

John Verner Stribling Collection, 1878-1929

Physical Description:

2.5 linear feet, including:

- Documents including letters, notes and drawings
- 27 photographs and 30 negatives
- Postcards
- 34 Bound Volumes, including notes and books

Dates:

1878-1929

Provenance:

This collection is comprised of the personal papers of John Verner Stribling, and materials from his son William G. (Billy) Stribling. Before his death in 1957, William G. Stribling gave the papers to his friend and caretaker Crystal Stribling Baker McMeekin (no known relation to Stribling), who kept them in a trunk until her death in 1990. The papers then passed to her sister and then to her niece, Kaye Livermore. The collection was donated to the Pendleton District Commission in 2009.

Biographical Sketch:

John Verner Stribling was born Jan. 30, 1847 in Oconee County, SC. Stribling fought in the Civil War, returning home to work on the family farm until 1868. After spending several years teaching, surveying and working in machine shops, Stribling built a machine shop and mill on Choestee Creek, near Westminster, SC in 1877. Stribling began to work with Colonel F.E. Whitfield and became the state agent for Clement Attachment (a combination cotton gin and card machine) until the early 1880s.

Stribling surveyed rivers and provided engineering assistance for mills in the 1890s. He eventually partnered with J.J. Fretwell, buying land and water rights on Savannah River, until the partnership ended with a lawsuit in the 1900s.

Stribling became involved with Helen Dortch Longstreet's campaign opposing Georgia Power's plan to dam the Tallulah River above Tallulah Falls in Rabun County, Georgia in 1912. Stribling continued his opposition to the water power "monopolists" for the rest of his life, in particular opposing Georgia's role in building dams on the Savannah River and the boundary dispute between South Carolina and Georgia regarding rivers and water power. Stribling died in 1930.

Scope and Content:

The majority of this collection consists of correspondence, notes and other documents relating to Stribling's various causes: the Clement Attachment (ca. 1870s-1900), his work and subsequent falling out with J.J. Fretwell (ca. 1900-12), the Tallulah Falls fight (ca. 1912), and his opposition to Georgia's perceived violation of the South Carolina boundary when damming rivers (ca. 1912-1929). Family materials, such as genealogical research, photographs, postcards and documents relating to Billy Stribling have been separate and form their own series. There was no order to the collection upon

arrival at the PDC, except for several files in the Tallulah Falls series, which have been marked.

Related Materials:

Additional information on Stribling can be found in *Striblings of Walnut Hill and Related Families* in the PDC Research Room and the PDC Biographical Files. A collection of transcribed letters regarding the Clement Attachment can be found in the University of North Carolina's Southern Historical Collection in the collection "John Stribling Papers, 1869-1900."

Series Description:

Series I: Correspondence is organized by date, with incoming and outgoing letters filed together. This series contains correspondence relating to all of Stribling's causes and runs from 1878-1929.

Series 2: Clement Attachment contains clippings, notes and printed material related to the Clement Attachment, including a list of interview questions presumably from Harriet L. Herring who interviewed him in 1929 for the article "The Clement Attachment: An Episode of Reconstruction Industrial History." With the exception of the interview questions, the series runs approximately from 1878-1890.

Series 3: Fretwell Case includes documents by date, primarily relating to the lawsuit between Stribling and Fretwell about land ownership. This series runs from approximately 1900 into the teens, except for several early 19th century deeds that Stribling collected for "evidence."

Series 4: Tallulah Falls Documents includes notes and publications about the attempt to block the Georgia Power Company from building a power dam at Tallulah Falls in Rabun County, Georgia.

Series 5: Boundary Issue includes the most dedicated period of research, speeches, petitions and complaints regarding the issue of who (South Carolina or Georgia) had control of the Savannah River and its headwaters.

Series 6: Family Materials includes notes on genealogical research done by J.V. Stribling, photographs, negatives, postcards and items belonging to Billy Stribling.

Series 7: Bound Volumes includes survey notes, research on deeds, the "boundary issue," and the Fretwell case. These are organized loosely by date, but many of the notebooks were reused at different points in time by Stribling. There are also 6 bound publications.

Box and Folder List:

Box 1

Folder

1. Correspondence, 1878
2. Correspondence, 1879 January-July
3. Correspondence, 1879 August-December
4. Correspondence, 1880
5. Correspondence, 1892-1900
6. Correspondence, Undated/Fragments 1870s-1900
7. Correspondence, 1901-1903
8. Correspondence, 1904-1906
9. Correspondence, 1907-1908
10. Correspondence, 1909-1910
11. Correspondence, 1911
12. Correspondence, 1912 January-June
13. Correspondence, 1912 July-December
14. Correspondence, 1913 January-June
15. Correspondence, 1913 July-December
16. Correspondence, 1914 January-May
17. Correspondence, 1914 June-December
18. Correspondence, 1915
19. Correspondence, 1916 January-June
20. Correspondence, 1916 July-December
21. Correspondence, 1917-1918
22. Correspondence, 1919

Box 2

Folder

1. Correspondence, 1920
2. Correspondence, 1921
3. Correspondence, 1922
4. Correspondence, 1923
5. Correspondence, 1924
6. Correspondence, 1925 January-June
7. Correspondence, 1925 July-December
8. Correspondence, 1926 January-June
9. Correspondence, 1926 July-December
10. Correspondence, 1927
11. Correspondence, 1928
12. Correspondence, Undated 1900-1929
13. Correspondence, Letter Fragments 1900-1929
14. Clement Attachment, Notes
15. Clement Attachment, Clippings
16. Clement Attachment, Printed Materials

(Box 2, Continued)

17. Fretwell Case, Documents 1900-1901
18. Fretwell Case, Documents 1902-1903
19. Fretwell Case, Documents 1904-1907
20. Fretwell Case, Documents 1909-1912
21. Fretwell Case, Undated Materials, 1 of 3
22. Fretwell Case, Undated Materials, 2 of 3
23. Fretwell Case, Undated Materials, 3 of 3
24. Fretwell Case, 18th and 19th century deeds, filed as "Evidence"
25. Fretwell Case, 19th century deeds

Box 3

Folder

1. Tallulah Falls Documents, "Tallulah Falls Matter" (filed by JVS)
2. Tallulah Falls Documents, "Transfers of Records" (filed by JVS)
3. Tallulah Falls Documents, "Plats" (filed by JVS)
4. Tallulah Falls Documents, Notes, Correspondence (filed by JVS)
5. Tallulah Falls Documents, Miscellaneous Materials
6. Tallulah Falls Documents, Clippings
7. Tallulah Falls Documents, Helen Longstreet Materials
8. Boundary Issue, Notes 1 of 5
9. Boundary Issue, Notes 2 of 5
10. Boundary Issue, Notes 3 of 5
11. Boundary Issue, Notes 4 of 5
12. Boundary Issue, Notes 5 of 5
13. Boundary Issue, Research 1 of 3
14. Boundary Issue, Research 2 of 3
15. Boundary Issue, Research 3 of 3

Box 4

Folder

1. Boundary Issue, Speeches 1 of 2
2. Boundary Issue, Speeches 2 of 2
3. Boundary Issue, Petitions, Resolutions, Complaints 1 of 4
4. Boundary Issue, Petitions, Resolutions, Complaints 2 of 4
5. Boundary Issue, Petitions, Resolutions, Complaints 3 of 4
6. Boundary Issue, Petitions, Resolutions, Complaints 4 of 4
7. Boundary Issue, Clippings found in bound statement to Department of Justice in Folder 5
8. Boundary Issue, Clippings
9. Boundary Issue, Published Materials 1 of 2
10. Boundary Issue, Published Materials 2 of 2
11. Boundary Issue, Defamation Lawsuit

Box 5

Folder

1. Family, Stribling Genealogy
2. Family, Willard Letters
3. Family, "Lineage of Capt. David Sloan"
4. Family, John V. Stribling's Misc. Letters and Documents
5. Family, Personal Correspondence
6. Family, W.G. "Billy" Stribling-Miscellaneous Items 1 of 2
7. Family, W.G. "Billy Stribling- Miscellaneous Items 2 of 2
8. Family, Postcards Marked "Billy Stribling's Old Postcards—Save"
9. Family, Clippings
10. Family, Clippings—W.G. "Billy" Stribling
11. Family, Photographs and Negatives—W.G. "Billy" Stribling
12. Family, Photographs—John Verner Stribling

Box 6

Folder

1. Bound Volumes, Deed: Isam Hesterly to Alex. Bates, 1804; removed from 2009.4.17
2. Bound Volumes, Deed: Alexander Bates to Caleb Erp, 1805; removed from 2009.4.17
3. Bound Volumes, Clippings/Notes Removed from 2009.4.20

Bound Volumes:

2009.4.1 "Akron Iron Co." notes 1889-1893, expenses (Travel, mostly) some survey notes, also notes re: the Clement attachment.

2009.4.2 "Notes of survey for the Seneca Manufacturing, 1897"

2009.4.3 Notes on court case 1898. A.H. Kohn, Prosperity Cotton Mills about surveying (whether or they had hired to JVS to do the work?) narrative of case before magistrate

2009.4.4 "Southeast Lime and Cement Co." a few pages of notes and accounts 1899

2009.4.5 "Bank of Anderson, SC" several pages of account info, 1899

2009.4.6 "Aneroid Barometer" 1900, notes on properties of a circle, notes on surveys

2009.4.7 "Parker and Bolt" ca. 1900 notes on partnerships and land. Looks like it relates to Fretwell case

2009.4.8 "Records" Survey notes, 1902-1903

(Box 6, Continued)

2009.4.9 Expenses, survey notes 1903

2009.4.10 "Old Hickory" 1903? Notes, names, amounts of money

2009.4.11 "Dec. 1, 1903" notes on survey of Sitton Mill Shoals on Coneross Creek and similar surveys, 1904-05. Also contains some notes on deeds.

2009.4.12 red leather book: several glued-in charts regarding: temp/gravity, mixing paints. Notes on Westminster water tank, on water and water power, steam engines, "Earth notes," metric table, 1903 proposition from Fretwell.

2009.4.13 Survey notes, 1903, 1906

2009.4.14 "G.F" Tolly and Son" 1900 surveying dates and directions, 1904-1905 Personal schedule regarding surveying and water power.

2009.4.15 "Old Hickory Farms Wagons"—notes on deeds, 1905-06 schedule.

2009.4.16 "Ledger" 1900-1903, day calendar, predominantly regarding surveying and water power. Also contains copies of correspondence, clippings, and articles (letters, notes reference Fretwell). Clippings go through 1911.

2009.4.17 Notes, letters, clippings regarding waterpower, 3 letters Clement Attachment removed and filed with correspondence (Jan. 16, 1800, Sept 5, 1879, March 10, 1880) Also removed 2 deeds from Pendleton District 1804 and 1805 and letter to Franklin Lane, 1913.

2009.4.18 red leather book: notes on expenses, notes on "water gauging" some notes on Tallulah Falls

2009.4.19 Checkbooks with survey notes from 1917 written on the backs of checks.

2009.4.20 Small black leather book, clippings from 1922, 1923, some on patents, notes on Boundary, clippings, several pages removed and foldered, marked as Note 1 by donor.

2009.4.21 "Four Square Writing tablet" glued on news clippings, letters to the editor from JVS ca. 1923.

2009.4.22 "Ledger" mostly printed materials glued to pages re: water power, like "Tugaloo Power Company prospectus."

2009.4.23 "June" several pages of notes, mostly about an easement and Fretwell.

(Box 6, Continued)

2009.4.24 Red book: 2 page list of papers, contents of a trunk and a tray.

2009.4.25 "Friendship" several pages of addresses.

2009.4.26 Notes on dams, BTUs, notes on the Savannah River.

2009.4.27 "Note Book" notes on Boundary Issue.

2009.4.28 Survey notes, undated.

2009.4.29 Haswell, Chas. H. *Engineers and Mechanic's Pocket Book*. New York: Harper and Brothers, 1869 (24th ed.). Inscription: "John V. Stribling from W. Dalton Har--? Oct. 12, 1870"

2009.4.30 Houseal, Virginia and Nellie C. Barnet comp. *Standing Committee of the General Assembly of South Carolina for the Session of 1925-26*.

2009.4.31 Trimble, South. *Vestpocket Congressional Directory, 64th Congress 1st Session April 1916*.

2009.4.32 Gibbes, J. Wilson. *Legislative Manual 75th General Assembly of South Carolina at Columbia, Second Session Commencing January 8, 1924*.

2009.4.33 Southern Public Utility Company Magazine, vol. VIII, No. 4, September 1921.

2009.4.34 *The Aneroid Barometer: It's Construction and Use* Van Nostrand's Science Series No. 25. New York: D. Van Nostrand Co., 1899.