

A Guide to the Baker Family Papers

Baker Family Papers 1781-1921

1781-1921



A Collection in the Special Collections Department 10676
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1997

History

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A Guide to the Baker Family Papers

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Descriptive Summary

Collection Number

10676

Language

English

Extent

ca. 250 items

Repository

University of Virginia. Library. Special Collections Dept.

Alderman Library
University of Virginia
Charlottesville, Virginia 22903
USA

Administrative Information

Access Restrictions

Collection is open to research.

Use Restrictions

See the [University of Virginia Library's use policy](#).

Acquisition Information

This collection was purchased by the Library on December 30, 1985.

Funding Note

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Preferred Citation

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Scope and Content

This collection of family papers, 1781-1893 and 1917-1921, consists of ca. 250 items, including correspondence, business and legal papers, land surveys, and genealogical material chiefly pertaining to the Baker family of Gordonsville, Orange County, Virginia. Members of the Baker family include Martin Baker, Sr. (- 1821) and his children, Martin Baker, Jr. (-1836), William M. Baker, Clevears Baker, Samuel Baker, Margaret L. Baker, Lucinda (Baker) Ellett, Mary (Baker) Brittain, Catherine (Baker) Moody (1798-), and Elizabeth (Baker) Carter. Members of the related Miller, Quarles, and Swift families include Ann (Miller) Quarles, Peggy (Mills) Winslow, Peggy Swift (Winslow) Abbitt, and Thomas Swift.

Topics of interest in the correspondence include blacks, the Civil War, temperance, and wife abuse. A glimpse of the changing status of blacks is seen in Margaret Quarles' letter of February 9, 1840, mentioning the death of Sarah Quarles' black woman, Fanny, and in Wesley Swift's letter of December 15, 1853, referring to illness among the blacks as opposed to a later letter, June 1, 1871, in which the correspondent alludes to black office seekers. There are a few letters written during the Civil War period among the correspondence of the Baker and related families. These letters, 1863-1864, are written mainly by civilians expressing sentiments about the war or giving news about the war to others. In a July 28, 1864 letter, "Claire" writes to "Maggie" about the Confederate encampments near Martin Baker's Henrico County land, Yankees visiting the Louisa Courthouse, the 13th Regiment, C.S.A. passing by them, and her brother being taken prisoner at Spotsylvania; and, William M. Baker, Jr. writes from "Camp Near Newmarket Hill" a letter on August 17, 1864 about having "the blues" and trying to get used to camp life. Temperance is discussed in an unsigned manuscript addressed "Gentlemen," probably written around 1854. In two letters, December 29, 1822 and July 4, 1825, Lucinda (Baker) Ellett writes to her brother, Martin Baker, Jr., concerning her terrible ordeal as an abused wife and seeking assistance from her family.

Among the business and legal papers of Martin Baker, Jr. are an account book, 1818-1833, with the Farmers Bank of Virginia; a copy of his will, June 15, 1835; and an autograph document, March 17, 1825, concerning the sale of two slaves named Philand Mary. There are also papers concerning the estates of Martin Baker, Sr. (1821-1837) and Jr. (1838-1851).

The material is divided into two series: I. Correspondence and II. Business and Legal Papers, and Related Material. Folders within each series are chronological as are items within folders.

Container List

I. Correspondence

Miscellaneous Correspondence

Unit Date 1788-1871, n.d.

Correspondence of Peggy Mills and Ann (Mills) Quarles and family

Unit Date 1804-1840

Letters from Lucinda (Baker) Ellett

Unit Date 1822, 1825

Correspondence of the Baker and related families

Unit Date 1835-1870, n.d.

Letters to Clevears Baker

Unit Date 1844, n.d.

Correspondence of William M. Baker

Unit Date 1850-1863

II. Business and Legal Papers and Related Material

Business and Legal Papers of Martin Baker, Sr.

Unit Date 1781-1818

Papers re the Estate of Clevears Duke

Unit Date 1787-1847

Deeds and Surveys re Land in Hanover, Henrico, and Louisa Counties

Unit Date 1791-1836

Business and Legal Papers of the Swift and related families

Unit Date 1792-1804

Business and Legal Papers of Clevears Baker

Unit Date 1798-1860

Business and Legal Papers of Martin Baker, Jr.

Unit Date 1800-1835

Business and Legal Papers of Samuel Baker

Unit Date 1802-1818

Business and Legal Papers of the Baker and related families

Unit Date 1810-1872

Miscellaneous Business and Legal Papers, and fragments

Unit Date 1819-1893, n.d.

Papers re the Estate of Martin Baker, Sr.

Unit Date 1821-1837

Business and Legal Papers of the Quarles and related families

Unit Date 1823-1827, n.d.

Business and Legal Papers of William M. Baker

Unit Date 1825-1867

Papers re the Estate of Martin Baker, Jr.

Unit Date 1838-1851

Genealogies of the Baker and Omohundro families

Unit Date 1917-1921, n.d.

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