

**See also UPA Microfilm:**  
MF 5750, Series E, Reel 6

**Chelette (Atala) and Family Papers**  
(Mss. 979)  
Inventory

Updated by Jessica Mlotkowski

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

Reformatted 2015

## Contents of Inventory

Biographical/Historical Note	4
Scope and Content Note	4
Collection Description(s)	5-6
Index Terms	7
Container List	8

**Use of manuscript materials.** If you wish to examine items in the manuscript group, please fill out a call slip specifying the materials you wish to see. Consult the Container List for location information needed on the call slip.

**Photocopying.** Should you wish to request photocopies, please consult a staff member. The existing order and arrangement of unbound materials must be maintained.

**Publication.** Readers assume full responsibility for compliance with laws regarding copyright, literary property rights, and libel.

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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>	160 items
<b>Geographic locations.</b>	Natchitoches Parish, La.; New Orleans, La.; Baton Rouge, La.; Alexandria, La.; Carencro, La.; Dallas, Tex.; Washington D.C.
<b>Inclusive dates.</b>	1819-1919
<b>Bulk dates.</b>	1841-1899
<b>Language.</b>	English, French
<b>Summary.</b>	Personal papers of a free African American family of Natchitoches Parish, including a true copy of the act of manumission of a mulatto woman by Louis Fort, personal papers of Joseph Perot, free man of color, and personal and business papers of Emanuel and Atala Chelette.
<b>Organization.</b>	Arranged chronologically.
<b>Restrictions on access.</b>	If microfilm is available, photocopies must be made from microfilm.
<b>Related collections.</b>	N/A
<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>	Atala Chelette and Family Papers, Mss. 979, Louisiana and Lower Mississippi Valley Collections, LSU Libraries, Baton Rouge, La.
<b>Stack location(s).</b>	B:18
<b>Also available on:</b>	Microfilm 5750, Series E, Reel 6 Microfiche 2729

*This collection has been digitized in its entirety and can be accessed online at <http://cdm16313.contentdm.oclc.org/cdm/search/collection/p16313coll51/searchterm/Atala%20Chelette%20and%20Family%20Papers,%20Mss.%20979/field/part/mode/exact/conn/and/order/nosort/ad/asc/cosuppress/0>. See the container list and collection description for links to specific components of the collection.*

**Biographical/Historical Note**

The Chelette family were descendants of free people of color of Creole ancestry from Natchitoches Parish, Louisiana. The family included Atala (active 1874-1919), Peter, and Emanuel (active 1889-1919), a teamster. Other people closely associated with the Chelette family include a woman named Angélique (active 1819, probably the former enslaved person of Louis Fort) and her children, Pierre Edmond and Louis Onsimé. Free people of color associated with the Chelette family include: Mary Athalie Joson (also seen as "Josin," active 1873-1884), Louis Martin Joson (active 1871-1880), Joseph Perot (1799-1876), and Marie Rosalie Perot.

**Scope and Content Note**

Papers include a true copy of the act of manumission of Angélique by Louis Fort of Natchitoches Parish (1819) as well as the last will of Louis Fort (1840). The collection also contains notes signed by Mary Athalie Joson (1873, 1884), various letters to M. A. Joson (1875), Atala Chelette (1874-1875), and Manuel Chellette (1884), and a fragment of a letter from the State Penitentiary in Baton Rouge (undated). A lottery ticket from Mexico (1889) and the teamster license of Emanuel Chelette (1893) are also included.

Financial papers document the sale of cotton and the purchase of land by Pierre Edmond and Louis Onsimé; the purchases of land, goods, and an enslaved person by Joseph Perot and members of his family, including Chrisostome and Marie Rosalie, Joseph's wife. These papers also include receipts for subsistence supplies of L. Martin Joson of the Joson Plantation (1868), a statement of account with the Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen and Abandoned Lands signed by Mary Athalie Joson (1873), receipts of Peter Chelette, and tax receipts of Atala Chelette (1900-1919).

Collection Description

<u>Stack</u> <u>Location</u>	<u>Box:</u> <u>Folder</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Contents</u>
B:18	1:1	1819-1855	(18 items.) <a href="#">View online</a> True copy of act of manumission of enslaved woman named Angélique by Louis Fort, Natchitoches Parish (1819); statement, "Memory of the death of a good mother" (1839); statement of account for sale of cotton for Chrisostome Perot by Octave Sevrin (1840); copy of donation of land made in 1836 in the Parish of Natchitoches, by widow of the late J. B. Buard to Marie Rosalie, wife of Joseph Perot, and Pierre Edmond and Louis Onesime, children of Angélique, all free people of color (land formerly owned by Louis Fort) (1840); copy of land sale, Louis Fort and John Baptiste; last Will of Louis Fort (1823); statement of account to Joseph Perot, a free man of color from Parish Judge for above copies (1840); bills for dry goods purchased by M. J. Pelagie of E. John, New Orleans, state of sum owed to Solomon Davy by Joseph Perot for repair of gun, Natchitoches (1848); bill for dry goods from E. B. Degruy to Joseph Perot, New Orleans (1849); bills for merchandise, receipts for Joseph Perot (1849); statement of account from Dupleix Brothers to Madeleine, a free woman of color (1853-1855)
	1:2	1868-1879	(22 items.) <a href="#">View online</a> Subsistence supplies, bond of L. Martin Joson, Joson Plantation, Natchitoches Parish, Received Office A.C.S. (May 9, 1868); statement of account with Bureau Refugees, Freedmen, & Abandoned Lands (1869); note signed Mary Athalie Josin (1873); letters to Atala (1874-1875); letter to M. A. Joson (1875); settlement of account between widow Perot and E. Dupré (1874); receipt of Mrs. Joseph Perot; notice of seizure for Martin Josin (1877)
	1:3	1880-1899	(37 items.) <a href="#">View online</a> Note signed by Athalie Josin (1884); letter to Manuel Chellette (1884); receipts of Peter Chelette (1885-1887); Mexican lottery ticket (1889); letters from Mary Carter, Dallas, Texas (1891); city license issued to Emanuel Chelette, teamster (1893); tax receipts (1897-1899)
	1:4	1900?- 1919	(68 items.) <a href="#">View online</a> Letter from the Census Office to Peter Chelette (1900); Tax receipts for Mrs. Atala Chelette and Emanuel Chelette

**ATALA CHELETTE AND FAMILY PAPERS**

1819-(1841-1899)-1919

**Ms. 979****LSU Libraries Special Collections**

<u>Stack</u> <u>Location</u>	<u>Box:</u> <u>Folder</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Contents</u>
B:18	1:5	1874?- 1919?	(14 items.) <a href="#">View online</a> Receipts from Anchor Supply Co., New Orleans, La.; receipt from the Convent of Divine Providence in Natchitoches; fragment of a letter from the State Penitentiary, Baton Rouge, La.; envelope addressed to Miss M.A. Joson

**Index Terms**

Angélique (Freed slave of Louis Fort), active 1819.

Chelette family.

Chelette, Atala, active 1874-1919.

Chelette, Emanuel, active 1889-1919.

Chelette, Peter, active 1885-1900?

Fort, Louis, active 1819-1840.

Joson family.

Joson, Louis Martin, active 1871-1880.

Joson, Mary Athalie, active 1873-1884.

Perot, Joseph, 1799-1876.

Perot, Marie Rosalie, active 1840-1876.

International Brotherhood of Teamsters.

Joson Plantation (La.)

African Americans – Louisiana.

Free African Americans--Louisiana--Natchitoches Parish.

Lottery tickets – Mexico.

Receipts (Acknowledgments)

Slaves--Emancipation--Louisiana.

Natchitoches Parish (La.)

New Orleans (La.)

Rapides Parish (La.)

Container List

<u>Stack Location</u>	<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder(s)</u>	<u>Contents (with dates)</u>
B:18	1	1	1819-1855 (18 items.) <a href="#">View online</a>
		2	1868-1879 (22 items.) <a href="#">View online</a>
		3	1880-1889 (37 items.) <a href="#">View online</a>
		4	1900?-1919 (68 items.) <a href="#">View online</a>
		5	1874?-1919? (14 items.) <a href="#">View online</a>
MF:5750, Series E		Reel 6	
Microfiche 2729			