

**See also UPA Microfilm:**  
MF 5750, Series E, Reel 6

**Chelette (Atala) and Family Papers**  
(Mss. 979)  
Inventory

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

Reformatted 2007

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**Use of manuscript materials.** If you wish to examine items in the manuscript group, please fill out a call slip specifying the materials you wish to see. Consult the Container List for location information needed on the call slip.

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**Publication.** Readers assume full responsibility for compliance with laws regarding copyright, literary property rights, and libel.

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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**

<b>Size.</b>	160 items
<b>Geographic locations.</b>	Natchitoches Parish, La.; New Orleans, La.; Baton Rouge, La.; Alexandria, La.; Carencro, La.; Dallas, Tex.; Washington D.C.
<b>Inclusive dates.</b>	1819-1919
<b>Bulk dates.</b>	1841-1899
<b>Language.</b>	English, French
<b>Summary.</b>	Personal papers of a free African American family of Natchitoches Parish, including a true copy of the act of manumission of a mulatto woman by Louis Fort, personal papers of Joseph Perot, free man of color, and personal and business papers of Emanuel and Atala Chelette.
<b>Organization.</b>	Arranged chronologically.
<b>Restrictions on access.</b>	If microfilm is available, photocopies must be made from microfilm.
<b>Related collections.</b>	N/A
<b>Copyright.</b>	Copyright of the original materials is retained by descendants of the creators in accordance with U.S. copyright law.
<b>Citation.</b>	Atala Chelette and Family Papers, Mss. 979, Louisiana and Lower Mississippi Valley Collections, LSU Libraries, Baton Rouge, La.
<b>Stack location(s).</b>	B:18
<b>Also available on:</b>	Microfilm 5750, Series E, Reel 6 Microfiche 2729

### **Biographical/Historical Note**

The Chelette family was a free African American family of Natchitoches Parish, Louisiana. Family members included Atala, Peter, and Emanuel, a teamster. A woman named Angelique, her children Pierre Edmond and Louis Onsimé, Mary Athalie Joson (also called Josin), L. Martin Joson, and Joseph and Marie Rosalie Perot were free African Americans associated with the Chelette family.

### **Scope and Content Note**

Papers include a true copy of the act of manumission of Angelique by Louis Fort of Natchitoches Parish (1819) as well as the last will of Louis Fort (1840). The collection also contains notes signed by Mary Athalie Joson (1873, 1884), various letters to M.A. Joson (1875), Atala Chelette (1874-1875), and Manuel Chellette (1884), and a fragment of a letter from the State Penitentiary in Baton Rouge (undated). A lottery ticket from Mexico (1889) and the teamster license of Emanuel Chelette (1893) are also included.

Financial papers document the sale of cotton and the purchase of land by Pierre Edmond and Louis Onsimé; the purchases of land, goods, and a slave by Joseph Perot and members of his family including Chrisostome and Marie Rosalie, Joseph's wife. These papers also include receipts for subsistence supplies of L. Martin Joson of the Joson Plantation (1868), a statement of account with the Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen and Abandoned Lands signed by Mary Athalie Joson (1873), receipts of Peter Chelette, and tax receipts of Atala Chelette (1900-1919).

Collection Description

<u>Stack</u> <u>Location</u>	<u>Box:</u> <u>Folder</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Contents</u>
B:18	1:1	1819-1855	True copy of act of manumission of mulatto woman named Angelique by Louis Fort, Natchitoches Parish (1819); statement, "Memory of the death of a good mother" (1839); statement of account for sale of cotton for Chrisostome Perot by Octave Sevrin (1840); copy of donation of land made in 1836 in the Parish of Natchitoches, by widow of the late J. B. Buard to Marie Rosalie, wife of Joseph Perot, and Pierre Edmond and Louis Onesime, children of Angelique, all free people of color (land formerly owned by Louis Fort) (1840); copy of land sale, Louis Fort and John Baptiste; last Will of Louis Fort (1823); statement of account to Joseph Perot, f.m.c. from Parish Judge for above copies (1840); bills for dry goods purchased by M. J. Pelagie of E. John, New Orleans, state of sum owed to Solomon Davy by Joseph Perot for repair of gun, Natchitoches (1848); bill for dry goods from E. B. Degruy to Joseph Perot, New Orleans (1849); bills for merchandise, receipts for Joseph Perot (1849); statement of account from Dupleix Brothers to Madeleine f.w.c. (1853-1855)
	1:2	1868-1879	Subsistence supplies, bond of L. Martin Joson, Joson Plantation, Natchitoches Parish, Received Office A.C.S. (May 9, 1868); statement of account with Bureau Refugees, Freedmen, & Abandoned Lands (1869); note signed Mary Athalie Josin (1873); letters to Atala (1874-1875); letter to M.A. Joson (1875); settlement of account between widow Perot and E. Dupre (1874); receipt of Mrs. Joseph Perot; notice of seizure for Martin Josin (1877)
	1:3	1880-1899	38 items: Note signed by Athalie Josin (1884); letter to Manuel Chellette (1884); receipts of Peter Chelette (1885-1887); Mexican lottery ticket (1889); letters from Mary Carter, Dallas, Texas (1891); city license issued to Emanuel Chelette, teamster (1893); tax receipts (1897-1899)
	1:4	1900-1919	68 items: Letter from the Census Office to Peter Chelette (1900); Tax receipts for Mrs. Atala Chelette and Emanuel Chelette
	1:5	undated	14 items: Receipts from Anchor Supply Co., New Orleans, La.; receipt from the Convent of Divine Providence in Natchitoches; fragment of a letter from the State Penitentiary, Baton Rouge, La.; envelope addressed to Miss M.A. Joson

**Index Terms**

African Americans – Louisiana

Chelette, Emanuel

Chelette, Peter

Fort, Louis

Free Blacks – Louisiana

International Brotherhood of Teamsters

Joson, L. Martin (Louis Martin)

Joson, Mary Athalie

Joson Plantation (La.)

Lottery tickets – Mexico

Natchitoches Parish (La.)

New Orleans (La.)

Perot, Joseph, 1799-1876

Perot, Marie Rosalie

Rapides Parish (La.)

Receipts (financial records)

Slaves – Emancipation – Louisiana

Container List

<u>Stack</u> <u>Location</u>	<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder(s)</u>	<u>Contents (with dates)</u>
B:18	1	1	1819, 1839-1855
		2	1868-1879
		3	1880-1889
		4	1900-1919
		5	undated
MF:5750, Series E		Reel 6	
Microfiche 2729			