

**See also UPA microfilm:**  
MF 5735 Series B, Reel 14

**Robert A. Newell Papers**  
(Mss. 653)  
Inventory

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

Reformatted 2007

### Contents of Inventory

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**Use of manuscript materials.** If you wish to examine items in the manuscript group, please fill out a call slip specifying the materials you wish to see. Consult the Container List for location information needed on the call slip.

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Proper acknowledgement of LLMVC materials must be made in any resulting writing or publications. The correct form of citation for this manuscript group is given on the summary page. Copies of scholarly publications based on research in the Louisiana and Lower Mississippi Valley Collections are welcomed.

### Summary

<b>Size.</b>	239 items, 11 photographs
<b>Geographic locations.</b>	Cheneyville, La.; Avoyelles Parish, La.; St. Landry Parish, La.; Walker County, Tex.; Independence, Tex.; Round Rock, Tex.; San Antonio, Tex.; Austin, Tex.; Comanche Springs, Tex.; Londonderry, Ireland; Downpatrick, Ireland
<b>Inclusive dates.</b>	1841-1887
<b>Bulk dates.</b>	1863-1864
<b>Language.</b>	English
<b>Summary.</b>	Personal papers of Robert Aiken Newell with legal documents, business receipts, and photographs of members of the Newell and Forman families.
<b>Organization.</b>	Chronological
<b>Restrictions on access.</b>	If microfilm is available, photocopies must be made from microfilm.
<b>Related collections.</b>	N/A
<b>Copyright.</b>	Copyright of the original materials is retained by descendants of the creators in accordance with U.S. copyright law.
<b>Citation.</b>	Robert A. Newell Papers, Mss. 653, Louisiana and Lower Mississippi Valley Collections, LSU Libraries, Baton Rouge, La.
<b>Stack location(s).</b>	U:235; 65:
<b>Also available on:</b>	Microfilm 5735 Series B, Reel 14

### **Biographical/Historical Note**

Robert Aiken Newell, son of Thomas and Elizabeth Aiken Newell and Irish immigrant to Louisiana, operated Oak Grove Plantation near Cheneyville. In 1856, he married Sarah Ann Forman, daughter of Elisha Forman and Mary S. de la Roche from St. Landry Parish, and the two had several children. Besides their connection with the Forman family, the Newells were also associated with the Keary family of Catalpa Plantation, near Cheneyville. In 1863, the Newell family moved to Texas to avoid the Federal occupation of Louisiana. Newell worked for the Nitre and Mining Company, a private enterprise which processed saltpeter and made gunpowder from bat guano found in bat caves in central Texas. This company was later managed by the government as the Nitre and Mining Bureau.

Also represented in the papers are relatives who served in the Civil War, including John Forman (16th Louisiana Infantry, Company H, d. 1864), Thomas A. and Andrew Newell (8th Louisiana Infantry), and William Forman (8th Louisiana Infantry).

### **Scope and Content Note**

The collection consists chiefly of personal papers of Newell and family. Personal correspondence of the 1850s and 1860s reflects the plantation and social activities of the Newell, Forman, and Keary families. Some letters were written from Newell to his wife during a trip to his home in Ireland (1859).

Civil War correspondence includes letters of members of the Newell and Forman families who served in the 16th Louisiana Infantry and the 8th Louisiana Heavy Artillery Battalion at camps Moore, Boggs, Tupelo and Chalmette. These letters include comments on the quality of conscript soldiers from Louisiana; the provisioning of troops; the Red River Campaign; the Siege of Vicksburg; Confederate deserters; and the Confederate defeat. Letters of Robert A. Newell to his wife were written while he was living with the Keary family of the Catalpa Plantation during the Civil War prior to his departure to Texas. Letters from Newell while he was working and traveling in east and central Texas comment on prices, niter mining, business conditions, Confederate currency, the local population, and the Comanche Indians of central Texas. He also reports his work for the Nitre and Mining Bureau, interference with cotton shipments by Mexican renegades, economic and living conditions and Indian depredations at various places in Texas, including Comanche Springs, Fredricksburg, Bastrop, Austin, Round Rock, Uvalde, and Rio Frio. Sarah Forman's letters to her husband discuss plantation conditions, home life, crops, and slave management.

Early financial papers include bills of sale for slaves purchased in Louisiana (1846-1863). Land records, deeds, tax receipts, and promissory notes document the Newell family's activities at Oak Grove Plantation. Papers of the late 1860s through the 1880s consist of tax receipts and other financial and legal documents. The collection includes the amnesty oath of Robert A. Newell (1864), a recipe, poems, genealogical notes, and photographs of members of the Newell and Forman families.

Collection Description

<u>Stack Location</u>	<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Contents</u>
U:235	1	1	52 items, 1839-1860 Receipts from the Receiver's Office in Opelousas, La.; tax receipts (1854-56) various other receipts; Sale of slaves by John M.E. Sharp to Robert A. Newell (1853); letter to Robert from Sarah A. Newell (1858); Plat of land (1856); land grants (1856-59); Recipe for California Squash Tarts (1858); Letters from Robert to Sarah (1859)
		2	36 items, 1861-1863 Letter from Andrew Newell at Camp Moore to his brother (1861); letters from John Forman to Robert and to his sister Sarah (1861, 1869); letter to Robert from E. Forman in Franklin (1861); letter to Thomas Newell to his uncle (1862); letters between Sarah and Robert (1863); sale of negroes to Robert by Hugh M. Keary (1863); receipts
		3	55 items, 1864-1865 Letters to Sarah from her mother (1864), from her sister E.A. Cheney (1864); letters between Sarah and Robert from various cities in Texas (1864); letter to Sarah from her sister Eliza referring to the death of John Forman (1864); letter from Robert to his daughters (1865); Oath of Amnesty of Robert Newell (1865)
		4	58 items, 1866-1887 Tax receipts (1866-1880); grant of a plantation and tract of land in Avoyelles Parish (1871); survey of land on Bayou Boeuf (1878)
		5	9 items, undated Letters to Robert from Sarah
		6	6 items, undated Letters to Sarah from her sister; letters between Sarah and Robert
		7	5 items, undated Irish lamentation written by Thomas B. Cheney; letter from Andrew Newell; poem entitled "Mary's Dream"
		8	Envelopes and fragments of letters

- |     |    |    |   |
|-----|----|----|---|
|     | 9  |    | Photographs of Thomas Newell, Elizabeth Aiken Newell (both taken by Alexander Ayton in Londonderry), and Robert Aiken Newell (taken by Leeson's in New Orleans) |
|     | 10 |    | Photographs of Sarah A. Newell and Andrew Forman (taken by Leeson's in New Orleans)   |
| 65: | 2  | -- | Tintypes of Eliza Newell, Mary S. de la Roche, William Forman, Samuel de la Roche<br>Ambrotypes of Andrew Forman and Thomas Newell                              |

Cross References

Subject	Date	Description of relevant documents
African Americans-- Education--New York (State)--New York.	1859	Irish immigrant's impressions of school, teachers, and scholars—states “several generations needed to refine them,” Robert A. Newell, June 1.
American poetry--19th century.	1859	“Irish Lamentation,” by Thomas B. Cheney; “Mary’s Dream,” by unknown author.
Amnesty--Texas--Walker County.	1863-1864	Oath of Robert A. Newell. Sept. 22, 1863; most planters take oath and work on free labor system. May 1, 1864.
Camp Boggs (La.)	1864	No furloughs granted for departure to Texas; company election with M. V. Hargrave up for lieutenantship; company not expected to move for some time. William Forman, Oct. 23.
Camp Chalmette (La.)	1861	Comments on winter quarters, fortifications, cooking, hardships, officers, and harsh discipline. John Forman, Dec. 12 and 20.
Camp Moore (La.)	1861	Soldiers mention fine spirit of men, outbreak of measles, and visit by General Lovell, June 20 and Nov. 15; Private states Fuqua’s opposition to soldiers being charged for uniform, shoes, and hat. John Forman, Oct. 22.
Camp Tupelo (Miss.)	1862	Confederate soldier comments on departure of man for Chattanooga, and replacement of men in company from Crescent Regiment. John Forman, July 28.
Catalpa Grove Plantation (La.)	1863	Hospitality extended Robert A. Newell prior to departure for Texas, Jan. 19, Mar. __, 10, 31, and Apr. 3; outbreak of diphtheria, Mar. 31; financial speculation in rum, Mar. __.
Comanche Indians--Texas.	1864-1865	Raids near Comanche Springs necessitate military guard to prevent stealing of horses and murder of whites and blacks. Robert A. Newell, May 12, 17, Aug. 26, 1864; Feb. 27, 1865; depredations near Rio Frio causes fear of safety

- of mare, Robert A. Newell, Apr. 13, 20, 1865; and ca. Apr. 1865; thefts probably by white men blamed on Comanche. Robert A. Newell, May 12, 1865.
- Confederate States of America--Foreign relations--Mexico. 1863 Interference with cotton shipments to Eagle Pass by Mexican renegades may cause trouble with that country and Confederacy. Robert A. Newell, May 31.
- Confederate States of America. Army-- Recruiting, enlistment, etc. 1862 Adverse criticism of Louisiana conscripts "run in Bull Run styl [sic]" when attacked. Thomas Newell, Dec. 7.
- Confederate States of America. Army. Louisiana Heavy Artillery Battalion, 8th. Company C. 1864 No furloughs granted for departure to Texas; company election with M. V. Hargrave up for lieutenantship; company not expected to move for some time. William Forman, Oct. 23.
- Confederate States of America. Army. Louisiana Infantry Regiment, 8th. 1861 Soldiers mention fine spirit of men, outbreak of measles, and visit by General Lovell, June 20 and Nov. 15.
- Confederate States of America. Army. Louisiana Infantry Regiment, 16th. 1861 Soldiers mention fine spirit of men, outbreak of measles, and visit by General Lovell, June 20 and Nov. 15.
- Confederate States of America. Army. Louisiana Infantry Regiment, 16th. Company H. 1861-1864 9 Confederate soldier's letters comment on encampment and military activities of Company "H," 16<sup>th</sup> Louisiana Infantry at Camps Moore, Chalmette, and Tupelo give an eyewitness account of the fighting at Murfreesboro, Tennessee, during Forrest's First Raid, and mention troop movements. Oct. 22, Nov. 15, Dec. 12 and 20, 1861; Apr. 28 and July 28, 1862; Jan. 10 and Aug. 7, 1863, and ca. 1863; soldiers given 1 dram and 4 days' ration of beef for Christmas. E. A. Cheney, Feb. 3, 1864.
- Confederate States of America. Nitre and Mining Bureau. 1863-1865 Comments concern camp conditions, employers, company expenses, production and shipment of saltpeter, and management by Confederate government. May 31, 1863; May 1, 12, 17, and 22, June 8, Aug. 26, Oct. 5 and 12, Nov. 6, 1864; Feb. 20 and 27, Mar. 19, Apr. 2, 6, 20, 22 and



29, May 11-12, 1865.

Cotton trade--Confederate States of America.	1863	Interference with cotton shipments to Eagle Pass by Mexican renegades may cause trouble with that country and Confederacy. Robert A. Newell, May 31.
Cotton trade--Texas.	1863-1864	Difficulties encountered by wagon trains include interference by Mexican renegades, breakdown of wagons, non-acceptance of Confederate currency for purchases en route. May 31, 1863; Apr. 16, 22, and 27, and May 1, 10, and 15, 1864.
Diphtheria--Louisiana.	1863	Comments on outbreak, symptoms, treatment, and fatality of disease. Richard A. Newell, Mar. 31. Avoyelles Parish; child's illness reveals mother's fear of disease. Sarah Newell, Apr. 2.
Elm Bayou (La.)--History--19th century.	1834-1887, undated	Correspondence, land records and tax receipts, slave sales, and promissory notes furnish information on family and local matters, crops, weather, and war-time activities.
English language--Orthography and spelling.	1853, 1859-1865	Illustrations from letters—tryalls, dores, troubels, knews, wourth, kneed, heart, taulk, waulking, fiew, eavening, poore, looke, gotes, doe; deaths of “General Mutan, Kernal Green, and one or two Capons.” Apr. 18, 1864.
English language--Phonetics.	1853, 1859-1865	Illustrations from letters—tryalls, dores, troubels, knews, wourth, kneed, heart, taulk, waulking, fiew, eavening, poore, looke, gotes, doe; deaths of “General Mutan, Kernal Green, and one or two Capons.” Apr. 18, 1864.
Forman, John--Death and burial.	1864	Mention of death of John Forman, Sept. 17 and 21, 1864.
Freedmen--Louisiana--Elm Bayou.	1863	Wife advised to watch her talk, especially around freedmen, R. A. Newell, Mar. 5.
Fuqua, James O.	1861	Private states Fuqua's opposition to soldiers being charged for uniform, shoes, and hat. John Forman, Oct. 22.

Germans--Texas-- Fredericksburg.	1863	Remarks on murder mention imprisonment of 7 American soldiers and casualties from jail break following change of venue of trial. Robert A. Newell, May 31.
Guerrillas--Louisiana.	1864	Remarks on crimes committed. Louisiana; May 22 and June 20, 1864.
Guerrillas--Texas.	1865	Husband's advice—hide money and run slaves to neighbors. Texas; Feb. 27 and Apr. 6, 1865; possible danger of jayhawkers near Austin, May 11, 1865.
Ink--United States.	undated	Boil muscadine in juice in iron pot.
Keary, H. M.	1863	Hospitality extended Robert A. Newell prior to departure for Texas, Jan. 19, Mar. __, 10, 31, and Apr. 3; outbreak of diphtheria, Mar. 31; financial speculation in rum, Mar. __.
Louisiana--History--Civil War, 1861-1865.	1863-1865	Conditions on plantation, home life, crops, slave management, migration to Texas, high cost of living, scarcity of commodities, draft dodging, fear of jayhawkers, cotton shipments, problems with Native American tribes, devaluation of currency.
Louisiana--History--Civil War, 1861-1865--African Americans.	1863	Behavior quiet in brother's absence. Louisiana, Mar. 9, 1863.
Louisiana--History--Civil War, 1861-1865-- Campaigns.	1863	Description of 400 soldiers en route to Berwick Bay—"We are in a bad rol for stumps" if Confederacy has no better soldiers; "they looke more like Baboons mounted on Gotes than anything else." Robert A. Newell, Mar. __.
Louisiana--History--Civil War, 1861-1865-- Desertions.	1864	All worst men in Todd's company as well as Todd went to Yankees. William Forman, Oct. 23.
Money--Confederate States of America.	1864	Comments on failure of Confederate money to buy meat and meal—"everything down to specie prices." Apr. 14 and 22; exchange value of interest bearing notes and small builds. Apr. 27,

		Oct. 5, and Nov. 6; \$20 Confederate money charged for \$1 purchase, May 1.
New York (N.Y.)-- Description and travel.	1859	Irish immigrant's impressions of misery, and "coulord" and white schools. Robert A. Newell, June 1.
Newell family.	1834-1887, undated	Correspondence, land records and tax receipts, slave sales, and promissory notes furnish information on family and local matters, crops, weather, and war-time activities.
Newell, Robert Aiken, b. 1819.	1834-1881, undated	Correspondence, slave sales, land records, tax receipts, and promissory notes concern visit to home in Ireland, employment by Nitre and Mining Bureau in Texas, family matters, Oak Grove Plantation, and hardships suffered as a Confederate civilian; amnesty oath of Robert A. Newell. Sept. 22, 1863.
Newell, Sarah Ann, b. 1848.	1863-1865	Correspondence reveals participation in husband's business affairs; comments on home activities such as weaving, sewing, teaching children, and harness-making; tells about crops, livestock, poultry, jayhawkers, cotton shipments, and management of slaves; mentioning deaths of relatives in service; comments on currency and taxes.
Oak Grove Plantation (La.)	1834-1887, undated	Correspondence, land records and tax receipts, slave sales, and promissory notes furnish information on family and local matters, crops, weather, and war-time activities.
Pies--Louisiana--Iberia Parish.	1858	Mrs. Frank Richardson's recipe for California squash tarts, Oct. 4.
Pike, George A.	1854	Bill sent Payne and Harrison for land and office fees for Robert A. Newell, Oct. 26.
Refugees--Texas.	1863-1865	Husband/wife correspondence tells about employment with the Nitre and Mining Bureau, livestock, inflation, jayhawkers, slaves, currency, taxes, and family matters.
Salt industry and trade--	1863	Wife urged to take care of salt because salt

Louisiana.		works may fall in hands of Federals. Louisiana, Jan. 19, 1863.
Salt industry and trade-- Texas.	1864	Selling price is \$1.00 a pound. Huntsville, Texas. Aug. 19, 1864.
Slavery--Louisiana.	1846-1863	Receipts for purchases of a lot of slaves for \$3,128.36. Cheneyville, June 30, 1852; a woman for \$571.87. Big Cane, June 12, 1854; 2 slaves, ages 16 and 21, for \$1,450. St. Mary Parish, Dec. 22, 1846; cancellation, Oct. 1, 1863, of purchase of 18 slaves for \$22,900, Aug. 17, 1861, Avoyelles Parish.
Slaves--Employment-- Texas.	1864-1865	Dissatisfaction of slave owner with contracting party, Apr. 22 and May 22, 1864; comments include payments received by owner and type of work performed by slave. June 8, Oct. 12, and Nov. 6, 1864; Apr. 2, 29, and ____, 1865; and ca. Apr., 1865.
Slaves--Texas--Discipline.	1864-1865	Behavior controlled by whipping or fear of whipping. Sarah Newell, Aug. 14, Sept. 6 and 21; Elisa given 100 lashes for having Monroe. Robert A. Newell, Apr. 13.
Smallpox--Louisiana.	1863	Inoculation of family and slaves considered. Elm Bayou, Mar. 31 and Apr. 2, 1863.
Smallpox--Texas.	1864	Precautions to be followed because of prevalence in Huntsville, Texas, Apr. 27 and May 1, 1864.
Soldiers--Confederate States of America-- Correspondence.	1861-1864	John Forman. 9 letters, 1861-1863; Andrew Newell, Camp Moore, June 20, 1861; Lafourche Parish, Dec. 24, 1861; Thomas A. Newell, Fredericksburg, Virginia, Dec. 7, 1862; William Forman, Shreveport, Oct. 23, 1864.
Stones River, Battle of, Murfreesboro, Tenn., 1862-1863.	1863	Eyewitness account of fighting. John Forman, Jan. 10.
Sugar--Louisiana.	1863	Scarcity predicted in another year; invest in sugar now. Louisiana, Jan. 24, 1863.

**NEWELL (ROBERT A.) PAPERS**  
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Sugar--Prices--Texas.	1864	200 pounds purchased at \$2 a pound later sold at \$4 a pound. Austin, Texas. May 4, 1864.
Superstition--Texas.	1865	Newborn baby predicts famine and end of war in 6 months; tale believed by slaves. Sarah Newell, Apr. 27.
Sutterley, J. K.	1861	Confederate letterhead bearing imprint of J. K. Sutterley, bookseller, "under St. Charles Hotel." June 20, 1861.
Taxation--Louisiana.	1854-1887	Principally state and parish receipts; also railroad tax receipt, 1854, and convention tax, 1867.
Texas--Description and travel.	1863-1865	Comments on saltpeter, business cotton shipments, country, living conditions, food, people, and Indian depredations at various places including Comanche Springs, Fredericksburg, Bastrop, Austin, Round Rock, Uvalde, and Rio Frio; Confederate woman relates personal activities and tells about management of business affairs at Cincinnati.
Texas--History--Civil War, 1861-1865.	1863-1865	Conditions on plantation, home life, crops, slave management, migration to Texas, high cost of living, scarcity of commodities, draft dodging, fear of jayhawkers, cotton shipments, problems with Native American tribes, devaluation of currency.
Texas--History--Civil War, 1861-1865--African Americans.	1864	Fee for catching and jailing a runaway is \$200 in San Antonio. Texas, Aug. 19, 1864; decreasing value if war continues. Oct. 23, 1864.
Texas--History--Civil War, 1861-1865--Medical care.	1864-1865	Father sells castor oil and quinine for benefit of sons in army, Apr. 22, 1864; husband urges purchase of quinine, Mar. 19, 1865, and states selling price is \$6 an ounce. Apr. 6, 1865.
United States--History--Civil War, 1861-1865--Armistices.	1864	Predicted within 2 years; "if the Yankies [sic] does not whip us we are whipping [sic] ourselves as fast as people can . . ." William Forman, Oct. 23.
United States. Army--Recruiting, enlistment,	1863	Congressional bill providing money for 3 additional military unites causes Confederate

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etc--Civil War, 1861-1865.

uneasiness. Robert A. Newell, Mar. 10.

Vicksburg (Miss.)--  
History--Siege, 1863.

1863

Comments on fight between gunboats and batteries—Confederates sunk 1 gunboat, crippled another, and repulsed enemy on Yazoo River. Robert A. Newell, Mar. 31.

Women's clothing--  
Design.

1864

Letter on portion of pattern with imprint "A map for the human figure, called the pattern sheet, arranged for drafting riding habits and dresses for ladies. Oct. 16, 1864.

Wool-carding--Texas.

1864

Description of wool-cording machine—cords 75 pounds of wool per day; mentions deaths of relatives in service; comments on currency and taxes.

Container List

<u>Stack</u> <u>Location</u>	<u>Box</u>	<u>Folders</u>	<u>Contents</u>
U:235	1	1-8	Correspondence, Personal Papers, Financial Records, envelopes (1841-1887)
		9-10	Photographs (removed from Box 2)
65:	2	--	Ambrotypes and tintypes
MF: 5735 Series B		Reel 14	