

ANNA AND SARAH BUTLER CORRESPONDENCE

Mss. 581

Inventory

Revised by
Laura Clark Brown

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

Revised 2009
Updated 2020

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SUMMARY

Size.	1.5 linear feet.
Geographic locations.	Louisiana; Mississippi; Pennsylvania; New Haven, Connecticut; Paris, France; Bowling Green, Kentucky.
Inclusive dates.	1838-1861.
Bulk dates.	1843-1849.
Languages.	English.
Summary.	Antebellum correspondence of Judge Thomas Butler's daughters, Anna Eliza Butler and Sarah Jane Duncan Butler living in West Feliciana Parish, from socially prominent young women from Louisiana and Mississippi and from family members. Other letters were written by Anna and Sarah Butler to family.
Related collections.	Butler Family Papers, Mss. 1026 Butler (Thomas and Family) Papers, Mss. 2850 Gay-Butler-Plater Family Papers, Mss. 4872 Margaret Butler Correspondence, Mss. 1068 Robert Butler Poems, Mss. 1000, 3112 Robert O. Butler Papers, Mss. 1068 Thomas Butler Family Photographs and Plantation Journal, Mss. 4347 Thomas W. Butler Papers, Mss. 888
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Citation.	Anna and Sarah Butler Correspondence, Mss. 581, Louisiana and Lower Mississippi Valley Collections, LSU Libraries, Baton Rouge, Louisiana.
Stack location.	S:23
Also available on.	UPA Microfilm 5322, Series I, part 5, reel 1.

BIOGRAPHICAL/HISTORICAL NOTE

Anna Eliza Butler (1825-1902) and Sarah Jane Duncan Butler (1827-1888) were the daughters of Louisiana Judge Thomas Butler and Ann Butler. They lived at the Cottage in West Feliciana Parish near St. Francisville. Anna Butler spent a year in Washington D.C. at the White House where she met foreign dignitaries and politicians, and she attended Congressional sessions where she heard debates on the major issues of the day, particularly states' rights, fugitive slaves and abolition.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The letters received by Anna and Sarah Butler from friends and family (1838-1861) reflect the social life and customs of antebellum Louisiana. Letters written by Anna and Sarah from their Louisiana home and during travels chronicle their social and personal lives, provide news from families and friends, describe local activities and allude to national events. The correspondents write about sickness, epidemics, deaths, marriages, visits from prominent persons, social events, travel and the Mexican War.

INDEX TERMS

Baines, Mary
Black, Julia
Bliss, Betty
Bliss, William Wallace Smith, 1815-1853
Bragg, Braxton, 1817-1876
Bragg, Elise Ellis
Buena Vista, Battle of, 1847
Butler, Ann
Butler, Anna Eliza
Butler, Edward G.
Butler, Margaret
Butler, Richard E.
Butler, Robert
Butler, Sarah Jane Duncan
Butler, Thomas
Cholera--Louisiana
Cockran, J.B.
Conner, Mary L.
The Cottage
De Bonneville, Ann C.
Ellis, Abram
Epidemics--Louisiana
Fort Livingston (La.)
Grand Terre Island (La.)
Lafourche Parish (La.)
Le Carpe Plantation (La.)
Letters
Mercer, Anna Farar, 1796-1839
Mexican War, 1846-1848
Natchez (Miss.)
Plantation life--Louisiana
Plantations--Louisiana--Terrebonne Parish
Plantations--Louisiana--West Feliciana Parish
Prosser, E.C.
Skiles, Eliza Bell
Sterling, W.R.
Taylor, L.L.
Taylor, Zachary, 1784-1850
Terrebone Parish (La.)
West Feliciana Parish (La.)
Women--Southern States--Correspondence
Women--Southern States--Social life and customs--1775-1865
Yellow fever--Louisiana
Yale College
Young, Eliza
Young, Jane

CONTAINER LIST

<u>Stack</u> <u>Location</u>	<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Contents</u>
S:23	1	1	Letters to Anna from cousins Jane Young, Mary L. Conner and Elise Ellis, sister Margaret Butler, mother Ann Butler, and friends Mary Baines at Ursuline Convent and W.R. Sterling (1838-1842).
		2	Letters to Anna Butler and to Sarah Butler from cousins Mary L. Conner and Jane Young, and from mother Ann Butler with mention of yellow fever in Donaldsonville. Letter to Sarah Butler from Anna Butler (1843).
		3	Letters to Anna Butler from cousin Jane Young, brother Richard E. Butler, father Thomas Butler, and mother Ann Butler. Manuscript of a Valentine's day poem. Invitation to Anna and Sarah Butler (1844).
		4	Letters to Sarah Butler from cousins Mary L. Conner and Elise Ellis. Letters to Anna Butler from cousins Elise Ellis and Jane Young, brother Richard E. Butler, sister Sarah Butler, and friend L.L.Taylor (1845).
		5	Letters to Anna Butler from cousins Elise Ellis, Jane Young, and Eliza B. Skiles, and from brother Richard Butler with mentions of whooping cough, the Mexican War and attitudes of Louisiana volunteers serving in the army. Letters to Sarah Butler from cousin Elise Ellis (January-June 1846).
		6	Letters to Sarah Butler from cousin Elise Ellis and mother Ann Butler. Letters to Anna Butler from cousins Jane Young, Elise Ellis, Richard G. Ellis, and Eliza B. Skiles and from mother Ann Butler (July-December 1846).
		7	Letters to Anna Butler from cousins Elise Young, Elise Ellis, Jane Young, Eliza Skiles and Mary Conner and from friend Ann de Bonneville with mention of Zachary Taylor, Santa Anna and the battle at Buena Vista. Sarah Butler from Ann Butler (January-July 1847).
		8	Letters to Anna Butler from mother Ann Butler, brother Richard Butler, and cousins Jane Young, Eliza Skiles and Mary Conner. Letters to Sarah Butler from friend Julia Black, cousins Elise Ellis and Anna Mercer.
		9	Obituary for Eliza B. Skiles. Letters to Anna Butler from cousins Eliza B. Skiles, Jane Young and Anna Mercer, uncle Robert Butler and a friend aboard the Steamboat <i>Magnolia</i> . Letters to Sarah Butler from cousin Elise Ellis and from L.L. Taylor (January-July 1848).

<u>Stack Location</u>	<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Contents</u>
S:23	1	10	Letters to Sarah Butler from cousins Elise Ellis and Anna Mercer. Letters to Anna Butler from sister Sarah Butler, cousins Mary Skiles and Jane Young and sister Mary Butler and L.L. Taylor (August-December 1848).
S:23	2	1	Letters to Sarah Butler from cousins [Susan] Conner and Elise Ellis, mother Ann Butler, sister Mary Butler and aunt M.G. Ellis. Letters to Anna Butler from E.C. Prosser and cousin Jane Young (January-April 1849).
		2	Letters to Sarah Butler from cousins [Susan] Conner, Elise Ellis Bragg with mention of husband Braxton Bragg, and Anna Elliot, from mother Ann Butler and friend at Pointe Coupee. Letters to Anna Butler from E.C. Prosser with mention of cholera epidemics, brother Edward Butler, brother Robert Butler at Yale and sister Mary Butler. Invitation to an Odd Fellows Ball (May-December 1849).
		3	Letters to Sarah Butler from brother Robert Butler at Yale, mother Ann Butler, cousins [?], [?] Conner, sister Anna Butler, S.E. Butler at Le Carpe Plantation and sister Mary Butler. Letter to Anna Butler from Colonel W.W.S. Bliss (1850-1851).
		4	Letters to Sarah Butler from S.E. Butler with mention of typhus and measles, Amelia Metcalfe, brother Richard Butler, cousins Anna Elliot, mother Ann Butler, and sister Mary Butler. Letter to Anna Butler from J.B. Cochran of Providence, Louisiana (January-April 1852).
		5	Letters to Sarah Butler from S.E. Butler, brother Richard Butler, [?] Metcalfe, sister Anna Butler and cousin Anna M. Johnston of Pecan Bayou. Letters to Anna Butler from W.W.S. Bliss (May-December 1852).
		6	Letters to Sarah Butler from sister Anna Butler, Mary Byrons, mother Ann Butler, and brother Edward Butler. Letters to Anna Butler from W.W.S. Bliss, Betty Bliss, L.L. Taylor with mention of yellow fever epidemic, and mother Ann Butler (1853).
		7	Letters to Sarah Butler from sister Anna Butler, C. [?] Bell, S. E. Butler, brother Edward Butler, and mother Ann Butler (1854-June 1856).
		8	Letters to Sarah Butler from sister Anna Butler, mother Ann Butler, brother Robert Butler and friends; letter from sister-in-law Sarah E. Butler includes manuscript note about camellias (July-December 1856).
		9	Letter to Anna Butler from Dr. [?] Wood. Letters to Sarah Butler from sister Anna Butler, friends, and cousins (1857).

BUTLER (ANNA AND SARAH) CORRESPONDENCE
1838-1861

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<u>Stack Location</u>	<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Contents</u>
S:23	2	10	Letter to Anna Butler from brother Robert Butler in Paris. Letter to Sarah Butler from brother Edward Butler at Fort Livingston, Louisiana which he describes (1858, 1861).
S:23	3	1	Letter to Sarah Butler from Braxton Bragg (undated).
		2	Letters to Sarah Butler from Elise Ellis Bragg (undated).
		3-4	Letters to Sarah Butler from Anna Mercer (undated)
		5-6	Letters to Sarah Butler from William Mercer (undated).
		7	Letters to Sarah Butler from Eliza Young (undated).
		8	Miscellaneous letters received by Anna and Sarah Butler (undated).
		9	Miscellaneous letters received by Sarah and Anna Butler. Invitation and manuscript poem (undated)
		10-11	Miscellaneous letters received by Sarah and Anna Butler (undated).
		12	Manuscript concerning canals (undated).
MF 5322			UPA Microfilm 5322, Series I, part 5, Reel 1