth Carter, December 1, 1784
Maps

Box vm_oversize_folder

1 1

"St. Catherine's Island and Vicinity, Georgia Surveyed between 1858-1867. Published by U.S. Coast Survey, A.D. Bache, Supt. Scale 1 inch = 20,000 feet. North to North Newport River; South to Sapelo Sound; East to St. Catherine's Island; West to Harris Neck. Ink on linen; copied from Archives of the U.S. Coast Survey for Mr. Winchester and Mr. Prince"

1

"Tybee Island to Doboy Sound" and "U.S. Cost and Geodetic Survey Number 1241." Surveyed up to 1920; printed 1921. Published by U.S. Coast and Geodetic Survey. Size 108 cm x 90 cm. Scale 1 inch = 80,000 feet. Handwritten notations by J. McH. Rauers detailing land divisions, property owners and renters; shows depth soundings in feet