

**Mississippi State University Library
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Manuscripts Division**

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Guide to the North Mississippi Probate and Chancery Court Records collection

- Title:** North Mississippi Probate and Chancery Court Records collection
- Accession Number:** 352
- Creator:** Various
- Extent:** .66 cubic feet; 2 manuscript boxes
- Inclusive Dates:** 1836 – 1971 (Bulk Dates: 1836-1911)
- Abstract:** Probate and Chancery Court documents and other materials from North Mississippi; the bulk of the collection is from Itawamba County.
- Provenance:** This collection was donated by Randy Sparks, a former graduate history student at Mississippi State, in 1980-81.
- Processed by:** Collection processed by Karen A. Holcomb, January 1985; Finding Aid created by Jennifer McGillan, June 2018
- Preferred Citation:** North Mississippi Probate and Chancery Court Records collection, Manuscripts Division, Special Collections Department, Mississippi State University Libraries.
- Access:** Open without restriction.
- Copyright Statement:** Any requests for permission to publish, quote, or reproduce materials from this collection must be submitted in writing to the Manuscripts Librarian for Special Collections. Permission for publication is given on behalf of Mississippi State University as the owner of the physical items and is not intended to include or imply permission of the copyright holder, which must also be obtained.
- Language:** English

HISTORICAL NOTE

These records provide a glimpse into farming life in North Mississippi from the antebellum period through Reconstruction, and beyond. Composed mostly of Probate and Chancery Court records, the papers include numerous property inventories, estate sale records and expense reports, which document the costs of everyday life, and of death.

SCOPE AND CONTENT

The collection encompasses material from four North Mississippi counties - Itawamba, Pontotoc, Calhoun, and Tishomingo--with some references made to Limestone County, Alabama. The bulk of the collection is from Itawamba County.

The bulk of the material dates from 1836 to 1911, with the exception of an address book that contains information as recent as the 1970s, and a diary that possibly dates from the 1930s. Included in the collection are probate and chancery court records; deeds; sheriff's tax receipts; wills; and guardianship papers. There is also one photocopy of a Civil War letter dated April 27, 1861.

ARRANGEMENT

The collection is arranged alphabetically by subject heading, generally by estate or county names, and includes three miscellaneous folders. Whenever possible, county names are listed by the estate names on the folder labels.

SUBJECT TERMS

NAMES:

Beachem, John
Bolton, Richard
Buchanan, Simon
Busch, John
Crayton, R.C.
Dunavent, F.
McDougal, D.R.
Maxcy, John
Roberts, Reuben
Rogers, W.A.
Trayler, David H.
Walker, Sallie
Whitesides, J.A.
Whitten, George

SUBJECTS:

Mississippi – Legal History
Mississippi – Probate Court
Mississippi – Chancery Court.
Mississippi – Itawamba County

CONTAINER LIST

Box 1

Folder

- 1 John Beacham papers, 1846-1848
- 2 Richard Bolton papers, Pontotoc County, 1887
- 3 Simon Buchanan estate papers, 1847-1859
- 4-5 John Busch papers, Lafayette, Calhoun, and Pontotoc Co., 1851-1893
- 6 Calhoun County records, 1870-1882
- 7-8 R. C. Crayton papers, Itawamba Co., 1839-1875
- 9 F. Dunavant Estate, Calhoun, Pontotoc Co., 1889-1911
- 10-11 Itawamba County Chancery Court papers, 1866-1906
- 12 Itawamba County Probate records, 1848-1869
- 13 Itawamba County Sheriff and Justice of the Peace papers, 1845-1876

Box 2

- 1 D. R. McDougal papers, Itawamba Co., 1906
- 2 John Maxcy papers, Itawamba Co., 1856-1857
- 3 Miscellaneous folder, 1852-1857
- 4 Mississippi Dairy and Creamery laws, 2 copies, 1928 (missing)
- 5 Pontotoc County records, 1836-1896
- 6 Powell Estate papers, 1836-1856
- 7 Reuben Roberts papers, 1854-1857
- 8 W. A. Rogers papers, Itawamba Co., 1858-1871
- 9 Ross Family papers, Itawamba Co., 1846-1852
- 10-11 David H. Trayler papers, Itawamba Co., 1860-1869 2 folders
- 12 Sallie Walker papers, 1865
- 13 James Whitesides papers, 1861
- 14 Thomas S. Whitesides to Capt. James Bullard re: leave to attend to family problems, Woodlawn, MS, April 27, 1861 (photocopy)
- 15 George Whitten papers, Itawamba Co., 1855-1861
- 16 Miscellaneous items, [ca. 1935- ca. 1971]
- 17 Miscellaneous items, not dated