



# THE HISTORIC NEW ORLEANS COLLECTION

KEMPER AND LEILA WILLIAMS FOUNDATION

## *Manuscripts Division UPDATE*

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### **PAPERS RELATING TO THE CIVIL WAR AT THE HISTORIC NEW ORLEANS COLLECTION**

For New Orleanians, the Civil War experience was distinguished by the city's early conquest and the ensuing long period of federal occupation which separated the soldiers from their families, sealed behind Union lines, undergoing a war of their own against starvation and property confiscation. The holdings of the manuscripts division reflect this experience.

The victory of the Union fleet, commanded by Flag Officer David G. Farragut, is documented in the military correspondence of General Johnson Kelly Duncan, commander of Forts Jackson & St. Philip, as well as in detailed orders and diaries written by the invaders. The ordeal of life in an occupied city is revealed through letters and diaries in family papers and through prose and poetry vilifying Major General Benjamin F. Butler, Commander of the Department of the Gulf and first military governor of Louisiana. So unpopular was "Beast" Butler that when he was replaced by Major General Nathaniel P. Banks in December 1862, the city of New Orleans rejoiced as though the occupation had been lifted.

Many letters and documents in the collections highlight Confederate generals from this area: General Pierre Gustave Toutant Beauregard, Commander of the Army of Tennessee after Shiloh; his successor, General Braxton Bragg; "Bishop-Militant" Leonidas Polk; and Major General

Richard Taylor, son of President Zachary Taylor, whose exploits in Louisiana during the Red River campaign enliven the diaries of Confederate and Union soldiers alike.

So extensive is the collection of Civil War materials that a two-part issue of *Manuscripts Update* is required to cover it. The present issue lists cataloged manuscripts. The second part, scheduled for 1986, will describe the Historic New Orleans Collection's holdings of Louisiana materials on microfilm from the National Archives, Crandall's *Confederate Imprints*, and the Deutsches Haus Archives. Also featured in the next issue will be northern and southern newspapers, both original and on microfilm. In addition, the complementary Civil War holdings of the library and the curatorial division will be summarized in the forthcoming issue. Sheet music of the Civil War has already been listed in *Manuscripts Update*, Vol. 1, No. 1 (1982). It is anticipated that by the time the second issue goes to press, collections now in process will have been cataloged, and descriptions of their contents will be included.

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The manuscripts division is open to researchers from 10:00 a.m. until 4:30 p.m., Tuesday through Saturday. Inquiries by mail and telephone are welcome.

**MSS 1. FRANCIS DUNBAR RUGGLES PAPERS.** 1861-1917. 17 items.

Francis Ruggles was a member of the First Company, Washington Artillery. First formed as a volunteer unit in 1838, the Washington Artillery enlisted in the Confederacy shortly after Louisiana seceded from the Union. The original company served with the Army of Northern Virginia; later a fifth company was formed which served with the Army of Tennessee. This collection of papers and diaries includes letters from Ruggles to his father in Massachusetts, which tell of Ruggles's sympathy with the Confederate cause. Of special interest are two diaries (May 1861 - December 1862) that describe the activities of the Washington Artillery in the Virginia theater of war. Ruggles was killed during the Battle of Fredericksburg, 13 December 1862.

**MSS 5. JOHN HICKMAN RANDELL PAPERS.** 1840-1961. 11 items.

John Ransdell owned Elmwood Plantation in Rapides Parish and edited the *Red River Whig*. His letters (24 May 1863 -17 June 1863) to Louisiana governor Thomas O. Moore concern conditions in Rapides Parish following the arrival of the Union Army; describe the destruction of property, crops, and livestock; and outline Ransdell's attempts to restore order to his own and Gov. Moore's plantations. A journal records the planting and harvesting of crops on the plantation and the arrival of Union troops in May 1863.

**MSS 6. HENRY BIER COLLECTION.** 1861-1862. 16 items.

Letters to Henry Bier, Grand Secretary of the Odd Fellows of New Orleans, from friends serving in the Washington Artillery in both Louisiana and Virginia describe the hardships of war as experienced by soldiers and civilians, details of camp life, and the problems of provisions, fortifications, discipline, and pay.

**MSS 8. LOG OF THE U.S.S. PORTSMOUTH.** 1861-1863. 1 item.

The *Portsmouth*, part of the West Gulf Blockading Squadron, was stationed primarily at Carrollton and New Orleans during her Civil War service. This log contains entries on the sloop's activities patrolling the Gulf coast from Key West to Galveston (1 December 1861 - 31 May 1863). Entries describe the sighting and capture of Confederate blockade runners, the *Portsmouth's* role in the bombardment of Forts Jackson and St. Philip, and conditions in New Orleans and the lower coast plantations after the fall of the city.

**MSS 12. JUDGE JOHN MOORE PAPERS.** 1847-1865. 61 items.

Scattered correspondence and business papers of Judge John Moore during his service in the United States Congress and the Louisiana legislature comprise the bulk of this collection, which also includes invoices, receipts, and accounts of John Moore and Company (1863-1865). The letters document Moore's views on North-South sectionalism and the organization of the Louisiana Union Party. One letter from A. Dejean in Fredericksburg, Virginia, describes the movements of Jackson's and Lee's armies and their engagements. Of special interest is a letter, dated March 1865, which circulates a rumor regarding the supposed death of General P. G. T. Beauregard.

**MSS 20. LEMUEL P. CONNER PAPERS.** 1861-1936. 10 items.

In letters to his wife in Natchez, Lemuel P. Conner, delegate to the Louisiana secession convention in Baton Rouge and New Orleans, describes the passage of the ordinance of secession, the election of delegates to the secession convention in Montgomery, and the reaction to secession by the people of Baton Rouge and New Orleans. The papers contain an original draft of Louisiana's ordinance of secession, with an attached letter (1936) by Conner's son on its history. Among the other items is correspondence between Conner and the family of Judge John Perkins, a drafter of the ordinance.

**MSS 24. CONFEDERATE CONGRESSIONAL RESOLUTIONS.** 13 January 1963. 2 items.

The Confederate Congress passed Resolutions Numbers 21 and 24 in response to General Butler's treatment of military prisoners and captured civilians in Louisiana. Resolution No. 21 praises loyal Confederate citizenry, while Resolution No. 24 orders the immediate execution upon capture of Butler for his "Woman's Order" issued at New Orleans.

**MSS 30. C. B. THOMAS LETTER.** 7 January 1964. 1 item.

C. B. Thomas served as chaplain at the St. James and University Hospitals in New Orleans during the federal occupation of the city. This letter to Benjamin J. Lossing, New York, concerns the purchase of several southern documents and religious tracts and discusses the paper shortage in New Orleans.

**MSS 32. FORT SAINT PHILIP BUDGET REQUEST.** 1860. 1 item.

This estimate and budget request was prepared by P. G. T. Beauregard in his capacity as chief engineer for the United States Army in charge of repairing the military forts on the Mississippi River below New Orleans.

**MSS 33. JUDAH P. BENJAMIN PAPERS.** 1855-1883. 4 items.

Two items in this collection concern Judah P. Benjamin's service as Confederate Secretary of War. A letter (29 January 1862) to W. L. Lanier discusses the drawing of rations by paroled prisoners of war. Included is "Regulations Under the Act of Congress, providing for the granting of Bounty and Furloughs to Privates and Non-Commissioned officers in the Provisional Army," issued by Benjamin.

**MSS 41. HUGH KENNEDY LEAFLET.** 25-26 June 1863. 1 item.

This printed leaflet contains correspondence between Kennedy, editor of the New Orleans *True Delta*, and General George F. Shepley, military governor of Louisiana, concerning Kennedy's opposition to the Union occupation government.

**MSS 46. MAJOR GENERAL BENJAMIN F. BUTLER PROCLAMATION.** 1 May 1862. 1 item.

By means of this printed proclamation, Butler, commanding the United States Department of the Gulf, announced his occupation of New Orleans and the declaration of martial law.

**MSS 47. GEORGE F. SHEPLEY WRIT OF ELECTION.** 1864. 1 item.

In this printed writ of election, General Shepley called a gubernatorial election to be held on 22 February 1864 by order of General Banks.

**MSS 49. C. B. CHURCHILL AND COMPANY COLLECTION.** 1862-1863. 2 items.

One printed circular (17 March 1862) asks planters to yield their iron bells to Lemuel P. Conner to be recast into cannons for the war effort, and one letter (2 February 1863) from C. B. Churchill and Company to Major L. P. Conner concerns non-payment for bells delivered to him.

**MSS 51. UNION SOLDIER'S LETTER.** 22-24 April 1863. 1 item.

Written by "S. F. S.," Commissary Department, Brashear City, Louisiana, to his wife, this letter concerns slavery, General Banks's army's progress in its Red River campaign, information about his job and quarters, and news of mutual friends.

**MSS 52. CONFEDERATE STATES OF AMERICA WAR BONDS.** 1861-1864. 13 items.

Confederate war bonds, including some issued by the city of New Orleans, comprise this collection.

**MSS 61. PIERRE GUSTAVE TOUTANT BEAUREGARD LETTERS.** 1862-1891. 11 items.

Scattered pieces of General Beauregard's correspondence include a draft of his farewell to the troops at Manassas before retiring to winter quarters (27 January 1862) and a holograph of orders for the drilling of troops and establishing of defenses. Letters dated June 1865 attribute the fall of the Confederacy to the incompetence of its leaders and give details of an article about Jefferson Davis for *Harper's Magazine*.

**MSS 75. JOHN L. GORE LETTER.** 9 September 1862. 1 item.

John L. Gore writes to a friend that his regiment, the 31st Massachusetts Volunteers, had landed in New Orleans and proceeded to an encampment at Fort Pike. Gore comments on the climate and his health.

**MSS 99. GRIMA FAMILY PAPERS.** 1856-1921. 444 items.

A series of 140 letters (May 1861 - May 1865) concerning the experiences of the Felix Grima family of New Orleans during the Civil War provides a wealth of information about the family's life after the fall of the city to federal troops in 1862. Specific information regards the political climate, military matters, the condition of the civilian population, and news of other families in New Orleans. Two family members served in the Confederate army: Alfred Grima in the Second Regiment, Louisiana Volunteers, and Paul Grima in the First Company, Washington Artillery. The letters of Paul Grima from the field of battle in Virginia form a large and important part of the collection. Correspondence between family members following the expulsion of the Grima family from New Orleans in August 1864 relates their difficult journey to Augusta via Mobile.

**MSS 106. ALFRED R. WAUD PAPERS.** 1860-1887. 210 items.

Alfred R. Waud was a noted Civil War artist and book illustrator who worked as special correspondent for the *New York Illustrated News* and for *Harper's Weekly*. These papers include Civil War notes (1861-1864) made in the field by Waud, as well as a series of descriptive notes by artist William Waud, Alfred's brother, concerning the capture of New Orleans, the battle for Port Hudson, and the river campaign.

**MSS 109. JOHNSON KELLY DUNCAN LETTERS.** 27 December 1861 - 24 April 1862. 14 items.

Brigadier General Johnson Kelly Duncan, C. S. A., commanded Forts Jackson and St. Philip in the spring of 1862. These official military communications document Duncan's attempts to defend the forts from capture, despite a lack of reinforcements. Duncan also describes movements of the Union fleet.

**MSS 111. FORTS JACKSON AND ST. PHILIP COLLECTION.** 1861-1862. 11 items.

General orders, correspondence, quartermaster's reports, and other official documents regarding the defense of the mouth of the Mississippi River and the lower coast forts are available in this collection. Correspondents include Colonel Johnson Kelly Duncan, Lieutenant Lewes B. Taylor, Major Edward Palfry, Lieutenant E. W. Baylor, Lieutenant John G. Devereaux, and William B. Robertson.

**MSS 114. CHARLES F. SHERMAN CIVIL WAR LETTERS.** 1861-1864. 22 items.

In his letters, Charles Franklin Sherman, a federal soldier who served with the 30th Massachusetts Artillery throughout Louisiana, describes the second battle of Baton Rouge (5 August 1862), New Orleans under the commands of Butler and Banks, the capture of Opelousas, and the Red River campaign of 1864. The correspondence is filled with details about camp life, politics, the movements of troops and artillery in the field, and Sherman's opinions concerning the progress of the war.

**MSS 120. THE PRISON TIMES.** 8 April 1865. 1 item.

Confederate prisoners of war detained at Fort Delaware created a handwritten newspaper which presents their island prison as a miniature world. Often satirical, the newspaper includes advertisements, poetry, club news, barracks directories, and wry humor.

**MSS 121. JOURNAL OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF LOUISIANA.** 15 December 1862 -11 February 1864. 1 bound volume.

After the fall of New Orleans to federal forces in April 1862, the capital of Louisiana was moved from Baton Rouge to Opelousas. This journal documents the activities of the House during that period under the administrations of Thomas O. Moore and Henry W. Allen. The manuscript includes bills and speeches delivered before the House.

**MSS 123. B. SCHULER LETTER.** 22 August 1863. 1 item.

In this letter to his family in Wisconsin, Schuler, a Union soldier, describes a trip down the Mississippi River from Vicksburg to Carrollton, Louisiana, on the boat *Autocrat*. He also recounts his tours of the occupied cities of Natchez and New Orleans.

**MSS 134. JOHN HART DIARY.** 16 April 1862 - 2 May 1862. 1 bound volume.

Hart, a soldier in Butler's army, maintained this diary aboard the *E. Wilder Forsley*. The volume provides an account of the fleet's entry into the Mississippi River, the bombardment of Forts Jackson and St. Philip, and the troops landing at New Orleans on 1 May 1862.

**MSS 135. WALTON-GLENNY FAMILY PAPERS.** 1855-1967. 292 items.

These papers consist of general and military correspondence, journals, photographs, broadsides, and other printed material. The general correspondence primarily covers the period of the Civil War and concerns the occupation of New Orleans and the service of the Washington Artillery in Virginia. Most of the letters were exchanged by Colonel James B. Walton, commander of the Washington Artillery, and his daughter, Emma Walton Glenny. Among the military correspondence are printed orders and broadsides, all dealing with the Washington Artillery during the Mexican and Civil Wars. Correspondents include General P. G. T. Beauregard, Judah P. Benjamin, General James Longstreet, Duncan F. Kenner, and W. N. Pendleton. Property confiscation records (1862-1864) contain correspondence between members of the Walton family and officers of the Union forces, and a detailed diary kept by Isabel Walton Waldo which documents the attempted confiscation of the Walton home.

**MSS 136. PIERRE GUSTAVE TOUTANT BEAUREGARD ITEMS.** 1845-1890. 11 items.

This group of disparate items includes four letters from Beauregard to various Confederate leaders, including Secretary of War Leroy Pope Walker and General John Preston Smith. Present in the collection is a draft telegram from Beauregard to President Jefferson Davis concerning troop movements of enemy forces in the closing months of the war and the attempts of Confederate forces under the command of General Richard Taylor to defend Mississippi and Alabama with thinning ranks of troops.

**MSS 138. WILLIAM LOVELACE FOSTER COLLECTION.** 1855-1970. 344 items.

The Reverend William Lovelace Foster, a Baptist minister from Alabama, enlisted in the Confederate army in 1862 and was appointed regimental chaplain of the 35th Mississippi Volunteer Infantry in 1863. Foster's letters to his wife, Mildred, include a 79-page day-by-day account of the siege of Vicksburg (20 June - 5 July 1863), which documents the first landings of federal troops at Grand Gulf, the battles of Jackson and Champion's Hill, and the 47-day struggle of the Confederate forces to defend Vicksburg. The plight of the wounded soldiers, to whom Foster ministered daily, and the miserable conditions endured by the civilian population are described in detail. Students of religious history may be interested in the 52 sermons in the collection, 18 of which date from the Civil War.

**MSS 143. INDEX TO BOOKS CONTAINING THE NAMES OF PERSONS TAKING THE OATH OF ALLEGIANCE AND A RECORD OF REGISTERED ENEMIES.** 1862-1875. 2 bound volumes.

"Copy of Index to 5 Books - containing the names of persons taking the oath of Allegiance in 1862" bears the bookplate of William Wright, State Registrar of Voters, and includes an alphabetical index of names. This notarized copy was made on 30 August 1875.

Inscriptions in "Record of Registered Enemies" state that it is a true copy of the original on file in the office of the Secretary of War, Washington, D.C. It also bears the bookplate of William Wright.

**MSS 146. JOURNAL OF THE ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE OF VESSELS AT THE PORT OF NEW ORLEANS.** 20 December 1862 - 3 July 1865. 1 bound volume.

This journal provides an account of port activity in New Orleans during the federal occupation. The 140 manuscript pages list the entries of sailing ships and steam vessels, including their destinations, cargo, and passenger lists.

**MSS 149. GENERAL ORDERS NO. 117.** 28 August 1864. 1 item.

The Corps d'Afrique was created in 1862 by General Butler as the first black regiment in the United States Army. This printed broadside order by General Banks revokes an earlier order establishing an invalid battalion for the Corps d'Afrique of the Department of the Gulf.

**MSS 154. EDWIN McMASTERS STANTON LETTER.** 23 June 1862. 1 item.

In this letter to General Butler, United States Secretary of War Stanton includes a copy of a dispatch dated 18 June 1862 from Lorenzo Thomas, Adjutant General, informing Butler that there is no experienced assistant adjutant general to be sent to aid him. The letter expresses Stanton's confidence in Butler and informs him of the appointment of Colonel George Shepley as military governor of Louisiana. Stanton also praises Butler's suggestions regarding the taking of Vicksburg.

**MSS 115. "ONE BUMPER AT PARTING / THE LADIES' FAREWELL TO BRUTAL FEROCITY BUTLER."** 20 December 1862. 1 item.

This satiric poem of five stanzas, printed on a single sheet and attributed only to "Cougie," celebrates the departure of General Butler from New Orleans. The poem contains references to Butler's infamous General Order No. 28, often called the "Woman's Order."

**MSS 164. ABRAHAM LINCOLN PRINTED CIRCULAR.** 2 December 1864. 1 item.

In this copy of a letter from Lincoln to Banks, the President refuses to name him as a replacement for General Edward R. S. Canby as commander of the Department of the Gulf. Lincoln urges Banks to return to Louisiana to "perform the part of advancing the new State government of Louisiana . . ."

**MSS 168. SCHAUMBURG-WRIGHT FAMILY PAPERS.** 1800-1896. 61 items.

A series of military correspondence and appointments which document the participation of Wright C. Schaumburg in the Civil War are included in this group of family papers. A journal (1862) recounts the Battle of Corinth, Mississippi. The papers include a pass, signed by Abraham Lincoln on 18 January 1865, to allow Mrs. Schaumburg to cross federal lines.

**MSS 172. "LA BATAILLE DES MOUCHOIRS."** 20 February 1863. 1 item.

This printed seven-stanza poem by "Eugenie" satirizes the "Battle of the Handkerchiefs" between the occupation forces of General Banks and the female population of New Orleans. The ladies had gathered on the levee to wave farewell to the paroled Confederate prisoners being transported out of the city.

**MSS 173. "BATTLE OF THE FAIR."** 20 February 1863. 1 item.

A prose version of the "Battle of the Handkerchiefs" to benefit the New Orleans Orphan Asylum was composed by a writer known only as "Miranda."

**MSS 177. CAPTAIN SAMUEL GAULT DIARY AND ACCOUNT BOOK.** 1 January - 13 April 1863. 2 items.

This manuscript diary of a captain in the 38th Massachusetts Volunteers recounts his service in New Orleans and Carrollton, Louisiana, including his visits to New Orleans's theaters, restaurants, and houses of ill repute. While in Banks's army, Gault took part in expeditions up the Mississippi River to Baton Rouge. Gault died during the battle of Fort Bisland in April 1863.

**MSS 222. MOSES GREENWOOD PAPERS.** 1844-1952. 810 items.

Moses Greenwood was a prominent New Orleans businessman who, at the outbreak of the Civil War, became an active member of the Committee of Subsistence for New Orleans. This group of citizens procured and provided assistance to the people of federally occupied New Orleans. A series of 171 letters includes correspondence which documents the activities of this committee throughout the years of the war. Many letters from soldiers in the field, particularly William Palfrey of the 5th Company, Washington Artillery, are present as well. Important correspondence in these papers includes that of General Richard Taylor and Bishop Leonidas Polk.

**MSS 223. WILLIAM C. C. VAUGHT PAPERS.** 1860-1864. 57 items.

Correspondence to and from William Vaught of New Orleans while he served with the Fifth Company, Washington Artillery, comprises the majority of this collection. His letters convey his feelings about the war and tell of his participation in the battles of Lookout Mountain, Missionary Ridge, and Perryville.

**MSS 226. VARNAM V. VAUGHAN LETTERS.** January, February 1863. 3 items.

Vaughan was a member of Company E, 53rd Regiment Massachusetts Volunteers, stationed at Camp Parapet, Carrollton, Louisiana. The letters describe his journey from New York to New Orleans and include a description of the village of Carrollton.

**MSS 227. EDWIN J. KURSHEEDT COLLECTION.** September 1863 - May 1865. 10 items.

Present in this collection are scattered items which document Kursheedt's service as a lieutenant and adjutant in the Washington Artillery. Included are orders, certificates of payment, prisoner of war passes and statements, and an amnesty oath.

**MSS 237. BATTLE OF ST. PAUL'S CHURCH BROADSIDE.** 1862. 1 item.

Federal troops attempted to close St. Paul's Church because the congregation defied General Benjamin Butler's order that prayers should be offered for the health of President Lincoln. This printed verse describes the response of the pastor, the Reverend Mr. Goodrich, and glorifies the actions of the women present on that day.

**MSS 239. "SABINE CROSS ROADS, NEAR MANSFIELD, LA" POEM.** 1864. 1 item.

Written by Billy R. M., 77th Illinois Volunteers, this printed poem describes the Confederate victory on 8 April 1864 at Mansfield and the Union rally at Pleasant Hill the next day. The Union generals who saved their troops in spite of the incompetence of General Banks are highly praised.

**MSS 253. THE CHARLES H. B. CALDWELL PAPERS.** 1862-1869. 46 items.

Several series of orders received by Lt. Caldwell, who commanded the gunboat *Itasca* in Farragut's fleet, comprise this collection. The first series contains orders from Farragut concerning the attack on Forts Jackson and St. Philip in April 1862. The second series concerns the siege of Port Hudson, Louisiana, in 1863, at which Caldwell commanded the ironclad gunboat *Essex*: it includes two maps, one hand-drawn, showing the positions of the Union forces and the Confederate defenses. The final series of orders relates to Caldwell's duty in the North Atlantic Blockading Squadron.

**MSS 255. THE WILKINSON-STARK FAMILY PAPERS.**  
1803-1930. 200 items.

Within a larger collection of family papers is a touching correspondence among family members. The personal letters of Robert Andrews Wilkinson to his wife, Mary Farrar Stark Wilkinson, reveal a close relationship between the two, and among details of battles and regiments can be found Wilkinson's almost desperate concern for the safety of his wife and family in occupied New Orleans. Because of this concern, Wilkinson sent his son, who had been serving at his side during the fierce fighting in Virginia, back to New Orleans only days before his own death at Second Manassas in August 1862. The ordeal of his widow in New Orleans is revealed in notes and safe conduct passes between General Thomas West Sherman, head of the federal forces, and members of the Wilkinson family. In July 1863, Mrs. Wilkinson took her family to Vicksburg, just as the city fell, and she demanded and received permission from Generals Ulysses S. Grant and William Tecumseh Sherman to enter the city and to remove her paroled son. Family correspondence chronicles the end of the Civil War as well as the hardships of Reconstruction.

**MSS 257. GENERAL ORDER NO. 28, THE "WOMAN'S ORDER."** 15 May 1862. 1 item.

In 1862 General Butler issued the infamous "Woman's Order" in an attempt to stop discourteous treatment of Union soldiers by the women of New Orleans. The order stated that any woman showing disrespect to a soldier of the United States would "be treated as a woman of the town plying her avocation."

**VICKSBURG: SOUTHERN CITY UNDER SIEGE**

The hardships of wartime are graphically portrayed in this day-by-day account of Vicksburg during the Union siege. The letters from William Lovelace Foster, a Confederate chaplain, are described in this issue of *UPDATE* (MSS 138). Edited with an introduction by Civil War scholar Kenneth Trist Urquhart, the dramatic account has been published by the Historic New Orleans Collection as *Vicksburg: Southern City Under Siege*.

This book will be of particular interest to Civil War buffs. It is available through the Shop at the Collection. Hardcover is \$15.00; softcover is \$6.95.

**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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