

LOBDELL (JOHN L. AND FAMILY) PAPERS
(Ms. 4359)
Inventory

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

2008

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SUMMARY

Size	0.5 linear feet
Geographic Locations	Louisiana, New York, Texas
Inclusive Dates	1817-1912
Bulk Dates	1825-1890
Languages	English
Summary	Legal documents, financial records, correspondence and certificates related to John L. Lobdell, a lawyer and planter in West Feliciana and West Baton Rouge Parishes, who experienced financial difficulties as a result of the Civil War.
Access Restrictions	None
Reproduction Note	May be reproduced
Copyright	Physical rights and copyright are retained by the LSU Libraries.
Related Collections	Stirling (Lewis and Family) Papers, Mss. 1866 Turnbull-Allain Family Papers, Mss. 4261 Turnbull-Bowman Family Papers, Mss. 4452
Citation	John L. Lobdell and Family Papers, Mss. 4359, Louisiana and Lower Mississippi Valley Collections, LSU Libraries, Baton Rouge, La.
Stack Location(s)	A:78, H:12, OS:L

BIOGRAPHICAL/HISTORICAL NOTE

John Little Lobdell was born on May 7, 1791, in Johnstown, New York. In 1821, he moved to West Feliciana Parish and began his career as a lawyer and joined the Freemasons. On December 18, 1828, Lobdell married Ann Mathilda Stirling, the daughter of Lewis and Sarah Turnbull Stirling. The couple had seven children, including a son also named John Little Lobdell and daughter Sarah Turnbull Lobdell, who later married Villneuve Francois Allain. Lobdell moved his family to West Baton Rouge Parish in 1842, where he became a planter. During the Civil War, Lobdell resided in Natchitoches, La., and Smith County, Tex. He moved back to West Baton Rouge Parish in 1865, where he remained until his death on September 5, 1867.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The John L. Lobdell and Family Papers consist of legal documents, financial records, correspondence, and certificates related to the personal and professional life of Lobdell.

The legal documents deal principally with Lobdell's purchase and his later loss of property. Several documents reflect Lobdell's acquisition of land and slaves (1836-1844). An important item of interest is Lobdell's statement of loss related to his sugar properties (Nov. 17, 1862). Subsequently, Lobdell appeared as a defendant in several cases related to debts accrued during the Civil War (1866-1868). Other items of interest include cases related to Lobdell's legal practice (1820-1860) and a statement of personal property of Isaac Franklin, a planter from Tennessee with properties in Louisiana (July 7, 1856).

Financial records consist of receipts, promissory notes and statements of account. A listing of Lobdell's assets from the Union Bank of Louisiana (1837) and stocks and payments from the Citizen's Bank of Louisiana (May 1856) are available. The promissory notes from 1862 reflect Lobdell's mounting debts. Mrs. Lobdell's monthly statements of purchases made from Picard & Weil (1885-1887) and Picard & Picard (1887-1890) are also included.

The correspondence pertains to Lobdell's personal affairs. The letters from 1825 concern Lobdell's task of looking at the books at Masonic Lodges in Louisiana. Several letters relate to Lobdell's debt and attempts at negotiations with the Citizen's Bank of Louisiana (1866-1867). Two letters addressed to Mrs. Lobdell from her son John L. Lobdell are also included (1888).

Other items in the collection include certificates and genealogical material. Two certificates relate to Lobdell's legal studies in New York (1817). Another certificate of interest attests to Lobdell's moral character and was signed by Governor Dewitt Clinton of N.Y. (1821). A certificate reflecting Lobdell's status as a Royal Arch Mason (1826) and a loyalty oath from Smith County, Tex. (1865) are also included. The genealogical materials relate to the family of Lobdell's wife, Ann (undated). A ribbon and button from a meeting of the Independent Order of the Odd Fellows in Lake Charles, La., is also available.

The manuscript volume is a cotton book from Arbroath Plantation in West Baton Rouge Parish, owned by Lewis Stirling, Lobdell's father-in-law (1841-1845). It contains listings of how many bales of cotton were picked each day by the individual slaves. The oversize folder consists of four items: a bar certificate signed by three Louisiana Supreme Court Justices allowing Lobdell to practice law in the state (1822); a letter authorizing Lobdell to inspect the books of Masonic Lodges (1825); a fire insurance policy (1860); and an issue of the *Houston Weekly Telegraph* (April 12, 1864).

Arranged chronologically.

INDEX TERMS

Arbroath Plantation (La.)
Citizen's Bank of Louisiana.
Clinton, Dewitt, 1769-1828.
Correspondence.
Cotton growing--Louisiana.
Debt--Louisiana.
Financial records.
Franklin, Isaac, 1789-1846.
Freemasons--Louisiana.
Independent Order of Odd Fellows. Grand Lodge of Louisiana.
Legal documents.
Lobdell family.
Lobdell, Ann Mathilda Stirling, 1811-1890.
Lobdell, John L. (John Little), 1791-1867.
Louisiana--History--Civil War, 1861-1865--Economic aspects.
Plantation owners--Louisiana--West Feliciana Parish.
Stirling, Lewis, 1786-1858.
Union Bank of Louisiana.
West Baton Rouge Parish (La.)
West Feliciana Parish (La.)

CONTAINER LIST

<u>Stack Location</u>	<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder(s)</u>	<u>Contents (with dates)</u>
A:78	1	1	Certificates (1817-1865)
		2-7	Legal (1820-1868, undated)
		8-9	Correspondence (1825-1888, undated)
		10-14	Financial (1828-1890, undated)
		15	Independent Order of Odd Fellows Ribbon and Button (1912)
		16	Genealogy (undated)
H:12		Vol. 1	Arbroath Plantation Cotton Book (1841-1845)
OS:L		1	Louisiana Bar Certificate (1822), letter of authorization from Freemasons (1825), Fire Insurance Policy (1860), <i>Houston Weekly Telegraph</i> (April 12, 1864)