

## Guide to the Little family papers, 1857-1950

**Title:** Little family papers

**Creator:** Little family

**Extent:** 3.5 linear feet

**Inclusive Dates:** 1857-1950

**Collection Number:** MS0863

**Provenance:** Gift of Robert Irving Little

**Processed by:** Rautt, Joanne 1982; updated by McIlwain, John 2007

**Restricted:** no

**Copyright Statement:** This collection may be protected under Title 17 of the U.S. Copyright Law.

**Preferred Citation:** Little family papers, W.S. Hoole Special Collections Library, The University of Alabama.

**Reference Code:** USALM0863

**Language:** English

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**ABSTRACT:**

A collection of papers of a Tuscaloosa, Alabama, family, including some correspondence, financial papers, clippings, and sketches.

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**BIOGRAPHICAL/HISTORICAL NOTE:**

Little, Amanda

Amanda Little was the daughter of Richard Norfleet Harris and Amanda Banks, daughter of William Banks. Norfleet Harris moved to Tuscaloosa from North Carolina ca. 1822. In 1872 Amanda married Dr. John Little, Jr.

Little, Barbara Kerr

She was the daughter of George and Margaret (Pool) Kerr, of Dumfrieshire, Scotland, both teachers in Tuscaloosa. Around the year 1835 she met and married Dr. John Little, Jr. She taught in Tuscaloosa for forty years. She died in 1869.

Little, George

George Little was a teacher and geologist, born February 11, 1838 in Tuscaloosa, son of John, Sr., and Barbara Kerr Little. John Little, Sr., was a native of Corry Hill, Dumfries, Scotland; a resident of Tuscaloosa from 1835-86; druggist there for a few years; teacher in Charleston; manager of the iron works at Beatty's Ford, N.C.; and connected with a number of other business activities. He was the grandson of William and Janet Little of Dumfrieshire, Scotland, and of George and Margaret Pool Kerr.

Dr. Little received his early education from his mother and his cousin, Miss Mary Irving, and George Bell, a graduate of Edinburgh University, Scotland. He attended the University of Alabama from 1851 to 1855 and graduated with an A.B. degree. During 1857-58 he attended the University of Berlin and in 1858-59 studied at the University of Gottingen, from which he received his Ph.D. degree. In 1906 the honorary degree of LL.D. was conferred upon him by the University of Alabama. He served in the following positions: teacher, Tuscaloosa, 1855-65; professor of natural sciences from perhaps 1860 through 1867 at Oakland College, Mississippi; professor of mineralogy and geology and agriculture, University of Georgia 1876-78; State Geologist, Mississippi, 1870-74; State Geologist, Georgia, 1874-81; geologist expert, Chattanooga, Tennessee, 1889-1892; geological expert Tuscaloosa, 1892-1912; and Secretary Tuscaloosa Board of Trade 1909-1912.

While a student at the University of Alabama, he held the rank of Sgt. in the cadet corps. In 1861 he entered the Confederate Army as a private in Lumsden's Battery. During the conflict he rose to the rank of Lt. Colonel. He was a Democrat and Presbyterian. He was a trustee, Pontotoc, Mississippi, Presbyterian Collegiate Institute; fellow, American Association of the Advancement of Science; co-author of *History of Lumsden's Battery*, C.S.A. which was published in 1905. He wrote the portion from November 4, 1861 to October 15, 1863. He also wrote *Memoirs*, a history of Tuscaloosa. He was also author of a thesis for the degree of Ph.D., Gottingen, Germany, 1859 "Selenium and the Seleniurets." He also wrote : "Reports of Progress of the Mineral, Geological, and Physical Survey of Georgia," "Ores, Minerals, and Woods," "Handbook of Georgia," "Cretaceous Fossils," in the Philadelphia Academy of Science Part III 1876: "Clays of Alabama" 1900.

He married Caroline Patillo, daughter of Rev. Daniel Gillespie Patillo and Mary Ann Doak Patillo, who lived at Zion church near Columbia, Tennessee, on May 13, 1869 at Sardis, Mississippi. They had six children: (1) Mary (2) Daniel Doak, teacher 1891-96, student Presbyterian Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky 1897-1900, pastor

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Presbyterian Church Montevallo; (3) George Kerr, U. S. Engineer. (4) James Waddell, U.S. engineer (5) John Goulding, civil engineer (6) Margaret Carolyn.

Little, Irving.

Irving Little was son of Amanda Little and Dr. John Little, Jr., born approximately 1882. He was educated at the University of Alabama and served as Department Head, Romance Language Department, The University of Alabama. He continued in active Sigma Alpha Epsilon capacity after his graduation. For a while he taught at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill. Irving Little wrote: *History of the University Club; Building & Site*, Tuscaloosa, 1950. He was unmarried and was an active member of the Presbyterian Church.

Little, James

James Little was son of Barbara Kerr Little and John Little, Sr. He was born around 1847 and died in 1892. He had taken over the management of the Little Drug Store in 1881. He was killed when his buggy overturned while he was delivering a prescription to a customer in 1892. No record of family - descendants.

Little, John, Sr.

John Little Sr. was a native of Corry Hill, Dumfriesshire, Scotland. He was born around 1800 and died in Tuscaloosa 1869. He married Barbara Kerr around 1835. He was a teacher, and his school was near the site of the old State Capital. He was the son of Andrew Little of Scotland. He had a brother, William Little. Occupation - silversmith.

Little, John, Jr.

Dr. John Little was a physician, banker, businessman, who was born June 19, 1841, the son of Barbara Kerr Little and John Little, Sr. He died February 1, 1919 in that place. He was the brother of James and George Little. He was educated in the schools of Tuscaloosa, by his mother, and by his brother Dr. George Little. The years of 1856-59 were spent at The University of Alabama. He graduated with and A.B. Degree from Oakland College, Mississippi in 1860; served in the Preparatory department of that institution from his graduation until his entry in the Confederate Army in 1861; he was a Sgt. in Lumsden's Battery, Alabama Light Artillery, 1861-1865. After civil war he worked as an accountant for his father-in-law, Wm. Kerr. He was graduated from Tulane University, 1869. He was on the physicians' staff at Bryce Hospital, and served as treasurer. He entered general practice in 1875 and managed the drug store until 1881. He was also Cashier and Vice President of the First National Bank of Tuscaloosa; he became vice president 1910, and held that position until his death in 1919. He was a Democrat and staunch Presbyterian. On November 14, 1872 he married Amanda Harris, daughter of Richard Norfleet Harris and Amanda M. Banks Harris.

Children: John III who married Eleanor Tarrant ( died 1917) and later Bertha Tarrant.

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Residence - Louisville, Ky. (2) Richard Harris, who married Johnnie Darden of Tuscaloosa, 1902.

(3) Robert Irving, Ph.D.. Professor of Romance Languages, later Department Head, University of Alabama. He died unmarried, last residence Tuscaloosa, Al.

Little, John III

John Little III was a Presbyterian Minister, born April 29, 1874 at Tuscaloosa, son of Dr. John Little, Jr. and Amanda Harris Little. His elementary preparation was by Prof. W. H. Verner. In 1893 he was graduated from the University of Alabama with a B. A. degree. In 1899 he received training in the theological seminary at Louisville, Kentucky. He was ordained to the ministry by the Presbytery of Louisville, Ky. 1899. Rev. Little was founder and superintendent of the Presbyterian Colored Missions of Louisville. The institution was opened February 1, 1899 and is in the nature of institutional churches for African Americans, giving religious instruction and industrial training under the supervision of white teachers. He first married Eleanor Tarrant who died September 2, 1917; he married (2) Bertha Hill Tarrant August 16, 1919, daughter of Samuel A. and Eliza (Selleck) Tarrant of Macon, Miss: granddaughters of Charles and Mary Ann (Patton) Selleck. Children: Elizabeth Tarrant and John Tarrant. Children: 1. Elizabeth Tarrant. 2. John. Place of residence, Louisville, Ky.

Little, Richard

Richard Little was son of Amanda Little and Dr. John Little, Jr. Resident of Tuscaloosa, Alabama, and publisher of the *Times-Gazette*, forerunner of the *Tuscaloosa News*. He sued his brothers Irving and John III after their father's death.

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**SCOPE AND CONTENTS:**

A collection of papers of a Tuscaloosa, Alabama, family, including some correspondence, financial papers, clippings, and sketches.

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**CONTAINER LIST:**

| <b>Box</b> | <b>Folder</b> | <b>Description</b>  |
|------------|---------------|---|
| 1519       | 1             | LITTLE, biography and genealogical documentation<br>Harris-Kerr-Little families |
|            | 2             | LITTLE, AMANDA Incoming, personal (alphabetical)                                |
|            | 3             | Incoming from husband, Dr. John, Jr.  |
|            | 4             | Incoming from husband, Dr. John, Jr.  |
|            | 5             | Outgoing, personal (chronological)  |
|            | 6             | LITTLE, BARBARA Outgoing 1859, personal (chronological)                         |
|            | 7             | Outgoing 1859   |
|            | 8             | Outgoing 1860   |
|            | 9             | Outgoing 1861   |

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- |      |    |  |
|------|----|--|
|      | 10 | Outgoing 1867-8  |
|      | 11 | Outgoing 1869  |
|      | 12 | Outgoing n.d.  |
|      | 13 | Outgoing n.d.  |
|      | 14 | LITTLE, GEORGE Incoming, personal (alphabetical)   |
|      | 15 | Incoming, personal   |
|      | 16 | Incoming from Cousin Mary Irving (chronological)   |
|      | 17 | Incoming from Cousin Mary Irving   |
|      | 18 | Business Correspondence, Incoming (alphabetical)   |
|      | 19 | Military C.S.A (discharge document)  |
| 1520 |    | LITTLE, IRVING Miscellaneous personal correspondence   |
|      | 1  | Incoming A-B   |
|      | 2  | Incoming C-D   |
|      | 3  | Incoming F-J   |
|      | 4  | Incoming K-L   |
|      | 5  | Incoming M-O   |
|      | 6  | Incoming P   |
| 1521 |    | LITTLE, IRVING Miscellaneous personal correspondence   |
|      | 1  | Incoming R-T   |
|      | 2  | Incoming W-Z   |
|      | 3  | Bills and Receipts   |
|      | 4  | Legal  |
|      | 5  | LITTLE, JAMES Personal correspondence, incoming (alphabetical)   |
|      | 6  | Personal correspondence, incoming (alphabetical)   |
|      | 7  | Personal correspondence, incoming (alphabetical)   |
|      | 8  | Personal correspondence, incoming (alphabetical)(from his brother, Dr. John Little, Jr. )(chronological) |
|      | 9  | Personal correspondence, outgoing  |
|      | 10 | LITTLE, JOHN, SR. Personal correspondence, incoming (alphabetical)                                       |
|      | 11 | LITTLE, JOHN, JR, (DR.) Personal correspondence, incoming from Amanda Little                             |
|      | 12 | Personal correspondence, incoming from Barbara Little  |
|      | 13 | Personal correspondence, incoming from George Little   |
|      | 14 | Personal correspondence, incoming from George Little   |
|      | 15 | Personal correspondence, incoming from George Little   |

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- 1522
- 1 LITTLE, DR. JOHN, JR. Personal correspondence, incoming from Graham family
  - 2 from Harris, Norfleet
  - 3 from Irving, Mary
  - 4 from Irving, Mary
  - 5 from Irving, Mary, outgoing
  - 6 from Kerr family, incoming
  - 7 from Little, Carrie Doak, Incoming
  - 8 from Little, Dan, Incoming
  - 9 from Little, James, Incoming
  - 10 from Little, John III, Incoming
  - 11 from Little, Richard
  - 12 from Locke, W.H.
  - 13 from Searcy, J.T.
  - 14 from Toxey, Elbert
  - 15 from United Confederate Veterans
- 1523
- LITTLE, DR. JOHN, JR. Personal correspondence, incoming, small series, less than five letters.
- 1 Miscellaneous A-B
  - 2 C-F
  - 3 H-L
  - 4 M
  - 5 N-P
  - 6 Q-S
  - 7 T-Z
  - 8 No signature
  - 9 Personal correspondence, miscellaneous outgoing
  - 10 Bank Ledger
  - 11 Insurance Policies
  - 12 Legal
  - 13 Military, general, C.S.A.  
Military, Ordnance records C.S.A.
  - 14 Condemned Stores, lost reports
  - 15 Invoices
  - 16 Receipts
  - 17 Returns
  - 18 Vouchers
  - 19 Scholastic correspondence, Oakland College, incoming
  - 20 Scholastic correspondence, The University of Alabama incoming
- BUSINESS CORRESPONDENCE:
- 21 Incoming, 1857-77
  - 22 Incoming, 1891-1907
- 1524
- 1 Bryce, Incoming

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|------|----|--|
|      | 2  | Bryce, outgoing                          |
|      | 3  | First National Bank Incoming             |
|      | 4  | First National Bank Incoming             |
|      | 5  | First National Bank Incoming             |
|      | 6  | First National Bank Incoming             |
|      | 7  | Medical Correspondence, incoming         |
|      | 8  | Pharmacy correspondence, incoming        |
|      | 9  | Physicians List, 1894-5                  |
|      | 10 | Presbyterian, Church, Incoming           |
|      | 11 | Presbyterian, Church, Incoming           |
|      | 12 | Presbyterian, Church, Incoming           |
|      | 13 | Presbyterian, Church, Incoming           |
|      | 14 | University of Alabama, Trustee, Incoming |
|      | 15 | Bills and Receipts, 1861                 |
|      | 16 | Bills and Receipts, 1862                 |
|      | 17 | Bills and Receipts, 1863                 |
|      | 18 | Bills and Receipts, 1871                 |
|      | 19 | Bills and Receipts, 1872                 |
|      | 20 | Bills and Receipts, 1873                 |
|      | 21 | Bills and Receipts, 1874                 |
|      | 22 | Bills and Receipts, 1875                 |
|      | 23 | Bills and Receipts, 1876                 |
|      | 24 | Bills and Receipts, 1880-1881            |
|      | 25 | Bills and Receipts, 1882                 |
|      | 26 | Bills and Receipts, 1883                 |
| 1525 | 1  | Bills and Receipts, 1890                 |
|      | 2  | Bills and Receipts, 1891                 |
|      | 3  | Bills and Receipts, 1892                 |
|      | 4  | Bills and Receipts, 1893                 |
|      | 5  | Bills and Receipts, 1893                 |
|      | 6  | Bills and Receipts, 1894                 |
|      | 7  | Bills and Receipts, 1894                 |
|      | 8  | Bills and Receipts, 1894                 |
|      | 9  | Bills and Receipts, 1895                 |
|      | 10 | Bills and Receipts, 1895                 |
|      | 11 | Bills and Receipts, 1895                 |
|      | 12 | Bills and Receipts, 1897                 |
|      | 13 | Bills and Receipts, 1898                 |
|      | 14 | Bills and Receipts, 1899                 |
|      | 15 | Bills and Receipts, 1899                 |
| 1526 | 1  | Bills and Receipts, 1900                 |
|      | 2  | Bills and Receipts, 1901                 |
|      | 3  | Bills and Receipts, 1901                 |

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|      | 4  | Bills and Receipts, 1902   |                                   |
|      | 5  | Bills and Receipts, 1902   |                                   |
|      | 6  | Bills and Receipts, 1902   |                                   |
|      | 7  | Bills and Receipts, 1903   |                                   |
|      | 8  | Bills and Receipts, 1903   |                                   |
|      | 9  | Bills and Receipts, 1904   |                                   |
|      | 10 | Bills and Receipts, 1904   |                                   |
|      | 11 | Bills and Receipts, 1905   |                                   |
| 1527 | 1  | Bills and Receipts, 1906   |                                   |
|      | 2  | Bills and Receipts, 1907   |                                   |
|      | 3  | Bills and Receipts, 1908   |                                   |
|      | 4  | Bills and Receipts, 1909   |                                   |
|      | 5  | Bills and Receipts, 1911   |                                   |
|      | 6  | Bills and Receipts, 1913   |                                   |
|      | 7  | Bills and Receipts, n.d.   |                                   |
| 1527 | 8  | LITTLE, RICHARD.   | Personal Correspondence, incoming |
|      |    | Miscellaneous Incoming and outgoing correspondence, related allied families and associates, etc. |                                   |
|      | 9  | HARRIES, NORFLEET  | Incoming                          |
|      | 10 | GRAHAM, JOHN   | Outgoing                          |
|      | 11 | HUTCHINSON, FRED   | Incoming                          |
|      | 12 | IRVING, MARY   | Incoming                          |
|      | 13 |  | Outgoing                          |
|      | 14 | Bills and Receipts   |                                   |
|      | 15 | KERR family  | Incoming                          |
|      | 16 |  | Outgoing                          |
|      | 17 | WEBB, MAGGIE KERR  | outgoing, chronological           |
|      |    | Miscellaneous correspondence:  |                                   |
|      | 18 | Recipient identified,  | Incoming                          |
|      | 19 | Author identified,   | outgoing                          |
|      | 20 | Author and recipient   | unidentified                      |
| 1528 |    | Miscellaneous:   |                                   |
|      | 1  | Cards and invitations  |                                   |
|      | 2  | envelope collection  |                                   |
|      | 3  | memorabilia - one bow  |                                   |
|      | 4  | newspaper and other clippings  |                                   |
|      | 5  | photographs  |                                   |
|      | 6  | sketches   |                                   |
| 7    |    | silk prints (1838?)  |                                   |