

JOHN R. FICKLEN PAPERS

Mss. 144, 209

Inventory

Compiled by

Danielle Bishop Stoulig

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

2025

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SUMMARY

Size	0.3 linear ft., 6 vols., 1 OS folder
Geographic Locations	Louisiana; Virginia; Illinois
Inclusive Dates	1840-1907, undated
Bulk Dates	1875-1903
Languages	English, French
Summary	John R. Ficklen (1858-1907) was a professor of history and political science at Tulane University in New Orleans, La. Most papers in the collection consist of notes, rough drafts, and correspondence relative to Ficklen's work on the history of the Reconstruction period in Louisiana. Also included are printed materials, six manuscript volumes, and a diary typescript of the Black Hawk War.
Access Restrictions	None
Reproduction Note	May be reproduced
Copyright	For those materials not in the public domain, copyright is retained by the descendants of the creators in accordance with U.S. Copyright law.
Related Collections	None
Citation	John R. Ficklen Papers, Mss. 144, 209, Louisiana and Lower Mississippi Valley Collections, LSU Libraries Special Collections, Baton Rouge, La.
Stack Location(s)	U:98, G:6, OS:F

BIOGRAPHICAL/HISTORICAL NOTE

John Rose Ficklen (1858-1907) was the son of Joseph Burwell and Ann Eliza Fitzhugh Ficklen of Fredericksburg, Virginia. He was a graduate of the University of Virginia (1879) and taught ancient languages for a brief time at Louisiana State University before joining the faculty of the University of Louisiana in New Orleans (now Tulane University), where he first taught rhetoric and history, then added political science. Ficklen was the author of the work, *History of Reconstruction in Louisiana Through 1868* (1910), published posthumously, as well as *Stories from Louisiana History* (1905) and *A History of Louisiana* (1893), both of which he wrote with historian Grace King. He was a co-founder of the American Political Science Association, a professional organization for the study of political science, formed at Tulane in 1903.

Ficklen was married to author and artist Bessie Mason Alexander Ficklen (1861-1945), and they had two children, Edward and Elizabeth. He died of an accidental drowning at age 49 and is buried in Fredericksburg.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The bulk of the material in the collection consists of notes, rough drafts, and correspondence relative to Ficklen's work on the history of the Reconstruction period in Louisiana.

Much of the correspondence was sent in response to a 1903 letter, written by Ficklen and published in the *New Orleans Times-Democrat*, requesting research material pertaining to the Reconstruction period (notes and drafts regarding this letter are written in a used exam booklet found among the research materials in box 1, folder 4). Replies suggesting possible sources and exhibiting attitudes about Reconstruction and freedmen include two letters from Louisiana Supreme Court Justice Newton C. Blanchard, who would be elected governor the following year (February & March 1903). Other correspondence written in response to the newspaper notice are from Mrs. Mary Wyche of New Iberia (February 1903) and her formerly enslaved servant, Harry Mahoney (February 1903, January 1904), and letters from Sidney S. Conner, a former member of the Louisiana secession convention, who remarks on the course adopted by the unionist members of the convention (April 1903).

In his 1894 letter to Ficklen, D.A.S. Vaught discusses the politics of Reconstruction, attitudes of Judge Charles E. Fenner, and Generals Longstreet and Beauregard. He also refers to the attitude of white military organizations, participation in battle between whites and African American troops in New Orleans, and the activities of General Fred N. Ogden.

Other items of significance in the Ficklen Papers include a charter for the Kingsley House Association of New Orleans (1902) and a typescript of a diary kept by Albert Sidney Johnston while serving in the Black Hawk War in 1832. The diary was presented to Ficklen by Johnston's son, William Preston Johnston, a former president of LSU and the first president of Tulane University. A political broadside, "Sons of Louisiana, Are You Slaves?" (circa 1875), is housed in an oversized folder.

Manuscript volumes include a memorandum book written in French (vol. 1), a scrapbook with loose items (vol. 2), and four notebooks. Three of the notebooks (vol. 3-5) were used by Ficklen as a student at the University of Virginia. The last notebook (vol. 6) was presented to Ficklen by J. G. Hawkes and holds his notes on Louisiana Reconstruction. [Note: this notebook has been unbound and stored in box 1, folder 13]

INDEX TERMS

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

Louisiana--Politics and government--1865-1950.
Louisiana--Race relations.
Conner, Sidney Simonton.
Johnston, Albert Sidney, 1803-1862.
Vaught, Darrah Albert Shelby, 1846-1899.
Kingsley House (New Orleans, La.)
Tulane University. Dept. of History and Political Science--Faculty.
Ogden, Frederick N.
Longstreet, James, 1821-1904.
Fenner, Charles E. (Charles Erasmus), 1834-1911.
Black Hawk War, 1832.
Freed persons--Louisiana.
Reconstruction (U.S. history, 1865-1877)--Louisiana.
Historians--Louisiana.
Correspondence.
Scrapbooks.
Diaries.

CONTAINER LIST

<u>Stack Location</u>	<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Contents (with dates)</u>
U:98	1	1-3	Correspondence (1876-1907, undated)
		4	Research material: notes on Reconstruction in Louisiana, 1870-1875 (1903-1906, undated)
		5	Research material: writings on Colfax Massacre, KKK, Poland Report, etc., 1873-1875 (circa 1890-1907)
		6-7	Research material: "Extracts from Testimony" typescripts, 1870-1875 (circa 1890-1907)
		8-9	Printed materials (1875-1905, undated)
		10	Speeches on Reconstruction (1874, 1898)
		11	Kingsley House Association charter (1902)
		12	Albert Sidney Johnston's diary [typescript] of the Black Hawk War, 1832 (undated)
OS:F	--	OS 1	Oversize papers: Broadside, newspapers, galleys (1875-1905)
			<u>Manuscript volumes:</u>
G:6	--	Vol. 1	Memorandum book [in French] (1840-1845)
	--	Vol. 2	Scrapbook [w/loose items] (1874-1885)
	--	Vol. 3	Notebook, German class at University of Virginia (1875-1876)
	--	Vol. 4	Notebook, Senior Latin class at University of Virginia (1876-1878)
	--	Vol. 5	Notebook, Senior German class at University of Virginia (1877-1878)
U:98	1	13	Vol. 6: Notebook/notes on Reconstruction from Capt. J. G. Hawkes (undated)