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MAIN ENTRY: OUTLAW, DAVID.

TITLE: Papers, 1847-1855.

COLLECTION NUMBER: 1534

ABSTRACT: Chiefly correspondence of Outlaw (1806-1868), Whig congressman from Bertie County, N.C., to his wife while he was a member of Congress, 1847-1863. Subjects discussed are state and national politics, social life in Washington, D.C., and Outlaw's family and his farm near Windsor, N.C. Also included are a few letters from Outlaw's wife and a daughter, a bill for Elizabeth Outlaw in 1866, and genealogical material on the Outlaw and Anderson families.

SIZE: 350 items including 1 volume; 1.0 linear feet.

CONTAINER LIST

Box No.	Folders	Contents
1.	1-9	December 1847-June 1850
2.	10-13	July 1850-1866 and undated Volumes 1 (only)

Inclusive Dates: 1847-1855; 1866

States: North Carolina; Washington, D.C.

Physical Description: 375 items (0.5 feet)

Acquisition: This group consists of three separate gifts.
October 1948: These manuscripts were given by Mrs. Stark Sutton, Norfolk, Virginia. The genealogical material was copied in the Southern Historical Collection from originals lent by Mrs. Stark Sutton.
February 1969: Gift of Mr. and Mrs. Peter W. Rowe, Chesapeake, Virginia, through Mr. William S. Powell.
October 1982: Gift of Mr. Stark Sutton, Atlanta, Georgia.

Description: Chiefly correspondence of David Outlaw, a Whig congressman from Bertie County, North Carolina, to his wife, while he was a member of congress, 1847-1853. Subjects discussed are state and national politics, social life in Washington, D.C., and Outlaw's family and his farm near Windsor. Also included are a few letters from Outlaw's wife and a daughter, a bill for Elizabeth Outlaw in 1866, and genealogical material on the Outlaw and Anderson families. This material also is available on microfilm.

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BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

David Outlaw (1806-1868) was a lawyer and Whig politician of Windsor, Bertie County, North Carolina. He graduated from the University of North Carolina in 1824, served in the North Carolina House of Commons, 1831-1834, was a member of the Constitutional Convention of 1835, solicitor of the First Judicial Circuit, 1836-1844, and a member of the United States House of Representatives, March 4, 1847 - March 3, 1853. He was defeated for re-election in the campaign of 1852 and returned to the practice of law in Windsor, serving again in the General Assembly, this time in the House, 1854-1858, and in the Senate, 1860 and 1866. He married Emily Baker Turner, a young widow of Nashville, North Carolina.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

This group of papers consists almost entirely of letters from Outlaw to his wife while he was a member of Congress, 1847-1852. There are gaps occasioned by his visits home or by Mrs. Outlaw's visits to Washington. Outlaw wrote frequently, usually at least once and sometimes twice a day, and many of these letters are preserved here, though it appears that some are missing. Additional items include a very few letters from Mrs. Outlaw and a daughter, a bill for Elizabeth Outlaw in 1866, and a typed transcription of genealogical information on the Outlaw and Anderson families, written by William Anderson in 1852.

DESCRIPTIONS

Acquisition of October 1948: General Description.

Outlaw reported to his wife his daily activities, including events in the House, and attendance at social functions, the theater, and other Washington amusements. He repeated political news and rumor and Washington gossip, and commented on his associates: others at his boarding house (usually Gadsby's Hotel); members of the North Carolina delegation, especially Willie Person Mangum and Thomas Lanier Clingman; and prominent persons whom he saw in Washington. Outlaw referred also to news from home, to persons and political events in North Carolina and especially in Bertie County, to affairs on his farm near Windsor (which was managed by one of his slaves, George, in his absence), and to his children, especially the education of his daughters. Several of them went to school at various times at Patapsco Female Institute, Ellicott's Mills (now Ellicott City), Maryland, run by Mrs. Almira (Hart) Lincoln Phelps, who with her sister Mrs. Emma (Hart) Willard visited in Washington; Outlaw referred to them and also commented on Mrs. Phelps's school. The North Carolina

DESCRIPTIONS (continued)

Acquisition of October 1948: General Description, continued.

neighbor most frequently mentioned by him was Joseph B. Cherry, who was state senator, 1854-1858. References to Cherry are scattered through many of the letters, but they are slight, and no one of them seemed significant enough for separate notice.

Acquisition of October 1948: Chronological Analysis

December 5, 1847--Outlaw from Baltimore, on his way to Washington. December 6, after his first day in Congress, refers to Jefferson Campbell, candidate for clerk of the House and an Outlaw descendant from Tennessee, who discussed family tradition about the origin of his Outlaw name. December 9, reference to James Johnston Pettigrew. December 12, moved to Mrs. Carter's boarding house, refers to Justice John McLean, to Mangum, to George Edmund Badger (there are frequent scattered references to Badger). December 16, reference to Joseph Gales, Jr. December 17, references to Andrew Johnson, to Robert Treat Paine, and to the North Carolina regiment in Mexico. December 20, directions about having his slaves hired out. December 21, references to Paine and to Clingman.

January 18, 1848--reference to a speech in the Senate by Badger. January 19, account of a dinner given by Robert C. Winthrop, criticism of a speech by Henry S. Foote of Mississippi. January 21, reference to John J. Crittenden, report of Whig caucus, reference to John Bell and Mrs. Bell. In February, references to affairs at home and on his farm; also references to Kenneth Rayner, who was visiting in Washington. February 12, description of Alexander H. Stephens; Mangum's political ambitions, the presidential election of 1848. February 14, criticism of John M. Clayton. February 18, reference to John Bell and to iron works in Tennessee, to Badger and the North Carolina Whig convention. February 20, references to John Gayle of Alabama and John Jameson of Missouri. Illness and death of John Quincy Adams. February 22, references to Mangum, Badger, and William A. Graham. For the rest of this month, references to the North Carolina Whig convention, Dixon H. Lewis, Joshua R. Giddings of Ohio, Thomas J. Henley of Indiana, and the Wilmot Proviso.

March 3, 1848--quarrel between Badger and Clingman, Edward Stanly and Kenneth Rayner involved. Describes his living conditions, his health; constant comments on the war and criticism of James K. Polk; frequent references to the coming presidential election. March 22, references to Daniel Webster, Badger, Foote of Mississippi. A gap until July, occasioned by Mrs. Outlaw's visit to Washington.

OUTLAW, DAVID, 1806-1868
PAPERS, 1847-1866

#1534

DESCRIPTIONS (continued)

Acquisition of October 1948: Chronological Analysis, continued.

July 27, 1848--repeating accounts he has received from friends of the political situation in North Carolina and especially in Bertie County. August 1, 2, comments on Colonel (Braxton) Bragg and the attitude toward the Bragg family of people in Warren County. Comments on North Carolina politics, and the nomination and election of Charles Manly as governor. August 10, appropriations to re-open Roanoke Inlet, Bertie County politics. August 17, references to James I. McKay and Daniel M. Barringer, End of session.

January 19, 1849--reference to Mangum. February, expecting Mrs. Outlaw to join him.

December 2, 1849--conflict over election of the speaker, reference to Mangum. December 6, references to Bishop Ives, Calvin Wiley, General Edney of North Carolina (James M. Edney?). December 6, visit to Taylor and John M. Clayton. December 9, account of conversation with Mangum about his personal affairs; dislike between Badger and Mangum, reference to Clingman and Stanly. December 13, North-South conflict in Congress. December 16, Mangum, Wiley. December 17, Clingman.

January 5, 1850--reference to James Johnston Pettigrew. January 9, criticism of Solomon Foot of Vermont, comment on Meredith P. Gentry of Tennessee. January 10, Mangum and Clingman. January 17, Thomas Hart Benton and Henry S. Foote. January 22, more on Clingman. January 25, letter from Mrs. Outlaw. Reference this month to the visit of Mrs. Phelps, Mrs. Willard, and some of the Patapso students to Washington. February 24, quarrel between Clingman and Stanly.

March 2, 1850--references to Mangum and Daniel Webster. March 3, comment on Mangum, Robert Treat Paine, Calhoun. March 4, Edney again. Constant comments on congressional events, speeches, personalities during the debates preceding the adoption of the Compromise of 1850. March 30, Mangum. March 31, plans to rent a house in Washington, living costs and conditions. April 20, Mangum, Clay, Taylor. April 21, Dr. Butler, Senate chaplain, and Bishop John S. Ravenscroft. April 28, William Coit Johnson, criticism of Greenhow's statue of Washington, comment on Charlotte Cushman.

May, 1850--Miss Cushman, Bishop Levi Silliman Ives, May 5, Mangum, Clingman, Taylor, the census bill, the slavery question. Several letters in early May refer to the foundation of a new pro-southern newspaper in Washington. May 12, Mrs. Willard. May 13, Stanly. May 13, Stanly, Abraham W. Venable, John R. J. Daniel, their attitudes toward the Compromise; Mrs. Phelps. May 31, the Badgers, the Rayners, Mrs. Phelps's school.

DESCRIPTIONS (continued)

Acquisition of October 1948: Chronological Analysis, continued.

June 11, 1850--more comment on Mrs. Phelps's school, Mangum. June 14, Mangum; 2nd letter, Stanly. June 16, criticism of Bishop Ives. June 21, reference to James C. Johnston, Ives. June 29, comparison of Washington and Georgetown, comment on Whig-Democratic differences in the South. July 5, 6, references to John Bell (scattered through the papers are frequent slight references to Mrs. Bell, a friend of Mrs. Outlaw). July 7, reference to "old Mr. Anderson." (William Anderson, who wrote the family history. See Volume 1.) July 21, more criticism of Mrs. Phelps's school. July 29, comment on William A. Graham. August 1, statement that Outlaw was the first to suggest Graham as a member of the cabinet. August 31, reference to Bishop Ives. September 10, Clingman. September 26, planning to go home.

December 3, 1850--back in Washington. December 5, references to Mangum, A. H. Stephens. December 15, letter from Annie Outlaw. December 18, Jenny Lind's concert.

January 1851--has again been home. Writes upon his return to Washington. Nearly all of the letters have a discoloration resulting apparently from having been wet; those of this month are largely illegible. January 20, refers to the circus. January 31, news for a Dr. Harris from Nashville, who has just returned from California, and of Mrs. Outlaw's Nashville relatives. Last letter this year, February 12, 1851.

May 26, 1852--Mrs. Outlaw to her husband, referring to her plans to go to Washington.

January 10, 15, 1855--two personal letters from Outlaw, written from Raleigh while he was a member of the legislature, but without political information.

1866--account of Miss Elizabeth Outlaw with George Gray & Son, for general merchandise.

Volume 1--Genealogical material, written by William Anderson of Tennessee for Mrs. David Outlaw in August 1852. (See letter of July 7, 1851, referring to Anderson.) This sketch discusses the origin of the Outlaw family in the United States (said to have changed the name from McGregor), and Outlaw descendants in Tennessee, as well as Joseph Anderson and his descendants in Tennessee. Typescript, 20 pages, made in the Southern Historical Collection from originals lent by Mrs. Sutton.

DESCRIPTIONS (continued)

Acquisition of February 1969: General Description

Twenty-three letters written by David Outlaw at Washington, D.C., while he was serving in Congress, addressed to his wife at Windsor, North Carolina. These letters are of the same nature as those received by the Southern Historical Collection in 1948. The issues addressed in the letters received in February 1969 include slavery, sectionalism, the Wilmot Proviso, and the Missouri Compromise. Among the political figures mentioned are Sam Houston of Texas, Thaddeus Stevens of Pennsylvania, and Henry Clay of Kentucky. Other concerns include cholera, which was affecting Harper's Ferry and some areas surrounding Washington, D.C., and a commentary on a book written by George Sand. The letters of August 1850 are briefer than Outlaw's other letters. This may be due to a soreness in one of his fingers, which he mentioned in several of his August 1850 letters to his wife. The items received in February 1969 have been interfiled with the 1948 papers.

The dates of the letters received in February 1969 are:

February 9, 1849
February 10, 1849
February 4, 1850
February 6, 1850
February 7, 1850
February 8, 1850
February 9, 1850
February 12, 1850
February 17, 1850
February 18, 1850
February 20, 1850
February 22, 1850
February 25, 1850
August 8, 1850 (first line begins "My finger still continues sore")
August 10, 1850
August 14, 1850
August 17, 1850
August 19, 1850
August 20, 1850
August 23, 1850
August 24, 1850
August 29, 1850
August 30, 1850

DESCRIPTIONS (continued)

Acquisition of October 1982: General Description

Twenty-six letters written by David Outlaw, while he served in Congress, addressed to his wife, Emily B. Outlaw, at Windsor, North Carolina. As with the items received in October 1948 and February 1969, in these letters David Outlaw discussed political issues which were prominent in both houses of Congress, here including slavery, sectionalism, and statehood for California. Concerns in Washington, D.C., also included the formation of President Zachary Taylor's cabinet, appropriations for the navy and a military academy, and the abolition of the slave trade in the District of Columbia. In December 1849, Outlaw discussed activities related to the selection of the Speaker of the House of Representatives. Political figures referred to by Outlaw in these letters include Henry Clay of Kentucky, Robert Toombs of Georgia, and Edward Carrington Cabell of Florida. These letters have been interfiled with the items obtained in 1948 and 1969.

The dates of the letters received in October 1982 are:

January 3, 1849
January 6, 1849
January 8, 1849
January 21, 1849
January 23, 1849
January 24, 1849
January 25, 1849
January 26, 1849
January 27, 1849
January 29, 1849
January 30, 1849 (2)
January 31, 1849
February 2, 1849
February 3, 1849
February 6, 1849
February 7, 1849
February 8, 1849
December 11, 1849 (first line begins "I had the pleasure to receive")
December 21, 1849 (2)
December 22, 1849
December 23, 1849
(December 1849) (first line begins "I have some hopes, that I may find")
(December 1849) (first line begins "I thought yesterday when I wrote")
August 5, 1850

NAME: DAVID OUTLAW PAPERS

FILM NUMBER: M-1534

MICROFILM

NUMBER OF REELS: NEGATIVE: 2 POSITIVE: 1

LOCATION OF MANUSCRIPTS: Southern Historical Collection

LOCATION OF MASTER NEGATIVE: Southern Historical Collection

BRIEF DESCRIPTION:

1 Reel of the entire group. Negative. Positive.

DATE: 9-83

BY: R. McCoy