

**John Dabney Terrell Family papers,
1804-1921.**

Finding aid

Box numbers: PR460, PR469, PR433

Extent: 1.1 cubic ft. (2 archives boxes, 1 book box).

To return to the ADAHCat catalog record, click here:

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JOHN DABNEY TERRELL FAMILY PAPERS
SERIES DESCRIPTION AND CONTAINER LIST

SERIES A. LEGAL RECORDS, 1804-1848, undated

This series consists of wills, deeds, mortgages, affidavit, adoption papers, and other legal documents concerning members of the extended Terrell family and other residents of Marion County, Ala. Several documents include references to slaves, including deeds of gift that transfer ownership of slaves from John Dabney Terrell to his daughter Alpha Neal and son Edward Garland; affidavits providing descriptions of Ben, a runaway slave; and a report announcing the sale of Stephen, a runaway slave, at public auction. Other legal records in the series include those documenting a fraud case against James F. Johnson and Alexander Glasscock and records from a lawsuit brought by sharecropper Ephriam Ledbetter against his employer James F. Johnson.

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Dates</u>
PR460	1	1804-1815
PR460	2	1820-1828
PR460	3	1830-1839
PR460	4	1840-1845
PR460	5	1846-1848
PR460	6	1857-1894
PR460	7	Undated

SERIES B. FINANCIAL RECORDS, 1809-1914, undated

This series includes promissory notes, salt inventories, a will of hire, tax statements, and other financial records. Most of these records are signed by members of the extended Terrell family, including John Dabney, Edward Garland, James, and John T. Neal. Notable items include a 1809 will of hire for Phoebe, a slave; two 1839 bills of sale documenting the purchase of slaves; and reports of taxable property that include a list of slaves owned by John Dabney Terrell.

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Dates</u>
PR460	8	1809-1817
PR460	9	1820-1829
PR460	10	1830-1839
PR460	11	1841-1849
PR460	12	1850-1859
PR460	13	1860-1868
PR460	14	1871-1899
PR460	15	1903-1914, undated

SERIES C. CORRESPONDENCE, 1815-1930, undated

This series consists of the family and professional correspondence of John Dabney Terrell Sr. and other members of the Terrell family. The bulk of the correspondence is dated from 1815-1865. The collection includes correspondence between John Dabney Sr. and other family members including his brother William H.; his son Edward Garland; his wife Lydia Briscoe Warren; and his daughter Ann Dabney. These letters typically discuss the health of family

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SERIES C. CORRESPONDENCE, 1815-1930, undated (continued)

members and neighbors. The group of Civil War letters exchanged by family members is particularly notable. Letters written by Edward Garland's sons Robert W. and William A. describe camp life in the 26th Alabama Infantry Regiment. Other documents related to the Terrell's Civil War service include furlough passes issued to Robert; a loyalty oath signed by Edward Garland; and a note stating that Edward Garland's son, blacksmith John T., was exempted from military service.

The collection also includes one personal letter dated 6 November 1921, which may be unrelated to the Terrell family. The letter, from Lee Young to R. C. Duncan, describes the effect of the boll weevil on the year's cotton crop.

Professional correspondence includes letters related to the legal cases referenced in the legal records series. Notable items include a letter dated 17 July 1837 related to the case of runaway slave Ben and letters related to the fraud case against James F. Johnson and Alexander Glasscock. John Dabney Sr.'s professional correspondence is also notable, as it provides insight into his political opinions. In letter drafts dated 22 October 1840, he declines an offer of a land office appointment in Alabama and expresses dismay over Martin Van Buren's banking policies. In another letter draft dated 4 July 1846 addressed to James K. Polk, he denounces the Mexican War.

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Dates</u>
PR469	1	1815-1829
PR469	2	1830-1833
PR469	3	1834-1835
PR469	4	1836-1839
PR469	5	1840-1842
PR469	6	1843-1849
PR469	7	1851-1859
PR469	8	1861-1865
PR469	9	1866-1877
PR469	10	1888-1930, undated

SERIES D. CHURCH RECORDS, 1841-1854, undated

Correspondence, meeting minutes, church rules, and certificates of dismissal from Baptist churches and Baptist associations in Alabama and Mississippi. The majority of the records are from Mount Pleasant Church in Marion County, Ala., and address a disagreement between James F. Johnson and John Dabney related to Johnson's fraud trial in 1842. Another notable item in this series is a dismissal issued by Town Church in Yalobusha County, Mississippi. The dismissal was issued to Washington, a slave, in February 1845.

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Dates</u>
PR469	11	1841-1854, undated

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SERIES E. INDIAN REMOVAL RECORDS AND TREATIES, 1819-1841, undated

This series contains correspondence, writings, and treaty drafts related to the Treaty of Pontotoc and other treaties signed by the Chickasaw. Notable correspondents include William Kelly; Choctaw agency interpreter John Pitchlynn; Cherokee chief John Ross; A. F. Whitman; General John Coffee, who negotiated the Treaty of Pontotoc; and Pitman Colbert, the son of Chickasaw chief George Colbert. Most of the material in this collection relates to treaty negotiations between the United States and the Chickasaw, although a smaller number of letters discuss negotiations with the Cherokee.

Items related to Cherokee treaties include three letters addressed to Cherokee chief John Ross encouraging Ross to consider relocation. In one letter dated 5 March 1832, A. F. Whitman writes, "The middle and common classes of white men would be glad the Indians would remove but no honest and feeling man in the United States will permit himself to wish the Indians removal, but by and with their own free will and consent and then to pay them the full value for their country." Whitman writes that the Cherokee will continue to face encroachment from white settlers in Georgia, and asks him to consider the impact of new settlements.

Notable items related to Chickasaw treaty negotiations include letters exchanged written by William Kelly and John Dabney Terrell in 1829 about complaints against Chickasaw agent, B. F. Smith; and a letter from Pitman Colbert to Terrell dated 7 November 1833. This series also contains several notable items specifically related to the Treaty of Pontotoc, including letters written by Terrell and a draft of the treaty dated 24 September 1832. In a letter dated 29 October 1832, Terrell describes the Chickasaw Levi Colbert's response to the treaty, writing that the treaty was considered "the work of oppression" by the Chickasaw nation.

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Dates</u>
PR469	12	1819-1841, undated

SERIES F. EPHEMERA, 1835-1888, undated

Consists of recipes and prescriptions, miscellaneous writings, printed materials, and fragments. Miscellaneous writings include poems and songs written by unknown authors, as well as political opinions presumably written by John Dabney Sr., including items related to the Mexican War. Printed materials primarily consist of copies of house resolutions related to Revolutionary War veterans.

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Description</u>
PR469	13	Recipes and Prescriptions
PR469	14	Writings
PR469	15	Printed materials, 1835-1888, undated
PR469	16	Fragments

SERIES G. DAYBOOK AND NOTEBOOKS, 1821-1861

This series consists of one daybook containing entries from 1835-1836; a notebook with writings related to the Buttahachee River dated June 1821; an arithmetic book dated 1823; and one

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SERIES G. DAYBOOK AND NOTEBOOKS, 1821-1861 (continued)

account book containing entries from 1859-1861. There is also a memorandum book containing portions of John Dabney Terrell Sr.'s memoir and personal account entries from 1839-1843. The memoir contains primarily genealogical information rather than information about Terrell's personal experiences. This series also contains a typescript of the memoir.

<u>Box</u>	<u>Description</u>
PR433	Memoir/Memorandum Book, 1839-1843
PR433	Notes on the review of the Buttahatchee River, June 1821
PR433	Arithmetic book, 1823
PR433	Account book, 1859-1861
PR433	Memoir Transcription
PR433	Daybook, 1835-1836