

**GEORGE T. PICKETT PAPERS**

Mss. 1074, 2733

Inventory

Luana Henderson

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

2013

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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>	6 linear ft.
<b>Geographic locations.</b>	Louisiana, California.
<b>Inclusive dates.</b>	ca. 1880-1960.
<b>Bulk dates.</b>	1920-1948.
<b>Language.</b>	English.
<b>Summary.</b>	Correspondence, business and legal papers, photographs, and printed items pertain to the history of the New Llano Colony in Louisiana and the development of socialism and cooperative movements in the United States.
<b>Restrictions on access.</b>	<i>Llano Colonist</i> , 1922-1937, <i>Vernon Parish Democrat</i> (1919-1930); <i>Industrial Democrat</i> (1934-1936) are restricted due to fragile condition. Use microfilm.
<b>Restrictions on access.</b>	Photographic negatives and glass negatives are restricted.
<b>Related collections.</b>	Colony News, Mss. 3017, George Blair Pickett Oral History Interview, Mss. 4700.0051, Guy and Nell Rogers Papers, Mss. 4848, James K. Morris Papers, Mss. 3441, 3640, James B. Aswell Papers, Mss. 1408, 1426, 1468, 1483, Llano del Rio Company of Nevada Legal Records, Mss. 1075, Louisiana and Lower Mississippi Valley Collections, LSU Libraries, Baton Rouge, La.
<b>Copyright.</b>	For those materials not in the public domain, copyright is retained by the descendants of the creators in accordance with U.S. Copyright law.
<b>Citation.</b>	George T. Pickett Papers, Mss. 1074, 2733, Louisiana and Lower Mississippi Valley Collections, LSU Libraries, Baton Rouge, La.
<b>Stack locations.</b>	6:58-64, OS:P, Mf.: 386, Mf.: 935, 99:P

### **BIOGRAPHICAL/HISTORICAL NOTE**

Los Angeles attorney Job Harriman, the socialist nominee for mayor of Los Angeles in 1911, incorporated the Llano del Rio Co-operative Colony in 1914. The settlement was located in the Antelope Valley of California near Pearblossom, where an agricultural community was developed. Because of problems with water rights, transportation for produce, and internal dissension, the colony was abandoned in 1918. One group of the colonists went to Louisiana and reestablished a community under the name Newllano. Approximately 150 to 200 colonists moved to Vernon Parish, La., to establish New Llano on the site of the former lumber mill town of Stables. The colony survived two years of poor crops, and the influx and quick exodus of members who did not understand cooperative farming and others who disliked the climate. George T. Pickett successfully raised funds to keep the colony in operation, and in doing so, he garnered the loyal support of several members. He was subsequently elected general manager in 1920. The Colony set up satellite colonies in Gila, New Mexico, and Fremont, Texas. Pickett continued to lead New Llano Colony until it declared bankruptcy in 1936. The colony continued to function as a socialist commune for another three years.

During the mid-1930s, a power struggle arose in New Llano between its elected Board, headed by George T. Pickett, and a group of individuals who attempted to revoke Pickett's leadership and declare a new Board. Pickett, backed by the parish courts was soon reinstated as General Manager of the Colony. In 1937, after series of financial problems and internal dissention, the Colony was forced into receivership, and was liquidated in mid-1939. Assets consisting of 20,000 acres, numerous houses, farms, two hotels, a general store, sawmill and a several small industries were valued at pennies on the dollar, resulting in lawsuits from the colonists continuing into the 1970s. At his death in 1959, Pickett was among the plaintiffs in these suits. He was buried in New Llano, Louisiana and was survived by his wife Alice, and their son, George Blair.

**SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE**

The George T. Pickett papers pertain to the history of the Llano Cooperative Colony of New Llano, La. The collection relates to the business affairs of the New Llano and cooperative colonies, particularly the Gila Colony in New Mexico. The collection relates to the history of socialism and the cooperative movement in the United States, as well as the social and political issues of the time. Papers include correspondence; business and legal records; copies of the colony's newsletter; and printed items related to the colony's history and operation; socialism; and cooperative movements in the United States.

**LIST OF SERIES**

- Series I.**            **New Llano Colony Papers, 1883-1960, undated.**  
**Series II.**        **Photographs, ca. 1880, 1908-1948, undated.**  
**Series III.**        **Printed Items, 1902-1959, undated.**

## **SERIES DESCRIPTIONS**

### **Series I. New Llano Colony Papers, 1883-1960, undated.**

This series is comprised of correspondence, business papers, and legal documents relating to the operations and history of the Llano del Rio Co-operative Colony near Leesville, La., as well as the history of the socialism and the co-operative movement in the United States.

Correspondence relates to colony business and co-operative enterprises, the business of the Gila Colony in New Mexico, and to politics and social issues. Topics include unemployment, government aid, and pensions for the elderly. Correspondence discusses the Townsend Plan, which proposed a government pension program for the elderly and Pickett's possible run for a congressional seat. Letters and other papers also reflect the conflict within the Colony over political control, with a larger portion of the material reflecting a pro-Pickett stance. Sidney Young writes several letters in defense of Pickett. Papers also relate to the failed attempt by the Colony to drill for oil in Vernon Parish.

Papers also contain a desk diary containing addresses (1947), an account book of expenditures and produce sold (1917), a bank deposit book that was used as an account book (1899), notebooks (undated), a passbook with notes (undated), and three plat books (1919-1923).

### **Series II. Photographs, ca. 1880-1948, undated.**

Photographs consist of black and white photographs, card photographs, negatives (access restricted), and glass negatives (access restricted). Photographs depict persons, buildings, and outdoor scenes at the Louisiana and California colonies. Also included is a tintype of a seated woman (ca. 1880s) and three large group photographs of a band, a baseball team, and a football team, which show George T. Pickett as a young man (1919, undated).

### **Series III. Printed Items, 1902-1959, undated.**

Printed items are comprised of newspapers, newspaper clippings, legal briefs, and publications on agriculture, socialism, economics, American politics and policies, and the U.S. military. Newspaper clippings also report on the New Llano Colony, the Townsend Plan, and the activities of George T. Pickett. Newspapers include *The Cooperative Builder*, 1934; *Vernon Parish Democrat* (1919-1930); *Industrial Democrat* (1934-1936), and the *Western Comrade* (May 1913-Aug. 1922). Material published by New Llano Colony includes *Colony News* and *Colony Co-operator* (1920-1921), and *The Llano colonist* (1922-1934). Legal briefs submitted to the U.S. Court of Appeals, Fifth Circuit, and the Supreme Court of Louisiana concern the Llano Del Rio Company of Nevada and Anderson-Post Hardwood Lumber Company, Inc. (ca. 1928, 1950-1951). Also found in this group is a U.S. Geologic Survey map of Leesville and New Llano area (1954) and a U. S. railroad map (undated).

**INDEX TERMS**

<b>Terms</b>	<b>Series</b>
Agriculture, Cooperatives--Louisiana.	<b>I-III</b>
Collective settlements--Louisiana.	<b>I-III</b>
Collective settlements--New Mexico.	<b>I</b>
Llano Colony (Secular community)	<b>I-III</b>
Louisiana--History--20 <sup>th</sup> century.	<b>I-III</b>
New Llano (La.)	<b>I-III</b>
Old age pensions--United States.	<b>I, III</b>
Pickett, George T., 1876-1959.	<b>I-III</b>
Socialism--Louisiana--History--20 <sup>th</sup> century.	<b>I-III</b>
Socialists--Louisiana--New Llano.	<b>I-III</b>
United States--Politics and government--20 <sup>th</sup> century.	<b>I, III</b>
Vernon Parish (La.)--History--20 <sup>th</sup> century.	<b>I-III</b>



CONTAINER LIST

<u>Stack</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Box</u>	<u>Folders</u>	<u>Contents with dates</u>
				<b>Series I. New Llano Colony Papers, 1883-1960, undated.</b>
<b>6:58</b>		1	1a-1e	1883-1929.
			2a-2d	1930-1936.
			3a-3c	1937-1938.
			4a-4b	1939:Jan.-Feb.
			5a-5b	1939:March 4 - Dec.
			6a-6b	1940:June-1941:April.
			7a-7b	1941:May-Dec.
			8a-8c	1942:Jan.-Oct.
			9a-9c	1943.
			10a-10b	1944.
			11a-11d	1945.
			12	1946.
			13a-13c	1947:Jan.- Aug.
			14a-14c	1947:Sept.-Dec.
			15a-15c	1948.
			16a-16b	1949.
			17a-17d	1950.
			18a-18d	1951.
			19a-19e	1952.
<b>6:59</b>		2a	20a-20c	1953.
			21a-21c	1954-1956.
			22a-22b	1957-1958.
			23a-23b	1959-1960.
			24a-24d	1949-1954 - E. E. Irwin correspondence.
			120	Letter, Walter W. Robison to George T. Pickett, Feb. 12, 1953.
			25a-25b	1938-1947 - Townsend Plan.
			26a-26b	1948-1960 - Townsend Plan.
			27-31	1921-1959 - Financial records.
<b>6:59</b>		2b	32a-32c	1930-1958 - Tax records.
			33a-36b	Undated.
			37-39	1908-1959, undated - Empty envelopes.

CONTAINER LIST (cont.)

<u>Stack</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Box</u>	<u>Folders</u>	<u>Contents with dates</u>
	6:60	3a	40	Desk diary, 1947.
			42	Bank deposit book, undated.
			41	Account book, undated.
			43	Notebook, undated.
			44	Notebook, undated.
			45	Pass book, undated.
			46a-46c	Plat books, undated.
	6:60	3b	47a-47b	<b>Series II. Photographs, ca. 1880-1948, undated.</b> George T. Pickett, with family and friends, undated.
			48a-48b	Identified photographs, 1922, 1923, 1933, undated. 1. Colony rice ranch near Elton; 2 story Iowa house, undated. 2. Hand carved wood. Older men taught woodworking, undated. 3. California Street, Llano colony, 1922, 1923, undated. 4. George Pickett with rifle, probably at Anacoco Creek, Vernon Parish, undated. 5. Photograph of George Pickett, possibly German socialist, Theodore Cuno, 1933. 6. Photograph of Toggenburg goats from California, May Day, 1922. 7. Llano colony hotel with guests seated on the verandah. Front section of the building was a cafeteria. Top floor was for bachelors. Large kitchen housed a wood burning stove. Girls' dormitory, hotel, undated. 8. Views of the roof garden, Llano colony unfinished area where Saturday night dances were held; unfinished roofing operations; completed roof garden decorated for Christmas, 1922, 1922, undated. 9. Llano colony before the paving of Highway 171. View of shoe repair shop, the old store, and a burned-out building, undated. 10. Wedding photograph of Ivey Young and George Campbell, undated.

CONTAINER LIST (cont.)

<u>Stack</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Box</u>	<u>Folders</u>	<u>Contents with dates</u>
	6:60	3b	49	Identified photographs, undated. 11. The old post office building at Llano. Sign reads "United States Demonstration Farms, undated. 12. Photograph of Wooster speaking, undated. 13. Bushel baskets of Llano produce, probably yams, being loaded onto a freight car, undated. 14. George Pickett seated on a goat with Albert Kapotsky standing near brush gang, undated. 15. Old garage with oil drums, probably in California, undated. 16. George Pickett at Annacoco Creek, undated. 17. George Pickett and son photographed with redwood trees in California, undated. 18. Wedding photograph, undated. 19. Photographs of cleared land dotted with tree stumps, undated. 20. Group photograph of Commonwealth College faculty and students, Ark.
			50a-50b	21. The English garden of the Young family, undated. 22. Photograph of the print shop (far right), building with roof garden (top left), and the back of the theatre (small building to the left) at New Llano, undated. 23. "Llano Kid Kolony." George Blair Pickett, son of George T. Pickett, is the second child from the right in white top and checked pants, undated. 24. Ice and cold storage plant, New Llano, taken from the roof garden. Later a brick planning and sawmill were placed to the side, undated. 25. Industrial Building, New Llano, after it was destroyed by fire, undated. 26. Industrial Building, partially rebuilt, undated. 27. White Rose Cottage, one of the first cottages built at New Llano, undated. 28. Poultry buildings at New Llano, undated. 29. Group shot of Llano Colony girls in gym uniform, undated.

CONTAINER LIST (cont.)

<u>Stack</u>			
<u>Location</u>	<u>Box</u>	<u>Folders</u>	<u>Contents with dates</u>
6:60	3b	50a-50b	New Llano photographs, undated.
			30. George Pickett's first house at New Llano; prior to the building of this house Pickett lived in a converted cow barn, sleeping on a rice husk mattress, undated.
		51a-51b	31. Interior view of the planning mill, undated.
			32. House at New Llano, undated.
			33. Lumber shed, New Llano, undated.
			34. Dairy keeper's house, undated.
			35. Barn with carriage, undated.
			36. Miss Lottie Brown, dressed as usual in men's clothing, undated.
			37. George T. Pickett and son in the desert, undated.
			38. New Llano planning mill, undated.
			39. Commissary building which was once turned into a library and is still standing, undated.
			40. Drilling for oil at Llano, first well to be drilled, undated.
		52a-52b	41. George T. Pickett having his hair cut, undated.
			42. Group photograph identified by George Blair Pickett as possibly being a view of the colonists, undated.
			43. Boiler for ice plant and generator for electricity in the colony at New Llano, undated.
			44. Llano cows and dairy barn, undated.
			45. May Day celebration in front of the school buildings, undated.
			46. A gardener with Llano school and hotel buildings in the background, undated.
			47. Plant nursery, not at New Llano, undated.
		53a-53b	New Llano photographs. Agriculture, 1922, 1925, undated.
			48. Llano colony dipping dairy herd, undated.
			49. Llano Colony pen of Duroc pigs, undated.
			50. Llano Colony Poultry Ranch, undated.
			51. Goats and Llano Colony Toggenburg Goats from California, undated.
			52. Apiary, Llano Colony, New Llano, La., undated.

CONTAINER LIST (cont.)

<u>Stack</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Box</u>	<u>Folders</u>	<u>Contents with dates</u>
<b>6:60</b>		3b	53a-53b	New Llano photographs. Agriculture, 1922, 1925, undated. 53. Portion of strawberry patch and strawberry picking, Llano Co-op Colony New Llano, La., undated. 54. Cotton field, undated. 55. Tractor in field, New Llano, La., undated. 56. Field, undated. 57. Five pound purple top turnip, Llano Co-op Colony, New Llano, La., June 18, 1925. 58. Llano Colony weeding sweet potatoes in front; Llano Colony weeding sweet potatoes at rear, undated. 59. Sweet potato beds Llano Co-op Colony New Llano, La. 60. Muskmelons. 1922. 61. Onions Llano Co-op Colony, New Llano, La. undated. 62. Seed, New Llano Co-op Colony, New Llano, La., undated. 63. Monster Grapevine growing in the woods Llano Co-op Colony, New Llano, La 64. Wild blackberries New Llano, La., undated. 65. Portion of orchard, undated. 66. Llano Colony Japanese cane, stripping cane, undated. 67. Llano Colony Fertilizer Plant, undated. 68. Llano Colony Giant Gum Tree, undated. 69. Crate Factory, undated.
<b>6:60</b>		3c	55a-55c	New Llano photographs. Buildings, 1924, 1928, undated. 70. Bakery, undated. 71. Brick plant and brick machine, undated. 72. Erecting ice machinery, New Llano, La., undated. 73. Sawmill, undated. 74. Llano Colony shoe shop, undated. 75. Filing silos, undated. 76. Dairy House, undated.

CONTAINER LIST (cont.)

<u>Stack</u>			
<u>Location</u>	<u>Box</u>	<u>Folders</u>	<u>Contents with dates</u>
6:60	3c	55a-55c	New Llano photographs. Buildings, 1924, 1928, undated. 77. Girls' dormitory, undated. 78. Co-operative Building New Planning Mill Llano Co-op Colony, New Llano, La, undated. 80. Llano Colony kitchen, undated. 81. Old School House, undated. 82. Comrade Nettlerman and his garden house Llano Co-op Colony, New Llano, La., undated. 83. George T. Picket residence, 1924, undated. 84. First permanent home in New Llano, La., 1928, undated. 85. Unidentified house, undated. 86. Kid Kolony dormitory, undated. 87. Left Squat building, undated. 88. Timber residence, undated. 89. Dr. Irwin residence, undated.
		56	New Llano photographs. People, 1922, 1927, undated. 90. Llano Colony Junior Orchestra, undated. 91. Colony's largest family, undated. 92. Mr. Brown's Business English class, undated. 93. Addie Porter, undated. 94. Kindergarten Kiddies at the Pool, undated. 96. Kindergartners in costumes, undated. 97. Departure for Brazil, D. H. Welcter and Little with their families, March 1, 1927. 98. Llano Colony May Day, 1922.
		57	New Llano photographs. Miscellaneous, 1924, undated. 99. Colony made baskets, undated. 100. "This is near your old place," undated. 101. Llano Colony swimming pool, undated. 102. "R R 1924," 1924. 103. Llano Colony cemetery, undated. 104. "A comrade's funeral," undated. 105. Stage scene, undated.

CONTAINER LIST (cont.)

<u>Stack</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Box</u>	<u>Folders</u>	<u>Contents with dates</u>
<b>6:60</b>		3c	58a-58b	New Llano photographs. Unidentified. Agriculture, undated.
			59a-59b	New Llano photographs. Unidentified. Buildings, undated.
			61a-61d	New Llano photographs. Unidentified. Misc., undated.
<b>6:60</b>		3d	62	New Llano photographs. Unidentified, undated.
			63	California photographs. Identified 1911, 1913, 1914, undated. 106. House front and rear, undated. 107. Barn, undated. 108. Apple tree, undated. 109. Row of apple trees, undated. 110. Telegraph road, undated. 111. Fence (seen in photograph #8, undated. 112. Corn crop to the right of barn, undated. 113. Corn crop to the right of barn, undated. 114. Rounding up cows, undated. 115. Load of freight and furs, undated. 116. Shop looted by bandits after rebellion, Juarez, Mexico, May 1911. 117. Aunt Vira, taken at "old folks home," Nov. 6, 1914. 118. Bells of San Gabriel Mission, Los Angeles, California, July 14, 1913 (illustrated postcard).
			64	California photographs, California Rancho, undated.
			65-66	California photographs, unidentified, undated.
			67-70	California photographs, scrapbook pages, undated.
<b>6:61</b>		3e	71a	New Llano photographs. Identified. People, 1924, 1927, 1948, undated. 119. George Foley in automobile, Mandine Foley , Feb. 10, 1924. 120. Mildred and I at Nellie's house, Hayward, undated. 121. Eric Svenson, John Van Newland, Ima Svenson, undated. 122. Dr. Carl E. Lunn, Phoenix, 1948. 123. Bert More speaking, undated. 124. Milton E. Bigelow, undated. Milton Bigelow and Dora Rencher, undated.

CONTAINER LIST (cont.)

<u>Stack</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Box</u>	<u>Folders</u>	<u>Contents with dates</u>	
6:61		3e		125. Myrtle Kempf, undated.	
			71b	126. Frank E. Wolfe; Mrs. Calvert, Frank Wolfe, undated. 128. Pete Kempf and J. C. Crawford, undated. 129. Bust of Sir Ebenezer Howard, 1927.	
			72	Camas Baseball Team photographs. , undated.	
			73a	130. Francis Pickett, April 13, 1908.	
			73b	131. Helen Charlotte at one year of age, undated.	
			73c	132. Millie and Christine McCoy, ca. 1880-1885. 133. Dudley Foster at 21 years, weight 10 pounds, ca. 1898. 134. Group portrait including Will Pickett, undated.	
			74-75	Unidentified photographs. Agriculture, undated.	
			76	Unidentified photographs. Logging, undated.	
			77	Unidentified photographs. Buildings, undated.	
			78	Unidentified photographs. Places, undated.	
			3f	79a-81f 82a-86	Unidentified photographs. People, undated. Unidentified. Idaho Portraits, undated.
			3g	87 88 89	Unidentified. Nebraska Portraits, undated. 8 Unidentified Portraits. Iowa, Minnesota, Missouri, undated. Unidentified Portraits. California, Oregon, Washington, undated.
				90a-90c 124a-124c	Unidentified Portraits, undated. Photographic postcards, photographs, 1920-1939.
			3h	91a-91b 92a-92c 125	Photographic negatives undated. <b>Access restricted.</b> Photographic negatives, undated. <b>Access restricted.</b> Photographic negatives, ca. 1920-1939. <b>Access restricted.</b>
			3i	93-95	Glass negatives, undated. <b>Access restricted.</b>
3j		Tintype, undated.			
OS:P	1	Large group photographs, 1899, undated			
6:63	4a	96-100 101a-101c	<b>Series III. Printed Items, 1902-1959, undated.</b> Newspaper clippings, 1936, undated. 1902-1925.		



CONTAINER LIST (cont.)

<u>Stack</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Box</u>	<u>Folders</u>	<u>Contents with dates</u>
<b>6:63</b>		4a	102a-102b	1931-1938.
			105-106b	Undated.
			107a	<i>World Corporation</i> , 1910.
			107b	<i>Communities of the Past and Present</i> , 1924. [photocopy].
			107c	Application for membership, undated; notice to stockholders with list of stockholders 1935.
<b>6:63</b>		4b	108	<i>The Bolsheviki and World Peace</i> , 1918.
			109	<i>Report on Overseas Operations of the U. S. Government</i> , 1957.
			110-112	Empty folders removed from collection.
			114	Newspaper clippings, 1916-1947, undated.
<b>6:64</b>		5a	115	Printed items, 1930, 1943, undated. Papers removed and filed chronologically within Series I. New Llano Colony Papers.
			116a-116c	<i>Western Comrade</i> , May 1913-Aug. 1922.
			117a-117c	Published legal briefs, 1950-1951.
			118-119	Newspaper clippings, 1935-1944.
			120	Letter, Walter W. Robison to George T. Pickett, Feb. 12, 1953. Folder removed to box 2a.
			121	Newspaper clippings, 1935, 1935.
			122	Cartoons, undated.
			123	Colony scrip, undated.
			124	Photographs, 1920-1939. Folder removed to box 3g.
			125	Negatives, ca. 1920-1939. Folder removed to box 3h.
			126	<i>Reforestation in Louisiana Report ... 1928-1929</i> , 1928; <i>Arms and the Men</i> , 1934.
<b>6:64</b>		5b	127	<i>Colony co-operator</i> . Llano Colony, 1918:Oct.
			128b-129	<i>Colony news and colony co-operator</i> . Llano Colony, 1921:Jan., May-June.
			130	<i>The American co-operator</i> . Llano Colony, 1922:Feb., March, July/Aug.
<b>OS:P</b>			1	<i>Economics Review</i> , <i>The Llano Colonist</i> , 1934, 1937, clippings, 1928, 1941.
			2	U.S. Geologic Survey map, 1954; U. S. railroad map, undated.

CONTAINER LIST (cont.)

Stack  
Location

Contents with dates

99:P

*The Cooperative Builder*, 1934.

*Vernon Parish Democrat* (1919-1930). **Access restricted due to fragile condition. Use microfilm 935.**

*Industrial Democrat* (1934-1936). **Access restricted due to fragile condition. Use microfilm 935.**

*Llano Colonist*, 1922-1937. **Access restricted due to fragile condition. Use microfilm 365.**