

HOUSTON (SAMUEL RUTHERFORD AND FAMILY) PAPERS

(Ms. 3451)

Inventory

Compiled by

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

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Summary

Size. 1 linear ft.

**Geographic
locations.** Virginia, Greece.

**Inclusive
dates.** 1781-1940

Bulk dates. 1781-1888

Languages. English.

Summary. Correspondence, writings, printed items and photographs of Virginia native Samuel Rutherford Houston and family, and a diary kept by Reverend G. W. Leyburn while he served as a missionary to Greece.

Note: Leyburn Diary also available on microfilm.

Access. No restrictions.

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Citation. Houston (Samuel Rutherford and Family) Papers, Louisiana and Lower Mississippi Valley Collections, LSU Libraries, Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

**Stack
location.** U:102; Mss.Mf:H

Biographical/Historical Note

Reverend Samuel Rutherford Houston was the sixth child of Reverend Samuel Houston (1758-1839) and Margaret "Peggy" Walker (d. 1854), and the grandson of John Houston (1716 or 1726-1798), who immigrated from Ireland in 1735 and settled with his father in Rockbridge County, Virginia. Like his descendants, John Houston was a Presbyterian minister.

Samuel Rutherford Houston was born in 1806 at Rural Valley, Rockbridge County, Virginia, where his father ran Rural Valley Classical School, owned a plantation, and served as Presbyterian minister. Samuel Rutherford graduated from Dickenson College, Carlisle, Penn., in 1825 and after a year studying theology at Princeton, he transferred to Union Theological Seminary in Virginia. He was ordained in 1834 and posted to a mission in Scio, Greece, in November of that year. He soon moved to the Province of Laconia, where he was joined by the Rev. George W. Leyburn,

Houston first married Mary Russell Rowland. They had one surviving child, Rutherford Rowland Houston (1836-1917), before she died in Egypt in 1839. Samuel R. returned to Natural Bridge, Virginia in 1841 and in the meantime married Margaret Parks Paxton (b. 1817) of Lexington, Virginia. Houston and his wife were nature enthusiasts who observed and recorded data about animal behavior and plants. He died in 1887, and she lived to at least 1884. Together they had nine children: William Paxton Houston (b. 1843); Samuel Adger Houston (b. 1845); Adamantius Coray. Houston (b. 1847); Mary Margaret Houston, (b. 1849); Helen Alexander Houston (b. 1851); Elizabeth Moore Houston (b. 1853); Janet Hay Houston (b. 1855); James Bernard Houston (b. 1858); and Hubert Todd Houston (b. 1861). William P, S. Adger, and A. Coray all served the Confederacy during the Civil War.

Rutherford R. Houston graduated from Washington College in 1855 and entered Union Theological Seminary around 1857 and was appointed professor of Oriental Literature. In 1863, he was licensed to preach and simultaneously served several churches in Greenbrier and Monroe counties until 1866 when he was assigned Salem and Carmel churches and purchased a farm in Union, West Virginia. In 1869, he moved to the Presbyterian Church of Fincastle, Botetourt County, Va. He married Margaret "Maggie" Steele of Illinois. They, too, had nine children: Mary, Catharine, Annie, Emma, Alice, Stella, Olive, Harry, and Janet

See also: Houston, Samuel Rutherford. *Brief Biographical Accounts of Many Members of the Houston Family: Accompanied by a Genealogical Table From Well Authenticated Records and an Extensive Correspondence, with a Large Number of Well Informed Members of the Family during the Years 1876-1882.* Cincinnati: Elm Street Print. Co., 1882

Scope and Content Note

This collection is comprised of family letters, writings, and printed items and graphic materials of Samuel Rutherford Houston and family. Letters primarily relate to education, religious life, and church and family news. The writings consist of sermons, short stories, Samuel R. Houston's civilian Civil War diary, several diary pages recording Houston's stint as a missionary in Greece, as well as a journal kept by his fellow missionary, Reverend G. W. Leyburn. Among the printed items and graphic materials are several photographs of the Houston family.

List of Series and subseries

- I. Correspondence, 1821-1940, n.d. (box 1)**
- II. Printed items and graphic materials, 1873-1908, n.d. (box 1)**
- III. Writings, 1781-1936, n.d. (boxes 2-3)**
 - Subseries 1. Diary entries and fiction, 1834-1888, n.d. (box 2)**
 - Subseries 2. Sermons, 1781-1852, n.d. (box 3)**
 - Subseries 3. Miscellaneous, 1839-1936, n.d. (box 3)**

Series and Subseries Descriptions

I. Correspondence, 1821-1940, n.d. (10 folders)

The majority of letters were written between family members reporting daily activities, general news and health of relatives and friends. Includes letters by Samuel Houston (1821-1824), including those to his son at Dickinson College; letters (1824-1873) from Samuel R. Houston to family members, primarily describing his studies at Dickinson College; letters from Rutherford R. Houston to Samuel R. Houston and other family members (1852-1861 and 1871-1916) relating to his studies and experiences at Washington College, temperance, tension between the North and South, preparations for war in Union, Va., his faith, his church activities, as well as news related to their family, friends and common church acquaintances; and miscellaneous letters (1847-1940)

II. Printed items and graphic materials, 1873-1908, n.d. (5 folders)

Among the printed items is an address given by Hubert T. Houston at the unveiling of the Monument to Confederate Dead in Beverly, West Virginia (1908), an envelope (n.d.) with a colored sketch of the Hotel Monteleone in New Orleans, La. The photographs consist of cartes de viste (1873-1882, n.d.) of Annie and Bessie Houston and Dr. J. Bernard Houston, tintypes (n.d.) of Bessie and Dr. J. Bernard Houston along with other personal portraits of family members and a family portrait of Samuel Rutherford Houston and his children (n.d.)

III. Writings, 1781-1936, n.d. (12 folders, 1 manuscript vol.)

Subseries 1. Diary entries and fiction, 1834-1888, n.d. (5 folders)

There are several pages of the diary Samuel Rutherford kept while in Greece, his Civil War diary, and the journal of Rev. Samuel Leyburn in this series. The loose pages contain entries in which Houston expresses dismay at the lack of reverence for the Sabbath on the Greek isle of Scio. These pages give detailed accounts of the sights and people in the villages on the island and a vivid description of the ruins, schools and buildings, including the monastery of Meamone. In his Civil War diary (1861), Houston describes daily activities, sermons preached, and materials read by the author. Some entries reflect the author's sadness and

dismay concerning the war and the animosity of the North towards the Southern states. There

are references to military engagements, including the 1st. Battle of Bull Run fought at the

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Manassas Junction (July 21), giving detailed accounts of casualties and prisoners. Later diary pages (1884-1887) refer to harsh winters in the mountains. Several entries are concerned with the survival of wild birds and farm animals, and the spoilage of food by freezing temperatures. There are also the entries (1883-1888) of Margaret P. Houston, wife of Samuel R. Houston, with notes on natural history describing weather, birds, insects and flower.

The journal is a chronicle of the experiences of Reverend G. W. Leyburn and his family while he served as a missionary to Greece. The bulk of the journal (1841-1843) recounts daily events and excursions to various towns and cities in Greece. There are lengthy entries describing his grief and the circumstances surrounding the death of his infant daughter and a detailed account of an attack and robbery he and his wife suffered in their residence during the night. There are several references to Mr. King's sermons and several entries reflecting his own thoughts on Protestantism. A later entry (1865) contemplates the destruction caused by the Civil War.

Also contained in this subseries are short stories written about nature and animals.

Subseries 2. Sermons, 1781-1852, n.d. (6 folders)

Sermons delivered by Samuel Houston and Samuel Rutherford Houston; some include dates and cite the biblical passages used.

Subseries 3. Miscellaneous, 1839-1936, n.d. (1 folder)

Among the miscellaneous writings is a copy of general order no. 9 issued by R. E. Lee bidding his troops farewell and sending them home at the end of the war, a handwritten issue of the *Wigton Wight* newsletter (1875), and a poem written in Greek (n.d.). There is also a broadcast address (1936) denouncing violence in Palestine.

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Index Terms

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Houston, Rutherford Rowland, 1836-1917.	I, III
Houston, Hubert T.	II
Leyburn, George W.	III
Missionaries--Greece	III
Palestine--History--1929-1948	III
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Virginia--History--19th century	I, II, III
Washington College (Lexington, Va.)	I

Container List

Series I. Correspondence

Stack location	Box	Folders	Contents
U:102	1	1-10	Correspondence (1821-1940, n.d.),

Series II. Printed items and graphic materials

U:102	1	11-15	Printed items and graphic materials (1873-1908, n.d.)
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Series III. Writings

U:102	2	1-6	Subseries 1. diary entries, Leyburn journal, and fiction (1834-1888, n.d.).
	3	1-6	Subseries 2. sermons (1781-1852, n.d.)
		7	Subseries 3. miscellaneous writings (1839-1936, n.d.)
Mss.Mf:		Reel 1	Rev. G. W. Leyburn journal (1841-1843, 1865)