

Collection: Bennet T. Blake Papers

P.C. 1554.1

1855, 1875-1879, 1901-1911
Wake County

Physical Description: 79 items; letters, list, receipts, promissory note, envelopes.

Acquisition: Gift of William Doub Bennett, ~~415 Raleigh Blvd.~~, Raleigh (additional addresses: ~~1824 Lafayette St.~~, Rocky Mount, and Board of Health, Bath Building, Raleigh), May 9, 1974.

Description: Of the 56 letters in this collection, 49 were written 1877-1878 by the Reverend Bennet Taylor Blake, a Methodist minister who lived at Oaky Plantation* (7 miles from Raleigh), to his grandson the Reverend William Blake Doub, Harrisville, Montgomery County. Blake, who was 79 years old when he finished this series of letters, had been a trustee and teacher at the Greensboro Female College, pastor at Edenton Street Methodist Church in Raleigh (1827, 1831, 1841), and principal of the Raleigh Female Classical Institute, 1853. His first wife was Fetney Price. The daughter of this marriage, Laura, married William Clark Doub,* a graduate of Randolph Macon College, who taught at the Greensboro Female College, Trinity College, and Louisburg Female College. He was also the editor of the North Carolina Star, which he bought from Thomas Lemay in 1853. Laura Blake Doub, who had been a "governess" at the Classical Institute (1853), died in 1855; her children Landon L. and William B. were raised by her people in Wake County.

Bennet Blake's second marriage was to his sister-in-law Scheherazade Price Mial, widow of Thomas Mial, Jr. and mother of Alonzo T. Mial of Wake County [See Alonzo T. and Millard Mial Papers and Account Books, P.C. 132.1-132.27 and A.B. 67-68]. Attached genealogical chart notes family connections germane to this collection.

In the 49 grandfather to grandson letters from April 7, 1877, to November 26, 1878, Bennet Blake writes of his early life (death of mother in 1811, surviving brother in Tennessee, early ministerial posts); daily activities on the farm (his chore of feeding the chickens, grandson

*Oaky Grove Plantation: See also Bennet T. Blake's account books for Oaky Grove in ACCOUNT BOOK COLLECTION, AB 68.1, Bennet Blake & Co., 1835-1837, and AB 68.2, 1837-1849 [ca. 1/3 of book], in addition to account book in this collection, 1836-1837.

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Description (Cont'd)

Landon's farming with help from tenants and day laborers); activities of relatives, neighbors, or fellow ministers (Goodloe, Jones, Powell, Moore, Williamson, Sewell, Wilson, Holden, Yates, Hinton, etc.). There is reference to a well-run Sunday school at nearby Good Hope Church (Negro), to Messrs. Fray, Mial and Lee's new business in Raleigh, to William Clark Doub enroute to Louisburg "to take control of the Female College" (July 15, 1878), as well as an opinion of the editorials in the Raleigh Christian Advocate (November 5, 1878).

Through all the letters is evidence of the mutual interest of the two men in theology and the grandfather's absorption with the aging process. The latter describes his aging body (lack of energy, malfunction of various systems, quality of sleep, etc.). However, comments on the deterioration of his mind are most interesting: his tendency to employ mental pictures in place of reason; his working out of theological problems for mental exercise; attempts to dispel useless vagaries that infuse his mind; the difficulty of making "any mental excursion beyond myself," and the pleasure at mustering sufficient concentration to preach occasionally at the Oaky Grove Methodist Church.

Miscellaneous items include letters from Laura Blake Doub, Oaky Grove, to her mother-in-law, 1855; an exchange between Alonzo T. Mial and his nephew William B. Doub concerning payment of a poll tax, 1875; C. G. Yates, Greensboro, re an errant son, 1875; Landon Doub to William Doub, re financial matters at the farm, 1878; William Doub to Josie, his fiancée 1879, re new pastoral assignment; "Aunt Susie," Marion, Indiana, to Landon, RFD, Raleigh, 1902; George T. Simmons, Mill Brook, to Landon, re Oaky Grove Church membership, 1907 [enclosure missing]; and [Aunt Ann] Solomon [Oaky Grove] to William Doub, n.d. Also receipts for hay (1875) and insurance (1901), a promissory note for 2700 lbs. of cotton (or \$400) for 7 tons of fertilizer, 1876; and a fragment of a grocery list, 1911.

Arrangement of Papers:

P.C. 1554.1

Folder 1	Letters (21) to Grandson, 1877
2	Letters (28) to Grandson, 1878, n.d.
3	Miscellaneous, 1855, 1875-1879, 1901-1911, n.d.

Bennet T. Blake Papers

1855, 1875-1879, 1901-1911
Wake County

Arrangement of Papers (Cont'd)

Finding Aids:

Main Entry Card
Geographical Card
Wake County
Date Card
1877-1878
Autograph Cards
Blake, B[ennett] T[aylor]
Doub, L[andon] L.
[Doub], Laura [Blake]
[Doub], William [Blake]
Mial, A[lonzo] T[homas]
Yates, C. G.

Subject Cards

GOOD HOPE CHURCH
LOUISBURG FEMALE COLLEGE
METHODISTS
NEGROES
OLD AGE
RALEIGH CHRISTIAN ADVOCATE
WAKE COUNTY

SEE ALSO:

State Library: Rev. Peter Doub, Address Delivered before the Grand Division of N. C. Sons of Temperance at the October Session, 1852, (Raleigh, 1853); M. T. and A. W. Plyler, Men of the Burning Heart Ivey, Dow, Doub (Raleigh, 1918); Rev. L. S. Burkhead, ed. Addresses Delivered at the First Centennial Mass-Meeting Celebration, Metropolitan Hall, Raleigh, March 21-26, 1876 (Raleigh, 1876); Mouzon W. Bradham, A History of Sunday School Work in the N. C. Conference, Methodist Episcopal Church, South (Greensboro, 1925).

*William Clark Doub's father was the Reverend Peter Doub who served the Methodist Church in North Carolina for 51 years as circuit rider, pastor at Edenton Street Methodist Church, temperance preacher, first professor of Biblical Literature at Trinity College [See Duke University Manuscript Department, Peter Doub Diary, 1819-1834, 1 vol; William Clark Doub Papers, 1778 (1820-1850) 1899, 313 items and 1 vol.]

Collection: Bennet T. Blake Papers

1836-1919 [passim]
Wake and Lee Counties

Physical Description: 108 items, including 2 volumes; letters, list, programs, photographs, compiled genealogies, Bible records, quarterly, etc.

Acquisition: Gift of William Doub Bennett, ~~415~~ ~~Petersburg, Va.~~, Raleigh.
August 18 and 20, 1975.

Description: Bennett Blake's account book for a store at Oaky Grove, Wake County, 1836-1837, contains an 8-page listing of goods purchased in Petersburg, Virginia, and 29 pages of goods on hand, both for April, 1836. The balance of the volume, 145 pages, is a day book of items listed under the purchaser's name, August 24, 1836-March 30, 1837. A fragment of a ledger listing 140 subscribers to the North Carolina Star, 1853-1855, includes ca. ten counties [photostat]. W. C. Doub, Bennett Blake's son-in-law edited The Star during those years. Letters by Doub to his sons Landon and William describe the legal status of the Oaky Grove property under Bennett Blake's management (June 28, 1875) and Doub's views on how to establish a stable and durable marriage (January 15, 1880).

Laura Doub, Blake's great-granddaughter, was a World War I army nurse. Included are 27 letters from Laura to her family written between March, 1918, and August, 1919. Twenty-four of the letters were written while she was stationed at Base Hospital 115 in Vichy, France, and later at Evacuation Hospital 26 in Neuenahr near Coblenz, Germany. These most literate, thoughtful, and engaging letters describe army hospital life after the Armistice, especially the carefree off duty hours of social activity.

Doub family photographs (7): Included are pictures of William C. Doub and a group picture with Laura, Josephine, and Belle Doub.

Bennett, T. Blake Papers

1836-1919 [passim]
Wake and Lee Counties

Description (Cont'd)

Miscellaneous papers include school programs, a quarterly, etc. of the Southern Presbyterian College and Conservatory of Music in Red Springs, Robeson County [later Flora McDonald College], 1907, 1912; program, calling card, advertisement for the Select Boarding and Day School of the Misses Nash & Kollock, Hillsboro, N. C., 1876, 1881, n.d.; three photographs (postcard size) of Newbern, ca. 1900, fire engines, railroad car, and steamship; an indifferent account book kept by Landon L. Doub for a store, 1909-1913, n.d. [passim].

Compiled genealogies and associated photographs concern the following families: Bryan, Buie, Dalrymple, Jones, McIver, Bennett, etc. It is believed that Temple Jones is shown wearing the uniform of the Bingham Military Academy ca. 1878.

Arrangement of Papers:

These additional papers are in P.C. 1554.2 with the exception of Bennett Blake's account book, W. C. Doub's two letters, and the subscription list for the Star which are with the Bennett Blake letters in P.C. 1554.1.

Finding Aids:**Autograph Cards:**

Doub, William C., 1875, 1880

Subject Cards:

BINGHAM MILITARY SCHOOL, [ca. 1878?]

FLORA McDONALD COLLEGE, 1907, 1912

GENEALOGY, COMPILED [Bryan, Buie, Dalrymple, Jones, McIver, Bennett]

LEE COUNTY, 1913-1914, n.d.

NASH & KOLLOCK SCHOOL, 1876, 1881-1882

NEW BERN, ca. 1900

NEWSPAPER - N. C. STAR, 1853-1855

- ROCKY MOUNT EVENING NEWS, 1895

PHOTOGRAPHS

WAKE COUNTY, 1836-1837

WAR - World War I

WOMEN - Marriage, 1880

- World War I

Finding Aid completed 28 August 1975 by Ellen Z. McGrew

WORK SHEET

NUMBER: P.C. 1554.1 (Addition)

NAME OF COLLECTION: Blake, Bennett T., Papers.

DATES: 1918, 1928

ACQUISITION INFORMATION: Gift of Mr. William D. Bennett, [REDACTED],
Raleigh on November 9, 1976; accessioned:
January 31, 1977.

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: 2 items

HISTORY AND DESCRIPTION: Peter Doub was the brother of Laura Doube, WWI
Army nurse whose letters are in P.C. 1554. The 1918 letter from an unlisted
army man, a routine sort of letter about daily army routine.

In the 1928 letter Doub describes the business situation in
California.

PRIVATE COLLECTIONS WORK SHEET

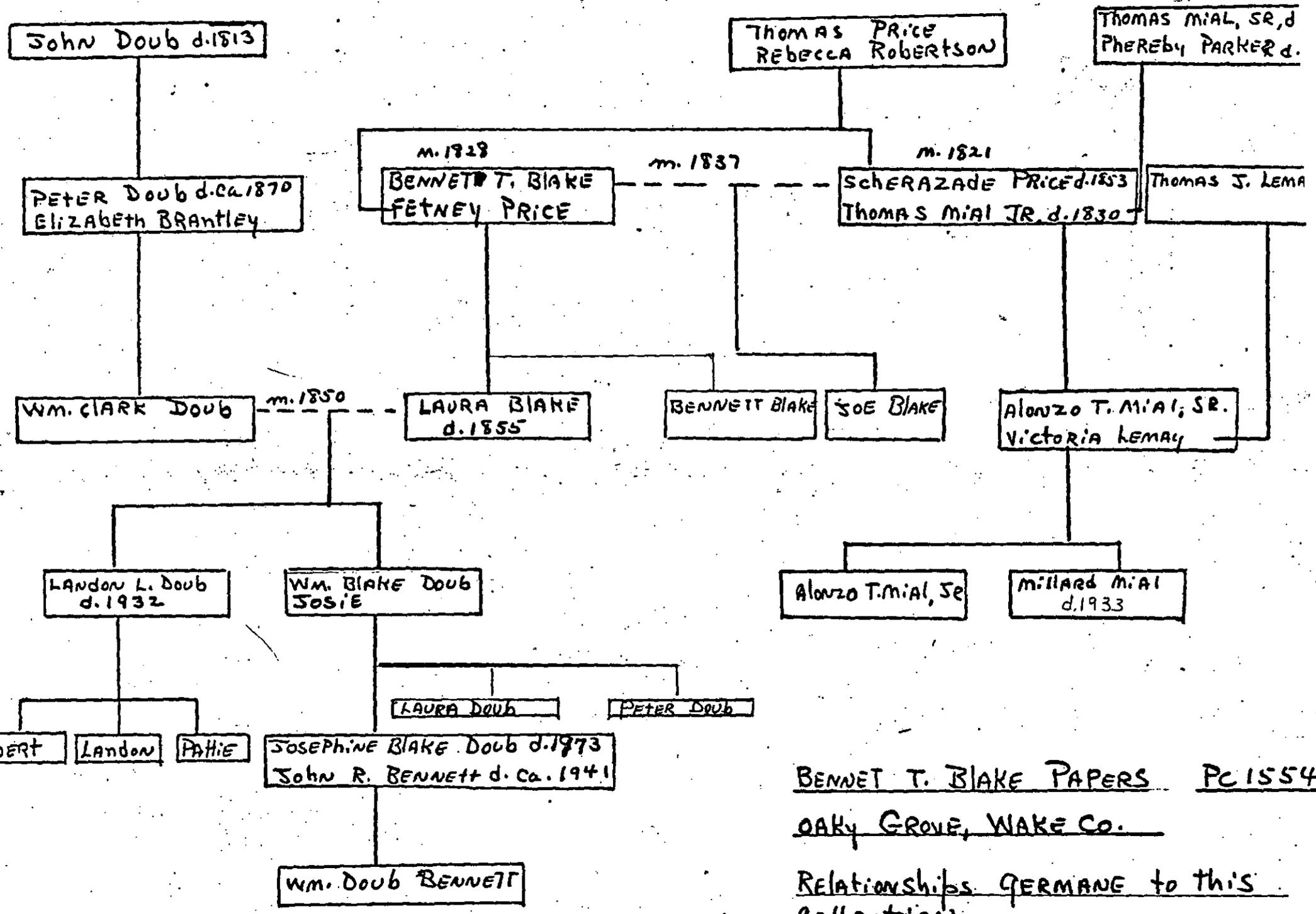
NUMBER: PC.1554.2 (Addition)

NAME OF COLLECTION: Bennet T. BLAKE Papers

DATES: 1907-1921

ACQUISITION INFORMATION: Gift, William D. Bennett, Raleigh, N.C., Apr. 18, 1997.

HISTORY AND DESCRIPTION: 3 postcards, 1907-1919, to or from Laura Doub, post-card photograph of Laura Doub and two others, and 1 letter, [Aug. 23, 1921], from Bessie Doub to her mother, Mrs. L. L. Doub of Wendell, N.C.



BENNET T. BLAKE PAPERS PC 1554

OAKY GROVE, WAKE CO.

Relationships GERMANE to this collection