

GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF ARCHIVES
AND HISTORY - Manuscripts Section

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AC 67-451a LOCATION LIST

MITCHELL, Nathaniel Raines, Family Papers, 1830-1895.

<u>BOX</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>
1	SERIES I: Family Correspondence folders 1-15	2367-10a
2	SERIES II: Family Business Papers folders 1-11	2367-10b
2	SERIES III: Cotton & Tobacco Business Papers folders 1-4	2367-10b

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MITCHELL, Nathaniel Raines (1788/89-1854), Family Papers, 1830-1895. 30 folders. 468 items, 496 pieces: 466 original loose items, 494 pieces; 2 printed items, 2 pieces. 1 archives box and 1 small archives box.

Gift of Joyce Williams, formerly Mrs. Zack Varnedoe, Jr.

This rich and detailed collection of Thomas Co. family papers includes the Mitchell letters, which cover family relations, epidemics, elections and political parties, crime, railroads and canals, postal service, and travel; the records of medical services, Afro-American sharecroppers, and plantation accounts; and the business records of cotton and tobacco selling and shipping. The papers are, however, only a part of what is available on the Mitchell family in private manuscript collections: the Elizabeth F. Hopkins Collection, 1821-1955, is stored in the Microfilm Library on 20 reels (no inventory as of 10/81).

Nathaniel R. Mitchell was the grandson of William M. Mitchell of Virginia and the son of Thomas D. Mitchell (d. 1826), one of the earliest citizens of Thomas Co. (History of Thomas County by W. Irwin MacIntyre, 1923). Nathaniel married Temperance Jordan (1792-1843) in Oglethorpe Co., GA, October 8, 1806, when they were both in their teens. By the 1830's they were living in Thomas Co. where Mr. Mitchell raised cotton, tobacco, and probably sheep on their plantation, Mount Pleasant. Most of the correspondence in the collection is from the sons and sons-in-law to Nathaniel. His children were:

1) Mary Hill Mitchell (1807-1863), married Pliny Sheffield (1787-1856) in 1824 before the dates of these papers. Some of the business papers and letters refer to him. The Curry Hill Plantation Papers (ac 79-116) have the records of their descendants, the Sheffields and the Heeths.

2) Robert C. Mitchell. He attended Thomasville Academy in 1839 but was not mentioned in his father's will so may have died young.

3) Elizabeth W. Mitchell, married Robert H. Hardaway, a cotton dealer. In 1842 he ran a successful cotton selling business in Mobile, AL, but later losses forced him to return to Macon, GA. They had at least two children, Emily and Dony. Mr. Hardaway eventually moved to Thomasville where he may have done better as he was elected mayor in 1856.

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4) Martha J[ordan?] Mitchell, married David(?) Flanders, in business with Lightfoot, another Mitchell son-in-law.

5) Emily Mitchell, married William T. Lightfoot. They lived in Macon and had several children: Josephine (d. 1845), Robert ("little Bob"), Julia (d. 1851), Mitchell, and William, Jr. Mr. Lightfoot owned a store.

6) Ann Green Mitchell, married John M. Tison of Waynesville, GA, in 1843. she was apparently one of the younger children, marrying the year of her mother's death and retaining contacts with house slaves back in Thomas Co. The Mitchells had formerly lived in Wayne (now Brantley) Co.

7) John William Henry Mitchell (b. ca. 1827). John worked in his brother-in-law William Lightfoot's store in Macon around 1845 but returned to Thomas Co. later. In 1849 he married Julia Anne Johnson (b. ca. 1829), daughter of prominent planter Thomas Jefferson and Jane W. Hadley Johnson. The young couple inherited Pebble Hill Plantation from the Johnsons. In 1850 John Mitchell was one of those who opposed secession from the Union (Ante-Bellum Thomas County by William W. Rogers, Tallahassee, FL 1963).

8) George Warren Mitchell (ca. 1831-1873) seems to have been one of the youngest children. Although his father thought he was going to leave for the California Gold Rush, George settled down to farm in Thomas Co. much as Nathaniel had done. He married Jane (Ginny) Ann Richard from Florida in 1851. Ginny's brother, Joseph R. Richard, had a merchandising partnership with John Tison in Wayne Co., GA. Accounts with field hands at the George Mitchell plantation continue after his death until 1895, so it is possible that Ginny continued to run the farm herself.

9) Sarah Mitchell married Mr. McKinnon.

10) Julia Wood (b. ca. 1833) who was reared by the Mitchells (see Thomas Co. Census, 1850).

SERIES ONE: Family Correspondence, 1837-1895. 15 folders.
104 original items (including 2 volumes), 126 pieces (3 photocopies).

After Temperance J. Mitchell's death, Nathaniel began actively searching for a new wife. Correspondence from his children in 1844 was full of the subject as they suggested possible candidates. He settled on a Macon widow originally from Connecticut (Thomas Co. 1850 census), Lucy A. Hill, and married

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her in November 1844. Business records show Nathaniel Mitchell to have remained an active cotton producer until his death in 1854. Also included in this series are the papers of George W. Mitchell and his wife Jane Richard Mitchell, their letters and business records. The latter include accounts with field hands from 1866-1895.

Box Folder

- 1 1-01 Robert C. Mitchell Letters, 1839 and 1842. 2
original loose papers, 2 pieces.

From school in Thomasville, GA, to Robert Hardaway, his brother-in-law, about crops, sickness, death, and marriage. Later he wrote his father Nathaniel from Macon.

- 1-02 Robert H. Hardaway Letters, 1842-1851 and 1879. 12
original loose papers, 12 pieces.

Robert's handwriting is very legible. He wrote in a rather pompous style to Nathaniel from Mobile, AL, where he had gone into business selling cotton. He commented on the yellow fever epidemic, Ann's marriage, Lucy Hill as a prospective wife for his father-in-law, and, of course, his business dealings. Later, his style seems deflated by his losses. He returned to Macon, GA, where he continued to suffer from financial problems and was forced to turn to Nathaniel for help. Other topics covered are: the Macon elections, the scarlet fever epidemic of 1845, his Lightfoot in-laws, the war in Texas, an explanation of the rise and fall of cotton prices, and George's running Nathaniel's farm. There is one letter to a sister, dated 1879, from Thomasville where he apparently was working for a cotton dealer named Stegal.

- 1-03 Hardaway Family Letters, 1839-1844. 3 original
loose papers, 3 pieces.

Letters from Elizabeth W. Mitchell (Mrs. R.H.) Hardaway, her sister Martha M. Flanders, and brother-in-law James H. Hardaway in Macon to Robert C. and Nathaniel R. Mitchell. They concern religion, the cotton firm of Boot & Maitland, and the widow Lucy.

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Box Folder

- 1 1-04 William T. Lightfoot Letters, 1842-1851. 6 original loose papers, 6 pieces.

William wrote to his father-in-law from Macon about the widow Hill, crops, the death of his daughters in 1845 and 1851, and the Hardaway family.

- 1-05 John Lightfoot and Pliny Sheffield Business Papers, 1837-1838 and n.d. 5 original loose papers, 5 pieces.

These are mostly promissary notes of Mitchell in-laws.

- 1-06 Ann Green Mitchell and John M. Tison Letters, 1843-1856. 15 original loose papers, 15 pieces.

The letters are from their home in coastal Georgia to Nathaniel and, later, brother John W.H. Mitchell. John Tison had a querulous tone. He discussed health and crops, asked after relations and slaves, and gave advice on writing and remarriage. Ann wrote two letters from Waynesville and Bethel (later Sterling, Glynn Co.) to her father. In 1844 she was about to be confined and needed a bed shipped to her through Troupsville (Valdosta). A female slave of Nathaniel named Charry was mentioned by both Ann and John. In 1851 Ann was alone at home and in unexplained trouble. Later letters from John to John Mitchell concern a canal built in 1852 (and of no use to their town, complained Mr. Tison); Dr. Collins, a prime mover in the railroad which was built around 1855 in their area; the selling of slaves; the postal service (he was the Bethel postmaster); the need for him to be guardian of his own children for them to inherit Nathaniel's money; and the management of George Mitchell's Brunswick property.

- 1-07 John William Henry Mitchell Letters to Nathaniel R. Mitchell, 1845. 4 original loose papers, 4 pieces.

John is writing from Macon, GA, to his father about his poor health working in William Lightfoot's store. He also discussed various members of the family, including Pliny Sheffield, and politics in south Georgia. It is interesting that

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Box Folder

1 1-07 (cont.) John, who marries into an even more prominent Thomas County family, openly prefers field work on the plantation to being shut up in a store.

1-08 Nathaniel Raines Mitchell Letter to George Warren Mitchell, 1849. 1 original loose paper, 1 piece.

This is the only piece of correspondence in the collection known to be by the patriarch himself. He cautioned his son against "gold fever" in the Rush of 1849 to California and recommended the action of brother John who was about to marry.

1-09 George Warren Mitchell Correspondence, 1849 and 1855. 2 original loose papers, 2 pieces.

George wrote from Macon, GA, to his father about his three-day trip between Thomasville and Macon, poor weather and sickness. He may have been home for brother John's wedding as this letter is dated only two months after his father's. Another letter is from a friend who appears to be involved in a land fraud.

1-10 Richard Family Correspondence, 1851-1855. 5 original loose papers, 5 pieces.

Clarissa of Aligator, FL, wrote to her friend Jane (Ginny) Richard (later Mrs. Geo. W. Mitchell) about new dresses and material. Ginny was married the next month, Dec. 1851. In other letters from Bethel (probably present-day Sterling), Glynn Co., Joseph R. Richard wrote his sister, Ginny (variously spelled Ginnie, Genny, and Jenny) about his return home from her wedding, family health, his own marriage to Sophronia three months later, and the murder of young John Sheffield (son of Mary M. and Pliny Sheffield) by a family slave named Burrell. [Burrell was apparently acquitted of this crime. History of Thomas County, W. Irwin MacIntyre, 1923.] Jacob(?) Richard, Alachira (FL?) wrote his daughter, Jane, about their impending visit and the building of a new house. And from Waynesville, GA, Joseph wrote George in 1855 about the railroad to be constructed between Brunswick and the Satilla Creek, his merchandising partnership with John Tison, and the American Party in Wayne Co., GA.

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Box Folder

- 1 1-11 George W. Mitchell Business Papers, 1849-1875/76.
 35 original loose papers, 35 pieces.

 Promissary notes and dry goods bills.

- 1-12 George W. Mitchell Legal Papers, 1859 and 1866-
 1867. 6 original loose papers, 6 pieces.

 Includes a land plat and indenture, 1859. Agree-
ments with freedmen in 1866-1867 include these names:

Blake, Mary	Simms, Christmas (male)
Britton, Wesley	Simms, January (male)
Davis, Bill	Simms, Judy (male)
Mitchell, Solomon	Simms, Michael
Patterson, Cezar	Simms, Richard
Patterson, Hetty	Simson, Elizabeth
Patterson, March (male)	Skinner, Dennis
Scott, London	Skinner, Frank
Scott, Louisa	Smith, John
	Taylor, Lizzina

 Other contracts for sharecropping do not specify
race. Names occurring are: Henry Butler, John Collins, Mar-
shall Cummings, and Henry Howell.

- 1-13 George W. Mitchell Account Book, 1866-1872. 1 o-
 riginal volume, 5 pieces. 150 + i-iv pages.

 "Accounts With Hands, 1869." Lists of goods sup-
plied to people listed in folder 1-12 and others at later
dates. The plantation functioned as a "company store" for the
sharecroppers.

- 1-14 Jane Ann (Ginny) Richard (Mrs. Geo. W.) Mitchell
 Account Book, 1872-1895. 1 original volume, 15
 pieces. 92 pages.

 This account book continues some of the same names
which appeared in George W. Mitchell's accounts. Since George
died around 1872 and since this new volume has agreements be-
tween Mrs. Mitchell (now probably in her forties or older) and
the hands, we can assume that the book was kept by Jane
Mitchell.

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Box Folder

- 1 1-15 Travel Journal and Other Papers, 1842, 1869, and
 n.d. 6 original loose papers, 10 pieces (3 photo-
 copied).

The diary of a journey from the Tennessee River to Thomasville, GA, in 1842, possibly by Mitchell or one of his sons. It documents the mileage and expenses, generally 30 miles a day, less than \$1. a night. The traveler came into Georgia through Rabun Co., passed through Gwinnett Co., took "a right hand road called the Peachtree Rd. which leads down the Chattahoochee R.," and continues through Decatur, McDonough, Forsyth, and Macon on his or her way south. Also included is a list of dry goods to be purchased, perhaps fabrics for a wedding; several poems or lyrics copied by Missie Mitchell; and a letter from Hermione(?) to her sister, written from Madison, FL, 1869.

SERIES TWO: Nathaniel Raines Mitchell Family Business Papers,
1830-1877. 11 folders. 268 items, 273 pieces: 267 o-
riginal loose items, 272 pieces; 1 printed item, 1 piece.

Business papers include domestic records of food and clothing purchased, legal and financial agreements, and receipts for medical care, tuition, hotels, newspapers subscriptions. For additional business papers, see the records of the George W. Mitchell family included in Series One.

Box Folder

- 2 2-01 Nathaniel R. Mitchell Family Tax Receipts, 1830-
 1852, 1869, and 1877. 18 original loose papers,
 18 pieces.

Includes receipts for George W. Mitchell and Robert H. Hardaway also.

- 2 2-02 Dry Goods and Services Bills and Receipts, 1830-
 1853. 143 items, 143 pieces: 142 original loose
 papers, 142 pieces; 1 printed item, 1 piece.

Includes receipts for postage as well as every other kind of household item and foodstuff in south Georgia and Florida.

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Box Folder

- 2 2-03 Nathaniel R. Mitchell Promissary Notes and Other
 Monetary Transactions, 1831-1852. 58 original
 loose papers, 62 pieces.

Notes list many local names, Mitchell and Jordan
relatives, and Nathaniel's second wife, Lucy A. Hill Mitchell.
One note is headed with the name of the family plantation,
Pleasant Hill.

- 2-04 Nathaniel R. Mitchell Hotel Bills, 1831-1849.
 6 original loose papers, 6 pieces.

Bills from the Planter's Hotel in Tallahassee, FL,
where Mitchell stayed while doing business.

- 2-05 Nathaniel R. Mitchell Court Orders, 1834-1853.
 4 original loose papers, 4 pieces.

- 2-06 Nathaniel R. Mitchell Family Subscription Receipts,
 1835-1854 and 1859. 15 original loose papers,
 16 pieces.

One is for George's subscription. Titles are:
Albany Courier, Evangelical Universalist, Georgia Citizen,
Georgia Courier, Southern Recorder, Tallahassee Floridian, and
Wire-Grass Reporter.

- 2-07 Nathaniel R. Mitchell Tuition Bills, 1838-1850.
 6 original loose papers, 6 pieces.

Bills from the Thomasville Academy for the tuition
of Mitchell's children and ward, Ann, John, George, Robert, and
Julia A. Wood.

- 2-08 Nathaniel R. Mitchell Family Medical Bills, 1837,
 1847-1853, and 1868. 7 original loose papers, 7
 pieces.

Includes one bill to George W. Mitchell. The papers
bill for home visits, bleedings, blisterings, tooth extraction,
and prescriptions.

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- 2 2-09 Nathaniel R. Mitchell Land Records, 1842-1843.
 5 original loose papers, 5 pieces.
- 2-10 Recipes, n.d. 5 original loose papers, 5 pieces.
 Recipes are for soap and for medicines.
- 2-11 Sheep Raising Business Papers, 1854 and n.d. 5 o-
 riginal loose papers, 5 pieces.

SERIES THREE: Nathaniel Raines Mitchell Cotton and Tobacco
Business Papers, 1831-1853. 4 folders. 96 items, 97
pieces: 95 original loose papers, 96 pieces; 1 printed
item, 1 piece.

Includes letters from commission merchants and factors
accounting for cotton received, sold, and the charges incurred;
ship bills of lading; railroad shipping receipts; cotton weight
certificates; warehouse receipts; and various other papers re-
lating to the shipping and selling of cotton and tobacco in
Thomas Co., GA; Magnolia, Saint Marks, Port Leon, and Talla-
hassee FL; New York City, NY; and Boston, MA. Florida ports
were used before the Atlantic and Gulf Railroad was completed
in 1861 (Anti-Bellum Thomas County, 1825-1861 by William W.
Rogers, Tallahassee, 1963).

Box Folder

- 2 3-01 Cotton Business Records, 1831-1842 and n.d.
 33 items, 33 pieces: 32 original loose papers,
 32 pieces; 1 printed item, 1 piece.

 Includes a business card for McNaught & Ormond, Port
Leon, FL, Commission Merchants.

- 3-02 Cotton Business Records, 1842-1843. 29 original
 loose papers, 29 pieces.

 The papers have been grouped to cover the cotton
business year, fall to spring. This was a particularly well-
documented year.

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Box Folder

3 3-03 Cotton Business Records, 1844-1855. 32 original
 loose papers, 33 pieces.

 3-04 Tobacco Business Records, 1846. 2 original loose
 papers, 2 pieces.

 Nathaniel was said to be the first planter in this
area to raise tobacco for export.