

Collection: BADGETT PAPERS  
Caswell County, N. C.

P.C. 137.1

1777-1889

**Physical Description:** 394 items; includes correspondence, deeds, wills, estates papers, court records, bills, receipts, bills of sale, promissory notes, account books, and miscellaneous papers.

**Acquisition:** July 12, 1935, gift of correspondence, legal and business records, and miscellaneous papers, from Mrs. Van Daniel, Ruffin, N. C. (per Richard D. White, Baltimore, Maryland); February 21, 1972, gift of xeroopies of correspondence and an account book from Mr. Van W. Daniel, Jr., Carolvan Farm, Ruffin, N. C.

**Description:** This collection contains personal correspondence, business papers, and miscellaneous records of the Badgett family, planters in Caswell County. There are also a few papers of the Glass and Cobb families, associates of the Badgetts.

There are records of 4 generations of Badgetts in the collection. The first is John Badgett whose children were Benton, Jonathan, James, Peter, Drucilla, Andrew, Jesse, and William. The last son, William, was the father of John, Henry, Alfred, Mary, Sally, Elizabeth, Recey, and Drucilla. The bulk of the papers were created by Henry Badgett, his wife Martha S. Glass, his father-in-law and business associate John Glass, and children, Thomas J., A. S., Mary E., Emma, John D., and William H. (See genealogical chart.)

The largest category of papers in the collection is correspondence, both incoming and outgoing; most of it is personal in nature, dealing with family matters. Correspondents include family members Henry Badgett, his brother Alfred, and his children John D., Thomas J., Mary E., and William H., as well as John Glass and other business associates.

Personal correspondence includes a number of letters written by Thomas J. Badgett while an undergraduate at the University of North Carolina (1857-1859) and a medical student at the University of Pennsylvania (1859-1861). These describe life in Chapel Hill and Philadelphia; the reaction of Philadelphians to the execution of John Brown (Dec. 10, 1859); an attempt by a group of Philadelphia abolitionists to rescue a fugitive slave who was being returned to his master (Apr. 6, 1860); and a visit to New York (during which he boarded the Great Eastern), Boston,

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West Point, and Providence, Rhode Island (July 23, 1860). A letter written by John D. Badgett from Camp Bee, Virginia, describes some of the hardships of military life, and reports on the efforts underway at Hampton Roads to repair the Merrimac (C.S.S. Virginia) prior to her encounter with the Monitor (Aug. 28, 1861).

The business records are primarily receipts issued to various members of the Badgett family for tax payments, purchase of staples, payment of accounts, etc. Items of particular significance or interest include printed bills of sale for slaves (1834-1859); receipts for sums transferred to Henry Badgett for investment in the slave market (1843-1846); a completed federal income tax return (1867); and receipts for tobacco sold at warehouses in Danville, Virginia (1872-1887). Some items of correspondence also deal with slavery and plantation business. These include a letter from A. Badgett describing his move to Texas and the new plantation (Feb. 1, 1857); one from John D. Badgett which mentions sales and prices of slaves (Feb. 12, 1860); and allusions to weather and planting throughout the correspondence. There is also a xerocopy of Henry Badgett's account book for blacksmithing (1861-1864).

Miscellaneous items of significance include a certificate of unfitness for military service issued to A[lgernon] S[idney] Badgett (May 26, 1864), and a copy of the Richmond Price Current containing reports on the wholesale tobacco, grain, and cattle markets, and a report on the Richmond stock exchange (Jan. 16, 1868).

Finding Aids:

Main Entry Card

Genealogy Card--BADGETT

Date Cards

1777-1779

1780-1789

1790-1799

1800-1809

1810-1819

1820-1829

1830-1839

1840-1849

1850-1859

1860-1869

1870-1879

1880-1889

1777-1889

Finding Aids (Cont'd):

Subject Cards

- AGRICULTURE--Cattle--Market report, Richmond, Va., 1868  
--Grain--Market report, Richmond, Va., 1868  
--Tobacco--Market report, Richmond, Va., 1868  
--Tobacco--Receipts for tobacco sold at warehouses  
in Danville, Va., 1872-1887
- BROWN, JOHN--Execution of, Reaction of the people of Philadelphia  
to the, 1859
- COMMERCE AND BUSINESS--Stock exchange, Report on the Richmond,  
Va., 1868
- EDUCATION--COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES--North Carolina, University  
of (Chapel Hill)--Letters  
from an undergraduate at  
the, 1857-1859  
--Pennsylvania, University of--  
Letters from a medical stu-  
dent at the, 1859-1861
- MASSACHUSETTS--Boston--Visitor's impressions of, 1860
- NEGROES (Before 1865)--Slaves--Abolitionists. Attempt by a group of  
Philadelphia abolitionists to free  
a fugitive slave who was being re-  
turned to his master, 1860  
--Slaves--Bills of sale for, 1834-1859  
--Slaves--Slave market, Speculation in the,  
1843-1846
- NEW YORK--New York City--Visitor's impressions of, 1860
- PENNSYLVANIA--Philadelphia--Abolitionists. Attempt of a group of  
Philadelphia abolitionists to free a  
fugitive slave who was being returned  
to his master, 1860  
--Philadelphia--Brown, John, Reaction of the people of  
Philadelphia to the execution of, 1859
- PUBLICATIONS--NEWSPAPERS--Richmond Price Current, Jan. 16, 1868
- RHODE ISLAND--Providence--Visitor's impressions of, 1860
- SHIPS--Great Eastern--Tourist's impressions of the, 1860  
--Merrimac--Efforts to repair the, 1861
- TAXATION--Federal income--Completed return, 1867
- UNITED STATES MILITARY ACADEMY--Visitor's impressions of the, 1860
- VIRGINIA--Danville--Tobacco--Receipts for tobacco sold at ware-  
houses in Danville, 1872-1887  
--Richmond--Agricultural markets, Reports on various, 1868  
--Richmond--Stock exchange, Report on the Richmond, 1868

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Finding Aids (Cont'd):

Subject Cards (cont'd)

WAR--CIVIL--General--Unfitness for military duty, Certificate  
of, 1864

--Camps--Camp Bee, Va., Conditions at, 1861

--Letters, 1861-1862

Finding Aid completed 13 January 1969 by W. T. Jordan, Jr., and revised and  
rewritten 7 September 1972 by Suzanne Smith.

BADGETT GENEALOGICAL CHART

John Badgett m. Priscilla \_\_\_\_\_  
(d. ca. 1810)

Benton	Jonathan	James	Peter (d. ca. 1837) m. Nancy _____	Drucilla	Andrew	Jesse	William (d. ca. 1868) m. Betsey _____
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John	Henry m. Martha Glass (d. 1892)	Alfred	Mary	Sally m. _____ King	Elizabeth m. Thos. Vass	Recey m. _____ Hester	Drucilla m. _____ King
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William H.	John D. (d. 1862)	Emma	Mary E.	Thomas J. (d. 1860)	Algernon Sidney
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John D. Badgett volunteered into service, Co. G., Reg. 14, in 1861 at the age of 24; he was killed in battle at Williamsburg. (See letter from William H. Badgett [May 12, 1862]).

Thomas Jefferson Badgett received his A.B. degree from Chapel Hill in 1858; he died by drowning at Cape May, New Jersey, in 1860. (See letter from John D. Badgett [Aug. 13, 1860]).