

**WILSON (HENRY J.) PAPERS**  
Mss. 559

Inventory

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

2005

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**SUMMARY**

<b>Size</b>	335 items, 16 v. (10 mss v., 6 pr. v.)
<b>Geographic Locations</b>	Florida, Alabama, Arkansas, Louisiana, Mexico
<b>Inclusive Dates</b>	1779-1885
<b>Bulk Dates</b>	1836-1847
<b>Languages</b>	English, Spanish, French
<b>Summary</b>	Military orders, correspondence, maps, plats, business ledgers and financial papers related to the relocation of Native-Americans from Florida, the Second Seminole War, 1835-1842, Mexican War, early commerce and trade in Florida, and Henry Wilson's personal affairs.
<b>Arrangement.</b>	Papers arranged chronologically within series and subseries.
<b>Access Restrictions</b>	John W. Gurley's certification (June 26, 1807) and "Teatro Libertad" banner restricted due to fragile condition.
<b>Copyright</b>	Physical rights and copyright are retained by the LSU Libraries
<b>Related Collections</b>	Henry Wilson Papers, Mss. 1271, 1273.
<b>Citation</b>	Henry J. Wilson Papers, Mss. 559, Louisiana and Lower Mississippi Valley Collections, LSU Libraries, Baton Rouge, Louisiana.
<b>Stack Locations</b>	B:17, J:7, OS:W, Vault:79

### **BIOGRAPHICAL/HISTORICAL NOTE**

Henry Wilson served as a major in the U.S. Army during the first half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. He participated in the relocation of Native Americans from Florida, the Seminole Wars and the Mexican War. He was the commander of Fort Towson, Okla., and during the Mexican War served as acting governor of Vera Cruz, Mexico.

William Panton and John Leslie were merchants from Scotland, who along with other Scottish merchants established the trading firm of Panton, Leslie and Co. in British East Florida. Headquartered in Pensacola, the company had a monopoly on the Indian trade from present day Memphis, Tenn. to St. Augustine, Fla. This may have been due to Alexander McGillivray, who was not only a stockholder, but also chief of the Creeks. The company traded with the Seminoles, Upper and Lower Creeks, Chickasaws, Choctaws and Cherokees. The company negotiated with the U.S. Government to have their debts to be paid through the transfer of property rights. As a result, Panton-Leslie was able to acquire, at one time, over three million acres of land. In 1805, the company changed its name to John Forbes and Co.

### **SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE**

Official military records and personal financial papers of Henry Wilson consist of petitions, contracts, military orders, correspondence, minutes of a Mobile, Ala., town meeting, maps, and plats. Papers pertain to the removal of Native Americans from Florida, the Second Seminole War, Mexican War, courts-martial, and the transfer and sale of land in Louisiana and Arkansas. Early correspondence, legal documents, and business record books relate to early commerce and trade of Paton, Leslie and Co. in Florida and Mobile, Ala.

**LIST OF SERIES**

- I. Papers, 1779-1885, undated**
- II. Manuscript volumes, 1804-1820**
- III. Printed volumes, 1822-1866**
- IV. Artifact, undated**

## **SERIES DESCRIPTIONS**

### **I. Papers, 1779-1885, undated**

Military and business correspondence comprises this series, with some personal financial papers of Henry Wilson and accounts of Panton, Leslie and Co. Papers pertain to the removal of the Native-Americans from Florida, trade, second Seminole War, 1835-1842, Mexican War, and Henry Wilson's personal affairs. Material includes petitions, contracts, military orders, correspondence, and data on the removal of Indians, minutes of Mobile, Ala., town meeting, maps, and plats.

Early papers relate to efforts by the British to hold onto their southern colonies, Native-American, and trade. A letter from John Stuart to Alexander McGillivray reports on the arrival of a squadron of ships and British troops at Pensacola. He also requests McGillivray to use his influence with Creek Indians in supporting the British and their efforts to deal with "Rebellious Southern Provinces" of Georgia and the Carolinas (Dec. 19, 1779). General James B. Wilkinson discloses a plot involving rebellious U. S. citizens to capture Baton Rouge and the Province of Mexico to Gov. Vizonte Folce and Intendent Juan Ventura Morales, Pensacola (Dec. 6, 1806). Other papers contain John W. Gurley's certification as Register of Land Office, Eastern District, signed by William C. C. Claiborne (June 26, 1807) and an expense report for the Apalachicola land purchase (Oct. 15, 1811). Another letter states that the recent sale of Native-American land was contrary to a treaty agreement (Nov. 1, 1812). Wilkinson also writes to James Innerarity that the U. S. does not intend to take East Florida (March 30, 1813). An English translation of Thomas Pinckney's letter concerns slaves illegally seized at Amelia Island and the acquisition of land (June 13, 1813); copies in Spanish accompany it with an added note by D. Guilermo Lawrence (July 14, 1813). Minutes of a meeting held by the president and commissioners of the Town of Mobile relate to the streets and highways (Aug. 6, 1817). There is also a letter of introduction from Col. Bowers to John Innerarity (June 2, 1813).

Business records of Panton, Leslie and Co. contain a letter from William Panton discussing the debt of Native-Americans, business losses, and the loss of two ships (Oct. 7, 1800). An agreement between Panton, Leslie and Co. and the Creek, Cherokee, Choctaw and Chickasaw accompanies the letter (undated). Accounts for goods, transportation of cargo, slaves, debts (Oct. 1803, Oct. 1804, 1814), specifically, the debt of the Creek Indians (May 18, 1805) are also included. Several letters to John Forbes and James Innerarity pertain to procuring merchandise and settling accounts (1805-1820).

Military papers consist of orders and correspondence. Military orders pertain chiefly to promotions, appointments and reassignment of recruits, officers, and physicians (1839-1840), military procedures (June 3, 6, July 15, Aug. 28, 1840), and court-martials (Nov. 1, 10, Dec. 5, 1839; Jan. 18, 19, Feb. 14, 27, Aug. 14, 25, 28, 1840; Feb. 19, 1857; May 28, 1858). Orders also give specific commands to detain the schooner, Trail, at the port

of Pensacola (May 6, 1818); and patrol the Native-American encampments, suppressing any disorderly conduct, and reporting on camp conditions (July 2, 1838). Orders also deal with the movement of troops (Dec. 9, 1840; April 10, 1841). Among these is an order to abandon Forts Pleasant and Macomb and relocate a portion of the Third Infantry to Fort Stausbury, along with supplies (June 1, 1841). A military order issued from the Headquarters of the Fourth Regiment at Fort Brooke expresses appreciation for the bravery and stamina of the troops (May 6, 1836), and another authorizes leave (Nov. 6, 1839).

Military correspondence includes letters to Wilson informing him of the strict measures needed to prevent disease among the troops (June 13, 1826), and that some congressmen wish to reduce the "military establishment" (May 25, 1830). Bernard Nottner writes of repairs made to the military barracks at Baton Rouge and the construction of a Methodist Church and the City Bank building (June 29, 1835). Several letters concern the detainment of marines from the naval ship, *Concord*, at Fort Brooke, and the Wilson's controversial delay in releasing them back to the navy (May, July 26, Dec. 1836; March 11, 1837). A group of letters relates to Major Wilson obtaining a physician to treat the regiment at Fort Towson. The Surgeon General's details the prerequisites for assigning physicians to the regiments, and criticizes Major Wilson's misuse of authority in sending a physician (Oct. 2, Nov. 16, 1839; Feb. 11, March 9, June 15, July 14, Sept. 26, 1840).

A letter to Henry Wilson reports that the governor called the schooner, *Motto*, to join the campaign against the Seminole and that General Duncan Lamont Clinch would not join the campaign (June 21, 1836). Adam F. Donsall gives Major Wilson's an update on Wilson's company garrisoned at St. Marks, Fla. (July 10, 1836). Dr. Southgate remarks on the possibility of all regiments ordered to Florida (July 14, 1840).

Papers relating to Native-Americans and the Seminole Wars include a contract between the U. S. and the Alabama Emigrating Co. for the removal of the Creek to the Western Territory of Arkansas. The contract specifies terms and conditions for the removal (Aug. 13, 1836). Subsequent correspondence relates primarily a dispute with the Alabama Emigrating Co. over supplying provisions, particularly fresh beef to the dislocated Native-Americans, but also concerns problems with shortages, disease and escapes (April-Dec. 1837). Edward Cross expects the Seminole War to end soon; and knows of no new expulsion proposal (Jan. 18, 1841). Capt. John Page expresses his belief that only negotiations will end the war (Jan. 20, 1841). Other correspondence relating to Native-Americans refers to complaints of insufficient rations at Fort Fanning, Fla. (Feb. 21, 1841), and a battle on the road between Fort Rupell and Fort Brooks (March 4, 1841). In addition, Native-Americans arriving at Fort Fanning would be sent to Tampa Bay (March 11, 1841) and the reassignment of six companies in Wilson's regiment to Middle Florida (March 25, 1841). A letter to Wilson refers to the arrival of the British ambassador at Washington, the question of slavery, the war and the acquisition of land (Feb. 18, 1842).

Headquarters of Army Occupation orders Major Wilson to take his battalion and occupy Reinosá, Mexico (June 5, 1846). Wilson notifies the alcalde of his army's arrival (June

10, 1846), and in a special order, Major Wilson orders his men to search the town for suitable vantage points (June 10, 1846). Papers also contain records for ammunition stored during the occupation Reinosá (Aug. 25 - Sept. 30, 1846), and a report on the march to Monterrey, Mexico, detailing military maneuvers and skirmishes with the enemy (Sept. 27, 1846). Correspondence relates to shortages of water, medicine, and high incidents of illness (Jan 20, 1847); re-enlistment of troops (May 3, 1847); and disease among the soldiers in summer, and a need to maintain a high standard of cleanliness (May 24, 1847). Letter from Wilson to John Innerarity, Pensacola, tells of routing the Mexican army under Santa Ana and capturing General Vega with 6000 men (April 19, 1847). Correspondence to Henry Wilson as Governor of Vera Cruz, Mexico, requests that he send more quartermasters, commissaries, and another physician to a camp near Santa Fe (June 9, 1847), and states that Colonel Hughes needs more ammunition in Mexico (Oct. 20, 1847). A letter to Angel Lacurain y Gomez [in Spanish] speaks of warfare in the Vera Cruz region (May 3, 1847). Admiral David G. Farragut writes about the attack on the castle at Chapultepec (Sept. 20, 1847), and R. Jones, U. S. War Department, mentions the anxiety felt in Washington concerning unsubstantiated rumors about the war's progress (Oct. 25, 1847). A letter [in French] to the French Vice Consulate at Pensacola (Oct. 24, 1849) accompanies a report [in French] of the U. S. Treasury regarding the proposed improvements in its warehouse system (Feb. 22, 1849). Additionally, papers include a detailed map of the road from Camargo to Seralvo, Mexico, and give a daily account of describing the condition of the road, availability of grazing and water holes (undated). Also found is a map of the area Rio Grande and Isla del Padre (undated).

Papers pertaining to Henry Wilson's personal financial affairs are scattered throughout the collection, and relate mostly to debts and land holdings. They include Wilson's petition for possession of a lot in Pensacola, which Spain had previously granted to him (Dec. 27, 1822). Isaac Hulse proposes to Wilson a business venture for constructing a mill at Perido Keys (Sept. 20, 1836). Papers also include a plat of tracts along the Mississippi River in the St. Helena Land District (Feb. 26, 1835), and related correspondence concerning ownership of this land (Jan. 31, 1836; May 1, July 31, Aug. 20, 1838; Aug 27, 1839). A letter from the U. S. Army Pay Dept. regards Wilson's military pay (July 8, 1839). Henry Wilson contracts with Frederick Wilkinson to survey and sell land on the Arkansas River (March 27, 1840). Additional correspondence relates to the sale of property in Arkansas (Aug. 5, 31, Oct. 7, 1840) and Wilson's other land holdings (July 6, Sept 21, 1843, April 1, 1852). Along with this is a deed for land in Napoleon, Ark. (Dec. 26, 1840) and Isaac Hulse's letter to Wilson concerning his Florida properties (June 13, 1841). There is also a map of the town called "Napoleon" near the conjunction of the Arkansas and Mississippi rivers (April 27, 1840). Among other items is a deed of exchange between James Innerarity and Lewis Minor (1845), a letter to James Innerarity concerning that transaction (Feb. 17, 1845), a deed for land in Baldwin County, Ala (April 19, 1853), and broadside advertising the auction of Pierre Lefebvre's estate (1859). Personal papers also include certificates of purchase (1866) issued to Henry Wilson for several tracts of land in Desha County, Arkansas (March 12, 1866), a printed map showing the road from Natchez to Jackson, Miss. (1870), and a letter from



the Treasury Dept. with respect to pay due to Col. Henry Wilson (1885). There is also a land survey showing property boundaries (undated).

## II. Manuscript volumes, 1804-1820

- Subseries 1. Cashbook, 1818-1820**
- v. 1 1818-1820 Cashbook lists purchases made.
- Subseries 2. Daybook, 1816-1817**
- v. 2 1816-1817 Daybook lists individuals and merchandise purchased at Pensacola, Fla.
- Subseries 3. Journal, 1809-1816**
- v. 3 1809-1816 Journal lists individuals and merchandise purchased at London, fragments of accounts with Panton, Leslie and Co.
- Subseries 4. Ledgers, 1804-1817**
- v. 4 1804-1808 Ledger of accounts with John Forbes and Co., Pensacola, lists individual accounts, goods purchased, and cargo ships.
- v. 5 1804-1811 Ledger of accounts with John Forbes and Co., London.
- v. 6 1808-1809 Ledger of profits and losses of John Forbes and Co.
- v. 7 1809-1817 Ledger of accounts with John Forbes and Co., London.
- v. 8 1809-1817 Ledger of accounts with John Forbes and Co., London.
- Subseries 5. Record book, 1810-1817**
- v. 9 1810-1817 Receipt book for John Forbes and Co., Mobile, Ala., for a variety of items, including sundries, wages, freight, and wages for services.

## III. Printed volumes, 1822-1866.

- v. 10 1831 *The American System of Practical Book-Keeping ...*, by James Bennett.
- v. 11 1822 *The Merchants Table ...*, by Enoch Chase.
- v. 12 1848 *Official Army Register, Corrected to October 31, 1848.*
- v. 13 1866 *Philadelphia Southern Steamship Manufactures and Mercantile Register.*
- v. 14 1858 *System of Target Practice for the Use of Troops*, by Henry Heth.
- v. 15 1865 *Tables of Sterling Exchange for Converting Sterling into Currency, ...*, by Joseph M. Price.
- v. 16 1844 *La France Maritime*, by Amedee Grehan, pages 97-134.

## IV. Artifact, undated

A red banner advertising *Teatro Libertad, en la Plaza del Mercado* (ca. 1850) [access restricted due to fragile condition].

**INDEX TERMS**

<b>Terms</b>	<b>Series</b>
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United States. Army. History.	I, III

CONTAINER LIST

<u>Stack Location</u>	<u>Box</u>	<u>Folders</u>	<u>Contents</u>
			<b>Series I. Papers, 1779-1885.</b>
<b>B:17</b>	1	1-11b	1779-1839.
	2	1a-15	1840-1885 undated
<b>OS:W</b>		1	Analysis of interest, 1808; letter, July 8, 1839; contract, 1840; deed, 1840; map of, April 27, 1840; broadside, 1859; account, 1867; land survey, undated; military map, undated; map of Rio Grande/Isla del Padre (undated).
<b>Vault:79</b>		1	John W. Gurley's certification, June 26, 1807 [access restricted due to fragile condition; copy available in box 1, folder 3].
			<b>Series II. Manuscript volumes, 1804-1820.</b>
<b>J:7</b>			<b>Subseries 1.</b> v. 1, Cashbook, 1818-1820
<b>J:7</b>			<b>Subseries 2.</b> v. 2, Daybook, 1816-1817
<b>J:7</b>			<b>Subseries 3.</b> v. 3, Journal, 1809-1816
<b>J:7</b>			<b>Subseries 4.</b> v. 4- 8, Ledgers, 1804-1817
<b>J:7</b>			<b>Subseries 5.</b> v. 9, Record book, 1810-1817
			<b>Series III. Printed volumes, 1822-1866.</b>
<b>J:7</b>			v. 10, <i>The American System of Practical Book-Keeping ...</i> , 1831.
<b>J:7</b>			v. 11, <i>The Merchants Table ...</i> , 1822.
<b>B:17</b>	2	16	v. 12, <i>Official Army Register, Corrected to October 31, 1848</i> , 1848
<b>J:7</b>			v. 13, <i>Philadelphia Southern Steamship Manufactures and Mercantile Register</i> , 1866.
<b>B:17</b>	2	17	v. 14, <i>System of Target Practice for the Use of Troops</i> , by Henry Heth, 1858.
<b>J:7</b>			v. 15, <i>Tables of Sterling Exchange for Converting Sterling into Currency, ...</i> 1865.
<b>B:17</b>	2	18	v. 16, <i>La France Maritime</i> , pages 97-134, 1844.
			<b>Series IV. Artifact, undated</b>
<b>Vault:79</b>	1		"Teatro Libertad" banner, ca. 1850 [access restricted due to fragile condition].