



THE MARTINETTI/ORLEANS THEATER PLAYBILL COLLECTION

The Historic New Orleans Collection has recently acquired an outstanding collection of sixty-nine nineteenth-century playbills. The collection was purchased from a descendant of Angelo Grossi, a dancer who appeared with the Martinetti family, a troupe of Italian dancers who performed in New Orleans and the south.

The Martinetti family visited New Orleans every year during the late 1850s. The dancers, who appeared at the Orleans Theater, were very popular with both American and French audiences of the city. From New Orleans, the group traveled up the Mississippi River, stopping to perform in Memphis, Tennessee; Louisville, Kentucky; and Cincinnati, Ohio. In addition to these river towns, the Martinettis visited Augusta and Savannah, Georgia; Nashville, Tennessee; and Wilmington, North Carolina. Fifty-two playbills documenting the southern tours of the family during 1856, 1858, and 1859 are part of this collection.

Seventeen playbills from the 1860 winter season of the Orleans Theater are also included. These playbills, which are in superb condition, vividly depict the variety of opera and dance offered to New Orleanians in the years preceding the Civil War. Productions of *Lucie de Lammermoor*, *La Favorite*, and *Robert le Diable* entertained opera lovers, while productions of dramatic works, such as *Un Père Prodigue* by Alexandre Dumas fils and *Indiana et Charlemagne* (billed as vaudeville in one act), were featured throughout the season.

The Martinetti/Orleans Theater Playbill Collection is available for study in the Manuscripts Division.

THE SAMUEL WILSON COLLECTION

"To the Honorable Jas. Pitot Judge for the Parish Court for the Parish and City of New Orleans The Petition of E. Blanc of the Parish, a lime trader respectfully shewth, that from the month of September 1819 up to this day your Petitioner has supplied Mr. H. B. Latrobe . . . with lime and other materials to build the steeple of the Church of St. Louis in the aforesaid City . . ." begins an attempt by Monsieur Blanc to collect \$1,447, with interest, from Latrobe to be taken from "funds to be supplied by the City Council and the Board of Trustees or Church Wardens" for the completion of the cathedral steeple.

Samuel Wilson, Jr., has donated a collection of particular interest to architectural historians, including this document

and eighteen others relating to the building of the St. Louis Cathedral, the French Market, and the landscaping of the market and of Elysian Fields Boulevard. Highlights include an 1821 contact between Bauquelin and Buisson and Mayor Joseph Roffignac to enclose the Place d'Armes with an iron grill, an 1821 contract to enclose the waterworks, an 1820 agreement between mason Moses Sweet and *les Marquilliers* of St. Louis Cathedral for work on the steeple, and five documents (1828-1830) concerned with the building and leasing of the French Market.

NICHOLSON FAMILY PAPERS

The staff of the Manuscripts Division has completed the arrangement and description of the Nicholson Family Papers, donated to the Collection in 1981. This collection of approximately one thousand items consists primarily of the personal papers of Eliza Jane Nicholson and her husband, George Nicholson, owners and publishers of the New Orleans *Picayune* during the latter part of the nineteenth century. The papers center on the life and career of Eliza Jane Nicholson, the first woman publisher of a major daily newspaper in the United States. Mrs. Nicholson was also a highly regarded poet who used the pseudonym "Pearl Rivers." The Nicholson Family Papers contain material concerning the history of the *Times-Picayune*, as well as the papers of family members Mrs. Yorke P. Nicholson and Mrs. Carl Corbin.

While the correspondence of Eliza Jane and George Nicholson provides information on the *Picayune* during the 1870s and 1880s, the papers also reveal many details about the work of Mrs. Nicholson as the poet "Pearl Rivers." Her correspondence includes letters from publishers John M. Overall and Mrs. Frank Leslie and letters from prominent friends and supporters. Many examples of her work are present in the collection, ranging from manuscript copies of individual poems to a copy of *Lyrics*, her only published volume.

The *Times-Picayune* Publishing Company Papers document the history of the newspaper from the late 1940s until 1962. This series includes news clippings and articles about the *Times-Picayune*.

The papers of Mrs. Yorke P. Nicholson deal primarily with her community projects, particularly her association with the Friends of Audubon Park. Mrs. Corbin's papers reflect her work on the genealogy of the Poitevant and Nicholson Families.

**PAPERS RELATING TO THE BATTLE OF NEW ORLEANS
AT THE HISTORIC NEW ORLEANS COLLECTION**

The foundation of the Historic New Orleans Collection can be traced to the interest of General L. Kemper Williams in the Battle of New Orleans. General Williams's collection of manuscripts, books, pamphlets, maps, drawings, and paintings, focusing on the American victory over the British in January, 1815, formed the nucleus of the Collection, and led the general to collect a wide variety of material documenting the history of the city.

The Manuscripts Division of the Collection has continued to add to its holdings on the Battle of New Orleans. In addition to the individual manuscripts and collections described in the following list, the division has contemporary newspapers documenting the events of the War of 1812. Original copies of *Niles' Weekly Register*, printed in Baltimore, contain reports of the British landing

at Mobile, letters from Andrew Jackson detailing British naval actions, Jackson's proclamation to the free black inhabitants of Louisiana, and lengthy accounts of the battle by Jackson and other eyewitnesses. The division also houses a complete microfiche edition of *Niles' Weekly Register*, 1811-1887. *L'Ami des Lois* is an important Louisiana newspaper containing accounts of the battle. The Collection has original volumes for the year 1810-1819. Other eastern papers containing reactions to the battle are the *Essex Register*, *The Yankee*, and the *Columbian Centinel*.

Registers and calendars exist for all collections designated by a manuscript number, e.g., MSS 202. Unprocessed materials are available on a limited basis. None of the cataloged manuscripts have any restrictions to access. The Manuscripts Division is open from 10:00 a.m. until 4:30 p.m., Tuesday through Saturday.

MSS 14. JACQUES PHILIPPE VILLERE PAPERS. 1813-1814. 106 items.

Jacques Philippe Villeré served as Major General of the First Division, Louisiana Militia, during the defense of Louisiana against the British in 1814 and 1815. This group of papers consists of correspondence and official communications on the defense of New Orleans, particularly the obstruction of Bayous Terre-aux-Boeufs and Lafourche. Many of the letters deal with the problem of providing arms and supplies to troops surrounding the city. Of special interest are letters treating the arrest, examination, and release of four suspected British spies, and the possibility of slave revolts inspired by the British. Correspondents include Jean Baptiste Labatut, Stephen A. Hopkins, Adjutant General A. LaNeuveville, Pierre Allard, J. Toutant, Brigadier General David B. Morgan, A. D. Tureaud, H. J. B. Latrobe, and Adjutant General Robert Butler. Also in the collection are military roster reports, returns for provisions, and receipts for prisoners of war.

MSS 17. JAMES MONROE LETTER. 1814, October 1. 1 item.

James Monroe, War Department, to His Excellency, Governor Willie Blount, Nashville, Tennessee, informing him of an expected British attack on New Orleans and Mobile, and asking that 7,500 Tennessee Militiamen be immediately transported across the river to Jackson's command. LS. 2pp.

MSS 18. LOUIS DE TOUSARD LETTER. 1815, January 9. 1 item.

Louis de Tousard, New Orleans, to John Clement Stocker, Philadelphia, describing the Battle of New Orleans at Chalmette that occurred on January 8. Tousard paid particular attention to the aftermath of battle, the care of prisoners and the wounded, and the locations of hospital and prison camps around the city. He also listed the strengths of the British army and units involved in the action. ALS with integral address leaf. 2pp.

MSS 19. ARSENE LACARRIERE LATOUR LETTER. 1815, April 10. 1 item.

A. Lacarriére Latour, New Orleans, to Major General David B. Morgan, New Orleans, concerning the defeat of Morgan's forces on the West Bank during the American battle with the British on January 8, 1815. Latour asked Morgan to defend his actions in writing and forward them to Latour for release to the press and inclusion in his memoir, *Historical Memoir of the War in West Florida and Louisiana in 1814-15*. ALS. 1p.

MSS 21. BARTHOLOMEW SHAUMBURGH LETTER. 1815, January 25. 1 item.

Shaumburgh, New Orleans, to "My dear General" [James Wilkinson.] Letter in which Shaumburgh conveyed national and local political and military news, especially concerning the Battle of New Orleans. He discussed the roles of several individuals in the battle, including Edward and Lewis Livingston, Auguste Davezac, David B. Morgan, Jacques Philippe Villeré, William C. C. Claiborne, Abner L. Duncan, and several other military and political figures.

Shaumburgh analyzed Jackson's defense of New Orleans, and he made some negative statements about Jackson's strategy. He discussed troop strengths, their locations, commanders, and arms. The animosity felt between William C. C. Claiborne and Andrew Jackson is mentioned. Jackson's imposition of martial law in New Orleans and his closing of the legislature is discussed, as are the victory celebrations which took place in the city after the battle. The letter closes with general news of acquaintances, friends, and family. ALS. 12pp.

MSS 27. CHARLES KAVENAGH STATEMENT. 1815, February 10. 1 item.

Statement regarding Major Charles Kavenagh's horse which was killed in battle. The statement was signed by Michael Molton and John W. Gibson and sworn before Thomas Nichols, Justice of the Peace, New Orleans. DS. 1p.

MSS 100. HENRI DE STE. GÊME PAPERS.

1799-(1818-1871)-1904. 849 items.

These papers consist of correspondence to Henri de Ste. Gême and his son Anatole in Bagen, France, from his sugar plantation overseer Jean Boze (1818-1838) and manager Auvignac Dorville (1818-1873) regarding his affairs in Louisiana. The correspondence provides detailed accounts of New Orleans social life, people, and events. Present in the collection are some of Ste. Gême's personal military papers from his service in Santo Domingo and Louisiana (1802-1816). Papers relating to the Battle of New Orleans include a letter from Andrew Jackson to Ste. Gême, general orders by Commander-in-Chief William C. C. Claiborne to his troops, and a printed poem about the defeat of British troops in the Territory of Louisiana.

MSS 102. BUTLER FAMILY PAPERS. 1778-1975. 2034 items.

The papers of Andrew Hynes, Adjutant General of the Tennessee Militia and veteran of the Battle of New Orleans, are contained within the Butler Family Papers. The papers are present because of Hynes' relationship to the Butler and Gay families of Louisiana and St. Louis, Missouri.

The Andrew Hynes Papers in the Butler Family Papers (1812-1815), 46 items, contain the appointment of Andrew Hynes as aide-de-camp to Major General Andrew Jackson (1814). Correspondents represented in the papers include Governor Willie Blount of Tennessee, Secretary of War John Armstrong, Andrew Jackson, and Major General William Carroll.

The correspondence covers many military topics. Troop movements down the Mississippi River are mentioned, and British activities immediately following the battle of January 8, 1815, are discussed.

Included in these papers are returns from many brigades within the Tennessee Militia, and orders issued by Major General Jackson, Willie Blount, and William Carroll.

MSS 185. ANDREW HYNES PAPERS. 1814-(1814-1823)-1847. 64 items.

This collection consists primarily of the personal, financial, and military correspondence of Colonel Andrew Hynes, who served as Adjutant General of the Tennessee Militia during the War of 1812. He also served as aide-de-camp to Major General William Carroll during the campaign in New Orleans.

The personal correspondence (1815-1823) is mainly composed of letters from Governor Willie Blount of Tennessee to Hynes. The financial records (1814-1845) include ledger sheets, accounts, and receipts showing the debts of Joseph Erwin and other members of his family.

Military records in this collection (1814-1823) include the returns of many of the brigades of the Tennessee Militia; letters from Governor Blount to Hynes informing him about British operations and congratulating him and the entire Tennessee Militia for their part in the American victory at the Battle of New Orleans; and correspondence dealing with the normal operation of the militia (1815-1823). The

miscellaneous papers contain letters from J. E. Craighead to his father discussing the operation of a sugar plantation in Louisiana (1846-1847).

MSS 186. MEMOIR OF ADMIRAL R. AITCHISON. 1808-1827. 1 item.

This memoir was written by Admiral R. Aitchison of the Royal British Navy during 1857 and 1858, while he was living in Brussels, Belgium. The manuscript covers Aitchison's early naval career, from his entry into the Royal Navy at the age of thirteen until his voyages as captain of the brig *Clio*, which suppressed smuggling off the Shetland Islands. The memoir is primarily concerned with Aitchison's travels and experiences on various ships during the Napoleonic Wars and the War of 1812.

MSS 194. JAMES STIRLING MEMORANDUM. 1813, March 17. 1 item.

Memorandum written by Captain James Stirling in London on March 17, 1813, to Lord Viscount Robert Melville, First Lord of the Admiralty, regarding the condition of Louisiana and assessing the possibilities for British invasion. Stirling discussed Louisiana's agricultural potential and commercial relationship with the interior of the United States. Gulf Coast harbors and the defenses of New Orleans are evaluated. Commentary includes the state of the local militia; General James Wilkinson; the condition of American naval forces; summer quarters for the militia; and rumors of an American campaign against Florida. Stirling proposed two methods of attack on New Orleans, and he discussed methods of blocking the Mississippi River and various plans for naval harassment of American forces. 11pp.

MSS 196. EDWARD NICHOLLS AND WILLIAM H. PERCY LETTERS. 1814, August, September. 4 items.

This collection consists of four letters from Lieutenant Colonel Edward Nicholls, commander of the British forces in the Floridas, and Captain William H. Percy, Senior Officer of the Gulf of Mexico, written in August and September of 1814. They were signed and certified as true copies by Louisiana Governor William C. C. Claiborne in the same year. Nicholls and Percy attempted to persuade the citizens of New Orleans, the Kentuckians residing in Louisiana, and Jean Laffite to cooperate with the British in effecting the fall of the city. The British offered the citizens of New Orleans relief from "the American usurpation," and the Kentuckians free navigation of the Mississippi River and the right of deposit in New Orleans. The Baratarians were offered protection for their property, a full pardon, and land in the British colonies. In return, they were to give their vessels to the British and end harassment of the Spanish.

MSS 198. PROVISION RETURNS, TENTH REGIMENT LOUISIANA MILITIA. 1814, December-1815, February. 272 items.

This collection consists of various provision returns for the Tenth Regiment of the Louisiana Militia under the command of Colonel Robert Young from December 1814 through February 1815. Provision returns for rations represent a majority of the collection. These returns were filed by company commanders, the commander of the Militia and his staff officers, the paymaster, and the

surgeon. They list the number of officers, men, and days covered by the return, and the number of rations requested. The provision returns of the surgeon are particularly interesting as they list the number of men in the infirmary at the time of the return. Many returns designate the location of the troops.

MSS 199. SLAVE EVALUATION REPORT. 1821, May-August; 1824, November 26-27; 1825, January 24. 1 item. This report is a series of bound statements, taken in 1821, concerning slaves allegedly carried off by British forces as they retreated from Louisiana in 1815. The names, ages, sex, occupation, and general condition of the slaves are mentioned in most cases. Owners and witnesses gave sworn statements attesting to the veracity of the lists. The witnesses identified themselves, their professions, and their places of residence. Witnesses declared knowledge of the owners and their slaves and attested to the truthfulness of the slaves' values. Copies of five letters are also included; they document the negotiations between the plantation owners and the British for the return of the slaves. 82pp.

MSS 200. ANDREW JACKSON ITEMS.

1813-1821. 11 items.

Ten letters and a broadside make up this collection of writings by Andrew Jackson. The focus is on the military campaigns in the southeast during the War of 1812. All letters but one are originals, and all are signed. The collection includes letters from General Jackson to his troops in Mississippi and Louisiana.

MSS 201. JORDAN B. NOBLE COLLECTION.

1867-1881. 5 items.

Jordan B. Noble was a drummer for Major D'Aquin's company of the Seventh Regiment during the Battle of New Orleans. He later served as a drummer in the First Louisiana Brigade under General P. J. Smith in Florida, 1836, and in Mexico, 1846. During the Civil War he was a captain in the Louisiana Volunteers, 1863, serving the Union under General A. C. Gomez, and he received an honorable discharge. The collection contains a photograph of Noble, dated April 27, 1867, an undated envelope, a certificate, and two letters. The certificate, dated June 4, 1880, from the Grand Army of the Republic, Department of Louisiana, Joseph S. Mower Post No. 1, proclaimed Noble to be a "worthy, upright and honest man who has done good service." On October 19, 1881, Jordan Noble, New Orleans, answered Edward C. Wharton's request for information about his adventures in the army. In the letter he explained his services and stated that he was in every battle during the invasion of Louisiana.

MSS 202. GEORGE AND JAMES M. ROSS LETTERS.

1815, January 15. 2 items.

These two letters, written by George Ross and his son James Ross, are addressed to John Chestnut of Camden, Kershaw District, South Carolina. After discussing family news and business, mainly land transactions and the settlement of the Sutton estate, each mentions the effects of the British invasion of Louisiana on their home in Dickson County, Tennessee.

MSS 203. DAVID B. MORGAN ORDER. 1815, January 24. 1 item.

This order from Brigadier General David B. Morgan, commander of American forces on the right bank of the Mississippi River, was written at the Headquarters of the Drafted Militia at Camp Morgan. Colonel Johnston was instructed to march "without delay with two hundred of your best troops" to Piernas Canal and place himself under the command of Major General Villeré. Contemporary copy. 1 p.

MSS 204. JOHN COFFEE NOTE. 1815, January 9. 1 item.

Brigadier General John Coffee, at camp below New Orleans, to General William Carroll, requesting that the clothing deposited with Carroll for Coffee's men be delivered to Quartermaster Doxy. Coffee and Carroll were officers of the Tennessee Volunteers. ANS. 1 p.

MSS 209. BATTLE OF NEW ORLEANS BROADSIDE.

n.d. 1 item.

Written in German verse, this broadside celebrates the American victory at the Battle of New Orleans. The attack on January 8, 1815, when Jackson's men repulsed the frontal assault on their bulwarks, is described. High praise is given to General Jackson and to the marksmanship of his men. The battle is called a victory for freedom over "the arrogance of kingly thrones." The broadside has a decorative border, and a vignette of the federal eagle is perched at the top. 1 p.

MSS 210. BETHAL ALLEN APPRAISAL.

1815, February 21. 1 item.

This affidavit, taken by Elijah Detter and John H. Paschall, certified that Captain Bethal Allen of General John Coffee's Brigade of Mounted Gunners, had his horse shot from under him during the action between the American and British forces on or about "the first of January," 1815. Allen's service in General Coffee's brigade is certified by Adjutant General Robert Butler. DS. 1 p.

MSS 211. WILLIAM CARROLL/TENNESSEE MILITIA LETTERS. 1814, 1815. 2 items.

The first of these letters, written on October 21, 1814, orders Brigade General William Carroll to requisition five thousand troops from Tennessee and to march them to General Jackson's command in New Orleans. Carroll, by order of Tennessee Governor Willie Blount and the Department of War, was also instructed to order out three thousand of the Militia Infantry of the Second Division to rendezvous in Nashville on November 13, and to proceed to New Orleans by water. Copy in Carroll's hand, unsigned. 3pp. Carroll's letter of July 22, 1815, written on behalf of the veterans of the Tennessee Militia who served at the Battle of New Orleans, discussed the payment of pensions to veterans and widows. Draft, signed by Carroll. 4 pp.

MSS 212. VERSES, /On the signal Victory obtained over the British troops at New-Orleans, January 8th, 1815, by Gen./ ANDREW JACKSON, and the brave troops under his command. 1815, March 24. 1 item.

These verses by Nathan Torrey of Hinsdale [Rhode Island]

celebrate the victory of American forces over the British at the Battle of New Orleans. The poem vividly depicts the sights and sounds of the battlefield. Nathan Torrey's birth and death dates are recorded on the verso. Printed broadside. 1 p.

MSS 213. UNITED STATES ARMY MORNING REPORTS. 1814, 1815. 5 items.

The collection contains morning reports from several of the

companies deployed in and around New Orleans during the months of December, 1814, and January-February, 1815. The morning reports list the number of men fit for active duty. The reports include those of the Seventh Infantry, commanded by Captain Alexander White; the Mississippi Militia, commanded by Captain Nathan Luse; the artillery garrison at Fort St. Charles, commanded by Captain Enoch Humphrey; and the Mounted Rangers of the Tenth Regiment, under the command of Captain Adams.

The Curatorial Division houses images of the Battle of New Orleans, dating from 1815 through the twentieth century. Included among these holdings are an 1815 broadside bearing an account of the battle; three of the four versions of an engraving by J. Yeager; a scarce engraving and key by P. Debucourt, based on an eyewitness account of Hyacinthe Laclotte; a large painting by W.A.C. Pape which once hung in the St. Charles Hotel; and the commission, medical kit, and instruments of Dr. John Talbot, surgeon of the Thirteenth Regiment of the Kentucky State Militia.

Material concerning Andrew Jackson figures prominently in the holdings of the Curatorial Division. Portraits of Jackson by Waldo and Amans, a gingerbread mold of the general on horseback, and a recently acquired statuette of the Clark Mills monument in Jackson Square are available for study. The great assortment of items contained in the division includes maps, drawings, paintings, lithographs, and commemorative programs.

The Research Library has many books and pamphlets containing contemporary accounts of the battle. Notable among them are Latour's *Historical Memoir of the War in West Florida and Louisiana*, in

1814-15, McAfee's *History of the Late War in the Western Country . . .*, *The Battle of New Orleans: a British View*; *the Journal of Major C. R. Forrest*; *34th Regiment of Foot*, and Sir John Cooke's *A Narrative of Events in the South of France, and of the Attack on New Orleans, in 1814 and 1815*. The six-volume *Official Letter Books of W.C.C. Claiborne*, 1801-1816, edited by Dunbar Rowland, also contain invaluable correspondence concerning people and events at the time of the battle. Other interesting accounts are found in *An Authentick History of the Late War Between the United States and Great Britain* by Paris M. Davis, *The Narrative of James Roberts, Soldier in the Revolutionary War at the Battle of New Orleans*, *Major Howell Tatum's Journal While Acting Topographical Engineer (1814) to General Jackson, Commanding the Seventh Military District*, and in Vincent Nolte's memoirs, *Fifty Years in Both Hemispheres*. Benson John Lossing's *The Pictorial Field-Book of the War of 1812* contains several hundred wood engravings of portraits, maps, and scenes based on the author's original sketches. The library also has items which were published to commemorate various anniversaries of the battle and which contain speeches, essays, and accounts of events.

MANUSCRIPTS UPDATE will be published on an occasional basis to inform interested persons about manuscript collections available for research at the Historic New Orleans Collection. This publication is in keeping with our desire to nurture interest in our area and our heritage. We invite you to visit the facilities and to make inquiries by telephone or mail.

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PRESERVATION GUIDES AVAILABLE

Evidence of a family and its history—letters, photographs, portraits, diaries, a worn family Bible, financial records, or valuable mementos—are among many people's most treasured possessions. The proper care of old or fragile items, however, is difficult. Horror stories of "preservation" techniques which damage or even destroy a valued possession are quite common—the hundred-year-old letter "repaired" with adhesive tape, the acidic inks which actually "eat" words from the paper, and the color photograph proudly displayed in a sunny spot, so that ultraviolet rays leach out the color.

Many people choose to donate their heirlooms to an appropriate museum or research center so that they will receive professional care and preservation. Since many others, however, prefer to care for their belongings at home, the Historic New Orleans Collection is publishing a series of Preservation Guides, which give guidelines for the proper care of a variety of valued possessions. The first two pamphlets, one on family papers by curator of manuscripts Susan Cole and the other on photographs by curator John H. Lawrence, were issued in December, 1983.

The Preservation Guides include sources for special supplies and bibliographies for further reading. They are available at the Shop at the Collection at a cost of \$2.50 each. Mail orders must include tax and handling, and should be directed to:

The Shop at the Collection
533 Royal Street
New Orleans, La. 70130