Guide to the Canebrake Collection
MSS.0267

This finding aid was produced using the Archivists’ Toolkit
December 05, 2012
Describing Archives: A Content Standard
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Summary Information

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Repository</th>
<th>W.S. Hoole Special Collections Library, The University of Alabama</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Title</td>
<td>Canebrake collection</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date</td>
<td>circa 1837?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Extent</td>
<td>0.2 Linear feet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Language</td>
<td>English</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Abstract</td>
<td>Materials relating principally to the community of Dayton in Marengo County, Alabama. It includes land grants, the Dayton city code, town council minutes, and some family records.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Preferred Citation note

Canebrake Collection, W.S. Hoole Special Collections Library, The University of Alabama
Biographical/Historical note

The Canebrake refers to a historical region of west central Alabama that was once dominated by thickets of *Arundinaria*, a type of bamboo, or cane, native to North America. It was centered on the junction of the Tombigbee and Black Warrior rivers, near Demopolis, and extended eastward to include large parts of Hale, Marengo, and Perry counties. Portions of Greene and Sumter were also often included. Cane thickets once covered hundreds of thousands of acres in Alabama, but this area, lying within the Black Belt, had the most extensive stands and was known as "The Canebrake." It was noted by naturalist William Bartram as he traveled along the Tombigbee River in 1775, that the cane was as "thick as a man's arm, or three or four inches in diameter; I suppose one joint of some of them would contain above a quart of water." The cane began to disappear with the large-scale arrival of white settlers following the Creek Wars. The settler's introduced crops that replaced the native cane and their suppression of fire allowed the cane in other areas to be overtaken by species that would have naturally been kept in check by fire.

Scope and Contents note

A miscellany of materials relating principally to the community of Dayton in Marengo County, Alabama. It includes land grants, the Dayton city code, town council minutes, and some family records.

Administrative Information

Publication Information

W.S. Hoole Special Collections Library, The University of Alabama February 2009

Revision Description

December 2012

Conditions Governing Access note

None

Conditions Governing Use note
Provenance
Gift of Kitty Grey Long, 199?, addition, 1995

Processed by
S. Braden, 2009; updated by Martha Bace, 2012

Controlled Access Headings

Genre(s)

• Family papers
• Land grants
• Minutes

Geographic Name(s)

• Black Belt (Ala. and Miss.)
• Marengo County (Ala.)

Subject(s)

• Alabama
• Community and Place
• Daily Life and Family
• Dayton (Ala.)
• Dayton (Ala.)--History
• Early Alabama History
## Collection Inventory

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Box</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Canebrake</td>
<td>711</td>
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