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WATSON (JOSEPH) CORRESPONDENCE
(Mss. 1872)
Inventory

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Louisiana State University Libraries
Baton Rouge, Louisiana State University

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CONTENTS OF INVENTORY

SUMMARY	3
BIOGRAPHICAL/HISTORICAL NOTE	4
SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE	4
LETTER DESCRIPTIONS	5
INDEX TERMS	6
CONTAINER LIST	7

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SUMMARY

Size.	13 items
Geographic locations.	Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; New Orleans, Clinton, Louisiana; Natchez, Mississippi
Inclusive dates.	1826-1846
Bulk dates.	1826-1828
Language.	English
Summary.	Correspondence of Joseph Watson, mayor of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and other individuals, particularly Sheriff Samuel Garrigues and southern planter Colonel Phillip Hickey regarding the kidnapping and sale of five African American children.
Organization.	Arranged chronologically.
Restrictions on access.	Photocopies must be made from microfilm.
Related collections.	Joseph Watson Letter, Mss. 344
Copyright.	Copyright of the original materials is retained by descendants of the creators in accordance with U.S. copyright law.
Citation.	Joseph Watson Correspondence, Mss. 1872, Louisiana and Lower Mississippi Valley Collections, LSU Libraries, Baton Rouge, La.
Stack location(s).	Misc:W
Also available on.	Microfilm 5750 Series E, Reel 32

BIOGRAPHICAL/HISTORICAL NOTE

Joseph Watson (1784-1841) was mayor of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, from 1824-1828. He was married to Harriet Snowden.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

Watson's correspondence (1826-1828) focuses on the location and recovery of five free African American children who were kidnapped in Philadelphia and sold as slaves in Mississippi and Louisiana. A letter from Philip Hickey, prominent Baton Rouge planter and soldier, indicates his return of one of the kidnapped children.

Also included are a letter from J. L. Buckingham, publisher of the *Felician Whig and People's Press* (a Clinton, Louisiana, newspaper), to his brother in New York, and a letter from Clara Baxter to a friend in Baltimore discussing her dislike of New Orleans.

LETTER DESCRIPTIONS

<u>Date</u>	<u>Contents</u>
March 20, 1826	Letter from Joseph Watson to Benjamin Morgan and Joseph Bennet Eves concerning the kidnapping of five African American children from Pennsylvania;
April 20, 1827	Letter from Watson to Colonel Hickey informing him of the situation of the kidnapped children and offering evidence that one of his slaves may be one of the kidnapped children;
May 5, 1827	Letter from Watson to John Henderson and J. W. Hamilton concerning a gift given to them in reward for their services in recovering one of the children;
June 14, 1827	Letter from Hickey to Watson regarding his personal doubts of the kidnapping, the distrust of southern planters for northerners, and his distaste for emancipation efforts;
October 2, 1827	Letter from Watson to Hickey insisting he cooperate with the investigations;
October 29, 1827	Letter from Watson to Samuel P. Garrigues, High Constable of Philadelphia, instructing him of his duties in returning the kidnapped children to Philadelphia;
November 3, 1827	List of documents given to Garrigues as evidence relating to the children;
November-December 1827	Letters from Garrigues, in Natchez, Miss., to Watson describing developments in the case, including the progression of the trials of the individuals involved;
January 26, 1828	Letter from Watson to Duncan S. and R. J. Walker regarding the case and noting that one child returned by Hickey died days after his arrival in Philadelphia;
May 21, 1839	Letter from J. L. Buckingham, publisher of the <i>Felician Whig and People's Press</i> , to his brother C. Buckingham concerning family news and stating that the paper's success is minimizing prejudices and jealousies against Yankees. He mentions the publication of extracts of his letters concerning abolition and the election, and states that the paper is edited under another name [Henry Skipworth, Jr.] in deference to Whig Party leaders;
July 24, 1846	Letter from Clara L. Bexter, New Orleans, to Kate B. Thomas, Baltimore, mentioning her inability to leave for Matagorda because the government chartered all schooners to carry troops to Texas. She also discusses her dislike of New Orleans and the arrest of a naked woman on crowded street.

INDEX TERMS

Buckingham, J. L.

Hicky, Philip, 1778-1859.

Kidnapping victims--Pennsylvania--Philadelphia.

Kidnapping--Pennsylvania--Philadelphia.

New Orleans (La.)--Social life and customs--19th century.

Prejudices--Southern States.

Slave trade--United States.

CONTAINER LIST

<u>Stack</u>			
<u>Location</u>	<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder(s)</u>	<u>Contents (with dates)</u>
Misc:W	--	1	Correspondence (1826-1846)
MF 5750	--	--	Series E, Reel 32