Finding Aid of the Waugh and Finley Account Books AB.80

4 Volumes

Finding aid prepared by Lea Walker, North Carolina Genealogical Society Intern

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This finding aid was produced using the Archivists' Toolkit

December 10, 2013

Describing Archives: A Content Standard

State Archives of North Carolina
November 2013
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Table of Contents

Summary Information 3
Biographical/Historical note 5
Collection Overview 6
Collection Arrangement 6
Administrative Information 6
Related Materials 7
Controlled Access Headings 8
Financial and Other Support 8
Sources 8
Collection Inventory 10

Summary Information

Repository	State Archives of North Carolina
Creator	Finley family
Creator	Finley, John
Creator	Waugh family
Creator	Waugh, William Pitt
Title	Waugh and Finley Account Books
Date [inclusive]	1815-1838
Extent	4.0 volume(s)
General Physical Description note	Day books, 4 bound volumes, 1,602 pages less pages overwritten and cut; two folders containing loose sheets
Location of Separated Materials	Loose-leaf inserts found in volumes 80.3 and 80.4 are filed together in one box, immediately after the four account books.
Language	English
Abstract	The Waugh and Finley general store operated in Wilkesboro [formerly Wilkesborough] in Wilkes County, N.C. from 1815 to 1827. The proprietors were William Pitt Waugh and his nephew, John Finley.
Abstract	This collection consists of four day books, which itemize transactions by date. In addition, the collection has loose-leaf papers, which have been gathered together in one box of folders. Recorded merchandise includes food staples, cookware, clothing, stationery, books, postage, and

hardware. Attached to this finding aid are two tables of customers' names for the store.

Preferred Citation

[Identification of item], Private Collections: Account Books, AB.80, Waugh and Finley Account Books, 1815-1838, State Archives of North Carolina, Raleigh, NC, USA.

Biographical/Historical note

The Waugh and Finley Store operated in Wilkesboro [formerly Wilkesborough] in Wilkes County, North Carolina. Extant account books at the State Archives and elsewhere indicate that the store was active in at least two time periods: 1815-1827 and 1831-1861. It may have been active continuously from approximately 1805 until the Civil War.

The Waugh family settled first in York County [later Adams County], Pennsylvania. Around 1803, William Pitt Waugh (1775-1852) moved with several brothers to Wilkes County, North Carolina. Waugh obtained slaves and land in Moravian Falls, where he built a house and a mill. His nephew, John Finley (1778-1865), arrived from Virginia a couple of years later and followed his uncle's lead in the acquisition of property. Together, the two men established a general store in Wilkesboro. They hired Finley's nephew and Waugh's great-nephew, Samuel Finley Patterson (1799-1874), who served as clerk in their store until about 1820. Patterson would later gain prominence as state treasurer and president of the Raleigh and Gaston Railroad. Subsequently, the men hired Waugh's great nephew, William Waugh Peden (approximately 1815-1844) as their clerk.

Waugh served as a justice of the peace; some entries in the day book refer to cases and appeals. The store also functioned as a post office. Waugh was postmaster from at least 1832 to 1844, but possibly began his postal service as early as 1807. Finley replaced him from 1844 to 1845.

Finley married Ellen or Elenor Tate (1782-1852) in Augusta County, Virginia. The couple had six children but only four of them survived to adulthood and were named in Finley's will. Finley and his wife were both buried at Presbyterian Cemetery in Wilkesboro.

Waugh was also buried at Presbyterian Cemetery. At the time of his death, Waugh was a wealthy bachelor who owned land in Tennessee, Georgia, North Carolina, and Pennsylvania. He divided his wealth between his surviving brothers, nephews and nieces, and great nephews and nieces. He made a special bequest to W. W. Peden's widow and children, providing them with $1,000, a house and lot in Wilkesboro, and proceeds from the sale of land in Carol County, Pennsylvania. In addition, he cancelled their balances on account and specified that they should receive food staples from the store for a year.

Numerous sources suggest that Waugh was an entrepreneur who founded a chain of general stores in North Carolina and other southern states. This is substantiated in part by the account books at the State Archives, as well as surviving records in other repositories. One link in the Waugh chain is a store in Jefferson [formerly Jeffersonton] known as Waugh, Poe, and Murchison or Waugh and Murchison. It was sometimes called Ashe Store, due to its location in Ashe County. Transactions and a bill of sale for this store appear in the Waugh and Finley account book.

Another link in Waugh's chain is the Waugh and Harper Store, which was built at a crossroads in Burke County [later Caldwell County]. James Harper (1799-1879), a native of Pennsylvania, moved to North Carolina approximately 1827. He became Waugh's business partner. In 1833, he married Waugh's great niece, Caroline Ellen Finley (1808-1867)in Augusta County, Virginia. In addition, Harper served as

postmaster of his small community, initially known as Harper's Store [later Lenoir]. Waugh and Harper transactions appear in the Waugh and Finley account books.

Another possible link in the Waugh chain is the Valleytown Store in Cherokee County, N.C. It is known that Waugh purchased tracts of Cherokee land on the Valley River. In 1844, William Walker of Wilkes County, N.C. married Margaret Jane Scott, a native of Adams County, Pennsylvania. The couple moved to Cherokee County to establish an inn and trading post in Valleytown. In 1862, Waugh's executors claimed that William Walker owed the Waugh estate $2,732.94, sending a subpoena to the Cherokee County sheriff to have Walker appear in Wilkes County. It is unclear if this case was resolved.

Collection Overview

These account books record transactions of a store located in Wilkes County. The business was known as the Waugh and Finley Store. It may have operated continuously from approximately 1805 to 1861.

Foodstuffs available at the store included sugar in loaf form, salt, spices, apples, pork, coffee, cider, and spirits. Ready-made clothing and accessories included umbrellas, stockings, slippers, shoes, "mockosons," gloves, and shawls. Many types of cloth and trim were available, such as homespun, muslin, calico, cambric, gingham, shirting, linen, flannel, silk, ribbons, buttons, and coat trimmings.

Attached to this finding aid are two tables of customers' names for the store. These represent transactions which occurred in 1815-1819 and 1826-1827.

Collection Arrangement

The four day books are arranged by date, then name, in order of transaction. Monthly post sheets from volumes 80.3 and 80.4 are organized by month, then alphabetically by last name. The ledger sheet from volume 80.3 is organized alphabetically by last name (H-P only).

Administrative Information

Publication Information

State Archives of North Carolina November 2013

Access Restrictions

Available for research

Copyright Notice

Copyright is retained by the authors of these materials, or their descendants, as stipulated by United States copyright law (Title 17 US Code). Individual researchers are responsible for using these materials in conformance with copyright law as well as any donor restrictions accompanying the materials.

Acquisitions Information

Donated by Miss Annie Finley (1860-1933), granddaughter of John Finley, from North Wilkesboro, N.C. Accessioned on 1 August 1931.

Processing Information note

Processed by Lea Walker, October 2013

Finding Aid by Lea Walker, November 2013

Related Materials

Related Collections

Additional information on topics found in this collection may be found in the Manuscript and Archives Reference System (MARS) http://mars.archives.ncdcr.gov/BasicSearch.aspx

Related Account Books and Records:

An account book for Waugh and Finley is located in the John Finley Papers, 1810-1861, David M. Rubenstein Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Duke University, Durham.

Account books and records relating to Waugh's other business ventures can be found in multiple repositories as follows:

Private Collections: Account Books, AB.59, Valley Town Store Account Book,1850-1871, State Archives of North Carolina, Raleigh

Harper Family Account Books, #2908, Southern Historical Collection, Wilson Library, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill

A.C.392: Harper-Beall Family Papers, W. L. Eury Appalachian Collection, Appalachian State University, Boone.

Separated Materials note

Loose-leaf inserts found in volumes 80.3 and 80.4 have been moved to one box of folders.

Controlled Access Headings

Geographic Name(s)

- Wilkes County (N.C.)
- Wilkesboro (N.C.)
- Wilkesborough (N.C.)

Occupation(s)

- Grocers--North Carolina--Wilkesboro

Subject(s)

- Account books
- General stores--North Carolina--Wilkes County
- Grocery trade--North Carolina--Wilkesboro
- Post office stations and branches--North Carolina--History
- Post offices--North Carolina
- Retail trade--North Carolina--Wilkesboro

Financial and Other Support

Internship supported by funds bequeathed to the N.C. Genealogical Society by the estate of the late Frances Holloway Wynne. Supervision by Fran Tracy-Walls, Archivist, Private Manuscripts, Special Collections Branch.

Sources

Adams Sentinel (Gettysburg, Pennsylvania), 10 June 1844; J. Jay Anderson, *Wilkes County Sketches* (Wilkesboro, N.C.: Anderson, 1978); catalog entry, John Finley Papers, 1810-1861, David M. Rubenstein

Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Duke University, Durham; cemetery records of Annie Finley, Ellen Tate Finley, John Finley, Nathaniel Gordon, Caroline Ellen Harper, James Harper, and William P. Waugh [from findagrave.com via Ancestry.com]; death certificate of Cora Cowles Gaither, 1931, North Carolina Death Certificates, 1919-1975; *Dictionary of North Carolina Biography*, s.v. Samuel Finley Patterson; estate of William P. Waugh, 1852, Wilkes County Estates Records, State Archives, Division of Archives and History, Raleigh; Johnson J. Hayes, *The Land of Wilkes* (Wilkesboro, N.C.: Wilkes County Historical Society, 1962); marriage record of John Finley and Elenor Tate, 1807, Augusta County, Virginia Marriages, 1740-1850 [from Ancestry.com]; marriage record of John Tate Finley and Sarah Ann Gordon, 1846, Wilkes County, North Carolina Marriage Collection, 1741-2004 [from Ancestry.com]; marriage record of James Harper and Caroline Ellen Finley, 1833, Augusta County, Virginia Marriages, 1740-1850; *North Carolina Gazetteer*, University of North Carolina Press, 2010 s.v. Moravian Falls, Wilkesboro; online finding aid, Harper Family Account Books, #2908, Southern Historical Collection, Wilson Library, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill; online finding aid, Jones and Patterson Family Papers #578, Southern Historical Collection, Wilson Library, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill; online finding aid, A.C.392: Harper-Beall Family Papers, W. L. Eury Appalachian Collection, Appalachian State University, Boone; Vernon Stroupe et al, *Post Offices and Postmasters of North Carolina : Colonial to USPS* (Charlotte, N.C. : North Carolina Postal History Society, 1996); Will of John Finley, 1866, Wilkes County Original Wills, Book 5, p. 428 (microfilm), State Archives, Division of Archives and History, Raleigh; Will of William P. Waugh, 1852, Wilkes County Original Wills, Book 5, p. 72 (microfilm), State Archives, Division of Archives and History, Raleigh.

Collection Inventory

AB.80.1 1815-1819

This volume is a day book with leather binding. The front cover is missing. The earliest date entered is 15 May 1815 and the latest date is 22 April 1819. The total number of pages is 536, with most being hand numbered at the top left of each verso (LH) and the top right of each recto (RH). Measurement of volume: 10" x 15" x 2 5/16"

AB.80.2 1819

This volume is a day book. Most of its leather binding has worn away, revealing the underlying paperboard and decorative paper cover, which has alternating vertical rust lines and vertical stripes of blue carets. The earliest date entered is 16 January 1819 and the latest date is 8 September 1819. There are 272 pages with most being hand numbered at the top left of each verso (LH) and the top right of each recto (RH). One insert in the book appears to relate to court cases. Measurement of volume: 6 ½" x 15" x 1"

AB.80.3 1819-1828 or 1838, undated

This volume is a day book with marble end pages. The leather cover is blocked with a key design; the spine has repeated rows of interlocking ovals. The earliest date entered is May 1819 and the latest date is May 1825. The total number of pages is 522, with most being hand numbered at the top left of each verso (LH) and the top right of each recto (RH). Measurement of volume: 10" x 15" x 2 5/16"

Folder 80.3 1819-1828 or 1838, undated

Hand-stitched monthly post sheet booklet 1828 or 1838

Bill of goods for Ashe Store [Waugh and Murchison] undated

Drafts of slave bills of sale and draft of character reference for post rider 1826, undated

Ledger sheet 1819-1822

AB.80.4 1826-1837

This volume is a day book. Most of its leather binding has worn away, revealing the underlying paperboard and decorative paper cover, which has alternating green and ivory squares. The earliest date entered is 2 December 1826 and the latest date is 19 May 1827. There are 272 pages with most being hand numbered at the top left of each verso (LH) and the top right of each recto (RH). Front matter includes some genealogical information about the Finley family and other families related by marriage. This includes a store customer, Nathaniel Gordon (about 1784-1829), whose daughter married Finley's son. Pasted into the front inside cover is an obituary from the North Wilkesboro Patriot reporting the death of Cora (nee Cowles) Gaither (1877-1931) of Newton, N.C., whose sister married a Finley of Wilkes County. Measurement of volume: 10" x 15" x 2"

Folder 80.4 1826-1837

Hand-stitched monthly post sheet booklet 1826-1827

Letter from Philadelphia to Peden and Kelly requesting payment 1837

This table is a sampling of customers at the Waugh and Finley Store in Wilkesboro (Wilkes County), North Carolina from 1815 to 1819. Some dates are approximate.

Last Name	First Name	Title , Middle Name, or Initial	Page	Date	Page	Date
Alexander	Jesse		334	Jan. 1, 1818		
Allen	Richard	Col.	130	Aug. 26, 1816	215	Apr. 4, 1817
Bagh[1]	James		502	Jan. 30, 1819		
Barnes	John	Capt.	488	Jan. 1, 1819		
Bingham	Joel		432	Sept. 1, 1818		
Boss	Wright		053	Dec. 8, 1815		
Bowers	Absalom		271	Aug. 9, 1817		
Brooks	Samuel		369	Mar. 26, 1818		
Brown	[Widow]		116	July 29, 1816		
Campbell	William	F.	025	Aug. 8, 1815		
Cargill	William		144	Oct. 2, 1816		
Carlton	Lewis		237	May 25, 1817		
Cash	Lewis		516	Feb. 11, 1819		
Chavers	Gordon		355	Feb. 12, 1818		
Church	John		453	Oct. 13, 1818		
Clay	Benjamin		390	May 13, 1818		
Colvard	Joseph	N.	376	Apr. 1, 1818		
Crouch	George		404	June 12, 1818		
Dancy	John		418	July 29, 1818		
Davis	William		229	May 5, 1817		
Dimit	William		327	Dec. 15, 1817		
Doss	Solomon		032	Sept. 14, 1815	102	June 9, 1816
Dula	John		193	Feb. 4, 1817		
Ellison	Wilborn		313	Nov. 15, 1817		
Fife	Samuel		537	Mar. 22, 1819		
Forrister	John		074	Mar. 6, 1816		
Gilreath	Jeremiah		151	Oct. 17, 1816		
Gordon	John	W.	165	Dec. 3, 1816		
Gordon	Nathaniel		018	July 20, 1815		
Gordon	Richmond		285	Sept. 11, 1817		
Gordon	Sarah	Miss	251	June 24, 1817		
Hamby	Betsy William	 Sr. [?]	244	June 7, 1817		
Hays	George		362	Mar. 1, 1818		
Holdway	Jeremiah		320	Dec. 1, 1817		
Hood	Richard		474	Dec. 1, 1818		
Horp [Hosp] [Harp]	Abednego		208	Mar. 8, 1817		
Jarvis [?]	John		495	Jan. 14, 1819		
Jones	Benjamin	Maj.	222	May 1, 1817		

Last Name	First Name	Title , Middle Name, or Initial	Page	Date	Page	Date
Jones	John	M.	348	Feb. 1, 1818		
Jones	Joseph	D.	172	Dec. 10, 1816		
Judd	John		292	Oct. 24, 1817		
Judd	John		530	Mar. 8, 1819		
Judd	Roland		509	Feb. 1, 1819		
Laws	Joseph		258	July 10, 1817		
Lenoir	Walter	R.	088	May 1, 1816		
Martin	Benjamin		306	Nov. 1, 1817	425	Aug. 6, 1818
Martin	John	Col.	137	Sept. 12, 1816		
McGoe	Ralph		060	Jan. 4, 1816	278	Aug. 26, 1817
McKenzie	Al		397	June 1, 1818		
McNeil	John		467	Nov. 7, 1818		
Miller	Henry		109	July 3, 1816		
Most	Ruben		200	Mar. 1, 1817		
Newland	Benjamin	Col.	067	Feb. 12, 1816		
Perleer	Isaac		123	Aug. 1, 1816		
Prophet	Samuel		299	Oct. 18, 1817		
Reynolds	John		179	Dec. 26, 1816		
Rose	Storling		186	Jan. 8, 1817		
Sabastan	William		439	Sept. 8, 1818		
Saintclair	John		158	Nov. 7, 1816	264	Aug. 30, 1817
Sale	Leonard		446	Oct. 7, 1818		
Shoemaker	John		004	May 25, 1815		
Shoemate	Joshua		543	Apr. 1, 1819		
Sporder [?]	Ann	Brown	460	Nov. 3, 1818		
Stokes	David	M.	550	Apr. 22, 1819		
Stokes	Mumfort	Gen.	011	June 26, 1815	095	May 16, 1816
Tomlinson	A.		425	Aug. 6, 1818		
Triplett	Thomas		046	Nov. 1, 1815		
Vannoy	Joel		411	July 10, 1818		
Waddle	Claborn		523	Mar. 1, 1819		
Walker	John		081	Apr. 1, 1816		
Webb	Allen		383	May 3, 1818		
Welborn	James	Col.	341	Jan. 10, 1818	481	Dec. 15, 1818
Witherspoon	John		039	Oct. 4, 1815		

[1] "Iredell"

This table is a sampling of customers at the Waugh and Finley Store in Wilkesboro (Wilkes County), N.C. from 1826 to 1827.

Last Name	First Name	Title , Middle Name, or Initial	Page	Date	Page	Date
Adams	Gibson		100	Feb. 10, 1827		
Cale	Isaac		247	May 2, 1827		
Carlton	Lewis		233	Apr. 29, 1827		
Colvard	Jesse		170	Mar. 16, 1827		
Crumpler	Thomas		79	Jan. 27, 1827		
Elledge	John		51	Jan. 5, 1827		
Ellis	H. [?]		240	May 2, 1827		
Foster	Ambrose		205	Apr. 9, 1827		
Gordon	Nathaniel	Major	184	Mar. 25, 1827	191	Mar. 29, 1827
Grasty	John		72	Jan. 22, 1827		
Grayson	Benjamin		163	Mar. 13, 1827		
Hanley	John		9	Dec. 9, 1826		
Hawkins	John		121	Feb. 24, 1827		
Hill	M.	L. [?]	219	Apr. 20, 1827		
Holder	Henry		156	Mar. 13, 1827		
James	Joseph		44	Dec. 30, 1826	107	Feb. 17, 1827
Jennings	Daniel		268	May 17, 1827		
Johnson	Jeffrey		198	Apr. 2, 1827		
Lacey	John		135	Mar. 7, 1827		
Massey	George	V.	2	Dec. 2, 1826	37	Dec. 23, 1826
McDaniel	Darel [?]		177	Mar. 19, 1827		
Nicholas	J.	W. [?]	58	Jan. 10, 1827		
Nicholas	John		93	Feb. 4, 1827		
Orr	John		23	Dec. 18, 1826	31	Dec. 21, 1826
Osborn	Seth		254	May 7, 1827		
Patterson	John		149	Mar. 10, 1827		
Patterson	Samuel	F.	114	Feb. 20, 1827		
Puryear	David		65	Jan. 15, 1827		
Rickett	J. [?]		212	Apr. 14, 1827		
Satterwhite	H.	B.	128	Mar. 2, 1827	226	Apr. 26, 1827
Shoe	Jacob		262	May 13, 1827		
Underwood	Allen		142	Mar. 9, 1827		
Wyat	Barnett		16	Dec. 14, 1826		
Young	Andrew		86	Jan. 31, 1827		