

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

**Finding aid**

**Collection number: LPR35**

**Extent: 3 cubic feet (5 archives boxes and 2 oversize boxes)**

**Alabama Department of Archives and History,  
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## Table of Contents

TAIT FAMILY BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES .....	4
SERIES I: GENEALOGY, undated .....	9
SERIES II: LEGAL RECORDS, 1786-1865, undated .....	9
SUBSERIES A: NON-LAND RECORDS, 1795-1865, undated .....	9
1. Documents, 1801-1865 .....	9
2. Estate books with financial and genealogical records, 1798-1834 .....	10
3. Enslavement records, 1795-1842, undated .....	10
SUBSERIES B: LAND RECORDS, 1786-1837, undated .....	10
SERIES III: ELECTORAL RECORDS, 1824.....	12
SERIES IV: ARCHITECTURAL RECORDS, undated.....	12
SERIES V: CHARLES TAIT PAPERS, 1791-1836, undated .....	12
SUBSERIES A: CORRESPONDENCE AND LETTERS, GENERAL, 1791-1835, undated	13
SUBSERIES B: BUSINESS LETTERS, 1816-1835.....	14
SUBSERIES C: FINANCIAL RECORDS, 1802-1836, undated.....	14
1. Memorandum books, 1802-1834 .....	15
2. Accounts and receipts, personal and plantation, 1807-1836, undated .....	15
3. Notes (financial), 1816-1835.....	16
SERIES VI: SARAH TAIT ACCOUNTS AND RECEIPTS, 1823-1832 .....	16
SERIES VII: JAMES A. TAIT PAPERS, 1808-1849, undated .....	16
SUBSERIES A: LETTERS, BUSINESS AND PERSONAL, 1808-1847 .....	16
SUBSERIES B: WRITINGS, 1813-1838, undated .....	17
SUBSERIES C: FINANCIAL RECORDS, 1816-1849, undated.....	17
1. Account and memorandum book, 1831-1842 .....	17
2. Accounts and larger receipts, 1816-1849.....	18
3. Smaller receipts, 1816-1848, undated .....	18
4. Steamboat accounts and receipts, 1823-1848 .....	19
5. Notes (financial), 1821-1845, undated.....	19
6. Subscriptions, 1823-1847.....	19
SERIES VIII: CHARLES AND JAMES A. TAIT FINANCIAL RECORDS, 1824-1847, undated .....	19

SUBSERIES A: ACCOUNTS AND RECEIPTS, IDENTIFIED AND UNIDENTIFIED, 1824-1832.....	20
SUBSERIES B: NOTES (FINANCIAL), 1826-1847, undated.....	20
SERIES IX: ELIZABETH C. TAIT PAPERS, 1813-1845, undated .....	20
SUBSERIES A: LETTERS, 1813-1845, undated.....	20
SUBSERIES B: ACCOUNTS AND RECEIPTS, 1831-1843, undated .....	21
SERIES X: JAMES A. TAIT, JAMES G. TAIT, AND ELIZABETH C. TAIT MEMORANDUM BOOK, 1820-1881.....	21
SERIES XI: DR. CHARLES W. TAIT PAPERS, 1818-1865 .....	21
SUBSERIES A: LETTERS, 1818-1865 .....	21
SUBSERIES B: ACCOUNTS AND RECEIPTS, 1832-1861 .....	21
SERIES XII: FELIX TAIT ACCOUNTS AND RECEIPTS, 1839-1869, undated .....	22
SERIES XIII: ROBERT TAIT ACCOUNTS AND RECEIPTS, 1839-1846 .....	22
SERIES XIV: JAMES G. TAIT PAPERS, 1856-1899 .....	22
SUBSERIES A: LETTERS, 1857-1899 .....	22
SUBSERIES B: FINANCIAL RECORDS, 1856-1873.....	22
1. Account and memoranda book, 1856-1863 .....	23
2. Accounts and receipts, 1867-1873 .....	23
SERIES XV: REBECCA S. TAIT ACCOUNTS AND RECEIPTS, 1844-1848 .....	23
SERIES XVI: JAMES A. TAIT RECEIPT, 1882 .....	23
SERIES XVII: WILLIAM E. MOORE LETTERS AND RECEIPT, 1870-1871.....	23
SERIES XVIII: MR. AND MRS. M. B. BARNES LETTERS AND RECEIPTS, 1879-1881 ...	24
SERIES XIX: MR. AND MRS. M. J. BECK PAPERS, 1856-1874.....	24
SERIES XX: WILLIAM GOODE RECEIPT, 1846 .....	24
SERIES XXI: THOMAS A. WELCH ACCOUNTS AND RECEIPTS, 1826-1831 .....	24
SERIES XXII: FRAGMENTARY AND UNIDENTIFIED MATERIALS, 1869-1873, undated	25
SERIES XXIII: PRINTED MATERIALS, 1802-1898, undated .....	25

## TAIT FAMILY BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES

### First generation

Charles Tait (1768-1835) m. (1) Anne Lucas Simpson

**Charles Tait** was born on February 1, 1768, in Louisa County, Virginia, to James Tait and Rebecca Hudson Tait. The entire family moved to Petersburg, Elbert County, Georgia, in 1783. He attended Wilkes Academy in Washington, Georgia. About that time, he was thrown from a horse and received injuries necessitating the amputation of his leg. He attended Cokebury College in Abingdon, Maryland, beginning in 1788, and soon became an instructor. While at the college, he married a widow, Mrs. Anne Lucas Simpson of Baltimore, Maryland, on January 3, 1790. He remained there until 1794, studying law while teaching. In 1795 he returned to Georgia and was admitted to the bar. A few weeks later he became rector of Richmond Academy in Augusta, Georgia. Soon thereafter, future Senator William H. Crawford became his assistant.

In 1798 Tait began a law practice in Lexington, Elbert County, Georgia. 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 County, Alabama, in 1819 to join his son, James Asbury, who had moved there in 1817. In 1820 President James Monroe appointed Charles Tait as the first federal judge of the District of Alabama. On May 1, 1822, he married Mrs. Sarah Williamson Griffin of Georgia, who was the widow of John Griffin, a former political enemy, and the sister of Judge Peter Williamson of Lowndes County, Alabama.

Tait resigned his position as federal judge in 1826 to attend to his Wilcox County 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 on October 7, 1835, in Wilcox County, Alabama, formerly part of Monroe County.

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

#### *Children:*

1. Charles Jefferson Tait, died in infancy
2. James Asbury Tait (1791-1855)

m. (2) Sarah Williamson Griffin (1775-1839)

**James M. Tait** was born circa 1760-1775 in Louisa County, Virginia, to James and Rebecca Hunt Tait. He moved to Georgia and lived close to his brother Charles in Elbert County, Georgia, until November 1818 when he joined his nephew, James Asbury Tait, in Monroe County, Alabama.

### *Second generation*

James Asbury Tait (1791-1855) m. Elizabeth Caroline Goode (1794-1865)

**James Asbury Tait** was born on September 8, 1791, in Baltimore, Maryland, to Charles Tait 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 April 18, 1814. During that conflict, he 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 acquired land which he christened "Dry Forks Plantation." It was located about eight miles north of what is now Camden, Wilcox County, Alabama. The site is thirty miles north of Claiborne, at that time the county seat of Monroe County, Alabama Territory. In 1835 he expanded or built a larger home on his land which reflected his success and wealth from operating a plantation. He died on February 10, 1855, in Wilcox County, Alabama.

**Elizabeth Caroline Goode** was born on November 15, 1794, to William Goode and Sarah James Goode in Virginia. She married James A. Tait before 1815 and joined him in Alabama in October 1817. She and her husband had eight children. She died on October 4, 1865, in Wilcox County, Alabama, at the home of her daughter, Sarah Tait Ervin.

#### *Children:*

1. Charles William Tait (1815-1878) m. Louisa Williams (1828-1896)
2. Felix Tait (1822-1899) m. Narcissa Goree (1832-1907)
3. Robert Tait (1824-1907) m. Mary Jane Erwin (1832-1909)
4. Sarah Asbury Tait (1826-1905) m. Robert Hugh Ervin (1822-1875)
5. Martha Jefferson Tait (1828-1859) m. Franklin King Beck (1814-1864)
6. Rebecca Singleton Tait (1830-1897) m. William Douglas King (1826-1866), then Simon Lambrecht (1840-1914)
7. James Goode Tait (1833-1911) m. Adele Barnes (1840-1881), then Martha Barnes (1853-1928)
8. Caroline L. Tait (1835-1917) m. John Samuel Shropshire (1833-1862), then William Shelby Delany (1825-1900)

### *Third generation*

Charles William Tait (1815-1878) m. Louisa Williams (1828-1896)

**Charles William Tait** was born in 1815 to James Asbury Tait and Elizabeth C. Tait in Wilcox County, Alabama. He graduated from the University of Alabama in 1834 and from the Medical University of Pennsylvania, also known as Jefferson Medical College, in 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, Confederate States Army, during the Civil War; and at some point was a member of the General Assembly of Texas. He married Louisa Williams in Lafayette, Texas, on February 14, 1848. He died in 1878.

*Children:*

1. Head Tait (1849-1849)
2. Caroline Tait (1850-1934) m. Wells Thompson (1837-1914)
3. Jane Tait (1852-1853)
4. Gilmer Tait (1854-1854)
5. Robert Tait (1855-1902)
6. Martha Tait (1859-1869)
7. Louisa Kate Tait (1863-1934) m. Samuel Green (1860-1936)
8. William Tait (?-?)
9. Ultima Tait (1865-1866)

Felix Tait (1822-1899) m. Narcissa Goree (1832-1907)

**Felix Tait** was born on November 13, 1822, to James A. Tait and Elizabeth C. Tait in Wilcox County, Alabama. He was educated at Howard College and at the University of Alabama. He graduated from the latter school with a Bachelor of Arts degree in 1843 and received an honorary Master of Arts 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 on September 10, 1850, purchased a plantation on the Alabama River, and built a home. He was a trustee of the University of Alabama, 1856-1861; and represented Wilcox County in the Alabama Legislature, 1857-1861. During the Civil War, he volunteered and was elected major of the 23rd Alabama Infantry Regiment, Confederate States Army. After that war he lived in comparative retirement, though in 1874 he served as a state senator from Wilcox County. He was a Methodist, a Mason, and a Democrat. He died on July 10, 1899, in Wilcox County, Alabama.

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

*Children:*

1. John Goree Tait (1851-1858)
2. Caroline Tait (1852-1922) m. Henry D. Moore (1838-1902)
3. Anne Tait (?-?) m. William E. Moore
4. Sarah King Tait (1855-1857)
5. James Asbury Tait (1857-1898)
6. Charles Edward Tait (1858-1915) m. Ada Foster (1858-1922)

7. Julia Zimmerman Tait (1860-1907) m. Samuel William McDowell (1858-1900)
8. Felix Tait (1862-1916) m. Fannie Merriweather
9. Laura Erwin Tait (1865-1943) m. Willis Nunnalee Bragg (1861-1913)
10. Albert Lucas Tait (1867-1885)
11. Porter King Tait (1869-1932) m. Daisy Billheimer Burney (1874-1950)
12. Elinor Elizabeth (?-1944) m. Leonard Godbold (1875-1941)

Robert Tait (1824-1907) m. Mary Jane Erwin (1832-1909)

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

James Goode Tait (1833-1911) m. (1) Adele Barnes (1840-1881)

m. (2) Martha Barnes (1853-1928)

**James Goode Tait** was born on July 4, 1833, to James A. Tait and Elizabeth C. Tait in Wilcox County, Alabama. He attended the University of Alabama, 1849-1850, and graduated from Harvard University, 1853. He engaged in planting in Wilcox County, Alabama, and was a Democrat and a Methodist. He married Adele Augusta Barnes circa 1867, and they later had fourteen children. After Adele's death in 1881, Tait married Martha Amelia Barnes in 1883. He died on May 23, 1911, in Wilcox County, Alabama.

*Children:*

1. Edward Barnes Tait (1868-1942) m. Minerva C. Watson
2. Adele Tait (1870-1886)
3. Felix Milton Tait (1875-1958) m. Irma McCants Coy (1879-1961)
4. James Goode Tait (1879-1935) m. Fannie Preston (1885-1961)
5. Albert Lucas Tait (1886-1946) m. Elizabeth Sellers (1887-1985)
6. Olivia Tait (1888-1916)
7. Julia Tait (1890-1981) m. Charles H. McMillan (1881-1942)

Sarah Asbury Tait (1826-1905) m. Robert Hugh Ervin (1822-1875)

**Sarah Asbury Tait** was born on September 1, 1826, to James A. Tait and Elizabeth C. Tait. She married Robert Hugh Ervin on June 5, 1848.

*Children:*

1. Albert Goode Ervin (1848-1941) m. Elizabeth Cumming (1855-1949)
2. Walter Eades Ervin (1849-1851)
3. Jennie Fee Ervin (1851-1925) m. \_\_\_\_\_ Larkin
4. Aurora Roberta Ervin (1853-1928) m. Hurieosco Austill (1841-1912)

5. Mary Caroline Ervin (1854-1922) m. Anderson J. Phillips
6. Leila Grayson Ervin (1858-1934) m. Arthur McDaniel (1854-1938)
7. Martha Beck Ervin (1858-1944) m. John W. Pharr (1854-1927)
8. Samuel James Ervin (1860-1917) m. Madison Coate McWilliams (1872-1960)
9. Robert Tait Ervin (1863-1949) m. Frances Patterson Pybas (1871-1962)

Rebecca Singleton Tait (1830-1897) m. (1) William Douglas King (1826-1866)  
 m. (2) Simon Lambrecht (1840-1914)

**Rebecca Singleton Tait** was born on December 21, 1836, to James A. Tait and Elizabeth C. Tait. She married William Douglas King, and they later had nine children.

*Children:*

1. Anne Alson King (?-?) m. Frances S. Morrisette
2. Edwin Douglas King (1851-1918) m. Nan Maiben (1853-1894)
3. James Tait King (1853-1913) m. Mary T. Scott (1855-1924)
4. Rebecca King (1854-1866)
5. Caroline Goode King (1854-1901) m. Henry Hunter Lett
6. Paul King (1856-1911) m. Clementine DeLoach (1859-1946)
7. Philip Woody King (1857-1863)
8. Alabama King (1860-1886) m. John W. Pharr (1854-1927)
9. Alexander Campbell King (1862-1863)
10. William Douglas King (1866-1915) m. Fanny Homer

**TAIT FAMILY PAPERS**  
**SERIES DESCRIPTION AND FOLDER LISTING**  
**(Originals closed. Microfilm available for research.)**

**SERIES I: GENEALOGY, undated**

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 is in the front, unarranged thereafter.

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Microfilm reel</u>
1	1	Genealogy, undated	Reel 1

**SERIES II: LEGAL RECORDS, 1786-1865, undated**

This series contains two subseries, further detailed below: **A.** Non-land records, 1795-1865, undated; and **B.** Land records, 1786-1837, undated.

**SUBSERIES A: NON-LAND RECORDS, 1795-1865, undated**

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.** Enslavement records, 1795-1842, undated.

**1. Documents, 1801-1865**

This sub-subseries 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, May 13, 1820; depositions; bonds; at least one charge to a grand jury, June 20, 1825; and other documents, including 1865 and 1868 contracts between James G. Tait and some freedmen. Arranged chronologically exact.

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Microfilm reel</u>
1	2	Documents, 1801-1865	Reel 1
6	1	<i>Oversize:</i> James Tait estate record, 1800-1812	Reel 8
7	1	<i>Oversize:</i> Will, James Hines, August 20, 1807	Reel 8

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Microfilm reel</u>
7	2	<i>Oversize:</i> Contract, James G. Tait with freedmen, July 3, 1865	Reel 8

## 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 is a "list of negro men whose clothes are not given out," 1828; and, beginning at the back of the volume, a list, September 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.

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Microfilm reel</u>
1	3	Estate books with financial and genealogical records, 1798-1834	Reel 1

## 3. Enslavement records, 1795-1842, undated

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

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Microfilm reel</u>
1	4	Enslavement records, 1795-1842, undated	Reel 1

## SUBSERIES B: LAND RECORDS, 1786-1837, undated

These records consist primarily of indentures and deeds related to the land holdings of the Tait family in Wilkes County, Georgia, and in what is now Wilcox County, Alabama. 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.

<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Microfilm reel</b>
1	5	Land records, 1786-1833	Reel 1
6	2	<i>Oversize:</i> Indenture between Timothy Warhurst and John Griffin, Wilkes County, Georgia, March 1, 1797	Reel 8
6	3	<i>Oversize:</i> Indenture between Thomas L. and Eliza Carnes and John Griffin, Wilkes County, Georgia, May 22, 1797	Reel 8
6	4	<i>Oversize:</i> Indenture between Eliza and Nancy Reynolds and John Griffin, Wilkes County, Georgia, October 2, 1802	Reel 8
6	5	<i>Oversize:</i> Indenture between Mr. Johnson and John Griffin, Wilkes County, Georgia, October 5, 1802	Reel 8
7	3	<i>Oversize:</i> Indenture between Richard Call and Thomas Goodwin, Wilkes County, Georgia, February 4, 1788	Reel 8
7	4	<i>Oversize:</i> Indenture between John Grimes and _____ Huntingdon, Wilkes County, Georgia, March 8, 1792	Reel 8
7	5	<i>Oversize:</i> Indenture between John Smith and Benjamin Sims, Wilkes County, Georgia, May 27, 1792	Reel 8
7	6	<i>Oversize:</i> Indenture between Benjamin Hubert and James Moses, Wilkes County, Georgia, August 24, 1792	Reel 8
7	7	<i>Oversize:</i> Indenture between William and Frances Terrell and John Griffin, Wilkes County, Georgia, June 5, 1795	Reel 8
7	8	<i>Oversize:</i> Indenture between Micajah Williamson, Jr., and Jefferson Williamson, Wilkes County, Georgia, September 25, 1795	Reel 8
7	9	<i>Oversize:</i> Indenture between John Springer, et al., and John Griffin, Wilkes County, Georgia, June 27, 1797	Reel 8
7	10	<i>Oversize:</i> Indenture between Williams Coats and John Griffin, Wilkes County, Georgia, November 2, 1797	Reel 8
7	11	<i>Oversize:</i> Indenture between Howell Jarrett and John Sims, Wilkes County, Georgia, May 25, 1798	Reel 8
7	12	<i>Oversize:</i> Indenture between Howell Jarrett and Gustavus Gaines, Wilkes County, Georgia, March 1, 1799	Reel 8
7	13	<i>Oversize:</i> Indenture between Phillip and Lucy Henley and Elijah Rennels, Wilkes County, Georgia, March 11, 1799	Reel 8
7	14	<i>Oversize:</i> Indenture between Micajah and Polly Williamson and John Griffin, Wilkes County, Georgia, July 5, 1799	Reel 8
7	15	<i>Oversize:</i> Indenture between Benajah and Elizabeth Smith and John Griffin, Wilkes County, Georgia, 1799	Reel 8

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Microfilm reel</u>
7	16	<i>Oversize:</i> Indenture between Benjamin and Tammy Brensham and John Griffin, Wilkes County, Georgia, May 15, 1800	Reel 8
7	17	<i>Oversize:</i> Indenture between Felix H. Gilbert and John Griffin, Wilkes County, Georgia, July 10, 1805	Reel 8
7	18	<i>Oversize:</i> Indenture between Allen Canborn and John Griffin, Wilkes County, Georgia, February 24, 1806	Reel 8
7	19	<i>Oversize:</i> Indenture between William W. Williamson and John Griffin, Wilkes County, Georgia, May 8, 1806	Reel 8
7	20	<i>Oversize:</i> Land grants: Charles and James A. Tait, 1824-1837	Reel 8
7	21	<i>Oversize:</i> Plat map, James A. Tait, Alabama, undated	Reel 8
7	22	<i>Oversize:</i> Plat map, Alabama, undated	Reel 8

### **SERIES 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.

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Microfilm reel</u>
1	6	Electoral records, 1824	Reel 1

### **SERIES IV: ARCHITECTURAL RECORDS, undated**

This series contains two schematic drawings and notes for a furnace.

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Microfilm reel</u>
6	6	Architectural records, undated	Reel 8

### **SERIES V: CHARLES TAIT PAPERS, 1791-1836, undated**

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

**SUBSERIES A: CORRESPONDENCE AND LETTERS, GENERAL, 1791-1835,  
undated**

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 Department; Alabama law and legislation; and 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 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, Alabama; European 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 include the scientists Isaac Lea and T. A. Conrad as well as David Crawford and Thomas Willis Cobb. Arranged chronologically exact.

<b><u>Box</u></b>	<b><u>Folder</u></b>	<b><u>Description</u></b>	<b><u>Microfilm reel</u></b>
1	7	1791-1817	Reel 1

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Microfilm reel</u>
1	8	1818	Reel 1
1	9	1819	Reel 1
1	10	1820	Reel 1
1	11	1821	Reel 1
1	12	1822-1829	Reel 1
2	1	1830-1833	Reel 2
2	2	1834-1835, undated	Reel 2

### **SUBSERIES 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 December 5, 1816, letter involving Mississippi Territory land speculation); the settling of accounts, 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 enslaved people; 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 Company; and the overseers J. B. Grace and Daniel McLeod. Arranged chronologically.

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Microfilm reel</u>
2	3	1816-1829	Reel 2
2	4	1830-1832	Reel 2
2	5	1833-July 1834	Reel 2
2	6	August 1834-1835	Reel 2

### **SUBSERIES C: FINANCIAL RECORDS, 1802-1836, undated**

This subseries consists of three sub-subseries detailed further below: **1.** Memorandum books, 1802-1834; **2.** Accounts and receipts, personal and plantation, 1807-1836, undated; and **3.** Notes (financial), 1816-1835.

## 1. Memorandum books, 1802-1834

There are two memorandum books, one dated 1802-1805, and the other dated 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.

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Microfilm reel</u>
2	7	1802-1834	Reel 2

## 2. Accounts and receipts, personal and plantation, 1807-1836, undated

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.

### a. Accounts and larger receipts, personal and plantation, 1818-1836, undated

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.

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Microfilm reel</u>
3	1	1816-1836, undated	Reel 3

### b. Smaller receipts, personal and plantation, 1807-1835, undated

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

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Microfilm reel</u>
3	2	1807-1835, undated	Reel 3

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

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

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Microfilm reel</u>
3	3	1816-1835	Reel 3

### **SERIES VI: SARAH TAIT ACCOUNTS AND RECEIPTS, 1823-1832**

Arranged chronologically by year.

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Microfilm reel</u>
3	4	1823-1832	Reel 3

### **SERIES VII: JAMES A. TAIT PAPERS, 1808-1849, undated**

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

#### **SUBSERIES 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 economic wellbeing; education; the War of 1812 between the U.S. and Great Britain; Washington, D.C., description and travel; Georgia real estate; Alabama Territory real estate; Georgia agriculture; Alabama agriculture; Jefferson Goode; the calculated gamble of attempting to buy good land at the Cahaba, Alabama, land sale in March 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, Pennsylvania, 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 include his father, Charles Tait, who sent almost half the letters the younger Tait received; his stepmother, Sarah Tait; and his son, Charles William Tait. The primary business correspondents include Jeremiah Austill and the firms of Austill & Moss; Broadnax, Newton & Company; and Harwell & Davis, all located in Mobile, Alabama. Arranged chronologically exact.

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Microfilm reel</u>
3	5	1808-1825	Reel 3
3	6	1826-1847	Reel 3

### **SUBSERIES B: WRITINGS, 1813-1838, undated**

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

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Microfilm reel</u>
3	7	Journal (notebook), 1813	Reel 3
3	8	Writings, 1832-1838	Reel 3
3	9	Poem, undated	Reel 3

### **SUBSERIES C: FINANCIAL RECORDS, 1816-1849, undated**

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, undated; **4.** Steamboat accounts and receipts, 1823-1848; **5.** Notes (financial), 1821-1845, undated; **6.** Subscriptions, 1823-1847.

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

This item contains notations on various topics, most of them directly or indirectly pertaining to finance. Tait notes various financial accounts herein and 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; purchases of enslaved people; 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 enslaved families, which also notes the year of birth of children from 1784 to 1844, and who the parents were.

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Microfilm reel</u>
3	10	1831-1842	Reel 4

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

In this sub-subseries are all 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. Fiquet; 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 & Company; M. S. Stetson; Taxes; U.S. Post Office; Watkins & Stewart; John Williams Walker; R. L. Watkins & Company; and Watson, Ervin & Company.

Arranged alphabetically but not alphabetically exact.

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

## 3. Smaller receipts, 1816-1848, undated

This sub-subseries contains receipts of less than \$100. Arranged chronologically by year using the latest date on the receipt.

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Microfilm reel</u>
4	4	1816-1832	Reel 5
4	5	1833-1839	Reel 5

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Microfilm reel</u>
4	6	1840-1848, undated	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.

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Microfilm reel</u>
4	7	1823-1848	Reel 6

#### **5. Notes (financial), 1821-1845, undated**

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

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Microfilm reel</u>
4	8	1821-1845, undated	Reel 6

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

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

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Microfilm reel</u>
4	9	1823-1847	Reel 6

### **SERIES VIII: CHARLES AND JAMES A. TAIT FINANCIAL RECORDS, 1824-1847, undated**

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

**SUBSERIES 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.

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Microfilm reel</u>
5	1	1824-1832	Reel 7

**SUBSERIES B: NOTES (FINANCIAL), 1826-1847, undated**

The notes were either signed by both Tait's or unidentified. Arranged chronologically by year.

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Microfilm reel</u>
5	2	1826-1847, undated	Reel 7

**SERIES IX: ELIZABETH C. TAIT PAPERS, 1813-1845, undated**

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

**SUBSERIES A: LETTERS, 1813-1845, undated**

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 County, Alabama Territory; the Cahaba, Alabama, 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.

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Microfilm reel</u>
5	3	1813-1845, undated	Reel 7

**SUBSERIES B: ACCOUNTS AND RECEIPTS, 1831-1843, undated**

Arranged chronologically.

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Microfilm reel</u>
5	4	1831-1843, undated	Reel 7

**SERIES X: JAMES A. TAIT, JAMES G. TAIT, AND ELIZABETH C. TAIT  
MEMORANDUM BOOK, 1820-1881**

This item contains the notes on various subjects, such as the new settlement at Medina, Wilcox County, Alabama; the height of the Alabama 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.

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Microfilm reel</u>
5	5	1820-1881	Reel 7

**SERIES XI: DR. CHARLES W. TAIT PAPERS, 1818-1865**

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

**SUBSERIES 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 are Charles Tait, John W. Stewart, and R. H. Ervin. The July 27, 1865, letter is present as a photocopy only. Arranged chronologically exact.

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Microfilm reel</u>
5	6	1818-1865	Reel 7

**SUBSERIES B: ACCOUNTS AND RECEIPTS, 1832-1861**

Arranged chronologically.

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Microfilm reel</u>
5	7	1832-1861	Reel 7

**SERIES XII: FELIX TAIT ACCOUNTS AND RECEIPTS, 1839-1869, undated**

Arranged chronologically by year.

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Microfilm reel</u>
5	8	1839-1869, undated	Reel 7

**SERIES XIII: ROBERT TAIT ACCOUNTS AND RECEIPTS, 1839-1846**

Arranged chronologically by year.

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Microfilm reel</u>
5	9	1839-1846	Reel 7

**SERIES XIV: JAMES G. TAIT PAPERS, 1856-1899**

This series consists of two subseries, further detailed below: **A.** Letters, 1857-1899; and **B.** Financial records, 1856-1873. See also series X.

**SUBSERIES 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 are Charles W. Tait, A. W. Bethea, G. F. Watson, and R. M. Dickinson. Arranged chronologically exact.

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Microfilm reel</u>
5	10	1857-1899	Reel 7

**SUBSERIES B: FINANCIAL RECORDS, 1856-1873**

This subseries consists of two sub-subseries, further described below: **1.** Account and memoranda book, 1856-1863; and **2.** Accounts and receipts, 1867-1873.

**1. Account and memoranda book, 1856-1863**

This item begins with a valuation of people enslaved 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 from the Confederate States Army, November 14, 1863.

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Microfilm reel</u>
5	11	1856-1863	Reel 7

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

Arranged chronologically by year.

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Microfilm reel</u>
5	12	1867-1873	Reel 7

**SERIES 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 are arranged chronologically by year.

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Microfilm reel</u>
5	13	1844-1848	Reel 7

**SERIES XVI: JAMES A. TAIT RECEIPT, 1882**

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Microfilm reel</u>
5	14	1882	Reel 7

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

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

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Microfilm reel</u>
5	15	1870-1871	Reel 7

#### **SERIES XVIII: MR. AND MRS. M. B. BARNES LETTERS AND RECEIPTS, 1879-1881**

Subjects discussed include family matters and business matters. Arranged chronologically exact.

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Microfilm reel</u>
5	16	1879-1881	Reel 7

#### **SERIES 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 an 1874 certification of delegates to the Wilcox County, Alabama, convention; and an 1874 receipt. Arranged chronologically.

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Microfilm reel</u>
5	17	1856-1874	Reel 7

#### **SERIES XX: WILLIAM GOODE RECEIPT, 1846**

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Microfilm reel</u>
5	18	1846	Reel 7

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

Arranged chronologically.

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Microfilm reel</u>
5	19	1826-1831	Reel 7

**SERIES XXII: FRAGMENTARY AND UNIDENTIFIED MATERIALS, 1869-1873, undated**

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

<b><u>Box</u></b>	<b><u>Folder</u></b>	<b><u>Description</u></b>	<b><u>Microfilm reel</u></b>
5	20	Unidentified accounts and receipts, 1869-1873, undated	Reel 7
5	21	Fragments and unidentified, undated	Reel 7
5	22	Envelopes	Reel 7

**SERIES XXIII: PRINTED MATERIALS, 1802-1898, undated**

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, and clippings. Arranged chronologically.

<b><u>Box</u></b>	<b><u>Folder</u></b>	<b><u>Description</u></b>	<b><u>Microfilm reel</u></b>
5	23	Printed materials, 1802-1898, undated	Reel 7
6	7	<i>Oversize: The Monitor</i> newspaper, September 4, 1802	Reel 8