

PICKETT FAMILY PAPERS, 1779-1937, Undated

Finding aid

Collection number: LPR185

Extent: 3.5 cubic feet (5 archives boxes, 2 book boxes, 2 oversize boxes, 6 microfilm reels)

**Alabama Department of Archives and History,
624 Washington Ave., Montgomery, AL 36130
www.archives.alabama.gov**

**PICKETT FAMILY PAPERS, 1779-1937, Undated
SERIES DSCRIPTION AND CONTAINER LIST**

NOTE: Portions of this collection concerning Pickett’s research on the history of Alabama and some of his personal correspondences have been transcribed. Transcriptions are **not** included on the microfilm if the original is included in the collection. Most of the transcriptions were done many years ago and are not always accurate, which is why most were not microfilmed. New and accurate transcriptions have been made for the following: Manuscript Book 1, “Letters from Various Distinguished and Well-Informed Persons...;” the first four sections of Manuscript Book 2, “Interesting Notes Upon the History of Alabama;” an 1849 letter and manuscript from John K. Henry; and an 1851 letter from Pickett to Absalom Jackson.

SERIES I: ALBERT J. PICKETT PAPERS, 1779-1904

This series contains the following subseries: A. HISTORY OF ALABAMA, 1779-1852; B. HISTORY OF MONTGOMERY, 1852; C. EULOGY AND BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES, 1858-1904; D. CORRESPONDENCE, 1837-1858; E. SCRAPBOOK, CLIPPINGS, AND SPEECHES, 1835-1858, Undated; F. FINANCIAL RECORDS, 1850-1880, Undated; G. LEGAL RECORDS, 1851, 1861; H. MISCELLANEOUS, CIRCA 1852-1856, Undated.

SUBSERIES A: HISTORY OF ALABAMA, 1779-1852

This subseries contains material Albert J. Pickett collected and created in the process of researching and writing the *History of Alabama and Incidentally of Georgia and Mississippi from the Earliest Period* (1851). This series is arranged in four sub-subseries: 1. Bound Volumes of Manuscripts, 1779-1848; 2. Unbound Correspondence, 1814-1852; 3. Notebooks, circa 1848-1850; and 4. Map of Fort Mims and Its Environs, 1813.

SUB-SUBSERIES 1: Bound Volumes of Manuscripts, 1779-1848

Most of the letters, reminiscences, and documents Pickett received were bound into two volumes. Book 1, “Letters from Various Distinguished and Well-Informed Persons Answering Enquiries Made of Them by Albert J. Pickett...,” contains ninety-seven letters to Pickett apprizing him of various sources of information, suggesting books he should read, and offering advice on writing. Book 2, “Interesting Notes Upon the History of Alabama...,” is primarily a collection of letters to Pickett containing first person accounts of significant events and prominent people in early nineteenth century Alabama. It also contains notes made by Pickett of conversations he had with several early settlers, and original documents from the early 1800s. Much of Book 2 concerns the Creek Indian War, describing events such as the Canoe Fight, the Battle of Burnt Corn, and the Fort Mims Massacre. Other topics include the French Vine and Olive Colony near Demopolis.

Box	Description
1	Book 1, “Letters from Various Distinguished and Well-Informed Persons,” 1846-1848

2	Book 2, "Interesting Notes Upon the History of Alabama...", 1779-1848
---	---

SUB-SUBSERIES 2: Unbound Correspondence, 1814-1852

There are a few items of unbound correspondence concerning the history of Alabama. Of particular interest is a transcript of a letter to Pickett from Col. Phillip Raiford enclosing three original letters from Benjamin Hawkins in 1814 and 1815.

Box	Folder	Description	Microfilm Reel
3	1	Letter and manuscript: "An Early History and Indian Difficulties in Butler County," by John K. Henry, April 1849	2
3	2	Letters from Col. Phillip Raiford with Benjamin Hawkins letters, and related letter from Harriet James, 1814-1852	2
3	3	Letter, Pickett to Absalom Jackson, March 1851	2

SUB-SUBSERIES 3: Notebooks, circa 1848-1850

Early drafts of the *History of Alabama* are found in this sub-series. There are seven softbound notebooks containing heavily edited drafts of the latter part of the book. They cover the years 1783 to 1818. The earliest notebooks are numbered one through four (1783-1807), and the latest notebook is labeled "No. 8" (1814-1818). There are fragments of at least two notebooks covering the intervening years. A comparison of the stitching and assemblage of the fragments with the other notebooks suggests that Pickett unbound notebook Nos. 5, 6, and 7, rearranged certain sections, and loosely re-stitched them. Some pages may be missing. The drafts chiefly concern Alexander McGillivray, early settlement by the Americans, relations with the Creek Indians, and the Creek Indian War.

An additional smaller hardbound notebook titled "McGillivray and the Creeks" contains a more polished draft that was published as an article in the *Alabama Historical Quarterly* in 1930 (pp.126-148).

Box	Folder	Description
3	4	"No. 1, Book or Manuscript in relation to General Alexander McGillivray [covers 1783-1790]", circa 1848-1850
3	5	"No. 2, Manuscript upon Alexander McGillivray and the Creek Indians generally from 1790 to [1792]," circa 1848-1850
3	6	"No. 3, Manuscript. upon Alabama in 1792 to [1798]," circa 1848-1850
3	7	"No. 4, Manuscript. upon Alabama" [1799 to 1807], circa 1848-1850
3	8	First fragment [contains 1808 - July 1813], circa 1848-1850
3	9	Second fragment [contains Aug. - Nov. 1813], circa 1848-1850
3	10	"No. 8, Manuscript upon Alabama" [1814-1818], circa 1848-1850
3	11	"McGillivray and the Creeks," circa 1848-1850

SUB-SUBSERIES 4: Map of Fort Mims and Its Environs, 1813

This is a hand-drawn map depicting the layout of the fort and includes notations concerning the massacre at Fort Mims on August 29, 1813. It was among the papers of General Ferdinand L. Claiborne which were given to Pickett by the general's son. The map is stored with the ADAH map collection and is viewable online at:

<http://alabamamaps.ua.edu/historicalmaps/nativeamericans/index.html>

<u>Box</u>	<u>Description</u>
CB-23	Reproduction map, not on microfilm

SUBSERIES B: HISTORY OF MONTGOMERY, 1852

This subseries contains a photocopy of a brief handwritten sketch of the history of Montgomery by Pickett. A copy of this history was placed in the cornerstone of First Baptist Church in 1852.

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Description</u>
3	12	History of Montgomery, 1852

SUBSERIES C: EULOGY AND BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES, 1858-1904

This series consists of a handwritten eulogy about Pickett by an unknown person and two published biographical sketches by men who knew him. The first was by Crawford M. Jackson in 1859, and the second was by Pickett's son-in-law, Col. Michael L. Woods, for the Alabama Historical Society in 1904.

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Microfilm Reel</u>
4	1	Eulogy and Biographical Sketches, 1858-1904	3

SUBSERIES D: CORRESPONDENCE, 1837-1858

The correspondence subseries is composed of letters by Pickett to family members, usually his wife, and letters to Pickett from friends and acquaintances. Over half of the family correspondence was written when Pickett traveled to New York and Charleston to arrange for the publication of the *History of Alabama*. These letters contain news and inquiries about friends and relatives and some observations on his travels. The non-family correspondence primarily concerns business and includes a letter from Pickett to Gov. C.C. Clay in 1837.

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Description</u>
4	2	Family Correspondence, 1850-1858
4	3	Non-Family Correspondence, 1837-1858

SUBSERIES E: SCRAPBOOK, CLIPPINGS, AND SPEECH, 1835-1858, Undated

This subseries contains a scrapbook assembled by Pickett, clippings, and transcriptions of clippings and speeches. All items in this series date from Pickett's lifetime. (Articles about Pickett and / or his book which postdate his death are in SERIES XII. CLIPPINGS.) Many of the articles were written by Pickett about political issues, such as the importation of slaves, and historical topics, both European and American. The scrapbook includes a copy of "Eight Days in New Orleans" which he published as he began researching the history of Alabama. Also included are numerous articles, most very brief, about Pickett's *History of Alabama*.

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Description</u>
8		Oversize material: Scrapbook, 1835 – circa 1850
4	4	Clippings, 1853
9	1	Oversize material: Clippings, 1836-1857
4	5	Transcriptions of clippings, 1836-1858
4	6	Transcription of speech, Undated

SUBSERIES F: FINANCIAL RECORDS, 1850-1880, Undated

This subseries chiefly contains receipts, many of which itemize purchases Pickett made from a merchant over the course of many months. Records are organized in chronological order by latest date.

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Description</u>	
4	7	1850-1852	
4	8	January - May 1853	
4	9	June - August 1853	
4	10	September - December 1853	
4	11	January 1854	
4	12	February - March 1854	
4	13	April - December 1854	
4	14	January - May 1855	
4	15	June - December 1855	
<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Microfilm Reel</u>
4	16	1856	4
4	17	1857	4
4	18	1858	4
4	19	"A.J. Pickett & Son," 1858 – January 1859	4
5	1	Estate of A.J. Pickett, 1859-1880, Undated	4
9	2	Oversize material: Financial Records, 1853-1855	4
9	3	Oversize material: Financial Records, 1856-1858, Undated	4

SUBSERIES G: LEGAL RECORDS, 1851, 1861

This consists of an 1851 land deed and court summons issued to four of A.J. Pickett's children in 1861 regarding the selling of land belonging to his estate.

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Description</u>
9	4	Oversize material: land deed, 1851
5	2	Court Summons, 1861

SUBSERIES H: MISCELLANEOUS, circa 1852-1856, Undated

This contains the brief minutes of an Alabama Historical Society meeting from circa 1852; an 1856 resolution of Alabama Fire Engine Company, No. 2; a portion of a draft about Moses; and notes someone sent to Pickett on activities in Irwinton during the 1836 Creek War.

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Description</u>
5	3	Miscellaneous, circa 1852-1856, Undated

SERIES II: GENEALOGY

The genealogy series contains genealogical information about the Pickett family and several families who married ancestors or descendants of historian Albert J. Pickett. The papers appear to have been collected by several different people. Following the Pickett family folder, the papers are arranged alphabetically by family. The "multiple family" folders (numbers 17 and 18) contain papers regarding so many different families that filing each under any one family was impossible. The last folder concerns families whose connection to the Pickett family is unknown.

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Description</u>
5	4	Pickett family
5	5	Abercrombie family (m. Hall, m. Jackson, m. Pickett family)
5	6	Bibb family (m. Jackson, m. Pickett family)
5	7	Cobb family (m. Bibb, m. Jackson, m. Pickett family)
5	8	Cobb papers, transcripts
5	9	Cole family (m. Bibb and Terry families)
5	10	DeJarnette family (m. Pickett family)
5	11	Dickson family (m. Pickett family)
5	12	Harris family (m. Pickett family)
5	13	Haynie family (m. a DeJarnette of Pickett descent)
5	14	Jackson family (m. Pickett family)
5	15	Robinson family (m. Pickett family)
5	16	Terry family (m. Pickett family)
5	17	Multiple families
5	18	Multiple families, notes by Lizzie Banks Pickett
5	19	Families of unknown significance

SERIES III: WILLIAM R. PICKETT (I), LETTERS, 1833 and 1850

This series contains two letters, one from William Edward Hayne to William R. Pickett (Albert J. Pickett’s father) concerning business matters, and one from William R. Pickett to Gen. Leroy Pope Walker giving Walker permission to marry his orphaned granddaughter Eliza Dickson Pickett, daughter of William Dickson and Eliza G. (Whitman) Pickett.

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Description</u>
5	20	William R. Pickett (I) Letters, 1833 and 1850

SERIES IV: SARAH S. (HARRIS) PICKETT PAPERS, 1859-1881

This series contains a letter and a few receipts belonging to Albert J. Pickett’s wife Sarah S. (Harris) Pickett. The letter is from C.M. Jackson and discusses the biographical sketch of Pickett he intends to publish.

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Description</u>
5	21	Sarah S. (Harris) Pickett Papers, 1859-1881

SERIES V: PAPERS OF ALBERT J. PICKETT’S CHILDREN, 1849-1904, Undated

This series consists of four subseries: A. ALBERT PICKETT (II) PAPERS, 1877-1904; B. JOHN G. PICKETT PAPERS, 1874-1900s; C. MARTHA R. PICKETT PAPERS, 1854, Undated; D. WILLIAM R. PICKETT (II) PAPERS, 1849-1876.

SUBSERIES A: ALBERT PICKETT (II) PAPERS, 1877-1904

The papers of Albert Pickett (II) consist of an 1877 court summons, letters dated 1904 from distant cousin James O. Carr, and a typescript copy of “The Dickson Letters,” which Carr compiled. Published in 1901, “The Dickson Letters” are five letters from historian Albert J. Pickett’s grandfather William Dickson. The first four letters were written in the 1780s to his cousin in Ireland and discuss the quality and of the land and crops as well as politics. The fifth and shortest letter was written in 1818 to his daughter and mentions that William Pickett and family had reached Huntsville in the Alabama Territory.

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Description</u>
5	22	Summons and letters, 1877, 1904
5	23	“The Dickinson Letters,” 1901

SUBSERIES B: JOHN G. PICKETT PAPERS, 1874-1900s

This subseries consists of an 1874 letter and some notes on the Confederate seal, as well as a fragment of an almanac from circa 1880.

Box	Folder	Description
5	24	John G. Pickett Papers, 1874-1900s

SUBSERIES C: MARTHA R. PICKETT PAPERS, 1854, Undated

This series consists of an 1854 letter from Martha R. Pickett's future husband Michael L. Woods and two undated envelopes.

Box	Folder	Description
5	25	Martha R. Pickett Papers, 1854, Undated

SUBSERIES D: WILLIAM R. PICKETT (II) PAPERS, 1849-1876

This series is arranged in three sub-subseries: 1. Financial Records, 1849-1876; 2. Legal Records, 1866-1872; and 3. Military Records, 1855-1861.

SUB-SUBSERIES 1: Financial Records, 1849-1876, Undated

This sub-subseries consists of receipts and accounts belonging to William R Pickett (II).

Box	Folder	Description	Microfilm Reel
5	26	1849 - 1855	5
5	27	1856 - 1857	5
5	28	1858 - 1859	5
5	29	1860 - 1865	5
5	30	January - June 1866	5
6	1	July - December 1866	5
6	2	January - August 1867	5
6	3	September - December 1867	5
6	4	1868	5
6	5	1869	5
6	6	1870 - 1872	5
6	7	1873 - 1876	6
6	8	Undated	6
6	9	Accounts pertaining to sharecroppers, 1866 - 1867	6
6	10	Ledger: mostly pertaining to sharecroppers, circa 1870 - 1871	6
6	11	Ledger: mostly pertaining to sharecroppers, circa 1871 - 1872	6
9	5	<i>Oversize material</i> : 1858 - 1869, Undated	6

SUB-SUBSERIES 2: Legal Records, 1866-1872

This sub-subseries contains land deeds, licenses to sell liquor, a labor contract with freedmen; a declaration of bankruptcy; and a portion of his will.

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Description</u>
6	12	Legal Records, 1866-1872

SUB-SUBSERIES 3: Military Records, 1855-1861

This sub-subseries consists of four military commissions issued between 1855 and 1861: assistant adjutant general, aide-de-camp, assistant quartermaster general, and quartermaster general.

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Description</u>
6	13	Military Records, 1855-1861

SERIES VI: WILLIAM DICKSON AND ELIZA G. (WHITMAN) PICKETT PAPERS, 1825-1850

This series contains the papers of Albert J. Pickett's brother and sister-in-law. It chiefly consists of letters from Eliza Whitman Pickett to her sister Mrs. Jane (Whitman) Bailey Keely before and after her marriage to William Dickson Pickett. Early letters focus on her social life, but after marriage and children her letters include more about family life. Since the Whitmans were from Rhode Island, the letter sometimes reveals a New Englander's perspective on southern life.

After Eliza's death in 1836, there are a few letters from William Dickson Pickett to Jane's son, William Bailey, and following William Dickson Pickett's death in November 1837, there are two letters to Jane from Albert J. Pickett.

There are also legal records concerning the probating of the estate of William Dickson Pickett.

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Description</u>
7	1	Letters from Eliza G. (Whitman) Pickett, 1825-1836
7	2	Letters from William Dickson and Albert J. Pickett, 1836-1839
7	3	Legal records, 1850

SERIES VII: WILLIAM HARRIS PAPERS, 1795-1809, Undated

This series contains the transcript of a letter from William Harris to his brother, a lease, and numerous receipts belonging to Harris, who was Albert J. Pickett's father-in-law.

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Description</u>
7	4	William Harris Papers, 1795-1809, Undated

SERIES VIII: DR. WALTER CLARK JACKSON FAMILY PAPERS, 1843-1886

This series consists of two letters, one to Dr. Jackson from his father when he was young, and a thank-you note from the Montgomery Greys to Mrs. Jackson. (Their daughter was Elizabeth Cowles Jackson who married Alston Harris Pickett, son of Albert J. Pickett.)

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Description</u>
7	5	Dr. Walter Clark Jackson family papers, 1843-1886

SERIES IX: LEGAL PAPERS, MISCELLANEOUS, 1831-1862

This series contains a typescript of an 1831 document allowing John Gindrat to attend the University of Alabama, and two 1862 Mississippi land deeds, one for John Gindrat and one for W.W. Brame. (Gindrat married Mary Harris, the sister of Albert J. Pickett's wife.)

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Description</u>
9	6	Oversize materials

SERIES X: MILITARY PAPERS, MISCELLANEOUS, 1862, Undated

This series contains a few pages from a diary written in March and April 1862 by Hugh F. Pickett of Co. I, 1st Alabama Cavalry. It includes a description of the battle of Shiloh. Hugh F. Pickett's connection to the Albert J. Pickett family is unknown. This series also contains fragments of an undated letter from William R. Singleton to "Col." describing a naval yard.

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Description</u>
7	6	Diary fragments, Hugh F. Pickett, 1862
7	7	William R. Singleton letter, Undated

SERIES XI: HISTORICAL RESEARCH, Undated

This series contains notes on various historical topics, some of which is in the handwriting of Lizzie Banks Pickett, Albert J. Pickett's granddaughter. Lizzie Banks Pickett's notes concern early American and Alabama history. Some material was written or collected by an unknown person on subjects such as the Civil War, Indians, and early Alabama history.

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Description</u>
7	8	Lizzie Banks Pickett's notes
7	9	Collector unknown

SERIES XII: CLIPPINGS, 1831-1937, Undated

This series contains clippings about Albert J. Pickett which were published after his death and clippings and transcriptions of clippings which do not concern Pickett. (Clippings and transcriptions of clippings about Pickett published during his lifetime are in subgroup I. Albert J. Pickett Papers.)

Box	Folder	Description
7	10	Clippings about Albert J. Pickett, 1904 - 1933
9	7	<i>Oversize material:</i> Clippings about Albert J. Pickett, 1903, 1937
7	11	Clippings not about Albert J. Pickett, 1831 - 1928
9	8	<i>Oversize material:</i> Clippings not about Albert J. Pickett, 1852 - 1906, Undated
7	12	Transcriptions of clippings about Aaron Burr, 1807 - 1868, Undated
7	13	Transcriptions of clippings about Theodosia Burr Alston, 1835, Undated
Top of E Cabinet		<i>Oversize material:</i> Fashion plates, dress pattern from the <i>Young Ladies Journal</i> [London]; in map cabinet (Too large to be microfilmed), January 1886

SERIES XIII: MISCELLANEOUS, 1853-1886, Undated

This series contains a few receipts from the 1850s belonging to unknown persons, a few envelopes, a drawing, and advertising cards from circa 1880s - 1890s.

Box	Folder	Description
7	14	Miscellaneous, 1853-1886, Undated