

## NUCMC Catalog Record

Creator: Dwight, Isaac Marion, 1799-1873.

Title: Isaac M. Dwight family papers, 1837-1860.

Date created: 1837-1860.

Extent: .25 linear ft.

Biographical note: Isaac Marion Dwight (1799-1873) was a plantation owner and a South Carolina state legislator. He represented St. George Dorchester in the Southern Rights Convention in 1852. Dwight planted Cedar Grove Plantation on the Ashley River in St. George Dorchester Parish, S.C., and also had property in St. Johns Berkeley Parish. His second wife was Martha Maria Porcher Dwight (1807-1842), the niece of Samuel Porcher (1768-1851). Samuel Porcher planted Mexico Plantation, where he built an embankment (known as Porcher Bank) over four miles long to hold back the waters of the Santee River. Isaac M. Dwight's son Richard Yeadon Dwight (1837-1919) married Rowena Elizabeth Ravenel, the daughter of Dr. Henry Ravenel (1790-1867) of Pooshee Plantation (Berkeley County, S.C.).

Summary: Correspondence of Isaac M. Dwight consists of three letters to him from Samuel Porcher of Mexico Plantation. The first two (Sept. 1837), concern serious damages to cotton and other crops, bridges, and a canal by heavy rains and a "freshet" in the St. Johns Berkeley Parish area. Porcher also writes of local politics and elections, a minor outbreak of yellow fever, and some deaths among his slaves, mostly children, from disease. ("I have been unfortunate among the little negroes in the country."). His letter (June 1840) mainly describes crop losses (specifically corn and oats) due to flooding, and repairs to an embankment. Two newspaper clippings and a note (1853) pertain to a dispute between Alfred M. Rhett and Dwight. Dwight published a letter in the "Charleston Mercury" newspaper concerning politics ("Unionism") to which Rhett responded, defending his father, Robert Barnwell Rhett, and

impugning Dwight's motives. This led to a challenge to a duel, but another clipping notes that the issue was resolved peacefully. A contemporary copy of the challenge note Dwight sent to Rhett is dated 30 July 1853. Other documents pertaining specifically to Dwight include a typed transcript of a letter by Richard Yeadon published in the "Charleston Courier" (Apr. 1857). The letter describes Cedar Grove Plantation in St. George Dorchester Parish, the home of Isaac M. Dwight. Other correspondence consists of three letters (1860) from Henry Ravenel to his children, about his travels to New York City, Saratoga Springs, and Niagara Falls. In New York he writes of attending a "farce" at the Winter Garden Theatre, and seeing Central Park, and mentions his preference for home. "With all this great panorama of human life, & human actions before me I would rather be standing before my corn house door at Pooshee...Strange infatuation it may appear, but nevertheless true." One letter (1845) to Henry Ravenel from D. Bigelow in Columbia, S.C., is written entirely in rhyming verse and concerns Pooshee Plantation and the people there. Miscellaneous items include a typed transcript of "Extracts from the Minutes" (1753-1808) of St. Johns Berkeley Parish concerning glebe lands; and a list (undated) of the "Names of St. John's Negroes," possibly freedmen..

Subjects:

Porcher, Samuel, 1768-1851 – Correspondence.  
Ravenel, Henry – Correspondence.  
Rhett, Alfred Moore, 1829-1889.  
Rhett, Robert Barnwell, 1800-1876.  
Yeadon, Richard, 1802-1870 – Correspondence.  
Dwight family.  
St. John's Berkeley Parish (Church : Berkeley County, S.C.)  
Winter Garden (Theater : New York, N.Y. : 1859-1867)  
Agriculture – South Carolina – Berkeley County.  
Child slaves – South Carolina.  
Freedmen – South Carolina.  
Slaves – South Carolina – Berkeley County.  
Cedar Grove Plantation (Dorchester County, S.C.)  
Mexico Plantation (Berkeley County, S.C.)  
Pooshee Plantation (S.C.)  
South Carolina -- Politics and government --19th century.  
United States -- Politics and government -- 1815-1861.

OCLC 379883500

