

DeKalb History Center

Davis Family Papers

Scope and content: 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. The records cover 1815 until 1954, with most falling between 1839 and 1896.

Provenance: Gift of Robert F. Davis III, 1979 (Accession # 1979.100). 1995.4 from Misc files (Bio files) Some files also donated by George W. Clower Jr.

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; Jill Sweetapple, Archivist, 2011, 2013.

Size: 1 document box and oversized items.

Biographical Sketch of Robert F. Davis (1839-1899): 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. He was defeated by J.B. Steward for Ordinary in the 1880s.

Description: The Davis Family Papers are primarily composed of correspondence, receipts, and pocket diaries kept by Robert F. Davis Jr. The small books contain diary notes, memoranda, farm accounts, weather observations and crops planted and harvested 1850 through 1893. 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., Anna, Clara, and Olivia Davis as well as Robert Sr., Robert Jr., and Robert III. There is a booklet written by Missouri Stokes about Robert F. Davis’ sister, Anna E. Davis upon her death; it says Anna made a flag for the DeKalb Light Infantry. There is a handwritten list of the people harvesting the cotton in September 1880 at the Davis home, called in letters the *Indian Creek Plantation*. There is also an account of expenses incurred on a trip to Jonesboro during the evacuation of Atlanta including fare charges, food and tobacco, and a pass to allow traveling through Confederate lines in 1862 to visit Decatur.

Subject Headings: Where possible, Library of Congress Subject Headings have been used.

Main entries: Davis, Robert Finshaw Sr. (-1853)
 Davis, Robert Jr. (1839-1899)
 Davis, Robert III

Subject/Added entries: Davis, E.A.
 Davis, Anna E. (1836-1898)
 Davis, Clara
 Davis, Olivia
 Fowler, John W.

Folder List

Folder	Contents	Date(s)
1	Anna E. Davis; in Memoriam by Missouri Stokes, Mrs. M.L. Gaines, Mrs. Theodore Ramspeck and Kate Kirkpatrick, Decatur First Presbyterian	May 1898
2	Correspondence	1839-1953
3	Cuyler notebook, 1979.100.0	1841-
4	Diaries Expenses (book 1 in index) Debts received ((book 2 in index) Disbursements	1867-1871 1874-1879 1850-1875
5	Book 3 Accounts and expenses Diary and accounts	1875-1876 1880-1887 1880-1881
6	Book 5 accounts and expenses Diary	1881-1887 1884
7	Book 6 Diary and expenses Diary and expenses	1886-1887 1892-1893 1888-1889
8	Accounts; very fragile	1891-1896
9	Diary index	
10	E.A. Davis documents	1838-1902
11	Estate sale – E.A. Davis List of people who picked the cotton	1880 Sep-Dec 1880
12	Family information and genealogy	
13	Farmer's Almanack	1815
14	Official papers and certificates, deeds and legal Moses W. Davis deed to his children, 1885	1853-1895
15	Photographs	
16	Property title abstract district 18, land lot 46	1915
17	Receipts	1853-1894
18	<i>South Carolina Historical Magazine</i>	July 1954

Oversized items

Deed dated March 22, 1842, district 18, land lot 46, Robert Davis; laminated

United Daughters of the Confederacy; Clara Love Davis; April 12, 1912

United Daughters of the Confederacy; Olivia A. Davis; April 12, 1912

Deed dated April 10, 1839, district 18, land lot 13; John W. Fowler and James White; laminated; donated Mar 14 1979

Deed dated September 24, 1823, district 18, land lot 12; George Tomlinson, John G. Farrell; laminated; donated Mar 14 1979