

Guide to the Tarleton Family Papers

MS 481



compiled by Susan Grigg

February 1980

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Collection Overview

REPOSITORY: Manuscripts and Archives
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CALL NUMBER: MS 481

CREATOR: Tarleton family

TITLE: Tarleton family papers

DATES: 1830-1888

BULK DATES: 1861-1869

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: 0.5 linear feet

LANGUAGE: English

SUMMARY: Correspondence, autograph album, genealogical notes, photographs and miscellaneous papers of the Tarleton and Lightfoot families of Alabama. The major figures represented in the collection are Robert Tarleton, his wife Sarah Bernard Lightfoot Tarleton, and Sarah Bee Ross Lightfoot. Most letters were written by Robert Tarleton and date from the Civil War period. The papers also contain an 1834 letter from Marquis de Lafayette to the President of the French Chamber of Peers.

ONLINE FINDING AID: To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/mssa.ms.0481>

Requesting Instructions

To request items from this collection for use in the Manuscripts and Archives reading room, please use the request links in the HTML version of this finding aid, available at <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/mssa.ms.0481>.

To order reproductions from this collection, please go to http://www.library.yale.edu/mssa/ifr_copy_order.html. The information you will need to submit an order includes: the collection call number, collection title, series or accession number, box number, and folder number or name.

Key to the container abbreviations used in the PDF finding aid:

b. box

Administrative Information

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Gift of Mr. and Mrs. Robert M. Tarleton and Mrs. A.R. Colvin in 1940 and 1942.

Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

Conditions Governing Use

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Preferred Citation

Tarleton Family Papers (MS 481). Manuscripts and Archives, Yale University Library.

Biographical / Historical

Robert Tarleton (1838-1868): doctor; studied medicine in New York City; served in the Confederate Army during the Civil War; taken prisoner and escaped, 1864.

Scope and Contents

The Tarleton Family Papers consist of letters, photographs, and miscellaneous items of the Tarleton and Lightfoot families of Alabama, primarily from the Civil War era. Most of the letters were written by Robert Tarleton to his mother and his fiancée and wife while he was at military camps during the war and doing business away from home in the early years of Reconstruction. The photographs show Tarleton and his wife, their parents, and a few other people.

The Tarleton Family Papers were given to Yale University Library by Mr. And Mrs. Robert M. Tarleton and by Mrs. A. R. Colvin in 1940 and 1942.

Additional Tarleton family photographs are located in the Historical Picture Collection (MS 713):

- Margaret (Brack) Tarleton
- Robert Tarleton
- Robert Tarleton and another young man
- Captain Jack and Sarah (Mrs. Jack) Eggleston
- Alfred Ross, brother of Sarah Bee (Ross) Lightfoot
- Unidentified young man

Collection Contents

Inventory, 1830-(1861-1869), 1888

Correspondence and miscellaneous papers

Robert Tarleton

b. 1	Letters to Margaret (Brack) Tarleton (Mrs. George W. Tarleton) [mother]	1861
b. 1	Letters to Sarah Bernard (Lightfoot) Tarleton [fiancée and wife]	1863-1868
b. 1	Legal and financial papers regarding the estate of William Brack	1867-1868
b. 1	Miscellaneous family papers	1834-(1861-1869)
b. 1	Marquis de Lafayette: A.L.S. to the President of the Chamber of Peers, [France], concerning a favor he wished done for some American friends	1834
b. 1	Sarah Bernard (Ross) Lightfoot: autograph album	1830-1834

Robert Tarleton

b. 1	Admission passes for medical instruction in New York University and the Medical College of Alabama	1859-1861
b. 1	Bible, prayer book, and Princeton class book	1869, undated
b. 1	Wallet, jackknife	undated
b. 1	Sarah Bernard (Lightfoot) Tarleton: testament	1864
b. 1	Unidentified daily memorandum book	1856
b. 1	Genealogical notes	[post-1868]
b. 1	Johns Hopkins University commencement program, showing Robert M. Tarleton as a candidate for the B.A.	1888

Photographs

b. 1	William Bernard Lightfoot, father of Sarah Bernard (Lightfoot) Tarleton	[ca. 1850s-1860s]
b. 1	Sarah Bee (Ross) Lightfoot, mother of Sarah Bernard (Lightfoot) Tarleton	[ca. 1850s-1860s]
b. 1	George W. Tarleton	[ca. 1850s-1860s]
b. 1	Margaret (Brack) Tarleton	[ca. 1850s-1860s]
b. 1	Robert Tarleton	[ca. 1850s-1860s]
b. 1	Sarah Bernard (Lightfoot) Tarleton	[ca. 1850s-1860s]

Photographs (continued)

b. 1	Backyard of house in town, with unidentified children and nursemaid	[ca. 1850s-1860s]
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Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

Subjects

Families
Medicine
Physicians

Geographic Names

Confederate States of America -- History
Southern States
United States -- History -- Civil War, 1861-1865

Genres / Formats

Autographs

Occupations

Soldiers

Names

Brack, William
Cleburne, Patrick Ronayne, 1828-1864
Cole, Susan Tarleton
Lafayette, Marie Joseph Paul Yves Roch Gilbert
Du Motier, marquis de, 1757-1834
Lightfoot, Sarah Bee Ross
Lightfoot, William B.
Tarleton, Robert, 1838-1868
Tarleton, Sarah Bernard Lightfoot

Families

Lightfoot family
Tarleton family

Corporate Body

Yale University -- Students