

MILES TERRELL AND FAMILY PAPERS

Mss. 843

Inventory

Compiled by
Luana Henderson

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

Updated 2015
Revised 2024

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SUMMARY

Size	0.6 linear feet
Geographic Locations	Louisiana, Texas, Alabama, New Mexico.
Inclusive Dates	1859-1929.
Languages	English.
Summary	Financial papers, personal correspondence, legal documents and printed material of the Miles Terrell family of Rapides Parish, La.
Access Restrictions	No restrictions on access.
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Citation	Miles Terrell and Family Papers, Mss. 843, Louisiana and Lower Mississippi Valley Collections, LSU Libraries, Baton Rouge, Louisiana.
Stack Location(s)	B:25, MF:M
Also Available On	Microfilm filed under the Meullion Family Papers. Free People of Color in Louisiana: Revealing an Unknown Past, Louisiana Digital Library, Baton Rouge, La. https://louisianadigitallibrary.org/islandora/search/%22Mss.%20843%22?type=dismax

BIOGRAPHICAL/HISTORICAL NOTE

Miles Terrell was born a free person of color on October 31, 1835. He was a cotton farmer near Hineston in Rapides Parish, Louisiana. His wife, Sarah Clifton Terrell (1839-1918), also a free person of color, was the daughter of Jesse and Jane Clifton of Alexandria, Louisiana. Miles and Sarah Terrell had several children; they included Francis "Frank," (born 1858), Amos (born 1861), Georgiana, Gloucester (1872-1947) and Marion (1875-1897). Gloucester Terrell married Sarah J. Metoyer, daughter of Joseph J. Metoyer (1852-1930) and then Emma Thompson (1858-1940) after Sarah's death. Miles Terrell died on December 9, 1878, at the age of 43. After his death, his wife, Sarah Clifton Terrell, continued growing cotton in Rapides Parish, as did their son Gloucester Terrell.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The collection is comprised of business papers and personal correspondence of the Miles Terrell family. Financial papers consist of invoices, promissory notes, bills, receipts, tax receipts and accounts. Personal correspondence relates to family matters, personal activities and health.

Early papers (1859-1879) are the financial and legal papers of Miles Terrell. They include a petition, and subpoenas related to Terrell's debts (October 15, 1860; October 20, 1860; January 27, 1875). Papers also contain a letter fragment concerning the seizure of property (October 6, 1873) and voter registration certificates (October 13, 1868; October 17, 1868; October 3, 1870; September 14, 1874).

Papers after 1880 are those of Sarah Clifton Terrell, and they consist of financial papers, correspondence and printed material. Personal correspondence from family members begins in 1892 and continues through the remainder of the collection (1929). Letters discuss family activities, farming, and the health of family members and friends.

In 1893, Frank Terrell was arrested for murder in Newton County, Texas. During that period, his letters concern his legal and financial problems. A letter to John Blackwell of Rapides Parish discusses Frank's bail; it also reports that both Frank and his wife have been jailed (May 4, 1894). Joseph Metoyer comments to his daughter, Sarah J. Terrell, on the occurrence of smallpox in Henryville and Provencal, La. (March 22, 1896). Sarah's sister Agnes mentions picking cotton (Aug. 8, 1905). Her widowed son-in-law writes from New Mexico about the benefits of traveling (Sept 22, 1922). Correspondence from federal and state land offices relates to the availability of public land in Section 18 in T. 3. N. R. 4. W. N. W. District of Louisiana (Aug. 11 and Sept. 19, 1899). Correspondence also includes references to malaria (Aug. 23, 1906), measles (March 24, 1907), and a child's death caused by worms (July 5, 1908).

In addition to the correspondence mentioned above, a land conveyance relates to land purchased by Sarah Terrell (March 21, 1901). Advertisement booklets and flyers for medical remedies comprise the printed material (approximately 1895-1915). Booklets are entitled: *Dr. Granger's health guide: a Plain and Practical Statement...* (1899) and *Yankee Eating* (ca. 1899).

COLLECTION DESCRIPTION

- 1859 - 1860 Materials are financial in nature and contain receipts, accounts with I. Levy and Company for clothing, food, household items, and farm supplies. Included is an invoice to Andy Fulton dated December 8, 1859, which shows charges for the sale and transport of two bales of cotton; an account for Jesse Clifton dated December 27, 1860 that lists food items and tobacco products; a petition submitted by Isaac Levy and Company to the 13th District Court of Rapides Parish on October 15, 1860; and a summons issued by the Clerk of Court of Rapides Parish on October 20, 1860 concerning Miles Terrell's debt owed to the firm.
- 1864 - 1870 Material is primarily financial in nature but includes loyalty oaths taken by Miles Terrell on October 13, 1868, and Ceaburn Brown on October 17, 1868. Financial papers consist of accounts and invoices for food; clothing and household items; receipts for loan payments and cotton sales; and a Rapides Parish tax receipt dated July 29, 1870. In a debt agreement dated October 3, 1866, William B. James transfers to Thomas Neal his interest in a debt owed by Charles McClin. A September 15, 1869, promissory note by Oliver and Plato McQuam commits to repay a loan to Miles Terrell. Letters to Terrell request delivery of saddles and bridles, January 1, 1864, and payment for corn, November 13, 1867.
- 1870 - 1872 Material consists mostly of invoices, promissory notes and receipts relating to purchases and small loans made by Miles Terrell, including the purchase of a heifer from James Hicks, September 9, 1871. In a letter to Terrell dated October 14, 1871, Hicks requests that he give a bale of cotton to Milton Gorum. Violet Terrell receipt shows payment for a patent she received in Vernon Parish on May 31, 1872. Of note is a August 30, 1872 legal summons issued to Terrell to appear before the justice of the peace to answer a plaintiff's demand for payment.
- 1873 - 1877 Chiefly financial papers that include accounts, invoices, and receipts documenting the sale of cotton, household goods, food, tobacco, farm equipment whiskey, and quinine. Receipts also document payments on debt. Promissory notes relate to loans and payment for cotton. In a May 4, 1874, letter to M. Miars, Cornelius Bryans orders fabric, sewing supplies and shoes, to be delivered by way of Miles Terrell. Receipts, a promissory note, and a letter fragment document Terrell's business transaction with A. J. Marshall. The letter fragment (October 6, 1873) written by Marshall concerns Terrell's debt to him and the seizure of Terrell's property. Also represented is Terrell's voter registration certificate dated September 14, 1874.

- 1875 - 1877 Materials consist primarily of financial papers relating to Miles Terrell's debt and business transactions. Documents include promissory notes, accounts, drafts for payments, and invoices. A court summons dated January 27, 1875, requires Terrell to appear in court to answer a plaintiff's demand for payment for nursing services. Also included is a receipt showing payment of this debt (May 28, 1875). Terrell family genealogy notes record the births of Miles Terrell's sons, Gloucester and Marion (1875). A note written by Violet Terrell on October 1, 1875, instructs William Deare to pay Terrell for board and use of a horse. Other items include an invoice for drugs (1876), an order for sewing supplies and fabric (1877), and a shipping document for the sale and shipment of cotton (1877).
- 1878-1879 Financial papers of Sarah Clifton Terrell consist mostly of receipts for taxes paid, payments made on accounts with general merchants and grocers, and promissory notes. Included is a physician's bill for the Terrell family from 1878.
- 1880 - 1885 Financial papers of Sarah C. Terrell consist mostly of receipts for taxes paid, payments made on accounts with general merchants and grocers, and promissory notes.
- 1886 - 1891 Chiefly financial documents consisting of accounts with merchants, receipts for payments made to merchants, tax receipts, and personal letters. An unsigned letter to Sarah C. Terrell from one of her children complains about not being told of the death of a loved one (July 30, 1886). Also represented is a note about the birth of Fancy, a horse born April 23, 1891, and a handwritten poem titled "Norah Darling," postmarked May 23, 1891.
- 1892 - 1894 Chiefly family letters written by Frank and Amos Terrell to their mother, Sarah C. Terrell. Letters discuss Frank incarceration and his need for bail money; and Amos's effort to assist him (1893-1894). A letter from attorneys Cheatam and Syler of Orange, Texas discusses Frank's bail (May 4, 1894). Other items include accounts with merchants, receipts, and tax receipts.
- 1895 - 1899 Chiefly correspondence and financial papers. Correspondence is comprised mostly of family letters that relate to family matters and to Frank Terrell's financial and legal problems. Letters from the La. State Land Office and the U.S. Land Office relate to the lack of available public lands in the Northwest District of Louisiana. Financial papers include receipts and a statement of account. Also represented is a copy of *Dr. Granger's Health Guide*, which provides medical remedies and products (1899).

- 1900 - 1905 Materials consist of family letters, tax receipts, and a land conveyance for the sale of land in Rapides Parish. Letters discuss family news and upcoming family visits. Correspondents include Amos Terrell, Frank Terrell, Josephine Morgan, and Sarah C. Terrell's sister Agnes.
- 1906 - 1907 Material consists of family letters, receipts, and tax receipts. Family letters are primarily those of Gloucester Terrell to his mother, Sarah C. Terrell, in which he reports news on the activities and health of family members.
- 1908 - 1912 Material consists of family letters, postal receipts, and tax receipts. Family letters relate news on the activities and health of family members.
- 1913 - 1929 Material consists of family letters, postcards, and tax receipts. Family letters relate to the health and personal activities of family members. Some letters have missing pages. Several fund-raising postcards sent by the Richie Benevolent Association of Glenmora, La. are addressed to Sarah J. Terrell, wife of Gloucester Terrell.
- circa 1879-1919 Material consists of accounts for goods, letters, and a booklet entitled, *Yankee Eating* by Thomas Chandler Haliburton. Additional items include an order form for the Pure Food Company and a list of products available from the Celluloid Starch Company.
- circa 1860-1915 Undated materials include letter fragments; a handwritten poem; a property agreement; invoices, accounts, and receipts for Miles Terrell; a letter from a man named Paul; and a circular from the Pure Food Company.
- 1863-circa 1920 Material consists of invoices, accounts, letters, and medicinal remedies. Letters are comprised of partial letters and fragments related to personal matters. There is also a letter from the Pure Food Company pertaining to the delivery of an order. An order form and an advertisement are for medicinal remedies available from the Mother's Remedies Company and the "Standard" Remedy Company of New York (circa 1895-1915).
- circa 1870-1918 Material consists of letters written to Sarah C. Terrell, a fragment of an invoice and an advertisement for medicinal remedies available from the Johnson, Holloway and Company. Partial letters relate to family matters. Also present is a brief love poem with financial accounts, which appear to have been written later.

INDEX TERMS

Metoyer, Joseph J.

Terrell family.

Terrell, Frank, born 1858.

Terrell, Gloucester, 1872-1947.

Terrell, Miles, 1835-1878.

Terrell, Sarah Clifton, 1839-1918.

Terrell, Sarah J., 1878-1978.

African American families—Louisiana—Rapides Parish.

African American farmers—Louisiana—Rapides Parish.

African Americans--History--19th century.

African Americans--History--20th century.

Cotton farmers—Louisiana—Rapides Parish.

Cotton trade—Louisiana—Rapides Parish.

Free African Americans—Louisiana—Rapides Parish.

Helminths--Louisiana.

Malaria--Louisiana.

Measles--Louisiana.

Murder—Texas—Newton County.

Public lands--Louisiana.

Small pox--Louisiana.

Taxes--Louisiana--Rapides Parish.

Voter registration--Louisiana--Rapides Parish.

Women farmers—Louisiana—Rapides Parish.

Rapides Parish (La.)--Social life and customs.

Rapides Parish (La.)--History.

CONTAINER LIST

Stack Location	Box	Folder	Contents (with dates)
B:25	1	1	Papers, 1859 - 1863
		2	Papers, 1864 - 1869
		3	Papers, 1870 - 1872
		4	Papers, 1873 - 1875
		5	Papers, 1875 - 1877
		6	Papers, 1877-1879
		7	Papers, 1880 - 1885
		8	Papers, 1886 - 1891
		9	Papers, 1892 - 1894
		10	Papers, 1895 - 1899
	2	1	Papers, 1900 - 1905
		2	Papers, 1906 - 1907
		3	Papers, 1908 - 1912
		4	Papers, 1913 - 1929
		5	Papers, circa 1870-1919
		6	Papers, circa 1860-1915
		7	Papers, 1863-circa 1920
		8	Papers, circa 1870-1918
MF:M	--	--	Microfilm filed under the Meullion Family Papers, 1859-1929