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Bate Family Papers (MSS 673)

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BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Colonel Humphrey Bate was born on 16 January 1779 in North Carolina to James Bate (1747-1787) and Mary E. Spivey (1758-1838). Humphrey migrated to Sumner County, Tennessee, around 1800. He participated in the War of 1812 as part of a company of Tennessee Volunteer Cavalry. He married Elizabeth Pollock Brimage (1777-1820) and had five children with her. She died in 1820; the following year, Bate married Anne Franklin Weatherred (1804-1870) in Sumner County. Humphrey and Anne had nine children. Colonel Bate and his family moved to Texas around 1848 and stayed there until the end of 1852, when he returned to Sumner County, where he resided at Hawthorn Hill, in Castalian Springs. Humphrey Bate died in 1856 and his wife Anne died in 1875. They are buried at Hawthorn Hill. The house was left to Anne’s two oldest sons, but it ended up under the ownership of Humphrey Howell Bate. This collection consists almost exclusively of material related to Humphrey and Anne Bate and their children.

COLLECTION NOTE

The Bate Family Papers consist of correspondence, financial accounts, court records, land records and legal documents. The majority of the collection consists of correspondence, which is chiefly family in nature between the children of Humphrey Bate (1799-1856) and his second wife Anne Franklin (Weathered) Bate (1804-1875). One of Anne’s daughters, Eugenia Patience Bate (1826-1906), married twice. Through her first husband, Council Rogers W. Bass, she inherited Riverside Plantation in Washington County, Mississippi. After her husband’s death, she had the responsibility of managing this large plantation along with other land and financial assets. A good deal of her correspondence deals with the problems of stewarding Riverside at a time when she was faced with settling claims from her husband’s creditors.

Other letters from Eugenia were written after she wed Count Guiseppe Bertinatti, Italian ambassador to the United States. Residing and traveling in various European counties, Eugenia’s letters describe royalty she met as well as her impressions of foreign lands.

Other correspondence in the collection centers around Eugenia’s two brothers, Humphrey “Ummie or Ummy” Howell Bate, a practicing physician, and Henry Clay Bate. These
letters generally concern lands owned in Mississippi and Texas by the Bate family. The collection also includes a few letters from William Brimage Bate, a cousin of Eugenia and Humphrey, who was a Civil War General, governor of Tennessee (1883-1887) and U.S. Senator (1887-1905).


Folder 3 includes family correspondence chiefly written to Anne Franklin (Weatherred) Bate at her home Hawthorne in Castalian Springs, Sumner County, Tennessee, and her son Humphrey Howell “Ummie” Bate by various family members. A good number of them are from Anne’s daughter, Eugenia Patience (Bate) Bass Bertinatti. They discuss family news, particularly Eugenia’s woes in dealing with management of her properties and legal affairs.

Folder 4 contains the correspondence of Eugenia Bertinatti, chiefly letters written to her brother Humphrey Howell Bate in Nashville and Sumner County, Tennessee. Also included are letters written to family and friends that relate her financial woes after the Civil War and the loss of all of her immediate family members, including her two longest-lived children Council Rogers “Concie” and Ella. She denounces those who have betrayed her in managing her extensive land holdings in Mississippi and Tennessee. Includes some Washington County, Mississippi tax receipts which shows the extent of her land holdings there. Several of the letters are in French and no translation has been provided.

Folder 5 includes correspondence of Anne Franklin Bate and her children, including several with her youngest child Aaron Spivey Bate, who died from typhoid while in service during the Civil War. These letters cover the Civil War period, and various family members discuss the war in their letters. The family decidedly supported the Confederacy. Humphrey Howell Bate was also injured in the war at the Battle of Shiloh.

Folder 6 contains correspondence and financial records from the Reconstruction era, much of it related to lands inherited by Eugenia Bass, particularly the plantation Riverside located in Washington County, Mississippi.

Folder 7 includes legal and financial papers, particularly deeds and power of attorney chiefly for Eugenia Bertinatti, her son Council Rogers Bass, Jr., her husband Alberto Incisa di Camerana, and her brother Humphrey Henry Bate. The documents relate to land in Tennessee, Texas, and Mississippi. Most of the documentation relates to deeds, leases, and expenses of Eugenia Bertinatti. Of particular interest is a letter written by William W. Weatherred to his daughter Ann Franklin (Weatherred) Bate while in New Orleans prizing what appears to be tobacco. He discusses keeping an account of the behavior of their slaves so that he can mete out justice upon his return, supplies he has sent home, religion, and Eugenia’s behavior as a debutante in New Orleans.

Folder 8 includes Bate family correspondence and correspondence from the Bass family in relation to Bass family properties in Shelby County, Tennessee and about the guardianship and character of Lonnie Bass. This folder contains several letters that are incomplete or were not signed.

Folder 9 contains additional material about the financial and legal affairs of Eugenie Bertinatti. Much of it is correspondence between Bertinatti and her attorneys, and is chiefly related to her property in Washington County, Mississippi. There is a partial letter from William Weatherred to an unidentified family member in which he discusses his prizing of tobacco in New Orleans, shipments of things he has sent “up to” Sumner County, and about how he misses his family. This folder also contains an interesting notebook describing scientific
experiments and the causes of certain diseases and remedies for the same; it was kept by Aaron Spivey Bate in 1861.

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**BIBLIOGRAPHIC RECORD**

MSS BATE Family Papers 1837-1908

Correspondence, business, and legal papers of various members of the Bate family of Sumner County, Tennessee. Some of the children are located in San Augustine, Texas. Most of the correspondence centers around the mother, Ann Franklin (Weatherred) Bate and her children, particularly Eugenia Patience (Bate) Bass Bertinatti and Humphrey Howell Bate, and to a lesser degree their siblings. Includes extensive documentation about the financial and legal condition of Bertinatti after the Civil War. The originals are in the Tennessee State Library & Archives, Nashville, Tennessee.

1 box. 9 folders. 276 items. Photocopies.

1975.240.6
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Jeffrey 09/30/2019