

ROBERT H. STEWART FAMILY ACCOUNT BOOKS

(Mss 404, 4732)

Inventory

Compiled by

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

1999

Revised by Rose Tarbell, 2005

Summary

- Size:** 4.1 linear ft. (18 items; 57 v.)
- Geographic locations:** Natchez, Mississippi
- Inclusive dates:** 1822-1904
- Languages:** English
- Summary:** Ledgers, cashbooks, daybooks, journals, diaries, loose bills and receipts, and legal papers of Robert H. Stewart, furniture dealer and mortician of Natchez, Miss.
- Source:** Original donation made in the 1930's. Additions in 1998.
- Related collection:** J.C. Schwartz Papers (Mss # 385)
- 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:** Robert H. Stewart Account Books, Mss. 404, 4732, Louisiana and Lower Mississippi Valley Collections, LSU Libraries, Baton Rouge, La.
- Stack location:** UU:118, H:18-19, J:23, MssMf:S

Biographical/Historical Note

Robert Stewart and his son, Robert H. Stewart, were morticians and furniture dealers of Natchez, Mississippi. Robert Stewart (the elder) was married to Susan Marschalk, the daughter of Andrew Marschalk, a prominent, early 19th-century editor and printer of Natchez. The younger Stewart owned Elder Grove Plantation at Bunch's Bend, Carroll Parish, Louisiana.

Scope and Content Note

The account books of Robert H. Stewart and of his father, Robert Stewart, list expenses such as rent, wages, freight, and funeral equipment; amounts received for merchandise; and cost of funerals for both whites and blacks including caskets, digging of graves, hearse and special equipment. Daybooks, 1841-1892, contain charges for coffins and burials for both white persons and Negroes of Natchez and the surrounding area. Ledgers of Robert Stewart contain accounts for making and repairing furniture and for the management of the estate of Andrew Marschalk, 1834-1851; and accounts with journeymen, 1834-1857.

Other volumes consist of a plantation diary, 1857-1858, and a cotton record book, 1859-1866, for Elder Grove Plantation, Bunch's Bend, East Carroll Parish; a memorandum book, 1884-1895, containing entries for the organization of an association of funeral directors of Mississippi; a cashbook, 1887-1904, of personal and household expenses of W.L. Stewart; and 2 daybooks, 1859-1861 of William H. Stewart furniture dealer of New Orleans; and a list of the names of Negroes benevolent societies; expenses for the City of Natchez including teachers salaries and building repairs, 1855-1856.

The loose items, 1835-1899, consist of bills and receipts, a memorandum of agreement, a warranty deed pertaining to the settlement of the estate of Andrew Marschalk with bills for furniture and funeral expenses, undated mini-account books, and lists of apprentices.

In his diary, 1857-1858, Stewart describes weather conditions, activities on Elder Grove Plantation, and inventories of stock.

Note: Six volumes and four loose items were added in 1998 to the original donation of Stewart materials (Mss # 404). The six volumes were integrated into the existing volume numbering and arrangement. The loose materials from the 1998 donation were interfiled with the original donation and are located on UU:118. They are in chronological order.

Volumes 6-11, 14-26, 34, 34A, 35, 36, 39-54 available on microfilm at Mss.Mf:S.

Series Descriptions

- I. Bank deposit books, 1854-1859
Two bank deposit books for accounts with W.A. Britton & Co. One book is for R. Stewart & Co., the other for Stewart & Burns.
- II. Cashbooks, 1822-1904
Cashbooks detail the various businesses' accounts receivable and cash accounts. One book lists the personal and household expenses of W.L. Stewart.
- III. Cotton record book, 1859-1866
The cotton record book records cotton picked by slaves and, later, freedmen at Elder Grove Plantation. Freedmen's last names are given.
- IV. Daybooks, 1841-1899
The daybooks contain charges for coffins and burials of black and white citizens (and slaves) of Natchez and the surrounding area and various personal, store and funeral accounts.
- V. Index book, n.d.
Indexes the names of customers of the hardware store and the location of account detail pages. The volume for which it is the index, however, is unidentified.
- VI. Insurance book, 1868-1878
This booklet from the Planters' Insurance Company includes an insurance policy for merchandise shipped by Robert H. Stewart, Sept. 8, 1870. Four pages document shipments from 1871 to 1872. The next 14 pages list an inventory of stock on hand Nov. 13, 1873. The final pages list an account with Richard Sullivan, 1868-1878.
- VII. Invoice book, 1882-1889
Copies of invoices for merchandise and notations as to when invoice was paid by R.H. Stewart.
- VIII. Inventory books, 1855-1895
These volumes list the store stock of furniture and funereal items on various dates with values. Some volumes also contain customer accounts and sales figures.
- IX. Journals, 1857-1888
Record accounts for funeral-related services and goods, furniture repair, expenses. Volume 36 includes some accounts receivable owed by the Confederate government. Also includes invoices for merchandise purchased for the store
- X. Ledgers, 1822-1893
Robert Stewart's ledgers reflect accounts for making and repairing furniture, for the management of Andrew Marschalk's estate, with furniture journeymen, and with various

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- black benevolent associations. The mortuary ledger documents funerals and a yellow fever epidemic in 1825.
- XI. Letterbook, 1891-1895, primarily contains letters to vendors of furniture and carpentry supplies.
- XII. Memorandum books, 1855, 1870-1895
Expenditures of the city of Natchez, city warrants, and notes about the Association of Funeral Directors (1884) are among the topics mentioned in the memorandum books. Other miscellany consists of notes on the deaths of family members, births, the arrival of friends, money loaned and payments made, and the weather. These volumes also include accounts for Robert Stewart & Co. and an advertisement for school text books from D. Appleton & Company of New York.
- XIII. Plantation diary, 1857-1858
The plantation diary records management of Elder Grove Plantation.
- XIV. Record book and scrapbook, 1837-1838
The scrapbook contains newspaper clippings discussing various wood finishes, wood carving, stains, and polishes. Clippings are partially pasted over balance sheets for 1837-1838. Some personal and business expenses of W. L. Stewart and of William H. Stewart, a New Orleans furniture dealer, are recorded in the volume.
- XV. Loose items
The loose items consist of bills and receipts and legal documents pertaining to the settlement of Andrew Marschalk's estate and bills for furniture and funeral expenses; an indenture for property leased by Stewart to an African-American (1864) is present; 1880 invoices from Simmons Hardware Co. to Robert H. Stewart; 2 memorandum account books of W.L. Stewart (n.d.) and probable lists of apprentices written by Robert Stewart on small scraps of paper (n.d.).
- XVI. Mortuary record books, 1858-1891
These volumes outline the mortuary business of the Stewart family. These books include a list of lots available in the New Grave Yard, an inventory of funeral supplies, and the accounts of two grave diggers, Gus Sellers and Ben Williams. The grave digger accounts list the dates and names of deceased.

INDEX TERMS

Stewart, Robert.
Stewart, Robert H.
Marschalk, Andrew, 1767-1838.
Freedmen—Mississippi
Furniture industry and trade--Mississippi.
Elder Grove Plantation (La.)
Charities--Mississippi--Societies, etc.
Insurance, Burial--Mississippi.
Undertakers and undertaking--Mississippi.
Natchez (Miss.)--19th century--History

Container List

<u>Stack</u> <u>Location</u>	<u>Volume</u> <u>No.</u>	<u>Dates</u>	<u>Description</u>
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Series I. Bank Deposit Books

H:18	1	June 29, 1854- Feb. 12, 1857	R. Stewart and Company account.
H:18	2	Feb. 12, 1857- Feb. 5, 1859	Stewart and Burns account.

Series II. Cashbooks

H:18	3	1880-1895	Cash furniture sales and expenses, including services of craftsmen.
H:18	4	1887-1904	Personal and household expenses of W.L. Stewart
H:18	5	1888-1892	Robert H. Stewart accounts receivable.
J:23	5A	1822-1825	R & M Stewart. Furniture and dry goods. Formerly Schwartz & Stewart (Mss. 4732) Ledger 2
H:18	9	1854-1857	Cash received and expended.
H:18	11	1851-1856	Cash received and expended.

Series III. Cotton record book

H:18 Mf:S, Reel 2	6	1859-1866	Cotton picked by slaves and freedmen at Elder Grove Plantation.
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IV. Daybooks

H:18 Mf:S, Reel 2	7	1841-1850	Robert Stewart, accounts for coffins, digging graves, etc.
H:18 Mf:S, Reel 2	8	1850-1861	Robert Stewart, accounts for coffins, digging graves, etc.
H:18	9	1857-1858	Store accounts.
H:18	10	1858-1859	Store accounts.
H:18	11	1859-1860	Store accounts.
H:18	12	1859-1860	William H. Stewart. Store accounts.
H:18	13	1860-1861	William H. Stewart. Store accounts.

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H:18 Mf:S, Reel 2	14	1860-1865	R.H. Stewart. Store and funeral accounts.
J:23 & Mf:S, Reel 1	14A	1862-1872	Funeral accounts. Formerly Schwartz & Stewart (Mss 4732) ledger no. 12.
H:18 Mf:S, Reel 2	15	1865-1870	R.H. Stewart. Store and funeral accounts.
H:18 Mf:S, Reel 3	16	1871-1873	R.H. Stewart. Store and funeral accounts.
H:18 Mf:S, Reel 3	17	1873-1875	R.H. Stewart. Store and funeral accounts.
H:18 Mf:S, Reel 3	18	1875-1877	R.H. Stewart. Store and funeral accounts.
H:18 Mf:S, Reel 3	19	1878-1881	R.H. Stewart. Store and funeral accounts.
H:18 Mf:S, Reel 3	20	1881-1890	R.H. Stewart. Store and funeral accounts.
H:18 Mf:S, Reel 4	21	1888-1890	R.H. Stewart. Store and funeral accounts.
H:18 Mf:S, Reel 4	22	1889-1892	R.H. Stewart. Store and funeral accounts.
H:19 Mf:S, Reel 4	23	1890-1892	R.H. Stewart. Store and funeral accounts.
H:19 Mf:S, Reel 4	24	1892-1895	R.H. Stewart. Store and funeral accounts.
H:19 Mf:S, Reel 4	25	1892-1895	R.H. Stewart. Store and funeral accounts.
H:19 Mf:S, Reel 4	26	1892-1899	Funeral accounts, 1892. Personal accounts, 1895-1899.

V. Index book

H:18	27	n.d.	Index to unidentified volume.
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VI. Insurance book

H:18	28	1868-1878	Insured shipments, 1871-1872. Inventory of stock on hand Nov. 13, 1873. Account with Richard Sullivan, 1868-1878.
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VII. Invoice book

H:19	33	1882-1889	R.H. Stewart. Copies of invoices for merchandise and notations as to when invoice paid.
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VIII. Inventory books

H:18	29	1855-1857	Inventory of stock on July 1, 1855, July 1, 1856, and Jan. 1, 1857.
H:18	30	1855-1874	Accounts, 1855, 1859-1860. Inventory of stock, January 1, 1858. List of sales of furniture, 1865-1867. House building account, 1867-1873. Stable and hearse house, 1871. Feed account, 1873-1874.
H:18	31	1856-1860	Inventory of stock.
H:19	32	1891-1895	Inventory of stock.
J:23	52	1858-1880	Inventory of stock, caskets, and funeral supplies. Formerly Schwartz & Stewart (Mss 4732) ledger no. 8.

IX. Journals

H:19 Mf:S, Reel 5	34	1857-1861	Accounts for coffins, gravedigging, and other merchandise and furniture repair services.
H:19 Mf:S, Reel 5	35	1859-1868	Invoices for merchandise purchased for store; store accounts, 1862-1865
H:19 Mf:S, Reel 5	36	1862-1888	Accounts for coffins, gravedigging, and other merchandise and furniture repair services; expenses; includes some accounts receivable owed by the Confederate government.

X. Ledgers

J:23	5A	1823-1824	Accounts payable. Formerly Schwartz & Stewart (Mss. 4732) Ledger 2.
J:23 & Mf:S, Reel 1	36A	1822-1825	Robert Stewart mortuary ledger. Documents funerals and a yellow fever epidemic in 1825. Formerly Schwartz & Stewart (Mss. 4732) Ledger 10.
H:19	37	1834-1851	Robert Stewart. Furniture accounts, 1834-1836. Accounts for property of Andrew Marschalk, 1837-1839. Accounts for estate of Andrew Marschalk, 1843-1851.
H:19	38	1834-1857	Robert Stewart. Accounts with journeymen.
H:19 Mf:S, Reel 6	39	1848-1852	Robert Stewart and Company accounts for mending furniture.
H:19 Mf:S, Reel 6	40	1857-1858	Accounts for furniture and hardware. Includes index.

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H:19 Mf:S, Reel 6	41	1857-1858	Bills payable and receivable. Includes index.
H:19 Mf:S, Reel 7	42	1867-1878	Robert H. Stewart, store accounts for furniture. Includes index.
H:19 Mf:S, Reel 7	43	1878-1885	Robert H. Stewart, store accounts for furniture. Includes index
H:19 Mf:S, Reel 7	44	1885-1890	Robert H. Stewart, store accounts for furniture (including index). Negro benevolent societies.
H:19 Mf:S, Reel 7	45	1890-1893	Robert H. Stewart, store accounts for furniture. Includes index

XI. Letterbook

H:19	46	1891-1895	Robert H. Stewart.
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XII. Memorandum books

H:18 Mf:S, Reel 7	47	1855	Memorandum of accounts and expenditures for the city of Natchez, 1855. List of customer accounts of Robert Stewart & Co., 1855. Advertisement for schoolbooks from D. Appleton & Company.
H:18	48	1870-1887	Accounts payable and receivable, 1870-1871. City warrants, 1871-1887.
H:18	49	1884-1895	Memorandum concerning organization of an Association of Funeral Directors giving names of officers and members, 1884. List of death of members of family. Miscellaneous memorandums on the weather, payments made, birth, deaths, arrival of friends, money loaned, cures.

XIII. Plantation diary

H:19	50	1857-1858	Elder Grove Plantation, East Carroll Parish.
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XIV. Record book and scrapbook

H:19 Mf:S, Reel 7	51	1837-1838	Balance sheets, 1837-1838. Scrapbook of newspaper clippings pertaining to various wood finishes, wood carving, stains, and polishes.
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XV. Loose items

UU-118	Box 1, Folders 1-4	1835-1899, n.d	Bills and receipts and legal documents pertaining to the settlement of Andrew Marschalk's estate; bills and receipts for funeral expenses; indenture for property leased by Stewart to an African-American (1864); Simmons Hardware Co. invoices (1880), memorandum account books (n.d.) and lists of apprentices (n.d.)
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XV. Mortuary record books

J:23 Mf:S, Reel 7	52	1858-1880	List of lots available and purchased (and by whom) in the New Grave Yard; inventory of stocks, caskets, and funeral supplies. Formerly Schwartz & Stewart (Mss 4732) ledger 8.
J:23 Mf:S, Reel 1	53	1865-1885	“Gus Sellers Graveyard account book, 2/20/1865 to 5/15/1885.” Includes the name of customers, where buried, and gravedigging services. Formerly Schwartz & Stewart (Mss 4732) ledger 3.
J:23 Mf:S, Reel 1	54	1885-1891	“Ben Williams Grave Digger, 5/16/1885 to 2/7/1891.” Gives names of deceased. Formerly Schwartz & Stewart (Mss 4732) ledger 11.

Microfilmed Volumes

Location: Mss.Mf:S

Reel 1 Volumes 14A, 34A, 53, 54

Reel 2 Volumes 6-8, 14-15

Reel 3 Volumes 16-20

Reel 4 Volumes 21-26

Reel 5 Volumes 34, 35, 36

Reel 6 Volumes 39-41

Reel 7 Volumes 42-45, 47, 51-52

Reel 8 Volumes 9-11