

DeKalb History Center

Davis Family Papers (1824-1951, bulk 1839-1896)

Introduction: The Davis Family Papers include diaries, letters, deeds, and receipts kept by Robert F. Davis, Jr. and his family, as well as biographical and genealogical information on three generations of the Davis family collected and donated by Robert F. Davis III in the mid-twentieth century.

Provenance: Gift of Robert F. Davis III, 1979 (Accession # 1979.100)

Single photocopies may be made for research purposes. Permission to publish materials from this collection must be requested from the Archivist, DeKalb History Center. Citations should be made as follows:

Description of specific item; Davis Family Papers, DeKalb History Center Archives.

Processed by Megan Milford, DHS intern, 2001.

Size: two manuscript boxes (shelf 28)

Biographical Sketch of Robert F. Davis

Robert F. Davis Jr. was born in 1839 in DeKalb County, Georgia. A life-long DeKalb resident, Davis served in the Confederate Army as a member of Company E, 7th Regiment, Georgia Volunteer Infantry, Army of Northern Virginia (“DeKalb Light Infantry”). He was made a 3rd Corporal on May 29, 1861, elected a Jr. 2nd Lt. on May 12, 1862, and a 2nd Lt. on November 9, 1862. He surrendered at Appomattox, Virginia on April 9, 1865. After the war, Davis returned to DeKalb County, where he lived until his death in 1899.

Description

The Davis Family Papers are primarily composed of correspondence, receipts, and pocket diaries kept by Robert F. Davis Jr. These small books contain diary notes, memoranda, farm accounts, and weather observations made over a 20-year period (1867-1887). The collection also includes land deeds, receipts, and various documents concerning other Davis Family members, as well as biographical and genealogical information on three generations of the family. Relatives specifically mentioned include Moses, E.A., Anne, Clara, and Olivia Davis as well as Robert Sr., Robert Jr., and Robert III.

Organization and Arrangement

The first box contains biographical information and family trees, receipts for farm expenses and money orders, correspondence from Robert F. Davis Jr., and deeds to Davis

family land. The second box contains 12 small books, or pocket diaries, of farm expenses and other daily memoranda for the years 1867-1887.

While the collection appears to have been organized upon accession in 1979, the Davis Family Papers have been reorganized into five general categories: biographical information, land deeds, correspondence, expense records, and pocket diaries. Within each category, folders have been arranged in chronological order. Two folders (files 34 & 35) were discovered to be empty and the accession records contained within have been removed and filed. Original file numbers have been retained and are recorded beside new numbers in the folder list.

Subject Headings

Confederate Army/Civil War
 Robert F. Davis Sr., Jr., & III
 E.A. Davis
 Anne Davis
 Clara Davis
 Olivia Davis

Folder List

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Contents</u>	<u>Date(s)</u>	<u>File #</u>
1		<i>Biographical Information</i>		
	1	Biographical & Genealogical Information		0
	2	Property Title Abstract	1915	
	3	Births, Deaths, and Marriages		6
	4	Anne, Clara, & Olivia Davis	1892-1912	7
		<i>Land Deeds</i>		
	5	Land Deeds	1823-1842	16
	6	Land Deed – E.A. Davis	1853	14
	7	Sheriff's Deed – M.A. Steele & J.A. Mason	1894	17
	8	Land Deed – Sallie, Ethel, and R.F. Davis III	1910	15
	9	Estate Sale – E.A. Davis	1880	21
		<i>Correspondence</i>		
	10	Letter to E.A. Davis re: farm	1839	8
	11	Letter from Richmond	1862	2
	12	Correspondence	1862-1878	10
	13	Trotti/Clower Correspondence re: lineage	1952	3
	14	Trotti/Clower Correspondence re: lineage	1953	4
	15	Trotti/Clower Correspondence re: lineage	1954	5
		<i>Expense Records</i>		
	16	Expense Records – Moses W. Davis	1853	13
	17	Expense Records	1854-1878	9
	18	Expense Records	1859-1865	19
	19	Expense Records	1861-1870	12
	20	Expense Records	1864	1

	21	Receipts	1870-1875	20
	22	Receipt for Money Order	1871	11
		<i>Pocket Diaries</i>		
	23	Index of Diary Contents		18
	24	Pocket Diary	1856-1875	23
	25	Pocket Diary ("Book 1")	1867-1870	22
	26	Pocket Diary ("Book 2")	1872-1879	24
2	1	Pocket Diary ("Book 3")	1875-1876	25
	2	Pocket Diary	1880-1881	27
	3	Pocket Diary ("Book 4")	1880-1887	26
	4	Pocket Diary ("Book 5")	1881-1887	28
	5	Pocket Diary	1884	30
	6	Pocket Diary ("Book 6")	1886-1887	29
	7	Pocket Diary	1888	31
	8	Pocket Diary	1892	32
	9	Pocket Diary	1896	33