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**Franklin Harper Elmore Papers**

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**Selected Items From The  
Franklin Harper Elmore Papers  
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Describing Archives: A Content Standard

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## Summary Information

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<b>Repository</b>	Manuscripts Division, South Caroliniana Library
<b>Title</b>	Selected Items From The Franklin Harper Elmore Papers
<b>Date [inclusive]</b>	1819-1877
<b>Extent</b>	75.0 items
<b>Language</b>	English

## Scope and Contents note

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This collection of seventy-five items is chiefly family correspondence which gives a glimpse of ante-bellum life. Gov. John Taylor agrees to the marriage of Harriet and Elmore in a letter, 17 Oct. 1826, and states "what I may [be] able to give as a Dowry . . . I claim the Right of giving as I have given to my Daughter Rebecca." Although the collection provides little information on Elmore's career as a lawyer, banker and U. S. Congressman — serving in both houses — correspondence with his family reveals him as a devoted husband and affectionate father. A letter of John C. Calhoun, Fort Hill, 19 Feb. 1843, to Elmore, suggests Calhoun's interest in his "devoted disciple," encloses an introduction to the President, and assures Elmore of "no difficulty in counteracting the Richmond movement, if our friends should take a firm and active stand against it. We have truth, justice and the Constitution on our side, and all that is wanting is zeal, energy and discretion to ensure success." Appointed to the U. S. Senate to fill the vacancy created by Calhoun's death, Elmore served only twenty-eight days before his death, 29 May 1850. During his illness Mrs. Elmore writes the daughter Ellen — "a thousand times . . . have I wished we were all at home again — these worldly honors ! What are they? a shadow a fleeting shadow worth nothing and yields no happiness." Two Civil War letters of Albert Rhett Elmore suggest the family's contribution to this conflict. Harriet Elmore in a letter to Ellen, 8 May 1865, describes conditions in Columbia — ". . . we seem to have no law civil or military, the disbanded soldiers are perfectly lawless breaking open Government stores rifling private houses, and taking horses and mules whenever they find them . . . the town has been without rations for three days, the poor are becoming clamorous, & we are kept in constant dread of an outbreak from that quarter. Gen. Hampton has assumed, & is organizing a guard to protect the citizens . . . We are all pennyless now I would find it very difficult to supply all of my negroes with what they lost by the Yankees." Harriet Elmore's death brought a letter of condolence from Benjamin Morgan Palmer, New Orleans, 21 May 1866, to Ellen, in which he expresses a high regard for the Elmore and Taylor Families — "Your excellent & noble rather I remember from my boyhood .... I knew him well enough to esteem the high qualities which adorned him in private life, & to honor those larger endowments which rendered him so valuable a citizen . . . Your venerable Grandmother [Taylor] whom I loved to contemplate as the most perfect relic of the old school gentlewoman . . . never to be reproduced," recalls her aid and motherly advice "when, a green youth, I settled in Columbia to be her Pastor," and comments "Your mother was a mother in all the wide, deep strong emphasis of that endearing word." A letter of U. S. Senator from Ga. and Confederate Gen. John Brown Gordon, Washington, 28 Nov. 1877, to "Mrs. Grace Elmore," thanks the women of Columbia for a "Silver Salver," stating "Whatever of assistance I have . . . contribut [ed] to the relief of [S. C.] . from the evils of misgovernment was rendered to a people bound to those who sent me here by every tie of kindred, of interest, of deathless memories & enduring sympathies," and promises "to cherish this beautiful gift . . . as a memorial of South Carolina's new birth & of the too generous tribute paid me by her daughters for the aid . . . in the time of her distress and humiliation."

## Abbreviations / Legend

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ADS = autographed document signed

ALS = autographed letter signed

ALS(T) = typed copy of autographed letter signed

DS = document signed

LS = letter signed

MP = printed manuscript

MS = manuscript

n.d. = undated

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## Administrative Information

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### Publication Information

Manuscripts Division, South Caroliniana Library

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## Controlled Access Headings

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### Family Name(s)

- Elmore family.
- Taylor family.

### Geographic Name(s)

- Charleston (S.C.)--Social life and customs.

**Personal Name(s)**

- Elmore, Harriet Chesnut Taylor.

**Subject(s)**

- Plantations -- South Carolina -- Management.

1810s

## Collection Inventory

### 1810s

ALS, 1 Aug. 1819, Bella Vista [Philadelphia, Pa.], Harriet [Chesnut Taylor], to Mrs. Sarah Taylor, Columbia, S. C. (family letter, referring to her school work and plans to continue her education after she returns home).

### 1820s

ALS, 19 Oct. 1826, Columbia, John Taylor, to F. H. Elmore, Walterboro (re marriage to his daughter and the matter of a dowry).

ALS, 24 Oct. 1826, Walterboro, FHE, to Col. John Taylor, Columbia (expressing appreciation for his consent to marry his daughter, and agreeing with his ideas re dowry).

ALS, 24 Oct. 1826, Walterboro, FHE, to Harriet C. Taylor (expressing his anticipations for a glowing future with her).

ALS, 5 Feb., 1827, Walterboro, FHE, to Harriet C. Taylor (discussing her reasons for requesting a delay in their marriage).

ALS, 6 Feb. 1827, Walterboro, FHE, to Mrs. Sarah A. Elmore (enclosing a letter which requires an early reply).

## 1830s

MS, 14 Aug. 1829 (poem).

## 1830s

ALS, 22 Apr. 1838, Union, Boone Co., Ky., Chasteen Scott, to FHE (inquiring re a possible family connection, acknowledging certain documents sent of speeches of Clay and Calhoun, mentioning members of Congress from his Co.).

## 1840s

ALS, 19 Feb. [Mar.?] 1843, Fort Hill, John C. Calhoun, to FHE (enclosing a letter of introduction to the President, expecting "no difficulty in counteracting the Richmond movement, if our friends should take a firm and active stand against it. We have truth, justice and the Constitution on our side, and all that is wanting is zeal, energy and discretion to ensure success.").

ALS, 11 Apr. 1843, Washington, FHE, to Ellen S. Elmore (expressing delight at hearing from her with such a well-written letter, and encouraging her to study and improve her mind).

ALS, 17 Sept. 1843, Charleston, Mother [Harriet C. Elmore], to Ellen (missing her, admonishing her to go to church, remembrances to grandmother with a note to JHE - relating her circumstances without horses and urging him to return as soon as possible).

ALS, 27 Sept. 1843, Charleston, Harriet C. E., to Ellen S. E., Columbia (missing her, advice re her actions towards her grandmother, requesting grandmother to send her turnip and mustard seed).

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ALS, 4 Mar. [18]44, [FHE], to Ellen S. E. (family affairs, discussing their progress in books, mentioning teachers and subjects they wish to teach).

ALS, 9 June 1844, Washington, FHE, to Ellen (giving fatherly advice on duties of children to their parents, requesting her aid in making mother happy, and mentioning his important business with Gov. Butler).

ALS, 29 June 1844, Sand Hills, H. C. Elmore, to Ellen S. E., Mazyckboro, Charleston, with a P. S. from "Father" (family letter re cakes for a party, and gratification at the affection exhibited in letters and reports of good conduct).

ALS, 30 June 1844, Columbia, [FHE], to Children (notifying them of a change in Mother's plans for returning home).

ALS, 10 May 1845, Charleston, to Ellen S. E., Columbia (family letter re missing them, with note to Frank re same).

ALS, 6 Nov. 1846, Limestone Springs, Ellen, to Sally (thoughts of her, taking music, mother's knitting, father out to tea).

ALS, 17 Dec. 1846, Father, to Ellen (commenting on "getting through the Bank difficulties tomorrow... in the Senate it carried all right--and hope and trust it will do so in the house of Rep. tomorrow.").

ALS, 17 June 1847, Charleston, HCE, to Ellen, Columbia (re purchases made for relatives, expecting them home with father).

1840s

ALS, 27 Nov. 1847, Father, to Ellen (advising her not to be concerned re Maj. Felder's move - "It annoys but cannot injure me & I shall therefore not fear its consequences.", his improved health).

AL, 24 Mar. 1848, [FHE], to Mrs. Elmore (anxiety over Alex).

AL, 24 Mar. 1848, [FHE], to Ellen (re her letter and anxiety over Uncle Alex).

ALS, 4 Apr. 1848, Columbia, HCE, to FHE, Charleston (re sending the children, fear of mumps, arrangements for shopping, plans to return home).

ALS, 11 Apr. 1848, Columbia, H. C. Elmore, to Ellen (directions re housekeeping, plans to remain a few days and attend a wedding).

ALS, 30 June 1848, Charleston, Ellen, to FHE, "Care of Hon. D. H. Lewis" (reporting on the family - all well except monotonous without him, commenting on her teaching, a public meeting to plan a reception "of the 'Palmettos)").

ALS, 7 July 1848, Washington, Father, to [Ellen] (acknowledging and thanking her for a recent letter, delay in answering because of seeing the President [Polk] and the Post Master General and interest in a debate in the Senate, business of Mr. Gourdine and Mr. Mordecai from Charleston, pleased with her report on the scholars).

ALS, 10 July 1848, Charleston, HCE, to FHE (writing by Mr. Smythe, expecting his return since the resolutions dealing with his business passed the House, children working hard to deserve the promised prizes).

1840s

ALS, 25 July 1848, Charleston, Cornelia, to Father (relating the plans for the Volunteers' celebration and getting a holiday to observe it).

ALS, 27 July 1848, Charleston, Frank to Father (Judge McCants' visit, school dismissed for a week because of moving into a new building).

ALS, 8 Aug. 1848, Charleston, HCE, to JHE (re her surprise over Salley's return, Manning here from the war and his experiences with a mutiny on board and an attempt made to kill him, his plans to go to work for the railroad, pleased with gifts sent by Sally).

ALS, 10 Aug. 1848, Charleston, HCE, to FHE (reporting on the family, sending his letters, remarks re gifts for the family, and utensils for the stove).

ALS, 17 Aug. 1848, Charleston, Ellen, to Father (anxious for his return, the papers report his business re the Indians with Congress concluded, her musical activities and making preserves).

ALS, 18 Aug. 1848, Charleston, HCE, to FHE (expressing disappointment over his long absence, mentioning gifts and clothes he can bring to the children).

ALS, 6 Sept. 1848, Charleston, HCE, to FHE (anxiety over his condition as reported by Mr. Dukes, advice to see his doctor).

ALS, 8 Sept. 1848, Astor House, N. Y., FHE, to Child (puzzled as to what to write of interest to her - "My tastes too lead me into scenes, places and things that interest you but little.... workshops, and see machinery--to Rail Roads and see improvements--to ships and dock yards.... I see most wonderful

**1850s**

things..." , his improved condition, hopes they are pleased with the clothes, a good report from Mr. Connor on the family).

ALS, 16 Sept. 1848, Charleston, Ellen, to Father (re receipt of gifts and guitar - taking lesson, anxiety for his health and doctor' s order to go to Saratoga).

ALS, 19 Sept. 1848, Charleston, HCE, to FHE (acquiring patience re his absence, relating family news re her brother James and his property in Ala.).

ALS, 25 Nov. 1848, Father, to Ellen, Charleston (sending rail-road tickets for her and Cousin Sally).

ALS, 12 Jan. 1849, "Home," FHE, to Ellen (anxieties re the family).

ALS, 14 Jan. 1849, Columbia, HCE, to FHE (her trials with an ill child, dependence on Ellen, inquiring re the cholera scare, family news with mention of the Hamptons).

ALS, 17 Jan. 1849, Father, to Ellen? (complimenting her on aid to mother, directions re having Alex to sign his bond at the bank before John Fisher).

ALS, 13 Nov. 1849, Charleston, FHE, to HCE (missing them).

**1850s**

ALS, 11 Jan. 1850, Columbia, FHE, to Frank, Pacolet (fatherly advice re his behavior and studies).

1850s

ALS, 4 Apr. 1850, Charleston Hotel, P[atrick] Calhoun, to FHE (requesting an interview with him "As the friend of my Father and, one in whom he had great confidence").

2 MSS, 22 Apr. 1850 and n.d., (portions of letters to Mr. Mintz and Gourdin re visit from Perry and miserable weather and re improvement of our Harbor).

ALS, 1 May 1850, Wilmington, Father, to Children (reporting their safe arrival).

ALS, 8 May 1850, Washington City, Mother, to Ellen (reporting their arrival and situation at the hotel, expecting "to move on the Hill--Duff Green's Row," "a great deal of entertaining... persons calling and sending cards," commenting on "Mrs. Col. Davis... a very ordinary plain country woman --not pretty," requesting her to send the "receipt for your Father's cough mixture,").

ALS, May 1850, Washington, Mother, to Ellen (father's illness has prevented writing, "a thousand times... have I wished we were all at home again--these worldly honors! What are they?... A shadow a fleeting shadow worth nothing and yields no happiness.").

ALS, 27 May 1850, Mother, to Ellen (reporting on father's illness - extremely painful but resting now).

MS, 29 May '50, A. P. Butler, to Alex R. Taylor (Col. Elmore is dangerously ill).

ALS, [31 May 1850], Sally, to Miss E. S. Elmore, Columbia.

ALS, 5 June 1850, Charleston, C. Mortimer, to Grace Elmore (friendly letter fearing the family will not again live in Charleston).

**1860s**

ALS, 20 May 1852, Columbia, Mother (reporting death of Benjamin Franklin Taylor, commenting on the Christian attitudes of his daughter Sally Coles and hoping her daughters will be like Sally).

ALS, 29 May 185[2], Columbia, Mother, to Ellen (recalling the death of her husband and desolation brought by it - "Frank is at Winnsboro quite pleased.").

ALS, 19 Oct. 1853, Columbia, Mother, to Ellen, Charleston (expressing pleasure at her start for home, requesting her to price certain articles for her - mentioning Mrs. Snowden may help her, suggesting she remain as long as she pleases with friends).

ALS, 23 Oct. 1853, Home House, S[ally], to Ellen (missing her, news of friends, and her activities).  
P.S. from Mother (informing her there is no money to send).

**1860s**

ALS, 2 Feb. 1860, Columbia, HCE, to Ellen (relating a trip to Camden to bring Rosa home and plans to place her at Barhamville, news of friends).

MS, 6 Mar. 1860, H. C. Elmore ("I shall write down what I intend to have done legally when I return home" - points to be put in her will and disposition of the Negroes).

ALS, [27 Dec. 1860?], Mother to Children (relating her Christmas activities).

1860s

ALS, 22 Nov. 1861, Camp Butler, Abby [Albert Rhett Elmore], to Rosa (reporting his good health and "pretty well satisfied," mentioning friends and relatives in the service, and a recent visit to home of John C. Calhoun).

ALS, 5 Apr. 1862, Camp Chesnut, Abby, to Rosa (requesting his shirts and other things be sent by Frank, promotion to Sgt. Major but still envious of the cavalry, hunting, requesting news of friends and activities at home).

ALS, 8 May 1865, Columbia, HCE, to Ellen (rejoicing in good news of her children, conditions here - "We seem to have no law civil or military. The disbanded soldiers are perfectly lawless braking open Government stores rifling private houses and taking horses and mules whenever they find them ....The town has been without rations for three days. The poor are becoming clamorous and we are kept in constant dread of an outbreak from that quarter. Gen. Hampton has assumed and is organizing a guard to protect the citizens.... We are all pennyless now.", discussing the Negro problem).

LS, 25 Sept. 1865, Columbia, HCE, to Ellen (her unhappy condition, unsafe to return to the plantation, living problems, John Calhoun with them on the way to N. Y., hoping she has the box of silver with her in Chester).

ALS, 4 Dec. 1865, E. A. deCaradene, to Ellen (letter of condolence on her mother's death).

ALS, 12 May 1866, Home, Nettie [Howe], to Ellen (relating her wedding plans).

ALS, 21 May 1866, N. Orleans, B. M. Palmer, to Ellen (re her mother's passing, relating his connections with her family as pastor and friend for twenty-three years, and giving her spiritual counsel).

## 1870s

**1870s**

ALS, 28 Nov. 1877, U. S. Senate Chamber, J. B. Gordon, to Grace Elmore (thanking her for the "Silver Salver" presented by the women of Columbia, expecting to treasure the gift "as a memorial of South Carolina's new birth and of the too generous tribute paid to me by her daughters for the aid it was my privilege to render in the time of her distress and humiliation.").

**Undated**

ALS, n.d., Sarah A. Elmore to Harriet (re her objections).

ALS, 31 July n.y., Columbia, Frank, to Sister (relating his trip to the Singletons and activities there).

MS, n.d., [HCE] (asking blessing on her children).

ALS, n.d., Mother, to Ellen, Limestone Springs (re her father's going to Washington).

ALS, n.d., Cornelia Elmore, to Father (mother's headache, J. C. Calhoun and Judge [A. P.] Butler passing through Charleston, things to bring for mother).

ALS, n.d., Cornelia, to Ellen (directions for purchasing certain articles).