

THEODULE VERRET PAPERS

Mss. 905

Inventory

Compiled by
Christopher Bienvenu

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

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SUMMARY

Size	0.9 linear ft., 1 OS folder
Geographic Locations	Mandeville, La., New Orleans, La.
Inclusive Dates	1804-1894, undated
Bulk Dates	1850-1870, undated
Languages	English, French, and Spanish
Summary	Business and personal papers of Theodule Verret of Mandeville, St. Tammany Parish. The bulk of the papers concern his sawmill and lumber business and the renting or leasing of property he owned in New Orleans. Receipts, bills, and contracts are also present, as well as personal letters and printed materials. Some records are in French.
Access Restrictions	None
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Citation	Theodule Verret Papers, Mss. 905, Louisiana and Lower Mississippi Valley Collections, LSU Libraries Special Collections, Baton Rouge, La.
Stack Location(s)	E:38, OS:V

BIOGRAPHICAL/HISTORICAL NOTE

Theodule Jules Verret (1817-1896) was the son of Dr. Edouard Verret and the former Marie-Cesaire Dreux de Gentilly. His father's family was descended from Nicolas Verret, a founder of St. James Parish, Louisiana, and his mother was a member of one of the founding families of New Orleans. Verret married Marie-Azélie Foucher in 1842, and they owned several properties in New Orleans, including the Fleur de Lis Mansion, which Marie inherited from her grandfather (Thomas Souler). The Verrets had at least four children who survived childhood: Marie M., Honoré Amable, Louis Joseph, Anais, and Jeanne.

Verret began a sawmill and lumber business in St. Tammany Parish, and in 1849, he and his growing family moved to a new home in Mandeville on Lakeshore Drive with a view of Lake Pontchartrain. In addition to running his business, he served as mayor and ex-officio justice of the peace in Mandeville beginning in 1859. He was appointed to the police jury for St. Tammany Parish in 1865 and later served as parish tax collector and treasurer. Theodule Verret died in May of 1896 after suffering a stroke.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The Theodule Verret Papers contain the business and personal papers of Theodule Verret, some of which are in French and Spanish. Most of the collection is comprised of business papers that concern his sawmill and lumber business in Mandeville, the rent or lease of his properties in New Orleans, and his position as parish treasurer. Records include receipts, bills, contracts, and legal documents. Correspondence in the collection covers mostly business matters, but a few personal letters are also present. Printed materials such as speeches, almanacs, and catalogs are included as well.

LIST OF SERIES

Series I. Business and Personal Papers, 1804-1894, undated

Series II. Printed Materials, 1851-1892, undated

SERIES DESCRIPTIONS

Series I. Business and Personal Papers, 1804-1894, undated

The bulk of this series concerns Theodule Verret's sawmill and lumber business and the renting or leasing of property he owned in New Orleans. Materials include such items as billing statements for purchases at area stores, receipts, contracts, and other documents reflecting financial transactions; many of these records are in French.

Early documents include an 1810 designation of power of attorney to Jonathan H. Lawrence, signed by Abraham Lott (box 1, folder 1), and a property contract from 1844 for Theodule's father, Edouard (box 1, folder 2). Business correspondence includes letters and statements to Verret from State Superintendent of Education Robert M. Lusher concerning public-school funds (box 2, folder 6) and correspondence from W. H. Palfrey, the agent managing his property in New Orleans. Also among the correspondence is an 1865 letter from Thomas C. W. Ellis, a candidate for state senator, stating his political views (box 2, folder 5). Certificates naming Verret to various public offices in St. Tammany Parish are also present (OS folder).

Personal papers include a few letters from friends and family and a grade report from Mount Saint Mary's College in Maryland from 1872 regarding his son, Louis (box 2, folder 14). This series is arranged chronologically, and some records are in French.

Series II. Printed Materials, 1851-1892, undated

This series contains printed materials owned by Theodule Verret. Items include printings of several legislative speeches, one of which is a French translation (box 3, folder 4). Also included are two college catalogs, one for Centenary College of Louisiana and one for Mount Saint Mary's College in Maryland (box 3, folder 3). A damaged and undated booklet of police jury regulations, and a publication on the Presbyterian church in Mississippi and Louisiana are also present (box 3, folder 2). This series is mostly arranged by material type, then chronologically within folders.

INDEX TERMS

Materials relating to these people, places, and things can be found in the series indicated, as represented by their numbers.

Sawmills—Louisiana.	I
School purchasing—Louisiana.	I
Lumber trade—Louisiana.	I
Saint Tammany Parish (La.)—History—19th century.	I
Verret, Theodule, 1817-1896.	I-II
Lusher, Robert Mills, 1823-1890.	I
Letters (correspondence)	I
New Orleans (La.)-- History—19th century.	I-II
Mandeville (La.)-- History—19th century.	I-II

CONTAINER LIST

<u>Stack Location</u>	<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Contents (with dates)</u>
Series I. Business and Personal Papers, 1804-1894, undated			
E:38	1	1-3	Business papers, 1804-1848
		4-6	Business papers, May 1849 – December 1850
		7-11	Business papers, 1851-1854
	2	1-4	Business papers, 1855-1860
		5-8	Business papers, 1861-1879
		9-11	Business papers, 1881-1894
		12-13	Business papers, undated
		14-15	Personal papers, 1851-1893, undated
OS:V	--	OS 1	Certificates, tax documents, etc., 1859-1890, undated
Series II. Printed Materials, 1851-1892, undated			
E:38	3	1	<i>Affleck's Southern Rural Almanac and Plantation and Garden Calendar</i> , 1852
			<i>1890 Regulator Almanac for Memoranda</i> , 1890-1892
		2	Booklet: "Home Missions and Its Needs in the Synod of Mississippi" [Presbyterian publication], 1892
			Police jury regulation booklet [front cover and pages missing], undated
		3	<i>Catalogue of the Officers and Students of Mount Saint Mary's College</i> , Emmittsburg, Md, 1877-1878
			<i>Catalogue of Centenary College of Louisiana</i> , Jackson, La., 1887-1888
		4	Speech of Hon. Samuel S. Cox of New York, House of Representatives, March 12, 1878
			"Review of the Reform Legislation of 1877 and 1878," Speech of Hon. Edward D. White of Orleans, Senate of Louisiana, March 18, 1878
			Speech of Hon. Benjamin F. Jonas of Louisiana, Senate of the United States, April 26, 1880
			French translations of excerpts from <i>The Congressional Globe</i> , undated
		5	Interstate Building and Loan Association pamphlets and blank forms, 1890
		6	Miscellaneous printed items, 1851-1869, undated