

FORT, TOMLINSON, 1787-1859.

Tomlinson Fort family papers, 1808-1882

Emory University
Stuart A. Rose Manuscript, Archives, and Rare Book Library
Atlanta, GA 30322
404-727-6887
rose.library@emory.edu

Descriptive Summary

Creator: Fort, Tomlinson, 1787-1859.
Title: Tomlinson Fort family papers, 1808-1882
Call Number: Manuscript Collection No. 26
Extent: .75 linear ft. (2 boxes)
Abstract: Papers of Tomlinson Fort, Georgia physician and politician, and the Fort family.
Language: Materials entirely in English.

Administrative Information

Restrictions on access

Unrestricted access.

Terms Governing Use and Reproduction

All requests subject to limitations noted in departmental policies on reproduction.

Source

Gift, 1941

Citation

[after identification of item(s)], Tomlinson Fort papers, Stuart A. Rose Manuscript, Archives, and Rare Book Library, Emory University.

Collection Description

Biographical Note

Tomlinson Fort (July 14, 1787-May 11, 1859), Georgia physician and politician, was born in Warren County, Georgia to Arthur Fort and Susannah Tomlinson Whitehead Fort. He attended Philadelphia Medical College in 1809 and settled in Milledgeville, Georgia in 1810 to begin his practice. During the War of 1812, Fort served as captain of the Baldwin Volunteers and suffered a wound which was the eventual cause of his death. He died in Milledgeville.

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A Democrat, Fort was elected to the Georgia House of Representatives from Baldwin County in 1818 and was re-elected annually until 1826. He was elected to the United States Congress as a Representative of the 6th district in 1827, but served only one term, deciding not to seek re-election.

Fort was an influential and respected physician, and a leading citizen of Milledgeville. In 1829, he helped found the Medical Academy in Augusta, known after 1833 as the Medical College of Georgia. Similarly, he helped establish the State Lunatic Asylum, completed in 1842, and was its chief visiting physician. Fort served as a trustee for both of these institutions. In 1849 he published a medical treatise, *Fort's Medical Practice*, which was intended as a source of information for physicians and lay persons. Fort's civic activities included service as a trustee for the University of Georgia from 1826 to 1852, and the founding in 1830 of the Milledgeville newspaper *The Federal Union*. From 1832 to 1844 he was president of the Central Bank of Georgia in Milledgeville which held Georgia's assets and controlled state finances.

Tomlinson Fort married Martha Lou Fannin (1804-1883) of Madison, Georgia, on October 28, 1824. They had thirteen children, nine of whom lived to adulthood. Among Fort's surviving children were three sons: George Washington Fort (1828-1866), Tomlinson Fort, Jr. (1839-1910), and John Porter Fort (1841-1917).

George Fort attended Jefferson Medical College and graduated from the Medical College of Georgia. He enlisted in 1861 as a surgeon in the 28th Georgia Regiment of the Confederate Army, but resigned early in the war due to poor health. He never married, and died in 1866 of a form of chronic dyspepsia.

Tomlinson Fort, Jr., a graduate of Oglethorpe University, was admitted to the bar in 1858. In 1861 he entered the Confederate Army as a first lieutenant in the 1st Georgia Regulars, and was later promoted to captain of the same company. He served until 1865 after which he took over the management of family property in Chattanooga where he eventually settled. Tomlinson Fort, Jr. was elected mayor of Chattanooga from 1875 to 1876, and was a member of the Board of Public Works from 1893 to 1899. He never married and remained in Chattanooga until his death in 1910.

John Fort also graduated from Oglethorpe University and served in the Confederate Army from 1861 to 1865. Enlisting as a private in the 9th Georgia Regiment (Baldwin Volunteers), he was promoted to 2nd lieutenant in the 1st Georgia Regulars. He was admitted to the bar in Macon in 1866, but later gave up the practice of law to become a planter. On October 28, 1881, John Fort married Tallulah Hay Ellis of Atlanta with whom he had six children. For more information about Tomlinson Fort, Sr. and the Fort family see: William C. Roberts, "Tomlinson Fort of Milledgeville, Georgia - Physician and Statesman," *Journal of the History of Medicine and Allied Sciences* (23:131-152), and -Kate Haynes Fort, *Memoirs of the Fort and Fannin Families* (Chattanooga: MacGowan and Cooke, 1903).

Scope and Content Note

The collection consists of the papers of Tomlinson Fort papers from 1808-1882. The papers consist of general correspondence, financial papers, Civil War records and professional documents of both Tomlinson Fort and his family. Typed copies of many of these items are also included in the collection.

Papers in Series 1, spanning 1808-1859, are primarily those of Tomlinson Fort, Sr. They consist of correspondence dealing with family affairs, business matters, and contemporary political issues; a few letters concerning the War of 1812; and letters commenting upon *Fort's Medical Practice*. Miscellaneous documents from this period generally concern Fort's professional and financial affairs and include receipts, land grants, and certificates of appointment. Some of Fort's writings are also included.

Papers in Series 2 relate to Fort's family; these items cover the years 1861 to 1882 with most items dating from 1861 to 1864. Correspondence includes family letters exchanged among Fort's widow and sons George, John and Tomlinson, all of whom served in the Confederate Army. Many of these letters were written while Fort's sons were stationed in the area of the First and Second Battles of Bull Run. Topics covered include personal war experiences, descriptions of camp conditions, and family and business affairs. A few other items in this series include military commissions, general orders, 1st Georgia Regulars Morning Reports (1863-1864), and military correspondence. There is also a copy of Martha Lou Fort's will.

Many of the correspondents in this collection were family members. Other notable correspondents include John MacPherson Berrien, John Caldwell Calhoun, William Capers, John Forsyth, Hershel Vespasian Johnson, Wilson Lumpkin, William Schley, Daniel N. Speer, and George Michael Troup.

Arrangement Note

Organized into 2 series: (1) Personal papers and (2) Family papers.

Finding Aid Note

A detailed checklist of the correspondence is available. Individual index cards were prepared for many of the letters and documents in the collection soon after the papers were received by Emory, and these cards remain in the manuscript catalog.

Container List

Tomlinson Fort, Sr. papers

Box	Folder	Content
1	1	Correspondence: August 23, 1812-October 8, 1824
1	2	Correspondence: January 20, 1828-September 9, 1829
1	3	Correspondence: January 29, 1830-July 15, 1831
1	4	Correspondence: November 22, 1833-February 12, 1840
1	5	Correspondence: April 27, 1841-February 22, 1849
1	6	Correspondence: April 11, 1849-July 31, 1853
1	7	Correspondence: August 11, 1853-May 22, 1859, undated
1	8	Correspondence: 1812-1829 (typed copies)
1	9	Correspondence: 1830-1853 (typed copies)
1	10	Miscellaneous documents: May 12, 1808-November 1, 1842
1	11	Miscellaneous documents: February 17, 1851-May 11, 1859, undated
1	12	Miscellaneous documents: 1812-1859 (typed copies)
1	13	Writings of Tomlinson Fort
1	14	Writings of Tomlinson Fort (typed copies)

Family papers

1	15	Correspondence: January 12, 1861-July 15, 1861
1	16	Correspondence: July 20, 1861-September 26, 1861
1	17	Correspondence: September 29, 1861-October 27, 1861
1	18	Correspondence: November 24, 1861-May 29, 1862
1	19	Correspondence: December 26, 1862-April 18, 1864
1	20	Correspondence: June 29, 1864-November 15, 1864
1	21	Correspondence: October 1, 1865-March 21, 1882
1	22	Correspondence: Undated
1	23	Correspondence: 1861 (typed copies)
1	24	Correspondence: 1862-1863 (typed copies)
1	25	Correspondence: 1864-1882 (typed copies)
1	26	Correspondence: Undated (typed copies)
1	27	1st Regiment Georgia Regulars, Company L - Morning reports: February 1863-December 1864
2	1	Miscellaneous documents: February 1, 1861-January 12, 1866
2	2	Miscellaneous documents: 1861-1866 (typed copies)
2	3	Miscellaneous printed material and clippings
2	4	Miscellaneous typed copies (no originals)
