

JAMES PIRRIE PAPERS

Mss. 1382

Inventory

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Baton Rouge, Louisiana State University

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SUMMARY

Size	0.2 linear ft.
Geographic Locations	West Feliciana Parish, Louisiana; Plaquemines Parish, Louisiana; New Orleans, Louisiana;
Inclusive Dates	1803-circa 1830
Languages	English
Summary	Personal and plantation papers of James Pirrie, cotton planter and owner of Oakley Plantation and slaveholder in West Feliciana Parish, Louisiana.
Access Restrictions	No restrictions on access.
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Citation	James Pirrie Papers, Mss. 1382, Louisiana and Lower Mississippi Valley Collections, LSU Libraries Special Collections, Baton Rouge, La.
Stack Location(s)	UU:104

BIOGRAPHICAL/HISTORICAL NOTE

James Pirrie, a member of a Scottish family, was an alcalde under Louisiana's Spanish rule. He wed Mrs. Lucretia ("Lucy") Alston Gray and became owner and cotton planter of Oakley Plantation, West Feliciana Parish, Louisiana. Oakley was built by Ruffin Gray, Lucy's deceased husband. Of the seven children Lucy bore, only two--Mary Ann (Ruffin's daughter) and Eliza (James' daughter)--lived to adulthood. Eliza Pirrie was married three times: to Robert Hilliard Barrow, to Reverend William Robert Bowman, and to Henry E. Lyons. When she was 15, Eliza was the pupil of John James Audubon during the summer and fall of 1821. This was the reason Audubon spent time at Oakley that year.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

Predominantly plantation financial papers and letters associated with James Pirrie's management of Oakley. These papers include bills, receipts, and statements of accounts for goods and services; items related to the sale of Pirrie's cotton through New Orleans cotton factors Flower and Finley; and promissory notes. Pirrie's purchase (1818) of Live Oak Plantation, Plaquemines Parish, from James Wilkinson is reflected in letters from Wilkinson and Flower and Finley. A schedule (circa 1830) shows the legal division of Mrs. Lucy Pirrie's (James' widow) property between her daughters, whose names at that time were Mary Ann Gray Smith and Eliza Pirrie Bowman. The valuations of household furnishings are provided in a list. There is also a list of cotton picked by slaves and shipped from 1817 to 1819 (includes names of slaves).

COLLECTION DESCRIPTION

Papers, 1803, 1805-1807, 11 items:

1 bill from B. Hammer for black services, May 24, 1803.

1 certificate signed by George G. Crawford (?) and John Downey respecting arbitration between John Plunket and Manual Montagudo, April 5, 1805.

1 receipt signed by Antonio Tarter (?) for payment by James Pirrie of cotton sold in New Orleans, April 24, 1805.

1 statement of account with James Hanwick (?) for chains and wheels, January 1807.

3 items from Clay and Sterrett, factors, New Orleans, concerning sale of cotton and purchase of merchandise, February 18-19, 1807.

1 promissory note signed (April 4, 1807) by William Bryon and witnessed by Thomas Scott, Jr. payable to Francis Connell and paid by James Pirrie, June 19, 1807.

1 promissory note payable to Charles Devall, signed by Phil A. Gray, May 13, 1807.

1 request from Gilbert Piper, Bayou Sara, for James Pirrie to pay Joseph E. Johns, June 2, 1807.

1 receipt for payment by James Pirrie on account of Luther Smith, signed by Lewis Stirling, September 3, 1807.

Papers, 1808-1811, 22 items:

10 promissory notes, orders, and sight drafts signed by James Pirrie to James E. Walfen, February 9, 1807; Josh Miller, April 8, 1808; J. F. Doyle, June 4, 1808; Bertrand Ewell, August 29, 1808; John Brander, June 18, 1808; Robert McCausland for first payment on property purchased from Phillip A. Gray, October 22, 1808; Walter McClellan, January 30, 1809; Lines (Lyons) and Carpenter for transfer of charge of loan from Hamner to Pirrie, April 9, 1809; William Bryan, March 31, 1810; William Lewis for payment to Dr. William Lion (Lyons), March 23, 1811.

9 receipts signed by Richard Richardson and Foster Moore for payment for plantation work, February 17, 1808; James Coby for digging well, March 10, 1809; William Bryan, July 11, 1809; Zedock Brashear for due bill to Henry Clark, February 13, 1810; Josh Miller for receipt of note signed (August 7, 1809) by Thomas F. Drennan, March 20, 1810; Major Lewis Craig for payment authorized by James Pirrie and made by William Lewis, November 6, 1810; Pirrie for money received from John Gale, November 19, 1810; William Lewis for payment in full, April 9, 1811; William Lewis for payment to Phillip Gray for Pirrie, April 13, 1811.

2 bills for merchandise purchased from Richard Prime, merchant, Thompson Creek, West Feliciana Parish, April 9, 1808, and from Lake Whiting for hats for R. Gray, August 1811.

1 sight draft signed by Charles McMicken, St. Francisville, payable to William Lewis and addressed to James Pirrie, May 18, 1811.

Papers, 1812-1814, 7 items:

3 receipted promissory notes signed by James Pirrie, payable to Joseph Gray, March 17, 1812; James White, May 6, 1812; and M. L. Finley and Company, August 7, 1813.

4 miscellaneous items consisting of bill and J. and B. Smith for purchase of tobacco, cloth, and crockery, October 28, 1812; acceptance by William Lewis of James Pirrie's draft, June 23, 1813; order from Pirrie for William Lewis to pay Samuel Coombs, March 25, 1815; and receipt for payment of 1813 taxes, signed by Ben Smith, deputy collector, January 20, 1814.

Papers, 1815-1817, 10 items:

2 statements of cotton sales and 4 letters from Flower and Finley, New Orleans cotton factor, to James Pirrie mentioning payment of drafts to Nathan Kemper and J. and B. Smith, note signed by Joseph Gray, October 20, 1815; cotton sales and shipment of purchases, December 22, 1815; apologies for failure to remit payment to Ruffin Gray (son of Lucretia Gray Pirrie), March 6, 1816; and death of Michael L. Finley, difficulty in selling inferior cotton and cost of bagging, August 25, 1817.

1 bill for wine, cloth, trunk, shoes, and other items purchased by James Pirrie from D. B. Finley, January 1, 1816.

2 receipts for payments by James Pirrie of 1814 property tax, February 21, 1816, and for quarterly payment to St. Francisville Library, David McKeehan, Librarian, April 24, 1816.

1 certified statement, signed by William Haines, promising to have wife endorse act of sale of land to John McDougal, February 2, 1818.

Papers, 1818-1819, 14 items:

4 letters from Flower and Finley commenting on cotton shipments and cotton market, March 14 and April 1, 1818; mentioning enclosure of \$4,000 draft favoring James Wilkison, United States general, for land [Live Oak Plantation], in Plaquemines Parish, purchased by James Pirrie, May 16, 1818; and mentioning shipment of Mrs. Pirrie's furniture on keelboat *Columbus* in care of J. Kitchum and Company and cotton market, November 18, 1818.

2 letters from Crocker and Olcott, New Orleans, notifying James Pirrie of shipment of liquor, food, and salt to Bayou Sara, March 23 and May 7, 1818.

1 letter from Mary A. Smith, New Orleans, to James Pirrie (stepfather) stating Eliza Pirrie (daughter of James, half-sister of Mary) under medical care of Dr. Davidson, Sarah "wild as ever," and commenting on Cousin Lewis's roundtrip to New Orleans on the *Orleans*, March 30, 1818.

1 letter from James Wilkison, [Live Oak Plantation] Plaquemines Parish, commenting on willingness to sell place to a "responsible purchaser," April 3, 1818.

3 promissory notes signed by James Pirrie, payable to Hercules O'Connor, June 5 and December 4, 1819; R. C. Wederstrand, June 19, 1819.

1 receipt signed by J. Woodruff for transfer of money by James Pirrie according to judgment in legal suit against William Lewis, August 18, 1819.

1 order to pay for purchase of bank stock signed by James Pirrie, October 2, 1819.

1 list of cotton picked by slaves and shipped from 1817 to 1819, last shipment dated December 15, 1819 (document includes names of slaves).

Papers, 1820-1821, 9 items:

4 promissory notes signed by James Pirrie, payable to Hercules O'Connor at Louisiana State Bank, St. Francisville, February 5, March 4, and May 6, 1820; and to Lewis Stirling, September 6, 1821.

W. and D. Flower statement of account to James Pirrie includes charges for jewelry (earrings), tuition, and music and dancing lessons for Eliza Pirrie, July 6, 1820; and 3 letters commenting on low selling price of cotton and shipment of merchandise, September 23 and October 4, 1820, November 19, 1821.

1 notice from the Bank of the United States, Office of Discount and Deposit, New Orleans, to Eugene Carlin, of \$1,000 due, March 21, 1821.

Papers, 1823-1826, circa 1830, undated, 9 items:

1 promissory note signed by James Pirrie payable to Ira Smith (husband of Mary Ann Gray, the stepdaughter of James), January 1, 1823.

1 receipt signed by J. Woodruff, lawyer, for payment of legal fee by James Pirrie, July 31, 1823.

1 statement of cotton sales rendered James Pirrie's estate by Reynolds and Ralston and Company, New Orleans, April 19, 1824.

1 notice, signed by F. A. Browder, tax collector, to Pirrie estate for taxes due on 5,656 acres, 106 slaves, 30 head of horses, 200 head of cattle, and 1 carriage, August 10, 1824.

2 receipts for payment by Eliza Barrow on father's notes signed by Ira Smith, May 6, 1825; and for payment for her portion of state and parish taxes signed by M. Courtney, collector, 1826.

1 copy of schedule showing division of personal property of Mrs. Lucretia (Lucy) Alston Gray, widow of James Pirrie, between her 2 daughters, Mary Ann Gray Smith and Eliza Pirrie Bowman, and 1 list of household furnishings showing valuation of items and articles listed, circa 1830.

1 affidavit concerning collection of note on Pirrie, undated.

INDEX TERMS

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

Cotton trade--Louisiana--West Feliciana Parish.
Lyons, Eliza B. (Eliza Bowman), 1805-1851.
Oakley Plantation (La.)
Pirrie, James, -1824.
Plantations--Louisiana--West Feliciana Parish.
Plantation owners--Louisiana.
Slaves--Louisiana.
Slaveholders--Louisiana--West Feliciana Parish.
West Feliciana Parish (La.)--History--19th century.

CONTAINER LIST

<u>Stack</u> <u>Location</u>	<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Contents (with dates)</u>
UU:104	1	1-7	Papers, 1803-circa 1830, undated