

January 1974

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Recommended Citation

Austin, Deborah W. and Jones, Allen W., "Georgia Manuscripts in the Auburn University Archives," *Georgia Archive* 2 no. 1 (1974) .
Available at: https://digitalcommons.kennesaw.edu/georgia_archive/vol2/iss1/5

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GEORGIA MANUSCRIPTS

IN THE AUBURN UNIVERSITY ARCHIVES

Deborah W. Austin and Allen W. Jones*

The Department of Archives of Auburn University was established by the Board of Trustees in 1964 to serve as a depository for university records and to collect historical manuscripts of a regional nature. Although the Archives is located on the first floor of the Ralph Brown Draughon Library, it is an autonomous operation with hours of service from 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. Monday through Friday. All inquiries regarding materials in the Archives should be addressed to the Director, Department of Archives, Auburn University, Auburn, Alabama 36830.

The Archives has secured manuscripts of numerous Alabama politicians, scientists, professors, and military figures, which date from the early nineteenth century to the present. In addition, it maintains an extensive photograph collection, an expanding file of Alabama newspapers on microfilm, and an oral history program.

While collecting materials on Alabama, the Archives has acquired several manuscript collections that concern life and work in the state of Georgia. The most extensive is the J. E. D. Shipp Collection, which centers on Americus during the period 1860-1937. An attorney and Auburn alumnus, J. E. D. Shipp (? - 1950) involved himself in various business interests in Americus. He dealt in farm lands, books, general merchandise, and insurance. Included among the correspondence and financial records of these activities are accounts from the Americus Law Book Company, 1905-1939, and legal records from his law practice, 1881-1897. In addition to Shipp's own papers, his collection holds those of the law firm of Guerry and Son. Three letterbooks, 1877-1879, 1879-1885, 1895-1898, reveal the routine business of a civil law

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practice, and are supplemented by court cases, 1860-1880, and one account book, 1874-1883. Information on the insurance business in the area is contained in the R. T. Byrd papers, also a part of the Shipp Collection. A letterbook and assorted financial records and accounts, 1874-1888, describe Byrd's operation, which involved the Royal Insurance Company, 1875-1893, Home Insurance Company, 1882, German American Insurance Company, 1882-1889, Virginia Home Insurance Company, 1883-1884, Insurance Company of North America, 1885-1888, and Georgia Mutual Insurance Company, 1895-1897. A fourth portion of the Collection is composed of miscellanea, including a journal from the Daniels (later the Duncan) Plantation of Calhoun County, 1866, and various financial records from several local firms, such as Hamilton and Company, Rosser and Massling, H. R. Johnson and Son, L. H. Carter, and Baldwin and Davenport.

Madison Kilpatrick of Putnam County, Georgia, who served as a private in Company H, 5th Georgia Militia, wrote ten letters to his family from August through October, 1864, to provide instructions for the running of his plantation during his absence and information on the difficulties of army life.

The George Confederate Letters describe not only Georgia, but also much of the South. The collection includes letters from Mrs. George to her children, Mary J. and Charles H., in Griffin, Georgia, while she and her husband, the Rev. M. A. George of the Episcopal Church in Marietta, traveled widely between July and November, 1860, to raise money for his church and its school. Another group of letters, 1861-1864, describe the service of Charles H. George, who rose from private to captain with the 2nd Battalion, Georgia Sharpshooters. In the twenty-two letters, George told of living conditions in the army, of seeing Jefferson Davis at Bridgeport in 1862, and of several skirmishes, two near Marietta in September, 1864, and one near Macon, in June, 1865.

Further from the Americus area, the Archives holds the manuscript minutes, 275 pages in length, of the Bethel Baptist Church, 1883-1895. These list the names of new members received, church reprimands of recalcitrants, and include financial records.

The Emily Smith York Papers consist of approximate-

ly 500 items, principally correspondence. Approximately fifteen letters, most of which were written by Hugh L. D. Denson to Miss Josephine Noble of Rome, Georgia, concern camp life and battles, primarily in Virginia where he was stationed. Included is a letter written by Miss Noble, May 26, 1864, describing the Yankee occupation of Rome. Correspondence, financial papers, and newspaper clippings of the Ladies Memorial Association of Rome, 1882-1900, describe the group's activities in memory of the Confederate dead and include records of Southern soldiers buried in the Rome Cemetery.