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JOHN H. RANDOLPH PAPERS

Mss. 355, 356
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

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SUMMARY

Size.	1.3 linear ft.
Geographic locations.	Louisiana, Mississippi, Texas.
Inclusive dates.	1832-1890.
Bulk dates.	1834-1889
Languages.	English, French.
Summary.	Financial records, legal records, and correspondence of John R. Randolph. Most of the papers deal with plantation and household management, property sales, and farming concerns. Although the papers are primarily financial and business in nature, there are occasional personal items.
Related collections.	Moses and St. John Richardson Liddell Family Papers, Mss. 531
Access restrictions.	Survey map restricted access due to fragility. Use photocopy instead.
Copyright.	Copyright of the original materials in this collection has expired, and they are therefore in the public domain.
Citation.	John H. Randolph Papers, Louisiana and Lower Mississippi Valley Collections, LSU Libraries.
Stack locations.	A:123-124; OS:R; VAULT:21.

BIOGRAPHICAL/HISTORICAL NOTE

John Hampden Randolph (1813-1883), Louisiana planter, was born March 24, 1813, in Lunenburg County, Virginia, the fourth of six children of Peter and Sallie Randolph. Peter Randolph was a judge in the Virginia Court of Appeals. In 1819 he moved his family to Wilkinson County, Mississippi, where he practiced law until 1823 when he was appointed as a circuit court judge.

John Randolph began his career as a cotton planter in Wilkinson County, Mississippi. In 1837, he married Emily Jane Liddell, the daughter of Moses Liddell, a judge, planter, and representative in the Mississippi State Legislature. Randolph served as executor of the estate of his oldest brother, Algernon Sidney Randolph, who died circa 1836.

In 1841 Randolph moved to Iberville Parish, Louisiana, where he had purchased Forest Home Plantation from Dr. Henry A. Doyle. He first planted cotton but soon switched to sugar cane. When he began sugar production in 1844, he formed a partnership with Charles A. Thornton, who provided money, slaves, mules, and oxen in exchange for part of the crop. The partnership ended in 1848.

During the 1850s Randolph started purchasing a great deal of land, including property in Iowa and Wisconsin. Mostly he purchased land near Forest Home, notably a section on the Mississippi River that he named Nottoway. At the death of Moses Liddell in 1856, Emily Randolph received a large inheritance. In the same year, construction began on an elaborate Nottoway mansion, completed in 1859.

In 1858 Randolph went into partnership with his neighbor Franklin Hudson and purchased half of Hudson's Blythewood Plantation. During the Civil War the partners took their slaves and valuables to Washington County, Texas, where they farmed for the duration of the war on land rented from J. K. and Robert Metcalfe.

During the postwar era Randolph continued to increase his land holdings. In 1871, he purchased Bayou Goula Plantation in a bankruptcy auction and also purchased the other half of Blythewood Plantation from Hudson. After acquiring this property, Randolph began to sell parts of his holdings. In 1872 he sold Blythewood Plantation to his son Moses Liddell Randolph and Forest Home Plantation to his son John Hampden Randolph, Jr., and his son-in-law Lovick V. Feltus. Two years later Forest Home was resold to him. J. W. Burbridge and Company, a New Orleans commission house that had operated as Randolph's factor since the 1850s, purchased Bayou Goula from him in 1873 and Forest Home in 1879. At the time of Randolph's death in 1883, Nottoway Plantation and some swamp land were all that remained of his estate. Emily Jane Randolph sold Nottoway in 1889.

Emily Jane Randolph died in 1904. She was survived by ten children: Moses Liddell; John Hampden, Jr.; Ella; Emma Jane; Mary Augusta; Annie Caroline; Julia Marceline; Cornelia; Peter Everett; and Sallie Richardson. The Randolph's oldest son, Algernon Sidney, was killed during

For more information, see "John Hampden Randolph, a Louisiana Planter" by Paul Everett Postell in *The Louisiana Historical Quarterly*, v. 25 (1942), 149-223. This article is a later version of Postell's 1936 LSU thesis, "John Hampden Randolph, a Southern Planter," which includes photographs from Forest Home and Nottoway.

Chronology: John H. Randolph

- 1813 Born March 24, in Lunenburg County, Virginia, to Peter and Sallie Randolph.
- 1819 Family moves to Wilkinson County, Mississippi.
- circa 1824 Sallie Randolph dies in Mississippi.
- 1832 Peter Randolph dies in Mississippi.
- circa 1836 Algernon Sidney Randolph (John's older brother) dies. John is appointed executor of the estate.
- 1837 Marries Emily Jane Liddell (daughter of Moses Liddell).
- 1841 Moves to Iberville Parish, Louisiana, and resides at Forest Home Plantation.
- 1855 Purchases Nottoway Plantation.
- 1856 Moses Liddell dies. John and St. John Liddell are appointed co-executors of the estate, and Emily receives a large inheritance.
- 1858 Goes into partnership with Franklin Hudson and purchases half of Hudson's Blythewood Plantation.
- 1859 Moves into newly completed Nottoway mansion.
- 1863 Moves with Hudson to Washington Co., Texas, where they farm until after the Civil War.
- 1863 Algernon Sidney Randolph (John's oldest son) is killed fighting for the Confederate Army during the siege of Vicksburg.
- 1871 Purchases the remaining half of Blythewood Plantation from Hudson and also purchases Bayou Goula Plantation.
- 1883 Dies September 8, at Nottoway.
- 1889 Nottoway Plantation is sold.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The John H. Randolph Papers are primarily concerned with plantation management, and financial records form the bulk of the manuscript group. Beginning in 1834, the papers document Randolph's cotton farming near Woodville, Mississippi. After he moved to Louisiana in 1841, there are extensive records of his accounts and legal affairs. Papers document real estate sales and purchases of land in Iberville Parish, Louisiana (Nottoway Plantation, Bayou Goula Plantation, Forest Home Plantation and Blythewood Plantation); in Catahoula Parish, Louisiana (Troy Plantation); in Davenport and Scott County, Iowa; and in La Pointe, Wisconsin. Land surveys of the area surrounding Randolph's plantations in Iberville Parish are included.

Payments to hired hands (day laborers, a field hand, and overseers) are recorded in ledgers, notebooks, and contracts. There are bills and delivery receipts for household furnishings (chairs, lamps, rugs, spittoons, etc.), kitchen utensils, food, liquor, tobacco, whale oil, and coal. Other purchases documented are men's and women's clothing, stationery, and building supplies (glass, cement, shovels, wood, marble, etc.). Records include receipts and notes on parish, federal, and Confederate taxes. There are ledger sheets on commercial accounts that Randolph kept with the commission house of Burbridge and Adams (1850-1854) and subsequently with J. W. Burbridge and Company (1854-1880) documenting the proceeds from his crops and the money paid to various firms for goods purchased. Plantation notebooks record production of cotton and sugar.

There are some slave records, including sales contracts, slave insurance, and records of their duties and production. Included also are post-war contracts with freedmen workers. There are some papers on family history and speech notes concerning the White League (one group of notes in English from 1872 and one in French from 1874).

Materials relating to the Estate of Algernon S. Randolph (John's brother) of which John Randolph was executor, cover the years 1834 through 1859, and largely deal with financial arrangements and property in Texas. John Randolph's partnership with Charles A. Thornton, who financed the cultivation of sugar on Forest Home Plantation, is documented by partnership agreements, account ledgers, debt records, and receipts (1844-1850). Some papers relate to Moses Liddell, Randolph's father-in-law, and deal primarily with Randolph's role as co-executor of Liddell's estate. Papers pertaining to Randolph's partnership with Franklin Hudson (1858-1871) include agreements between the partners, material relating to the operation of Blythewood Plantation, and records of their farming venture in Washington County, Texas (1864-1866). There is a small amount of material (1883-1889) relating to Emily Jane Randolph's management and sale of Nottoway Plantation after John Randolph's death, and there are a few letters to her from her nephew Frank Richardson, dealing mostly with family history.

LIST OF SUBGROUPS AND SERIES

Subgroup I. John H. Randolph Papers, 1823-1890, undated

Series 1. Financial Papers, 1836-1883, undated

Series 2. Legal Papers, 1823-1890

Series 3. Correspondence, 1839-1879

Series 4. Miscellaneous Items, 1834-1883

Subgroup II. Estate of Algernon S. Randolph, 1834-1859

Series 1. Financial and Legal Papers, 1834-1859

Series 2. Correspondence, 1854-1858

Subgroup III. Partnership with Charles A. Thornton, 1844-1850

Subgroup IV. Moses Liddell Papers, 1841-1858

Subgroup V. Partnership with Franklin A. Hudson, 1858-1871

Series 1. Financial Papers, 1858-1871

Series 2. Legal Papers, 1858-1870

Series 3. Correspondence, 1861-1870

Subgroup VI. Emily Jane Randolph Papers, 1880-1889

Series 1. Financial Papers, 1883-1889

Series 2. Correspondence, 1880-1886

SUBGROUPS AND SERIES DESCRIPTIONS

Subgroup I. John H. Randolph Papers, 1823-1890, undated (835 items)

Series 1. Financial Papers, 1836-1883, undated (603 items)

Series includes bills and receipts for money paid on notes, services rendered, and goods bought and shipped. In the late 1850s and early 1860s these show a substantial amount of household furnishings purchased and shipped to Nottoway. Records include Randolph's accounts with the commission house of Burbridge and Adams and subsequently J. W. Burbridge and Company; various financial books and ledgers for payroll, accounts, debts, general expenses, and expenses in building the Nottoway mansion; and one account book for a plantation worker, Ned Farm, and his family. The plantation account book (1862-1865) contains lists of slaves. Other financial records include school expenses of Carolina Griffin (Moses Liddell's granddaughter), tax records and receipts, promissory notes, and Southern Mutual Insurance Company's stock statements (some material housed in oversized).

Series 2. Legal Papers, 1823-1890 (119 items)

Series includes property titles, deeds, and surveys of Randolph's property holdings; contracts for the mansion building and for the sale of a slave; legal records of court case in which Emily Jane Randolph sued John Randolph for her inheritance from her father's estate; and a postwar loyalty oath, legal actions on debts, and property lists (property surveys are housed in oversized).

Series 3. Correspondence, 1839-1879 (82 items)

Series includes general business correspondence and a few personal letters, notably one dated April 4, 1865, from Randolph's son Hampden [John Hampden, Jr.], who was serving in the Confederate Army. Correspondents include James J. Graves, John R. Liddell, James R. Gayle, Charles D. Stewart, the General Land Office, T. L. Lyon, F. D. Richardson, J. K. Metcalfe, "Aunt Susan," Richard T. Archer, Brown and Sully, M. Gillis, O. Mayo, and J. W. Burbridge and Company.

Series 4. Miscellaneous Items, 1834-1883 (31 items)

Series includes two notebooks record cotton harvesting in Mississippi and include comments on weather, daily activities, slave clothing, cotton-picking races and finances; three notebooks with a broad range of entries including daily activities, prices, shopping lists, debts, crop production, and weather; papers documenting family history and John Randolph's obituary written by Frank Richardson; speech notes on the Reconstruction politics concerning the White League (one group of notes in English from 1872 and one in French from 1874); a list of slaves' duties during the sugar harvest and a list of post-war freedmen workers; a file of child's drawings, removed from the Ned Farm account book (some material housed in oversized).

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Subgroup II. Estate of Algernon S. Randolph, 1834-1859 (136 items)

Series 1. Financial and Legal Papers, 1834-1859 (131 items)

Series includes bills, receipts, inventories, fees, letters of administration, legal settlements, and an account book (some material housed in oversized).

Series 2. Correspondence, 1854-1858 (5 items)

Series includes letters to John Randolph concerning A. S. Randolph's land in Texas.

Subgroup III. Partnership with Charles A. Thornton, 1844-1850 (29 items)

Subgroup includes partnership agreements, account ledgers, debt records, and receipts.

Subgroup IV. Moses Liddell Papers, 1841-1858 (22 items)

Subgroup includes receipts, notes, contracts, railroad stock certificates, a slave title, an estate payment notebook, and a will.

Subgroup V. Partnership with Franklin A. Hudson, 1858-1871 (106 items)

Series 1. Financial Papers, 1858-1871 (84 items)

Series includes bills, receipts, tax records, inventories, expenses, and account records (some material housed in oversized).

Series 2. Legal Papers, 1858-1870 (9 items)

Series includes partnership agreements, property agreements, Hudson's mortgage to Randolph, and a contract with freedmen laborers.

Series 3. Correspondence, 1861-1870 (13 items)

Series includes business correspondence mostly dealing with financial obligations.

Subgroup VI. Emily Jane Randolph Papers, 1880-1889 (24 items)

Series 1. Financial Papers, 1883-1889 (17 items)

Series includes records of an account with T. D. Miller and Company and a payroll and account ledger from after John Randolph's death (some material housed in oversized).

Series 2. Correspondence, 1880-1886 (7 items)

Series includes letters from Frank L. Richardson.

INDEX TERMS

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

Bayou Goula Plantation (La.)
Blythewood Plantation (La.)
Cotton growing--Mississippi.
Forest Home Plantation (La.)
Hudson, Franklin A., fl. 1858-1871.
Iberville Parish (La.)--History--19th century.
Liddell, Moses, -1856.
Nottoway Plantation (La.)
Plantation owners--Louisiana.
Plantation owners--Mississippi.
Plantations--Louisiana--Iberville Parish.
Randolph, Algernon Sidney, -1836?
Randolph, Emily Jane, -1904.
Randolph, John Hampden, 1813-1883.
Richardson, Frank L.
Slaveholders--Louisiana.
Slaveholders--Mississippi.
Southern Mutual Insurance Company.
Sugar growing--Louisiana.
Thornton, Charles A., fl. 1841-1848.
Troy Plantation (Catahoula Parish, La.)
White League.

CONTAINER LIST

<u>Stack Location</u>	<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Contents</u>
Subgroup I. John H. Randolph Papers, 1823-1890, undated			
Series 1. Financial Papers, 1836-1883, undated			
A:123-124	1	1-13	Bills and receipts, 1837-1883, undated
		14	Promissory notes, 1836-1865
		15-17	Tax records and receipts, 1857-1879
	2	1	Carolina Griffin, 1845-1854
		2	Southern Mutual Insurance Co. stock statements, 1858-1862
		3-4	General financial documents, 1839-1875
		5	Ned Farm account book, 1839-1858
		6	Plantation account book (Nottoway), 1862-1865
		7	Account ledger, 1881-1882
		8	Plantation payroll ledger (Nottoway), 1880
3	9	Plantation expense book (Nottoway), 1847-1853	
	1	Plantation expense book (Nottoway), 1853-1863	
OS:R	6	2	Mansion construction expense book, 1857-1858
		1	Bills and receipts (oversize), 1858-1878
	6	2	Account with Burbridge and Adams (oversize), 1850-1854
		3-5	Account with J. W. Burbridge and Co. (oversize), 1854-1880
Series 2. Legal Papers, 1823-1890			
A:123-124	3	3-6	Property titles and deeds, 1840-1879
		7	Contracts, 1855-1865
		8	Emily Jane Randolph vs. John H. Randolph, 1872
		9	General legal documents, 1838-1881
OS:R	6	6	Property titles and deeds, 1849-1871
		7	Insurance policies, 1853, 1862
VAULT:21	--	1	Property surveys and partial map of Texas, 1823-1890
		1	Survey map, "Southeastern District, Louisiana," 1855 (Original restricted; use photocopy in Folder 1, OS:R)
Series 3. Correspondence, 1839-1879			
A:123-124	3	10-12	General correspondence, 1839-1879
	4	1	Letters from J. W. Burbridge and Co., 1851-1857
Series 4. Miscellaneous Items, 1834-1883			
		2	Cotton record book, 1834-1836
		3	Cotton record book, 1841-1844

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<u>Stack</u> <u>Location</u>	<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Contents</u>
A:123-124	4	4	Plantation notebook, 1852-1856
		5	Plantation notebook, 1866-1868
		6	Plantation Notebook, 1868-1869
		7	Child's drawings, undated
		8	Family history and obituary, 1877-1883
OS:R	6	8	General miscellaneous items, 1857-1874

Subgroup II. Estate of Algernon S. Randolph, 1834-1859

Series 1. Financial and Legal Papers, 1834-1859			
A:123-124	4	9-12	General financial and legal documents, 1834-1859
		5	1
OS:R	6	9	Account ledgers, 1836-1841

Series 2. Correspondence, 1854-1858			
A:123-124	5	2	General letters, 1854-1858

Subgroup III. Partnership with Charles A. Thornton, 1844-1850

		3	General financial and legal documents, 1844-1850
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Subgroup IV. Moses Liddell Papers, 1841-1858

		4	General financial and legal documents, 1841-1857
		5	Payment notebook, 1851-1858

Subgroup V. Partnership with Franklin A. Hudson, 1858-1871

Series 1. Financial Papers, 1858-1871			
OS:R	6	6-8	General financial documents, 1858-1869
		10	General financial documents, 1865-1871

Series 2. Legal Papers, 1858-1870			
A:123-124	5	9	General legal documents, 1858-1870

Series 3. Correspondence, 1861-1870			
		10	General correspondence, 1861-1870

Subgroup VI. Emily Jane Randolph Papers, 1880-1889

Series 1. Financial Papers, 1883-1889			
		11	Account and payroll ledger, 1883-1885
		12	Account with T. D. Miller and Co., 1888-1889

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<u>Stack Location</u>	<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Contents</u>
A:123-124	5	13	Series 2. Correspondence, 1880-1886 Letters from F. L. Richardson, 1880-1886