

ODOM FAMILY PAPERS

Mss. 4256

Inventory

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

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SUMMARY

Size	0.3 linear feet
Geographic Locations	Louisiana, Texas, South Carolina, Virginia, India, Egypt, Belgium, England, Germany
Inclusive Dates	1850-1987, undated
Bulk Dates	1868-1880; 1942-1945
Languages	English
Summary	Personal papers, financial records, legal documents, and correspondence documenting the experiences of members of the Odom family during the American Civil War and World War II, as well as the activities of family members in the three decades following World War II.
Access Restrictions	Sensitive materials should be viewed with caution.
Copyright	Physical rights and copyright are retained by the LSU Libraries.
Citation	Odom Family Papers, Mss. 4256, Louisiana and Lower Mississippi Valley Collections, LSU Libraries, Baton Rouge, La.
Stack Location	1:53

BIOGRAPHICAL/HISTORICAL NOTE

Thomas J. (Jefferson) Odom was born February 10, 1838, in St. Landry, Louisiana, and was the son of Andrew Odom and Mary Ann Allen of Illinois. Thomas served in the Confederate Army as a member of the 33rd Regiment, Louisiana Volunteers. Following the war, he migrated to Texas, where he married Bettie Maud Richmond in 1877. Bettie died in 1880, after giving birth to their son, George A. Odom.

George A. Odom migrated from Rocksdale, Texas, to Louisiana with his family before he was two years of age. The family settled in Lecompte, Louisiana, and George attended school at the Louisiana State Normal School in Natchitoches and Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge. Following the completion of his studies, he began his career as an educator, teaching at the Dentley School near Lecompte. In 1904, he married Alma Deaton, the great-granddaughter of Alexander Peden. Together, they had nine children. Two of their sons, John S. Odom and Harold L. Odom, served in the United States Armed Forces during World War II.

John S. Odom enlisted in the U.S. Army Air Corps in 1939 after completing his studies at Louisiana State University. He was commissioned in 1941 and had ascended to the rank of major by 1944. He met his wife, Arlys, on January 1, 1942, and they were married in February of 1942, shortly before he deployed for active duty. His brother, Harold L. Odom, enlisted in the United States Marine Corps directly after graduating from Louisiana State University with a Bachelor of Science in Engineering in 1941.

Other family members with records in the Odom Family Papers include three of George A. Odom's other children: Leo M. Odom, Roy H. Odom, and Elsie O. (Odom) Brown.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The Odom Family Papers are composed of correspondence, legal papers, and financial papers documenting the experiences of members of the Odom family. Primary correspondents are Thomas J. Odom, George A. Odom, Harold L. Odom, and John S. Odom.

Early correspondence dates from 1862 to 1885 and primarily consists of the letters of Thomas J. Odom written to his father, Andrew Odom, documenting Thomas' experiences while serving in the Confederate Army. The letters offer details concerning the movements of his company, requests for personal supplies, and news of his brother's death. Additional correspondence from this period includes a letter from Thomas' wife, Maud Richmond Odom, to her sister detailing their life in Texas. Other items of note are a letter from a church parishioner to a member of the Odom family and a letter from Thomas to his mother shortly after the death of his wife (box 1, folders 1-2).

Later correspondence dates from 1940 through 1955 and includes letters from Harold L. Odom to his brother Roy H. Odom, written while Harold was serving in the Pacific with the United States Marine Corps (folder 4). The majority of the correspondence from this period consists of letters written by John S. Odom to his wife, Arlys, while he was deployed with the U.S. Army Air Corps during World War II. The letters provide details of John's experiences en route to England and descriptions of what he encountered during stops in India and Tripoli. Letters also originate from England, Belgium, France, and Germany. The letters provide intimate details concerning the nature of the relationship between John and his wife (folders 5-9). An additional letter written by John to his sister, Elsie Odom Brown, contains four photographs of Benito Mussolini's corpse following his execution, along with a description of the photographs (folder 10). **[Warning: These photographs are graphic in nature and should be viewed with caution.]**

Additional materials include tax receipts dating from 1860 to 1900, financial records, genealogical materials for the Odom and Peden families, and Thomas J. Odom's marriage certificate (folders 11-14, 18). Family photographs are housed in folder 15 and depict various Brown and Odom family members, circa 1920-1945.

Printed materials are comprised of newspaper clippings and articles detailing the professional achievements of Leo M. Odom, Roy H. Odom, George A. Odom, Harold L. Odom, and John S. Odom, as well as newspaper announcements regarding the death of Leo M. Odom's son, Leo J. Odom, Jr. (folder 16). Additional printed materials include ephemera from the 1987 Louisiana State Senate campaign of Richmond Odom and a political booklet titled "History of the Moment," published by Roy H. Odom in 1963 (folder 17). **[Warning: This booklet depicts derogatory stereotypes and racially offensive language and images. It should be viewed with caution.]**

INDEX TERMS

Odom, Andrew, 1804-1888.
Odom, Thomas J. (Thomas Jefferson), 1838-
Odom, George A., 1880-1957.
Odom, Leo M.
Odom, Roy H.
Odom, John S., 1920-
Odom, Harold L.
Brown, Elsie O. (Elsie Odom)
Peden family.
Richmond family.
United States--History--Civil War, 1861-1865.
Louisiana--History--Civil War, 1861-1865.
Marines--United States.
United States. Army--Air Corps.
World War, 1939-1945--Personal narratives, American.
World War, 1939-1945--Campaigns--Pacific Ocean.
World War, 1939-1945--Campaigns--Europe.
Mussolini, Benito, 1883-1945.
United States--Politics and government--20th century.
United States--Race relations.
Letters (correspondence)
Photographs
Pamphlets

ODOM FAMILY PAPERS

1850-1987, undated

Mss. 4256**LSU LIBRARIES SPECIAL COLLECTIONS****CONTAINER LIST**

<u>Stack Location</u>	<u>Box</u>	<u>Folders</u>	<u>Contents with dates</u>
1:53	1	1-2	Thomas J. Odom and family correspondence, 1862-1885, undated
		3	George A. Odom correspondence, 1940-1955
		4	Harold Odom correspondence, 1942-1945
		5-9	John S. Odom correspondence, March 1942-August 1945
		10	John S. Odom correspondence and photographs, June 1945 [Warning – Sensitive Materials]
		11	Receipts, Thomas J. Odom, 1860-1901, undated
		12	Legal documents and financial papers, Andrew Odom, circa 1850-1886
		13	Maud Richmond Odom Papers, 1877-1880
		14	Peden family genealogy, 1913, undated
		15	Family photographs, circa 1920-1945
		16	Newspaper clippings, 1921-1978
		17	Printed materials and ephemera, 1936-1987 [Warning – Sensitive Materials]
		18	Odom genealogical materials, undated