

See also UPA microfilm:

MF:5322, Series I, Part 2, Reels 17-18

JOHN CLOSE PAPERS

Ms. 1646

Inventory

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

Reformatted 2007

Revised 2016

Updated 2020

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SUMMARY

Size.	325 items
Geographic locations.	New Orleans, La.; St. Landry Parish, La.; Washington Co., Ky.; Breckinridge Co., Ky.; Claiborne Co., Miss.
Inclusive dates.	1802-1872
Bulk dates.	1802-1859
Language.	English
Summary.	Personal papers of John Close concerning his plantation, and personal and business correspondence
Organization.	Arranged chronologically.
Restrictions on access.	None.
Related collections.	None.
Copyright.	Copyright of the original materials in this collection has expired, and they are therefore in the public domain.
Citation.	John Close Papers, Mss. 1646, Louisiana and Lower Mississippi Valley Collections, LSU Libraries, Baton Rouge, La.
Stack location(s).	U:330
Also available on:	Microfilm 5322, Series I, Part 2, Reels 17-18

BIOGRAPHICAL/HISTORICAL NOTE

John Close was a contractor's agent for the United States Army post at Opelousas and a cotton planter of Petit Bois Plantation, Port Barre, Saint Landry Parish, Louisiana. He had relatives in Washington County, Kentucky, and Claiborne County, Mississippi.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

Correspondence to John Close as an Army contractor's agent includes letters from New Orleans merchants (1805-1806) concerning orders for supplies and other business at the Army post.

Plantation papers consist primarily of correspondence of cotton factors in New Orleans (1820-1871) which documents cotton produced at Petit Bois Plantation. Factors' letters contain references to the Panic of 1837 and to national and international affairs affecting the cotton market and express a preference for accepting Louisiana State Bank notes over Citizens' Bank notes (1840). Business letters and legal notes document land titles and claims belonging to John Close. Papers document sales of slaves, and a letter discusses a fugitive slave (1806).

Personal correspondence (1805-1845) from Breckenridge County, Kentucky, gives information about outbreaks of yellow fever and Asiatic cholera and about Dominican brothers ministering to the sick. Correspondence from Claiborne County, Mississippi, relates local social and economic conditions. A letter (1828) written by State Representative John Moore describes a fire in the State House, New Orleans, and the resulting loss of lives and property.

Personal papers include genealogical information about the Chauvin family.

COLLECTION DESCRIPTION

<u>Stack</u> <u>Location</u>	<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Contents</u>
U:330	1	1	1802, 1804-1805	14 items: Receipts, letters to John Close from Samuel Crawford (1804); letter in French to Charles Barré from Jean Duplessis (1805); business letters from John F. Watson, New Orleans merchant, discussing shipments of cotton, hauling goods to Opelousas, stating Spain's declaration of war against England (1805); letter to Close from his sister Eliza Wells (1805); business letters from John Dinsmore and John Findlay (1805)
		2-3	1806-1819	16 items: 5 letters to Charles Barré (1806); letters from Jean Duplessis (1806, 1808); letter to Close from D.W. Breazeale in Claiborne County, Miss. (1819) and a letter from Breazeale at Black Lake, Natchitoches Parish (1818); letter recommending Judge Butler of Florida for Thomas B. Robertson's seat in Congress (1818); slave purchase by Close in Opelousas from estate of Michel Prudhomme (1818)
		4-5	1820-1824	17 items: Family correspondence to Close from his sister Eliza Wells (1820), from his brother-in-law D.W. Breazeale (1822-1824), from his niece Sally W. Breazeale (1822); business letters in French (1820-1821); memorandum concerning sale of slaves (1821); slave sale by Close to Charles Barré (1823)
		6-7	1825-1826	19 items: Family correspondence from Breazeale (1825-1826); Eliza Wells (1826); business letters from J.A. Moore (1825), B. Vanhill (1826)
		8	1827-1829	11 items: Letter from Elias Steen concerning a slave (1827); letters from Guy Richard concerning the succession of Joseph Decuir (1827-1828); letters from Eliza Wells (1828); letter from John Moore in New Orleans describing fire in the State House (1828)

CLOSE (JOHN) PAPERS
1802-1872

Mss. 1646
LSU LIBRARIES SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

<u>Stack</u>	<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Contents</u>
<u>Location</u> U:330	2	1-2	1831-1835	24 items: Business letters concerning cotton, money market, and purchases (1833-1835); letters from Eliza Wells (1833); letters from Guy Richard concerning the succession of Joseph Decuir (1834)
		3-4	1836-1839	24 items: Letter from Mary L. Breazeale (1836); statements of account (1837-1839); bill for purchase of coffee (1839)
		5-6	1840-1843	26 items: Statements of account (1842-1843); letter from Jonathon Harris, Opelousas, discussing a road (1841); requests for payment of debts (1842); family letters (1842-1843)
		7-8	1844-1846	34 items: Statements of account (1844-1845); letters to Close from his lawyer (1845); family letters (1845-1846)
		9-10	1847-1849	29 items: Statements of account (1847-1849); bills (1849); business letters (1847-1849)
		11	undated (prior to 1850)	7 items: Family letters from Elizabeth Wells discussing yellow fever, St. Anthony's Fire, possibility of the Dominicans going to Opelousas; letter from J. Nicholson; business letter to Barré from Stephen W. Wikoff
	3	1	1850-1851	25 items: Bills, statements of cotton sales to Close, Barré's landing (1850-1851); letter from J.Y. Pavy, New Orleans to P. August Nezat, Breaux Bridge (1851); receipts
		2	1852-1854	27 items: Statements of cotton, business letters, letters mentioning the decline in the cotton market (1852); letters to Close from Thomas H. Lewis and Porter, lawyers, Opelousas, concerning the succession of Mrs. Joseph Gradingo (1853, 1854)

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<u>Stack</u>	<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Contents</u>
<u>Location</u> U:330	3	3	1855-1859	32 items: Letters and bills concerning cotton prices, sales, shipments; letters from Benjamin F. Linton, lawyer, regarding recovery of funds and sale of slave seized in Williams matter (1856-1858)
		4	1860-1865	4 items: Bill for pork shoulders (1860); letter from Linton requesting promissory note in payment for legal services (1860); letter in French from Victor Danel, Opelousas, to Desire Godet (1865)
		5	1870-1872	15 items: Letter in French from C.H. Potier, New Orleans (1870); business letters to Desire Godet (1871-1872); sheet of Louisiana State Lottery tickets (1872); typewritten copy of Robert Ingersoll's speech on Napoleon (undated)
		6	undated	1 item: Chauvin Family Genealogy

INDEX TERMS

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

Banks and banking--Louisiana.

Barre, Charles.

Breckinridge County (Ky.)

Butler, Thomas, 1785-1847.

Chauvin family--Genealogy.

Cholera, Asiatic--Kentucky.

Cotton growing--Louisiana.

Cotton trade--Louisiana.

Dominicans--Kentucky.

Fugitive slaves--Louisiana.

Genealogies.

Lotteries--Louisiana.

Louisiana--Economic conditions--1803-1865.

Louisiana--Politics and government--1803-1865.

Petit Bois Plantation (La.)

Receipts.

Slaveholders--Louisiana.

Slaves--Louisiana.

Watson, John F.

Yellow Fever--Kentucky.

CONTAINER LIST

<u>Stack</u> <u>Location</u>	<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder(s)</u>	<u>Contents (with dates)</u>
U:330	1	1-8	Correspondence and business papers, 1802-1829
	2	1-11	Correspondence and business papers, 1831-1849, undated
	3	1-5	Correspondence and business papers, 1850-1872, undated
		6	Chauvin family genealogy, undated
MF:5322, Series I, Part 2	--	--	Reels 17-18: John Close Papers, 1802-1872, undated