

This is a typed copy of an autobiography of Major Raphael J. Moses (1812-1893), a native of Charleston. As a son of Israel and Deborah Cohen Moses, Raphael was part of an established South Carolina Jewish family with members who had fought in the American Revolution (1775-1883), and various others who served the Confederacy during the Civil War (1861-1865).

Written during the last years of Moses's life, the autobiography included descriptions of his studies at Catholic and other schools, his jobs, and his adventures as a youth in South Carolina, Pennsylvania, and New York. There are also descriptions of his later work as a merchant, investor, and lawyer in Charleston, S.C., Apalachicola, Fla., and Columbus, Ga., and his courtship and marriage to Eliza Matilda (also of South Carolina), when he was twenty-two.

During the Civil War Major Moses served as commissary for Gen. Robert A. Toombs's brigade and Longstreet's corps in Tennessee and Virginia and for the state of Georgia. His anecdotes involved Generals Robert E. Lee, Howell Cobb, James Longstreet, Robert A. Toombs, W. H. T. Walker, J. E. B. Stuart, and others. He also described his destruction of some of Andrew Johnson's papers in Tennessee, and his delivery at the end of the war of Confederate bullion to U.S. Bvt. Gen. Edward L. Molineux, commander of the district of northern Georgia, with headquarters at Augusta.

A Georgia legislator after the war, Moses described postwar "revolution" of society; activities of banks, speculators, carpetbaggers, and freedmen; illegalities in the Georgia lottery; election of 1868; Democratic politics and politicians in Georgia and Muscogee Co.; prejudice against Jews; and a visit with Alexander Stephens. The autobiography includes copies of a letter from Longstreet to Moses about Gettysburg (1890), and one from Moses to W. O. Toggle about religious toleration (1878).

Related Collections:

There is a typescript copy of the autobiography at the Southern Historical Collection, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill; and a photocopy of a typescript copy of the

autobiography, and other Moses family material at the William Breman Jewish Heritage & Holocaust Museum, Atlanta, Ga.; and a typescript copy of the autobiography, 1890, a biography of Raphael Moses written by his grandson Stanford Moses, 1939, and some letters of Raphael Moses.

Subject Headings.

Confederate States of American. Army—Officers—Biography.

Discrimination—19th century.

Georgia—Politics and government.

Jews—Southern States—History—19th century.

Moses, Raphael Jacob, 1812-1893.

Prejudices—United States—19th century.

Reconstruction (U.S. history, 1865-1877)—Georgia.

Toleration—Religious aspects

Sources:

Cain, McGrew, and Morris. *Guide to Private Manuscripts Collections in the North Carolina State Archives* (Raleigh, N.C.: Dept. of Cultural Resources, Div. of Archives & History, 1981), 286.

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Finding aid by Fran Tracy-Walls

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