

See also

UPA Microfilm 5322, Series I, part 5, reels 4-9

BUTLER (THOMAS W.) PAPERS

(Mss. 888)

Inventory

Compiled by

Laura Clark Brown

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

Revised 2009

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SUMMARY

- Size.** 7 linear feet.
- Geographic locations.** Louisiana.
- Inclusive dates.** 1842-1913.
- Bulk dates.** 1896-1908.
- Languages.** English, French.
- Summary.** Correspondence and financial papers document the business of Cedars Plantation in West Feliciana Parish, Louisiana and the personal finance of Thomas W. Butler. Other business papers and plantation records pertain to the Le Carpe Plantation, Terrebonne Parish (La.) of Thomas Butler's father Richard Ellis Butler.
- Restrictions.** None.
- Related Collection.** Butler (Thomas and Family) Papers, Mss. 1029.
Butler (Anna and Sarah) Correspondence, Mss. 581
Butler (Richard) Papers, Mss. 1000
Butler (Robert O.) Papers, Mss. 1068
Margaret Butler Correspondence, Mss. 1068
Thomas Butler Family Photographs and Plantation Journal, Mss. 4347
Butler (Thomas and Family) Papers, Mss. 2850
Butler Family Papers, Mss. 1026
Gay-Butler-Plater Family Papers, Mss. 4872
- Copyright.** Physical rights are retained by the LSU Libraries. Copyright of the original materials is retained by the creators, or their descendants, of the materials in accordance with U.S. copyright law.
- Citation.** Butler (Thomas W.) Papers, Mss. 888, Louisiana and Lower Mississippi Valley Collections, LSU Libraries, Baton Rouge, Louisiana.
- Stack location.** U:17-U:19; J:10
- See also.** UPA Microfilm 5322, Series I, part 5, reels 4-9

BIOGRAPHICAL/HISTORICAL NOTE

Thomas W. Butler was the owner of Cedars Plantation near Bains, West Feliciana Parish, and the son of Richard Ellis Butler, a planter in Terrebonne Parish, and Sarah Ker, daughter of Dr. John Ker of Natchez, Miss. He was also the grandson of Judge Thomas Butler. Thomas W. Butler was born in Terrebonne Parish in 1851 and married Sallie Fort, daughter of W.J. Fort. The two had three children, Sarah D., Richard E., and Mary F. Butler.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

Plantation records, business papers, and personal correspondence of Thomas W. Butler (1851-1913), and the plantation records and accounts of his father, Richard Ellis Butler, planter in Terrebonne Parish, comprise the collection.

Richard E. Butler, nephew of R.G. Ellis and executor of the Ellis estate, married Miss Sarah Ker, daughter of Dr. John Ker of Natchez. Ledgers kept by Butler contain statements of income and expenditures of the Ellis estate (1844-1858) and records of the succession of Dr. John Ker (1852-1869).

Ledgers (1842-1871) contain detailed information concerning the operation of Le Carpe Plantation in Grand Caillou, Terrebonne Parish and includes: a list of overseers (1842-1857); inventory of the estate of Bayou Grand Caillou (1847-1854); names of creditors from whom plantation supplies were purchased; magazine and newspaper subscriptions; loans made to individuals; state taxes paid; and cost of repairs and improvements. They also contain the names of slaves acquired with the purchase of the Le Carpe Plantation; dates of births and deaths with notations of cause and age of slave at time of death and later names of laborers employed; wages paid to each; and credit and supplies extended to each laborer.

The bulk of the material pertains to the operation of The Cedars in West Feliciana Parish. Daybooks, plantation diaries, and ledgers record plantation expenditures and revenue, personal and household expenditures, planting operations and livestock. A daybook (1903-1913) contains an account of the Pavilion Fund, a community project, listing the names of donors, amounts contributed and costs of materials and construction. Other financial papers consist of bills, receipts and invoices for merchandise, farm machinery, hardware and groceries, statements from commission merchants and receipts for professional services.

Correspondence pertains to farm property owned by T.W. Butler in Arkansas and to the education of his children. Letters of J. Cole Davis, attorney of Helena Arkansas (1877-1873) document sales, leases and taxation of properties in Woodruff, Lee and Monroe Counties. Letters (1900-1904) from J.R. Preston of Stanton College and W.C. Guthrie of Chamberlain-Hunt Academy concern the schooling of T.W. Butler's children.

INDEX TERMS

Butler, Thomas W., 1851-1913
Butler, Richard Ellis
Butler, Mary
Butler, Richard E.
Butler, Sallie Fort
Butler, Sarah
Cedars Plantation
Le Carpe Plantation
Plantation owners--Louisiana
Plantation life--Louisiana
Grand Caillou (La.)
Terrebonne Parish (La.)
West Feliciana Parish (La.)
Accounts
Invoices
Ledgers
Receipts
Correspondence

CONTAINER LIST

<u>Stack Location</u>	<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Contents</u>
U:17	1	1	Correspondence: Letters received by Thomas W. Butler (1878-1879)
		2	Financial Papers: Statements of account, invoices and receipts (1879)
		3-4	Correspondence: Letters received by Thomas W. Butler (1880-1883)
		5-22	Financial Papers: Statements of account, invoices and receipts (1880-1885)
	2	1-25	Financial Papers: Statements of account, invoices and receipts (1886-1891)
U:18	3	1-16	Financial Papers: Statements of account, invoices and receipts (1892-1896)
	4	1-3	Financial Papers: Statements of account, invoices and receipts (1897)
		4	Financial Papers: Statements from Canal Bank & Trust Co. (1896-1904)
		5	Financial Papers: Statements from the Bank of West Feliciana (1899-1904)
		6-20	Financial Papers: Statements of account, invoices and receipts (1898-Oct. 1899)
	5	1-24	Financial Papers: Statements of account, invoices and receipts (Nov. 1899-August 1901).
	6	1-19	Financial Papers: Statements of account, invoices and receipts (September 1901-June 1903)
U:19	7	1-17	Financial Papers: Statements of account, invoices and receipts (July 1903-1904)
	8	1-19	Financial Papers: Statements of account, invoices and receipts (1905-May 1906)
	9	1-19	Financial Papers: Statements of account, invoices and receipts (June 1906-1907)
	10	1-8	Financial Papers: Statements of account, invoices and receipts (1908).
		9-10	Financial Papers: Richard Ellis Butler Ledger (1842-1867) (The original ledger was photocopied on to acid-free paper)

<u>Stack</u> <u>Location</u>	<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Contents</u>
			Manuscript Volumes
J:10	--	v.1-20	Checkbooks (1891-1905).
		v.21	Ledger: Estate of R. G. Ellis (1844-1858).
		v.22	Ledger: Richard Ellis Butler (1852-1869)
		v.23	Ledger: Richard Ellis Butler (1855-1869)
		v.24	Cash Book: Richard Ellis Butler (1869-1871)
		v.25	Cash Book: Richard Ellis Butler (1869-1884)
		v.26	Notebook and Plantation Diary: Thomas W. Butler (1881-1891)
		v.27	Cash Book: Personal and household expenses for Thomas W. Butler (1884-1891).
		v.28	Plantation Diary: Thomas W. Butler (1892-1908)
		v.29	Ledger: Thomas W. Butler (1893-1908)
		v.30	Cash Book: Thomas W. Butler (1899-1903)
		v.31	Cash Book: Thomas W. Butler (1903-1913).
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