

**See also UPA Microfilm
MF 6061, Series B, Part 2, Reels 7-11**

JOSEPH PLAUCHE PAPERS

(Mss. 944)

Inventory

Compiled by
Catherine G. Jones

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

Revised 2009

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SUMMARY

- Size.** 1.8 linear ft., 77 manuscript volumes
- Geographic Locations.** Natchez, Louisiana; Natchitoches Parish
- Inclusive Dates.** 1901-1946
- Bulk Dates.** 1909-1938
- Language.** English
- Summary.** Business papers and a few personal letters of Joseph Plauche, African American planter in Natchez of Natchitoches Parish, Louisiana. Items pertain principally to farming and farm matters. The business papers include bills from merchants, blacksmiths, doctors, and others; bank statements; contracts; insurance policies; tax receipts, federal income tax returns, and bills of sale; checkbooks, time books, daybooks, and ledgers.
- Access.** No restrictions. Photocopies must be made from microfilm.
- Copyright.** Physical rights are retained by the LSU Libraries. Copyright of the original materials is retained by descendants of the creators of the material in accordance with U.S. copyright law
- Citation.** Joseph Plauche Papers, Mss. 944, Louisiana and Lower Mississippi Valley Collections, LSU Libraries, Baton Rouge, Louisiana
- Stack Location.** O:58
- Also available on.** UPA Microfilm 6061
Series B, Part 2, Reels 7-11

BIOGRAPHICAL/HISTORICAL NOTE

Joseph Plauche was an early twentieth century African American planter in Bayou Natchez near Natchez, Louisiana, in Natchitoches Parish. He rented his farmland from J. Lawrence Prudhomme, and Mrs. A. J. (Estelle) Plauche, who had moved to New York. The plantation was located about twelve miles from Natchitoches, La., on the west bank of the Cane River and about one mile southeast of Natchez, La. Among other activities, Plauche grew cotton and bred horses. He had at least one daughter, Queen. Plauche also employed a number of former soldiers, returning from World War I, as field hands.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

Plantation account books, financial papers, printed items and graphic materials, and correspondence pertaining to early twentieth-century Louisiana farming. Manuscript volumes include ledgers, time books, and checkbooks. Financial papers are comprised of bills for merchandise, blacksmithing, and medical expenses; receipts for cattle, lumber, and farm equipment; bank statements, insurance policies, and federal income tax returns. Correspondence includes letters from banks relating to his accounts and a few personal letters from friends and family. Printed and graphic materials include advertisements, agricultural pamphlets, and a photograph, probably of Plauche himself.

LIST OF SERIES

- I. Manuscript volumes, 1903-1944, undated**
- II. Financial Papers, 1902-1944, undated**
- III. Correspondence, 1909-1946, undated**
- IV. Printed items and graphic materials, 1909-1946, undated**

SERIES DESCRIPTIONS

I. Manuscript Volumes, 1903-1944, undated

Manuscript volumes include checkbooks with detailed check register (1903-1931), ledgers containing accounts of laborers (1902-1935), record books summarizing assets and expenses (1912-1931), and time books showing working hours and wages of field hands and annotating those who were former soldiers returning from World War I. (1910-1944, undated). Items removed from manuscript volumes are located in Boxes 1, 2, and 3.

II. Financial papers, 1902-1944, undated

Financial papers include bills for merchandise, blacksmithing, and medical expenses, receipts for cattle, lumber, and farm equipment, bank statements, insurance policies, and Federal income tax returns.

III. Correspondence, 1909-1946, undated

Business correspondence includes letters from banks, merchants, medical personnel, and attorneys, and notes from employees.

Personal correspondence relates primarily to family news of health and visiting and crops. Also included are love letters to Marcelette Johnson from Plauche. Of note is a V-mail letter from Plauche's son-in-law, who was in Italy with the army (1944), a letter from a nephew in North Carolina concerning health and his opinion of the army (1943), and a letter outlining custody of an unidentified Robert William until his eighteenth birthday (1911).

IV. Printed Items and Graphic Materials, 1909-1946, undated

Printed items include sales circular from a wholesale liquor store and other advertisements (1909), hunting license (1922), war ration stamps booklets (1942), card from Parish Agricultural Administration concerning crop insurance (1946), card explaining why summer legumes should be planted (1946), and a card addressing super phosphate and pasture mowing prices (1946). One black and white Photograph is also included.

INDEX TERMS

Terms

African-American farmers—Louisiana
Agricultural workers—Louisiana
Bayou Natchez (La.)
Cotton growing—Louisiana
Louisiana—History—20th Century
Natchez (La.)
Natchitoches Parish (La.)—History—20th Century
Peoples Bank of Natchitoches
Plantations--Louisiana
Plauché, Estelle (Mrs. A.J.)
Plauché, Joe
Prudhomme, J. Lawrence
Prudhomme, M.E.

Series

I, II, III, IV
I, II, III, IV
II
I, II, III, IV
I, II, III, IV
I, II, III
I, II, III, IV
I, II, III
I, II, III
III
I-IV
III
III

CONTAINER LIST

<u>Stack Location</u>	<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Contents</u>
Series I. Manuscript Volumes			
O:58	1	--	Checkbooks v.1-39 (1903-1931)
		1-58	Items removed from manuscript volumes 41-47 (1902-1918)
	2	1-92	v.49 Ledger (1918), v.52 Ledger (1919-1921), v.56 Ledger (1934-1935), Items removed from manuscript volumes 48-56 (1916-1935) [Volumes and items removed from volumes are filed in volume number order]
	3	1-29	v.58 Record Book (1914-1929), v.60 Time Book (1910), v.61 Time Book (1920), v.62 Time Book (1920), v.63 Time Book (1923), v.64 Time Book (1922), v.65 Time Book (1922-1923), v.66 Time Book (1925-1926), v.67 Time Book (1926-1941), v.68 Time Book (1931-1934), v.69 Time Book (1939), v.70 Time Book (1935-1937), v.71 Time Book (1940-1941), v.72 Time Book (1942-1943), v.73 Time Book (1943), v.74 Time Book (1944), v.75-77 Time Books (undated), Items removed from manuscript volumes 57-77 (1912-1944, undated) [Volumes and items removed from volumes are filed in volume number order]
		--	v.40 Ledger (1902-1909) v.41 Ledger (1902-1909) v.42 Ledger (1908-1910) v.43 Ledger (1910) v.44 Ledger (1911-1944) v.45 Ledger (1913) v.46 Ledger (1914) v.47 Ledger (1915-1918) v.48 Ledger (1916-1917) v.50 Ledger (1918-1922) v.51 Ledger (1918-1932) v.53 Ledger (1922-1927)

<u>Stack Location</u>	<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Contents</u>
			v.54 Ledger (1928-1938) v.55 Ledger (1931-1939) v.57 Ledger (1912) v.59 Record Book (1918-1931)
			Series II. Financial Papers
O:58	4	1-4	1904-1912
	5	1-5	1913-1925
	6	1-4	1926-1943, undated
			Series III. Correspondence
O:58	6	5	1912-1945
			Series IV. Printed Items and Graphic Materials
O:58	6	6	Photograph (1922)
		7	1909-1946, undated