

PIERRE SOULÉ PAPERS
Mss. 401, 1044, 1085, 2028
Inventory

Louisiana and Lower Mississippi Valley Collections
Special Collections, Hill Memorial Library
Louisiana State University Libraries
Baton Rouge, Louisiana State University

Revised 2008

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Proper acknowledgement of LLMVC materials must be made in any resulting writing or publications. The correct form of citation for this manuscript group is given on the summary page. Copies of scholarly publications based on research in the Louisiana and Lower Mississippi Valley Collections are welcomed.

Summary

Size.	22 items, 1 volume
Geographic locations.	New Orleans, Louisiana; London, Great Britain
Inclusive dates.	1850-1901
Bulk dates.	1850-1864
Language.	English, French
Summary.	Political letters of Pierre Soulé regarding the annexation of Cuba and other matters, and biographies of Soulé written by Alfred Mercier and Leon Soulé.
Organization.	Arranged chronologically
Restrictions on access.	If microfilm is available, photocopies must be made from microfilm.
Related collections.	Pierre Soulé Photograph, Mss. 2824
Copyright.	Copyright of the original materials is retained by descendants of the creators in accordance with U.S. copyright law.
Citation.	Pierre Soulé Papers, Mss. 401, 1044, 1085, 2028, Louisiana and Lower Mississippi Valley Collections, LSU Libraries, Baton Rouge, La.
Stack location(s).	A:35, H:17
Also available on.	Mss.MF:S

BIOGRAPHICAL/HISTORICAL NOTE

Pierre Soulé (1801-1870) was born in France but was later imprisoned and exiled for political opposition. After fleeing to the United States, Soulé became a New Orleans attorney, a Louisiana state senator (1846), and later a United States senator (1847-1853). In 1853, he became United States foreign minister to Spain and authored the Ostend Manifesto in 1854, outlining the attitude the United States should take in regard to Cuba. Although opposed to secession, Soulé supported the actions of Louisiana during the Civil War and was captured and imprisoned by Union forces. Soulé died in New Orleans in 1870.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

Letters pertain principally to the proposed acquisition of Cuba by the United States and to Soulé's activities in American political affairs.

Letters (1852-1859) to George N. Sanders, leader in the "Young America" group of the Democratic Party and United States Consul in London, include items written from Washington, D.C., discussing Soulé's relations with Louis Kossuth, Hungarian statesman, and with E. F. Foresti, Italian patriot. Letters to Sanders from Madrid, Spain, express Soulé's indignation that Sanders was not appointed to the consulship at London, and letters from New Orleans concern the publicity surrounding Soulé's role in the United States attempt to acquire Cuba from Spain.

Other issues addressed in letters include the American political climate, Soulé's attitude toward the Confederacy, and personal matters.

The collection contains copies of two manuscript translations and a bound typescript of "Notice sur Pierre Soulé" by Leon Soulé (1901, translated by Beulah Johnson) and "Biographie de Pierre Soulé" by Alfred Mercier (1848, translated by Marietta Millet).

COLLECTION DESCRIPTION

A number of letters are written from Soulé to George N. Sanders. Some of these pertain to Soulé's connection with Louis Kossuth, Hungarian statesman, and to aid for E. F. Foresti, an Italian patriot (July 1852, July 22, 1853), and others express indignation at the refusal of the U.S. Senate to confirm Sanders' appointment to the consulship in London (August 21, 1854) and comment on the weakness of the administration in Washington. In addition to this, Soulé declares his gratitude for Sanders' article of vindication in the *New York Herald* and expresses a desire to bring to light the facts concerning his mission to Spain and his high regard for and friendship with James Buchanan (June 2, 1855). He also explains his opposition to the John Slidell political faction at the meeting held at Baton Rouge prior to the Cincinnati Convention (April 10, 1856), and forecasts the political situation at the Democratic Convention at Charleston (September 24, 1859).

Also included are photocopies of letters to James Buchanan, minister to Great Britain. Two of these, written from Paris, concern the location of the conference later known as the Ostend Conference (September 23 and September 29, 1854), and one, written from New York, concerns the national political situation (June 26, 1855). A photocopy of a letter from Brigadier General James Trudeau in New Orleans, requests Soulé's attendance at the funeral of Lieutenant Colonel Charles D. Dreux, 1st Louisiana Battalion (July 8, 1861), and a photocopy of a letter to Salmon P. Chase, Secretary of the Treasury, from Fort Lafayette, New York, pertains to Soulé's arrest by General Benjamin F. Butler, Union commander at New Orleans, and his subsequent treatment at the hands of the Federal government (June 27, 1862). Two letters from Soulé in Richmond, Virginia, to Mrs. George Sanders mention assistance given to her son, a prisoner of war (September 18, 1863 and January 14, 1864), and a photocopy of a letter (in French) to General P. G. T. Beauregard, from Charleston, South Carolina, expresses surprise and concern at the appointment of General John B. Hood as commander of the Army of Tennessee, a position which Soulé believed should have been given to Beauregard. Soulé also comments on his personal situation (July 20, 1864).

Finally, handwritten pages as well as a bound typescript of "Biographie de Pierre Soulé", written by Leon Soulé and translated by Beulah Johnson (1901), and "Notice sur Pierre Soulé," written by Alfred Mercier and translated by Marietta Millet (1848) are found in the collection.

CROSS REFERENCES

Subject	Date	Description of relevant documents
Beauregard, G. T. (Gustave Toutant), 1818-1893.	1864	Letter expressing surprise at the appointment of General John B. Hood;
Buchanan, James, 1791-1868.	1854, 1855	Letters to Buchanan concerning the location of the Ostend Conference
Chase, Salmon P. (Salmon Portland), 1808-1873.	1862	Letter to, regarding arrest by General Benjamin F. Butler;
Cuba--Politics and government--1810-1899.	1855	Acquisition of
Democratic National Convention (1860 : Charleston, S.C.)	1859	“Jacksonian enthusiasm would be revived” in letter to Sanders;
Dreux, Charles Didier, 1832-1861--Death and burial.	1861	Letter from James Trudeau requesting Soulé attend funeral of Dreux;
Kossuth, Lajos, 1802-1894.	1852, 1854	Hungarian statesman (as Louis Kossuth), Soulé’s connection with, letters to George N. Sanders;
Louisiana--Politics and government--1803-1865.	1855	Opposition to the Slidell [John] political faction in letter to George N. Sanders;
Pierce, Franklin, 1804-1869.	1856	Criticism of, in letter to James Buchanan;
Sanders, George Nicholas, 1812-1873.	1852-1859	Letters to Sanders describing the “Young America” group of the Democratic Party;
Slidell, John, 1793-1871.	1859	Opposition to, in letter to George N. Sanders;

CONTAINER LIST

<u>Stack</u>			
<u>Location</u>	<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder(s)</u>	<u>Contents (with dates)</u>
A:35	1	1	Letters and copies of letters (1850-1864)
		2-3	2 manuscript items: "Biographie de Pierre Soulé" (1848), "Notice sur Pierre Soulé." (1901)
H:17	--	--	Typescript of "Biographie de Pierre Soulé" and "Notice sur Pierre Soulé"
Mss.MF:S		1 reel	