

JAMES BROWN PAPERS

Mss. 44
Inventory

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

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SUMMARY

Size.	0.25 linear ft.
Geographic locations.	New Orleans, Louisiana; Washington, D.C.; Fredericktown, Maryland
Inclusive dates.	1764-1811
Bulk dates.	1804-1810
Language.	French, Spanish, and English
Summary.	Business papers and correspondence of James Brown, New Orleans attorney and later U.S. Attorney.
Organization.	Chronological.
Restrictions on access.	No restrictions.
Related collections.	James Brown Letter, Mss. 1195 James Brown Letter, Mss. 1240 James Brown Letter, Mss. 2261
Copyright.	Copyright of the original materials is retained by descendants of the creators in accordance with U.S. copyright law.
Citation.	James Brown Papers, Mss. 44, Louisiana and Lower Mississippi Valley Collections, LSU Libraries, Baton Rouge, La.
Stack location(s).	U:20; OS:B; F:9

BIOGRAPHICAL/HISTORICAL NOTE

James Brown (1766-1835), an attorney and politician, practiced law in New Orleans. He was named Secretary of the Territory of Orleans in 1804 and was appointed by President Thomas Jefferson as United States Attorney for the Orleans Territory the following year. In 1812 he served as a delegate to Louisiana's first constitutional convention. He was twice elected to the U.S. Senate (1813-1817 and 1819-1823) and served as Minister to France from 1823-1829.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

This collection consists of legal and business papers and correspondence (some in French) of James Brown. Legal and business papers include a fragment of his commission (oversize; 1805) from President Thomas Jefferson to the position of U.S. Attorney; documents recording sales of slaves, legal disputes, debts, and suits; papers relative to a free African American girl; and a questionnaire relative to slavery, depositions, and receipts.

Most of the letters are to Brown from William N. Brown and General James Wilkinson; some of General Wilkinson's letters concern military matters.

Among the correspondence is a letter pertaining to the purchase of the Floridas from Spain, and a letter from Walker Baylor expressing his opinion of Colonel Burr after meeting him. There is also the correspondence of Colonel Thomas Butler containing letters addressed to him from General Wilkinson and a letter to Thomas Jefferson, President of the United States.

BROWN (JAMES) PAPERS
1764-1811

Mss. 44
LSU LIBRARIES SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

LIST OF SERIES

Series I. Business Papers, 1764-1811, undated

Series II. Correspondence, 1795-1810

SERIES DESCRIPTIONS

Series I. Business Papers, 1764-1811, undated

Most of the collection consists of business papers, such as legal and financial documents, of James Brown. Financial papers include account sheets between James Brown and others such as Trotter & Scott (1799-1801) and Samuel Brown (oversize; 1804-1805). Three statements of account in Spanish pertain to sales of cargo of the brig *Mary* (1810). A receipt for four issues of *La Lanterne Magique* is also included (1808).

Legal documents include a summary (in French) of a lawsuit of Bécot & Dalbier v. Salomon Prévost (1764), a land patent to Patrick Stuart for 1000 acres (oversize; May 27, 1777), a certified copy of a marriage contract between Salomon Prévost and Dana Margarita Verret in 1789 (March 1811), and several testimonies and depositions, some in English and some in French (1806-1810, undated). One such deposition belongs to Francis Whitmell and concerns a stowaway slave (named John Wild, who reports having been brought from Charleston to New Orleans by a Captain White) on the ship *Thomas Jefferson* (November 28, 1807), while a testimonial in French discusses a free African American woman, Marie Louise (December 26, 1809). Also included is a petition (in French) concerning the suit of Jacques Negle v. Jean Louis Laurent for the reimbursement of a murdered slave named Bienvenu (January 19, 1806). Several agreements and bonds between ship masters and merchants are included (1805-1810) as are documents related to insurance claims. Other legal papers such as bills of sale of slaves are found in the collection, one, a sale between John Clay of New Orleans and Robert Perry of Woodford County, Kentucky (April 6, 1807) of a slave named Harry (age 30), and the other, a sale of two slaves (named Austin, age 40; Tom, age 28) by Hart, Bartlett, & Cox, New Orleans, to James Brown (oversize; March 1809).

Also included is the commission of James Brown, Esq. of Kentucky, U.S. Attorney for Orleans District by Thomas Jefferson (oversize; October 21, 1805).

Series II. Correspondence, 1795-1810

Correspondence consists of personal, legal, military letters. Personal correspondence includes a letter to James Brown from his brother, John Brown in Philadelphia (May 16, 1795) discussing land opportunities and a letter to James Brown from Mr. Parrill thanking Brown for his hospitality to himself and his wife (January 25, 1805).

There is also the correspondence of Colonel Thomas Butler. An appeal (copy) from Butler to U.S. President Thomas Jefferson discusses the court's decision regarding military disobedience to the order regulating the length of one's hair (March 8, 1804). Another letter to Butler, perhaps from General James Wilkinson, provides orders to confine his route to rivers and avoid land (September 3, 1804). Also included are a letter (copied by H. Dearborn, Secretary of War) from W.S. Smith to General Wilkinson discussing the necessity for unreasoning and unquestioning obedience for an efficient army (March 14, 1805), a letter to James Brown from Gen. Wilkinson

mentioning a defensive plan to take post near Fort Adams as well as the purchase of the Floridas from Spain (April 20, 1806), and a letter from Walker Baylor expressing his opinion of Colonel Burr (October 3, 1806).

Subjects discussed within much of the legal correspondence include shipping matters and insurance claims (1805-1810). For example, a letter to John Clay, a New Orleans merchant, from Gimbul & Scull in Havana discusses the disposition of boats and the cargoes handled by them (October 2, 1805), and several letters from Matias Alpuente to the New Orleans Insurance Company discuss his abandonment of the brig *Roman* and their decision not to pay his insurance claim (October-November 1805).

CROSS REFERENCES

Subject	Date	Description of relevant documents
Actions and defenses-- Louisiana--New Orleans.	1764, undated	Summary, in French, of suit of Becat and Dalbier v. Salomon Prevost, 1764; Reasons for appeal of case, Burney v. Badins, undated.
Alpuente, Matias.	1805	Notifies New Orleans Insurance Company of abandonment of brig <i>Roman</i> and insurance claim, October 7; Seeks reconsideration from Chamber of Insurance on decision not to pay claim, November 7.
Baylor, Walker, 1762- 1822.	1806	Writes Brown regarding collection of debt; mentions meeting Burr in Lexington and finding him good companion but poor politician, October 3.
Brown, William N.	1805-1806	James Newrome, on United States Revenue Cutter "Louisiana," letter regarding ship <i>Caroline</i> , April 29, 1805; Requests ruling from District Attorney, July 31, 1806.
Burr, Aaron, 1756-1836.	1806	Baylor states Burr is a fine companion, but regards him as a poor politician, October 3.
Butler, Thomas, Colonel.	1804	Appeal (copy) to President from court's decision regarding military disobedience to order regulating length of hair enclosed in letter to Dearborne, March 8; Ordered by [Wilkinson] to confine route to rivers and not land, September 3.
Chester, Peter.	1777	Orders issuance of land patent to Stuart for 1,000 acres near Natchez.
Clay, John.	1805, 1807	Gimbul and Scull, in Havana, comment on disposition of boats and cargoes handled by them, October 2, 1805; Purchases slave named Harry from Robert Perry of Kentucky, April 6, 1807.
Dearborn, Henry, 1751- 1829.	1804-1805	Appeal (copy) to President from court's decision regarding his disobedience to military order of April 30, 1801. 1 letter to, March 8, 1804; Certified copy of letter from W. S. Smith to Wilkinson, March 14, 1805.

Subject	Date	Description of relevant documents
Fort Adams (Miss.)	1806	James Wilkinson mentions defensive plan to take post, April 20.
Free African Americans-- Louisiana.	1809-1810, undated	Testimonial, in French, by Joseph Coupely and certification, in French, favoring free African American girl, Marie Louise, December 26, 1809 and January 7, 1810; Seeks legal services from Brown, undated
French language-- Louisiana.	1806-1807, 1809-1810, undated	Petitions, testimonies, and related items concerning legal cases, 1806-1807, 1809-1810, undated; Excerpt of letter from City Council to Mayor of New Orleans, July 31, 1807.
Fugitive slaves--United States.	1807	Francis Whitmell's deposition concerning stowaway slave named John Wild on ship <i>Thomas Jefferson</i> , November 28.
Insurance claims-- Louisiana--New Orleans.	1805-1806	Alpuente seeks payment of claim for abandoned brig <i>Roman</i> from the New Orleans Insurance Company and the presidents of the Chamber of Insurance, October 7 and November 9, 1805; Charles Wilkins requests Kenner and Henderson to effect claim on cargo shipped from New Orleans to Natchez, February 27, 1806.
Jefferson, Thomas, 1743- 1826.	1805	Commissions Brown as United States Attorney for Orleans District, October 21.
Land grants--Mississippi-- Natchez.	1777	Issued by Dunford to Patrick Stuart for 1,000 acres near Natchez on warrant from Peter Chester (oversize).
Land speculation-- Kentucky.	1795	John Brown advises his brother James, in Lexington, on matters pertaining to land speculation, May 16.
Lanterne Magique.	1808	Receipt for 4 issues.
Lawyers--Louisiana--New Orleans.	1805-1810, undated	Commission from Jefferson as United States Attorney for Orleans District, 1805 (oversize); Correspondence, testimony, depositions pertaining to lawsuits, request for legal ruling and collection of debt, 1806-1810, undated

Subject	Date	Description of relevant documents
Louisiana--History--1803-1865.	1805-1810, undated	Appointment of attorney general, 1805; Slave trials, legal cases, and lawsuits, 1806-1810, undated; Letters and related items regarding insurance claims and shipping matters, 1805-1807, 1810.
Marriage--Louisiana.	1789	Certified copy, in Spanish, dated March 29, 1811, of contract dated April 20, 1789 between Salomon Prevost and Margarita Verret.
Michie, David.	1804	Receipted bill for James Brown for food for horse, dinner, and brandy from September 1804 to November 1804.
New Orleans Insurance Company.	1805	Notified by Alpuente of his abandonment of brig <i>Roman</i> and claim for insurance, October 7.
Prevost, Salomon.	1764, 1789	Summary, in French, concerning suit of Becat and Dalbier v. Salomon Prevost, 1764; Certified copy, in Spanish, dated March 29, 1811, of marriage contract between Prevost and Dona Margarita Verret, April 20, 1789.
Shipping--Louisiana--New Orleans.	1805-1806, 1810	Letters regarding insurance claims, disposition of boats and cargo, and difficulties with authorities in Laguna, 1805-1806; Award, agreements, and bond between ship masters and merchants, 1805-1806; 3 statements of account, in Spanish, of sales of cargo of brig <i>Mary</i> , 1810.
Slave trade--Louisiana--New Orleans.	1807, 1809	Sale of slave named Harry by Robert Perry of Kentucky to John Clay of New Orleans, April 6, 1807; Sale of two slaves named Austin and Tom by Hart, Bartlett, and Cox to James Brown, March 1809 (oversize).
Slaves--Legal status, laws, etc--Louisiana--German Coast.	1807	Jenon Trudeau's testimonial favoring Julie Brion, October 30, 1807, German Coast

Subject	Date	Description of relevant documents
Slaves--Legal status, laws, etc--Louisiana--New Orleans.	1806, undated	Petition, in French, concerning suit of Jacques Negle v. Jean Louis Laurent for reimbursement of murdered slave named Bienvenu, January 19, 1806. New Orleans; Interrogatory referring to slave in suit of the United States v. <i>The Neptune</i> , undated
Smith, W. S.	1805	States submission and not examination is military duty, March 14. 1 letter (copy) to Wilkinson.
Spanish language--Louisiana.	1805, 1810	Appeal for payment of insurance claim on brig <i>Roman</i> . Alpuente letter, 1805; Reference by de Haro to de la Rionda of sailing of <i>Maria</i> , April 9, 1810; 3 statements of sales of cargo of brig <i>Mary</i> , November 24 and December 19, 1810.
Stuart, Patrick.	1777	Land patent for 1,000 acres near Natchez issued by Dunford on warrant from Peter Chester, May 27 (oversize).
Wilkins, Charles.	1805-1806	William Chribbs urges Wilkins, a factor of Lexington, Kentucky, to file suit against Daniel Bissel, and seeks advice regarding possibilities of boating or public house business in Natchez, March 4, 1805; Requests Kenner and Henderson to effect insurance claim on cargo shipped from New Orleans to Natchez, February 27, 1806.
Wilkins, James Campbell, 1786-1849.	1808	Regarding legal suit, January 8, 1808.
Wilkinson, James, 1757-1825.	1804-1806, undated	Orders Butler to confine route to rivers, Maryland. 1 unsigned letter, September 3, 1804; Informed by Smith that submission and not examination is military duty, March 4, 1805; Mentions defensive plan to take post at Fort Adams, and marvels at Randolph's "invective" against Madison and Monroe. St. Louis, April 20, 1806; Unsigned memorandum mentions difficulty in securing Wilkinson's signature on deposition accompanying Bollman, undated

CONTAINER LIST

<u>Stack</u> <u>Location</u>	<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder(s)</u>	<u>Contents (with dates)</u>
			Series I. Business Papers and Series II. Correspondence (filed together)
U:20	1	1-9	Papers, 1764-1811, undated
F:9	--	--	Volume 1: Bound typescript of documents, 1764-1811
OS:B	--	1	Papers (oversize), 1777-1810; Commission as United States Attorney of Orleans District (copy found in U:20, Box 1, Folder 9), 1805