

**ROBINSON (ELRIE) COLLECTION. CALIFORNIA GOLD RUSH  
RESEARCH MATERIALS**  
(Ms. 1369)  
Inventory

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

Reformatted 2003  
Revised 2011

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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>	133 items and 10 printed volumes
<b>Geographic locations.</b>	Jackson, Louisiana; Lima, Peru; San Francisco, Sonoma, California;
<b>Inclusive dates.</b>	1844-1937
<b>Bulk dates.</b>	1848-1853
<b>Language.</b>	English
<b>Summary.</b>	The collection contains research materials in the study of the California Gold Rush and Louisiana residents who participated. Manuscript and typescript copies of letters comment on travel, the economy, and life in California and the West.
<b>Organization.</b>	Arranged chronologically.
<b>Restrictions on access.</b>	If microfilm is available, photocopies must be made from microfilm.
<b>Related collections.</b>	Elrie Robinson Collection. Feliciano Materials, Mss. 1353 Elrie Robinson Collection. James M. Bradford Printing Specimens, Mss. 1723 Elrie Robinson Collection. Type Specimens, Mss. 1440, 1722
<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>	Elrie Robinson Collection. California Gold Rush Research Materials, Mss. 1369, Louisiana and Lower Mississippi Valley Collections, LSU Libraries, Baton Rouge, La.
<b>Stack location(s).</b>	E:44, P:10, OS:R

### **BIOLOGICAL/HISTORICAL NOTE**

Elrie Robinson was born in Alvarado, Texas, and moved to New Orleans, Louisiana, in 1906. He married May E. Leake, editor and publisher of the St. Francisville *True Democrat*. He served in the Red Cross during the First World War and continued as editor of the newspaper after his wife's death in 1925. He married Margaret Wood in 1927 and carried on his work as a journalist and historian, publishing several pamphlets on the history of West Feliciana, Louisiana.

### **SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE**

Collection consists of research materials gathered by Robinson in his study of the California Gold Rush and Louisiana residents who participated. Manuscript and typescript copies of letters (1844-1868), mostly to John McKowen, a merchant of Jackson, Louisiana, comment on travel, the economy, slave trade (including a copy of emancipation of a slave), and life in California and the West.

Correspondence of Elrie Robinson (1931-1937) concerns research on the Gold Rush and the Louisiana residents mentioned in the earlier letters. It provides biographical information on Louisiana migrants to California including Westley L. Burgess, Manassah Chandler, W. T. Rogillio, David O. Shattuck, Micajah McGehee, John Kernan, Henry B. Chase, Robert Perry, and Marion Munsen.

The collection also contains printed volumes relating to the Gold Rush in California. See container list for full description.

**LETTER DESCRIPTIONS**  
(1844-1868)

<u>Date</u>	<u>From</u>	<u>To</u>
July 12, 1844	William Winans, Centreville, Amite County, Mississippi [Typescript only]	Rev. David O. Shattuck
July 31, 1844	William Winans, Centreville, Amite County, Mississippi [Typescript only]	Rev. David O. Shattuck
August 22, 1844	William Winans, Centreville, Amite County, Mississippi [Typescript only]	Rev. David O. Shattuck
Jan. 12, 1848	Charles Camden, Lima, Peru	John McKowen, Jackson, La.
Oct. 4, 1849	Harris Hill, Fayette, Miss.	D. O. Shattuck, Centenary College, Jackson, La.
Nov. 10, 1849	E. Owen, Caribbean Sea, near Chagres	John McKowen, Jackson, La.
Nov. 22, 1849	E. Owen, Panama	John McKowen, Jackson, La.
Dec. 8, 1849	David Olcott Shattuck, New Grenada, Panama	John McKowen, Jackson, La.
Dec. 18, 1849	D. O. Shattuck	John Robinson & Co., New Orleans, La.
Jan. 18, 1850	John Robertson, New Orleans	John McKowen, Jackson, La.
Jan. 25, 1850 [Apr. 13, 1849]	Mortgage of D. O. Shattuck	John C. Flynn, East Feliciana Parish
Feb. 27, 1850	E. Owen, San Francisco	John McKowen, Jackson, La.
Apr. 22, 1850	W. H. Selby, Deer Creek, California	M. A. Scott
June 30, 1850	E. Owen, "O'Neal Bar"	John McKowen, Jackson, La.
July 8, 1850	John McKowen, New Orleans	D. O. Shattuck
July 31, 1850	D. O. Shattuck, San Francisco	John McKowen, Jackson, La.
Aug. 24, 1850	E. Owen, Big Bar of the Muckalliamy River	John McKowen, Jackson, La.

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1844-1937

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<u>Date</u>	<u>From</u>	<u>To</u>
Nov. 30, 1850	D. O. Shattuck, San Francisco	John McKowen, Jackson, La.
Jan. 7, 1851	I. R. Richards, Yazoo City, Miss.	T.F. Noone
Feb. 10, 1851	E. Owen, Big Bar, Muckalliamy River, Calaberay Co., Ca.	John McKowen
Feb 22, 1851	E. McIlhenny & Co., St. Francisville, La.	John McKowen, Jackson, La.
Mar. 1, 1851	D. O. Shattuck, San Francisco	John McKowen
April 22, 1851	E. Owen, Mokulumne Hill, Calaberas Co., Ca.	John McKowen
Aug. 16, 1851	Robertson & McKougall, New Orleans	John McKowen
Sept. 14, 1851	D. O. Shattuck, San Francisco	John McKowen
Sept. 16, 1851	Robinson Layton, Sacramento, Ca.	John McKowen
Oct. 13, 1851	D. O. Shattuck, San Francisco	Mrs. D. O. Shattuck, Jackson, La.
Oct. 16, 1851	I. R. Richards, Port Hudson, La.	John McKowen
Nov. 18, 1851	Manumission of Robinson Layton	John McKowen, Jackson, La.
Dec. 20, 1851	[Typescript only] Sale of slave of John McKowen	Almarion G. Miller
Jan 3, 1852	A. T. Simmons	John McKowen
May 8, 1852	D. O. Shattuck, Sonoma, Ca.	John McKowen
Sept. 10, 1852	D. O. Shattuck, Sonoma, Ca.	John McKowen
Aug. 28, 1853	Eben Owen, Sacramento, Ca.	John McKowen
June 1, 1868	Charles Camden, Shasta County, Ca.	John McKowen

**INDEX TERMS**

California--Description and travel.

California--Gold discoveries.

California--History--1846-1950.

Journalists--Louisiana.

McKowen, John, 1812-1871.

Migration, Internal--California.

Migration, Internal--Louisiana.

Overland journeys to the Pacific.

CONTAINER LIST

<u>Stack</u>			
<u>Location</u>	<u>Box</u>	<u>Folders</u>	<u>Contents (with dates)</u>
E:44	1	1-2	Correspondence (1844-1868)
		3-4	Correspondence (1931-1937)
		5	Newspaper clippings (1932, undated)
P:10	--	--	<u>Printed Volumes:</u> Volume 1 Borthwick, J. D. <i>The Gold Hunters</i> . The Macmillan Co., New York. 1924.  Volumes 2-5 <i>Century Magazine</i> . The Century Co., New York. Vol. 40, new series vol. 18. May 1890 to Oct. 1890. Vol. 41, new series vol. 19. Nov 1890 to Apr. 1891. Vol. 42, new series vol. 20. May 1891 to Oct. 1891. Vol. 43, new series vol. 21. Nov. 1891 to Apr. 1892.  Volume 6 Evans, Robert Frank. <i>Notes on Land and Sea, 1850</i> . Richard G. Badger, The Gorham Press, Boston. 1931.  Volume 7 Hulbert, Archer Butler. <i>Forty-Niners: The Chronicle of the California Trail</i> . Little, Brown, and Co., Boston. 1931.  Volume 8 Shuck, Oscar T. <i>Bench and Bar in California</i> . The Occident Printing House, San Francisco. 1889.  Volume 9 Soule, Frank, and John H. Gihon and James Nisbet. <i>The Annals of San Francisco; . . .</i> D. Appleton and Co., New York, 1855.  Volume 10 Upham, Charles Wentworth. <i>Life, Explorations, and Public Services of John Charles Fremont</i> . Ticknor and Fields, Boston. 1856.
OS:R	--	1	<u>Printed materials:</u> unidentified newspaper clipping and magazine article concerning Gold Rush (undated)