

**J. H. PERCY PAPERS**

Mss. 4759

Inventory

Compiled by  
Nick Skaggs

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

2019

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**SUMMARY**

<b>Size.</b>	2.5 linear ft., 23 manuscript volumes
<b>Geographic locations.</b>	Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, Virginia, England
<b>Inclusive dates.</b>	1717-1978
<b>Bulk dates.</b>	1905-1956
<b>Language.</b>	English, Latin
<b>Summary.</b>	Papers consist of genealogical research materials including correspondence, genealogy notes, family histories, transcriptions of historical documents, and manuscript volumes created, compiled, and collected by J. H. Percy. Also includes some business papers.
<b>Restrictions on access.</b>	None.
<b>Copyright.</b>	For those materials not in the public domain, copyright is retained by the descendants of the creators in accordance with U.S. Copyright law.
<b>Citation.</b>	J. H. Percy Papers, Mss. 4759, Louisiana and Lower Mississippi Valley Collections, LSU Libraries, Baton Rouge, La.
<b>Stack locations.</b>	48:3-4, OS:P

**BIOGRAPHICAL/HISTORICAL NOTE**

J. H. (John Hereford) Percy, also called John Bronaugh Hereford Percy, was born at Highland Plantation in West Baton Rouge Parish on February 20, 1870. He was the son of Clarence Percy (1836-1909) and Annie Matilda Percy, née Hereford (1836-1898). Their other children were Catharine Sarah (1866-1939), Clarence, Jr. (1868-1947), William Richards (1874-1918), and Robert Ryland (1874-1935).

J. H. married Christine Dashiell Howell in West Feliciana Parish on August 14, 1893. Their children who survived infancy were Annie Hereford (1899-1996), Margery Lurty (1902-1989), and Louise Johnson (1903-1981). After working in mercantile insurance and the building and loan businesses through his firm Howell & Percy in St. Francisville, Louisiana, J. H. relocated to Baton Rouge, Louisiana in 1909. There, he helped organize the Capitol Building and Loan Association, directed City National Bank, and ran an insurance and real estate firm called Gottlieb & Percy Agency, Ltd.

Throughout the 1920s, 1930s, and early 1940s, J. H. conducted genealogical research in order to publish a genealogy book titled *The Percy Family of Mississippi and Louisiana, 1776-1943*. He died on March 8, 1960 in Baton Rouge.

**SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE**

Papers include chiefly genealogical research materials related to J. H. Percy's creation of *The Percy Family of Mississippi and Louisiana, 1776-1943*. These materials include correspondence, genealogy notes, transcriptions (mostly typescripts) of documents, printed materials, and some original 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century documents. Other genealogy research materials include alphabetical files of correspondence, notes, transcriptions, and printed materials related to Percy's research of other families and family lines; bound and unbound volumes (including a scrapbook) containing correspondence, notes, transcriptions, and printed materials related to Percy's genealogical research (bound and unbound volumes also contain early typescripts of *The Percy Family of Mississippi...*); cabinet card photographs; and photocopies of identified and unidentified photographic items.

In addition to the genealogical research materials, there are also some business papers. Business papers include correspondence, printed materials, and legal documents related to Percy's real estate, banking, development, and insurance activities and businesses in Louisiana and Mississippi. Also in the business papers are plat and tract survey maps (blueprint maps and negative photocopies of maps) of Fairview Plantation, Retreat Plantation, and other Louisiana and Mississippi areas belonging to and/or once owned by the Percy and Turnbull families.

**LIST OF SERIES AND SUBSERIES**

**Series I. Genealogy Research Papers, 1717-1956, 1978, undated**

**Subseries 1. *The Percy Family of Mississippi and Louisiana* Research Materials, 1784-1878, 1905-1956, undated**

**Subseries 2. Alphabetical Research Files, 1717-1952, undated**

**Subseries 3. Research Volumes, 1887-1949, 1978, undated**

**Subseries 4. Cabinet Cards, circa 1889, undated**

**Series II. Business Papers, 1829-1847, 1917-1923, undated**

## SERIES DESCRIPTIONS

### Series I. Genealogy Research Papers, 1717-1956, 1978, undated

#### Subseries 1. *The Percy Family of Mississippi and Louisiana Research Materials, 1784-1878, 1905-1956, undated*

Subseries consists of correspondence, notes, printed materials, transcriptions of historical documents, and other collected documents related to J. H. Percy's creation and compilation of his book *The Percy Family of Mississippi and Louisiana, 1776-1943*, published in 1943. Correspondence from 1927 until 1942 mainly documents J. H.'s communications with family members, genealogy researchers, and various record holding institutions in order to gather Percy family history data and information for his book. Additionally, correspondence from 1927 until 1932 deals mainly with J. H.'s research on Robert Percy, an ancestor from England. Correspondence from 1943 until 1956 consists mainly of thank you letters from family members, friends, and various institutions to J. H., usually thanking him for sending copies of his book. Some correspondents write to ask him for copies of the book as well. Correspondence of interest includes letters (June 8, 9, 11, and 16, 1931) between Stanley C. Arthur and J. H. discussing John James Audubon and Mrs. Lucy Audubon's interactions and dealings with a Mrs. Middlemist and a Mrs. Percy. There are transcriptions of excerpts from Audubon's letters to Lucy and of his journal included with the letters. Also of interest is a letter (August 9, 1955) from Frank L. Hereford to J. H. which includes nine photographic prints with identification information of Hereford family members. Notes include a short handwritten lineage chart (undated) related to Robert Percy. Filed with the notes is a printed item, *The Name and Family of Percy*, compiled by The Media Research Bureau (Washington, D.C.). Transcriptions are typescripts of historical documents and 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century correspondence related to or created by members of the Percy family line, specifically Charles Percy and Robert Percy. Transcriptions of note include the wills of Charles Percy (1794) and Mrs. Jane Percy (1831), the latter of which mentions leaving a slave girl named Sarah to Charles (most likely Jane's son Charles Evans Percy).

Kept separately by J. H. from the aforementioned materials are original letters, transcriptions of letters, and original documents belonging to Clarence Percy; an original letter from J. R. (James Rowan) Percy; original letters and documents belonging to Robert Percy; and original letters belonging to William R. Percy. Clarence's original letters and letter transcriptions (1891-1905, undated) document mainly his communications with family members regarding Percy family genealogy. Clarence's other original documents (oversize; 1858-1878, undated) include appointment notices and certificates documenting his attainment of various parish and state governmental positions, including Justice of the Peace of West Baton Rouge Parish, Parish Surveyor for West Feliciana Parish, and Deputy Surveyor of Louisiana; a commencement announcement for the graduating class of the Law Department at University of Louisiana; and a diploma (in Latin) from the University of Louisiana. The original letter (December 2, 1875) from J. R. Percy is addressed to a friend and mentions J. R. relinquishing a land claim at the request of his brother Chaille (William Chaille Percy). Original letters and documents belonging to Robert Percy mainly document his naval service with the British Admiralty and his communications with L. Mowatt, Robert Dow, and William Cowan (1784-1804). Another letter is from William Swift, writing from London, who discusses matters of

an estate (oversize; August 31, 1805). Original documents of note include a granted leave request (July 7, 1786), a certificate stating that Robert was wounded during service (February 8, 1797), articles of agreement between Jeremiah Myers and Robert for Jeremiah to serve as an indentured servant (October 19, 1802), and a notarized copy (oversize; notarized May 11, 1797) of an acquittance summary regarding the death and estate of Robert's father Charles Percy. The original letters (1913-1915) belonging to William R. are chiefly from Mary Duncan Butler Dana, who writes from Dosoris Island, Glen Cove, New York, regarding Percy family genealogy. There is also one letter (February 22, 1915) from Leila Percy Handy, who writes from Lynchburg, Virginia. She too discusses Percy family genealogy.

**Subseries 2. Alphabetical Research Files, 1717-1952, undated**

Subseries consists of files of correspondence, notes, transcriptions, and printed materials related to J. H. Percy's genealogy research of various families and family names. Files are arranged alphabetically by families' last names. Most correspondence is from genealogy researchers contacting J. H. to ask him for any information he has on specific families and individuals. Some family names include Alston, Armstrong, Barrow, Bingamen, Boddie, Bronaugh, Dashiell, Dawson, Gray, Harbour, Hereford, Johnson, Johnston, Kenner, Kinchen, Marbury, Mills, Munson, Nibling/Niibling, Rucker, Ruffin, Swayze, Swasey, Thompson, Thomson, Turnbull, Veazie, and White. Items of note include two 19<sup>th</sup> century letters written by members of the Dashiell family. One letter (November 5, 1846) is from Dr. Addison Dashiell to his daughters Jane and Rosa, who were attending school in Columbia, Tennessee at the time. The other letter (undated) is from Mrs. Addison (Jane) Dashiell to Rosa. Another item of note is an 18<sup>th</sup> century sale of lands and slaves document (1799) pertaining to Alexander Stirling. The document shows that Stirling purchased two tracts of land (1,200 acres) on the north side of Bayou Sara and six slaves from John Collins of the Natchez Territory, Adams County. The slaves were named Prince, January, Sambo, Sarah, Charlotte, and Christmas.

**Subseries 3. Research Volumes, 1887-1949, 1978, undated**

Subseries consists of bound volumes (a binder, notebooks, notepads, and a scrapbook) and unbound volumes (binders) created by J. H. Percy to store additional genealogical research materials. One ringed binder (bound) contains an early typescript of *The Percy Family of Mississippi...* with some notations, correspondence, research notes, transcriptions, and obituaries (mostly as newspaper clippings pasted to the front and back covers of the binder) for Robert Ryland Percy, Robert M. Hereford, Catharine M. Hereford, Clarence Percy, Anne M. Hereford, Jeannie Howell Percy and William Richard Percy (volume 1). Two ringed binders (unbound) contain a later typescript of *The Percy Family of Mississippi...* and additional notes and transcriptions of documents related to the Alston, Barrow, Bronaugh, Dashiell, Hereford, Howell, Rucker, Stirling, Swasey, Swayze, and Turnbull families (volumes 2 and 3). Two additional ringed binders (unbound) titled "North Carolina and Virginia Records" include correspondence, notes, and transcriptions of documents related mostly to the Barrow, Dawson, Howell, Kinchen, Percy, and Ruffin families (volumes 4 and 5). A scrapbook (volume 6), which was also used as a ledger and diary, contains handwritten transcriptions of documents, genealogy notes, obituaries, newspaper clippings, legal definitions, and handwritten records (1853-1855) of the estate of Isaac Johnson. Most clippings pertain to John James Audubon. The scrapbook also contains diary entries (1874-



1876), possibly made by Charles W. Tempel. Entries describe the weather, mention Robert L. Barrow trying to sell land in Bayou Fordoche (May 4, 1874), and describe a hunting trip with Jimmy Leake, Charley Fisher, Archy Pillet, and others (May 13, 1874). Additionally, there are some loose materials that were removed from the scrapbook at some point. These materials include correspondence, genealogy notes, and printed materials. An item of interest in the loose materials of the scrapbook is a West Feliciana Agricultural Fair Association certificate awarded to Charles F. Howell (February 11, 1888).

Additional volumes (volumes 7-23) are notebooks containing genealogy notes and transcriptions of documents, most likely taken and written by J. H.

**Subseries 4. Cabinet Cards, 1889, undated**

Cabinet cards include: one of J. H. Percy; one of Annie Matilda Percy, née Hereford; and two of Clarence Percy. There is also a cabinet card of an obituary for Charles J. Howell (1889).

Included in Subseries 4 are also photocopies of identified and unidentified photographic items (mostly cabinet cards and photographic prints). Individuals identified in the photocopies include Lewis Stirling, Mrs. Lewis Stirling (Sarah Turnbull), Dr. Thomas Butler Percy, Mrs. Thomas Butler Percy, Albert Gallatin Howell, Mrs. Albert Gallatin Howell (Sarah Ann Johnson), Charles Johnson Howell, and Jane Percy Dashiell.

**Series II. Business Papers, 1829-1847, 1917-1923, undated**

Series consists chiefly of files of correspondence, printed materials, and legal documents related to J. H. Percy's real estate, banking, development, and insurance activities and businesses in Louisiana and Mississippi. Of interests are materials related to Coopers Well Hotel and the Coopers Wells property in Hinds County, Mississippi, including an investment pamphlet regarding the resort and the property prepared by Gottlieb & Percy Agency, Ltd.; an informational pamphlet prepared by the proprietor of Coopers Well Hotel, A. D. Spengler; and correspondence between J. H. and Spengler. Correspondence of note includes a letter (March 19, 1919) from Spengler to J. H. which contains an official conveyance document regarding the transfer of Coopers Well property (spelled "Cooper's Well" in the document) to Gottlieb and Percy Agency, Ltd.

Business papers also include plat and tract survey maps (oversize blueprint and negative copies). Maps of interest include a map showing land (designated as west of Pearl River, Mississippi) belonging to the Koontz, Fleming, and Lamden families, including Lochleven (Loch Leven), Lochdale, Goodhope, and Artonish plantations (negative photocopy; dates for original map: 1829, 1847); a map showing the Bell and Turnbull tracts in West Feliciana Parish (blueprint copy; 1920); a map showing the sections of Retreat Plantation in West Feliciana Parish (blueprint copy; 1921); and three maps showing the sections of the Fairview tract and Fairview Plantation (blueprint copies; undated).

**INDEX TERMS**

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

Barrow family.	I. 2-3
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Coopers Wells (Miss.)	II.
Dawson family.	I. 2-3
Diplomas.	I. 1
Fairview Plantation (La.)	II.
Genealogies.	I. 1-3
Hereford family.	I.
Howell family.	I.
Kinchen family.	I. 2-3
Land surveys.	II.
Letters (correspondence)	I. 1-3; II.
Louisiana--Genealogy.	I.
Mississippi--Genealogy.	I.
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Percy, Charles, -1794.	I. 1
Percy, Clarence, 1836-1909.	I. 1, 3-4
Percy, John Hereford, 1870-	I.-II.
Percy, Robert, 1762-1819.	I. 1, 3
Percy, William R. (Richards), 1874-1918.	I. 1, 3
Percy family.	I.-II.
Photographic prints.	I. 1
Plats (maps)	II.
Retreat Plantation (La.)	II.
Ruffin family.	I. 2-3
Scrapbooks.	I. 3
Turnbull family.	I. 2-4; II.
Typescripts.	I. 1-3; II.

CONTAINER LIST

Stack

Location      Box      Folder(s)      Contents with dates

**Series I. Genealogy Research Papers, 1717-1956, 1978, undated**

**Subseries 1. *The Percy Family of Mississippi and Louisiana*  
Research Materials, 1784-1878, 1905-1956, undated**

<b>48:3-4</b>	1	1-17	Correspondence, 1927-1956, undated
		18	Notes and printed item, 1932, undated
		19-20	Transcriptions, 1784-1863, 1912-1941, undated
		21-22	Clarence Percy original letters and transcriptions, 1895-1905, undated
<b>OS:P</b>	3	2	Clarence Percy original appointment documents, certificates, commencement announcement, and diploma (oversize), 1858-1878, undated
<b>48:3-4</b>	1	23	J. R. Percy original letter, Dec. 2, 1875
		24-25	Robert Percy original letters and documents, 1784-1804
<b>OS:P</b>	3	1	Robert Percy original letter and document (oversize), 1797, 1805
<b>48:3-4</b>	1	26	William R. Percy original letters, circa 1913-1915

**Subseries 2. Alphabetical Research Files, 1717-1952, undated**

		27-65	A-T, 1717, 1758-1830, 1844-1850, 1929-1952, undated
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**Subseries 3. Research Volumes, 1887-1949, 1978, undated**

	--	vol. 1	Binder (bound): Early typescript of <i>The Percy Family of Mississippi...</i> , research notes, transcriptions, correspondence, and obituaries (newspaper clippings), 1895-1918, 1931-1943, 1978, undated
	2	4-6	Vol. 2: Binder (unbound): Typescript of <i>The Percy Family of Mississippi...</i> and research notes and transcriptions, 1943, undated
		7-9	Vol. 3: Binder (unbound): Research notes and transcriptions, undated
		10-13	Vol. 4: Binder (unbound): North Carolina and Virginia Records 1, 1928-1941
		14-16	Vol. 5: Binder (unbound): North Carolina and Virginia Records 2, 1935-1940
	4	--	Vol. 6: Scrapbook, 1853-1855, 1874-1876, 1895-1927
<b>48:3-4</b>	2	17-18	Vol. 6: Scrapbook (loose materials), 1887-1894, 1926-1947, undated
		19-27	Vols. 7-23: Notebooks, 1932-1941, undated

<u>Stack</u>			
<u>Location</u>	<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder(s)</u>	<u>Contents with dates</u>
		<b>Subseries 4. Cabinet Cards, circa 1889, undated</b>	
48:3-4	2	28	Cabinet cards: Percy and Howell families, circa 1889, undated
		29	Photocopies of identified and unidentified photographic items, undated
		<b>Series II. Business Papers, 1829-1847, 1917-1923, undated</b>	
		30	Baton Rouge Real Estate Association, 1921
		31-32	Coopers Well Hotel, Hinds County, Mississippi, 1917-1919
		33-34	Fairview Place Subdivision, West Feliciana Parish, 1922
		35	Fairview Plantation, West Feliciana Parish (abstract of title), 1922
		36	Magearl timber, 1918-1919
		37	Oil leases, West Feliciana Parish, 1919
		38	Westdale Subdivision, Baton Rouge, La., 1920-1922
		39	Wilson Place Subdivision, Baton Rouge, La., 1922-1923
OS:P	3	3	Plat and tract survey maps (oversize blueprint and negative copies), 1829, 1847, 1920-1921, undated