

DeKalb History Center

Miller Swanton Collection

Scope and content: The Miller Swanton Collection contains items from the Swanton House, part of the DeKalb History Center's Historic complex, and items and documents that relate to the families that lived there. There is a receipt for a slave from 1849 which shows a series of payments made. The oldest item is the 1803 family bible and the documents go until 1972.

Provenance: Gift of Jerrie T. Miller, ACC # 2012.9.

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

Description of specific item; Miller Swanton Collection, DeKalb History Center Archives

Processed by Jill Sweetapple, Archivist, 2012.

Size: 1 document box, 1 scrapbook box, ephemera

Swantons and Woodburys: The family bible in the collection says that Benjamin Franklin Swanton was born in November 1777 and his wife Elizabeth Brooks Waldron in 1787. They married in September 1806 in Dover, New Hampshire. He was a sea captain who sailed for New York from Londonderry, England, UK in 1811 and was never heard from again.

Benjamin Franklin Swanton (born 1807) was born in Bath, Maine, but moved to Dahlonga for the gold rush and eventually came to Decatur to sell cotton mill machinery. He married Sarah Fowle Hale in 1829. John Bowers Swanton married Josephine and he fought in the Civil War and he owned and operated a cotton gin and a brick yard.

There are miscellaneous receipts from Dr. J.F. Woodbury, who died in Decatur in 1884 near his daughter Mrs. John B. Swanton. He was born in Massachusetts in 1811.

Description: The Miller Swanton collection is comprised of items found in the Swanton House and documents relating to the families. There is a bible from 1803 that belonged to Benjamin Swanton and his wife Elizabeth, letters and receipts from the Woodbury family, framed pictures from the Swanton House and a photograph album containing cabinet cards and tintypes, one of Preacher, an African American man who worked for the family.

There are miscellaneous receipts from the Woodbury family, primarily Dr. J.F. Woodbury.

One \$75 receipt is for a slave, unnamed, dated 1849 in Hamilton County, Georgia made out to Emma L. Borden. The receipt states that the slave must have a suit of winter clothes and fair shoes. There is a page from a ledger book, perhaps from when a tannery existed on the Swanton property. It is an account for R.B. Lewis.

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

Main Entry: Swanton, Benjamin Franklin (1807-1890)
Swanton, Sarah Fowle Hale (1809-1881)

Subject/Added Entries: DeKalb County (Ga.)
Decatur (Ga.)
Woodbury, Dr. Joseph F. (1811-1884)
Swanton, Benjamin Franklin (1777- unknown)
Swanton, Elizabeth Brooks Waldron (1787-1813)
Swanton, John Bowers (1844-1897)
Swanton, Josephine Frances Woodbury (1845-1909)

Folder List

Box	Folder	Contents	Date(s)
1		Bound Swanton family history	
	1	Newspaper clippings	1966
	2	Woodbury family documents, receipts	1833-1911
	3	Woodbury family history documents	

Box	Contents	Date(s)
2	<i>Atlanta Journal And Constitution Magazine</i> , 2 copies Includes feature on Swanton House	Dec 10, 1972
	Family bible	1803
	Dictionary of Sarah Elizabeth Swanton	
	Unframed picture of Christ and children, unframed	
	Leather embossed photograph card album, includes 2 tintypes and many Cabinet cards, Preacher tintype is at the end	
	Print: Christ and children	

Cased Photographs box: tintype of Benjamin Franklin Swanton and his 3
granddaughters Sally, Estelle (lap) and Arria.

Framed pictures, Laundry basket and pottery from Swanton house stored in museum storage