

F. H. Elmore Papers

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Washington, D.C.
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Prepared by William Parham

Collection Summary

Title: F. H. Elmore Papers

Span Dates: 1795-1858

Bulk Dates: (bulk 1839-1850)

ID No.: MSS19760

Creator: Elmore, F. H. (Franklin Harper), 1799-1850

Extent: 1,750 items ; 12 containers ; 3.6 linear feet

Language: Collection material in English

Location: Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Summary: Lawyer, banker, and United States representative from South Carolina. Chiefly business correspondence and financial papers relating to Elmore's manufacturing interests and his presidency of the Bank of South Carolina, Charleston.

Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

People

Biddle, Nicholas, 1786-1844--Correspondence.
Bogardus, James, 1800-1874--Correspondence.
Butler, Pierce Mason, 1798-1847--Correspondence.
Calhoun, John C. (John Caldwell), 1782-1850--Correspondence.
Earle, B. L.--Correspondence.
Elmore, F. H. (Franklin Harper), 1799-1850.
Gilman, F. N.--Correspondence.
Hamilton, James, 1786-1857--Correspondence.
Longstreet, Augustus Baldwin, 1790-1870--Correspondence.
Pickens, F. W. (Francis Wilkinson), 1805-1869--Correspondence.
Quimby, J. B.--Correspondence.
Rhett, Robert Barnwell, 1800-1876--Correspondence.
Saussure, W. F.--Correspondence.
Taylor, James H.--Correspondence.

Organizations

Bank of South Carolina.
Nesbit Manufacturing Company (Columbia, S.C.)

Subjects

Agriculture--Southern States.
Banks and banking--South Carolina--Charleston.
Cherokee Indians.
Indians of North America--South Carolina.
Industries--Southern States.
Railroads--Southern States.
Slavery--South Carolina.

Places

South Carolina--Politics and government.

Occupations

Bankers.
Lawyers.
Representatives, U.S. Congress--South Carolina.
Senators, U.S. Congress--South Carolina.

Administrative Information

Provenance

The papers of F. H. Elmore, lawyer, banker, and United States representative from South Carolina, were given to the Library of Congress by Mrs. Thomas Taylor in 1914 and Laura A. White in 1931.

Processing History

The collection was processed in 1979. The finding aid was revised in 2011.

Copyright Status

The status of copyright in the unpublished writings of F. H. Elmore is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.).

Access and Restrictions

The papers of F. H. Elmore are open to research. Researchers are advised to contact the Manuscript Reading Room prior to visiting. Many collections are stored off-site and advance notice is needed to retrieve these items for research use.

Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: Container number, F. H. Elmore Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Biographical Note

<i>Date</i>	<i>Event</i>
1799, Oct. 15	Born, Laurens District, S.C.
1819	Graduated, South Carolina College, Columbia, S.C.
1821	Admitted to South Carolina bar
1822	Solicitor for southern circuit, South Carolina
1824	Member, Governor Richard Manning's staff
1836	Colonel, South Carolina militia
1836	Trustee, South Carolina College, Columbia, S.C.
1836-1839	Member, House of Representatives, where he succeeded James H. Hammond
1839-1850	President, Bank of South Carolina
1850	Appointed to United States Senate to succeed John C. Calhoun
1850, May 29	Died, Washington, D.C.

Scope and Content Note

The papers of Franklin Harper Elmore (1799-1850) span the years 1795 to 1858, with the bulk of the material concentrated in the period 1839-1850. The collection consists chiefly of business correspondence and financial papers, and reflects

Elmore's manufacturing interests and his presidency of the Bank of South Carolina. Trained in the law, Elmore was an aide to various South Carolina politicians, and in 1836 the state elected him to succeed James H. Hammond as United States representative. He served one additional term before resigning to become president of the state bank in Charleston. In 1850 he briefly replaced the deceased John C. Calhoun in the Senate, but died less than a month after taking office. The collection is organized in [Business Correspondence](#), [Bills and Receipts](#), and [Miscellany series](#).

The papers in this collection, while containing some material on South Carolina politics, are mostly devoted to banking affairs and to Southern manufacturing. A trustee of the Nesbit Manufacturing Company, Elmore was committed to the growth of industry in the South, and his correspondence demonstrates his interest not only in industrial and railroad expansion but also in the development of regional agriculture. Items of special concern that are evident in these papers include a volume of statements and letters regarding Charleston's fire loan policy, 1848-1849, minutes and reports of the Nesbit Company, and scattered legal materials pertaining to the Bank of South Carolina. Also in the collection are lists of slaves giving the names, valuation, and use of his human chattels. According to Pierce Mason Butler, with whom Elmore had frequent correspondence, the bank president was of Indian descent and had an abiding commitment to correcting the legal and social plight of the Cherokee Nation. In a copy of an 1845 letter to Cherokee Chief John Ross, Butler urged the Indian leader to retain Elmore's legal and political expertise in order that the nation might defend its rights and win justice.

Prominent or frequent correspondents in the collection include Nicholas Biddle, James Bogardus, Pierce Mason Butler, John C. Calhoun, B. L. Earle, F. N. Gilman, Jr., James Hamilton, Augustus Baldwin Longstreet, F.W. Pickens, J. B. Quimby, Robert Barnwell Rhett, W. F. Saussure, and James H. Taylor.

Arrangement of the Papers

This collection is arranged in three series:

- [Business Correspondence, 1795-1858](#)
- [Bills and Receipts, 1820-1858](#)
- [Miscellany, 1839-1850](#)

Description of Series

<i>Container</i>	<i>Series</i>
BOX 1-7	<u>Business Correspondence, 1795-1858</u> Bound volumes of business correspondence and related matter received. Arranged chronologically.
BOX 8-11	<u>Bills and Receipts, 1820-1858</u> Bound volumes of bills, receipts, and related matter. Arranged chronologically.
BOX 12	<u>Miscellany, 1839-1850</u> Loose business correspondence, material relating to the rebuilding of the city of Charleston, 1848-1849, and a journal concerning attacks on the Bank of South Carolina. Arranged by type of material.

Container List

<i>Container</i>	<i>Contents</i>
BOX 1-7	Business Correspondence, 1795-1858 Bound volumes of business correspondence and related matter received. Arranged chronologically.
BOX 1	1795, Aug. 16-1831, Apr. 20
BOX 2	1831, Apr. 22-1837, Apr. 2
BOX 3	1837, Apr. 5-1840, Aug. 24
BOX 4	1840, Aug. 28-1845, Mar. 14
BOX 5	1845, Mar. 20-1848, May 29
BOX 6	1848, May 31-1858, Feb. 27, undated
BOX 7	Undated
BOX 8-11	Bills and Receipts, 1820-1858 Bound volumes of bills, receipts, and related matter. Arranged chronologically.
BOX 8	1820-1837
BOX 9	1838-1842
BOX 10	1843-1847
BOX 11	1848-1858, undated
BOX 12	Miscellany, 1839-1850 Loose business correspondence, material relating to the rebuilding of the city of Charleston, 1848-1849, and a journal concerning attacks on the Bank of South Carolina. Arranged by type of material.
BOX 12	Business correspondence, 1839-1850, undated
BOX 12	Rebuilding the city of Charleston, 1848-1849
BOX 12	Journal concerning attacks on the Bank of South Carolina, 1848-1850