

DAVID HUNT LETTERS
(Ms. 4788)
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

2009

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SUMMARY

Size	0.25 linear ft. (95 items)
Geographic Locations	Kentucky; Mississippi; Ohio.
Inclusive Dates	1803-1839.
Bulk Dates	1820-1829.
Languages	English.
Summary	Correspondence related to the personal and business affairs of David Hunt, a wealthy cotton merchant from Natchez, Miss., and his family. Letters relate to cotton shipments, the purchase of slaves, and the leasing of his properties, as well as family news and fortunes.
Access Restrictions	None.
Reproduction Note	May be reproduced.
Copyright	Copyright of the original materials in this collection has expired, and they are therefore in the public domain.
Related Collections	David Hunt and Family Papers, Mss. 517, Louisiana and Lower Mississippi Valley Collections, LSU Libraries, Baton Rouge, La.
Citation	David Hunt Letters, Mss. 4788, Louisiana and Lower Mississippi Valley Collections, LSU Libraries, Baton Rouge, La.
Stack Location(s)	UU: 288

BIOGRAPHICAL/HISTORICAL NOTE

David Hunt was born on October 22, 1779, in Trenton, N.J., and died on May 18, 1861, in Jefferson County, Miss. He moved to Natchez, Miss., around 1801 and upon the death of his uncle Abijah Hunt in 1811, Hunt received a large inheritance, including Woodlawn Plantation outside Greenville, Miss. Through various successful business ventures, including interests in Cincinnati, Ohio, and Lexington, Ky., Hunt amassed an even greater fortune. With numerous cotton plantations and a significant number of slaves, Hunt was one of the wealthiest cotton merchants in Mississippi, and indeed one of the wealthiest men in the United States.

Hunt married Margaret Stampley in 1801. After their divorce, he married Mary Ann Calvit in 1808, who died in childbirth around 1809 (the infant died soon after). Hunt married his third and final wife, Anne Ferguson (1797-1874) in 1816, with whom he had fourteen children, only seven of whom lived past the age of 21.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The David Hunt Letters consist of correspondence, both personal and business, between cotton merchant David Hunt and various family members and business associates. The collection comprises 95 letters relating to cotton shipments, the purchase of slaves, and the leasing of his properties, as well as family news and fortunes. The letters to David Hunt were mailed to several different addresses, including locations in Natchez, Rodney, and Greenville, Miss., as well as Lexington, Ky., and Cincinnati, Ohio. The majority of the letters date from Hunt's time at his family plantation Woodlawn in Jefferson County, Miss.

Digital images of five of the letters may be found at
<http://www.lib.lsu.edu/special/exhibits/natchez/collections/hunt/index.html>

INDEX TERMS

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

Cotton--Economic aspects--Mississippi.

Hunt, David, 1779-1861.

Letters (correspondence)

Natchez (Miss.)--History--19th century.

Plantation--Mississippi.

Plantation owners--Mississippi--Natchez.

Slaves--Mississippi.

Woodlawn Plantation (Miss.)

CONTAINER LIST

<u>Stack</u>			
<u>Location</u>	<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder(s)</u>	<u>Contents (with dates)</u>
UU:288	1	1	Correspondence (10 letters), 1803-1804, 1810-1811, 1815-1818
		2	Correspondence (13 letters), 1820-1822
		3	Correspondence (5 letters), 1823
		4	Correspondence (13 letters), 1824-1826
		5	Correspondence (19 letters), 1828-1829
		6	Correspondence (10 letters), 1830
		7	Correspondence (13 letters), 1831
		8	Correspondence (12 letters), 1832-1839