

**See also UPA microfilm:**  
MF 5735, Series B, Reel 18

**JOSEPH B. STRATTON PAPERS**  
Mss. 464, 1329  
Inventory

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

Reformatted 2007  
Updated 2020

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**Use of manuscript materials.** If you wish to examine items in the manuscript group, please place a request via the Special Collections Request System. Consult the Container List for location information.

**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.

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>	0.9 linear ft., 2 microfilm reels
<b>Geographic locations.</b>	Natchez, Mississippi; Louisiana; New Jersey; New York; Pennsylvania
<b>Inclusive dates.</b>	1746-1916
<b>Bulk dates.</b>	1843-1903
<b>Language.</b>	English
<b>Summary.</b>	Diaries and papers of a Presbyterian minister concerning his activities during the ante-bellum period and his work as a minister.
<b>Organization.</b>	Arranged chronologically.
<b>Restrictions on access.</b>	None.
<b>Related collections.</b>	None.
<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>	Joseph B. Stratton Papers, Mss. 464, 1329, Louisiana and Lower Mississippi Valley Collections, LSU Libraries, Baton Rouge, La.
<b>Stack location(s).</b>	A:53-54; B:69; OS:S; MSS.MF:S
<b>Also available on:</b>	Microfilm 5735, Series B, reel 18; includes only Diaries 24-28 and 1865 Sermon.

## **BIOGRAPHICAL/HISTORICAL NOTE**

Joseph Buck Stratton, a native of Bridgeton, New Jersey, was born on December 24, 1815, to Hannah Buck Stratton (died 1854) and Nathan Leake Stratton (died 1862), the founder of a prominent mercantile house in Bridgeton, N.J. He graduated from Princeton in 1833 and was admitted to the bar in 1837. He practiced law in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, until 1840. In that year, he abandoned his legal practice and entered the Theological Seminary at Princeton. He was ordained by the Presbytery of Mississippi and installed as the pastor of the Presbyterian Church of Natchez, Miss., in 1843. Stratton received an honorary doctor of Divinity from his alma mater in 1856. He served as pastor of the Natchez church until his retirement in 1894. He died in Natchez in 1903.

Joseph Stratton was married to Mary Vannuxen Stratton (1819-1848), a native of Pennsylvania, in 1844. They had two children, Sidney Vannuxen and Mary (died 1863). He was married again on November 16, 1852 to Caroline Matilda Williams Stratton, a native of Adams County, Mississippi. They had one child, Joseph Buck Stratton, Jr. (1853-1888).

## **SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE**

The papers of Joseph B. Stratton are primarily comprised of his diaries (1843-1903). They record pastoral duties such as prayer meetings, services conducted, baptisms, weddings, funerals, and visitations. He also describes his travels, the Civil War, and the yellow fever epidemics of 1853, 1855, 1858, and 1871. The sermons (1835-1871) are handwritten manuscripts, one entitled *Fourth of July Oration* (1835) and the rest from various scriptures. Printed materials (1869-1893) include transcriptions of sermons, printed speeches by Stratton (1875), a pastoral letter (1886), a discourse by Stratton with a biographical sketch of the Natchez Presbyterian Church, a railroad map of the Gulf Coast (1916), and a typed bound transcript of his diaries (1843-1903). The legal documents are comprised of land deeds (1746-1789) from New Jersey, New York, and Pennsylvania, a printed obligation for the sum of 200 pounds (1797), a certificate of ordination (1854), and a certificate from the Concordia Parish, Louisiana Clerk of Court authorizing Stratton to officiate marriage ceremonies in that parish (1856). Correspondence (1856-1895) consists of family letters, such as two letters from Joseph Stratton to his daughter Mary while on his travels, Mrs. Stratton writing of their time in England, and a birth announcement of Kathrine Cannon. The graphic materials include a scrapbook containing family genealogies and histories, photographs, newspaper clippings, and drawings. Also included in graphic material is a photograph of the interior of the Natchez Presbyterian Church (1893) and architectural drawings.

COLLECTION DESCRIPTION

<u>Stack</u> <u>Location</u>	<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Description</u>	
A:53	1	1	Diary 1: December 31, 1843 (describing ordination) Diary 2: November 15, 1847-October 29, 1848 Diary 3: October 30, 1848-January 1, 1849 Diary 4: February 1, 1849-May 7, 1849	
		2	Diary 5: May 8, 1849-July 13, 1849 Diary 6: July 14, 1849-September 25, 1849 Diary 7: September 26, 1849-December 23, 1849 Diary 8: December 23, 1849-February 17, 1850	
		3	Diary 9: February 17, 1850-May 4, 1850 Diary 10: May 5, 1850-October 17, 1850 Diary 11: October 17, 1850-January 14, 1851 Diary 12: January 14, 1851-April 13, 1851	
		4	Diary 13: April 13, 1851-July 29, 1851 Diary 14: July 29, 1851-April 10, 1852 Diary 15: April 10, 1852-August 1, 1852 Diary 16: August 1, 1852-February 24, 1853	
		5	Diary 17: February 25, 1853-November 22, 1853 Diary 18: November 22, 1853-May 1, 1854 Diary 19: May 1, 1854-September 23, 1855 Diary 20: September 23, 1855-July 6, 1856	
		6	Diary 21: July 6, 1856-May 17, 1857 Diary 22: May 17, 1857-February 3, 1858 Diary 23: February 3, 1858-March 18, 1860 Diary 24: March 18, 1860-September 23, 1861	
		2	1	Diary 25: September 23, 1861-September 10, 1862 Diary 26: September 10, 1862-August 12, 1863 Diary 27: August 12, 1863-April 19, 1865 Diary 28: April 19, 1865-September 5, 1866
			2	Diary 29: September 5, 1866-May 19, 1867 Diary 30: May 19, 1867-June 18, 1869 Diary 31: June 18, 1869-December 1, 1870 Diary 32: December 1, 1870-November 12, 1871

<u>Stack</u> <u>Location</u>	<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Description</u>		
A:53	2	3	Diary 33: November 12, 1871-August 3, 1873 Diary 34: August 3, 1873-September 30, 1875 Diary 35: September 30, 1875-February 25, 1877 Diary 36: February 28, 1877-September 15, 1878		
		4	Diary 37: September 15, 1878-April 26, 1880 Diary 38: April 26, 1880-October 7, 1882 Diary 39: October 7, 1882-June 29, 1885 Diary 40: June 29, 1885-June 23, 1886		
		5	Diary 41: June 23, 1886-April 20, 1890		
		6	Diary 42: April 20, 1890-February 1, 1894		
		7	Diary 43: February 2, 1894-February 18, 1899		
		8	Diary 44: February 18, 1899-August 13, 1899 Diary 45: August 13, 1899-October 31, 1902		
		3	1	1	Diary 46: October 26, 1902-October 1903
				2	Sermon: "Fourth of July Oration" given in New Jersey, 1835
				3	Sermon: "Secret Prayer," 1846
				4	Sermon: "Solomon's Temple," 1864
5	Sermon: "The bed too short and the cover too narrow," 1865				
6	Sermon: "Andronicus & Junias, 1870				
7	Sermon: "Know, Sow, Seek, Go," 1871				
8	Printed Materials: "Memorial of a Quarter-Century's Pastorate," 1869				
9	Printed Materials: "Anniversary Sermons," 1869-1894				
10	Printed Materials: "Address of the Rev. Jos. B. Stratton, D.D., Delivered July 23, 1875, before the trustees, professors, and students of Jefferson College, Washington, Adams County, Mississippi," 1875				

<u>Stack Location</u>	<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Description</u>
<b>A:53</b>	3	11	Printed Materials: "Pastoral Letter and Prayer-Meeting Topics, 1886"
		12	Printed Materials: "Semi-Centennial Discourse Delivered by Rev. Jos. B. Stratton, D.D., Pastor December 31, 1893 in the Presbyterian Church, Natchez, Miss. with Biographical Sketch of the Natchez Church and Letter from Dr. Palmer," 1893
		13	Correspondence: Letters from Stratton to his daughter Mary from Berlin and Cincinnati; letter from Mrs. Stratton from York; birth announcement of Kathrine Cannon (April 20, 1895), 1839-1895
		14	Photograph: Church altar, 1893
<b>A:54</b>	4	--	Printed Materials: Diary, 1843-1865
		--	Printed Materials: Diary, 1866-1903
<b>B:69</b>	5	--	Scrapbook
		6	--
<b>OS:S</b>	--	1	Legal Documents: Printed obligation for the sum of 200 pounds (1797), certificate of ordination as Minister of the Presbytery of Mississippi (1854), certificate from Concordia Parish Clerk of Court authorizing Stratton to officiate marriage ceremonies in that parish (1856), 1797-1854
		2	Legal Documents: Land deeds from New Jersey, New York, and Pennsylvania, 1746-1789
		3	Architectural Drawings, undated
		4	Railroad Pap of the Gulf Coast, 1916

**INDEX TERMS**

**Materials relating to these people, places, and things can be found throughout the entire collection.**

Clergymen--Mississippi, 19th century.

Diaries.

Maps.

Natchez (Miss.)--History Civil War, 1861-1865.

Natchez (Miss.)--History 19th century.

Natchez (Miss.)--Social life and customs.

Natchez Presbyterian Church (Natchez, Mississippi)

Presbyterians--Mississippi.

Sermons.

Stratton, Joseph B., 1815-1903.



CONTAINER LIST

<u>Stack</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder(s)</u>	<u>Contents (with dates)</u>
	<b>A:53</b>	1	1-6	Diaries, 1843-1861
		2	1-8	Diaries, 1861-1902
		3	1	Diary, 1902-1903
			2-7	Sermons, 1835-1871
			8-12	Printed Materials, 1869-1893
			13	Correspondence, 1839-1895
			14	Photograph of Church, 1893
	<b>A:54</b>	4	--	Printed Materials, 1843-1903
	<b>B:69</b>	5	--	Scrapbook
		6	--	Scrapbook Cover
	<b>OS:S</b>	--	1	Legal Documents, 1797-1856
		--	2	Legal Documents [land deeds], 1746-1789
		--	3	Architectural Drawings
		--	4	Railroad Map of the Gulf Coast, 1916
	<b>MSS.MF:S</b>	--	--	Reels 1-2: Joseph B. Stratton Papers, 1746-1916