

STILLE AND YARBROUGH, LTD. RECORDS

Mss. 1009

Inventory

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

Reformatted 2020
Revised 2021

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SUMMARY

| | |
|-----------------------------|--|
| Size | 0.3 linear ft., 76 volumes |
| Geographic Locations | Robeline, Louisiana; Powhatan, Louisiana; Natchitoches Parish, Louisiana |
| Inclusive Dates | 1900-1937 |
| Languages | English |
| Summary | The Stille and Yarbrough, Ltd. records consist of account books (cashbooks, index books, journals, ledgers, and record books) and loose records (receipts, letters, income statements, inventories, telegrams, and bills of merchandise) relating to the businesses and general stores of Stille and Yarbrough, Ltd., cotton factors and dealers in grocery and plantation supplies in Natchitoches Parish, Louisiana. |
| Access Restrictions | No restrictions on access. |
| Copyright | For those materials not in the public domain, copyright is retained by the descendants of the creators in accordance with U.S. Copyright law. |
| Citation | Stille and Yarbrough, Ltd. Records, Mss. 1009, Louisiana and Lower Mississippi Valley Collections, LSU Libraries Special Collections, Baton Rouge, La. |
| Stack Location(s) | A:67, P:6-10 |

BIOGRAPHICAL/HISTORICAL NOTE

Stille and Yarbrough, Ltd. were cotton factors and dealers in dry goods, groceries, and plantation supplies. The firm ran two general stores in Robeline and Powhatan, Natchitoches Parish, Louisiana.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The bound volumes of Stille and Yarbrough, Ltd. consist of cashbooks, index books, an inventory book, journals, ledgers, record books, a trial balance book, and a printed volume. The journals, which make up the bulk of the account books, provide a day-by-day record of purchases of dry goods, groceries, clothing, and other items; quantities of goods sold; and names of clients. The ledgers contain detailed statements of accounts with various customers. Other books show records of inventory and double-entry accounting.

Loose records associated with the account books consist of orders and receipts for roofing materials, hardware items, clothing, livestock feed, cotton, and other goods from various merchants; letters pertaining to debts owed by customers; income statements of profit drawn up for use in preparing federal tax returns; inventories showing items in stock; telegrams from business associates; business letters; and bills of merchandise. Some of the letters concern a court case brought by the firm against the Bank of Coushatta concerning a piece of land in Red River Parish. Some records pertain to the effects of World War I on the cotton market and other business practices.

Loose records of interest include two letters to the Howard Hide & Leather Co., Texarkana, Texas, and The Rogers Fur Co., St. Louis, Missouri, from Stille and Yarbrough, Ltd. offering opossum, raccoon, mink, and skunk furs for sale (January 29, December 13, 1916); a letter to R. W. Yarbrough and Sam Sibley, Powhatan, from Charles R. Yarbrough regarding prospects at the Powhatan store, with Charles stating "I would like to have both of your doors to show windows hung on center pivots so you can get to them readil [sic] and the window on grocery side should be used for groceries and Dago competition probably including bananas" (July 12, 1916); two letters to Russell E. Gardner and the Chevrolet Auto Co., St. Louis, Missouri, from Stille and Yarbrough, Ltd. asking that Chevrolet consider developing an agency in Natchitoches Parish (March 11, 20, 1916); letters regarding oil prospects on land (SW1/4 SEC 34 T13 R11) owned by Charles R. Yarbrough in Red River Parish and his attempts to lease surface and oil rights (May 31, June 20, 24, 29, July 5, September 15-16, 19, 1916); a letter to Dessie Russell, Daughters of the Confederacy, Natchitoches, from J. J. Yarbrough describing the capture of two United States Army soldiers (in Natchitoches) serving under General Camby (August 8, 1916); a letter regarding war and parish tax assessments and the increase in taxation to be placed on farmers (March 7, 1917); a letter to R. W. Yarbrough, Powhatan, from Charles R. Yarbrough, Robeline, regarding his opposition to R. W.'s plans of enlistment in the United States Army (July 27, 1917); a letter regarding a requested draft exemption for E. T. Prothro of Robeline (August 18, 1917); a letter to S. J. Sibley, Camp Pike, Arkansas, from Stille and Yarbrough, Ltd. regarding Sibley's salary before leaving because of the draft (September 19, 1917); a letter to the

U.S. Shipping Board, Washington, D.C., from Stille and Yarbrough, Ltd. regarding the use of steel nets to protect ships against submarines (December 13, 1917); a letter to William T. Hardie & Co., commission merchants, New Orleans, from Still and Yarbrough, Ltd. complaining about delivery times of cotton sold (January 11, 1918); letters regarding the state of the cotton market in reaction to war news (January 24, March 29, May 16, 1918); letters regarding the Third Liberty Loan, The Brown Moving Picture Show, the war stamp saving sale, and the War Saving Campaign (March 6, April 11, 19, June 9, 17, 1918); a letter to Continental Gin Co., Dallas, Texas, from Still and Yarbrough, Ltd. mentioning heavy excess war tax (March 13, 1918); a letter with a color advertisement for Diamond Tires in the letterhead (March 16, 1918); a letter to Frank J. Williams, El Paso, Texas, from Charles R. Yarbrough stating that his company has made some money but that "farmers have about bought it all back from us as we are selling more goods on credit now than ever before" (March 18, 1918); a letter to James B. Aswell, Washington, D.C., from Stille and Yarbrough, Ltd. criticizing a pending Congressional bill fixing the price on cotton, predicting that no adequate price fixing will result in large crops and a lack of ships to export the crops (April 26, 1918); a letter to John M. Parker, food administrator, New Orleans, from Still and Yarbrough, Ltd. seeking advice on regulation of the sale of flour to farmers who have corn and meal at home (May 18, 1918); a letter to Judge W. T. Cunningham, Natchitoches, unsigned but on Stille and Yarbrough, Ltd. letterhead, regarding how contributions to the Red Cross fund are published, with the writer stating "But I am interested in the negroes who have made contributions individually in this ward... This class of our population are ignorant and suspicious and while they are beginning to take an interest in war activities, they can still be further educated" and going on to suggest that contributions from African American citizens and white citizens should be published separately (June 5, 1918); a financial statement of the Robeline, Louisiana Auxiliary (June 19, 1918); and a letter regarding the curtailed production and scarcity of stoves and ranges (September 12, 1918).

INDEX TERMS

Materials relating to these people, places, and things can be found throughout the entire collection.

Account books.
Actions and defenses--Louisiana--Robeline.
Bank of Coushatta.
Business records.
Cashbooks.
Clothing and dress--Louisiana--Robeline.
Consumers--Louisiana--Robeline.
Debtor and creditor--Louisiana--Robeline.
Dry-goods--Louisiana--Robeline.
Factoring services industry--Louisiana--Robeline.
Financial statements.
General stores--Louisiana--Robeline.
Groceries--Louisiana--Robeline.
Hardware--Louisiana--Robeline.
Indexes (reference sources)
Inventories.
Journals (accounts)
Ledgers (account books)
Letters (correspondence)
Merchants--Louisiana--Robeline.
Real property--Louisiana--Red River Parish.
Robeline (La.)--Economic conditions--20th century.
Stille and Yarbrough, Ltd.
Telegrams.

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| | | | <u>Volumes (loose on shelves)</u> |
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| | -- | -- | Volume 3: 1908 June-1909 October |
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| | -- | -- | Volume 6: 1912 June-1913 April |
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| | | | Trial balance book |
| | -- | -- | Volume 75: undated |
| | | | Printed volume |
| P:10 | -- | -- | Volume 76: <i>Telegraphic Cipher Code: Especially Adapted to the Cotton Trade</i> . Revised and improved edition. A. B. Shepperson, Cotton Exchange Building, New York, 1878 |