# **TAIT FAMILY PAPERS, 1786-1899**

# Finding aid

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# Tait Family: Biographical Sketches

#### First Generation

Charles Tait was born 1 Feb. 1768 in Louisa Co., Va., to James and Rebecca Hudson Tait. The entire family moved to Petersburg, Elbert Co., Ga., in 1783. He attended Wilkes Academy in Washington, Ga. About that time he was thrown from a horse and received injuries necessitating the amputation of his leg. He attended Cokebury College in Abingdon, Md., beginning in 1788, and soon became an instructor. While at the college, he married a widow, Mrs. Anne Lucas Simpson of Baltimore, Md., on 3 Jan. 1790. He remained there until1794, studying law while teaching. In 1795 he returned to Ga. and was admitted to the bar. A few weeks later he became rector of Richmond Academy in Augusta, Ga. Soon there after, future Senator William H. Crawford became his assistant.

In 1798 Tait began a law practice in Lexington, Elbert Co., Ga. The following year Crawford joined him, and both quickly became involved in the political feud growing out of the Yazoo land frauds. Tait, elected to the Georgia Senate in 1799, was a prominent leader in the Virginia faction that opposed the Yazoo sales, consecutively known as the Jackson, Crawford, and Troup party. John Clark led the North Carolina, or opposition party. Several duels were fought between the two factions.

Tait served as the elected judge of the Superior Court of the western district of Georgia., 1803-1809, during which time he incurred the personal wrath of John Clark, who petitioned the legislature to impeach Tait. When that failed, Clark attacked Tait through pamphlets. Tait also served as U.S. Senator from Georgia, 1809-1819, helping Alabama achieve statehood, supporting the Navy, and befriending John C. Calhoun.

Upon retirement from the Senate, he visited the Academy of Natural Sciences in Philadelphia, where he met Dr. Isaac Lea, a prominent paleontologist.

Tait then moved to Monroe Co., Ala., in 1819 to join his son, James A., who had moved there in 1817. In 1820 President James Monroe appointed Charles Tait as the first federal judge of the District of Ala. On 1 May 1822 he married Mrs. Sarah Williamson Griffin of Ga., who was the widow of John Griffin, a former political enemy, and the sister of Judge Peter Williamson of Lowndes Co., Ala.

Tait resigned his position as federal judge in 1826 to attend to his Wilcox Co. plantation near Claiborne, and to devote himself to increased scientific study. His devotion to scientific study resulted in his discovery of one of the notable finds of Eocene deposits in the country. This resulted in his election to the American Philosophical Society. In 1832 he was elected a correspondent of the Academy of Natural Sciences. He was offered the mission to Great Britain in 1828, but declined it. He died 7 Oct. 1835 in Wilcox Co., Ala., formerly part of Monroe Co.

Children by his first wife Anne Lucas Simpson:

- 1. Charles Jefferson, who died in infancy
- 2. James A. Tait.

#### Spouse:

**Anne Lucas** first married a Mr. Simpson before marrying Judge Charles Tait in Baltimore, Md., 3 Jan. 1790. She had a child named Lucy by her first marriage, and two children by her marriage to Tait.

#### Brother of Judge Charles Tait:

**James M. Tait** was born ca. 1760-1775 in Louisa Co. Va., to James and Rebecca Hunt Tait. He also moved to Georgia and lived close to his brother Charles in Elbert Co., Ga., until Nov.1818, when he joined his nephew, James A. Tait, in Monroe Co., Ala.

#### **Second Generation**

James A. (James Asbury) Tait was born 8 Sept. 1791 in Baltimore, Md., to Charles and Anne Lucas Tait. He may have graduated from Harvard University. During the War of 1812, Tait rose from the rank of private to captain in the Georgia militia by 18 Apr. 1814. During that conflict the served at Fort Claiborne (Ala.) under Gen. Ferdinand Leigh Claiborne. Before 1815 he married Elizabeth Caroline Goode. While serving at Fort Claiborne, Tait determined to settle in that area at the end of the war. Thus in 1817 he entered land which he christened "Dry Forks Plantation." It was located about eight miles north of what is now Camden, Wilcox Co., Ala.

The site is thirty miles north of Claiborne, at that time the county seat of Monroe Co., Alabama Territory. In 1835 he expanded or built a larger home on his land which reflected his success and wealth at operating a plantation. He died 10 Feb. 1855 in Wilcox Co., Ala.

#### Children:

- 1. Charles W., m. Louisa Williams
- 2. Felix, m. Narcissa Goree
- 3. Robert, m. Mary J. Erwin
- 4. James G., m. Adelle Barnes, then Amelia Barnes
- 5. Sarah, m. Robert H. Ervin
- 6. Rebecca, m. William Dock King
- 7. Martha, m. Franklin King Beck
- 8. Caroline, m. W. S. Dulaney

#### Spouse:

**Elizabeth C. (Elizabeth Caroline) Goode** was born 15 Nov. 1794 to William and Sarah James Goode in Virginia. She married James A. Tait before 1815, and joined him in Alabama in Oct. 1817. She and her husband had eight children. She died 4 Oct. 1865 in Wilcox Co. Ala., at the home of her daughter, Mrs. R. H. Ervin.

#### Third Generation

**Charles W. (Charles Williams) Tait** was born in 1815 to James A. and Elizabeth C. Tait in Wilcox Co., Ala. He graduated from the University of Alabama, 1834, and from the Medical University of Pennsylvania, also known as Jefferson Medical College, 1838. He was an assistant surgeon in the U.S. Navy, 1838-1843; allegedly murdered Whitmill N. Rives, 1844; was a surgeon in the Texas

Volunteers during the Mexican War, 1846; a major in the Texas Volunteers, C.S.A., during the Civil War; and at some point was a member of the General Assembly of Texas. He married Louisa Williams in Lafayette, Tex., 14 Feb. 1848. He died in 1878.

#### Children:

- 1. Caroline, m. Judge Wells Thompson
- 2. Martha
- 3. Gilmer
- 4. Louisa, m. Samuel Green
- 5. Jane
- 6. Robert
- 7. William
- 8. Ultima

**Felix Tait** was born 13 Nov. 1822 to James A. and Elizabeth C. Tait in Wilcox Co., Ala. He was educated at Howard College and at the University of Ala. He graduated from the latter school with the degree of A.B. in 1843, and received an honorary A.M. degree from the same school in 1850.

He volunteered in the Mexican War, and served as a private. After that conflict he married Narcissa Goree, 10 Sept. 1850, purchased a plantation on the Alabama river, and built a home. He was a trustee of the University of Ala., 1856-1861; and represented Wilcox Co. in the Alabama Legislature, 1857-1861.

During the Civil War he volunteered, and was elected major of the C.S.A.  $23^{rd}$  Alabama Infantry Regiment. After that war he lived in comparative retirement, though in 1874 he served as a state senator from Wilcox Co. He was a Methodist, a Mason, and a Democrat, and died 10 July 1899 in Wilcox Co., Ala.

#### Children:

- 1. John, d. young
- 2. Caroline, m. Rev. Henry D. Moore
- 3. Anne, m. William E. Moore
- 4. Sarah, d. young
- 5. James A., d. 1898
- 6. Charles Edwin, m. Adah Foster
- 7. Julia, m. Samuel W. McDowell
- 8. Felix, m. Fannie Merriweather
- 9. Laura, m. Willis N. Bragg
- 10. Albert Lucas
- 11. Porter King, m. Daisie Berney
- 12. Elinor Elizabeth, m. Leonard Godbold.

#### Spouse:

**Narcissa Goree** was the daughter of John Rabb and Sarah Elizabeth King Goree of Marion, Perry Co. Ala. She married Felix Tait on 10 Sept. 1850 and they had twelve children.

**Robert Tait** was born to James A. and Elizabeth C. Tait in Wilcox Co., Ala. He apparently attended Madison College.

**James G. (James Goode) Tait** was born 4 July 1833 to James A. and Elizabeth C. Tait in Wilcox Co., Ala. He attended the University of Alabama, 1849-1850, and graduated from Harvard University, A. B., 1853. He engaged in planting in Wilcox Co., Ala., was a Democrat and a Methodist. He married Adele Augusta Barnes, then Minnie Amelia Barnes. He and his first wife had fourteen children. James G. Tait died 23 May 1911 in Wilcox Co., Ala.

Children who lived beyond childhood included:

- 1. Edward Barnes, m. Minerva C. Watson
- 2. Felix Milton, m. Irma McCants Coy
- 3. James G., m. Fannie Preston
- 4. Albert Lucas, m. Elizabeth Sellers
- 5. Olivia
- 6. Julia, m. Dr. Charles H. McMillan.

**Sarah A. (Sarah Asbury) Tait** was born 1 Sept. 1826 to James A. and Elizabeth C. Tait. She married Robert H. Ervin, 5 June 1848.

#### Children:

- 1. Albert G., m. Elizabeth Cumming
- 2. Jennie Fee, m. Dr. Larkin
- 3. Aurora Roberts, m. Huriosco Austill
- 4. Caroline, m. Anderson J. Phillips
- 5. Lela G., m. Arthur McDaniel
- 6. Martha Beck, m. John W. Pharr
- 7. Samuel James (?), m. Madison Coat McWilliams
- 8. Robert Pybas, m. Frances Pybas.

**Rebecca S. Tait** was born 21 Dec. 1836 to James A. and Elizabeth C. Tait. She married William Douglas King. They had nine children, two of whom died young.

Children who lived to adulthood:

- 1. Anne Alson, m. Frances S. Morrisette
- 2. Erwin Douglas, m. Nan (?)
- 3. James, m. Mary T. Scott
- 4. Caroline G., m. Henry Hunter Lett
- 5. Paul, m. Clementine DeLoach
- 6. Alabama, m. John W. Pharr
- 7. William Douglas, m. Fanny Homer.

# Tait Family Papers: Finding Aid Originals are restricted—Microfilm is open for research

#### **Title/Description/Date(s)**

#### Microfilm reel

#### I. GENEALOGY, n.d.

Reel 1

This series contains genealogical data, including biographical sketches of Charles Tait and Sarah Tait. There is also a great deal of information on their descendants, especially the James A. Tait branch, as well as information on the Goode family, 1771, etc.; the Barton family; the Branch family; and miscellaneous notes on numerous other families. Tait family material in the front, unarranged thereafter.

Box 1, Folder 1

n.d.

Reel 1

#### II. LEGAL RECORDS, 1786-1865.

Reels 1, 8

This series contains two subseries, further detailed below: **A.** Non-land documents, 1798-1865; and **B.** Land records, 1786-1837.

#### **A.** Non-land records, 1795-1865

This subseries contains three sub-subseries, further detailed below: **1.** Documents, 1801-1865; **2.** Estate book, with financial and genealogical records, 1798-1834; and **3.** Slave records, 1795-1842 and n.d.

#### 1. Documents, 1801-1865

This sub-series contains the records, 1800-1812, of the estate of James Tait, the father of Charles Tait; legal notes, 1801-1804; a will, 1807; the exact copy of the appointment of Charles Tait to the position of judge of the U.S. for the district of Alabama, 13 May 1820, depositions; bonds; at least one charge to a grand jury, 20 June 1825; and other documents, including 1865 and 1868 contracts between James G. Tait and some freedmen. Arranged chronologically exact.

Box 1, Folder 2	Documents	1801-1865	Reel 1
	Oversized material:		
Box 6, Folder 1	James Tait estate record	1800-1812	Reel 8
Box 7, Folder 1	Will, James Hines	1807 Aug. 20	
Box 7, Folder 2	Contract, James G. Tait with freedmen	1865 July 3	

#### II. LEGAL RECORDS, 1786-1865. (continued)

**2.** Estate books with financial and genealogical records, 1798-1834.

This item contains the estate record, 1798-1809, for James Tait, the father of Charles Tait, on sheets 12-33. On sheets 1-11 there are financial records, such as memorandum of receipts, accounts for various individuals, and various other items. Among the lists that are interesting is a "list of negro men whose clothes are not given out," 1828; and beginning at the back of the volume, a list, Sept. 1818, of every book in Charles Tait's library; a register, 1800-1834, of the births of African-Americans; a register, 1826, of the deaths of African-Americans; a list, 1829, of African-Americans under ten years of age; a catalogue, 1831, of African-Americans; and other items.

Box 1, Folder 3 1798-1834 Reel 1

3. Slave records, 1795-1842 and n.d.

In this sub-series are records related to slaves, the bulk of which are legal agreements, as well as memoranda, receipts, and lists of slaves. Of special interest is a valuation of slaves of the estate of James Tait, 29 Aug. 1816. Arranged chronologically exact. See also series VI, VII. XIV.

Box 1, Folder 4 1795-1842, n.d. Reel 1

## **B.** Land records, 1786-1833.

These records consist primarily of indentures and deeds related to the land holdings of the Tait family in Wilkes Co., Ga., and in what is now Wilcox Co., Ala. The records document the extensive land holdings acquired primarily by Charles and James A. Tait, in many cases after first being acquired by John Griffin and others. Arranged chronologically exact.

Box 1, Folder 5	Land records	1786-1833	Reel 1
	Oversized material:		
Box 6, Folder 2	Indenture between Timothy Warhurst	1797 Mar. 1	Reel 8
	and John Griffin, Wilkes Co., Ga.		
Box 6, Folder 3	Indenture between Thomas L. and Eliza	1797 May 22	
	Carnes and John Griffin, Wilkes Co., Ga.	•	
Box 6, Folder 4	Indenture between Elizah and Nancy	1802 Oct. 2	
	Reynolds and John Griffin, Wilkes Co., Ga.		

# **Title/Description/Date(s)**

# II. LEGAL RECORDS, 1786-1865. (continued)

**B.** Land records, 1786-1833. (continued)

Box 6, Folder 5	Indenture between Mr. Johnson and John Griffin, Wilkes Co., Ga.	1802 Oct. 5	Reel 8
Box 7, Folder 3	Indenture, between Richard Call and Thomas Goodwin, Wilkes Co., Ga.	1788 Feb. 4	
Box 7, Folder 4	Indenture between John Grimes and Huntingdon, Wilkes Co., Ga.	1792 Mar. 8	
Box 7, Folder 5	Indenture between John Smith and Benjamin Sims, Wilkes Co., Ga.	1792 May 27	
Box 7, Folder 6	Indenture between Benjamin Hubert and James Moses, Wilkes Co., Ga.	1792 Aug. 24	
Box 7, Folder 7	Indenture between William and Frances Terrell and John Griffin, Wilkes Co., Ga.	1795 June 5	
Box 7, Folder 8	Indenture between Micajah Williamson, Jr., and Jefferson Williamson, Wilkes Co.	1795 Sept. 25	
Box 7, Folder 9	Indenture, between John Springer, et al, and John Griffin, Wilkes Co., Ga.	1797 June 27	
Box 7, Folder 10	Indenture between William Coats and John Griffin, Wilkes Co., Ga.	1797 Nov. 2	
Box 7, Folder 11	Indenture between Howell Jarrett and John Sims, Wilkes Co., Ga.	1798 May 25	
Box 7, Folder 12	Indenture between Howell Jarrett and Gustavus Gaines, Wilkes Co., Ga.	1799 Mar. 1	
Box 7, Folder 13		1799 Mar. 11	
Box 7, Folder 14		1799 July 5	
Box 7, Folder 15	Indenture between Benajah and Elizabeth Smith and John Griffin, Wilkes Co., Ga.	1799	
Box 7, Folder 16	Indenture between Benjamin and Tammy Brensham and John Griffin, Wilkes Co., Ga.	1800 May 15	
Box 7, Folder 17		1805 July 10	
Box 7, Folder 18	Indenture between Allen Canborn and John Griffin, in Wilkes Co., Ga.	1806 Feb. 24	
Box 7, Folder 19	Indenture between William W. Williamson and John Griffin, Wilkes Co., Ga.	1806 May 8	
Box 7, Folder 20	Land grants, Charles and James A. Tait	1824-1837	
Box 7, Folder 21	Plat map, James A. Tait, Ala.	n.d.	
Box 7, Folder 22	Plat map, Ala.	n.d.	

#### III. ELECTORAL RECORDS, 1824.

This series contains three documents announcing who the Alabama presidential electors were, and for which candidate for president and vice-president each voted in that election.

Box 1, Folder 6 1824

Reel 1

#### IV. ARCHITECTURAL RECORDS, n.d.

This series contains two schematic drawings and notes for a furnace. Box 6, Folder 6 n.d.

Reel 8

#### V. CHARLES TAIT PAPERS, 1791-1836 and n.d.

Reels 1-3

This series contains three subseries, further detailed below: **A.** Correspondence and letters, general, 1791-1835 and n.d.; **B.** Business letters, 1816-1835; and **C.** Financial records, 1802-1836. See also series X.

## A. Correspondence and letters, general, 1791-1835 and n.d.

This subseries contains correspondence and letters, though there are many more letters to Tait than there is correspondence. Various subjects are covered, particularly Georgia – politics and government; Alabama – description and travel; Alabama – politics and government; family matters; and the Lea-Conrad scientific controversy, 1825-1835. Other subjects discussed include: tobacco growing in Georgia; illnesses; William H. Crawford's experiences as Minister to France, 1814-1816, including the defeat of Napoleon; Henry Clay's description of the treaty negotiations in Ghent attempting to resolve the War of 1812 with the British; U.S. – politics and government; the admission of Alabama as a state into the U.S.; settling and operating a plantation in the state of Alabama; displacement of and war with Native Americans; agricultural pursuits in Georgia and Alabama; John C. Calhoun's discussion of Andrew Jackson's capture of Pensacola, Florida, and other matters related to the U.S. War Departments; Ala. law and legislation; navigation on the Tennessee River.

Other subjects discussed include the selection of Cahaba as the capital of Alabama; education in Alabama; U. S. annexation of Florida; U.S. diplomatic relations with Great Britain, France, and Spain; the Missouri compromise; the political fight in Alabama between the Georgia faction and the North

V. CHARLES TAIT PAPERS, 1791-1836 and n.d. (Continued) **A.** Correspondence and letters, general, 1791-1835 and n.d. (Continued)

Carolina faction; sectionalism in the U. S. between the North and the South; and the nomination and ratification of Tait to the position of federal judge.

Subjects discussed after 1820 include: purchasing public lands; disposition of lands acquired from the Creek nation; retrenchment in the U.S. government; diplomatic recognition of governments in Latin America; marketing cotton; the presidential election of 1824; electioneering and political maneuvering in Alabama, Georgia, and the U.S. as a whole; England – description and travel; paleontology; an 1832 cholera epidemic in Mobile, Ala.; Europe – description and travel; the University of Alabama; steamboats, and a steamboat accident near Mobile, 1834; a sea journey from Mobile to New York; and many other subjects.

Among the major correspondents are family members: James Tait, James A. Tait, James M. Tait, William H. Tait, Martha B. Wilson, Elizabeth C. Tait, Martha B. Tait, Sarah Tait, Mary Campbell, and Charity Alston, with James A. Tait and his wife Elizabeth being the primary correspondents. Letters from Charles Tait to James A. and Elizabeth are in their papers within this collection. In addition, political figures who wrote several letters to Tait include: William H. Crawford, John Williams Walker, William Wyatt Bibb, and John C. Calhoun. Others writing several letters to Tait included the scientists Isaac Lea and T. A. Conrad, as well as David Crawford and Thomas Willis Cobb. Arranged chronologically exact.

Box 1, Folder 7	1791-1817	Reel 1
Box 1, Folder 8	1818	
Box 1, Folder 9	1819	
Box 1, Folder 10	1820	
Box 1, Folder 11	1821	
Box 1, Folder 12	1822-1829	
Box 2, Folder 1	1830-1833	Reel 2
Box 2, Folder 2	1834-1835, n.d.	

#### **B.** Business letters, 1816-1835.

This subseries contains letters primarily dealing with the operation of various plantations by Charles Tait in Georgia and in Alabama, including the purchasing of land (see especially the 5 Dec. 1816 letter involving Mississippi Territory land speculation); the settling of accounts,

- V. CHARLES TAIT PAPERS, 1791-1836 and n.d. (continued)
  - **B.** Business letters, 1816-1835. (continued)

particularly with Jeremiah Austill; the shipping and marketing of the cotton crop to Great Britain; the purchasing of specific items; the condition of crops and slaves; and many other aspects of operating a plantation.

In addition, other financial affairs are discussed, such as speculating in the currency of various states in the southeast, especially the Bank of Georgia; the probable actions that the Bank of Alabama, the state bank, would take in 1828 regarding its notes; book orders; and many other business-related topics.

Among the primary correspondents are: the cotton broker Jeremiah Austill; businessmen John Ticknor, John McNeil, and the Dobson and William Co.; and the overseers J. B. Grace and Daniel McLeod. Arranged chronologically.

Box 2, Folder 3	1816-1829	Reel 2
Box 2, Folder 4	1830-1832	
Box 2, Folder 5	1833-1834 July	
Box 2, Folder 6	1834 Aug 1835	

#### C. Financial records, 1802-1836 and n.d.

This subseries consists of three sub-subseries detailed further below:

- 1. Memorandum books, 1802-1834; 2. Accounts and receipts, personal and plantation, 1807-1836; and 3. Notes (financial), 1816-1835.
  - **1.** Memorandum books, 1802-1834

There are two memorandum books, 1802-1805, and 1818-1834. The first contains notes on some financial judgments, and the treasury bills received from the Bank of Georgia, Savannah Branch Bank. The second book contains Tait's account with the Bank of the United States, 1826-1837; sundry accounts; and plantation accounts, 1818-1834.

Box 2, Folder 7 1802-1834 Reel 2

2. Accounts and receipts, personal and plantation, 1808-1836

This sub-subseries has individual accounts and receipts of Charles Tait with various individuals and companies, both to Tait personally and as the owner of a plantation. It is divided into **a.** accounts and larger receipts, 1818-1836; and **b.** smaller receipts, 1807-1835.

- V. CHARLES TAIT PAPERS, 1791-1836 and n.d. (Continued)
  - C. Financial records, 1802-1836 and n.d. (Continued)
    - 2. Accounts and receipts, personal and plantation, 1808-1836 (cont.)
      - **a.** accounts and larger receipts, personal and plantation, 1818-1836, and n.d.

Every ledger account and all receipts valued at over \$100 are here, as well as some smaller receipts and memoranda. Particularly relevant are the accounts with Jeremiah Austill, George Johnston, and various banks. Arranged chronologically by year and month of the latest date on the account or receipt.

Box 3, Folder 1

1816-1836, n.d.

Reel 3

**b.** smaller receipts, personal and plantation, 1807-1835 and n.d.

Receipts under \$ 100 and magazine and book subscriptions are located here. Arranged chronologically by year and month.

Box 3, Folder 2

1807-1835, n.d.

Reel 3

**3.** Notes (financial), 1816-1835

Financial notes, primarily canceled, are located here. Unarranged.

Box 3, Folder 3

1816-1835

Reel 3

VI. SARAH TAIT ACCOUNTS AND RECEIPTS, 1823-1832.

Arranged chronologically by year.

Box 3, Folder 4

1823-1832

Reel 3

VII. JAMES A. TAIT PAPERS, 1809-1849 and n.d.

Reels 3-6

This series contains three subseries, detailed further below, including: **A.** Letters, business and personal, 1808-1847; **B.** Writings, 1813-1838 and n.d.; and **C.** Financial records, 1816-1849. See also series VIII and X.

**A.** Letters, business and personal, 1808-1847.

This subseries contains letters to James A. Tait, and a few from him, on various topics, including: the Tait family, particularly their health and

VII. JAMES A. TAIT PAPERS, 1809-1849 and n.d. (continued)

A. Letters, business and personal, 1808-1847. (continued)

economic well being; education; the War of 1812 between the U.S. and Great Britain; Washington D.C. – description and travel; real estate – Georgia; real estate – Alabama Territory; Georgia agriculture; Alabama agriculture; Jefferson Goode; the calculated gamble of attempting to buy good land at the Cahaba, Ala., land sale in Mar. 1819; the possibility of the U.S. claiming Florida via a treaty with Spain; operating a cotton and corn plantation in Alabama; William Wyatt Bibb; Thomas Welch; the shipping and marketing of cotton; account with Austill and Moss; the cotton market; the career of Charles Tait as a federal judge in the Alabama district, 1820 and thereafter; the estate of Charles Tait; Philadelphia, Penn. – description and travel; medical studies of Charles W. Tait; the studies of Felix and Robert Tait at Madison College; the experiences of Charles W. Tait in the U.S. Navy as a surgeon, and his observations of the war between Chile and Peru; and many other topics.

The individuals who wrote most often to Tait included: among family members, his father, Charles Tait, who sent almost half the letters the younger Tait received; his step-mother Sarah Tait; and his son, Charles William Tait. The primary business correspondents included: Jeremiah Austill, and the firms of Austill & Moss; Broadnax, Newton & Co.; and Harwell & Davis, all located in Mobile, Ala. Arranged chronologically exact.

Box 3, Folder 5 1808-1825 Reel 3 Box 3, Folder 6 1826-1847

#### **B.** Writings, 1813-1838 and n.d.

This subseries consists of two journals (notebooks) and a poem. The first journal, 1813, describes his experiences in the war of 1812 fighting the Creek Indians. The second journal, 1832-1838, details his experiences running a plantation. Most entries occurred during the period 1837-1838. The poem, n.d., entitled "The Segar" contains seven quatrains.

Box 3, Folder 7	Journal (notebook)	1813	Reel 3
Box 3, Folder 8	Writings	1832-1838	
Box 3, Folder 9	Poem	n.d.	

VII. JAMES A. TAIT PAPERS, 1809-1849 and n.d. (continued)

#### C. Financial records, 1816-1849.

This subseries consists of six sub-subseries, further detailed below: 1. Account and memorandum book, 1831-1842; 2. Accounts and larger receipts, 1816-1849; **3.** Smaller receipts, 1816-1848 and n.d.; **4.** Steamboat accounts and receipts, 1823-1848; 5. Notes (financial), 1821-1845 and n.d.; **6.** Subscriptions, 1823-1847.

#### 1. Account and memorandum book, 1831-1842.

This item contains notations on various topics, most of them directly of indirectly pertaining to finance. Tait notes various financial accounts herein, and also the charges against Charles W. while he was in Tuscaloosa, from 1832 forward. The classmates of Charles at the University of Alabama in 1832 are recorded, too. There are also notes on land and crops grown, as well as on the prices of lumber, nails, carpentry work, bricks, blinds, plastering, etc., which went into building a new house. He kept particularly good notes on his account with J & E Austill, and on sending goods, especially cotton, via steamboat. He also made notes on constructing a smoke house, growing cotton, operating a mill, slave purchases, the weather, and treating various ailments, as well as numerous other subjects. Of special interest are the notes beginning in the back of the volume on slave families, which also notes the year of birth of children from 1784-1844, and who the parents were.

Box 3, Folder 10

1831-1842

Reel 4

# 2. Accounts and larger receipts, 1816-1849.

In this sub-subseries are located all of the accounts and any receipts over \$100. There are some smaller receipts, and there are receipts for land as well. Tait had major accounts with Jeremiah Austill; Austill and Moss; Boykin & McRae; James B.Colburn; Isaac F. Dortch; De Forest, Morris & Wilkins; Grayson & Ervin; R. A. and H. C. Fountain; T. C. Figuet; W. W. Hunt: A. McLeod: Miller & Tomlinson: Mallory, Ross, & Blocker: Norris & Boykin; T. R. Newell; Parks & Burke; John N. Ransom; John W. (?) Stewart; Orrin B. Savage & Co.; M. S. Stetson; Taxes; U.S. Post Office; Watkins & Stewart; John Williams Walker; R. L. Watkins & Co.; and Watson, Ervin & Co.

VII. JAMES A. TAIT PAPERS, 1809-1849 and n.d. (continued)

- C. Financial records, 1816-1849. (continued)
  - 2. Accounts and larger receipts, 1816-1849. (continued)

Arranged alphabetically, but not alphabetically exact.

Box 3, Folder 11	A-D	1816-1847	Reel 4
Box 3, Folder 12	E-L	1824-1848	
Box 4, Folder 1	M-P	1820-1847	Reel 5
Box 4, Folder 2	R-T	1819-1848	
Box 4, Folder 3	U-W	1817-1849	

3. Smaller receipts, 1816-1848 and n.d.

This sub-subseries contains receipts of less than \$100.

Arranged chronologically by year using the latest date on the receipt.

Box 4, Folder 4	1816-1832	Reel 5
Box 4, Folder 5	1833-1839	
Box 4, Folder 6	1840-1848, n.d.	Reel 6

4. Steamboat accounts and receipts, 1823-1848.

In this sub-subseries are accounts and receipts of goods shipped via steamboat. Arranged alphabetically by the name of the steamboat.

Box 4, Folder 7 1823-1848 Reel 6

5. Notes (financial), 1821-1845 and n.d.

This sub-subseries consists of financial notes. Most were canceled. Arranged chronologically exact.

Box 4, Folder 8 1821-1845 and n.d. Reel 6

**6.** Subscriptions, 1823-1847.

This sub-subseries contains subscriptions to magazines, LaTourette's map of Alabama, newspapers, and other items. Arranged chronologically.

Box 4, Folder 9 1823-1847 Reel 6

#### VIII. CHARLES AND JAMES A. TAIT FINANCIAL RECORDS, 1824-1847 and n.d.

Reel 7

This series contains the joint financial records of the above named Taits. It consists of two subseries, further detailed below: A. Accounts and receipts, identified and unidentified, 1824-1832; and B. Notes (financial), 1826-1847 and n.d.

#### A. Accounts and receipts, identified and unidentified, 1824-1832

This subseries contains accounts and receipts. The first few are identified as belonging to both Charles and James A. Tait and are arranged chronologically. The remaining accounts and receipts are unidentified and are unarranged. Box 5, Folder 1 1824-1832

Reel 7

#### **B.** Notes (financial), 1826-1847 and n.d.

The notes were either signed by both Taits or unidentified. Arranged chronologically by year.

Box 5, Folder 2

1826-1847, n.d.

Reel 7

#### IX. ELIZABETH C. TAIT PAPERS, 1813-1845 and n.d.

Reel 7

This series contains two subseries, further detailed below: A. Letters, 1813-1845 and n.d.; and **B.** Accounts and receipts, 1831-1843 and n.d. See also series X.

#### **A.** Letters, 1813-1845 and n.d.

This subseries contains letters to Tait, primarily on the Tait and Goode families, including the migration of both families into the Alabama Territory; illnesses, and other matters related to family life; James A. Tait's Army experiences in the Alabama Territory during the War of 1812; his experiences in establishing a farm in Monroe Co., Alabama Territory; the Cahaba, Ala., land sales; the studies of Charles W. and Felix Tait; emigration to Texas; and other subjects. Her primary correspondents were Charles Tait and James A. Tait; her brothers and sisters Sarah Anne Goode Coleman, Rebecca S. Goode, and Sidney N. Goode; as well as her son, Charles W. Tait. Arranged chronologically exact.

Box 5, Folder 3

1813-1845, n.d.

Reel 7

Reel 7

# **Title/Description/Date(s)**

#### IX. ELIZABETH C. TAIT PAPERS, 1813-1845 and n.d. (continued)

#### **B.** Accounts and receipts, 1831-1843 and n.d.

Arranged chronologically.

Box 5, Folder 4 1831-1843, n.d. Reel 7

# X. JAMES A., JAMES G., AND ELIZABETH C. TAIT MEMORANDUM BOOK, 1820-1881.

This item contains the notes on various subjects, such as the new settlement at Medina, Wilcox Co., Ala.; the height of the Ala. River; planting cotton and corn, and selling it; flooding; visitors; and other subjects. The notes of 1820-1821,

were made by James A. and Elizabeth C. Tait; those of 1875-1881 were made by

James C. Tait.

Box 5, Folder 5 1820-1881 Reel 7

#### XI. DR. CHARLES W. TAIT PAPERS, 1818-1865.

Reel 7

This series consists of two subseries, detailed further below: **A.** Letters, 1818-1865; and **B.** Accounts and receipts, 1832-1861.

#### **A.** Letters, 1818-1865.

Among the subjects discussed in this subseries are: education; the University of Alabama; the Bank of the United States; and the Civil War. The correspondents were: Charles Tait, John W. Stewart, and R. H. Ervin. The 27 July 1865 letter is present as a photocopy only.

Arranged chronologically exact.

Box 5, Folder 6 1818-1865 Reel 7

## **B.** Accounts and receipts, 1832-1861.

Arranged chronologically.

Box 5, Folder 7 1832-1861 Reel 7

## Title/Description/Date(s)

XII. FELIX TAIT ACCOUNTS AND RECEIPTS, 1839-1869, and n.d.

Arranged chronologically by year.

Box 5, Folder 8 1839-1869, and n.d.

Reel 7

XIII. ROBERT TAIT ACCOUNTS AND RECEIPTS, 1839-1846

Arranged chronologically by year.

Box 5, Folder 9 1839-1846

Reel 7

XIV. JAMES G. TAIT PAPERS, 1856-1899

Reel 7

This series consists of two subseries, further detailed below: **A.** Letters, 1857-1899; and **B.** Financial records, 1856-1874. See also series X.

#### **A.** Letters, 1857-1899.

Subjects discussed in this subseries include: the drought in Texas; raising cotton; the Civil War; and business matters. Correspondents of Tait were Charles W. Tait, A. W. Bethea, G. F. Watson, and R. M. Dickinson. Arranged chronologically exact.

Box 5, Folder 10

1857-1899

Reel 7

#### **B.** Financial records, 1856-1874.

This subseries consists of two sub-subseries, further described below:

- **1.** Account and memoranda book, 1856-1867; and **2.** Accounts and receipts, 1867-1874.
  - 1. Account and memoranda book, 1856-1863.

This item begins with a valuation of slaves owned by Tait in 1856. Birth dates and some death dates are provided. Accounts, 1857, of Tait with various of his tenants are also contained herein, as is a discharge,

14 Nov. 1863, from the Confederate States Army.

Box 5, Folder 11 1856-1863

Reel 7

#### 2. Accounts and receipts, 1867-1873

Arranged chronologically by year.

Box 5, Folder 12 1867-1873

Reel 7

#### **Title/Description/Date(s)**

XV. REBECCA S. TAIT ACCOUNTS AND RECEIPTS, 1844-1848.

Identified accounts and receipts are placed at the front, and are arranged chronologically by year. Not positively identified receipts are placed at the back and also are arranged chronologically by year.

Box 5, Folder 13

1844-1848

Reel 7

XVI. JAMES A. TAIT RECEIPT, 1882.

Box 5, Folder14

1882

Reel 7

XVII. WILLIAM E. MOORE LETTERS AND RECEIPT, 1870-1871.

Subjects discussed in this series include cotton prices; family matters; and other subjects. Correspondents were James G. Moore, a brother; S. C. Wintray (?), a cousin, and Tom (?). Letters arranged chronologically exact with the receipt following.

Box 5, Folder 15

1870-1871

Reel 7

XVIII. MR. AND MRS. M. B. BARNES LETTERS AND RECEIPTS, 1879-1881.

Subjects discussed include family matters and business matters.

Arranged chronologically exact.

Box 5, Folder 16

1879-1881

Reel 7

XIX. MR. AND MRS. M. J. BECK PAPERS, 1856-1874.

A sheet of a journal (notebook), 1856, is contained herein. There are also two business letters, one including a certification, 1874, of delegates to the Wilcox Co., Ala., convention; and a receipt, 1874. Arranged chronologically.

Box 5, Folder 17

1856-1874

Reel 7

XX. WILLIAM GOODE RECEIPT, 1846.

Box 5, Folder 18

1846

Reel 7

# Title/Description/Date(s)

#### XXI. THOMAS A. WELCH ACCOUNTS AND RECEIPTS, 1826-1831

Arranged chronologically.

Box 5, Folder 19 1826-1831 Reel 7

# XXII. FRAGMENTARY AND UNIDENTIFIED MATERIALS, 1869-1873 and n.d.

This series contains unidentified accounts and receipts, fragmentary and unidentified letters, and envelopes. Segregated by type, but unarranged otherwise.

Box 5, Folder 20	Unidentified, accounts and receipts	1869-1873, n.d.	Reel 7
Box 5, Folder 21	Fragments and unidentified	n.d.	
Box 5, Folder 22	Envelopes		

## XXIII. PRINTED MATERIALS, 1802-1898 and n.d.

This series includes a copy of *The Monitor* newspaper, 1802; William L. Yancey's "The Life of John C. Calhoun," 1850; and other printed materials such as pamphlets, advertisements, clippings. Arranged chronologically.

Box 5, Folder 23	Printed materials	1802-1898, n.d.	Reel 7
	Oversized material:		
Box 6, Folder 7	The Monitor newspaper	1802 Sep. 4	Reel 8