

**GALVEZTOWN PAPERS**

Mss. 890

Inventory

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

Reformatted 2003

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**SUMMARY**

<b>Size</b>	0.6 linear ft.
<b>Geographic Locations</b>	Ascension Parish, La.
<b>Inclusive Dates</b>	1778-1924
<b>Languages</b>	Spanish, English
<b>Summary</b>	The Galveztown Papers contain copies of correspondence, government documents, and land records relating to a Spanish settlement in Louisiana located in present-day Ascension Parish.
<b>Access Restrictions</b>	None.
<b>Reproduction Note</b>	May be reproduced.
<b>Copyright</b>	For those materials not in the public domain, copyright is retained by the descendants of the creators in accordance with U.S. Copyright law.
<b>Related Collections</b>	Galveztown Documents, Mss. 3990, Louisiana and Lower Mississippi Valley Collections, LSU Libraries, Baton Rouge, La.
<b>Citation</b>	Galveztown Papers, Mss. #(s), Louisiana and Lower Mississippi Valley Collections, LSU Libraries Special Collections, Baton Rouge, La.
<b>Stack Location(s)</b>	C:7

## **BIOGRAPHICAL/HISTORICAL NOTE**

In 1778, Lieutenant Governor of Louisiana and West Florida Gilbert Antoine de St. Maxent was sent by Spanish Governor Bernardo de Gálvez to settle Islenos (immigrants to Louisiana from the Canary Islands) at the junction of the Amite River and Bayou Manchac in an area already inhabited by Anglo-American settlers loyal to the British who had fled the Revolutionary War. Governor Galvez built a military stronghold at this location to protect against the British in West Florida, offering the “Loyalists” asylum and drafting the Islenos into the militia and putting them in charge of defending against an invasion. The settlement was named Galveztown in the governor’s honor.

Galveztown eventually lost its importance as a military post, and the population began to decline from disease, floods, hurricanes, droughts, and high shipping costs. By 1806, most residents had fled, with most moving west to form Spanish Town, La. (part of present-day Baton Rouge). The few remaining settlers formed the community of Galvez, La., in the early nineteenth century, which is located just west of the original Galveztown location in present-day Ascension Parish.

## **SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE**

The Galveztown Papers consist of typescripts, photostats, and translations of documents in the Archivo General de Indias, Papeles Procedentes de Cuba at Seville, Spain. Records pertain to Galveztown, a former Spanish settlement in what is now Ascension Parish, and the militia in the Spanish colony of Louisiana, circa 1778. The copies were prepared for V. M. Scramuzza for use in his thesis, “Galvestown: A Spanish Settlement of Colonial Louisiana,” later printed in the *Louisiana Historical Quarterly* XIII, 553-609. The copy was made by I. A. Wright, and the documents contain notations and summaries made by him and his assistants. The complete list of the documents from which these were selected is found in Roscoe R. Hill, *Descriptive Catalogue of the Documents Relating to the History of the United States in the Papeles Procedentes de Cuba Deposited in the Archivo General de Indias at Seville* (Washington: Carnegie Institution of Washington, 1916).

Also included in the papers are copies of the historical data and letters of Theodore John Dimitry and the ruling of the historian-general of the Sons of the American Revolution on the basis of this correspondence, permitting descendants of ancestors who served in the Louisiana Volunteer Militia as Spanish allies in Galvez’s army, 1779- 1781, to join the Sons of the American Revolution.

**INDEX TERMS**

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

<b>Gálvez, Bernardo de, 1746-1786.</b>
<b>Sons of the American Revolution--Membership.</b>
<b>Galveztown (La.)--History.</b>
<b>Louisiana—History--To 1803.</b>
<b>Louisiana--Militia.</b>
<b>Spain—Colonies--America.</b>
<b>United States—History--Revolution, 1775-1783--Participation, Spanish.</b>
<b>Letters (correspondence)</b>
<b>Muster rolls.</b>
<b>Petitions.</b>
<b>Dimitry, Theodore John.</b>

**CONTAINER LIST**

<b><u>Stack</u></b> <b><u>Location</u></b>	<b><u>Box</u></b>	<b><u>Folder</u></b>	<b><u>Contents (with dates)</u></b>
C:7	1	1-6	Correspondence and government documents, 1778-1779
		7-8	Correspondence and government documents, 1780-1781
		9	Correspondence and government documents, 1782-1786
		10-12	Land sale and government documents, 1791-1793
	2	1-2	Land sale and government documents, 1794-1804
		3	Sons of the American Revolution correspondence, 1902-1903
		4	Sons of the American Revolution correspondence, 1920-1924
		10-12	Land sale and government documents, 1791-1793