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MF 5322, Series I, Part 5, Reels 3-4

**BUTLER (ROBERT O.) PAPERS**

Mss. 1068

Inventory

Compiled by  
Laura Clark Brown  
1996

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.** 1.5 linear feet
- Geographic locations.** Louisiana; New Haven, Connecticut
- Inclusive dates.** 1848-1888, undated
- Bulk dates.** 1859-1873
- Language.** English, French
- Summary.** Correspondence, financial papers, legal documents, printed items and photographs document the business, career, and life of Robert Ormond Butler (1832-1874), a New Orleans physician and sugar planter in Terrebonne Parish at Bayou Black plantation.
- Restrictions on access.** None.
- Related collections.** Anna and Sarah Butler Correspondence, Mss. 581  
Butler Family Papers, Mss. 1026, etc.  
Gay-Butler-Plater Family Papers, Mss. 4872  
Margaret Butler Correspondence, Mss. 1068  
Richard Butler Papers, Mss. 1000, 1069  
Robert Butler Poems, Mss. 1000, 3112  
Thomas Butler and Family Papers, Mss. 2850  
Thomas Butler Family Photographs and Plantation Journal, Mss. 4347  
Thomas W. Butler Papers, Mss. 888
- Copyright.** Copyright of the original materials is retained by descendants of the creators in accordance with U.S. copyright law.
- Citation.** Butler (Robert O.) Papers, Mss. 1068, Louisiana and Lower Mississippi Valley Collections, LSU Libraries, Baton Rouge, La.
- Stack location(s).** S:25-26; OS:B
- Also available on.** UPA Microfilm 5322, Series I, Part 5, Reels 3-4

## **BIOGRAPHICAL/HISTORICAL NOTE**

Robert Ormonde Butler (1832-1874) was the son of Judge Thomas (1785-1847) and Anne Madeline Butler of St. Francisville in West Feliciana Parish. He was educated at Yale College and practiced medicine in New Orleans and in Lafourche Parish. He also planted sugar and produced molasses at Bayou Black Plantation in Terrebonne Parish. Dr. Butler and his wife Marguerite had three children: Marie Louise, Robert O., and Edward.

## **SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE**

Correspondence, financial papers, legal documents, printed items, and photographs document the personal and professional life of Robert Ormonde Butler, a Louisiana planter and physician. Personal correspondence consists primarily of family letters received by Butler while attending Yale College (1849-1850). Financial papers, the largest series, reflect Butler's medical practice and plantation business in Terrebonne Parish.

Financial Papers include bills of lading (1860-1864) from the New Orleans, Opelousas, and Great Western Railroad for sugar and molasses shipped from Butler's plantation Bayou Black; receipts for wages paid to plantation laborers; invoices for shoes and hats purchased for plantation domestics; bills and receipts for drugs, pharmaceutical supplies, household items, groceries, clothing, medical journals, and taxes; statements of account from J.M. Johnston (lists cash paid to German laborers in 1864) and Charles D. Leverich for Bayou Black and Grand Caillou plantations; and medical accounts.

Printed items include newspaper clippings, medical journal issues, and broadsides. Reprints of decisions by the Sixth District Court of New Orleans and a contract comprise the legal papers. Photographs are albumen print portraits of unidentified persons.

The papers were arranged chronologically, then according to item type (correspondence, financial papers, photographs, etc.).

**INDEX TERMS**

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

<b>Bayou Black Plantation (La.)</b>
<b>Butler, Robert Ormond, 1832-1874.</b>
<b>Contracts.</b>
<b>Correspondence.</b>
<b>Invoices.</b>
<b>Lafourche Parish (La.)--History--19th century.</b>
<b>Photographic prints.</b>
<b>Physicians--Louisiana--New Orleans.</b>
<b>Plantation life--Louisiana.</b>
<b>Plantation owners--Louisiana.</b>
<b>Receipts (financial records)</b>
<b>Sugar growing--Louisiana.</b>
<b>Sugarcane industry--Louisiana.</b>
<b>Terrebonne Parish (La.)--History--19th century.</b>

**CONTAINER LIST**

<u>Stack</u>	<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Contents (with dates)</u>		
<b>S:25</b>	1	1	Correspondence: Family letters to Robert Ormond Butler (1848-August 1849)		
		2	Correspondence: Family letters to Robert Ormond Butler (September-December 1849)		
		3	Correspondence: Family letters to Robert Ormond Butler (January-March 1850)		
		4	Correspondence: Family letters to Robert Ormond Butler (May-October 1850)		
		5	Financial Papers: Ledger sheets of Robert Ormond Butler (1850-1855)		
		6	Correspondence: Letters from brother and friend, Towson Ellis to Robert O. Butler (1851)		
		7	Family letters and an invitation to Robert O. Butler (1853-1856)		
		8	Professional letters to Robert O. Butler (1857-1858)		
		9	Financial Papers: Receipts and account statements (1857-1859)		
		10	Correspondence: Family and personal letters and an invitation to Robert O. Butler (1859-1860)		
		11	Financial Papers: Receipts, invoices, and account statements (1861)		
		12	Correspondence: Letters concerning payments (1861)		
		13	Financial Papers: Receipts, invoices, and account statements (1862)		
		14	Business Correspondence: Letters concerning sugar and sulfur (1862)		
		15	Financial Papers: New Orleans, Opelousas, and Great Western Railroad bills of lading, invoices, and receipts (1840-May 1859)		
		16	New Orleans, Opelousas, and Great Western Railroad bills of lading, invoices, and receipts (June-December 1859)		
		17-19	New Orleans, Opelousas, and Great Western Railroad bills of lading (January 1860-March 1861)		
		20	New Orleans, Opelousas, and Great Western Railroad bills of lading, invoices, and receipts (1861)		
		21	New Orleans, Opelousas, and Great Western Railroad bills of lading (1862)		
		22	Legal contract: Ann Butler giving Robert O. Butler power of attorney (1862)		
		23	Receipts, invoices, and account statements (January-February 1863)		
		24	Receipts, bills, and invoices (March-May 1863)		
		25	Receipts, invoices, account statements, and tax receipts (June-August 1863)		
		26-27	Receipts, invoices, and account statements (September-December 1863)		
		28	Business Correspondence: Letters concerning sugar, molasses, and shipping (1863)		
		<b>S:26</b>	2	1-4	Financial Papers: Receipts, invoices, and account statements (January-October 1864)
				5	Receipts, invoices, account statements, and list of supplies for plantation (November-December 1864)

<u>Stack</u>	<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Contents (with dates)</u>
<u>Location</u> S:26	2	6	Legal Papers: Notifications from the Bureau of Free Labor and the Plantation Bureau; form for a claim against the quartermaster; and estate document (1864)
		7	Correspondence: Letters concerning laborers and Civil War (1864)
		8-9	Letters, J.M. Johnson to Robert O. Butler (January-February 1864)
		10-12	Financial Papers: J.M. Johnson and Robert O. Butler receipts, invoices and account statements (January-November 1864)
		13-14	Correspondence: J.M. Johnson to Robert O. Butler (March-December 1864)
		15	Financial Papers: Receipts, invoices, and account statements (January-May 1865)
		16	Receipts, invoices, account statements, and tax receipts (June-October 1865)
		17	Receipts, invoices, and account statements (November-December 1865)
		18	Business Correspondence: Letters received by Robert O. Butler (1865-1866)
		19	Personal Correspondence: Letters received by Robert O. Butler, letter to wife from Butler, invitations to Krewe of Comus activities (1866-1867)
		20	Financial Papers: Receipts, invoices, tax receipts, and account statements (1866)
		21	Receipts, invoices, and account statements (1867)
		22	Receipts, invoices, tax receipts, and account statements (1868)
		23	Receipts, invoices, and account statements (1869)
		24	Correspondence: Letters received by Robert O. Butler (1868-1869)
		25	Letters received by Butler concerning leases, social visits, smallpox ordinances, the state fair, and medical visits (1870)
		26-27	Financial Papers: Receipts, invoices, and account statements (Jan-Dec 1870)
		28	Printed Items: advertisements and notifications (1870)
		29-32	Financial Papers: Receipts, invoices, and account statements (Jan-Dec 1871)
		33	Correspondence: Letters received by Robert O. Butler concerning medical visits, leases, and state fair (1871)
		34	Printed Items and Legal Papers: Announcements, lease contracts, lottery tickets (1871)
		35-36	Financial Papers: Receipts, invoices, and account statements (Jan-Dec 1872)
		37	Correspondence: Letters received by Butler concerning patients, medicine, leases, and friends (1872)
		38	Printed Items: Insurance policy
	3	1-3	Financial Papers: Receipts, invoices, and account statements (1873-1888)
		4	Correspondence: Letters received by Butler (1873-1874)
		5	Letters received by Butler (1876-1888)
		6	Photographs: View of a plantation gallery (undated)
		7	Unidentified portraits (undated)
		8	Portrait of unidentified baby (undated)
		9	Portraits of soldiers and other unidentified persons (undated)
		10	Portraits of children (undated)
		11-12	Correspondence: Letters received by Butler (undated)

<u>Stack</u>	<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Contents (with dates)</u>
<u>Location</u>			
<b>S:26</b>	3	13	Financial Papers: Receipts (undated)
		14	Printed Items: Invitation, notice, newspaper clippings (undated)
		15	Material related to medicine and medical practice (undated)
		16	Legal Papers: Material concerning the Sixth District Court of Louisiana [E.K. Washington v. Mrs. Mary A. Cady; Commissioners of the Bank of Louisiana v. Ambrose Lanfear & ALS] (undated)
		17	Advertisements and announcements (undated)
		18	Business cards and announcements (undated)
		19	Medical Notebook (undated)
		20	Financial papers: Ledger (1871-1873)
		21	Ledger of medical accounts (1866)
		22	Bank book (1869-1874)
		23	Day book (1860-1862)
		24	Day book (1873)
		25	Legal Papers: Form for claim against the Quartermaster of Commissary General's Office
<b>OS:B</b>	--	OS 1	Statement of account, Dr. Robert O. Butler with J.M. Johnston (1863-1864)
	--	OS 2	Plot of St. John's Cemetery (1850)
			Financial papers: receipts, invoices, and account statements (1860-1869)
			Printed items: New Orleans <i>Times</i> "The Population of New Orleans," by Stanford E. Chaille (May 28, 1871); Sanitary Ordinances adopted by the Board of Health for the City of New Orleans (undated); Handbills for Pacific Wine Company (undated)
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