

Collection: SHAW Papers  
Cumberland County, N. C.

P.C. 20.1-20.7

1735-1883

**Physical Description:** c. 800 items; letters, deeds, grants, land surveys, promissory notes, bonds, receipts, accounts, militia records, court records, statements, certificates, contracts, appointments, summonses and other legal papers, reports, lists, and miscellaneous items.

**Acquisition:** From Biennial Report: 1916-1918, a large and miscellaneous collection of letters, business papers, memoranda, etc., many of which relate to the Scotch Highland immigrants to North Carolina, presented by Henry E. Shaw, Kinston, N. C.; June 21, 1961, [26 items], deeds, land grants and surveys, division of land in Bladen and New Hanover counties, given by Mrs. Isabelle Williams Shaw, Ivanhoe, N. C.

**Description:** Shaw Papers (1735-1883). The collection consists primarily of the personal papers of three generations of the Colin (Collin) Shaw family. The elder Collin Shaw (spelling later changed to Colin) had come to North Carolina from Scotland by 1764 and had settled in the Cross Creek area of Cumberland County. He died around 1791, and his son Colin carried on the family name until his death in 1821. The third Colin Shaw was born in 1812. He received an A.B. degree from the University of North Carolina in 1838 and an A.M. in 1841. A Presbyterian minister by profession, he served as a Confederate chaplain during the Civil War, surviving until 1905 when he died near Wallace, N. C.

Correspondence in this collection covers approximately a century (1764-1861) and apparently spans the lives of three generations of Colin (Collin) Shaw families. Letters of particular interest include: several written from the island of Jura in Scotland, discussing Scottish family matters and immigration to North Carolina; letters from Collin Shaw as a Loyalist refugee in New York during the Revolutionary War; a letter from Duncan McFarland relating Congressional activities and world affairs in 1806; and, several Civil War letters from Confederate chaplain Colin Shaw describing defense preparations below Wilmington and military activities in South Carolina. The remainder of the letters are of a routine nature and are concerned primarily with private business matters in the Cumberland County area.

Land records make up a significant part of the Shaw Papers. These grants, deeds, patents, and surveys are centered primarily around the Carver's Creek-Cross Creek area of Cumberland County. The earliest records are concerned with the 1735 Sam Carver grants in what was then Bladen County, and later entries and descriptions are for lands eventually belonging to the Shaw family in this same general vicinity (1735-1834). A second distinct group of land records are for the Colley Swamp and South River area of Bladen County and the Black River section of New Hanover County. These grants and deeds (1793-1874) are for the Elkin, Anders, Bannerman, and Sikes families among others,

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with two items pertaining to Colin Shaw. There is also a grant and/or deed for land in Anson and Montgomery counties.

Other items in the collection include a large number of receipts, accounts, bills of sale, certificates, and promissory notes (1756-1843); militia records, consisting of commissions for John Stephens (1759), Stephen Gilmore (1768), and Collin Shaw (1765, 1771, 1776) as militia captains, writs for fines against militia members for non-attendance, and lists of absentees from musters (1804-1806); court records, including petitions, legal cases, and summonses (1790-1840); a certificate signed by Donald McDonald stating that Collin Shaw had served under his command prior to Moore's Creek (1777); a petition fragment requesting reinstatement of Collin Shaw as citizen of North Carolina; statement of active militia service for Norman Shaw (1786); statement concerning proposed new meeting houses (1785); receipts and/or bill of sale signed by W[illiam] B[arry] Grove (1788) and William Hooper (n.d.); financial accounts of Fayetteville Polemical Society (1803); printed copy of "Captions of the Laws enacted by the Legislature of North Carolina, at their Nov. Session, 1806"; orphan's apprentice indentures for Jane and Margaret McIntyre (1821-1823); printed copy of "An Act for the Relief of Creditors of the Former Town of Fayetteville and for Other Purposes" (1883); tablet of notes taken from the Bible; Marian Shaw estate inventory; list of Fayetteville voters for 1804 Congressional election; report on students at Fayetteville Academy; tuition receipts from Donaldson Academy (1834); and, other miscellaneous notes, memoos, and fragmentary items.

Arrangement of Papers:

- P.C. 20.1 Correspondence, 1764-1861, n.d.
- 20.2 Correspondence, 1774-1834, n.d.; Bonds; Notes; Agreements
- 20.3. Land Papers, 1735-1874, n.d.
- 20.4 Accounts, receipts, etc., 1756-1779
- 20.5 Accounts, receipts, etc., 1780-1843, n.d.
- 20.6 Certificates, Commissions, Court and Military Records,  
Fayetteville Polemical Society Accounts
- 20.7 Miscellaneous Papers

Finding Aids:

- Main Entry Card
- Geographic Card
  - Cumberland County
- Autograph Cards
  - Campbell, Donald
  - Gibson, W.
  - Hogg, James
  - MacFarland, Duncan
  - Palmer, Geo[orge]
  - Rowan, Robert
  - Rutherford, Thomas

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**Finding Aids (Cont'd):**

**Autograph Cards (cont'd)**

Quince, Richard  
Shaw, Angus  
Shaw, Duncan  
Sibley, John  
Thomson, Will[ia]m

**Subject Cards**

Academies - Fayetteville Academy  
Bladen County - land records  
Civil War - Cape Fear defenses  
Congressional activities - 1806  
Cumberland County - land records  
Fayetteville Academy  
Fayetteville Polemical Society (1803)  
Militia - Cumberland County (1804-1806)  
Revolution - Loyalist  
Scottish immigration to North Carolina

**Date Cards**

1760-1769  
1770-1779  
1780-1789  
1800-1809  
1860-1869

**Finding Aids completed 24 March 1966 by Don Lennon.**