

Collection: GREGORY, JOHN T., PAPERS (1832-1905)
Halifax County, North Carolina

P.C. 229.1-229.23

1849-1910

Physical Description: Letters, broadsides, leaflets, invitations, programs, pamphlets, receipted bills, bills of lading, purchase orders, inventories, bank statements, promissory notes; 6 notebooks of accounts; 1 bound volume. 4,809 items.

Acquisition:

Division of Archives and Manuscripts
State Department of Archives and History
Raleigh, North Carolina

Description: John Tillery Gregory, Halifax native, was born in Northampton County, February 11, 1832, the son of Dr. Thomas Wynns and Mary (Tillery) Gregory. He was raised by his uncle Major John Tillery, Halifax planter. Leaving school at twenty, Gregory was employed in Stephen Burrows' mercantile business. With this experience, he entered partnership with W. W. Daniels and they successfully operated a store known as Daniels and Gregory. An interest in politics led to Gregory's appointment as Clerk of the Superior Court in Halifax County in 1855 and as town treasurer in 1860. After the war he was elected Clerk of the Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions (1866) and when this office was abolished two years later, he was elected Clerk of the Superior Court and remained in office until his retirement in 1894. For sixteen years he served as secretary of the local masonic lodge.

Gregory's military service began with his enlistment in the Halifax Light Infantry and election as sergeant. The Light Infantry became Company F in the Second Regiment of Volunteers and later Company G in the Twelfth North Carolina State Troops. On reorganization of the regiment at Norfolk, Gregory was elected lieutenant. Colonel B. O. Wade, commanding the regiment, appointed him adjutant on the battlefield at Cold Harbor. The regiment participated in the battles of Hanover Junction, Seven Days, Chancellorsville, Gettysburg, the Wilderness, and Spotsylvania Court House, where Gregory was captured. He was imprisoned at Point Lookout, was later transferred to Fort Delaware, remaining there until June, 1865.

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Boxes

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| P. C. 229.1 | Letters (1850-1879) |
| P. C. 229.2 | Letters (1880-1899) |
| P. C. 229.3 | Letters (1902-1903) |
| P. C. 229.4 | Letters (1904-1910, undated) |
| P. C. 229.5 | Miscellaneous Accounts (1849-1905)
Repairs (1877-1880)
School Records (1879-1904) |
| P. C. 229.6 | Organizations (1854-1858)
Clerk Superior Court (1855-1894)
Political Papers (1857-1894)
Civil War Papers (1861-1865; 1898) |
| P. C. 229.7 | Financial Records (1880-1905)
Bank deposits
Cancelled checks
Statements on notes and interest due |
| P. C. 229.8 | Farm Records (1877-1902)
Cotton Shipments (1877-1900)
Cotton Seed Shipments (1900-1902) |
| P. C. 229.9 | Farm Records (1850-1879)
Correspondence - cotton merchants, etc. |
| P. C. 229.10 | Farm Records (1880-1905)
Correspondence - cotton merchants, etc. |
| P. C. 229.11 | Farm Records (1854-1877)
Receipted bills |
| P. C. 229.12 | Farm Records (1878-1884)
Receipted bills |
| P. C. 229.13 | Farm Records (1852-1910)
Receipted bills (1885-1903)
Due bills (1852-1910)
Purchases and Orders (1876-1902) |

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P. C. 229.14	Farm Records (1876-1902) Planting, picking, ginning cotton
P. C. 229.15	Farm Records (1852-1897) Slave Hire (1852-1859) Individual Accounts (1879-1884) Labor Pay Orders (1854-1897)
P. C. 229.16	Farm Records (1876-1904) Food orders, etc. for tenants
P. C. 229.17	Farm Records (1890-1903) Orders and Cash Payments
P. C. 229.18	Farm Records (1904) Orders and Cash Payments
P. C. 229.19	Farm Records (1905) Orders and Cash Payments
P. C. 229.20	Farm Records (1861-1909) Bills of Lading (1861-1909) Hogs killed (1890-1899) Miscellaneous (1872-1902)
P. C. 229.21	Estates Accounts (1852-1891) Benjamin F. Ellis (1852-1858) W. W. Carter (1867-1887) John H. Wood (1873-1891)
P. C. 229.22	Estates Accounts (1861-1884) Godwin C. Whitehead
P. C. 229.23	Broadsides, Pamphlets, etc.

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Gregory married Ellen Augusta Clarke and they had nine children - Mary Maude, Jessie Woodland, Elizabeth Clarke, Edwin Clerke, John Tillery, Jr., Julia Genevieve, Quentin, Fletcher Harrison, and Arthur Wynns.

The papers of John T. Gregory include correspondence from 1850 to 1901, estates records of Benjamin F. Ellis, W. W. Carter, John H. Wood, and a brother-in-law Godwin C. Whitehead, items relating to his office as Clerk of Court, his activities in political and local organizations, a few Civil War papers, school records of his several children, broadsides, advertisements, invitations, programs, etc., but the majority relate to his farming accounts.

The letters, in general, are from family and relatives. The earlier correspondents are Gregory's cousins Pylades and Marcus Smallwood, and G. C. S. Gregory at the medical school, University of Pennsylvania; Mollie Lowe and Mollie Ellis at Chowan Female College; H. L. Tillery, S. H. Brickell, and Henry Snow at Chapel Hill; John Richards from New Orleans; and John Tillery relating his experiences visiting Niagara Falls and Montreal. Gregory's business partner, W. W. Daniels, wrote him instructions for buying and shipping goods on his trip north and, after the war started, wrote him of his intention to sell their stock in the store.

Gregory wrote home from various Civil War camps and, during his imprisonment, from Point Lockout and Fort Delaware. From prison he corresponded with northern relatives and friends, who sought to help him, and with New York merchants in an effort to secure money.

In the years following the war family letters predominate. Daughters Maude and Jessie wrote of their studies in New York and Bettie of hers at St. Mary's in Raleigh. A sister-in-law, Bettie Clarke, teaching at the Granville Female Institute, sought financial aid in her efforts to purchase Henderson Female College. She corresponded with W. H. S. Burgwyn, large stockholder in the school, relative to costs, mortgage, etc. Some of the correspondence - requests for advice and support by candidates seeking local offices - reveals Gregory's political activities.

When Gregory's sons entered school, they wrote home frequently asking for money and relating school news. Edwin, John T., Jr., and Quentin were at Horner's School in Oxford and later at Chapel Hill.

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Maudie and Jessie continued their education in Paris in 1892 and 1894, and Julia was at National Park Seminary, Forest Glen, Maryland. In 1892 Gregory resigned as chairman of the Executive Committee of the Republican Party in his county. He received numbers of letters and invitations welcoming him into the Democratic Party and also replies and promises of support in response to his inquiries about running for Clerk of the Superior Court.

In 1900 Fletcher wrote from Horner's and Quentin from Chapel Hill; Jessie wrote her mother from New York; and Maudie and her husband and John T., Jr., wrote from Newport News. W. T. Plummer, Petersburg, wrote Gregory relative to a Farnell estate, and there was frequent correspondence with Andrew J. Burton, Reidsville, regarding his debt to Gregory.

Arthur entered the Agricultural and Mechanical (State) College at Raleigh in 1902 and became president of his class and captain of the football team. Edwin, married and a lawyer associated with Lee S. Overman in Salisbury, wrote of his family and Overman's political success. Fletcher, at Chapel Hill, informed his family of passing entrance examinations for Annapolis; Jessie described her life in Philadelphia and Atlantic City; and Bessie reported on a Confederate reunion (1903) in Newport News.

In the later years (1905-1910) Tasker Folk corresponded with Gregory about selling a lot the latter owned in Warrenton. Quentin wrote from Tientsin of his work in China and Bettie and Maudie continued writing from Newport News. Julia Gregory and Junius Whitaker Tillery announced their engagement and received letters from many well-wishers.

In addition to deeds, bills of sale, promissory notes, etc. other records reveal several facets of Gregory's life.

Civil War items include: certification of his membership in the Halifax Light Infantry and Gregory's appointment as a proxy to the State Military Convention, Goldsboro, July, 1860; a brief diary, August 23 - 27, 1861, from Camp Carolina; and a list of casualties in the Twelfth North Carolina Troops, August 9, 1862.

In his capacity as Clerk of Court (1855-1889), Gregory accumulated a number of records: bonds for Gregory as Clerk (1855-1857); lists of fees due the Clerk (1857); receipts for payment of witness tickets (1855-1856) and other disbursements by the Clerk; lists of jurors (1855-1857); a list of taxable business houses for a special lien tax in 1876; statement of bills due from the Clerk (1877; 1881); and court costs and judgments in suits. Accounts with Edwin S. Travis (1881-1889) indicate he collected fees and attended to other business for the Clerk.

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The financial and scholastic aspects of the education of his children can be found in various school records (1879-1904) - receipts for tuition to their aunt, Bettie Clarke, (1880-1883); for Jessie, Bettie, Edwin, John T., Jr., and Julia with Miss Sue Carroway (1886); for the boys at Horner's School in Oxford (1892-1895) and later at the University of North Carolina and the Agricultural and Mechanical College in Raleigh. There are also scattered reports on the students from the various teachers and schools.

Gregory's affiliation with the Republican Party and later with the Democratic Party is indicated in lists giving the vote for mayor and town commissioners, registration for Halifax Township (1892), Gregory's figures on his votes in an 1894 election, lists of delegates from Brinkleyville and Enfield in the same year, and drafts of political statements.

Receipted bills, due bills, and purchases and orders (1854-1903) are for personal items, store stock, and farming supplies and equipment. These are from commission merchants, manufacturers, firms selling dry goods, medicines, hardware, and agricultural implements located in New York, Philadelphia, Baltimore, Norfolk, Petersburg, Portsmouth, and in North Carolina Raleigh, Weldon, Whitakers, and Halifax. Some of the bills are for individual services - carpentering, repairing farm equipment, and dental and medical bills. There are subscriptions to magazines and newspapers.

Farm accounts contain records of cotton seed distributed, cotton picked and ginned; "Orders and Cash Payments," food orders for the tenants, labor pay orders, and accounts with several individuals. There are also records of shipments of cotton and cotton seed; notices of receipt and sale by cotton factors; bills of lading for cotton shipped and merchandise sent; correspondence with factors and commission merchants acknowledging arrival of cotton and other produce as well as for articles ordered and sent, and quoting market prices. These records indicate the scope of Gregory's farming.

Estate accounts include Gregory's administration of Benjamin F. Ellis' estate (1852-1858) and his interest in (through debts due him) the estates of W. W. Carter (1867-1887) and John H. Wood (1873-1891). The Godwin C. Whitehead estate records (1861-1884) contain items relating to the settlement and administration of his property, real and personal, by his wife (Gregory's sister) and management of the property in later years.

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A box of miscellaneous materials contains invitations, programs, advertisements and price lists from commission merchants, manufacturers, and publishers of magazines and books, and broadsides. There are several manuscript speeches and essays as well as two printed - Report by Mr. De Saussure of the Committee on the Address to the People of the Southern States on a Portion of the Members of the General Assembly of Georgia, December 22, 1860 and "A Speech of Hon. Nathan Goff, West Virginia, in the House of Representatives, April 27, 1888, American Markets for American Labor." Pamphlets in the collection are: "Labor is Prayer," a poem by Mary Bayard Clarke, 1880; a handbook of the Metropolitan Museum, 1897-1898; and Turner's North Carolina Almanac, 1900. Listed as account books are several small memorandum notebooks, with few entries, dated 1882; 1884; 1886, 1902; 1897 - fish sold; 1902; and a bank book, 1904-1905. There is a small bound volume of the New Testament.