

CAPELL FAMILY PAPERS
Mss. 56, 257, 1751, 2501, 2597
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

2001

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SUMMARY

Size. 1 linear ft., 30 volumes

Geographic locations. Mississippi, Louisiana, Kentucky, Tennessee

Inclusive dates. 1816-1931.

Bulk dates. 1840-1880

Languages. English.

Summary. Correspondence, business papers, legal documents, and manuscript volumes.

Access. Jefferson Davis letters restricted. Use photocopies.

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Citation. Capell Family Papers, Mss. 56, 257, 1751, etc., Louisiana and Lower Mississippi Valley Collections, LSU Libraries, Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

Stack location. U:299, F:11, OS:C, MSS.MF:C, VAULT:1, VAULT MRDF 6

BIOGRAPHICAL/HISTORICAL NOTE

The Capell family were planters and merchants of Amite and Wilkinson Counties, Mississippi. Littleton Capell, a native of South Carolina, migrated to the Territory of Mississippi early in the 19th century. In 1811 he purchased land from the Federal government in the southwest corner of Amite County. He established himself as a planter and held half interest in a general store at Rose Hill, Mississippi. After his death, sometime in the 1830s, his wife Catherine inherited the plantation and his son, Eli Jackson Capell, inherited his father's interest the store at Rose Hill; Eli also managed his father's estate. At his mother's death Eli J. Capell inherited the plantation along with her slaves. As the owner of Pleasant Hill Plantation, Eli J. Capell was a progressive agriculturalist who attempted to convince his neighbors to improve their own agricultural methods. An avid reader of farm journals, he often corresponded with editors, and several of his letters of inquiry as well as his own observations and experiments were published in agricultural papers.

Eli Capell married Margaret Anderson of Centreville, Mississippi; together they had two daughters, Kate and Ophelia, and two sons, Robert L. and Henry Clay. During the Civil War Robert L. Capell served as a private in Captain Moses Jackson's company, the 33rd Regiment of the Mississippi Volunteers; he died in Franklin, Tennessee in 1865 during his military service. Henry Clay Capell practiced law in Centerville, Mississippi. Ophelia Capell attended Silliman Female Collegiate Institute in Clinton, Louisiana (circa 1868-1869), and Kate married A. C. Crawford, a division superintendent of the Wrought Iron Range Company.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

Business papers and legal documents comprise the bulk of this collection. Most legal documents pertain to acquisition of land by Littleton Capell and his son, Eli J. Capell; they include instruments of conveyance, certificates of land ownership, and land deeds. Among the business papers are invoices for the shipment of cotton and goods, several slave bills of sale (1822-1856), receipts, and correspondence relating primarily to the sale of cotton and goods. Additionally, there are typescripts of plantation diary entries for Pleasant Hill Plantation (v. 15-16, v. 19-25, v. 27) recording inventories of slaves, live stock and farm equipment, a daily tally of cotton picked by slaves, yearly distribution of clothing and tools to slaves, weight of cotton bales, and amount of cotton sold annually. Slave records list individual slaves by name.

Personal correspondence contains two letters from Jefferson Davis in which he recommends Dr. Charles Pelaez to Henry Capell (November 6, 1882), and he refers to the South's fight for the "righteous cause" (November 6, 1882). Several letters to President Grover Cleveland endorse the appointment of Henry Clay Capell to the position of United States consul to Paso del Norte, Mexico (March-August 1893); and in other letters, friends of Henry Capell attest to his high moral character (1895) as a citizen and attorney. Letters regarding the death of Robert Capell, son of Eli J. Capell, at Franklin, Tenn. (August 31 and September 27, 1865), and the impact of the Civil War (January 9, 1866) are also included.

Among miscellaneous items is a tintype of an unidentified man (undated); a list of heirs to the estate of John Reese (circa 1880); Capell family genealogy [photocopy] (undated) spanning the years 1841-1969; and a biography of Eli J. Capell [photocopy] by Wendell Holmes Stephenson that was published in *The Mississippi Valley Historical Review* (undated); and price lists and advertisements for farm equipment and livestock (undated).

Manuscript volumes consist primarily of plantation diaries (1842-1867) for Pleasant Hill Plantation, related plantation record books including a cotton book (1881-1891) of H. C. Capell; crop book (1840-1849); and plantation records books of other family members. Capell maintained daybooks (1880, 1886-1887) while operating a store near Rose Hill, Mississippi; volume five also contains the constitution, bylaws, order of business, and list of members of the Rose Hill Agricultural and Horticultural Club (1880).

Papers are arranged chronologically; plantation diaries typescripts and manuscript volumes are arranged by volume number.

INDEX TERMS

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

Capell, Henry Clay.
Capell, Littleton.
Capell, Eli J., 1814-1888.
Cleveland, Grover, 1837-1908.
Conveyancing.
Cotton picking.
Cotton trade--Mississippi.
Cotton growing--Mississippi.
Davis, Jefferson, 1808-1889.
Deeds.
General stores--Mississippi.
Pleasant Hill Plantation (Miss.)
Rose Hill (Miss.)
Rose Hill Agricultural and Horticultural Club.
Slave bills of sale.
Slavery--Mississippi.
Slaves--Mississippi--Social conditions.
United States--History--Civil War, 1861-1865.

CONTAINER LIST

Stack location	Box	Folder	Contents
			Plantation diaries [typescripts]:
U:299	1	1	v. 15 (1850) 25 pages.
		2	v. 16 (1851) 27 pages.
		3	v. 19 (1853) 20 pages.
		4	v. 20 (1854) 12 pages.
		5	v. 21 (1855) 2 pages.
		6	v. 22 (1856) 13 pages.
		7	v. 23 (1857) 4 pages.
		8	v. 24 (1858) 4 pages.
		9	v. 25 (1859) 3 pages.
		10	v. 27 (1862) 1 page.
			11
		Correspondence, business and legal papers:	
	2	1-13	1817-1859.
	3	1-13	1860-1930.
			Manuscript volumes:
F:11	--	--	v. 1 Cotton book, H. C. Capell (1888-1891).
			v. 2 Crop book (1840-1849).
			v. 3 Daybook (1840-1849).
			v. 4 Daybook (1849-1876).
			v. 5 Daybook (1880).
			v. 6 Daybook of sales (1886-1887)
			v. 7 Laborers' record book (1881), notebook (undated).
			v. 8 Plantation diary (1842).

CONTAINER LIST (cont.)

Stack location	Box	Folder	Contents
			Manuscript volumes:
F:11	--	--	v. 9 Plantation diary (1844). v. 10 Plantation diary (1845). v. 11 Plantation diary (1846). v. 12 Plantation diary (1847). v. 13 Plantation diary (1849). v. 14 Plantation diary (1850). v. 15 Plantation diary records only (1850). v. 16 Plantation diary (1851). v. 17 Plantation diary (January-September 1852; January-March 1856). v. 18 Plantation diary (January-May 1852; September 1852-January 1853). v. 19 Plantation diary (1853). v. 20 Plantation diary (1854). v. 21 Plantation diary (1855). v. 22 Plantation diary (1856). v. 23 Plantation diary (1857). v. 24 Plantation diary (1858). v. 25 Plantation diary (1859). v. 26 Plantation diary (1861). v. 27 Plantation diary (1862). v. 28 Plantation diary (January-June 1863; 1842). v. 29 Plantation diary (June 1863-April 1866). v. 30 Plantation diary (1866-1867).
			Oversize material:
OS:C	--	1	Certificates of ownership, deeds (1816, 1826, 1838, 1859, 1868, 1875); <i>The Centreville Jeffersonian</i> (October 23, 1931).

CAPELL FAMILY PAPERS
1816-1931

Mss. 56, 257, 1751, 2501, 2597

CONTAINER LIST (cont.)

Stack location	Box	Folder	Contents
Vault:1	--	1	Jefferson Davis letters (November 6, 1882) [restricted] Use photocopies at U:299, box 3.

MICROFILM

Manuscript volumes were previously combined and known as Eli J. Capell Plantation Diaries and Record Books. Volumes were microfilmed on 3 reels (stored at MSS.MF:C). Volumes have been renumbered and placed in the Capell Family Papers, Mss. 56, 257, 1751, 2501, 2597 and the Eli J. Capell Family Papers, Mss. 674.

Capell Family Papers volume number:

Previous microfilm volume number:

v. 1	Cotton book, H. C. Capell (1888-1891).	v. 3
v. 2	Crop book (1840-1849).	v. 4
v. 3	Daybook (1840-1849).	v. 5
v. 4	Daybook (1849-1876).	v. 5a
v. 5	Daybook (1880).	v. 6
v. 6	Daybook of sales (1886-1887).	v. 7
v. 7	Laborers' record book (1881), notebook (undated).	v. 9
v. 8	Plantation diary (1842).	v. 21
v. 9	Plantation diary (1844).	v. 22
v. 10	Plantation diary (1845).	v. 23
v. 11	Plantation diary (1846).	v. 24
v. 12	Plantation diary (1847).	v. 25
v. 13	Plantation diary (1849).	v. 26
v. 14	Plantation diary (1850).	v. 27
v. 15	Plantation diary records only (1850).	v. 28
v. 16	Plantation diary (1851).	v. 29
v. 17	Plantation diary (January-September 1852; January-March 1856).	v. 30
v. 18	Plantation diary (January-May 1852; September 1852-January 1853).	v. 31
v. 19	Plantation diary (1853).	v. 32
v. 20	Plantation diary (1854).	v. 33
v. 21	Plantation diary (1855).	v. 34
v. 22	Plantation diary (1856).	v. 35

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MICROFILM (cont.)

v. 23	Plantation diary (1857).	v. 36
v. 24	Plantation diary (1858).	v. 37
v. 25	Plantation diary (1859).	v. 38
v. 26	Plantation diary (1861).	v. 39
v. 27	Plantation diary (1862).	v. 40
v. 28	Plantation diary (January-June 1863; 1842).	v. 41
v. 29	Plantation diary (June 1863-April 1866).	v. 42
v. 30	Plantation diary (1866-1867).	v. 43

Eli J. Capell Family Papers:

Previous microfilm volume number:

v. 1	Bank book (1907).	v. 1
v. 2	Bank stub book (1883-1886).	v. 2
v. 3	Laborers' record book (1867-1885).	v. 8
v. 4	Ledger (1873-1882).	v. 10
v. 5	Ledger (1916-1917).	v. 11
v. 6	Memorandum book (1869-1876).	v. 12
v. 7	Memorandum book (1878).	v. 13
v. 8	Memorandum book (1885).	v. 14
v. 9	Memorandum book (1887).	v. 15
v. 10	Memorandum book, A. C. Crawford (1896).	v. 16
v. 11	Memorandum book (1898-1903).	v. 17
v. 12	Memorandum book (1898-1908).	v. 18
v. 13	Memorandum book (1903).	v. 19
v. 14	Memorandum book (1917).	v. 20
v. 15	Plantation diary (1869).	v. 44
v. 16	<i>The Pocket Lawyer and Family Conveyancer</i> (1845)	v. 45