

Primary Source: Stagville Plantation Expenses Records <sup>[1]</sup>

The Cameron family of Orange County was one of antebellum North Carolina's wealthiest families and among its most prolific enslavers.

Duncan Cameron was born in Mecklenburg County, Virginia, in 1788. As a young man, Duncan studied law and set up a practice in Martinsville, Virginia. Duncan chose to invest the money he made from practicing law in land and the enslavement of others, and he was a moderately wealthy man when he married. In 1803, Duncan Cameron married Rebecca Bennehan, whose father owned the Stagville plantation, located near Durham, North Carolina. Upon his marriage to Rebecca, Duncan's property was merged with the Benneham's estate.

In 1807, Duncan's father-in-law gave him land next to the Stagville plantation, which Duncan called Farintosh, and the Camerons moved to their new home in 1810. Throughout his lifetime, Duncan continued to accumulate land and enslave more people, and he also served as a judge on the Superior Court circuit.

The is one page of an account book kept by Duncan Cameron. It is a list of money he owed to one company, and he would have done business with several merchants.

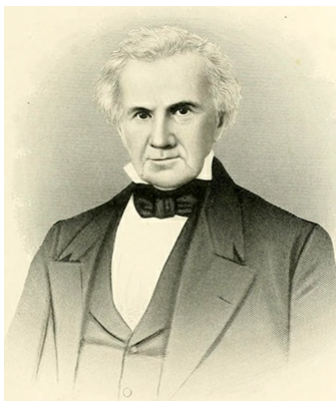
You might not be able to tell what all of the numbers mean or to identify all of the different products, but you can get a sense of the amount of money it took to run a plantation. You'll also see that Cameron purchased items not only for running the plantation but for his family and home. Much of a planter's business with other men depended on his reputation, and so it was important to him not only to make money but to display his wealth and show his success — just as it is for many people today. Because a plantation was both home and business, a plantation owner had to think not only about agriculture, but also about what clothes he and his family wore and the types of dishes that were used in their home. Running a plantation was more than a business — it was a way of life.

Duncan Cameron Esq  
In Account with [Andrew Kevan & Brothers](#)  
Interest to 31st July 1842

Month	Day		Mo:	D <sup>s</sup>	Interest	
1841						
Sept.	29	Leather, Bagging, Sugar & <a href="#">C</a> per bill	6	2	\$4.94	\$162.79
October	6	Cash paid R.R. <a href="#">fot</a> goods	9	25	.34	6.82
	26	Butter & <a href="#">Mackerel per bill</a>	5	5	.75	29.00
November	30	acceptance your draft 30 [word] favor Denvey, due 24. 30 Nov?	8	1	20.08	500
	1	Bagging & rope per bill	5	—	1.42	57.35
	2	Cash paid R.R. for Butter & Mackerel	8	29	04	1.20
	10	<a href="#">di</a> -- di -- di Sundries	8	21	.35	8.23
	11	<a href="#">recg</a> & <a href="#">fong</a> 3 packages from Philadelphia	8	20	.04	1.20
	13	Bagging, ropes, Glass & Putty	4	18	1.98	86.00
	15	Cash Paid Reed & Parsons For 1 Wardrobe, Boxing & c	8	16	3.20	75.00
	16	di -- di--- R R fot 3 boxes ...	8	15	.14	4.08
	24	di -- di -- di -- Sundries & for 5 pds Negro blankets	8	7	4.61	112.32
	26	Apples, Hats, Caps, nails, coppers, tea, & oysters	4	5	2.38	114.18
December	27	Cash paid freight. 2 Boxes from Philadelphia	8	4	.04	1.00
	29	Expensses on 1 box clothing from N. York Fot C Manly collected by you	8	2	.08	2.00
	7	Bagging, rope, leather & C per bill	3	24	3.15	165.63
	"	Cash paid for 3 pds blankets	7	24	1.60	40.62
	8	di -- di -- A A. for oysters, nails, Hats, & C	7	23	.19	5.28
	10	di -- di -- freight 5 boxes plants &1 <a href="#">bumble bees</a> from Philadelphia	7	21	.18	4.69
	13	3 Doz Cards per bill	3	18	.30	14.34
	15	Cash for plants, bees, Bagging Rope & C	7	16	.53	14.32
	16	di -- di & fot. from Phila on 1 box	7	15	.04	1.20
		receiving and fong 7 packages a 1/6	7	15	.07	1.75
1842						
January	5	E Crowder S <a href="#">inst.</a> on bonds, collected by you ..... \$255.00				
	"	this amt ordered by you to be transfered to Cr J O Bonneham 1260.00	6	25	51.76	1515.00
	7	Cash paid your draft favor Mrs. Sean W Lyme	6	24	1.70	50.00
	13	di -- di -- R Rd fot 1 box from Mrs Lyme	6	18	.03	.70
	18	di -- di -- Mrs Poland for 2 Bonnetts	6	13	.48	15.00
	"	Nails, Leather, Cutting knives, \$ waggon boxes per bill	2	13	.80	66.44
	20	Cash paid for 1 hard ware from <a href="#">Richd</a> 50c	6	11	.03	1.00
	24	Candles, Sugar & <a href="#">mould boards</a> per bill	2	7	.64	57.28
	26	Cash paid R Rd fot nails, leather, hrd ware & 1 Box	6	5	.31	9.66
February	3	di -- di -- di -- mould board & C	5	28	.08	3.07
	8	Plaster, Clover Seed & orchard grass seed	1	21	.57	65.21
	15	Cash paid fot 1 Box from <a href="#">Balt.</a> 50c , recg & fong same 50	5	16	.03	1.00
		Carried forward ...			102. 91	3195.81

Primary Source Citation:  
Cameron Family Papers # 133. Series 2.1.1. Box 88, Folder 2008. Southern Historical Collection, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

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Duncan Cameron

Related Topics:

- Plantation Records: Property<sup>[16]</sup>
- Plantation Records: Names of Enslaved People<sup>[17]</sup>

Primary Sources:

*Duncan Cameron Esq*

*In Account with Mrs*

*Interest to 31*

1841

Sept. 29 To Leather, Bagging, Sugar &c per bill .....

October 6 " Cash paid W. R. ft goods .....

26 " Butter & mackerel per bill .....

30 " acceptance your draft 30 days favor C. Dewey, due 27/30 .....

November 1 " Bagging & rope per bill .....

2 " Cash paid W. R. ft. Butter & mackerel .....

10 " do do do Sundries .....

11 " recd & long 3 packages from Philadelphia .....

13 " Bagging, rope, Glap & Nutty 5 per bill .....

15 " Cash paid Fred & Parsons for 1 Wardrobe, Boxing .....

16 " do do W. R. ft of 3 Boxes .....

24 " do do do Sundries for 5 pr. Negro blankets .....

26 " Apples, Hops, Caps, nails, Copperas, Tea, & oysters .....

27 " Cash paid freight 2 Boxes from Philadelphia .....

29 " Expresses on 1 Box clothing from N York for C. Manly collect .....

December 7 " Bagging, rope, Leather &c per bill .....

" " Cash paid for 3 pr. Blankets .....

8 " do do W. R. ft. oysters, nails, Hops &c .....

10 " do do freight 5 Boxes plants & Bushes from N York .....



13 " 3 doz Cans for bill .....  
 15 " Cash. All for plants, trees, Bagging, rope &c .....  
 16 " do do for from Phila. on 1 Box .....  
 1821 21 " receiving & long 7 packages & 1 lb .....  
 January 6 " E Crowder, 5 int. on bonds, Collected by you ..... \$255.  
 " " this amt. ordered by you to be transfered to Cr. J. O. Bennahan 1266  
 7 " Cash paid your draft favor Mrs. Sean M. Syme .....  
 13 " do do All for 1 Box from Mrs. Syme .....  
 18 " do do Mrs. Pollard for 2 Benetts .....  
 " " Nails, Leather, Cutting knives & wagon boxes for bill  
 20 " Cash paid for 1 who ward from Rich. 50. recy & long 50 ...  
 24 " Candles, Sugar & mould boards for bill .....  
 26 " Cash paid All for Nail, Leather, who ward & 1 Box.  
 February 3 " do do do Mould boards &c .....  
 8 " Plaster, Clover Seed & Orchard grass Seed .....  
 15 " Cash paid for 1 Box from Balt. 50; recy & long same 50 ...  
 Carried for

[18] A page from Duncan Cameron's account books dated July 31, 1892.

3 January 2018

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