

**See also UPA microfilm:**  
MF 5735, Series B, Reel 11

**JOSIAH KNIGHTON AND FAMILY PAPERS**

Mss. 651  
Inventory

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

Reformatted 2007  
Updated 2017

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**SUMMARY**

- Size.** 270 items and 4 manuscript volumes
- Geographic locations.** East Feliciana Parish, La.; Alexandria, La.; New Orleans, La.; Harrison County, Texas; military camps in Mississippi, Louisiana, Tennessee, Alabama, and Georgia
- Inclusive dates.** 1793-1909
- Bulk dates.** 1861-1896
- Language.** English
- Summary.** Personal papers of the Josiah Knighton family of Clinton, East Feliciana Parish, La. This includes Civil War and Reconstruction letters of James H. Knighton, of the Fourth Louisiana Infantry, financial and legal documents, and educational materials of Mollie S. Knighton.
- Organization.** Arranged chronologically
- Restrictions on access.** None.
- Related collections.** None.
- Copyright.** Copyright of the original materials is retained by descendants of the creators in accordance with U.S. copyright law.
- Citation.** Josiah Knighton Family Papers, Mss. 651, Louisiana and Lower Mississippi Valley Collections, LSU Libraries, Baton Rouge, La.
- Stack location(s).** E:21
- Also available on:** Microfilm 5735, Series B, Reel 11  
Omission: Volumes 1-4

## **BIOGRAPHICAL/HISTORICAL NOTE**

Josiah Knighton lived with his family in Clinton, East Feliciana Parish, Louisiana. Family member James H. Knighton, a private in Company G of the 4th Louisiana Infantry during the Civil War, enlisted at Camp Neafus on July 29, 1861.

## **SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE**

Personal papers of the Knighton family consist chiefly of correspondence. The collection contains some legal and financial documents, educational materials, and printed items. Civil War letters of James H. Knighton (1861-1865) describe Camp Neafus, Camp Lovell, Confederate deserters, camp life, campaigns at Vicksburg and Atlanta, the Battle of Shiloh, the release of Confederate prisoner of war Roy Brown (1865), and the operations of the Louisiana 4th Infantry and the 9th Tennessee Battery Cavalry.

Letters (1867-1886) describe a barbecue given to promote a railroad line from Fort Smith, Arkansas, to Alexandria, Louisiana, the Chinese population of Lake Providence, East Carroll Parish, Reconstruction and African-American voters, the Democratic Party, and the Knights of Pythias.

Legal and financial papers include affidavits establishing ownership of slaves, property mortgages, loan applications (1820-1839), the succession of Gerhard Koch, and papers documenting the transfer of land to Mrs. Elizabeth Koch and heirs.

Educational materials include a certificate for first grade, Mollie S. Knighton's certificate to teach (1879), school notebooks, poetry, sketches, and a prospectus of the Feliciana Institute of East Feliciana Parish. Printed items include a broadside entitled "How to kiss a lady," social invitations, and post cards.

**COLLECTION DESCRIPTION**

<u>Stack</u> <u>Location</u>	<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Contents</u>
E:21	1	1	1793, 1808-1833	Inventory of personal estate of Howell Hay (1793); petition to James Hay (1808); Affidavits establishing ownership of slaves (1812); the estate of Harris Heath to James Hay Jr. (1820); letters to Sylvia F. Hay (1828-1831); mortgages of property by James Hay and his wife to the New Orleans Canal & Banking Co. (1832); copies of love letters from Benjamin Singeltary to Sylvia Hay (1830-1831)
		2	1842-1860	Petition Josiah Benton v. J.C. White and Josiah Knighton (1842); letters to Josiah Knighton from Daniel H. Cole (1842, 1851-1860); prospectus of Feliciana Institute, Clinton (1859); report to the Board of Trustees of the Feliciana Institute (1860)
		3	1861-1864	51 items: Mostly Confederate letters written by James H. Knighton to family members (his mother, his father, his sister, Maggie, and his Uncle Josiah) from various camps in Mississippi, Alabama, and Georgia. They give first-hand report of troop movements, reverses of the Confederates, etc. Other letters to Maggie are also included, many signed, Lee
		4-5	1865-1879	14 items: Personal and family correspondence largely addressed to Ellie and Maggie Knighton.
		5-6	1880-1896	probate court docket—succession of Gerhard Koch, deceased, and transfer of land by Sheriff to Mrs. Elizabeth Koch and heirs; personal letters addressed to Ellie and Mollie Knighton, chiefly from J. Thomas Knighton; petition by Mrs. M. A. Brown, widow of Private R. P. Brown (who died in Federal prison in N. Y. in 1864) for 160 acres of state land as provided for in Act 96, 1884, and two letters pertaining thereto.
		7a-7b	1862-1899, undated	miscellaneous invitations, and postal cards largely addressed to Ellie Knighton.
E:21	2	8	1897-1909	Letters, receipts

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		9	undated	Miscellaneous letters and papers; poetry
		10	undated	Sheets from the record of the births, marriages, and deaths in the Knighton family
		12	undated	Photograph (unidentified), cards
		13a- 13b	undated	Envelopes
		14	1870-1874 undated	Newspaper clippings; page from scrapbook on Jefferson Davis
2	--	--	1817, undated	Arithmetic notebook
		--	undated	Sketchbook
		--	undated	Sketchbook
		--	1879-1890	Sunday School Classbook

**INDEX TERMS**

(This section provides the subject indexing for the collection found in the card catalog. Index terms have been changed to match Library of Congress Subject Headings. Documents relating to the subject given are described.)

<b>Subject</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Description of relevant documents</b>
Advertising--New York (State)--New York.	undated	"How to Kiss a Lady," [51], published by Henry J. Wehman, Song Publisher, 50 Chatham St. (Up-Stairs), New York.
Advertising--Railroads--Louisiana--Claiborne Parish.	1886	description of barbecue given by tax promoters—8,000 pounds of meat, 400 pounds of "Bakers" bread from Shreveport for 3,000 persons, 2/3 of which are African Americans, a brass band, speeches, and 10 men appointed to assist special marshal to keep order, Aug. 8.
African Americans--Civil rights--Tennessee.	1867	split of Radicalism results in white and black men nominating different men for Congress, May 20 (Nashville); only blacks and meanest white men allowed to vote; Legislature disenfranchises respectable citizens, Aug. 20.
Alabama--History--Civil War, 1861-1865--Desertions.	1864	ravages more dreaded than Federals; battalion ordered out to protect civilians, Apr. 17.
Alabama--History--Civil War, 1861-1865--Women.	1863-1864	criticized for failure to grieve, "troubles of our unfortunate country;" entertain soldiers with nightly and parties. John Doyle, Nov. 13, 1863 (Mobile);
Atlanta Campaign, 1864.	1864	comments on spirit of troops, military leaders, movements of Army of Tennessee from Altoona Mountain via Kennesaw Mountain to vicinity of Atlanta, confidence in Confederate victory, heavy losses on each side, devastation by Federal troops, assistance from Ladies Relief Association to sick and wounded.
Balls (Parties)--Louisiana--Clinton.	1881, 1883, 1885-1886	4 invitations to balls given by the "Young Men of Clinton."

<b>Subject</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Description of relevant documents</b>
Brown, Roy.	1864, 1885	[released to brother], in poor health and need of money to return home, 2 letters by, Jan. 21 and Mar. 22 (Bloomington, Indiana); certified statement by wife concerns military service and death in Federal prison in Elmira, New York. May 22, 1885.
Camp Lovell (La.)	1861-1862	routine soldier's letters comment on camp activities including construction of barracks and drill, health, re-enlistment, comrades, and death of brother (?) James H. Knighton, Nov. 12 and 17, Dec. 9 and 29, 1861; Jan. 19, 25, and 29, Feb. 3 and 8, 1862.
Camp Neafus (Miss.)	1861	routine soldier's letters comment on camp life, drill, failure to receive pay, need for shoes and clothing, inability of vessels to travel beyond Pass Christian since evacuation of Ship Island. James H. Knighton, Aug. 1, 6, 11, 18, 22; Sept. 1; Oct. 1, 2;
Chinese--Louisiana--Lake Providence.	1875	young girl laughs at the many Chinese in locality, Mar. 21; comments on amusements and social life of young people, fire at merchandise house, and Chinese population. Feb. 8 and Mar. 20.
Christmas--Alabama.	1864	soldier's Christmas around smoky fire with usual bread and beef for dinner; missed egg nog, roast, turkey, and pretty girls. J. Doyle letter, Mar. 8, 1864 (Mobile)
Christmas--Tennessee.	1867	first Christmas without egg nog for farmer. George B. Farrar letter, Dec. 30, 1867.
Confederate Memorial Day.	1867	hand-made wreaths by girls decorate soldiers' graves; Yankees prevent Mr. Godfrey from making a speech, Apr. 20.
Confederate States of America. Army. Louisiana Infantry Regiment, 4th.	1861-1864	soldiers' letters comment on camp life, military duties and operations, hardships endured, participation in battle at Corinth and in Vicksburg and Atlanta campaigns, war rumors, Confederate women, and Confederate deserters;



<b>Subject</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Description of relevant documents</b>
		Roy Brown [released to brother], in poor health and need of money to return home, 2 letters by, Jan. 21 and Mar. 22 (Bloomington, Indiana); Roy Brown, certified statement by wife concerns military service and death in Federal prison in Elmira, New York. May 22, 1885.
Confederate States of America. Army. Tennessee Cavalry Regiment, 9th.	1864	comments on military movements and positions of Army of Tennessee in Atlanta campaign, Confederate retreat from Louisiana and Mississippi through Alabama, war news, spirit of troops, raid into Tennessee and capture of General Stoneman.
Corinth (Miss.)--History--19th century.	1862	comments on preparations, fighting, casualties, duties caring for sick, and compulsory re-enlistment. James H. Knighton, Apr. 1, 6, 10, 14, and 20.
East Feliciana Parish (La.)--Social life and customs--19th century.	1859-1886	materials pertain to Feliciana Institute, teachers' contracts, social life, and observance of Confederate Memorial Day.
Elementary school teachers--Louisiana--Clinton.	1878-1879, 1886	certificate for first grade signed by Edwin H. Fay, Chairman of Committee on Teachers for Parish Board of Directors, Jan. 4, 1878; 3 contracts to teach at \$30 per month. Jan. 18, 1879; Oct. 29, 1879; and Jan. 23, 1886;
Feliciana Female Collegiate Institute.	1859-1860	prospectus, Sept. 26, 1859; report traces development of schools from 1855 and asks financial assistance from Board of Trustees, July 7, 1860.
Georgia--History--Civil War, 1861-1865--Women.	1863-1864	Ladies Relief Association of Georgia renders great help to sick and wounded. Lee, June 23, 1864.
Harrison County (Tex.)--Description and travel.	1847, 1851	best upland country for health and production of cotton, corn, potatoes, and pumpkins, Oct. 19, 1847; severe drought forces merchants to get provisions from Natchez, Alexandria, and Lake Providence, Oct. 26, 1851.

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Homer (La.)--Description and travel.	1884, 1886	farmer's comments on victory of Democratic Party, Nov. 15, 1884; Knights of Pythias, July 24, 1886; promotion of railroad construction, Aug. 8, 1886.
Homer (La.)--Politics and government--19th century.	1884	glorious victory; demonstrations sublime; torch-light parade with procession 1½ miles long composed of young and old, men and women, mostly walking. Nov. 15.
Independent Order of Odd Fellows (East Feliciana Parish, La.)	1870	regalia ball invitation lists committee members, May 20.
Knighton, Mollie S.	1878-1879, 1886	certificate for first grade signed by Edwin H. Fay, Chairman of Committee on Teachers for Parish Board of Directors, Jan. 4, 1878; 3 contracts to teach at \$30 per month. Jan. 18, 1879; Oct. 29, 1879; and Jan. 23, 1886;
Knights of Pythias (Homer, La.)	1886	lodge membership opposed by father; son refused to resign because of lodge's assistance to widows and children, July 24.
Lake Providence (La.)--Description and travel.	1875	comments on amusements and social life of young people, fire at merchandise house, and Chinese population. Feb. 8 and Mar. 20.
Louisiana--History--Civil War, 1861-1865--African Americans.	1864	desert family but regarded as "poor, deluded things; they know not suffering is before them." John Doyle, Aug. 26.
Memorial rites and ceremonies--Louisiana--Clinton.	1867	hand-made wreaths by girls decorate soldiers' graves; Yankees prevent Mr. Godfrey from making a speech, Apr. 20.
Mississippi--History--Civil War, 1861-1865--Desertions.	1864	ravages more dreaded than Federals; battalion ordered out to protect civilians, Apr. 17.
Mobile (Ala.)--History--Civil War, 1861-1865.	1863-1864	comments on attitude of Confederate women towards war, and accommodations for regiment, Nov. 13, 1863; civilian fears of Sherman removed, Mar. 8, 1864.

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Reconstruction (U.S. history, 1865-1877)--Tennessee.	1866-1867	farmer's comments on Southern poverty, African Americans, good crops to stop Yankee purchases, and Radicalism. 7 George B. Farrar letters, June 10 and Nov. 14, 1866; Jan. 12, Mar. 10, May 20, Aug. 20, and Dec. 30, 1867 (Brentwood).
School notebooks.	1817, undated	arithmetic – Notebook #1
Shiloh, Battle of, Tenn., 1862.	1862	comments on preparations, fighting, casualties, duties caring for sick, and compulsory re-enlistment. James H. Knighton, Apr. 1, 6, 10, 14, and 20.
Soldiers--Confederate States of America.	1861-1864	comments on camp life, military duties and operations, lack of shoes, clothing and money to pay medical bills, battle at Corinth, and compulsory re-enlistment, 19 James H. Knighton letters; comments on war news, hardships, camp life, retreat from Chattanooga, Vicksburg and Atlanta campaigns, Confederate deserters, and Confederate women. 9 James H. Doyle letters; comments on retreat from Liberty, Mississippi, to Mobile and Selma, Alabama, war rumors, soldiers as "first class slaves," military maneuvers of Army of Tennessee in Atlanta Campaign, and capture of General Stoneman. 12 Lee ____ letters
Tennessee--History--19th century.	1862, 1864, 1866-1867	Confederate soldiers' letters concern activities of 4 <sup>th</sup> Louisiana Infantry and 9 <sup>th</sup> Tennessee Battery Cavalry, and Reconstruction.
Valentine's Day--Louisiana--Clinton.	1859, 1874, undated	handwritten verse to "My dear Doctor," and Mollie Knighton. 3 items
Vicksburg (Miss.)--History--Siege, 1863.	1862	strength of Confederate defense against Federal troops, May 24; comments on intention of Johnston's collecting troops near Jackson to attack Federals on Big Black and denial by Pemberton that he sold out [William Hicks] Jackson, May 27.

**CONTAINER LIST**

<u>Stack Location</u>	<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder(s)</u>	<u>Contents (with dates)</u>
E:21	1	1-7b	Josiah Knighton and Family Papers (1793, 1801-1896)
	2	8-14 v. 1-4	Josiah Knighton and Family Papers (1897-1909, undated)
MF:5735, Series B	--	Reel 11	1 microfilm reel containing selected papers of the Josiah Knighton and Family Papers. Omission: Volumes 1-4