

See also UPA Microfilm:

MF:5322, Series I, Part 2, Reels 21-25

STIRLING (LEWIS AND FAMILY) PAPERS
(Mss. 1886)
Inventory

Compiled by
Claudia C. Holland
1988

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

Revised 2009

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SUMMARY

Size.	4.25 linear feet
Geographic locations.	Louisiana, Kentucky, Mississippi, Connecticut
Inclusive dates.	1797-1938
Bulk dates.	1830-1860
Language.	English, French, Spanish
Summary.	Correspondence, diaries, cash books, journals, legal, personal and financial papers of Lewis Stirling (1786-1858) and family. Stirling was a sugar and cotton planter of West Feliciana Parish, Louisiana, who owned plantations in West Feliciana, West Baton Rouge, and other parishes. The papers relate to his real and personal property holdings, military service, plantation management, and personal and family matters.
Restrictions on access.	Photocopies must be made from microfilm. Original "Register of Slaves" (1857), letter to Lewis Stirling from Ann Lobdell (December 2, 1836), and double letter (January 1&8, 1839) to "Cousin" from Cecilia Middleton and Lewis S. Middleton restricted due to fragility. Use microfilm or photocopies.
Related collections.	Stirling Family Papers (George M. Lester Collection, Mss. 1209) Thomas Butler and Family Papers, Mss. 2850 James P. Bowman and Family Papers, Mss. 1382 David Weeks and Family Papers, Mss. 1807
Copyright.	Copyright of the original materials is retained by descendants of the creators in accordance with U.S. copyright law.
Citation.	Lewis Stirling and Family Papers, Mss. 1866, Louisiana and Lower Mississippi Valley Collections, LSU Libraries, Baton Rouge, La.
Stack location(s).	B:76-81, Vault 1
Also available on:	Microfilm 5322, Series I, Part 2, Reels, 21-25

BIOGRAPHICAL/HISTORICAL NOTE

Lewis Stirling (1786-1858) was the son of Alexander (d.1808) and Ann Alston Stirling. On July 14, 1807, Lewis wed Sarah Turnbull (d.1875); they resided at Wakefield Plantation in West Feliciana Parish. Stirling owned three additional plantations in Louisiana: Arbroath (West Baton Rouge Parish), Solitude, and Attakapas (St. Mary Parish). Cotton and sugar were cultivated on these plantations, although cotton was the more prevalent crop prior to 1850. The Stirlings also owned a house on waterfront property in Pascagoula, Mississippi.

Stirling served as a lieutenant in the 10th Regiment of the Louisiana Militia during the War of 1812. He received a commission as quartermaster of that regiment from Governor William C.C. Claiborne in 1814, at which time Stirling provided supplies for the Louisiana troops.

The Stirlings had six children: Catherine, Anne, James, Lewis, Daniel, and Ruffin. James, Lewis, and Daniel were educated at St. Joseph's College in Bardstown, Kentucky. Lewis pursued further studies at Yale University in New Haven, Connecticut.

During the Civil War, members of the Stirling family took a number of slaves and moved to Natchitoches, La., and then Smith County, Texas, where they lived near Canton until the war's end. Stirling's son, Lewis, earned the title of colonel during the Civil War.

As members of Grace Episcopal Church in St. Francisville, Louisiana, the Stirlings donated money for construction of that structure, and the family cemetery is located on the church grounds.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

Includes correspondence, diaries, cash books, labor time books, and personal and business papers of four generations of the Stirling family. The papers relate to the management of their plantations, personal property holdings, military service, and the business and personal affairs of Lewis Stirling and his immediate family. Although the papers predominantly pertain to antebellum plantation life, both colonial and post-bellum information is included as well. Key topics are plantation economy and culture, education, health, and travel.

Early papers (1805-1819) relating to Alexander Stirling include general correspondence, slave bills of sale, and estate information. Correspondence includes letters from family members, New Orleans factors, and friends of Lewis and Sarah Stirling and their son, Lewis. Two letters (1839) concern the engagement of artist Chester Harding to paint family portraits. Legal papers include land grants (on the Big Black River, Natchez District, and Alexander Creek, New Feliciana District, signed by Governor Estevan Miro and Baron de Carondelet, respectively) and surveys, bills of sale for land and slaves, wills and successions, a military commission, and a marriage certificate. Financial papers include receipts for goods and services (mercantile, medical, educational, and other plantation expenses), state and parish tax receipts, bills of sale for cotton and sugar produced, and lists of taxable property. Receipts, a travel account, and family correspondence reveal information about the Stirlings' journey to the northeastern United States and Canada. Other items include printed materials, calling cards, lists of goods allocated to slaves, labor time books, ration books, and small artifacts. Manuscript volumes document plantation operating expenses, birth and death records for slaves, crop conditions, climate, relations with factors and overseers, and travel expenses.

After 1860, the papers diminish in number and consist primarily of family letters describing labor problems with freedmen, migration to and life in Texas during the Civil War, and plantation, household, and personal bills.

LIST OF SERIES

Series I, Correspondence, 1805-1838

Series II, Legal Records, 1784-1902

Series III, Financial Records, 1804-1921

Series IV, Diaries, 1822-1863

Series V, Miscellaneous, 1806-1929

Series VI, Artifacts, ca. 1836, undated

SERIES DESCRIPTIONS

Series I, Correspondence, 1805-1838

Personal and business correspondence relating to cotton and sugar markets, business transactions, family problems, travel, health, and education. Includes a series of letters from three New Orleans factors (Nathaniel Cox, Burke, Watt, & Co., and W. & D. Urquhart) who handled the sale of Stirling's cotton and sugar and managed his financial affairs. Family correspondence was written primarily by Ann Lobdell and Catherine Hereford, daughters of Lewis and Sarah Stirling, although additional major correspondents include James Stirling, John Lobdell, and Lewis Stirling, Sr.

Series II, Legal Records, 1784-1902

Legal records are comprised of land, estate, succession, and loan records, as well as bills of sale for slaves purchased by Alexander Stirling and Lewis Stirling (1791-1831). Land grants are signed by Governor Estevan Miro (Big Black River, Natchez District) and Baron de Carondelet (Alexander Creek, New Feliciana District). Certificate of marriage for Alexander Stirling and Ann Alston is also included.

Series III, Financial Records, 1804-1921

Financial records entail bills, receipts, bank drafts, and promissory notes. Receipts are for goods and services, state and parish taxes (1812-1874), cotton and sugar sales (1832-1868), travel (June-October 1836), Louisiana Militia Quartermaster (1814-1815), and magazine and newspaper subscriptions.

Series IV, Diaries, 1822-1863 (Folders 145-150, 6 volumes)

Daily accounts of the economy, management, problems, and crop conditions of Stirling's plantations. Also includes daily weather conditions, numbers of cotton and sugar produced and by whom, and accounts of travel conditions.

Series V, Miscellaneous, 1806-1929

Labor time sheets and books, slave registers (1807-1917), printed materials (1833-1928), ration books (1828-1874), a memorandum book (1851-1863), an account book (1873), and other manuscripts including an account of the family trip to the northeastern United States.

Series VI, Artifacts, ca. 1836, undated

Three artifacts are included in the collection: a leather memo pad (ca. 1836), a fountain pen holder (undated), and an item with an embroidered cross and book motif (undated).

INDEX TERMS

<u>Terms</u>	<u>Series</u>
Arbroath Plantation (La.)	III, V
Atchafalaya Railroad and Banking Company.	II
Attakapas Plantation (La.)	III, V
Burke, Watt & Co.	I, III
Canada--Description and travel--1763-1867.	I, III, V
Carondelet, Luis Héctor, barón de, 1748-1807.	II
Commission merchants--Louisiana.	I-III
Cotton growing--Louisiana.	I-V
Education--Louisiana.	I, III
Farm tenancy--Louisiana.	II, V
Freedmen--Louisiana.	I, II, V
Grace Episcopal Church (St. Francisville, La.)	III
Harding, Chester, 1792-1866.	I
Hereford, Catherine Stirling, 1809-1895.	I, II, V
Lobdell, Anne Stirling, b. 1811.	I, II, V
Lobdell, John Little, 1791-1867.	I-III
Medicine--Louisiana.	I, III, V
Miró, Esteban, 1744-1795.	II
Overseers--Louisiana.	I-III
Pascagoula (Miss.)	I-III
Plantation life--Louisiana.	I-V
Plantation owners--Louisiana--West Feliciana Parish.	I-VI
Railroads--Louisiana.	I-III, V
Reconstruction--Louisiana.	I, II, V
Slave bills of sale--Louisiana.	II
Slave records--Louisiana.	II, V
Slaveholders--Louisiana.	I-V

STIRLING (LEWIS AND FAMILY) PAPERS
1784-1938

Ms. 1866
Special Collections, LSU Libraries

Terms

Series

Smith County (Tex.)--History.	I
Solitude Plantation (La.)	III, V
St. Joseph's College (Bardstown, Ky.)	I, III
Stirling, Alexander, 1753-1808.	I, II
Stirling, Daniel Turnbull, 1821-1863.	I-III
Stirling, Lewis, 1786-1858.	I-VI
Stirling, Lewis, 1818-1901.	I-VI
Stirling, Ruffin Gray, 1827-1881.	I-III
Stirling, Sarah Turnbull, d. 1875.	I-III, V
Sugar growing--Louisiana.	I-V
Tenant farmers--Louisiana.	I-III, V
Turnbull, John, d. 1799.	I-III
Turnbull, John, fl. 1819-1821.	I-III
Turnbull, John, fl. 1832-1837.	I-III
United States--Description and travel--1783-1848.	I, III, V
Wakefield Plantation (La.)	I-V
West Feliciana Parish (La.)--History.	I-V

CONTAINER LIST

<u>Stack</u> <u>Location</u>	<u>Box</u>	<u>Folders</u>	<u>Contents</u>
B:76	1	1-4 5-9	Cotton and sugar factor letters, 1823-1860 Correspondence, 1805-1837
	2	10-19	Correspondence, 1836-1864
	3	20-29	Correspondence, 1866-1938
B:77	4	30-31 32 33 34-39	Land records, 1791-1902 Taxable property lists, 1849-1863 Slave bills of sale, 1797-1831 Legal records, 1784-1901
	5	40-49	Receipts, 1815-1839
	6	50-59	Receipts, 1840-1844
B:78	7	60-72	Receipts, 1845-1852
	8	73-82	Receipts, 1853-1857
	9	83-93	Receipts, 1858-1921, undated
B:79	10	94-101 vols.1-5	Promissory notes and bank drafts, 1804-1840 Bank books, 1819, 1821, 1833-1847
	11	102-107 108-111 vols.1-8	Promissory notes and bank drafts, 1841-1884, undated State and parish tax receipts, 1812-1874 Cash books, 1811-1897, undated
	12	112-113 vols.1-2	Cotton sales receipts, 1832-1849 Cotton record books, 1833-1867
B:80	13	124-136	Sugar and cotton sales receipts, 1850-1868
	14	137-141 142-143 144	Travel receipts, 1836 Subscriptions, 1832-1872 Louisiana Militia Quartermaster receipts, 1814-1815
	15	145-150, vols.1-61	Plantation Diaries, 1822-1863

B:81	16	151	Register of slaves, 1807-1917
		152-153	Labor time sheets, 1865-1889
		154-155	Miscellaneous, 1806-1929, undated (including travel account)
		156-158	Printed ephemera, 1833-1928, undated
		vol.1	Memorandum book, 1851-1863
		vol.2	Ration book, 1828-1838
		vol.3	Ration book, 1859-1874
		vol.4	Sharecropper record book, 1904-1918
		vol.5	Printed travel guide, 1835
		--	Leather memo pad (ca. 1836), fountain pen holder (undated), embroidered item (undated)
	17	vol.1	Labor time book, 1865-1867
		vol.2	Labor time book, 1873
		vol.3	Labor time book, 1875-1884
		vol.4	Account book, 1881-1901
Vault: 1		158-160	Letters from A.M. Lobdell (12/2/1836) and Lewis S. Middleton (1/1/1839) are not to be accessed. Use photocopies or microfilm.
MF 5322			Microfilm 5322 Series I, Part 2, Reels 21-25