

North Carolina Collection

Colclough and Bragg Families Collection

Title:	Colclough and Bragg Families Collection
Inclusive Dates:	1825-1965
Extent of Materials:	1 oversized box
Location:	Duke Storage
Date of Accession:	2011
Donor:	Betty Reiter
Relationship of donor or materials to the DCL/NCR	
Processor:	Kristen Merryman
Description:	
Subject Headings:	Durham County (N.C.)--History.
	Wake County (N.C.)--History.
	Slavery.
	Financial statements.
	Land titles.
Abstract:	
Scope and Content:	<p>The Colclough and Bragg Families Collection consists of account ledgers, receipts, debt agreements, and deeds of the Bragg and Colclough (also spelled Coakley or Colcough) families. The materials date back to 1825 and span 100 years of the families' financial transactions in the Oak Grove area of Wake County (which later became a part of Durham County), and later the Fish Dam area of Durham County. Most of the materials in the collection are from two people, Mary Colclough and Thomas Bragg. Mary's materials include agreements for the use of neighbor's slaves' labor and accounts of items purchased at Elijah Hester's general store. Thomas Bragg's correspondence and receipts include interactions with well-known early Durham citizens such as J. R. Blackwell, T. J. Holloway, J. Markham, E. J. Parrish, and F. M. Barbee. Bragg's materials include many receipts for the tobacco he grew and sold through E. J. Parrish's large Durham warehouses. The collection also contains a memoir written by W. T. Carpenter with memories of growing up in Durham, Durham High School Class of 1907 portraits, and a few photographs taken in early 20th century Durham.</p>
Related Materials:	Clarence Dixon Rigsbee Family Collection
	Jean Bradley Anderson Papers
	Alvis Hatchett Stokes Papers
	Charles W. Smith Property Appraisals Collection

Biographical/Historical Note:	<p>Alexander and Mary Colclough lived in the northwest portion of Wake County in the early 1800s. The 1825 deed included in the collection states that Alexander Colclough purchased 51 acres on the south side of Rocky Branch from Martin Scott. One of the Colclough's daughters was Nancy, who was born around 1825 and married Thomas Bragg in 1847 in Granville County. The Bragg family owned land in the Oak Grove area of Wake County, and after the land was annexed to Durham County, he is listed in the 1887 Durham city directory as owning 89 acres in Fish Dam. Based on the materials in the collection, it is clear that Thomas Bragg was active in the Durham community, selling his tobacco at the big warehouses in town and doing business with many of the early residents. The family farm was known as Braggwood and was on Creech Road near present day Falls Lake.</p> <p>The Braggs had five children, one of whom was Minnie, who married Duane Carpenter. Duane Carpenter and his sons Willis and James Edgar owned Carpenter Brothers Grocery at 600 Main Street in Durham, which later became Carpenter Motor Company, a Chevrolet dealership. The building still stands today, on the corner of Elizabeth and Main Streets. One of the sons, Willis Thomas (W. T.), gathered the materials in this collection and passed them along to his granddaughter, the donor. W. T. Carpenter married Mary Jessie Rigsbee in 1915. The Rigsbees, one of the founding families in Durham, donated a portion of their land to Trinity College, later Duke University. The Carpenters lived at 601 Holloway Street in Durham in a house built by W. T. Carpenter himself. W. T. Carpenter passed away in 1967.</p>
Condition Notes:	
Organization of Collection:	The collection is sorted into the each family member's materials and then organized chronologically.
Container List	
Box 1	Bragg and Colclough family deeds, 1825, 1830, 1883, 1897, 1906
	Hugh and Amoseley Bragg correspondence and receipts, 1833-1843
	Mary Colclough correspondence and receipts, 1832-1856
	Thomas Bragg correspondence and receipts, 1832-1847
	Mary Colclough receipts, Elijah Hester general store, 1833-1843
	Nancy Colclough receipts, 1833
	William Coakley [Colclough] receipts, 1844
	Thomas Bragg correspondence and receipts, 1853-1889
	W. T. Carpenter account book and tax receipts, 1895-1903
	A. A. Bragg checks, 1915-1923
	Sallie Bragg (Mrs. A. A. Bragg) tax receipts, 1923-1925
	William Thomas Carpenter family history, ca. 1965
	Miscellaneous receipts, undated
	Photographs
	Durham postal employees, 1914
	Man standing in front of W. F. Ramsey and Sons store, ca. 1910
	Durham High School class of 1907, 1907
	Three photographs of the Carpenter and Moore children on Holloway Street, 1929, 1933



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