

ISAAC THOMAS FAMILY PAPERS

(Mss. 4634)

Inventory

Compiled by
Susan Deborah Cook
Fall 1995

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

Revised 2009

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ISAAC THOMAS FAMILY PAPERS
1802-1851

Mss. 4634
LSU Libraries Special Collections

SUMMARY

Size.	0.3 linear feet
Geographic locations.	Rapides Parish, La.; Catahoula Parish, La.
Dates.	1802-1851
Languages.	English, French.
Summary.	Isaac Thomas was a lawyer, planter, and Louisiana State Senator (1823-27). The papers relate to his business and legal career. Several papers document the history of land ownership in Rapides and Catahoula Parishes, La.
Access.	No restrictions.
Related collections.	None.
Copyright.	Physical rights are retained by the LSU Libraries. Copyright of the original materials is retained by descendants of the creators of the materials in accordance with U.S. copyright law.
Citation.	Isaac Thomas Family Papers, Mss. 4634, Louisiana and Lower Mississippi Valley Collections, LSU Libraries, Baton Rouge, La.
Stack location.	D:95

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BIOGRAPHICAL/HISTORICAL NOTE

Isaac Thomas (1774-1859) was active as a politician, lawyer and planter. He moved from Tennessee to Alexandria, Louisiana in 1819 where he operated a steam boat, a sawmill and ran a plantation. He was a large land- and slave-owner, and was reputedly the first planter to introduce sugar cultivation to central Louisiana. He was a Democratic member of the Louisiana State Senate (1823-27). His first wife was Jane Bullard (d. ca. 1833); he then married Emmeline Flint, with whose family he was in business.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The papers relate to the business and legal career of Isaac Thomas. Several papers document the history of land ownership in Rapides and Catahoula Parishes, La. Letters and legal papers document the practice of law in Louisiana.

The correct citation for these papers is: Isaac Thomas Family papers, Mss. 4634, Louisiana and Lower Mississippi Valley Collections, LSU Libraries, Baton Rouge, La.

SERIES DESCRIPTIONS

I. Financial Papers, 1818-38 (2 folders).

Papers of note relate to the estate of Abner Harrison concerning medical and death expenses (1825-27) and receipts for Messrs E.H. Flint & Co. of Alexandria, a business partner with Isaac Thomas, mostly for goods bought from Walton, Walker & Co., a business in New Orleans (1830-38).

II. Correspondence, 1828-51 (5 folders).

Correspondence is in English and French and largely concerns legal and financial business. It includes several letters from Susan F. Dunlap of Vicksburg, executrix of the estate of H.W. Dunlap, relating to the settlement of her husband's estate, the sale of a slave and the transplanting of roses sent to Thomas's wife (1849-50, undated), and a letter concerning a judgment on the administration of the estate of Levi Martin (see below, Legal Papers). Family correspondence consists of a letter from Andrew J. Isacks, Thomas's nephew, whom he was financing through college at Canonsburg, Pennsylvania (August, 1841), a letter from Thomas's brother-in-law, Micah P. Flint, concerning land bought in Monroe, La. (April 6, 1936) and a letter from Thomas's daughter, Jane Bullard Thomas, asking permission to spend a year in the North to continue her education (undated). A letter from A. Binge details the cuttings of seventeen varieties of grape shipped to Thomas (March 8, 1843).

III. Legal Papers, 1802-51 (4 folders).

Papers are in French and English. Several papers relate to claims, deeds and sales for land in Rapides and Catahoula Parishes, Louisiana, presumably bought up by Isaac Thomas (1808-24). A letter of 1823 relates to the estate of Abner Harrison. Transcripts of court records document the administration of the estate of Levi Martin (1822-8). There are also lists of court cases (1830-1).

IV. Memoranda, Tract Society Minutes, undated (1 folder).

Materials include minutes of a meeting held in Alexandria to set up a local division of the American Tract Society.

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INDEX TERMS

Thomas, Isaac, 1774-1859.
Harrison, Abner, d. 1826.
Dunlap, Susan F.
E.H. Flint & Co.
Walter, Walker & Co.
Alexandria (La.)--History--19th century.
Catahoula Parish (La.)--History--19th century.
Rapides Parish (La.)--History--19th century.
American Tract Society.
Practice of law--Louisiana.
Land grants--Louisiana.

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CONTAINER LIST

<u>Stack Location</u>	<u>Box</u>	<u>No. of Folders</u>	<u>Contents</u>
D:95	1	2	I. Financial papers (1818-1838)
		5	II. Correspondence (1828-1851)
		4	III. Legal papers (1802-1851)
		1	IV. Memoranda, Tract Society Minutes (undated)