

**See also UPA Microfilm:
MF 5322, Series I, Part 3, Reel 10**

ELLIS-FARAR PAPERS

(Mss. 1000)

Compiled by

Barry Cowan
2003

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

Revised 2009

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SUMMARY

Size.	3 linear feet
Geographic Location.	Adams County, Miss., Pointe Coupee Parish, La., Houma, La.
Inclusive Dates.	1768-1871
Bulk dates.	1804-1833
Languages.	English and Spanish
Summary.	Papers of the Richard Ellis family and the related Benjamin Farar family, planters of Adams County, Miss., reflecting early land holdings and plantation economy and management.
Access.	Photocopies must be made from microfilm. Items in vault restricted.
Related Collections.	Benjamin Farrar Papers, Mss. 1364
Copyright.	Physical rights are retained by the LSU Libraries. Copyright of the original materials is retained by the descendants of the creators of the materials in accordance with U.S. copyright law.
Citation.	Ellis-Farar Papers, Mss. 1000, Louisiana and Lower Mississippi Valley Collections, LSU Libraries, Baton Rouge, Louisiana.
Stack designation.	S:1, OS:E, Vault:21
Also available on.	UPA Microfilm 5322, Series I, Part 3, Reel 10

BIOGRAPHICAL/HISTORICAL NOTE

The Ellis and Farar families were early settlers and major landowners in Mississippi and Louisiana. Richard Ellis owned White Cliffs, Homochitto, and Laurel Hill plantations in Adams County, near Natchez, Miss. Upon his death, these plantations and the property associated with them were inherited by Ellis' children John, Abram, Jane, Mary, and Martha. Dr. Benjamin Farar (1773-1826) was an early settler of Pointe Coupee Parish, La. and also owned lands in Adams County, Miss. He had three children: Captain Benjamin, Ann Frances, and Margaret Madeline.

Mary Ellis married Capt. Benjamin Farar and moved to Laurel Hill Plantation. She inherited the land from her father and they became successful planters. Their daughter, Ann Eliza married Dr. William Newton Mercer (1792-1874) and inherited Laurel Hill. Abram Ellis and his family (daughters Margaret and Ann, son Richard G.) resided at Homochitto Plantation and later moved to Evergreen Plantation in Houma, La. Margaret Ellis married Dr. Stephen Duncan (1787-1867) and Ann Ellis married Thomas Butler (1785-1847) who owned The Cottage near St. Francisville, La. Richard G. Ellis attended Cumberland College and married Julia Saul. He later owned Evergreen, which was passed down to his son, Richard G. Ellis, Jr. Jane Ellis married Major George Rapalje and lived in Natchez, Miss. They later moved to Laurel Hill Plantation and Jane Ellis Rapalje took on a major role in its management.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

Legal documents, bills and receipts, and correspondence of Richard Ellis, Mary Ellis Farar and Captain Benjamin Farar, Jane Ellis Rapalje and George Rapalje, Abram Ellis, and members of their respective families. Legal documents consist of papers pertaining to the settlement of the estate of Richard Ellis and include an agreement signed by the heirs relative to the distribution and management of his properties as well as deeds, surveys, indentures, and confirmation of land ownership. Also included with legal documents are contracts for work performed by craftsmen and overseers on the various plantations; a typescript of Abram Ellis' will; a copy of the will of Jane Ellis Rapalje; and papers pertaining to the partition of Captain Benjamin Farar's estate including deeds, vouchers, and slave inventories. Bills and receipts consist of those for merchandise and for work and repairs performed at the plantations; doctor bills for family members and their slaves; and bills for tuition to College of Louisiana. Correspondence consists of letters between various family members concerning family news such as illnesses and marriages, and plantation matters such as crop conditions and letters to and from overseers.

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		2	Agreement and certificate signed by heirs of the estate of Richard Ellis. (Jan. 27, 1795, filed Mar. 24, 1804);
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OS:E	--	1	U.S. certificate verifying Benjamin Farar's Spanish land claim. (Aug. 15, 1805) U.S. certificate verifying Richard Ellis' Spanish land claim. (June 4, 1805) U.S. certificate verifying Benjamin Farar's Spanish land claim. (June 4, 1805) U.S. certificate verifying Jane Rapalje's Spanish land claim. (Oct. 3, 1805) U.S. certificate verifying Benjamin Farar's Spanish land claim (Sept. 17, 1805)

ELLIS-FARAR PAPERS

1768-1871

Mss. 1000

LSU Libraries Special Collections

<u>Location</u>	<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Contents</u>
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<u>Location</u>	<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Contents</u>
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<u>Location</u>	<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Contents</u>
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Vault:21		1	Confirmation Certificate B.252. (11/1/1833)
Vault:21		1	Confirmation Certificate B.253. (11/1/1833)

<u>Location</u>	<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Contents</u>
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<u>Location</u>	<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Contents</u>
S:1	2	16	Letter to Thomas Butler. (2/8/1828) Tax receipt to William Newton Mercer. (1829) Letter to William Newton Mercer. (2/21/1829) “Appraisalment of the Estate of Jane Rapalje deceased. (12/30/1823) Affidavit concerning land exchange between Capt. Benjamin Farar and Nathan Dix. (10/23/1830)
S:1	2	17	Receipt to William Newton Mercer from H. Townsend for legal fees. (2/2/1832) Letter to Thomas Butler from Richard G. Ellis. (5/25/1832) Letter to Thomas Butler from Richard G. Ellis. (6/19/1832) Letter to Thomas Butler from Richard G. Ellis. (6/24/1833) Letter to Thomas Butler from Richard G. Ellis. (9/22/1833) Valuation of property of Abram Ellis. (12/30/1833) Receipt to Abram Ellis from the College of Louisiana. (7/15/1834) Receipt for payment of \$46.71 to John Holmes. (7/20/1835) Receipt to Thomas Butler from A.C. Brady for clothing. (7/20/1835) Receipt to “Abraham” Ellis from the College of Louisiana. (8/13/1836) Letter to Thomas Butler from Richard G. Ellis. (10/16/1835) Receipt to “Abraham Ellis from the College of Louisiana. (8/13/1836) Letter to Thomas Butler from Richard G. Ellis. (8/13/1836) Letter to Thomas Butler from Richard G. Ellis. (10/18/1836) Receipt to Abram Ellis for \$20.00. (10/28/1836)
		18	Letter to Thomas Butler from Abram Ellis. (undated) Letter to Thomas Butler from Richard G. Ellis. (9/27/1837) Letter to Thomas Butler from Richard G. Ellis. (10/15/1837) Letter to Thomas Butler from Richard G. Ellis. (1/25/1837) Letter to Thomas Butler from Richard G. Ellis. (3/30/1838) Letter to Thomas Butler from Richard G. Ellis. (4/30/1838) Letter to Thomas Butler from Richard G. Ellis. (4/18/1839) Letter to Thomas Butler from Richard G. Ellis. (5/17/1839) Letter to Thomas Butler from Richard G. Ellis. (7/18/1839) Letter to Thomas Butler from R.H. Nicholls of Jefferson College. (10/19/1839) Letter to Thomas Butler form Richard G. Ellis. (4/17/1840) Letter to Thomas Butler from Richard G. Ellis. (5/3/1841) Letter to Thomas Butler from Richard G. Ellis. (3/17/1844) Letter to Thomas Butler from Richard G. Ellis. (4/18/1844) Letter to Thomas Butler from Richard G. Ellis. (7/4/1844) Letter to Thomas Butler concerning the disappearance of Thomas Ellis. (5/11/1846) Letter to Thomas Butler from B. Lacey. (6/25/1847)

ELLIS-FARAR PAPERS

1768-1871

Ms. 1000

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<u>Location</u>	<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Contents</u>
S:1	2	18	Letter to Thomas Butler from Thomas Ellis. (8/2/1846) Letter. (2/13/1853)
		19	Letter to "Cousin" from Richard G. Ellis. (3/21/1871) Letter to Richard G. Ellis from R.H. and J.F. Bradford. (enclosed with above letter). (3/11/1871) Hand-drawn map showing lands of R.G. Ellis and Thomas Butler. (undated)