

SOUTHERN FILIBUSTERS COLLECTION
(Ms. 2260)
Inventory

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

Reformatted 2003
Revised 2010

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SOUTHERN FILIBUSTERS COLLECTION

1851-1914, undated

Mss. 2260

LSU Libraries Special Collections

SUMMARY

Size.	18 items
Geographic locations.	Mississippi, Louisiana, Cuba, Nicaragua
Inclusive dates.	1851-1914, undated
Bulk dates.	1851-1858
Language.	English, Spanish
Summary.	Manuscript and printed items pertaining to the activities of Southern expansionists in Latin America.
Organization.	Arranged chronologically.
Restrictions on access.	If microfilm is available, photocopies must be made from microfilm.
Related collections.	N/A
Copyright.	Copyright of the original materials is retained by descendants of the creators in accordance with U.S. copyright law.
Citation.	Southern Filibusters Collection, Mss. 2260, Louisiana and Lower Mississippi Valley Collections, LSU Libraries, Baton Rouge, Louisiana
Stack location(s).	B:13; OS:S

BIOGRAPHICAL/HISTORICAL NOTE

Collection pertains to the activities of southern expansionists in Latin America. Also known as southern filibusters, the expansionists hoped to bolster southern power and influence by acquiring Baja California, parts of Nicaragua, and Cuba as U.S. territories where slavery and the slave economy could be perpetuated.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The collection includes a letter, dated 1855, to the editors of the *Picayune* by William Perkins who describes life and the political situation in Greytown (also known as San Juan del Norte), a Nicaraguan city briefly controlled by William Walker, a filibuster who installed himself as president of Nicaragua before being ousted by U.S. troops; an anonymous handwritten article describing a dangerous filibustering expedition to Cuba (undated); several printed speeches on U.S. neutrality and slavery in U.S. territories by John A. Quitman, governor of Mississippi and later U.S. congressman, who was charged with violations of neutrality law for his efforts to assist filibustering operations in Cuba; and another printed speech by Pierre Soulé, a U.S. senator from Louisiana, arguing against President Franklin Pierce's policy of non-intervention in Caribbean affairs.

Also included in the collection are issues of newspapers containing articles pertaining to filibustering in Cuba and Central America. They include an issue of *El Independiente*, the organ of a Cuban expatriate community in New Orleans, La., that supported U.S. filibustering efforts on the island; an issue of *El Nicaragiense*, an English language newspaper dating from the time of William Walker's rule; and an issue of the *Central American*, a newspaper based in Greytown, Nicaragua, during the period of American control. Some documents are in Spanish.

COLLECTION DESCRIPTION

The collection consists of a handwritten letter from William Perkins, New Orleans lawyer and member of the Louisiana Constitutional Convention of 1852, to the editors of the *Picayune* with a notation on the back of the letter that it had not been published. Perkins discusses Greytown, Nicaragua, as a more favorable route than Panama to California and its possible acquisition as an American colony; the capture and punishment of thieves stealing shipments of California gold at San Juan, Greytown, and at the Isthmus of Panama; tyrannical rule by Spain in Cuba and cruelties to Havana Creoles; and a visit to the grave of Narcisco Lopez in Havana (1855). Also included is an unidentified article by a New Orleans newspaper correspondent describing a filibustering expedition to Cuba from the vicinity of New Orleans led by Colonel Manuel de Pina. The story, told from a *Picayune* launch and the insurgents' ship takes place in the harbor near Biloxi or Handsboro, and outside of Ship Island harbor and Cat Island into the Gulf of Mexico. The writer describes the loading of ammunition and questioning the commandant. The crew is listed as men from Texas, Cuba, and Louisiana, and that assistance was received from the people of Mississippi (undated).

Printed items include a handbill entitled "To the People of Mississippi" by John A. Quitman regarding a joint canvass between Quitman and Senator Henry S. Foote (July 19, 1851); a speech by Pierre Soulé on non-intervention (delivered in the U.S. Senate, March 22, 1852); a handbill entitled "La Orden de Guadalupe" by Juan D. Ceballos [in Spanish] (1854); a pamphlet entitled "Considerations on the Constitutionality of the President's Proclamations" by John Henderson (printed at the *Daily Delta*, 1854); and two speeches by John A. Quitman, one "On the Subject of the Neutrality Laws: Delivered in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union," (Apr. 29, 1856) and another "On the Powers of the Federal Government with Regard to the Territories," (delivered Dec. 18, 1856). Other printed items include a calling card of Mrs. C.J. Fayssoux (undated); a playbill announcing a production of E.C. Wharton's "Those 15,000 Filibusters! Or, The Fairy Light Guard!" at Dan Rice's theater in New Orleans (June 16, 1854); a broadside discussing Gen. Quitman's nomination as candidate for Representative in Congress by the Democratic District Convention, held at Monticello on July 23, 1855 (1855), a handbill entitled "La Propaganda Politica. A 'Varios Cubanos' de Key West" [in Spanish] (April 5, 1870), and an article, "William Walker's Designs on Cuba," by William Scroggs, reprinted from the *Mississippi Valley Historical Review* (Vol. I, September 1914).

The collection also contains issues of newspapers containing articles pertaining to filibustering in Cuba and Central America. They are as follows:

Mississippian Extra. Letter to The People of Mississippi. By John A. Quitman. Executive Chamber, Jackson, Feb. 3, 1851 [Statement by editor follows]. Resignation of Governor Quitman.

El (Nueva-Orleans, La.) *Independiente*. Organo de La Democracia Cubana. Vol. 1, no. 1, Feb. 13, 1853.

(San Juan del Norte, Nicaragua) *Central American*, vol. 1, no. 2. Sept. 29, 1855

El (Granada) *Nicaragüense*. Vol. 1, no. 52. Oct. 29, 1856. Lists [Official] Register of the Nicaragua Army by command of William Walker, General Commanding-in-Chief.

(Mexico) *Mexican Extraordinary*. Vol. 4, no. 1. Jan. 2, 1858.

INDEX TERMS

Articles.

Central American (San Juan del Norte, Nicaragua)

Cuba--History--1810-1899.

Cubans--United States--Politics and government.

Cuba--Politics and government--1810-1899.

Filibusters--Cuba.

Filibusters--Nicaragua.

Governors--Mississippi.

Greytown (Nicaragua)--History--19th century.

Independiente (New Orleans, La.)

Letters (correspondence)

Neutrality--United States.

Newspapers.

Nicaragua--History--Filibuster War, 1855-1860.

Nicaragüense (Granada, Nicaragua)

Perkins, William, 1827-1893.

Pierce, Franklin, 1804-1869.

Presidents--United States.

Quitman, John Anthony, 1798-1858.

Senators--United States.

Slavery--United States--Extension to the territories.

Soulé, Pierre, 1801-1870.

Spain--Foreign relations--United States.

Speeches.

United States--Foreign relations--Spain.

United States--History--1849-1877.

United States--Politics and government--1845-1861.

Walker, William, 1824-1860.

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CONTAINER LIST**Stack**

<u>Location</u>	<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder(s)</u>	<u>Contents (with dates)</u>
B:13	1	1-6	Letter (1855), article (undated), handbills, speeches, pamphlets (1851-1914)
OS:S	--	1	Playbill (1854), broadside of Gen. Quitman's nomination (1855), newspapers (1851-1858)