

Franklin County  
1844-1864

Physical Description: 1 vol.; account book.

Acquisition: Loaned for microfilming by Mrs. A. B. Alston, [REDACTED],  
Louisburg, N. C., via Mrs. Catherine Cockshutt, Survey Unit, Historic Sites  
Section, Division of Archives and History, July 11, 1974.

Description: Archibald Davis Williams, a Franklin County planter, was born in 1821, the son of Harty H. Davis and Robert W. Williams. The latter died intestate a few years later, leaving kinsman Archibald H. Davis the legal guardian of his minor children. In 1843 Archibald Williams married Lucy Ann Lewis of Granville County. The Williamses lived in the plantation house "Vine Hill" and in 1860 listed their wealth as 50 slaves, 1,600 acres of land, 2,500 bushels of corn, 30,000 pounds of tobacco, and livestock valued at \$2,840. Archibald Williams died in 1904. Today "Vine Hill" is owned by Richard Alston, a descendant, and occupied by tenants.

Although the inclusive dates for this plantation journal are 1844-1864, the entries are intermittent, and a number of years are not represented. Without elaboration, there are references to squirrel hunting, fishing, an animal show in Franklinton, preaching at Sandy Creek and Red Bud, fox hunting, setting out of 96 apple trees, building of fences, shearing of sheep, finishing of 6 tobacco barns, shoeing of horses, hog killing, cotton and tobacco prices, slave women "shrubbing" (raking and hauling leaves). Another plantation, "Rivers Dale" is mentioned, as well as persons of the Alston, Williams, and Davis families.

Of particular interest is an agreement dated September 5, 1856, for an addition and repairs to the "Vine Hill" plantation, with an itemized estimate for \$3,000 signed by Jacob W. Holt, a noted Warrenton builder. Other transactions recorded are an agreement of April 3, 1857, for plaster work by Francis O'Day and J. W. Holt; division of Negroes belonging to the estate of James Collins (6 men, 2 women, 1 child valued at \$3,650); December 27, 1861; and \$60 for a coffin for Williams' brother-in-law Samuel T. Alston.

WILLIAMS, ARCHIBALD D., ACCOUNT BOOK

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Under the heading "Confederate States Government, Services and Provisions," are several pages of tax lists, giving taxpayer's name and tax-in-kind (corn, fodder, hay, wool, etc.) for the 5th Congressional District, 1863-1864. A notation of April 20, 1864 indicates that some produce was delivered to Ass't Quartermaster Robert E. Cockrane, 5th Regiment, N. C. Cavalry.

Finding Aids:

Main Entry Card

Date Card

1844-1847

1850-1859

1860-1864

Geographic Card

Franklin County

Subject Cards:

GENEALOGY

HOLT, JACOB W.

PLANTATION JOURNAL

WAR - CIVIL

Finding Aid completed 30 August 1974 by Ellen Z. McGrew