

UNCLE SAM PLANTATION PAPERS

Mss 408, 602, 1252

Inventory

Compiled by
Charles F. Thomas

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

1996
Revised by Luana Henderson
2016

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SUMMARY

Size.	12.5 linear ft., 183 v.
Geographic locations.	Ascension Parish, Louisiana; St. James Parish, Louisiana; New Orleans, Louisiana.
Inclusive dates.	1805-1914.
Bulk dates.	1880-1911.
Languages.	English, French.
Summary.	Financial papers, correspondence, labor and payroll records, printed materials, and miscellaneous legal materials related to the Uncle Sam Plantation of St. James Parish, Louisiana, and the sugar cane industry in general.
Arrangement	Collection is arranged chronologically within series and subseries. Manuscript volumes retain the volume number assigned in the original inventory.
Copyright.	Physical rights are retained by the LSU Libraries. Copyright of the original materials is retained by the creators, or their descendants, of the materials in accordance with U.S. copyright law.
Citation.	Uncle Sam Plantation Papers, Mss. 408, 602, 1252, Louisiana and Lower Mississippi Valley Collections, LSU Libraries, Baton Rouge, Louisiana.
Stack Location.	UU:217-228, P:11-13, OS:U, Mss. Mf : U (6 reels)

BIOGRAPHICAL/HISTORICAL NOTE

Uncle Sam Plantation, originally known as Constancia Plantation, was established by Colonel Joseph Constance in St. James Parish, Louisiana following the War of 1812. Pierre Auguste Samuel Fagot (1797-1858), a French immigrant from La Rochelle, France acquired the plantation in 1829 along with other properties in St. James Parish. Pierre Auguste Samuel Fagot, more commonly known in most parish records as Samuel Fagot, appears in at least eighty-nine entries in the Conveyance Record Index before 1860, indicating that he acquired land throughout this period. At his death, he was one of the largest landowners in the parish.

Samuel Fagot married Emilie Jourdain, and they had two daughters: Marie Emilie Eugenie and Felicie. Marie Emilie Eugenie married Jacques Auguste Demophon Tureaud, and Felicie married Lucien Malus. Malus took over the operation of the plantation at the time of Fagot's death. Malus' two daughters, Emilie and Felicie married two brothers, Jules and Camille Jacob. Jules Jacob eventually assumed control of Uncle Sam Plantation, and ran it as a business until 1915. From this date until 1940, several others administered the plantation until it was demolished in 1940. Sometime after the Civil War, the Constancia Plantation came to be called Uncle Sam.

In addition to the sugar cane production and processing, records indicate that the Uncle Sam Plantation Store was an integral part of plantation operation. Available documents suggest that the store operated throughout most of the period reflected in this collection. Several family members apparently managed the store, including Lucien Malus and Jules Jacob. As Uncle Sam Plantation grew in the postwar period, documents within this collection indicate that the plantation store engaged in commerce with both plantation laborers and others in the community.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The Uncle Sam Plantation Papers document the Louisiana sugar cane industry, plantation operation, Mississippi River commerce and transport, slave and free labor economy, and related matters. Materials covering the period from 1805-1914 include bills of lading, insurance policies, receipts, promissory notes, invoices, bills, correspondence, cloth samples, slave rosters, plantation store accounts, legal notices, payroll accounts, newsletters, catalogs, business cards, plantation scrip, court summons, military discharge papers, license applications, land surveys, agreements of indenture, grants of right of way to railroads, and contracts. The business correspondence and related bills, receipts, and other financial materials constitute the largest unit of the collection. Other important materials in the Uncle Sam Plantation Papers include slave rosters and detailed payroll accounts, personal correspondence, and tickets used as compensation for work, which were redeemable at the Uncle Sam Plantation store. An assortment of printed advertisements illustrate the variety of commerce conducted by both rail and water in St. James Parish.

LIST OF SERIES

- Series I. Financial Records, 1848-1911.**
Subseries 1. General Financial Papers, 1848-1911.
Subseries 2. Ledgers. 1865-1911.
- Series II. Correspondence, 1854-1911, undated.**
- Series III. Labor Materials, 1851-1911.**
Subseries 1. Financial Papers, 1848-1911.
Subseries 2. Time Books, 1877-1910, undated.
- Series IV. Printed Items, 1874-1909, undated.**
- Series V. Legal Materials, 1805-1914, undated.**

SERIES DESCRIPTIONS

Series I. Financial Records, 1848-1911.

Subseries 1. General Financial Papers, 1848-1911.

The financial papers of Uncle Sam Plantation provide a detailed account of both personal and business expenses. This series also includes sporadic documents relating to the Cypress Knee Plantation. Papers such as medical bills, dry goods and furniture bills, property and income tax receipts, and property sales receipts offer insight into the daily life and preferences of the owners of the plantation. Other materials such as daily reports of sugar cane cut and sold, market reports on sugar prices, bills of lading, and business receipts recount the wide variety of commercial transactions necessary to maintain a profitable plantation. Also found in this series are several loose labor time sheets, payroll records, check registers and sugar cane cutting, processing reports, and checks and drafts.

Subseries 2. Ledgers, ca. 1865-1911.

The bound ledgers contain additional payroll information and are dated sporadically throughout the period 1865-1911. Financial ledgers are comprised of a bank book, blotters, cane weight books, account books, cashbooks, account ledgers, report books, and record books. This subseries also contains a plantation diary written in French with entries relating to weather and crops, v. 407 (1873) and a handwritten copy of *Bounty Laws, Rules and Regulations*, v. 406, undated.

Note: See Appendix A for volumes listed by number, with descriptions and dates.

Series II. Correspondence, 1854-1911, undated.

Most of the correspondence in this collection is in French, the remainder being in English. This series includes both business and personal correspondence. Many of the letters describe business arrangements and activities in distant markets. One item of particular interest is an 1898 letter that discusses the prospects for sugar markets in the face of the impending Spanish American War in Cuba.

Series III. Labor Materials, 1851-1911, undated.

Subseries 1. General Labor Records, 1851-1911, undated.

The slave and free labor economy of Uncle Sam Plantation is well-documented in this series. Papers include slave rosters, free labor contracts, payroll sheets, and legal notices. Papers relate to the operation of the plantation store, the Freedmen's Bureau and workers' work assignments and labor costs. The material from 1898-1911 indicate a close relationship between payroll operations and the functioning of the Uncle Sam Plantation Store. Tickets issued by the plantation to compensate plantation employees and laborers were redeemable in the Uncle Sam

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Plantation Store (1896-1910).

Subseries 2. Time books, 1877-1910, undated.

Times books record daily assignments and the number of hours worked by laborers each day.

Note: See Appendix A for volumes listed by number with dates.

IV. Printed Items, 1874-1909, undated.

Printed materials within the Uncle Sam Plantation Papers range from simple business cards and stationery, to elaborately detailed equipment catalogs. Also included are blank receipts and a variety of announcements.

V. Legal Materials, 1805-1914.

This series contains court summons, contracts, two military discharges, applications for a license to grow sugar, and land surveys. The earliest item is a passport originally issued in Spanish (1805) and later recertified in French (1815).

INDEX TERMS

Materials relating to the topics listed on the left may be found in the series indicated by its number on the right.

Cypress Knee Plantation (La.).	I, III
Fagot, Emilie, 1800-ca. 1870.	II
Fagot, Samuel, 1797-ca. 1859.	I, II, III, IV, V
Freedmen--Louisiana.	III
Jacob, Jules.	I, II, III
Malus, Felicie Fagot.	II
Malus, Lucien.	I, II, III
Plantation owners--Louisiana--Saint James Parish.	I, II, III, V
Plantations--Louisiana.	I, II, III, V
Saint James Parish (La.)--History--19th century.	I, II, III
Slavery--Louisiana.	III
Sugar--Manufacture and refining--Louisiana.	I, II, III, IV
Sugarcane--Louisiana.	I, II, III, IV
Uncle Sam Plantation (La.)	I, III
Uncle Sam Store Company.	I, III
Wages--Sugar Workers.	III
Constancia Plantation (La.)	I

CONTAINER LIST

<u>Stack Location</u>	<u>Box</u>	<u>Folders</u>	<u>Contents</u>
Series I. Financial Records, 1848-1911.			
Subseries 1. General Financial Papers, 1848-1911.			
UU:217	1	1-39	1848-1870
UU:218	2	40-79	1871-1879.
UU:219	3	80-118	1880-1884.
UU:220	4	119-149	1885-1888.
UU:221	5	150-183	1889-1893.
UU:222	6	184-212	1893-1895.
UU:223	7	213-241	1896-1900.
UU:224	8	242-267	1901-1907.
UU:225	9	268-295	1908-1911.
P:11-13			Subseries 2. Ledgers v. 1-47, 254-258, 278-364, 1865-1911. (See Appendix A for the location, description and date of each volume).
Series II. Correspondence, 1854-1911, undated.			
UU:226	10	296-342	1854-1891
UU:228	11	343-360	1892-1911, undated
Series III. Labor Materials (also available on microfilm).			
Subseries 1. General Labor Records, 1851-1911, undated.			
UU:227	12	361-403	1851-1904
UU:228	13	404-412	1905-1909
UU:228	15	431-421	1910-1911, undated
UU:227	14	--	Uncle Sam Plantation store tickets, 1896-1910.
P:11-13			Subseries 2. Time books, v. 365-405, 1877-1910, undated. (See Appendix A for the location and dates of each volume).
Series IV. Printed Items 1874-1909, undated.			
UU:228	15		1874-1909, undated
Series V. Legal Materials, 1805-1914 (also available on microfilm).			
	15		1805-1914

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	Series III. Labor Materials, 1851-1911, undated.
Reel 1	1851-1875
Reel 2	1876-1890
Reel 3	1891-1900
Reel 4	1901-1908
Reel 5	1909-1911
Reel 6	undated
Reel 6	Series V. Legal Materials, 1805-1914.

APPENDIX A

Stack location	Box	Volume	Description with dates
P:11	17	1	Bank Book, 1903
P:11	16	2-34	Blotters, 1908-1910.
			Cane Weight Books, 1883-1909.
P:12	--	35	Cane Weight Book, Oct. 1883-Dec. 1884.
P:12	--	36	Cane Weight Book, 1885-1887.
P:12	--	37	Cane Weight Book, Oct. 1893-Dec. 1894.
P:12	--	38	Cane Weight Book, Oct. 1895-Dec. 1896.
P:12	--	39	Cane Weight Book, Oct. 1898-Nov. 1899.
P:12	--	40	Cane Weight Book, 1899.
P:12	--	41	Cane Weight Book, Oct. 1900-1901.
P:12	--	42	Cane Weight Book, Oct. 1901-Dec. 1902.
	--	43	Cane Weight Book, Oct. 1903-Dec. 1904.
P:12	25	44	Cane Weight Book, Oct. 1905-Nov. 1909.
			Cashbooks, 1845-1867.
P:12	--	45	Cashbook, 1845-1859.
P:12	--	46	Cashbook, 1861-1870.
P:11	17	47	Cashbook, 1865-1867, travel expenses.
			Check Stub Books, 1894-1898, 1903-1904.
P:12	--	254	Check Stub Books, Nov. 1894. Cane weight.
P:12	--	255	Check Stub Books, Nov.-Dec. 1897. Cane weight.
P:12	--	256	Check Stub Books, Nov. 1896-Dec. 1897. Cane weight.
P:12	--	257	Check Stub Books, March 1898-Nov. 1898. Cane weight.
P:12	--	258	Check Stub Books, 1903-1904. Cane weight.
	--	277	Check Stub Books, 1906-1912. Cane bought.
P:11	17	278	Daybook, 1861-1863. Accounts
			Field Books, 1906.
P:11	17	279	Field Book, 1906. Cane and total number of cars.
P:11	17	280	Field Book, 1906. Cane and total number of cars.
P:12	22	281	Journal, 1859-1872. Uncle Sam Plantation, Constancia Plantation expenses.

Stack location	Box	Volume	Description with dates
			Ledgers, 1866-1898.
P:12	--	282	Ledger, 1866-1867, Accounts.
P:11	17	283	Ledger, 1865-1867. Accounts.
P:12	--	284	Ledger, 1869-1874. Accounts.
P:12	--	285	Ledger, 1873-1874. Accounts.
P:12	--	286	Ledger, 1889-1898. Accounts.
			Letter Books, 1906-1909, 912-1912
P:12	--	287	Letter Book, 1906-1907. Letter press copy book.
P:12	--	288	Letter Book, 1907-1909. Letter press copy book.
P:12	--	289	Letter Book, 1912-1913. Pencil and ink copy.
			Memorandum Books, 1878-1910.
P:11	17	290	Memorandum Book, 1878.
P:11	17	291	Memorandum Book, 1879.
P:11	17	292	Memorandum Book, 1908.
P:11	17	293	Memorandum Book, 1908-1909.
P:11	17	294	Memorandum Book, 1910.
P:11	17	295	Order Book, 1905. Orders to engineers for empty cars.
			Payroll Books, 1888, 1894-1895, 1905-1907, undated.
P:12	--	296	Payroll Book, 1888. Grinding season.
P:12	22	297	Payroll Book, 1894-1895. Cash.
P:12	22	298	Payroll Book, 1906. Crop of.
P:12	22	299	Payroll Book, 1907-1908.
P:12	22	300	Payroll Book, 1905. Cypress Knee Plantation book #1.
P:12	22	301	Payroll Book, 1906. Cypress Knee Plantation book #2.
P:12	22	302	Payroll Book, undated. Sugar house.
P:12	--	303	Payroll Book, undated, Field hands.
			Record Books, 1858-1909, undated.
P:12	--	304	Record Book, 1858-1862. Sales copy of waybills for molasses and sugar shipped on various steamers.
	--	305	Record Book, 1888-1889. Record of tree cutting.
P:12	22	306	Record Book, 1893-1894. Grinding season.
	--	307	Record Book, 1893-1898. Account with L. Pugh and Louisiana National Bank.

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Stack location	Box	Volume	Description with dates
P:12	22	308	Record Book, 1894. Record of tickets issued or received for hauling, etc.
P:11	17	309	Record Book, 1894-1896. Weight of sugar, purchasers, price.
OS:U	--	310	Record Book, 1896-1898. Form book to be kept by producers of sugar (heading-U.S. Internal Revenue).
P:12	23	311	Record Book, 1902-1906. Record of tickets issued or received for hauling, etc.
P:12	17	312	Record Book, 1905. Cane knives.
P:12	23	313	Record Book, 1905-1906. Daily report of cane delivered to factory. Oct.-Dec. 1905, Nov.-Dec. 1906.
P:12	23	314	Record Book, 1906. Record of daily and biweekly expenses.
P:12	23	315	Record Book, 1906-1913. Account with Thomas Thibodeaux with Uncle Sam Plantation. (kept in daybook form)
P:12	23	316	Record Book, 1906-1907. Account with Thomas Thibodeaux for general work done (kept in ledger form).
P:12	23	317	Record Book, 1907-1908. Account with Thomas Thibodeaux for general expenses (kept in ledger form).
P:12	23	318	Record Book, "Planter's Cane bought.
P:12	23	319	Record Book, undated.
P:12	23	320	Record Book, 1907-1908. Weight of empty cars.
P:12	24	321	Record Book, 1908. Record of daily and biweekly expenses.
P:12	--	322	Record Book, 1909. Record of Lime. Oct.-Nov.
P:12	24	323	Record Book, Undated. Running time for extra watchers.
P:12	24	324	Record Book, Undated. Time book for laborers, ca. 1885.
P:12	24	325	Record Book, Undated. Amount of days and amount of watches.
			Report Books, 1896-1908.
P:12	--	326	Report Book, 1896-1905. Factory report.
P:11	18	327	Report Book, 1900. Syrup report.
P:11	18	328	Report Book, 1905-1908. Sugar weight report.
P:11	18	329	Report Book, 1908. Clarification report - Lime.
			Sugar Weight Books, 1882-1912, undated.
P:11	17	330	Sugar Weight Book. 1882-1885.
P:11	17	331	Sugar Weight Book. 1866-1892
P:11	17	332	Sugar Weight Book. 1889.
P:11	17	333	Sugar Weight Book. 1891.
P:11	17	334	Sugar Weight Book. 1892.

Stack location	Box	Volume	Description with dates
P:12	24	335	Sugar Weight Book. 1893.
P:11	24	336	Sugar Weight Book. 1894.
P:11	18	337	Sugar Weight Book. 1894.
P:11	18	338	Sugar Weight Book. 1894-1895.
P:11	18	339	Sugar Weight Book. 1896.
P:11	19	340	Sugar Weight Book. 1897.
P:11	19	341	Sugar Weight Book. 1898.
P:11	19	342	Sugar Weight Book. 1905.
P:11	19	343	Sugar Weight Book. 1906.
P:11	17	344	Sugar Weight Book. undated.
P:12	24	345	Sugar Weight Book. undated.
P:12	24	346	Sugar Weight Book. undated.
P:12	--	347	Sugar Weight Book. 1908-1910. Sale and weight of sugar sold.
P:12	--	348	Sugar Weight Book. 1910-1912. Sale and weight of sugar sold.
Time Books, 1877-1910, undated.			
P:13	--	349	Time Book, Oct. 1874-Dec. 1877.
P:13	--	350	Time Book, Jan.-Dec. 1879.
P:13	--	351	Time Book, Jan. 1880-Aug. 1881.
P:13	--	352	Time Book, Jan.-Dec. 1882.
P:12	26	353	Time Book, Jan.-Nov. 1883.
P:12	26	354	Time Book, Jan.-Dec. 1884.
P:12	26	355	Time Book, Jan.-Dec. 1885.
P:12	26	356	Time Book, Jan.-Dec. 1886 - Jan.-Sept. 1887.
P:13	--	357	Time Book, Jan.-Dec. 1890.
P:13	--	358	Time Book, Jan. 1891-Sept. 1894.
P:13	--	359	Time Book, Jan. 1895-June 1997.
P:13	--	360	Time Book, Jan. 1897-1898.
P:13	27	361	Time Book, Jan. 1898-1901.
P:13	--	362	Time Book, 1905-1908.
P:13	--	363	Time Book, 1909-1911.
P:13	--	364	Time Book, 1911-1914. Weekly and monthly.
P:11	17	365	Time Book, 1871. Monthly.
P:11	17	366	Time Book, 1872. Monthly.
P:11	20	367	Time Book, 1877. Monthly.
P:11	20	368	Time Book, undated. Monthly.
P:11	20	369	Time Book, Jan.-July 1882.
P:11	20	370	Time Book, April 1883.
P:11	20	371	Time Book, Oct.-Nov. 1883.

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P:11	20	372	Time Book, Oct.-Nov. 1888.
P:11	20	373	Time Book, 1889. Weekly.
P:11	20	374	Time Book, Nov. 1889. Weekly.
P:11	20	375	Time Book, June 1891-Oct. 1892. Weekly.
P:11	20	376	Time Book, Nov. 1892. Weekly.
P:11	20	377	Time Book, Oct.-Dec. 1894. Weekly.
P:11	20	378	Time Book, Oct. 1894-Jan. 1895. Weekly.
P:11	20	379	Time Book, Oct. 1894-Jan. 1895.
P:11	20	380	Time Book, Oct.-Dec. 1896.
P:11	20	381	Time Book, Nov. 1905-Dec. 1905.
P:11	20	382	Time Book, 1905-1906. Weekly.
P:11	20	383	Time Book, Sept. 1905-Feb. 1908.
P:11	20	384	Time Book, March-Dec. 1906. Weekly.
P:11	20	385	Time Book, Nov.-Dec. 1906. Weekly.
P:11	20	386	Time Book, July-Oct. 1907. Weekly.
P:11	20	387	Time Book, Feb.-May 1908. Crop.
P:11	20	388	Time Book, May 1908-May 1910. Weekly.
P:11	20	390	Time Book, Aug.-Oct. 1908. Weekly.
P:11	20	391	Time Book, Oct. 1908-Jan. 1909. Weekly.
P:11	20	392	Time Book, Jan.-March 1909. Weekly.
P:11	20	393	Time Book, Jan.-May 1909. Weekly.
P:11	21	394	Time Book, Jan.-July 1909. Weekly.
P:11	21	395	Time Book, Aug.-Oct. 1909. Weekly.
P:11	21	396	Time Book, Oct. 1909. Weekly.
P:11	21	397	Time Book, Dec. 1909. Crop.
P:11	21	398	Time Book, 1909. Crop.
P:11	21	399	Time Book, Dec. 1909-March 1910. Weekly.
P:11	21	400	Time Book, Jan.-May 1910. Crop.
P:11	21	401	Time Book, March-May 1910. Biweekly
P:11	21	402	Time Book, May-July 1910. Weekly.
P:11	21	403	Time Book, July-Aug. 1910. Weekly.
P:11	21	404	Time Book, Aug.-Oct. 1910. Weekly.
P:11	21	405	Time Book, undated.
P:13	--	406	Plantation Diary, 1873.
P:13	--	407	Bounty Laws, Rules and Regulations , undated. Handwritten copy.