

See also UPA microfilm:
MF 5735, Series B, Reel 6

Gibson (Randall Lee) Papers
(Mss.2402, 2412, 2423)
Inventory

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

Revised 2007

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Use of manuscript materials. If you wish to examine items in the manuscript group, please fill out a call slip specifying the materials you wish to see. Consult the Container List for location information needed on the call slip.

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Proper acknowledgement of LLMVC materials must be made in any resulting writing or publications. The correct form of citation for this manuscript group is given on the summary page. Copies of scholarly publications based on research in the Louisiana and Lower Mississippi Valley Collections are welcomed.

Summary

Size.	164 items
Geographic locations.	New Haven, Conn.; Spanish Fort, Mobile, Ala.; Terrebonne Parish, La.; New Orleans, La; Meridian, Miss.; San Antonio, Tex.
Inclusive dates.	1848-1891
Bulk dates.	1861-1865
Language.	English
Summary.	Correspondence, financial, and Civil War papers of Confederate General and New Orleans lawyer Randall Lee Gibson. The collection includes letters from Yale University, Confederate Army documents, and financial papers concerning plantation management.
Organization.	Series I, Correspondence, 1848-1874 Series II, Military Papers, 1861-1865 Series III, Legal and Financial Papers, 1869-1891, undated
Restrictions on access.	If microfilm is available, photocopies must be made from microfilm.
Related collections.	Randall L. Gibson Speech, Mss. 619 Randall Lee Gibson Papers, Mss. 2422, in the Edwin Matt Collection.
Copyright.	Copyright of the original materials is retained by descendants of the creators in accordance with U.S. copyright law.
Citation.	Randall Lee Gibson Papers, Mss. 2402, 2412, 2423, Louisiana and Lower Mississippi Valley Collections, LSU Libraries, Baton Rouge, La.
Stack location(s).	A:56
Also available on:	Microfilm 5735, Series B, Reel 6 Omission: Papers 1867-1891

Biographical/Historical Note

Randall Lee Gibson, Confederate States Army general and New Orleans lawyer, was a United States representative and senator from Louisiana. He graduated from Yale University in 1853 and from the law department of the University of Louisiana in 1855. His father, Tobias Gibson, was a planter of Oak Forest Plantation, Terrebonne Parish, Louisiana.

Scope and Content Note

Letters to Tobias Gibson (1848-1854) discuss Randall Lee Gibson's experiences while at Yale University, his opinions on politics, and his plans to study law in New Orleans. Letters from Tobias Gibson discuss plans for planting and managing the Oak Forest Plantation (1860) and the possibility of a levee breaking at the plantation (1867).

Civil War material consists of Gibson's orders, general reports, and casualty reports during his tour of duty at Spanish Fort, Mobile, Alabama (1865). Letters discuss movements of Gibson's troops at the Battle of Shiloh (Aug. 1863) and near Spanish Fort on the eastern shore of Mobile Bay (Apr. 1865). Handwritten copies of special orders (1861) for the 13th Regiment of Louisiana Volunteers are included along with a copy of a letter (1861) from Gibson's sister, Eleanora, from New Orleans, which discusses fundraising for the Confederate Army and a fire in the city.

Papers (1867-1891) consist of mortgages and leases for Magnolia, Oak Forest, and Greenwood Plantations of Terrebonne Parish and for properties in New Orleans. Included are receipts for taxes, insurance policies, personal items, and correspondence. The collection contains bills from New Orleans newspapers for notices of the death of Randall Lee Gibson's daughter (1880), a photograph, and papers pertaining to McKinley Gibson, a native of Kentucky.

List of Series

Series I, Correspondence, 1848-1874

Series II, Military Papers, 1861-1865

Series III, Legal and Financial Papers, 1869-1891, undated

Series Descriptions

Series I, Correspondence, 1848-1874

The earliest letter in the collection is from Randall L. Gibson to his father Tobias Gibson and tells of his denial of admission to Yale University for the first year, and his plans to enter another school in the meantime until he can meet Yale's language requirements. He also discusses the politics and popular thoughts toward General Taylor and Martin Van Buren (October 1848). Letters from Gibson to his father over the next few years tell of daily activities at Yale, request money for school bills, and discuss prominent political issues and figures (1849-1852).

Letters from Randall Gibson in New Orleans to his father discuss his arrival and impressions of the city, his intention to study law at Tulane University, his general activities, and city elections (1853-1855). One letter from Tobias Gibson to his son talks of things at Oak Forest Plantation in Terrebonne Parish and his plans for planting crops and general maintenance of the plantation (1860).

Civil War correspondence consists of a letter from Gibson's sister Eleanora, in New Orleans, that discusses fundraising for the Confederate Army and the destruction in the city when a home across from the Arsenal caught fire (1861), a letter from Richmond, Va., to General Samuel Cooper, adjutant and inspector general, explaining the movement of his troops at the Battle of Shiloh in answer to criticism (1863), and a letter from Meridian, Miss., to Major General Dabney H. Maury commanding daily inspection and report of deficiencies existing in the troops at that time (1865).

A letter from Gibson's father at Oak Forest mentions the possibility of a levee breaking (1867), and a letter from the wife of a friend in New Orleans asks for financial assistance for her family (1867). A letter from a childhood friend, Harriet W. Young (nee Harriet Guion, daughter of Judge Guion of Lafourche), wishes Gibson good fortune and best wishes upon his marriage (1868). Finally, a letter from niece Lucy A.H. Waverly tells of her engagement and provides family news (1874).

Series II, Military Papers, 1861-1865

Military records include memoranda from Spanish Fort, Mobile, Alabama (1865), circulars and general orders from Headquarters District of the Gulf (1861, March-April 1865), morning reports of forces at Spanish Fort (March-April 1865), and reports of casualties (March-April 1865). Also included is a photoprint of Brigadier General Randall Lee Gibson, 13th Louisiana Volunteers C.S.A. (ca.1861-1865).

Series III, Legal and Financial Papers, 1869-1891, undated

Legal and financial papers include receipts for insurance premiums and New Orleans Gas Light Company (1869), statements from Terrebonne Parish for assessed property value and lists of taxes (1870-1874), life insurance policies (1874, 1879), and mortgages and other financial papers of Tobias Gibson (1873). Copies of a lease between R.L. Gibson and Rogers, Piedra & Brothers for Greenwood, Magnolia, and Oak Forest Plantations on Bayou Black near Tigerville, Terrebonne Parish (1880) as well as numerous leases for New Orleans properties, in which R.L. Gibson acted as agent for the Montgomery Estate (1873-1877), are included. Receipts from *The Democrat* and *The New Orleans Times* for payment of the death notice of the Gibson's daughter (1880) and a copy of the sheriff sale of Greenwood Plantation to R.L. Gibson (1881) are also found in the collection. Finally, a letter from Hunt & Booth of San Antonio, Texas discusses prices of grain (1891) and an affidavit appoints James Lees attorney for R.L. Gibson and Mary M. Gibson (undated).

Index Terms

Confederate States of America. Army. Louisiana Regiment, 13th.

Gibson, McKinley.

Gibson, Tobias.

Greenwood Plantation (La.)

Insurance policies.

Leases.

Levees--Louisiana--Terrebonne Parish (La.)

Magnolia Plantation (La.)

Mortgages.

New Orleans (La.)--Description and travel.

Oak Forest Plantation (La.)

Orders.

Shiloh, Battle of, Tenn., 1862.

Spanish Fort (Ala.)

Terrebonne Parish (La.)--History.

United States--History--Civil War, 1861-1865--Casualties (Statistics, etc.)

United States--Politics and government--1849-1853.

Yale University--Students.

Container List

<u>Stack Location</u>	<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder(s)</u>	<u>Contents (with dates)</u>
A:56	1	1	1848-1855, 1860 Correspondence
		2	1861-1869 Correspondence
		3	1865 Memoranda
		4	1865 General Orders
		5	1865 Morning Reports
		6	1865 Casualty Reports
		7	1870-1879 Correspondence, financial papers
		8	1880-1891, undated Legal and financial papers
		9	ca. 1861-1865 Photoprint of Gibson
MF 5735, Series B		Reel 6	1848-1865