

THOMAS BUTLER FAMILY PHOTOGRAPHS AND PLANTATION JOURNAL
(Ms. 4347)
Inventory

Compiled by
Chris Brown

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	0.3 linear feet
Geographic Locations	Terrebonne Parish
Inclusive Dates	1844-1907, 1952, 1961, undated
Bulk Dates	1844-1907
Languages	English
Summary	Plantation journal documents the business of Grand Caillou and Le Carpe Plantations, Terrebonne Parish. Photographs depict Butler family members. Also included are photographs depicting interiors of houses (none identified).
Access Restrictions	None
Reproduction Note	May be reproduced.
Copyright	Physical rights are retained by the LSU Libraries. For those materials not in the public domain, copyright is retained by the descendants of the creators in accordance with U.S. Copyright law.
Related Collections	Butler (Anna and Sarah) Correspondence, Mss. 581; (Butler) Thomas W. Papers, Mss. 888; Butler (Richard) Papers, Mss. 1000; Butler Family Papers, Mss. 1026; Butler (Robert O.) Papers, Mss. 1068; Margaret Butler Correspondence, Mss. 1068; Butler (Thomas and Family) Papers, Mss. 2850; Thomas Butler Family Photographs and Plantation Journal, Mss. 4347; Gay-Butler-Plater Family Papers, Mss. 4872
Citation	Thomas Butler Family Photographs and Plantation Journal, Mss. 4347, Louisiana and Lower Mississippi Valley Collections, LSU Libraries, Baton Rouge, La.
Stack Location(s)	S:16

BIOGRAPHICAL/HISTORICAL NOTE

The Thomas Butler family were cotton and sugar planters of West Feliciana Parish, Louisiana, and resided at The Cottage. In the late 1830s, Judge Thomas Butler (1785-1847) began to develop plantations in West Feliciana and Terrebonne Parishes. Following Thomas Butler's death, his family continued to operate the plantations. Two such plantations, Grand Caillou and Le Carpe, were later operated by Judge Butler's son, Richard Ellis Butler (1819-1880). Richard Ellis Butler married Sarah Evalina Ker (1823-1868) in 1849. Their son, Thomas William Butler (1851-1913) married Sarah Sallie Fort (1854-1936) in 1881. Three of their children were Sarah Duncan Butler (1884-1966), Mary ("Mamie") Fort Butler (b. 1887), and Richard Ellis Butler Sr. (1882-1930). Richard Ellis Butler Sr. married Jessie Norris Simon (1890-1976) in 1918. One of their sons was Richard Ellis Butler Jr. (b. 1919).

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

Collection consists of a plantation journal for Grand Caillou and Le Carpe Plantations, Terrebonne Parish, ca. 1844-1866, and photographs of family members and home interiors. The journal, kept during Thomas Butler and later Richard E. Butler's ownership of the plantations, contains financial accounts and a list of overseers' names (1842-1859), as well as slave registers that record births, deaths, and parents of children. Inventories from the estate of Thomas Butler for the two plantations list slaves, land, and movables. Total values of each plantation are estimated at \$143,365.00 for the Grand Caillou property and \$146,566.00 for the Bayou Black property. Photographs include portraits of Sarah D. and Mary F. Butler, R. E. Butler Jr., and unidentified persons. There are also 25 8x10 photographs of interiors of houses (none identified) showing antique furniture and oil portraits. Two portraits were reproduced in the Louisiana Colonial Dames' *Louisiana Portraits*. One accompanying page contains several listings for the portrait index.

INDEX TERMS

Antiques in interior decoration--Louisiana.
Butler family.
Butler, Mary Fort, b. 1887.
Butler, Richard Ellis, 1819-1880.
Butler, Richard Ellis, Jr., b. 1919.
Butler, Sarah Duncan, 1884-1966.
Butler, Thomas, 1785-1847.
Grand Caillou Plantation (La.)
Journals (accounts)
Le Carpe Plantation (La.)
Photographs.
Plantation life--Louisiana--Terrebonne Parish.
Plantation owners--Louisiana.
Plantations--Economic aspects--Louisiana.
Plantations--Louisiana--Terrebonne Parish.
Slave records--Louisiana.
Terrebonne Parish (La.)
West Feliciana Parish (La.)

CONTAINER LIST

<u>Stack</u>			
<u>Location</u>	<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder(s)</u>	<u>Contents (with dates)</u>
			Photographs, 1902-1907, 1952, 1961, undated
S:16	1	1	Mary F. Butler (undated)
		2	Mary F. Butler (ca. 1907)
		10	Mary F. Butler (undated)
		3	Richard E. Butler, Jr. (undated)
		4	Sarah D. Butler (ca. 1902)
		5	Sarah D. Butler (ca. 1903)
		11	Eleanor Parker Ellis (undated)
		6	Home Interiors (undated)
		7	Home Interiors (undated)
		8	Unidentified (1952, 1961, undated)
		9	Unidentified (undated)
		-	Plantation Journal Record Book, 1844-1866