

BUHLER (JOHN ROBERT) PAPERS

Mss. 1311

Inventory

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.	6 manuscript volumes
Geographic locations.	Natchez, Mississippi; Baton Rouge, Louisiana
Inclusive dates.	1847-1914
Bulk dates.	1847-1849, 1851, 1881-1914
Language.	English
Summary.	Papers include three volumes of a diary containing entries (1847-1849) reflecting family and social life on Independence Plantation and providing information on events in and around Natchez, Mississippi, and Baton Rouge. Includes another diary containing manuscript poems (1881-1914) by Mary Edith Buhler, an autograph book, and a notebook containing poems by Buhler.
Restrictions on access.	If microfilm is available, photocopies must be made from microfilm.
Related collections.	Mary Edith Buhler Papers, Mss. 1192, 1210, 1333 Buhler Family Papers, Mss. 1192, 1210, 1238, 1311, 1333
Copyright.	Copyright of the original materials is retained by descendants of the creators in accordance with U.S. copyright law.
Citation.	John Robert Buhler Diaries, Autograph Book, and Notebook, Mss. 1311, Louisiana and Lower Mississippi Valley Collections, LSU Libraries, Baton Rouge, La.
Stack locations.	H:17

BIOGRAPHICAL/HISTORICAL NOTE

John Robert Buhler (1829-1886) was the son of John Christian Buhler, a planter of Buhler's Plains near Baton Rouge, Louisiana. After his marriage in 1847 to Mary Reynolds (1826-1903), John Robert Buhler lived with his wife at Independence, the plantation home of his grandparents, the Smiths, near Natchez, Mississippi. John Robert and Mary Buhler had four daughters: Anna S. Postlewaite (née Buhler), Jane Gillespie Buhler (called Jennie, 1859-1945), Mary Edith Buhler (1864-1931 or 2), and Hester Smith Simmons (née Buhler, 1866-1948). In the 1850s, John Robert Buhler worked as a clerk in the office of Judge John Perkins.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

Three volumes of a four-volume diary [labeled 1, 3, and 4] contain entries (1847-1849) reflecting daily family and social life on Independence Plantation and provide some information concerning local events in and around Natchez, Mississippi, and Baton Rouge, Louisiana. Volume 1 (Sept. 1, 1847–March 25, 1848) includes day-by-day accounts of the social activities at Independence Plantation (sometimes written Mt. Independence). The entries refer chiefly to the arrival and departure of family members and neighbors, social gatherings, weddings, some mention of fishing, hunting, dancing, attending church, etc., and comments on the activities of neighbors on the surrounding plantations such as the James Gillespies of Hollywood Plantation, Elgin Plantation, Palatine Plantation, Dr. Ker, John Routh, Roach, James Metcalfe, Henry Chotard. The entry for Dec. 22, 1847 describes General Taylor's visit in Natchez (briefly), and a Jan. 1, 1848 entry mentions the custom of giving gifts to the slaves. Volume 3 (Sept. 13, 1848–Jan. 23, 1849) contains entries comparable to those in Volume 1, with additional information on cutting cane, news referring to the election of President Taylor, cholera (Dec. 26, 1848) in New Orleans with later entries mention deaths from cholera, and General Taylor's departure for Washington on the steamer *Princess* (Jan. 23, 1849). Volume 4 (Jan. 24–Nov. 20, 1849) contains similar entries to the previous diaries.

Entries in another diary (1851) reflect Buhler's work in the office of Judge John Perkins and his life near Natchez (not at Independence Plantation). The diary also contains manuscript poems (1881-1914) by Mary Edith Buhler written at Carrollton, Louisiana, 1881-1882; New Orleans 1882-1894; 1 from Frankfort, Kentucky, 1886; and from New York City, 1894-1914. Some of the poems were published in New York newspapers, 1911-1914.

An autograph book contains autographs (1844-1845) of Buhler's classmates at Princeton University and handwritten copies of published poems (1877-1884) by Marianne Farningham, O.W. Holmes, Thomas Moore, Sir John Hollard, Francis Browne, Owen Meredith, Bailie Aldrich, Thomas Hood, General William H. Lytle, William Cullen Bryant, and others.

A notebook (1843-1857) contains handwritten poems composed by Buhler during his student days at Princeton College and later, as the fiancé and young husband of Mary Reynolds of New Orleans. The volume also contains notes taken from a science course at Princeton.

INDEX TERMS

Baton Rouge (La.)--History.
Buhler, John Robert, 1829-1886.
Buhler, M. E. (Mary Edith), 1864-1932.
Diaries.
Independence Plantation (Miss.)
Law clerks--Mississippi.
Natchez (Miss.)--History.
Notebooks.
Plantation life--Mississippi.
Poems.
Princeton University--Students.

CONTAINER LIST

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