

WILLIAM SUTHERLAND HAMILTON PAPERS

Mss. 3167

Inventory

Louisiana and Lower Mississippi Valley Collections
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Louisiana State University Libraries
Baton Rouge, Louisiana State University

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SUMMARY

Size.	0.5 linear ft.
Geographic locations.	Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, Pennsylvania
Inclusive dates.	1766-1879, 1942, undated
Language.	English
Summary.	United States Army officer, planter, slave owner, and politician born in North Carolina and later resident of Louisiana. Papers consist chiefly of correspondence received and written by William S. Hamilton but also other Hamilton family members; Stewart family members; and other friends and relatives.
Organization.	Papers (including map, carte-de-visite, and printed materials) are arranged chronologically.
Restrictions on access.	None.
Related collections.	William S. Hamilton Papers, Mss. 1209
Copyright.	For those materials not in the public domain, copyright is retained by the descendants of the creators in accordance with U.S. Copyright law.
Citation.	William Sutherland Hamilton Papers, Mss. 3167, Louisiana and Lower Mississippi Valley Collections, LSU Libraries, Baton Rouge, La.
Stack locations.	UU:148, OS:H

BIOGRAPHICAL/HISTORICAL NOTE

William S. (Sutherland, also spelled Southerland) Hamilton was born in Edenton, North Carolina in either 1787 or 1789. He was the son of John and Angel Hamilton, daughter of Jane Hamilton (née Peck). They most likely married in 1785. John was a lawyer who practiced in Maryland and then North Carolina. Angel died in North Carolina, most likely in January of 1790, after which John moved to Louisiana. John eventually remarried Ann Hamilton. He died in July of 1822. William was educated at the College of New Jersey, now Princeton University. He served as an officer (as a lieutenant and then a lieutenant colonel) in the United States Army (1808-1817). He married Eliza C. Stewart, daughter of Duncan Stewart and Penelope Jones. In Louisiana, William was a planter, slave owner, and politician. He cultivated cotton at Holly Grove Plantation in West Feliciana Parish, most likely near Laurel Hill. His involvement in state and local politics included membership on the first board of trustees for the College of Louisiana (1825) in Jackson and a term in the Louisiana Legislature (1828-1830).

Before serving in the Louisiana Legislature, he unsuccessfully ran against Henry H. Gurley for United States representative for Louisiana. In 1830, he made an unsuccessful bid for governor of Louisiana as a Jacksonian Democrat, losing to Whig candidate Andre B. Roman. At some point in the late 1850s, he was admitted to a psychiatric hospital in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, most likely the Pennsylvania Asylum for the Insane. He died on December 24, 1862 in West Philadelphia. He is buried in Laurel Hill Cemetery in Philadelphia.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

Papers consist mainly of letters received and written by William S. Hamilton. Some letters were received and/or written by other Hamilton family members, including John Hamilton, Eliza C. Hamilton, Douglas M. Hamilton, Penelope S. Hamilton, Catherine S. Hamilton, John A. Hamilton, and Franklin H. Hamilton; Duncan Stewart, T. Jones Stewart, and other Stewart family members; Elizabeth Belhaven; Colonel John Darrington; R. Davidson; C. Edmunds; John Little; and others. In addition to documenting news about and communications between family and friends, correspondence also reflects on various aspects of plantation economy and its financial and political corollaries; living conditions, health problems, and diseases, including yellow fever; medical treatments; conditions in the United States Army during and after the War of 1812; and the political and economic situation in Texas (1840-1844) before annexation and the Mexican War.

Additional items in the collection include certificates, a map, a carte-de-visite, and other printed materials.

COLLECTION DESCRIPTION

While the following descriptions are not exhaustive, they do describe the majority of items in the collection. Most item descriptions include specific days and months, but some descriptions are more general and only list the year(s).

Letter (typescript copy) from Alexander Hamilton, London, to his wife Elizabeth Hamilton, Philadelphia, telling her of his personal affairs in Scotland and England, also reporting on family members and acquaintances, July 19, 1766.

Letter from Elizabeth Belhaven, Edinburgh, Scotland, to her brother John Hamilton, Strawberry Hill near Edenton, North Carolina, reporting on family members, also discusses advantages of living in the United States, June 29, 1798.

Membership certificate from the Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons for John Hamilton, stating that he is a member of the Masons of the states of North Carolina and Tennessee. Given at Raleigh, North Carolina, December 18, 1805.

Letter from William S. Hamilton, a student at the College of New Jersey (Princeton University), to his father John Hamilton, Elizabeth City, North Carolina, regarding William's education and expressing home sickness, regrets the separation between him and his father "from my infancy," August 23, 1806.

Handwritten dinner invitation on behalf of James Madison to Mr. Hamilton of North Carolina, March 26, 1808.

Resolution by North Carolina Chowan Baptist Association, addressed to Thomas Jefferson, former President of the United States, signed Outlaw Moderator, J. (probably John) Hamilton, Clerk, May 6, 1809.

Letter from Nathaniel Mason, Washington, to Colonel John Hamilton, St. Francisville, West Florida, regarding the promotion of his son William S. Hamilton and other young North Carolinians. Foresees war with England (War of 1812), March 18, 1812.

Letters from John Little, Edenton, North Carolina, to William S. Hamilton, discussing financial and political aspects of plantation economy, old and new sources of trade between the North and South, prices for slaves and cotton, yellow fever, and the War of 1812, 1814-1821.

Letters from J. G. Swift and Anderson Arnold to Lieutenant Colonel William S. Hamilton, 3rd United States Rifles, Washington City and Albany, discussing America's military preparedness with regard to England, France, and Russia, March 20, 30, 1814.

Two letters from Lieutenant William Alexander, 3rd Regiment Riflemen, Rutherfordton, North Carolina, mentioning difficulties in recruitment for United States Army, June 13, 1814.

Letter from C. Edmunds, Carlisle, Pennsylvania, to William S. Hamilton, informing him of dread disease raging among soldiers in the United State Army, taking the best soldiers, and there is no remedy available, March 22, 1815.

Petition for pardon by nine United States Army prisoners addressed to Lieutenant Colonel William S. Hamilton, Commander of Carlisle Barracks, Pennsylvania, July 1, 1815.

Letters between Eliza C. Hamilton and her husband William S. Hamilton, regarding their relationship, also family and plantation matters, 1818-1828.

Letters from R. Davidson, New Orleans, to William S. Hamilton, describing in detail symptoms and deaths caused by the epidemic (yellow fever), September 20; mentions that city is healthy again and teases Hamilton about his impending marriage to Eliza C. Stewart, December 6, 1817.

Letter from Duncan Stewart, Wilkinson County, mentioning cornerstone laying of Woodville Bank as a propitious event, March 9, 1818.

Letter from R. Post Johnson, New Orleans, to William S. Hamilton, near St. Francisville, mentioning that he is sending, by way of Dr. Chinn, some garden seeds. Includes list of each seed by name and detailed instructions on their agricultural use and care, January 20, 1822.

Several letters discussing the political and economic situation of Texas, 1840-1844.

Letter from Colonel John Darrington, Brazoria, Texas, to William S. Hamilton, near Laurel Hill, St. Francisville, discussing imminent danger of an attack on Texas by Mexico, under General Santa Anna. Texans ready to defend their freedom, receive aid from the United States, April 5, 1842.

Letter from Colonel John Darrington, New Orleans, to William S. Hamilton, Woodville, mentioning that the United States should prevent England from taking Texas and presidential possibilities of John C. Calhoun and Henry Clay, Dec. 1, 1843.

Letter from Catherine (Kitty) S. Hamilton to her father William S. Hamilton, mentioning illness and death. Compares Dr. Warren Stone's treatments to those of Dr. Brown, September 15, 1844.

Letter from Colonel John Darrington, Choctaw Bluff, to William S. Hamilton, Woodville, mentioning that he is in favor of annexation of Texas by the United States. Invites Hamilton to join him. There is good sugar land in Texas, October 9, 1844.

Letter from William S. Hamilton to Franklin H. Hamilton, Blue Ball, Butler County, Ohio, admonishing him to spend the winter at home in Laurel Hill, West Feliciana Parish, November 25, 1847.

Letter from O. P. Irwin, Middletown, Ohio, to William S. Hamilton, Laurel Hill, describing the circumstances of his acquaintance with Franklin H. Hamilton and Franklin's stay at Dr. Oliver's farm, May 15, 1848.

Letter from Penelope S. Hamilton, New Orleans, to her father William S. Hamilton, mentioning that she sent home some daguerreotypes of herself and brother John, October 15, 1852.

Letter from William B. Hamilton, New Orleans, to his brother at school in Jackson, Louisiana, giving advice on study habits and education, warning about bad climate, and mentioning family news, April 20, 1854.

Letter from Douglas M. Hamilton, Sharon Springs, to his father William S. Hamilton, mentioning that he is traveling as "an invalid" on his way to White Sulphur Springs, North Carolina. Compares medical and healing qualities of various springs (watering places or health resorts), August 3, 1856.

Letter from Douglas M. Hamilton, Greenwood (possibly Mississippi), to William S. Hamilton, describing Mr. Barrow's successful sugar business, experiments with Chinese sugar seeds, construction of sugar house, and use of machinery in making sugar. Advises on handling of corn crop. Mentions advantages of raising sugar over cotton, January 29, 1857.

Handwritten poem titled "Those Dark Eyes," March 15, 1873.

Letter from Douglas M. Hamilton, near Laurel Hill, to his brother John A. Hamilton, giving description of condition of crops (cotton, corn peas, hay, potatoes, oats, and clover). Mentions drop in cotton price worldwide is not good but may force southern planters into needed agricultural diversification and use of scientific methods, October 3, 1879.

Genealogical notes on the families of Benjamin Peck and John Hamilton, undated.

Survey map of tract in Camden County, North Carolina for John Hamilton. Note in pencil reads "Son of Lord Belhaven, my great, great grandfather," May 20, 1795.

2 newspaper articles on Dr. Warren Stone's life and accomplishments, November 15, 1942, undated.

Photographic item: carte-de-visite of Dr. Warren Stone, undated.

Printed volume: *Analysis of the Congress Spring with Practical Remarks on its Medical Properties* by John H. Steel, M.D. (published New York: William W. Rose), 1856. Also contains handwritten recipes for medical remedies and drugs against consumption, convulsions, and fever, 1856.

Printed volume: *A Short Essay on the Teeth* by C. S. Knapp (published Jackson, Mississippi), 1858. Also contains a newspaper clipping.

Oversize items: Dispensation certificate for Albemarle Masonic Lodge, Elizabeth City, North Carolina, 1807; Biographical sketch of Colonel William S. Hamilton by Lowndes, circa 1830.

INDEX TERMS

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

Diseases--Louisiana--New Orleans.
Hamilton family.
Hamilton, Douglas M. (Douglas Montrose), 1827-1880.
Hamilton, Eliza C.
Hamilton, John, -1822.
Hamilton, W. S. (William Southerland), 1789-
Health resorts--United States.
Letters (correspondence)
Peck family.
Plantation owners--Louisiana--West Feliciana Parish.
Plantations--Economic aspects--Louisiana.
Slaves--Louisiana.
Stone, Warren.
United States. Army--Officers.

CONTAINER LIST

<u>Stack</u>			
<u>Location</u>	<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder(s)</u>	<u>Contents with dates</u>
UU:148	1	1-12	Papers, 1766, 1787-1822
	2	1-9	Papers, 1828-1879, 1942, undated
OS:H	--	1	Dispensation certificate for Albemarle Masonic Lodge, 1807; Biographical sketch of Colonel William S. Hamilton, circa 1830.