

PORTEOUS (THOMAS CLARK) PAPERS
(Mss. 1200, 1201, 1316)
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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CONTENTS OF INVENTORY

SUMMARY	3
BIOGRAPHICAL/HISTORICAL NOTE	4
SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE	4
COLLECTION DESCRIPTION	5
INDEX TERMS	6
CONTAINER LIST	7

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SUMMARY

Size.	137 items and 6 manuscript volumes
Geographic locations.	New Orleans, Louisiana; St. Charles Parish, La.
Inclusive dates.	1858-1898
Bulk dates.	N/A
Language.	English.
Summary.	Manager of Levois Drygoods Store in New Orleans and of Star Plantation, St. Charles Parish, Louisiana; and bookkeeper for the Godchaux Department Store in New Orleans. Papers include documents related to Porteous' work at Star Plantation and at the stores. Included are letters, bank books, account records, receipts, and a map of the plantation.
Organization.	N/A
Restrictions on access.	If microfilm is available, photocopies must be made from microfilm. Due to the fragility of v. 6, letter book (1878-1883) access is restricted.
Related collections.	Laura L. Porteous Collection, Mss. 1200
Copyright.	Copyright of the original materials is retained by descendants of the creators in accordance with U.S. copyright law.
Citation.	Thomas Clark Porteous Papers, Mss. 1200, 1201, 1316, Louisiana and Lower Mississippi Valley Collections, LSU Libraries, Baton Rouge, La.
Stack location(s).	C:68, J:9, M:21

BIOGRAPHICAL/HISTORICAL NOTE

Thomas Clark Porteous, born in Edinburgh, Scotland, was manager of Levois Drygoods Store, New Orleans, and Star Plantation, St. Charles Parish, Louisiana. Both the store and the plantation were owned by J. Levois of Paris, France. The store (133 Canal Street) was rented from Fellman Brothers. Porteous, a resident of New Orleans since 1859, was also a bookkeeper from 1891-1919 for Godchaux Department Store in New Orleans.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

Papers consist of family business papers, public instruments of protest, tax statements, and related items pertaining to Porteous' association with absentee owner, J. Levois and his heirs. Other papers include a letter (1891) describing Porteous' service, 1862-1865, in Fenner's Battery of Light Artillery, and an 1863 account of the "Battle of the Oyster Shells" by Major General Nathaniel T. Banks. A letterpress copybook (1878-1883) contains weekly letters to Levois and family, giving information about New Orleans retail trade and real estate, crop conditions, and labor problems at Star Plantation. A map of Star Plantation in 1858 is sketched in the volume, and local customs, yellow fever epidemics, economic trends, and other topics are discussed. Porteous' account and collection book contains an alphabetical list of outstanding accounts for Levois Drygoods Store (1882-1884) and for sale of bricks (1885). A bank book (1886-1889), a cashbook (1880-1890), and two check stub books (1887-1891) comprise the remaining volumes.

COLLECTION DESCRIPTION

Business and personal papers of Thomas C. Porteous pertain to his association with J. Levois and Co., New Orleans dry goods store (1858-1898, undated). These include tax receipts, public instruments of protest, promissory notes, insurance documents, stock certificates, titles and sales of property in New Orleans (1872-1876), and specifications for repairs and additions to a home on Prytania Street in New Orleans (1897). Also included are an account of the "Battle of the Oyster Shells" by Major General Nathaniel T. Banks (1863) and a letter from Porteous describing his service, 1862-1865, in Fenner's Battery of Light Artillery (1891).

The collection also contains six manuscript volumes:

Volume 1, Bank book, 1886-1889

New Orleans National Bank in account with T.C. Porteous, tutor for minor, Mary Hale Porteous.

Volume 2, Cashbook, 1880-1890

Includes expenses for store (1880-1882), entries for the estate of George and Mary Hale Porteous in account with T.C. Porteous, tutor for Mary Hale Porteous (1886-1890).

Volume 3, Cashbook, 1882-1885

Volume 4, Check stub book, 1887-1889

Volume 5, Check stub book, 1890-1891

Volume 6, Letter book, 1878-1883 Access restricted due to fragility.

Letter book of Thomas C. Porteous contains weekly letters to J. Levois and, after his death in 1879, to his heirs living in Paris concerning the conditions on Star Plantation and reporting the amounts of credit sales, collections, and cash sales for the store. Porteous reports routine business information, weather and economic conditions, local customs, and other related issues which affect the plantation and store business. He mentions the impact of a yellow fever epidemic in New Orleans on business (1878) and the trouble of an African American overseer controlling plantation workers (December 27, 1878). Also included is a map of Star Plantation sketched in the volume (1858).

INDEX TERMS

Dry-goods--Louisiana.

Levois Drygoods Store (New Orleans, La.)

Levois family.

Levois, J.

New Orleans (La.)--History--19th century.

Porteous, Thomas Clark, 1841-1919.

Saint Charles Parish (La.)--History--19th century.

Star Plantation (La.)

Stores, Retail--Louisiana.

CONTAINER LIST

<u>Stack</u>			
<u>Location</u>	<u>Box</u>	<u>Folders</u>	<u>Contents (with dates)</u>
C:68	1	1-4	Business and legal papers (1855-1898)
J:9	--	--	Volume 1, Bank book (1886-1889)
	--	--	Volume 2, Cashbook (1880-1896)
	--	--	Volume 3, Cashbook (1882-2883)
	--	--	Volume 4, Check stub book (1887-1889)
	--	--	Volume 5, Check stub book (1840-1895)
M:21	--	--	Volume 6, Letterbook (1878-1883)- Access restricted due to fragility.
	1	--	Account of the "Battle of the Oyster Shells" by Major General Nathaniel T. Banks (1863)