

**MILES TERRELL AND FAMILY PAPERS**

Mss. 843

Inventory

by

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Louisiana and Lower Mississippi Valley Collections  
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Louisiana State University Libraries  
Baton Rouge, Louisiana State University

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**SUMMARY**

<b>Size</b>	317 items.
<b>Geographic Locations</b>	Louisiana, Texas, Alabama, New Mexico.
<b>Inclusive Dates</b>	1859-1929.
<b>Languages</b>	English.
<b>Summary</b>	Financial papers, personal correspondence, legal documents and printed material of the Miles Terrell family of Rapides Parish, La.
<b>Access Restrictions</b>	No restrictions on access.
<b>Copyright</b>	Copyright of the original materials in this collection has expired, and they are therefore in the public domain.
<b>Citation</b>	Miles Terrell and Family Papers, Mss. 843, Louisiana and Lower Mississippi Valley Collections, LSU Libraries, Baton Rouge, Louisiana.
<b>Stack Location</b>	B:25

**This collection has been digitized in its entirety and can be accessed online at <http://cdm16313.contentdm.oclc.org/cdm/search/collection/p16313coll51/searchterm/Miles%20Terrell%20and%20Family%20Papers,%20Mss.%20843/field/part/mode/exact/conn/and/order/nosort/ad/asc/cosuppress/0>. See the container list [and collection description when applicable] for links to specific components of the collection.**

**BIOGRAPHICAL/HISTORICAL NOTE**

Miles Terrell was born a free person of color on October 31, 1835. He was a cotton farmer near Hineston in Rapides Parish, Louisiana. His wife, Sarah Clifton Terrell (1839-1918), also a free person of color, was the daughter of Jesse and Jane Clifton of Alexandria, Louisiana. Miles and Sarah Terrell had several children; they included Francis "Frank," (born 1858), Amos (born 1861), Georgiana, Gloucester (1872-1947) and Marion (1875-1897). Gloucester Terrell married Sarah J. Metoyer, daughter of Joseph J. Metoyer (1852-1930) and Emma Thompson (1858-1940). Miles Terrell died on December 9, 1878 at the age of 43. After his death, his wife, Sarah Clifton Terrell, continued growing cotton in Rapides Parish, as did their son Gloucester Terrell.

### **SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE**

The collection is comprised of business papers and personal correspondence of the Miles Terrell family. Financial papers consist of invoices, promissory notes, bills, receipts, tax receipts and accounts. Personal correspondence relates to family matters, personal activities and health.

Early papers (1859-1879) are the financial and legal papers of Miles Terrell. They include a petition and subpoenas related to Terrell's debts (15 October 1860; 20 October 1860; 27 January 1875). Papers also contain a letter fragment concerning the seizure of property (6 October 1873) and voter registration certificates (13 October 1868; 17 October 1868; 3 October 1870; 14 September 1874).

Papers after 1880 are those of Sarah Clifton Terrell, and they consist of financial papers, correspondence and printed material. Personal correspondence from family members begins in 1892 and continues through the remainder of the collection (1929). Letters discuss family activities, farming and the health of family members and friends. In 1893, Frank Terrell was arrested for murder in Newton County, Texas. During that period, his letters concern his legal and financial problems. A letter to John Blackwell of Rapides Parish discusses Frank's bail; it also reports that both Frank and his wife have been jailed (May 4, 1894). Joseph Metoyer comments to his daughter, Sarah J. Terrell, on the occurrence of smallpox in Henryville and Provencal, La. (March 22, 1896). Her sister, Agnes, mentions picking cotton (Aug. 8, 1905). Her widowed son-in-law writes from New Mexico about the benefits of traveling (Sept. 22, 1922). Correspondence from federal and state land offices relates to the availability of public land in Section 18 in T. 3. N. R. 4. W. N. W. District of Louisiana (Aug. 11, Sept. 19, 1899). Correspondence also includes references to malaria (Aug. 23, 1906), measles (March 24, 1907), and a child's death caused by worms (July 5, 1908). Additionally, a land conveyance relates to land purchased by Sarah Terrell (March 21, 1901). Advertisement booklets and flyers for medical remedies comprise the printed material (approximately 1895-1915). Booklets are entitled: *Dr. Granger's health guide: a Plain and Practical Statement...* (1899) and *Yankee Eating* (ca. 1899).

## COLLECTION DESCRIPTION

### Box 1a, Folder 1a

**1859 - 1860** [View online](#)

Materials are financial in nature and contain receipts, accounts with I. Levy and Company for clothing, food, household items, and farm supplies. Included is an invoice to Andy Fulton dated 8 December 1859, which shows charges for the sale and transport of two bales of cotton; an account for Jesse Clifton dated December 27, 1860 that lists food items and tobacco products; a petition submitted by Isaac Levy and Company to the 13th District Court of Rapides Parish on 15 October 1860; and a summons issued by the Clerk of Court of Rapides Parish on 20 October 1860 concerning Miles Terrell's debt owed to the firm.

### Box 1a, Folder 1b

**1864 - 1870** [View online](#)

Material is primarily financial in nature, but includes loyalty oaths taken by Miles Terrell on 13 October 1868 and Ceaburn Brown on 17 October 1868. Financial papers consist of accounts and invoices for food; clothing and household items; receipts for loan payments and cotton sales; and a Rapides Parish tax receipt dated 29 July 1870. In a debt agreement dated 3 October 1866, William B. James transfers to Thomas Neal his interest in a debt owed by Charles McClin. A 15 September 1869 promissory note by Oliver and Plato McQuan commits to repay a loan to Miles Terrell. Letters to Miles Terrell request delivery of saddles and bridles, 1 January 1864 and payment for corn, 13 November 1867.

### Box 1a, Folder 1c

**1870 - 1872** [View online](#)

Material consists mostly of invoices, promissory notes and receipts relating to purchases and small loans made by Miles Terrell, including the purchase of a heifer from James Hicks, 9 September 1871. In a letter to Miles Terrell dated 14 October 1871, James Hicks requests that he give a bale of cotton to Milton Gorum. Violet Terrell receipt shows payment for a patent she received in Vernon Parish on 31 May 1872. Of note is a 30 August 1872 legal summons issued to Miles Terrell to appear before the justice of the peace to answer a plaintiff's demand for payment.

### Box 1a, Folder 1d

**1873 - 1877** [View online](#)

Chiefly financial papers that include accounts, invoices, and receipts documenting the sale of cotton, household goods, food, tobacco, farm equipment whiskey, and quinine. Receipts also document payments on debt. Promissory notes relate to loans and payment for cotton. In a 4 May 1874 letter to M. Miars, Cornelius Bryans orders fabric, sewing supplies and shoes, to be delivered by way of Miles Terrell.

Receipts, a promissory note and a letter fragment document Miles Terrell's business transactions with A. J. Marshall. The letter fragment (6 October 1873) written by Marshall concerns Terrell's debt to him and the seizure of Terrell's property. Also represented is Miles Terrell's voter registration certificate dated 14 September 1874.

**Box 1a, Folder 1e**

**1875 - 1877** [View online](#)

Materials consist primarily of financial papers relating to Miles Terrell's debt and business transactions. Documents include promissory notes, accounts, drafts for payments, and invoices. A court summons dated 27 January 1875 requires Miles Terrell to appear in court to answer a plaintiff's demand for payment for nursing services. Papers include a receipt showing payment of this debt (28 May 1875). Terrell family genealogy notes record the births of Miles Terrell's sons, Gloucester and Marion (1875). A note written by Violet Terrell on 1 October 1875 instructs William Deare to pay Miles Terrell for board and use of a horse; and a note written by James Hicks on 14 November 1875 asks Grean Richey to pay Miles Terrell. Other items include an invoice for drugs (1876), an order for sewing supplies and fabric (1877), and a shipping document for the sale and shipment of cotton (1877).

**Box 1a, Folder 1f**

**1878-1879** [View online](#)

Financial papers of Sarah Clifton Terrell consist mostly of receipts for taxes paid, payments made on accounts with general merchants and grocers, and promissory notes. Included is a physician's bill for the Terrell family from 1878.

**Box 1a, Folder 2a**

**1880 - 1885** [View online](#)

Financial papers of Sarah Clifton Terrell consist mostly of receipts for taxes paid, payments made on accounts with general merchants and grocers, and promissory notes. A fragment of a letter to Sarah Clifton Terrell describes the writer's health condition (1881).

**Box 1a, Folder 2b**

**1886 - 1891** [View online](#)

Chiefly financial documents consisting of accounts with merchants, receipts for payments made to merchants, tax receipts, and personal letters. An unsigned letter to Sarah Clifton Terrell from one of her children complains about not being told of the death of a loved one (1886 July 30). An unsigned letter fragment to Sarah Clifton Terrell asks her to visit the writer (1889 September 30). Also represented is a note about the birth of Fancy, a horse born 23 April 1891, and a handwritten poem titled "Norah Darling," postmarked 23 May 1891.

**Box 1a, Folder 2c**

**1892 - 1894** [View online](#)

Chiefly family letters written by Frank and Amos Terrell to their mother, Sarah Clifton Terrell. Letters discuss Frank Terrell's incarceration and his need for bail money; and Amos's effort to assist him (1893-1894). A letter from attorneys Cheatam and Syler of Orange, Texas discusses Frank Terrell's bail (4 May 1894). Other items include accounts with merchants, receipts, and tax receipts.

**Box 1a, Folder 2d**

**1895 - 1899** [View online](#)

Chiefly correspondence and financial papers. Correspondence is comprised mostly of family letters that relate to family matters and to Frank Terrell's financial and legal problems. Letters from the Louisiana State Land Office and the U.S. Land Office relate to the lack of available public lands in the Northwest District of Louisiana. Financial papers include receipts and a statement of account. Also represented is a copy of "Dr. Granger's Health Guide," which provides medical remedies and products (1899).

**Box 1b, Folder 3a**

**1900 - 1905** [View online](#)

Materials consist of family letters, tax receipts, and a land conveyance for the sale of land in Rapides Parish. Letters discuss family news and upcoming family visits. Correspondents include Amos Terrell, Frank Terrell, Josephine Morgan, and "Agenes."

**Box 1b, Folder 3b**

**1906 - 1907** [View online](#)

Material consists of family letters, receipts, and tax receipts. Family letters are primarily those of Gloucester Terrell to his mother, Sarah Clifton Terrell, in which he reports news on the activities and health of family members.

**Box 1b, Folder 3c**

**1908 - 1912** [View online](#)

Material consists of family letters, postal receipts, and tax receipts. Family letters relate news on the activities and health of family members.

**Box 1b, Folder 3d**

**1913 - 1929** [View online](#)

Material consists of family letters, postcards, and tax receipts. Family letters relate to the health and personal activities of family members. Some letters have missing pages. Several fund raising postcards sent by the Richie Benevolent Association of Glenmora, La. are addressed to Sarah J. Terrell, wife of Gloucester Terrell.

**Box 1b, Folder 4a**

**Approximately 1879-1919** [View online](#)

Material consists of accounts for goods, letters, and a booklet entitled "Yankee Eating," by Thomas Chandler Haliburton. Additional items include an order form for the Pure Food Company and a list of products available from the Celluloid Starch Company.



**Box 1b, Folder 4b**

**Approximately 1860-1915 [View online](#)**

Undated materials include letter fragments; a handwritten poem; a property agreement; invoices, accounts, and receipts for Miles Terrell; a letter from a man named Paul; and a circular from the Pure Food Company.

**Box 1b, Folder 4c**

**1863-approximately 1920 [View online](#)**

Material consists of invoices, accounts, letters, and medicinal remedies. Letters are comprised of partial letters and fragments related to personal matters. There is also a letter from the Pure Food Company pertaining to the delivery of an order. An order form and an advertisement are for medicinal remedies available from the Mother's Remedies Company and the "Standard" Remedy Company of New York (approximately 1895-1915).

**Box 1b, Folder 4d**

**Approximately 1870-1918 [View online](#)**

Material consists of letters written to Sarah Clifton Terrell; a fragment of an invoice and an advertisement for medicinal remedies available from the Johnson, Holloway and Company. Partial letters relate to family matters. Also present is a brief love poem with financial accounts, which appear to have been written later.

**INDEX TERMS**

Metoyer, Joseph J.

Terrell family.

Terrell, Frank, born 1858.

Terrell, Gloucester, 1872-1947.

Terrell, Miles, 1835-1878.

Terrell, Sarah Clifton, 1839-1918.

Terrell, Sarah J., 1878-1978.

African American families—Louisiana—Rapides Parish.

African American farmers—Louisiana—Rapides Parish.

African Americans--History--19th century.

African Americans--History--20th century.

Cotton farmers—Louisiana—Rapides Parish.

Cotton trade—Louisiana—Rapides Parish.

Free African Americans—Louisiana—Rapides Parish.

Helminths--Louisiana.

Malaria--Louisiana.

Measles--Louisiana.

Murder—Texas—Newton County.

Public lands--Louisiana.

Small pox--Louisiana.

Taxes--Louisiana--Rapides Parish.

Voter registration--Louisiana--Rapides Parish.

Women farmers—Louisiana—Rapides Parish.

Rapides Parish (La.)--Social life and customs.

Rapides Parish (La.)--History.

CONTAINER LIST

<b>Stack Location</b>	<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>	<b>Contents</b>
B:25	1a	1a	1859 - 1860 <a href="#">View online</a>
	1a	1b	1864 - 1870 <a href="#">View online</a>
	1a	1c	1870 - 1872 <a href="#">View online</a>
	1a	1d	1873 - 1877 <a href="#">View online</a>
	1a	1e	1875 - 1877 <a href="#">View online</a>
	1a	1f	1878-1879 <a href="#">View online</a>
	1a	2a	1880 - 1885 <a href="#">View online</a>
	1a	2b	1886 - 1891 <a href="#">View online</a>
	1a	2c	1892 - 1894 <a href="#">View online</a>
	1a	2d	1895 - 1899 <a href="#">View online</a>
B:25	1b	3a	1900 - 1905 <a href="#">View online</a>
	1b	3b	1906 - 1907 <a href="#">View online</a>
	1b	3c	1908 - 1912 <a href="#">View online</a>
	1b	3d	1913 - 1929 <a href="#">View online</a>
	1b	4a	Approximately 1879-1919 <a href="#">View online</a>
	1b	4b	Approximately 1860-1915 <a href="#">View online</a>
	1b	4c	1863-approximately 1920 <a href="#">View online</a>
	1b	4d	Approximately 1870-1918 <a href="#">View online</a>