

ODOM FAMILY PAPERS

Mss. 4256

Inventory

Compiled by
Justin Barilleaux

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

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Updated 2019

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SUMMARY

Size	0.4 linear feet
Geographic Locations	Louisiana, Texas, South Carolina, Virginia, India, Egypt, Belgium, England, Germany
Inclusive Dates	1860-1980
Bulk Dates	1862-1880, 1942-1945
Languages	English
Summary	Personal, financial, and legal papers and correspondence documenting the experiences of members of the Odom family during the American Civil War and World War II, as well as the activities of family members in the three decades following World War II.
Access Restrictions	No restrictions.
Copyright	Physical rights and copyright are retained by the LSU Libraries.
Citation	Odom Family Papers, Mss. 4256, Louisiana and Lower Mississippi Valley Collections, LSU Libraries, Baton Rouge, La.
Stack Location	1:53

BIOGRAPHICAL/HISTORICAL NOTE

Thomas J. (Jefferson) Odom was born February 10, 1838 in St. Landry, Louisiana and was the son of Andrew Odom and Mary Ann Allen of Illinois. Thomas served in the Confederate Army as a member of 33rd Regiment, Louisiana Volunteers. Following the war, he migrated to Texas where he married Bettie Maud Richmond in 1877. She died in 1880, after giving birth to their son, George A. Odom.

George A. Odom migrated from Rocksdale, Texas, to Louisiana with his family before he was two years of age. The family settled in Lecompte, Louisiana, and George attended school at the Louisiana State Normal School in Natchitoches and Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge. Following the completion of his studies, he began his career as an educator, teaching at the Dentley School near Lecompte. In 1904 he married Alma Deaton, great-granddaughter of Alexander Peden. Together they had nine children. Two of their sons, John S. Odom and Harold L. Odom, served in the United States Armed Forces during World War II.

John S. Odom enlisted in the U.S. Army Air Corps in 1939 after completing his studies at Louisiana State University. He was commissioned in 1941 and had ascended to the rank of major by 1944. He met his wife, Arlys, on January 1, 1942, and they were married in February of 1942 shortly before he deployed for active duty. His brother, Harold L. Odom, enlisted in the United States Marine Corps directly after graduating from Louisiana State University with a Bachelor of Science in Engineering in 1941. Other members of the Odom family with ties to the collection include three of George A. Odom's other children: Leo M. Odom, Roy H. Odom, and Elsie O. (Odom) Brown.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The Odom Family Papers are composed of correspondence, legal papers, and financial papers documenting the experiences of members of the Odom family. Primary correspondents are Thomas J. Odom, George A. Odom, Harold L. Odom, and John S. Odom.

Early correspondence dates from 1862 to 1885 and primarily consists of the letters of Thomas J. Odom written to his father, Andrew Odom, documenting Thomas' experiences while serving in the Confederate Army. The letters offer details concerning the movements of his company, requests for personal supplies, and news of his brother's death. Additional correspondence from this period includes a letter from Thomas' wife, Maud Richmond Odom, to her sister detailing their life in Texas. Other items of note are a letter from a church parishioner to a member of the Odom family and a letter from Thomas to his mother shortly after the death of his wife.

Later correspondence dates from 1940 through 1955 and includes letters from Harold L. Odom to his brother Roy H. Odom, written while Harold was serving in the Pacific with the United States Marine Corps. The majority of the correspondence from this period is comprised of the letters of John S. Odom written to his wife, Arlys, while he was deployed with the U.S. Army Air Corps during World War II. The letters provide details of John's experiences en route to England and descriptions of what he encountered during stops in India and Tripoli. Letters also originate from England, Belgium, France, and Germany. The letters provide intimate details concerning the nature of the relationship between John and his wife. An additional letter written from John to his sister, Elsie Odom Brown, contains four photographs of the corpse of Benito Mussolini following his execution and a description of the photographs.

Additional materials include tax receipts dating from 1860 to 1900, ledger pages, genealogical documents, and Thomas J. Odom's marriage certificate. Printed materials are comprised of newspaper clippings and articles detailing the professional achievements of Leo M. Odom, Roy H. Odom, George A. Odom, Harold L. Odom, and John S. Odom, as well as newspaper announcements regarding the death of Leo M. Odom's son, Leo J. Odom, Jr. Additional printed materials include a political pamphlet entitled "History of the Moment," published by Roy H. Odom in 1963, and ephemera from the Louisiana State Senate campaign of Richmond Odom.

INDEX TERMS

Odom, Andrew, 1804-1888.
Odom, Thomas J. (Thomas Jefferson), 1838-
Odom, George A., 1880-1957.
Odom, Leo M.
Odom, Roy H.
Odom, John S., 1920-
Odom, Harold L.
Brown, Elsie O. (Elsie Odom)
Peden family.
Richmond family.
United States--History--Civil War, 1861-1865.
Louisiana--History--Civil War, 1861-1865.
Marines--United States.
United States. Army--Air Corps.
World War, 1939-1945--Personal narratives, American.
World War, 1939-1945--Campaigns--Pacific Ocean.
World War, 1939-1945--Campaigns--Europe.
Mussolini, Benito, 1883-1945.
United States--Politics and government--20th century.
United States--Race relations.
Letters (correspondence)
Photographs
Pamphlets

CONTAINER LIST

<u>Stack</u>			
<u>Location</u>	<u>Box</u>	<u>Folders</u>	<u>Contents with dates</u>
1:53	1	1-2	Correspondence, 1862-1885, undated
		3-10	Correspondence, 1940-1955
		11	Receipts, 1860-1901, undated
		12	Legal documents and financial papers, 1864-1889
		13	Maud Richmond Odom - Marriage certificate and funeral notice, 1877-1880
		14	Peden family - Correspondence and Genealogy, 1913, undated
		15	Photographs, circa 1920-1945
		16	Newspaper clippings, circa 1921-1978
		17	Printed materials and ephemera, circa 1936-1980, undated
		18	Genealogical materials, undated