PUGH (THOMAS AND FAMILY) PAPERS
(Mss. #4437)
Inventory

Compiled by
Leslie Bourgeois

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

2009
CONTENTS OF INVENTORY

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

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SUMMARY

Size 0.3 linear feet

Geographic Locations Louisiana

Inclusive Dates 1832-1946

Bulk Dates 1852-1882

Languages English

Summary Correspondence, legal documents, photographs, certificates and diplomas related to the succession of Thomas Pugh, a sugar planter from Madewood Plantation on Bayou Lafourche, La., as well as the personal affairs of the Pugh and related Ballard, Vance and Barton families.

Access Restrictions None

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Related Collections Pugh (Alexander F.) Papers Mss. 354
Pugh (Whitmell Hill) Papers, Mss. 540
Pugh-Williams-Mayes Family Papers, Mss. 730, 733, 741, 1208
Pugh (William W. and Family) Plantation Records, Mss. 740, 753
Pugh (Thomas) Succession Document, Mss. 779
Pugh (Whitmell Hill) Papers, Mss. 810
Pugh (Mrs. Mary W.) Papers, Mss. 897, 1055
Pugh (Francis and William) Papers, Mss. 1077
Pugh (Mrs. W.W., Jr.) Civil War Account, Mss. 1756
Pugh (Col. W.W. and Family) Papers, Mss. 2052, 2113, 2160
Josephine Nicholls Pugh Civil War account and biographical sketch, Mss. 2618
Pugh Family Genealogical Records, Mss. 2747
Pugh (W.W.) Letters, Mss. 3578
Pugh (Josephine Nicholls) Family Papers, Mss. 4275
Pugh (George W.) Collection, Mss. 4750

Citation Thomas Pugh and Family Papers, Mss. #4437, Louisiana and Lower Mississippi Valley Collections, LSU Libraries, Baton Rouge, La.

Stack Locations U:217, OS:P
BIOGRAPHICAL/HISTORICAL NOTE

Thomas Pugh was born on July 4, 1796, in Bertie County, N.C., to parents William Scott Pugh and Elizabeth Bryan Pugh. Along with his half-brothers Whitmell Hill and Augustin, he moved to Louisiana in 1818 and settled on Bayou Lafourche, near Napoleonville, La., in 1820. Pugh married Eliza Catherine Foley (1806-1885), the daughter of John Edward Foley and Alice Long Shaw, in 1825. The couple had sixteen children of which nine survived to adulthood: Edward Foley (1827-1870), David Bryan (1828-1886), Walter John (1829-1888), Alice Elizabeth [McCormick] (1831-1901), Robert Augustin (1833-1887), Mary Whitmell [Ballard] (1836-1874), Richard Lloyd (1837-1885), Elizabeth Bryan [Ratliff] (1839-1917), and Frances “Fannie” Estelle [Beattie] (1847-1923). Pugh worked as a sugar cane planter and built Madewood Plantation, which was completed about 1848. He died on October 31, 1852, at the age of fifty-six.

Mary Whitmell Pugh married Dr. William Ballard in 1856. Their daughter Sidney Ballard married William Washington Vance while their granddaughter Alice Shaw Vance married Geoffrey Alan Barton.
SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The Thomas Pugh and Family Papers consist of correspondence, legal documents, photographs, certificates and diplomas related principally to the personal affairs of the Pugh, Ballard, Vance and Barton families.

Several documents pertain to the succession of Thomas Pugh. An inventory of Pugh’s property completed soon after his death (Nov. 29, 1852) and a later summary (ca. 1858) provide detailed information on his land holdings, slaves, animals, tools and crops, primarily at Madewood Plantation. Two summaries (ca. 1858, ca. 1861) of the succession include additional information on the settling of the estate among Eliza Foley Pugh and her children. The individual accounts of the children from the estate are also available (1853-1866).

The photographs depict members of the Pugh, Ballard, Vance and Barton families, including Thomas and Eliza Foley Pugh, their daughters Elizabeth Pugh Ratliff and Mary Whitmell Pugh Ballard, and granddaughter Sidney Ballard Vance (all undated). Photographs of Dr. Benjamin Ballard, Mary’s father-in-law, and Madewood Plantation are also included (undated). Some of the photographs feature unidentified individuals within these families (undated).

The correspondence consists of three letters from Walter Pugh to his mother’s lawyer and future governor of Louisiana, Francis T. Nicholls, on the issue of settling his portion of his father’s estate (1869). Other items of interest include Benjamin Ballard’s sale of Hopewell Plantation and its slaves in Caldwell Parish, La. (Feb. 11, 1857), a remembrance of Thomas Pugh (undated), the succession of Robert Pugh (Dec. 27, 1947), and the bar certificate of William W. Vance (1877).

The oversize folder consists of diplomas and certificates of members of the Vance family, including the commission of William W. Vance into the “Independent Rifles” of the Volunteer State Troops signed by Wade Hampton, the governor of South Carolina (July 2, 1877).
INDEX TERMS

Ballard family.
Ballard, Benjamin.
Ballard, Mary Pugh, 1836-1874.
Barton family.
Certificates.
Correspondence.
Diplomas.
Hampton, Wade, 1818-1902.
Hopewell Plantation (La.)
Inheritance and succession--Louisiana--Assumption Parish.
Madewood Plantation (La.)
Nicholls, Francis T. (Francis Tillou), 1834-1912.
Plantation owners--Louisiana--Assumption Parish.
Photographic prints.
Pugh family.
Pugh, Eliza Foley, 1806-1885.
Pugh, Robert, d. 1947.
Pugh, Thomas, 1796-1852.
Pugh, Walter, 1829-1888.
Ratliff, Elizabeth Pugh, 1839-1917.
Vance family.
Vance, Sidney Ballard.
Vance, William W.
## CONTAINER LIST

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Stack Location</th>
<th>Box</th>
<th>Folders</th>
<th>Contents</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>U:217</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1-3</td>
<td>Thomas Pugh Succession (1852-1868, undated)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>4</td>
<td>Children’s Accounts from Thomas Pugh Succession (1853-1866)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>5</td>
<td>Benjamin Ballard’s Sale of Hopewell Plantation (1857)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>6</td>
<td>Correspondence (1868-1928)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>7</td>
<td>William W. Vance Bar Certificate, Thomas Pugh Remembrance (1871, undated)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>8</td>
<td>Succession of Robert Pugh, Unidentified Inventory (1946, undated)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>9</td>
<td>Thomas Pugh and Eliza Foley Pugh Photographs (undated)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>10</td>
<td>Arnie Pugh, Elizabeth Pugh Ratliff, and Alice Photographs (undated)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>11-12</td>
<td></td>
<td>Mary Whitmell Pugh Ballard Photographs (undated)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>13</td>
<td></td>
<td>Dr. Benjamin Ballard Photographs (undated)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>14</td>
<td></td>
<td>Sidney Ballard Vance Photographs (undated)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>15</td>
<td></td>
<td>Madewood Plantation, Christ Church, Napoleonville, La. (undated)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>16</td>
<td></td>
<td>Stuart Shaw Portrait (undated)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>17</td>
<td></td>
<td>Unidentified Individuals Photographs (undated)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>18</td>
<td></td>
<td>Unidentified Groups Photographs (undated)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OS:P</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td>Vance Family Certificates and Diplomas (1832-1882, undated)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>