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Alabama, Arkansas, Missouri, Mississippi and Tennessee document collection

- Title:** Alabama, Arkansas, Missouri, Mississippi and Tennessee document collection
- Collection No:** MSS.395
- Extent:** 0.5 cubic feet
- Inclusive Dates:** 1814-1972
- Abstract:** The collection comprises business and personal correspondence, deeds, receipts, depositions, promissory notes, estate inventories, and medical remedies from Alabama, Arkansas, Missouri, Mississippi and Tennessee, mostly from the nineteenth century.
- Processed by:** James E. Montague, 1999; Gerald Chaudron, 2014-2019.
- Access:** Open to all researchers.
- Language:** English
- Preferred Citation:** Alabama, Arkansas, Missouri, Mississippi and Tennessee document collection, Special Collections Department, University Libraries, University of Memphis.
- Publication date:** 2019 September

Scope and contents

The collection comprises business and personal correspondence, deeds, receipts, depositions, promissory notes, estate inventories, and medical remedies from the states of Alabama, Arkansas, Missouri, Mississippi and Tennessee, mostly from the nineteenth century. Many of the documents do not have place names noted on them so it is possible they are from other states beyond the four noted. Of interest is a health and exercise program sponsored by the Physical Culture Extension Society in the 1920s. A broadside announces the opening of Jefferson College in Washington, Mississippi, in 1839. The collection also contains an estate inventory pertaining to Auguste Chouteau, one of the founders of St. Louis, Missouri, and letters from a soldier serving with the 3rd Mississippi Infantry Regiment during the Spanish-American War.

Folder 4 of Box 1 contains a group of documents related to the estate of Adam Gordon of Claiborne County, Mississippi. Gordon was a large landowner and active in state politics, being elected a state senator in 1833. His wife, Aletheia, was executor of his estate and after her death in 1844 it was managed by their son-in-law, James Calhoun. In 1860, Adam's granddaughter Eugenia and her husband made a claim on the estate.

Folder 7 of Box 1 contains materials related to New Madrid High School, New Madrid, Missouri, from the early twentieth century that refer to William H. Dawson and his siblings.

Folder 1 of Box 2 contain copies of correspondence of Charles Étienne Arthur Gayarré and his wife Sarah Anne "Shadie" Sullivan Gayarré from Louisiana during the early 1860s. Gayarré was a prominent political figure in the state.

Related materials

MVP 28. Inaugural address by Charles L. Dubuisson, president of Jefferson College, Washington, Miss., 1835 July 6.

Currie Family Papers, Special Collections, University of Arkansas Libraries, Fayetteville, Arkansas.

Charles Etienne Arthur Gayarré papers, Howard-Tilton Memorial Library, Tulane University, New Orleans, Louisiana.

Subject terms

Chouteau, Auguste, 1750-1829.

Deeds.

Formulas, recipes, etc.

Jefferson College.
Gordon, Adam.
New Madrid High School (New Madrid, Mo.)
Promissory notes.
Searcy College.
Wallace, George C. (George Corley), 1919-1998.

Inventory

Box 1

Folder

- 1 Alabama:
 1. Letter: Governor and Mrs. George Wallace to Mr. and Mrs. J. McCarter, Memphis, Tenn., expressing their appreciation for the prayers and concern during Wallace's recovery after being shot, 1972 August 25.
 2. Booklet: "The Opelika Mineral Water, For Dyspepsia, Indigestion, and all other Diseases Resulting from Impure Blood", Louis Cherry, proprietor, circa 1892. (2)
- 2 Arkansas: Searcy College broadside, 1899; correspondence: from Little Rock, 1894 May 4 (1st page only); Currie family: empty envelopes, correspondence to Mary Currie, Ripley, Tennessee, from Bobby Hellin, Askew, Ark. (?), 1873 February 5; from Stewarts (brother or sister), Whiskey Island, Miss., 18?? October 29.
- 3 Mississippi: Physician David N. Harris' accounts receipts, 1840s-1850s; Depositions: 1843, Aaron Portic (?), 1842 B.D. Anderson vs. Eppy White; Deeds: Alcorn County, L.J. & Ora Greene to Mrs. R.I. Hall, 1939; W.H. & E. Nash to J.E. and P. Reynolds, 1925; Barnhill, 1897; J.E. Reynolds to G.W. Brewer, 1926; B.G. & L.M. Perkins to Mrs. R.I. Hall, 1940. Correspondence: Roger Barton, Holly Springs, to John Taylor, Paris, Tenn., 1846; Cotton receipts. (80)
- OS Broadside: "Address to the Public", Jefferson College, Washington, Miss., 1839. Secretary of the Board of Trustees Levin Wales outlines the courses, faculty, tuition fees and facilities of the new college. (2)
Teacher's license and contract, Coahoma County, Miss., 1894. Teaching license of Miss Mary W. Martin listing her grades from the examinations, and contract for Martin to work at the Blocksake Public School for 1895 school year at \$45 per month.
- 4 Mississippi: Adam Gordon estate, Claiborne County, Miss., 1835-1866:
 1. Warrant of appraisal, 1835 November 25. Contents of estate including slaves Adam, Jeff, Avena, Kitty. (**Oversize**)

2. Account: For vaccination of 3 slaves, 1836 October 29.
 3. State and county tax receipts: for 2,483 acres of land, 25 cattle, 15 slaves over five years old, 5 slaves under five years old, 1844 October 1, 8.
 4. State and county tax receipt: Mrs. A. Gordon, for seventy-two acres of land, 2 slaves over five years old, 2 slaves under five years old, 1844 October 9.
 5. Warrant and appraisement, 1844 January 27. Contents of estate including, slaves Jeff Kitty, Henrietta, George.
 6. State and county tax receipt: For goods and 23 slaves, 1847 November.
 7. Petition by estate administrator James E. Calhoun to employ slaves (names listed) belonging to his family to work on Gordon plantation, 1849 July 23.
 8. Receipt for payment overseer and hire of a slave, 1853 November 25.
 9. Receipt for payment of overseer, 1853 November 29.
 10. Receipt for medical services to slaves Isaac and Sam, 1854 January 2.
 11. State and county tax receipts: for 30 cattle, 23 slaves, land, 1854 January 23, February 18.
 12. Receipt for medical services to slaves Martha, Jack, 1855.
 13. State and county tax receipt: for 40 cattle, 23 slaves, 1855 January 19.
 14. Receipt for medical services to slaves George, Caroline, & May, 1855.
 15. State and county tax receipts: for 40 cattle, 23 slaves, land, 1856 January 14.
 16. Receipt for medical services to slave Maria, 1856.
 17. Receipt for payment of overseer, 1856 September 15.
 18. Receipt for medical services to slaves Martha and Mary, 1857.
 19. Receipt for medical services to slave Martha and Mrs. Calhoun, 1858.
- Isaac A. Ross & wife Eugenia (granddaughter of Adam Gordon) vs. J.E. Calhoun, re: Adam Gordon estate:
20. Probate Court copy of 1836 Adam Gordon will, 1860 January. Exhibit A.
 21. Statement: written 1843 by Aletheia Gordon, wife of Adam Gordon, of balance due, 1861 April 11.
 22. Deposition, 1860 April.
 23. Judgement, Claiborne Chancery Court, 1861 April.
 24. Receipt for payment of overseer, 1866 January 5.

Adam Gordon was paymaster of the Fifth Regiment, Mississippi Militia, during the War of 1812. He was U.S. senator for Mississippi from 1833 and ran unsuccessfully for governor in 1835. Adam Gordon died on August 25, 1836, and Aletheia Gordon died on August 28, 1844, leaving Woodland, a 2,400-acre Claiborne County plantation to their daughter Eugenia.

5 Mississippi: Sledge Bros., Como:

Bill: Williams & Co., Saw and Planing Mills, North Front Street, Memphis, Tenn., for \$31.90 on Norfleet R. Sledge, Como, Miss., 1867 March 12.

Bill: J. & A. Woodruff & Co., Coaches, Rockaways & Buggies, 135 Main Street, Memphis, Tenn., for \$700 on W.D. Sledge, 1861 May 23.

OS 1

Newspaper: *The People's Press*, Hernando, Miss., Vol. 1, No. 11, 1866 April 26.

- “The Masonic Dead of the War. An Oration delivered before the Masonic Lodges of DeSoto County, Miss., convened at Hernando, April 14th, 1866, as a Lodge of Sorrow, by Rev. S.H. Ford, K.T.”
- 6 Missouri: Inventory of an estate, 1850 January 12; letter; legal document, pertaining to Auguste Chouteau, a founder of St. Louis.
Correspondence: Hester Barkley, Nevada, Mo., 1882; Thomas Morgan, St. Louis, 1893; Henry T. Mudd, Missouri State Board of Agriculture, to Colonel J.D. Cabaniss, Huntsville, Ala., 1869; J.P. Ingram, Versailles, Mo., to J.D. Cabaniss, 1866; Benjamin St. James Fry, Methodist Book depository, St. Louis, 1865;
Lenton Duckworth descendant list.
- OS 1** Phrenological certificate of J.B. Heibenreich by Professor T.J. Sullivan, St. Louis, Mo., 1900 September 8.
- 7 Missouri: William H. Dawson school records, 1901-1904 and undated.
William H. Dawson, Jr., born August 25, 1885 in New Madrid, graduated from New Madrid High School in 1902. He was the son of William Washington Dawson (1848-1929) and Ella Hunter Dawson (1854-1933). William was the second eldest of four children, including Nell (1875-1963), Lillian (1887-1975), and Robert D. (1889-1949). William, Jr., died on September 5, 1956, in New Madrid.
Includes copies of William Dawson’s report cards for 8th-10th grade and commercial classes; the closing exercise and public entertainment programs for 1901 in which Dawson performed; a souvenir from Dawson’s teacher; Dawson’s class commencement program, 1902; and the commencement program for his sister Lillian’s class, 1904.
- 8 Miscellany: Includes: J.G. Wallace to Wells, undated, re: funeral; envelopes addressed to D. Wilds, Jonesboro; James W. McClang receipt, 1831; Martha A. Smith to Aunt Mira, undated; pedigree certificate for wolfhound, Eleanor Donnelley, Lake Forest, Ill, 1930; U.S. State Department to S. Frankland, 1871, re: abolition of tax on passports; W. Briggs to C.K. Preist, undated, re: stock; W. G. Rodger to Hugh, 1875, re: horse; Mama to Hugh, 1875 October 20, re: Fannie Marshall; W.J. McCulley to Mrs. McDenell, 1874 March 18, re: turnip salad; L.M. Dexter, Amboy, Ill.(?), to M, 1856 December 9; to David Campbell, Tex., re: money for father; voter registration certificate for J.J. Gentry, Spartanburg, S.C., 1892.
- 9 Loan repayment receipts, 1815-1884, recipe for varnish, dyes, medical remedies, and a health and exercise program for Mrs. Goforth from Susanna Cocroft, Chicago, 1920 May 10.
- 10 Promissory notes, legal documents, accounts, 1820-1889.
Legal documents re: James Burt; William Henry property bordering Durham land; William Burr house, Edgefield; Lt. Joseph Williams to Hendricks De Clene? road; Isaac Haelman vs. Martin H. Davis; A.C. Beard, P.M. Bush; Protest to Ingram, McKnight & Petnay, Pulaski, Tenn.; Fleming Jordan; James Walton; Samuel Townsend & John E. Townsend vs. Hennetta Johnson; C.C. Norvell, Tenn.; Amos T. Dwight, Gustavus C. Hopkins, Charles D. Miller, Lucius H.

Smith of Hopkins, Dwight & Co.; Robert Akin; William Kay, Logan County; Willis K. Green, George W. Layne, Thomas G. Shannon, James C. Copeland, George W. Morton; Lemont vs. Turner; H.D. & Co., H.T. Olmstead's Sons, Montagues; James Pennington vs. Benjamin Oliver re: theft of slaves Margaret, Nancy, Polly; Handin vs. William Saunders; Thomas Cain, Nathan Baddie, Thomas E. Tait.

Accounts re: James M. Banks with John J. Ormond; Pines R. Ingram with J. V. & S. Dickinson, Claysville; Adam Hendritt with C. Williams; Edward M. Stratton & William A. Edmunston bid; L.G. Horvey with W. Moore; Henry B.S. Williams with Cornelius Crenshaw & James Hamilton, Dosotto Hill; Simeon Duffey with K.J./ R.S. Winn; James Shanklin; Lenore with John P. Barnett; John Reed with W.S. Perry & Son; D.K. Crenshaw with Bradford & McCattagh; H.H. Didman; Morris Fisher with R.R. Harris; Laura Jordan, guardian of James Jordan; W.S. Ransom; D. Hilliard with Larkin S. White; James W. Brickell with Woodliss Beville; Nelson Robinson with Joshua Cox; Aunt Sarah, F. Mayhew, Robert Knox; Nancey Wolf, Jane Patterson, Mrs. Hart, Mrs. Creger; Sanford Chamberlain with J.H. Lowry; James H. Lowrey, Abraham B. Trigg, Charles S. Beken, James Bryan; Dodson & Moon; G.W. Houser; John Richard; Joseph S. Campbell with D. Pearl.

- 11 Estate inventories, 1814-1875. Re: Locker Parter, Joseph Severe, Richard Price, John Read, Samuel S. Wilson, George Patton, Joseph Ayres, Alexander Moore, John B. Alderson (10).
 - 12 Clippings: Sykes, General Edward Turner, "Origin and Correct History of Military Road or Jackson Highway", *Columbus Dispatch*, Columbus, Miss., 1917 September 30; Muster Roll of Company H, 11th Mississippi Regiment Volunteers, undated (copy); Letter to the Editor, *Progress*, Water Valley?, Miss., from I.T. Blount, Water Valley, Miss., 1895 May 7, re: Blount's position on coinage of silver.
 - 13 Letter: Levi Woodbury, Secretary of the Navy, Washington, D.C., to Franklin E. Plummer, U.S. Congressman, Washington, D.C., 1832 June 26. Woodbury (1789-1851) informs Plummer, Congressman from Mississippi, that he cannot find any information on Midshipman Carlile Pollock Patterson (1816-1881) (later 4th Superintendent of the Coast Survey), except about his appointment and birth in Mississippi. Includes engraving of Woodbury that was removed from publication.
- OS 1** Broadside: "New Automobile Law, Chapter 73, Public Acts of 1917, Notice to Dealers, Owners, and County Officials," Tennessee Department of Highways, Division Accounts and Motor Vehicle Collections, Nashville, circa 1917.
- Illinois Central Railroad Company, Telegraph Register of Trains Water Valley to Canton, Mississippi Division, Water Valley Station, 1893 December 22 (copy).
- Illinois Central Railroad Company, Daily Telegraph Register of Trains, Mississippi Division, Grenada District, Time Table No. 18, Water Valley Station, 1904 July 9.
- Illinois Central Railroad Company, Daily Telegraph Register of Trains, Mississippi Division, Jackson District, Time Table No. 44, Water Valley Station, 1914 August 5.

Box 2

1 Elizabeth Hunt collection:

Copies of letters from Sarah Anne “Shadie” Sullivan Gayarré (1820-1914) and her husband, Charles Étienne Arthur Gayarré (1805-1895), to Shadie’s aunt Eliza Abert Wright, great-great aunt of Elizabeth Hunt. Eliza Abert Barry was the widow of Dr. Barry Cox Barry of Columbus, Mississippi, the brother of Shadie’s mother, who married in 1828 the Rev. David Wright (died 1840) of the Mayhew mission to the Choctaw. Also transcriptions of two letters from Eliza to David Wright in 1828, and one of a letter from Electa May Kingsbury, Pine Ridge, Ark., to Eliza Wright, Columbus, Miss., 1844 August. Donated by Elizabeth Hunt, Oklahoma City, 1971.

Biographical information:

Charles Gayarré was born in New Orleans on January 9, 1805. His French mother, Marie Boré, and Spanish father, Carlos Gayarré, were Creoles in the earliest sense of the term: native-born people of European descent. After his father’s death in 1813, Gayarré grew up on the large plantation of his maternal grandfather, Étienne De Boré, outside the city limits of New Orleans (the area is now Audubon Park). He was educated at the College of Orleans and admitted to the Pennsylvania bar in 1828 and the Louisiana bar in 1829. Gayarré’s personal life was dominated by his public service. Before the Civil War he held the following offices: representative of the City of New Orleans to the state legislature in 1830, assistant state attorney general in 1831, and presiding judge of the City Court of New Orleans in 1832. In 1835, he was elected to the U.S. Senate, but was forced to resign before assuming his seat because of chronic bronchial asthma. Governor Isaac Johnson appointed Gayarré secretary of state in 1846, and Governor Joseph Walker reappointed him in 1850. In 1853 he was an unsuccessful candidate for the U.S. House of Representatives. Like many Americans frustrated with the leading political parties, Gayarré joined the Know-Nothing Party, a nativist party whose anti-immigrant and racial beliefs appealed to him. But Gayarré was a loyal Catholic and, although elected as a delegate to the 1855 national Know-Nothing Party convention, he was refused admission because of his religious beliefs. Gayarré strongly supported slavery and Louisiana’s secession from the Union in 1861. In 1863, at an assembly held at Osyka, Mississippi, he proposed arming slaves for the defense of the Confederacy. Gayarré served as a delegate from Louisiana’s Union Democratic party to the national unity convention at Philadelphia in 1866 and ran unsuccessfully for the U. S. Senate in 1867. From 1873 to 1877, he was a reporter of decisions for the Supreme Court of Louisiana, while devoting increasing time to his literary pursuits, partly out of necessity, since he lost most of his fortune in the war. Though he wrote plays, essays and novels during his life, he is chiefly remembered for his histories of Louisiana.

On January 28, 1856, at fifty-one, Gayarré married Sarah Anne “Shadie” Sullivan Buchanan, the widow of Henry Buchanan (1810-1851) of Columbus, Mississippi.

In 1859, he and his wife acquired 533 acres in Tangipahoa Parish, ninety miles north of New Orleans. They named it Roncal after the Spanish region that was home to Gayarré's ancestors. They resided there or in New Orleans until Roncal was sold in 1881, making them permanent residents of New Orleans for the rest of their lives. The couple had no children.

Source: Phillips, V. Faye, "Charles Gayarré." In knowlouisiana.org Encyclopedia of Louisiana, edited by David Johnson. Louisiana Endowment for the Humanities, 2010-. Article published December 22, 2010

<http://www.knowlouisiana.org/entry/charles-gayarr>.

1. Shadie Gayarré to Eliza Wright, Springhill, n.d.
 2. Shadie Gayarré, Roncal, La., to Eliza Wright, 1862? July 27. Refers to war.
 3. Shadie Gayarré, Fauquier White Sulphur Springs, Va., to Eliza Wright, n.d.
 4. Shadie Gayarré to Eliza Wright, n.d.
 5. Charles Gayarré to Eliza Wright, Springhill, 1840 January.
 6. Charles Gayarré, New Orleans, La., to Eliza Wright, 1858 April 21.
 7. Shadie Gayarré, New Orleans, La., to Eliza Wright, 1860? April 17. Not going to Europe after all; building a country place. Will go to Bladon Springs, Ala., for May; Niagara and Saratoga Springs later. The railroad from New Orleans to New York "passes through our place."
 8. Charles Gayarré, New Orleans, La., to Eliza Wright, Columbus, Miss., 1857 December 6.
 9. Charles Durriste (?) (Gayarré's godson), New Orleans, La., to Eliza Wright, 1860 April 13. Attached to Charles Gayarré letter to Eliza Wright.
- 2 Receipt: Payment by planter Haller Nutt (1816-1864) to Warren County Jail, Vicksburg, Miss., 1857 June 12. \$12.25 paid to cover cost of arrest, fees and maintenance of "Negro man Buck".
- 3 John M. Chilton papers, 1870-1897: Insurance policy, W.A. Cabell accounts for grocery store C. N. Chilton and Company, Clinton, Miss., run by Charles Norton Chilton until his murder in 1875, and John Chilton, legal documents re: land, and a copy of a letter, John Chilton, Canton, Miss., to Miss Howard, 1897 April 12.
- 4 Asa J. Forgy papers, 1896-1913: Tax and insurance receipts. Asa Jackson Forgy was born on August 11, 1861, in Center Point, Howard County, Arkansas, to Jackson O'Neal Forgy (1832-1897) and Mary Burton Propps Forgy (1836-1892), one of eight children. Forgy became a farmer, was a partner in the City Drug Store and coeditor of the Howard County Press with E.S. Morgan. He married Piny Briggs Forgy (1872-1965) and they had four children. Forgy succeeded his father as county treasurer in 1898 and was county clerk from 1900 to 1904. He died on March 24, 1941.
- 5 Adolph McCracken letters, 1898-1899. Two letters written by McCracken to Etta Shrader while he was serving with the 3rd Mississippi Infantry Regiment during the Spanish-American War. The regiment did not see active service but was in camps in Jackson, Mississippi, Lexington, Kentucky and Albany, Georgia. Adolphus McCracken was born in 1850, the son of Ephraim Lytle McCracken (1772-1851).

He served with Company A of the 3rd Mississippi Infantry Regiment of the United States Volunteers during the Spanish-American War and held the rank of first sergeant. The company was mustered in at Jackson, Miss., on July 22, 1898 and McCracken listed Nitta Yuma, Mississippi, as his residence. The company mustered out at Albany, Georgia on March 17, 1899. McCracken died of pneumonia there three days later and was buried in Sardis, Miss. It is recorded Adolph had two brothers and a sister still living in Sardis and that he was married to a woman named Mary.

The letters from McCracken are to Etta L. Shrader (1883-1963) of Catchings and then Nitta Yuma, Sharkey County, Mississippi. He appears to have known the family well but it is unclear what his connection to them was.

1. Adolph McCracken, Camp Hamilton, Lexington, Ky. to Etta Shrader, Catchings, Miss., 1898 May 6 or 9 (unclear). Refers to death of Etta's father, William Henry Shrader. Notes that the "steel collar of military discipline" is much tighter at Camp Hamilton than at Camp Patrick Henry in Mississippi. He writes: "When we are not drilling we are at work. There are about twenty thousand troops here and eight hundred in the hospittle [sic]. There is over three hundred cases of Typhoid fever cases here." Reports on Hughes, who is sick with typhoid, and Louie, who had been court-martialed. The regiment has been issued new uniforms. He would like to go home on furlough but will not because of yellow fever.
2. Adolph McCracken, Camp Churchman, Albany, Ga. to Etta Shrader, Nitta Yuma, Miss., 1899 January 18. Had expected to be home by March 1 but now thinks the regiment will go to The Philippines. He would be glad to go because of the monotony of camp life. He is studying Spanish in preparation for the assignment. He continues: "Another things that looks like we will stay – our kitchens were refurnished yesterday, new stoves – Boilers & pans in fact every thing that we need The Hospittle has received four new Ambulances and sixteen mules and six months supply [sic] of medicine for the Tropics I dont care what comes up I will not ask for a discharge but remain until the Reg. is mustered out." Notes he is still acting first sergeant for the company and it is hard work because the clerk Moise (or Moses) Blum is sick. Blum was from Nitta Yuma.

- 6 George Izard, "Notes Respecting the Arkansas Territory", 1827 January 10 (photocopy). 9 pages written by Arkansas Territory Governor George Izard (1776-1828) in 1827 on the Quapaw Indians sent to the American Philosophical Society along with vocabularies. The original is held by the American Philosophical Society, Philadelphia, Pa.