

MF 5322, Series I, Part 3, Reel 14
MF 6061, Series B, Part 2, Reel 11

ALEXANDER BLANCHE PAPERS

Mss. 3342

Inventory

Compiled by
Phyllis Castille

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	79 items, 2 manuscript volumes
Geographic Locations	Tensas Parish, Louisiana
Inclusive Dates	1851-1914
Bulk Dates	1851-1856, 1881-1914
Languages	English
Summary	Antebellum plantation diary of Tensas Parish plantation owner (original and Xerox copy) and miscellaneous correspondence, tax and payroll receipts, and account sheets.
Access Restrictions	Access to original plantation diary restricted. Use microfilm or photocopies instead.
Reproduction Note	Photocopies must be made from microfilm when available.
Copyright	Copyright of the original materials is retained by descendants of the creators in accordance with U.S. copyright law.
Related Collections	None.
Citation	Alexander Blanche Papers, Mss. 3342, Louisiana and Lower Mississippi Valley Collections, LSU Libraries, Baton Rouge, La.
Stack Location(s)	W:48, VAULT:3, OS:B MF 5322, Series I, Part 3, Reel 14 MF 6061, Series B, Part 2, Reel 11

BIOGRAPHICAL/HISTORICAL NOTE

Alexander Blanche (1833-1908) owned the antebellum plantation Marydale in Tensas Parish, Louisiana. He kept a handwritten diary from 1851 to 1856 recording daily work, construction projects, illnesses and cures of slaves and deaths. He shipped freight in the steamboats *Pargoud*, *J. P. Leathers*, *Charles D. Shaw*, *Natchez* and *Saint Joseph*. S. L. James, a lessee with the Louisiana State Penitentiary, helped Blanche obtain prisoners for labor on the plantation.

Blanche, whose parents were John G. and Isabella McKenzie Blanche, was born in Scotland and came to America around 1851. He married Sarah Henshaw in 1866 and served as a member of the police jury for a number of years.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The collection consists of a plantation diary (1851-1856) relating details on farming, slave labor and plantation life, and miscellaneous papers (1881-1914). The diary contains records of daily work in cotton fields, crops, weather, construction of buildings and roads, sawmill, illnesses and cures, and deaths. It lists names of slaves and the daily amount of cotton picked. Notations on other work done, such as cutting logs, on Negroes' health, and on the state of crops are included. There are yearly lists of tools for men and women as well as medical remedies. Alexander Blanche handwrote the diary.

The miscellaneous papers include correspondence; tax receipts; payroll receipts from S. L. James, Contractor; a receipt for capturing an escaped convict; account sheets; freight bills and discharge receipts to prisoners of Louisiana State Penitentiary.

LIST OF SERIES

Series I. Papers, 1881-1914, undated

Series II. Manuscript volume, 1851-1856

SERIES DESCRIPTIONS

Series I. Papers, 1881-1914, undated

Includes tax receipts, payroll receipts, correspondence, receipts to discharged prisoners, and account sheets. Letters were written by E. G. Grade, Hyner Distilling Company and S. L. James.

Series II. Manuscript volume, 1851-1856

Consists of an original, handwritten plantation diary and a Xerox copy. Access to the original is restricted.

Plantation diary (Xerox copy), December 1851-January 1853, pages 1-65. Lists names of slaves and daily amount of cotton picked. Contains notations on other work done, such as cutting logs, on slaves' health and on the state of crops.

Plantation diary (Xerox copy), December-August 1852, January 1853-January 1854, April 1856, pages 66-143. Also includes yearly lists of tools for men and women and medical remedies.

INDEX TERMS

Materials relating to these people, places, and things can be found in the series indicated, as represented by their number.

Index Terms	Series	Folders
Blanche, Alexander, 1833-1908.	I, II	1-7
Blanche, Alexander--Diaries.	I	6-7
<i>Charles D. Shaw.</i>	I	
Cotton--Louisiana.	I, II	6-7
<i>J. P. Leathers.</i>	I	
James, S. L.	I	1
Louisiana State Penitentiary.	I	1
Marydale Plantation (La.)	I, II	1-7
<i>Natchez.</i>	I	
<i>Pargoud.</i>	I	
Plantation life--Louisiana--Tensas Parish.	I, II	1-7
Plantation owners--Louisiana--Tensas Parish.	I, II	1-7
Plantations--Louisiana--Tensas Parish.	I, II	1-7
<i>St. Joseph.</i>	I	
Slavery--Louisiana--Tensas Parish.	II	6-7
Steamboats.	I	
Tensas Parish (La.)--History--19 th century.	I, II	1-7

CONTAINER LIST

<u>Stack</u> <u>Location</u>	<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder(s)</u>	<u>Contents (with dates)</u>
W:48	1	1-5	Series 1. Papers, 1881-1914, undated Papers, February 1881-September 1914, undated
OS:B	--	1	Account statements (oversize), 1894
W:48	1	6-7	Series 2. Manuscript volume, 1851-1856 Plantation diary (Xerox copy), December 1851- April 1856 (143 pages)
VAULT:3	2	--	Volume 1: Plantation diary (original), December 1851-April 1856. *RESTRICTED
MICROFILM 5322	--	--	Series I, Part 3, Reel 14
MICROFILM 6061	--	--	Series B, Part 2, Reel 11