

## MSS. Collection #44

**Thomas Settle III Papers, ca. 1854-1948. 5 boxes (247 folders), ca. 950 items.**

NOTE: The Numbers cited in parentheses, e.g. 1:5, refer the researcher to the Series#: Folder# in which that name/topic will be found.

### INTRODUCTION

This collection primarily documents late 19th and early 20th century Republican Party politics in North Carolina and the career of Thomas Settle III, though there are no explicitly biographical materials in the collection. A small amount of material pertains to Settle's father, Thomas Settle Jr.

**Arrangement:** The Thomas Settle III Papers are arranged into eight series, and within series, materials are arranged alphabetically. The eight series are **Correspondence**, 1844-1944; **Legal**, 1867; **Letterbook**, 1894-1908; **Literary**, n.d.; **Photos**, 1889-ca. 1940; **Printed**, 1876-1948; **School Documents**, 1881; and **Scrapbooks**, 1854-1908. The three scrapbooks constituting the Scrapbooks series were unbound; the original order of the leaves is maintained in the series. The first two scrapbook subseries was formerly filed as Newspaper Scrapbooks #10 and #11, but have been returned to this collection.

**Provenance:** This collection was donated by Mrs. Emma Sharpe Avery Jeffress. Elements of it were recorded as previously unaccessioned in 1982. The scrapbooks bore the following accession numbers: 1976.13.1, 1982.1000.32, and 1982.1000.33.

**Processing:** This collection was organized and the finding aid was prepared by J. Timothy Cole in February 1996.

### BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Thomas Settle III (1865-1919) was a lawyer in Rockingham, Guilford and Buncombe Counties, served as state district solicitor (1886-1893), in the U.S. House of Representatives (1893-97), and was the Taft-Republican candidate for governor in 1912. The son of Thomas Settle Jr. (1831-1888) and grandson of Thomas Settle Sr. (1789-1857), Thomas Settle III was the third generation of a prominent Rockingham County family and was one of the most active Republicans in the state during the period from about 1890 through the teens. He attracted attention as a party organizer, campaigner, speaker and writer, and was instrumental in the distancing of the Republican Party from Negro Republicans during the first decade of the twentieth century. Settle's grandfather was a jurist and politician and his father also gained prominence as a judge, although he is probably best remembered for his hard-fought campaign against Zebulon Vance for the governorship in 1876. Settle was married to Eliza Potter of Wilmington.

**Biographical Sources:** Some biographical information was found in the finding aids for the [Thomas Settle Papers #3345](#) and [Thomas Settle Papers #656](#) held by the Southern Historical Collection at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Several articles about turn-of-the-century North Carolina Republican politics rely heavily upon the Settle correspondence in the Southern Historical Collection. Written by Joseph F. Steelman, these articles are: "Republicanism in North Carolina: John Motley Morehead's Campaign to Revive a Moribund Party, 1908-1910," *The North Carolina Historical Review* 42 (Spring 1965): 153-168; "Richmond Pearson, Roosevelt Republicans, and the Campaign of 1912 in North Carolina," *The North Carolina Historical Review* 43 (Spring 1966): 122-139; and "Vicissitudes of Republican Party Politics: The Campaign of 1892 in North Carolina," *The North Carolina Historical Review* 43 (Autumn 1966): 430-442. Some correspondence of Thomas Settle III may also be found in the [William Garrott Brown Papers](#) at Duke University.

### **SCOPE & CONTENT NOTE**

Types of materials in this collection include correspondence, scrapbooks, broadsides, flyers, pamphlets, programs and clippings. Most of the collection is associated with the period from 1884-1909.

Researchers interested in the history of the Republican Party in turn-of-the-century North Carolina will find a wealth of material, mainly in the form of news clippings and correspondence, although broadsides, flyers, and pamphlets relating to Republican Party politics will also be found. The letterbook series is particularly notable for Settle's correspondence with important Republican political operatives and functionaries such as W.G. Brown (3:74), Theodore Burton (3:13,80), James S. Clarkson (3:18,49,69), and Thomas Brackett Reed (3:74). This series also includes a few letters from William H. Taft (3:42,64,93).

A number of fine political broadsides can be found in the collection (6:1-2; 8:2,7,9-14,24-25,32,36,64-65,93,95-96). There are also numerous political flyers and pamphlets (6:10-34; 8:9,13,30,32,34,38-39,50,54,56,76, 80,90,93,100).

### **SERIES DESCRIPTIONS**

#### **1. Correspondence. 9 folders (ca. 25 items). 1844-1944.**

The correspondence series includes letters from a wide range of persons on a variety of topics. An 1844 Greensboro letter addressed to Francis Rankin (1:6) is notable for its mention of Edgeworth Academy.

Another letter (1:4) from T.D. Knight to Florence S. Vance (widow of Zebulon Vance) lobbies then President Taft to appoint Thomas Settle III to a judgeship.

#### **2. Legal. 2 folders (3 items). 1867.**

This series consists of promissory notes from P.A. Hay and L.G. Ware to Thomas Settle Jr. (2:1-2).

**3. Letterbook. 95 folders (ca. 250 items). 1894-1909.**

The letterbook series has four distinct subseries. The first (3:1-47) consists primarily of correspondence Thomas Settle III maintained with influential Republicans while he was in pursuit of appointment to a Florida judgeship in 1907. Within the first subseries, the largest sub-groupings are the correspondences with Marshall K. Bonsall (3:10), Theodore Burton (3:13), James S. Clarkson (3:18), and Theodore Roosevelt's personal secretary, William Loeb (3:27). There is also a letter from William H. Taft (3:42) in this subseries.

The subject of the second subseries (3:48-67) is a series of literary articles Settle penned on Republican Party politics in 1907. Relating to, and commenting on, these Settle articles are correspondences with James S. Clarkson (3:49), Walter H. Page (3:62), and William H. Taft (3:64), and others. One of these articles, entitled "Some Political History," was published in the *Asheville Gazette* on March 7, 1908 -- see folder 3:50.

The third subseries is a miscellaneous grouping which includes Settle correspondences with James S. Clarkson (3:69) and Thomas Brackett Reed (3:74), concerning Republican Party politics in North Carolina leading up to the elections of 1908. Significant correspondences include those with W.G. Brown (3:79) and Theodore E. Burton (3:80). There is also a Taft letter of 1908 (3:93).

**4. Literary. 1 folder (1 item). n.d.**

The single folder literary series (4:1) consists of a poem about O. Henry. The poem is by Douglas Cartland, of Greensboro. He describes O. Henry as "Greensboro's hero, Greensboro's star, Greensboro's outstanding light, Greensboro's sun in the darkest night."

**5. Photos. 2 folders (2 items). 1889-ca. 1890.**

Included is a reproduction of a photograph of Greensboro's McAdoo House hotel (5:1); and a large cabinet photo of Thomas Settle Jr. (5:2).

**6. Printed. 37 folders (ca. 55 items). 1876-1948.**

This series includes broadsides, clippings, flyers, pamphlets, periodicals, and programs, virtually all of which pertain to North Carolina politics. Folders 6:1-2 contain Republican broadsides which caricature the Democratic Party's policies; 6:3-4 contain broadsides which announce speeches by Mary Settle Sharpe; 6:14 and 6:25 are published addresses by Thomas Settle III; and 6:16 is an address by William P. Bynum on the presentation of a portrait of Thomas Settle Jr. to the Supreme Court of North Carolina in 1905.

**7. School documents. 1 folder (2 items). 1881.**

This single folder series (7:1) includes two Trinity College (present day Duke University) grade reports for William P. Bynum Jr.

## 8. Scrapbooks. 100 folders (ca. 600 items). 1854-1908.

This large series consists of leaves from three different scrapbooks; included in the scrapbooks are clippings, broadsides, pamphlets, speeches and correspondence, and the subject matter is almost exclusively political.

The first scrapbook (8:1-38) mostly consists of materials (primarily clippings on Republican Party politics) from the 1880s until about 1905. Folders 8:2,7,9-14,24-25, 32,36 are notable for the presence of political broadsides; 8:19 includes a group of correspondence with J.C. Pritchard, R.Z. Linney, J.P. Caldwell, and others; additional correspondence may be found in 8:28,31,35; a political map of North Carolina (1882) can be found in 8:33, and in 8:34 there is a political map of the United States (1893).

Clippings characterize the second scrapbook (1854-1907, 8:39-81) even more so than the first with the vast majority dating from the first decade of the twentieth century; as with the first, these clippings address primarily Republican Party political issues. There are, however, some notable broadsides with political cartoons in folders 8:64-65.

The final scrapbook (8:82-100) consists mainly of clippings on Republican Party politics during 1907-08; a few broadsides, flyers, and pamphlets can be found in 8:90,93,95-96,100, many of which deal with the prohibition vote.

### FOLDER LISTING

<u>Series</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Contents</u>	
1	1	Correspondence	-- Atkinson, Col. John Wilder (n.d.)
	2	"	-- Aunt Eliza to Wm. Beall (1917)
	3	"	-- Envelope
	4	"	-- Knight, T.D., to Florence S. Vance (1909)
	5	"	-- Linker, Flora Belle, to Nettie Settle (1883)
	6	"	-- Mary to Francis Rankin (1844)
	7	"	-- Robert to Aunt Lizzie Leigh (1944)
	8	"	-- Settle, Eliza P. (1909)
	9	"	-- Whitson, W.R. (n.d.)
2	1	Legal	-- Promissory notes -- Hay, P.A. (1867)
	2	"	-- Promissory notes -- Ware, L.G. (1867)
3	1	Letterbook	-- Judgeship -- Adams, Spencer B. (1907)
	2	"	-- Judgeship -- Allison, M.B. (1907)
	3	"	-- Judgeship -- Andrews, W.R. (1907)
	4	"	-- Judgeship -- Beall, Thomas (?) (1907)
	5	"	-- Judgeship -- Bingham, F.F. (1907)
	6	"	-- Judgeship -- Bingham, Robert W. (1907)
	7	"	-- Judgeship -- Bisbie, Horatio (1907)

<u>Series</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Contents</u>	
3	8	Letterbook	-- Judgeship -- Boatwright, J.H. (1907)
	9	"	-- Judgeship -- Bonaparte, Charles J. (1907)
	10	"	-- Judgeship -- Bonsall, Marshall K. (1907)
	11	"	-- Judgeship -- Boyd, James E. (1907)
	12	"	-- Judgeship -- Britt, James J. (?) (1907)
	13	"	-- Judgeship -- Burton, Theodore E. (1907)
	14	"	-- Judgeship -- Caldwell, J.P. (1907)
	15	"	-- Judgeship -- Capers, John G. (1907)
	16	"	-- Judgeship -- Carpenter, (?) (1907)
	17	"	-- Judgeship -- Carr, J.O. (1907)
	18	"	-- Judgeship -- Clarkson, James S. (1907)
	19	"	-- Judgeship -- Clement, L.G. (1907)
	20	"	-- Judgeship -- Clippings
	21	"	-- Judgeship -- Craig, L. to F.M. Simmons (1907)
	22	"	-- Judgeship -- Duncan, E.C. (1907)
	23	"	-- Judgeship -- Elkins, L.B. (?) (1907)
	24	"	-- Judgeship -- Glen, R.B. (1907)
	25	"	-- Judgeship -- Harris, C.J. (1907)
	26	"	-- Judgeship -- Houk, John C. (1907)
	27	"	-- Judgeship -- Loeb, William (1907)
	28	"	-- Judgeship -- Long, C.C. (1907)
	29	"	-- Judgeship -- Lovely, M.H. (?) (1907)
	30	"	-- Judgeship -- Lucas, E.W. Van C. (1907)
	31	"	-- Judgeship -- Mallery, S.R. (1907)
	32	"	-- Judgeship -- Manly, Clement (1907)
	33	"	-- Judgeship -- McDowell, A. (1907)
	34	"	-- Judgeship -- McLaurin, John L. (1907)
	35	"	-- Judgeship -- Overman, Lee S. (1907)
	36	"	-- Judgeship -- Patterson, Lindsay (1907)
	37	"	-- Judgeship -- Pritchard, J.C. (1907)
	38	"	-- Judgeship -- Scott, M.B. (?) (1907)
	39	"	-- Judgeship -- Sherman, James S. (1907)
	40	"	-- Judgeship -- Simmons, F.M. (1907)
	41	"	-- Judgeship -- Skinner, Harry (?) (1907)
	42	"	-- Judgeship -- Taft, William H. (1907)
	43	"	-- Judgeship -- Unidentified (1907)
	44	"	-- Judgeship -- Unidentified (1907)
	45	"	-- Judgeship -- Waddill, Edmund, Jr. (1907)
	46	"	-- Judgeship -- Walker, P.D. (1907)

<u>Series</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Contents</u>	
3	47	Letterbook	-- Judgeship -- Wentworth, George P. (1907)
	48	"	-- Literary -- Capers, John G. (1907)
	49	"	-- Literary -- Clarkson, James S. (1907)
	50	"	-- Literary -- Clippings
	51	"	-- Literary -- Duke, J.B. (1907)
	52	"	-- Literary -- Editor, <i>The Sun</i> (New York, 1907)
	53	"	-- Literary -- Edmonds, Richard H. (1907)
	54	"	-- Literary -- Harris, C.J. (1907)
	55	"	-- Literary -- Hilderbrand, Walter A. (1907)
	56	"	-- Literary -- Houk, John C. (1907)
	57	"	-- Literary -- Kealing, Joseph B. (1907)
	58	"	-- Literary -- Lessner, Edward (1907)
	59	"	-- Literary -- Linney, R.Z. (1907)
	60	"	-- Literary -- Medlock, Henry T. (?) (1907)
	61	"	-- Literary -- Overstreet, Jesse (1907)
	62	"	-- Literary -- Page, Walter H. (1907)
	63	"	-- Literary -- Ray, W.D. (1907)
	64	"	-- Literary -- Taft, William H. (1907)
	65	"	-- Literary -- Thatcher, M.H. (1907)
	66	"	-- Literary -- Walter, Philip (1907)
	67	"	-- Literary -- Weightman, Richard (1907)
	68	"	-- Literary -- Bonsall, M.K. (1907)
	69	"	-- Miscellaneous -- Clarkson, James S. (1902-04)
	70	"	-- Miscellaneous -- Cook, Charles A. (1902)
	71	"	-- Miscellaneous -- Glenn, Tyre (1902)
	72	"	-- Miscellaneous -- Loeb, William (1904)
	73	"	-- Miscellaneous -- McCall, Samuel W. (1902)
	74	"	-- Miscellaneous -- Reed, Thomas Brackett (1894-1902)
	75	"	-- Miscellaneous -- Roosevelt, Theodore (1909)
	76	"	-- Miscellaneous -- Wray, James F. (1902)
	77	"	-- Miscellaneous -- Winston, G., to T. Roosevelt (1902)
	78	"	-- Political -- Bonsall, M.K. (1907)
	79	"	-- Political -- Brown, W.G. (1908)
	80	"	-- Political -- Burton, Theodore E. (1907-08)
	81	"	-- Political -- Caldwell, J.P. (1908)
	82	"	-- Political -- <i>Chicago Tribune</i> (1908)
	83	"	-- Political -- Cline, Charles A. (1908)
	84	"	-- Political -- Clippings
	85	"	-- Political -- Dobson, John A. (1908)

<u>Series</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Contents</u>	
3	86	Letterbook	-- Political -- Fairbrother, Al (1908)
	87	"	-- Political -- Hitchcock, Frank H. (1908)
	88	"	-- Political -- Loeb, William (1908)
	89	"	-- Political -- Melton, A.S. (1908)
	90	"	-- Political -- Minor, C., to T. Roosevelt (n.d.)
	91	"	-- Political -- Sharpe, Ben C. (1907)
	92	"	-- Political -- Sherman, James S. (1908)
	93	"	-- Political -- Taft, William H. (1908)
	94	"	-- Political -- Tompkins, D.A. (1908)
	95	"	-- Political -- Watson, C.B. (1908)
4	1	Literary	-- Manuscript -- Poem: "O. Henry," by D. Cartland
5	1	Photos	-- McAdoo House Hotel, Greensboro (ca. 1890)
	2	"	-- Thomas Settle Jr. (1889)
6	1	Printed	-- Broad­sides -- "White Supremacy" (1904)
	2	"	-- Broad­sides -- "Hard Times" (1896?)
	3	"	-- Broad­sides -- "Mary S. Sharpe...Address" (n.d.)
	4	"	-- Broad­sides -- "Mary S. Sharpe...Address" (n.d.)
	5	"	-- Broad­sides -- sample presidential ballot (1948)
	6	"	-- Broad­sides -- "Settle...Newell...Speak" (1916)
	7	"	-- Broad­sides -- "To the Repub. of NC" (1886)
	8	"	-- Clippings
	9	"	-- DAR Ancestral Chart
	10	"	-- Flyers -- "Warning to Voters" (1907)
	11	"	-- Flyers -- "J.P. Arthur's Ideas" (n.d.)
	12	"	-- Flyers -- "Ohio Republican Platform" (1895)
	13	"	-- Flyers -- "Platform of the Republican Party of North Carolina, Adopted in State Convention at Charlotte" (1908)
	14	"	-- Pamphlets -- "An Address by Thomas Settle, Esq." (July 1 1909)
	15	"	-- Pamphlets -- "Address of William H. Taft in response to Notification Speech" (July 28, 1908)
	16	"	-- Pamphlets -- "Address of William P. Bynum, Jr. Presenting the Portrait of Thomas Settle to the Supreme Court" (November 7, 1905)
	17	"	-- Pamphlets -- "Arrest and Imprisonment of Hon. Robert Smalls" (1878?)

<u>Series</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Contents</u>	
6	18	Printed	-- Pamphlets -- "The 'C' Letters" (1878)
	19	"	-- Pamphlets -- "Consolidated Election Law" (1895)
	20	"	-- Pamphlets -- "Consolidated Election Law" (1897)
	21	"	-- Pamphlets -- "Railroad Rates and Taxation" (1906)
	22	"	-- Pamphlets -- "Remarks of Hon. Edwin Y. Webb, of North Carolina" (February 16, 1907)
	23	"	-- Pamphlets -- "Republican Platform, 1908"
	24	"	-- Pamphlets -- "The Solid South and Afro-American Race Problem" (1908)
	25	"	-- Pamphlets -- "Southern Politics" (1908?)
	26	"	-- Pamphlets -- "Speech of Hon. Charles W. Jones, of Florida" (February 5, 1879)
	27	"	-- Pamphlets -- "Speech of Hon. John W. Graham of Orange in the Legislature of 1908 on the Rail Road Rate Bill" (1908)
	28	"	-- Pamphlets -- "Speech of Hon. John H. Dalzell of Pennsylvania" (February 26, 1908)
	29	"	-- Pamphlets -- "State vs. Josiah Turner" (1876)
	30	"	-- Pamphlets -- "To the Democrats of North Carolina" (n.d.)
	31	"	-- Pamphlets -- "Two Letters and Some Comment" (1904)
	32	"	-- Pamphlets -- "Vote for Governor, 1900, and ..." (1900)
	33	"	-- Pamphlets -- "Vote for Governor and Congressmen, 1900, and ..." (1902)
	34	"	-- Pamphlets -- "William H. Taft: An Appreciation" (1908)
	35	"	-- Periodicals -- <i>The State</i> (1941)
	36	"	-- Programs -- "The Tar Heel Club" (1905)
	37	"	-- Programs -- UNC Commencement Exercises (1891)
7	1	School documents	-- Trinity College grade reports (1881)
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Tompkins, D.A.: 3:94 (1908)  
Trinity College: 7:1 (1881)  
Turner, Josiah (1821-1901): 6:29 (1876)

**United** States: political map, 8:34 (1893)

**Vance**, Florence S. (Mrs. Zebulon): 1:4 (1909)

**Waddill**, Edmund, Jr.: 3:45 (1907)

Walker, P.D.: 3:46 (1907)

Walter, Phillip: 3:66 (1907)

Watson, C.B.: 3:95 (1908)

Ware, L.G.: 2:2 (1867)

Webb, Edwin Y.: 6:22 (1907)

Wentworth, George P.: 3:47 (1907)

Weightman, Richard: 3:67 (1907)

Whitson, W.R.: 1:9 (n.d.)

Wilson, James W.: 6:30 (n.d.)

Winston, G.: 3:77 (1902)

NOTE: The Archives also has Thomas Settle Jr.'s set of Col. Robert N. Scott's *The War of the Rebellion: A Compilation of the Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies*, 50 vols., Washington: Government Printing Office, 1880. These books were given to the Museum by Mrs. Pauline Ney of New England.