



THE HISTORIC NEW ORLEANS COLLECTION
KEMPER AND LEILA WILLIAMS FOUNDATION

Manuscripts Division UPDATE

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MICROFILM FROM THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES AT THE HISTORIC NEW ORLEANS COLLECTION

The eighth volume of *Manuscripts Division Update* is a continuation of volume seven. Both volumes relate to the microform holdings of the manuscripts division. While volume seven detailed newspapers and periodicals, the holdings from French and Spanish archives, and miscellaneous collections, this publication inventories Louisiana materials on microfilm from the National Archives.

The National Archives was established in 1934, largely as the result of efforts by historians and other scholars. It was designed to care for the government's permanently valuable records according to archival criteria. In the late 1940s, there was a growing awareness of the need to manage properly the rapidly increasing volume of federal records. As a result, in 1950 the Federal Records Act created federal records centers, located throughout the country, to assume the responsibility for records management. Most of the records in such centers are not of archival merit and are scheduled for eventual destruction. Those materials worthy of preservation are eventually cared for in National Archives branches in the regional centers. Generally, records relating primarily to the states or regions in which they were created remain in regional archives branches. Presidential libraries are an important adjunct of the National Archives. The Roosevelt Library, created in 1939, was the first such institution. In 1955, Congress passed legislation approving the acceptance and maintenance of other presidential libraries.

In 1985, legislation was passed that made the National Archives and Records Administration an independent agency of the executive branch, removing it from the control of the General Services Administration. The act established the position of archivist as a presidential appointment of no fixed term, stressing that the appointment should be non-political and that the appointee should have appropriate qualifications. In 1987, the pres-

ent Archivist of the United States, Don W. Wilson, was appointed under the new guidelines to direct the National Archives.

Material in the National Archives is arranged according to record group. The *Guide to the National Archives of the United States* defines a record group as a "body of organizationally and functionally related records established with particular regard for the administrative history, complexity, and volume of the records and archives of an agency." Accordingly, the microfilm editions represented here are so organized, with the exception of passenger lists and military records which are found in more than one record group. Two types of microfilm publications are found in this issue: M and T publications. Most M publications reproduce an entire series of records and have an introduction consisting of a general history of the originating agency, a description of the records' content, and an explanation of the arrangement of the records. T publications do not always reproduce an entire series of records and no introductory material is included. Occasionally, appropriate introductory material is generated for a T publication; it then receives an M designation.

In 1983 the Historic New Orleans Collection commissioned the National Archives to film previously unfiled Louisiana material. This ambitious microfilming project was undertaken in an effort to make Louisiana material in the National Archives more readily available to local researchers. The project resulted in six joint microfilm publications, each accompanied by a descriptive pamphlet. The six microfilm publications are *Records of the Federal Writers' Project, Works Projects Administration, Relating to Louisiana, 1935-1943* (M1366); *Selected Documents from the Louisiana Section of the Works Projects Administration, General Correspondence File ("State Series"), 1935-1943* (M1367); *Selected Documents From the*

Records of the Weather Bureau Relating to New Orleans, 1870-1912 (M1379); *Bound Records of the General Land Office Relating to Private Land Claims in Louisiana, 1767-1892* (M1382); *Unbound Records of the General Land Office Relating to Private Land Claims in Louisiana, 1805-1896* (M1385); and *Records of the New Orleans Field Offices, Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands, 1865-1869* (M1483). The six microfilm editions, comprising 61 reels of film, represent the only joint publication project ever undertaken by the National Archives. Researchers desiring copies of the descriptive pamphlets should get in touch with the reading room of the manuscripts division.

PASSENGER LISTS, NEW ORLEANS.

There are two basic passenger lists: customs passenger lists (Department of the Treasury, Record Group 36), which begin in 1820; and immigration passenger lists (Department of Justice, Record Group 85), which begin in 1890 and replace customs passenger lists. The customs passenger lists give the name, age, sex, occupation, country of embarkation, and country of destination for each passenger. In the event of death at sea, the date and circumstances are given. Immigration passenger lists vary in content, but always give the place of birth and last place of residence. On occasion, immigration passenger lists give the name and address of a relative in the country from which the passenger is traveling.

Passenger Lists of Vessels Arriving at New Orleans, 1820-1902 (M259), 93 reels.

Quarterly Abstracts of Passenger Lists of Vessels Arriving at New Orleans, 1820-1875 (M272), 17 reels.

Index to Passenger Lists of Vessels Arriving at New Orleans, 1853-1899 (T527), 32 reels.

Index to Passenger Lists of Vessels Arriving at New Orleans, 1900-1952 (T618), 22 reels.

Passenger Lists of Vessels Arriving at New Orleans, 1903-1945 (T905), 89 reels.

Crew Lists of Vessels Arriving at New Orleans, 1910-1919 (T939), 37 reels.

United States Customs Service Records, Port of New Orleans, Outward Bound Slave Manifests, 1812-1858 (Record Group 36), 12 reels. These records comprise permissions granted slave owners requesting that slaves travel to other American ports and manifests of ships carrying slaves from New Orleans.

United States Customs Service Records, Port of New Orleans, Inward Bound Slave Manifests, 1807-1860 (Record Group 36), 25 reels. These are records of slaves shipped to New Orleans from other American ports which give information on the slave, the owner, the ship's manifest, and the captain.

VOLUNTEER AND CONFEDERATE MILITARY SERVICE RECORDS, LOUISIANA.

The compiled military service records for volunteers (Record Group 94) consist of cards with information about a soldier gathered from muster rolls, returns, hospital registers, prison records, and other sources. The cards are arranged by state and further subdivided by military unit and alphabetically by family name. The compiled service records of Confederate soldiers (Record Group 109) consist of one or more card abstracts and occasionally an original document. The card contains information abstracted from muster rolls, returns, descriptive rolls, and Union prison and parole records. Generally, the only genealogical information contained on the cards is age and place of enlistment. If the soldier was imprisoned, the date of capture, place of imprisonment, and date of parole may be given. Researchers are cautioned that a soldier may have served in a state militia that was never mustered into Confederate service, that men sometimes used an alias when serving, and that they did not always serve in an organization from their home state. The compiled service records are so thorough that there is rarely a need to consult the originals. The program of compiled military service records began after the Civil War as an efficient means of verifying military and medical records to service claims for pensions and benefits.

Index to Compiled Service Records of Volunteer Soldiers who served in the War of 1812 in Organizations from Louisiana (M229), 3 reels.

Index to Compiled Service Records of Volunteer Soldiers who served during the Florida War in Organizations from Louisiana (M239), 1 reel.

Index to Compiled Service Records of Volunteer Soldiers who served during the War with Spain in Organizations from Louisiana (M240), 1 reel.

Index to Compiled Service Records of Volunteer Soldiers who served during the War of 1837-1838 in Organizations from Louisiana (M241), 1 reel.

Compiled Service Records: Confederate Soldiers who served in Organizations from Louisiana (M320), 414 reels.

Index to Compiled Service Records of Confederate Soldiers who served in Organizations from Louisiana (M378), 78 reels.

Index to Service Records of Volunteer Union Soldiers who served in Organizations from Louisiana (M387), 4 reels.

Service Records of Volunteer Union Soldiers who served in Organizations from Louisiana (M396), 50 reels.

Index to Service Records of Volunteer Soldiers who served during the Mexican War (M616), 41 reels.

RECORD GROUP 21: RECORDS OF THE DISTRICT COURTS OF THE UNITED STATES.

Records of the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Louisiana, 1806-1814 (M1082), 18 reels.

Included in this microfilm publication are the two volumes of minutes for the court and files for 769 cases. The minutes provide a record of court proceedings from 5 November 1808 to 14 December 1814, when court was recessed because of the threat of British invasion. The case files include suits filed under maritime, civil, and criminal laws; the majority are maritime related.

Land Claims Case Files and Related Records of the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Louisiana, 1844-1880 (M1115), 16 reels.

As provided in legislation enacted in 1844 and 1860, these land claims were filed on the basis of early French and Spanish land grants or "other written evidence of title from any foreign government." Reel 1 contains court minutes and dockets indexed by plaintiff's surname. The case files on the subsequent reels include two basic periods, 1844-1849 and 1860-1880.

RECORD GROUP 27: RECORDS OF THE WEATHER BUREAU.

Selected Documents From the Records of the Weather Bureau Relating to New Orleans, 1870-1912 (M1379), [A joint publication of the Historic New Orleans Collection and the National Archives], 8 reels.

Reproduced are selected documents pertaining to the meteorological operations and observations of the Signal Corps and Weather Bureau in New Orleans. Included are daily journals, records of hourly wind movements, cotton region reports, data on severe storms, and meteorological reports accumulated by the Smithsonian Institution for Louisiana and New Orleans (1841-1873).

RECORD GROUP 28: RECORDS OF THE UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE.

Post Office Department Reports of Site Locations, Louisiana, 1837-1950 (M1126), 16 reels.

A listing by parish of United States Post Offices in Louisiana. Information for each entry includes geographical data (both written and visual) and the method of mail supply.

RECORD GROUP 29: CENSUS RECORDS, LOUISIANA.

Census records are a valuable research tool. There is certain information which may be helpful to the researcher using them. The census records for the years 1810, 1820, 1830, and 1840 list only heads of households and the number of residents, subdivided by race (white, free colored, and slaves) and by age. Beginning in 1850, the census lists the name of every resident of a household and provides the following information about each one: age, sex, race, place of birth, occupation, and value of personal property and real estate owned. While there is some variation in subsequent census records, all begin with that basic data. The 1890 census, with the exception of Ascension parish, was destroyed by fire. The most recent census available is 1910. The 1920 census will not be available until 1992. A soundex (a phonetic index) exists for 1880, 1900, and 1910. The only children listed in the 1880 soundex are those under age 10. Commercially prepared indices exist for the 1810-1870 census records. The census records, though helpful, should be used with some caution: enumerators were prone to human error; sometimes residents were not at home; and at other times inaccurate information was supplied by neighbors.

1810 Census (M252), 1 reel.

1820 Census (M33), 3 reels.

1830 Census (M19), 3 reels.

1840 Census (M704), 9 reels.

1850 Census (M432), 19 reels.

1860 Census (M653), 25 reels.

1870 Census (M593), 27 reels.

1880 Census (T9), 28 reels.

1880 Soundex (T751), 55 reels.

1890 Special Schedules of Union Veterans and Widows of Veterans (M123), 2 reels.

1900 Census (T512), 31 reels.

1900 Soundex (T1048), 146 reels.

1910 Census (T624), 29 reels.

1910 Soundex (T1267), 132 reels.

Manuscript Census Returns, 1850-1880 (T1136), 15 reels.

Social Statistics, 1850-1880. Information on libraries, schools, newspapers, and religion arranged by parish.

Agriculture, 1850-1880. Information on owners of farm land, property value, labor, crops, and livestock.

Manufacturing, 1880. Information on owners, products, laborers, and wages.

Defective, Dependent, and Delinquent Cases. Information on deaf-mutes, orphans, and the infirm.

Originals of these manuscript census returns are in the Duke University Library.

RECORD GROUP 33: RECORDS OF THE FEDERAL EXTENSION SERVICE.

Extension Service Annual Reports, Louisiana, 1909-1944 (T683), 67 reels.

Reports of state agricultural agents on disease, insects, crops, acreage planted, and the results of agricultural experiments. Agricultural field agents, their territory, and their dates of tenure are listed along with some correspondence.

RECORD GROUP 36: RECORDS OF THE UNITED STATES CUSTOMS SERVICE.

Fair Copies of Letters Pertaining to the Customhouse Building at New Orleans, 1848-1854 (Not a National Archives publication), 1 reel.

Correspondence of A.T. Wood, architect, and the Office of the Customhouse Building in New Orleans with various officials in Washington, D.C. Included are plans and drawings.

RECORD GROUP 49: RECORDS OF THE BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT.

Bound Records of the General Land Office Relating to Private Land Claims in Louisiana, 1767-1892 (M1382), [A joint publication of the Historic New Orleans Collection and the National Archives], 8 reels.

Primarily concerning the present State of Louisiana, this collection includes some claims in Alabama, Mississippi, and Missouri. Private land claims are considered to be those based on grants, purchases, or settlements made before 1803 while Louisiana was under French and Spanish rule. The records are bound according to the board of land commissioners or land commissioner, land office, location, or type of claim, and include a variety of documents ranging from reports by land commissioners to transcripts of French and Spanish documents.

Unbound Records of the General Land Office Relating to Private Land Claims in Louisiana, 1805-1896 (M1385), [A joint publication of the Historic New Orleans Collection and the National Archives], 2 reels.

Like the Bound Records, these were accumulated by Division D (Private Land Claims) of the former General Land Office relating to claims in Louisiana under French and Spanish rule. The collection includes letters received from land commissioners, patent certificates, orders for surveys, plats and survey notes, and miscellaneous documents relating to private land claims in Louisiana.

RECORD GROUP 56: GENERAL RECORDS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY.

Treasury Department Papers Relating to the Financing of the Louisiana Purchase (T712), 1 reel.

A small collection of documents of Secretary of the Treasury Albert Gallatin, Thomas Jefferson, the Baring Company of London, the Hope Company of Amsterdam, Barbé-Marbois, and Robert Livingston concerning the purchase of Louisiana.

Letters sent by the Secretary of the Treasury to the Collectors of Customs at Baltimore, Boston, New Orleans, and Philadelphia, 1847-1878 (T1257), 19 reels.

These letters cover a variety of topics including office furnishings, salaries, import taxes, and the daily functions of the New Orleans Custom House. The letters are bound and arranged chronologically. References to the four ports in this edition are indexed.

RECORD GROUP 58: RECORDS OF THE INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE.

Internal Revenue Assessment Lists for Louisiana, 1863-1866 (M769), 10 reels.

This microfilm reproduces bound volumes of tax assessment lists for the Louisiana collection districts. The lists include the names of all persons residing in a collection district subject to taxation, a list of individuals residing outside the district but owning property in it, and the owners' post office addresses.

RECORD GROUP 59: GENERAL RECORDS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE.

State Department Territorial Series, Orleans Series, 1764-1813 (T260), 13 reels.

These records include a chronology of Louisiana, printed ordinances of the period, translations and transcriptions of documents, articles about colonial Louisiana, and papers relevant to the Louisiana Transfer.

Dispatches from United States Consuls in New Orleans, 1798-1807 (T225), 1 reel.

Imprints; census records; index to outgoing correspondence of Daniel Clark, Consul of the United States to the Port of New Orleans, 1802-1804; and copies of selected correspondence of Spanish and United States officials are included.

RECORD GROUP 60: GENERAL RECORDS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE.

Letters Received by the Department of Justice from the State of Louisiana, 1871-1884 (M94), 6 reels.

The correspondence included in this microfilm edition forms part of the source-chronological files of the Justice Department. Contained are unbound letters, with their enclosures, received from the State of Louisiana; a register of correspondence; and miscellaneous items concerning Louisiana.

RECORD GROUP 69: RECORDS OF THE WORKS PROJECTS ADMINISTRATION.

Records of the Federal Writers' Project, Works Projects Administration, Relating to Louisiana, 1935-1943 (M1366), [A joint publication of the Historic New Orleans Collection and the National Archives], 3 reels.

Established in the summer of 1935, the Federal Writers' Project was the only WPA subproject that operated from its inception in all 48 states and the District of Columbia. The state office headed by Lyle Saxon was in New Orleans, with branch offices in Alexandria, Baton Rouge, Gretna, Lafayette, Lake Charles, and Shreveport. Included in the records are the final report of the Louisiana Writers' Project, state organizational data, field reports, editorial correspondence, correspondence on the Louisiana State Guide, publication reports, and records concerning architecture, folklore, and ethnic studies.

Selected Documents from the Louisiana Section of the Works Projects Administration, General Correspondence File ("State Series"), 1935-1943 (M1367), [A joint publication of the Historic New Orleans Collection and the National Archives], 30 reels.

The documents reproduced in this publication include correspondence, reports, newspaper clippings, and other documents relating to individuals, organizations, institutions, or projects within Louisiana.

RECORD GROUP 101: RECORDS OF THE OFFICE OF THE COMPTROLLER OF THE CURRENCY.

Registers of Signatures of Depositors in Branches of the Freedman's Savings and Trust Company, 1865-1874 (M816), 27 reels.

The Freedman's Savings and Trust Company was incorporated by an act of Congress on 3 March 1865 as a banking institution for freed slaves. The 55 volumes reproduced in this microfilm edition contain signatures and personal identification data on depositors.

RECORD GROUP 105: RECORDS OF THE BUREAU OF REFUGEES, FREEDMEN, AND ABANDONED LANDS.

Records of the Superintendent of Education for the State of Louisiana, Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands, 1864-1869 (M1026), 12 reels.

This collection comprises 18 bound volumes (letters, telegrams, registers of employees, accounts with freedmen's schools) and unbound documents (letters and telegrams sent, reports sent and received). Indices are filmed immediately preceding the appropriate records.

Records of the Assistant Commissioner for the State of Louisiana, Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands, 1865-1869 (M1027), 36 reels.

The records consist of bound and unbound documents, including letters and endorsements sent, orders and circulars issued and received, and registers of letters received.

Records of the New Orleans Field Offices, Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands, 1865-1869 (M1483), [A joint publication of the Historic New Orleans Collection and the National Archives], 10 reels.

The records of the New Orleans area offices (Iberville, Orleans, Plaquemines, St. Bernard, and West Baton Rouge parishes), as well as the Freedmen's Hospital, are included in this publication. Letters sent, registers of letters received, circulars, journals, registers of patients, hospital conditions, and interments in the Freedmen's Cemetery are among material included. The register of patients in the Corps d'Afrique General Hospital (1863-1865) concludes the publication.

RECORD GROUP 109: WAR DEPARTMENT COLLECTION OF CONFEDERATE RECORDS.

Records of the Louisiana State Government, 1850-1888, in the War Department Collection of Confederate Records (M359), 24 reels.

These records are presumed to have been included in the state records surrendered in Shreveport in June 1865. Included are the records of the state convention, the legislature, the executive, judiciary, and treasury departments, the Secretary of State, Auditor, and Adjutant General.

**RECORD GROUP 365: TREASURY DEPARTMENT
COLLECTION OF CONFEDERATE RECORDS.**

Records of the Cotton Bureau of the Trans-Mississippi Department of the Confederate War Department, 1862-1865 (T1129), 9 reels.

This collection of Confederate records held in the Treasury Department is composed of general correspondence of the Headquarters Office of the Cotton Bureau at Shreveport (1864-1865).

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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.

This issue of *Manuscripts Division Update* was prepared by Alfred E. Lemmon with the assistance of John D. Barbry.