

REED (A. R.) DIARY
Mss. 1582
Inventory

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

Reformatted 2003
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SUMMARY

Size.	1 manuscript volume
Geographic locations.	New Orleans, La.; Florida Keys; Liverpool, England; Nova Scotia
Inclusive dates.	1860-1861
Bulk dates.	N/A
Language.	English
Summary.	Diary of the sea voyages of A. R. Reed details his journey from Maine to New Orleans aboard the ship <i>Weston Merritt</i> , and subsequent voyages to Liverpool, England, and to Nova Scotia aboard the <i>Ocean Belle</i> , a ship partly owned by his father.
Restrictions on access.	If microfilm is available, photocopies must be made from microfilm.
Related collections.	None.
Copyright.	Copyright of the original materials is retained by descendants of the creators in accordance with U.S. copyright law.
Citation.	A. R. Reed Diary, Mss. 1582, Louisiana and Lower Mississippi Valley Collections, LSU Libraries, Baton Rouge, La.
Stack locations.	M:18

BIOGRAPHICAL/HISTORICAL NOTE

A. R. Reed was a son of Isaac Reed, part owner of the ship *Ocean Belle*.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

Diary of 18-year-old A. R. Reed records incidents and observations during his ocean voyages from Waldoboro, Maine, to New Orleans, Louisiana, on the ship *Weston Merritt*, and from New Orleans to Liverpool, England, then to Nova Scotia aboard the ship *Ocean Belle*. He discusses the landscape coming through Pass à L'Outre, La., mentioning flocks of ducks, pelicans, and gulls; the strangeness of bayous and lagoons; damage done by recent hurricanes; and slaves working in nearby orchards (p. 6-7). He also describes the people and city of New Orleans, including the Custom House, Lafayette Square, and St. Charles Hotel, and designates Canal St. as the finest and most fashionable street in the city. He records his observations of the French Market, commenting on a section of the market reserved for members of the Natchez tribe to sell their wares (p. 9-11). He notes that within the Cathedral, the richest men in New Orleans pray alongside their slaves (p. 14-15), and mentions the fact that Andrew Jackson is nearly worshipped in the city (p. 19). Reed describes the various steamers along the Mississippi River (p. 12), recounts his visit to a cotton press (p. 12-13), wild horses being unloaded from a ship arriving from South America (p. 13), and the custom of firing guns into air on Christmas Day (p. 21). He also discusses the political uneasiness throughout the country, noting that secession is spoken of openly in the city and that Lincoln's effigy is hung almost every day (p. 17).

Reed discusses the ship running aground in the Marquesas Keys (p. 26-32) and describes the people and style of architecture in Key West, Fla. He attends and describes a "negro funeral" (p. 37) and notes that there is a place on the beach where dead slaves from slave ships are buried (p. 40). He also mentions a "nine o'clock curfew for all negroes," and recounts that a crew member, who broke this curfew and was intoxicated, received 39 lashes as punishment (p. 41).

As his journey continues, Reed writes about taking care of the ship's turtles, which were kept for food, and mentions seeing the Northern Lights, writing "A broad bright track stretching like a ribbon across the sky from West to East and looking some as if it might be the reflection of the moon. It lasted some five minutes and no one seemed to know what it was called," (p. 49). He records his observations of St. George's Channel as a very dangerous place for ships to move in and out (p. 52), and discusses the people of Liverpool including customs, work habits, and the differences between English and Americans (p. 59-51). Reed also discusses his recreational activities in Liverpool such as attending a boxing match, where he saw Jem Mace and Nat Langham (p. 59b), a coursing match (p. 61-64), and a horse race (p. 65-66).

Finally, Reed recounts the journey from Liverpool to Nova Scotia, the ship returning with a load of salt. He notes the weather and water conditions and describes the numerous icebergs nearby (p. 85).

INDEX TERMS

Diaries.

Key West (Fla.)--Description and travel.

Liverpool (England)--Description and travel.

New Orleans (La.)--Description and travel.

Ocean Belle (Ship)

Ocean travel.

Reed, A. R.

Sailing ships.

Transatlantic voyages.

Weston Merritt (Ship)

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1860-1861

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CONTAINER LIST

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