

ROBERT M. LUSHER PAPERS
Mss. 696, 788, 1025, 1161, 1353
Inventory

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

Revised 2008, 2021

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Use of manuscript materials. If you wish to examine items in the manuscript group, please place a request via the Special Collections Request System. Consult the Container List for location information.

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Proper acknowledgement of LLMVC materials must be made in any resulting writing or publications. The correct form of citation for this manuscript group is given on the summary page. Copies of scholarly publications based on research in the Louisiana and Lower Mississippi Valley Collections are welcomed.

SUMMARY

Size.	1.3 linear feet, 33 volumes
Geographic locations.	Louisiana
Inclusive dates.	1795-1941
Bulk dates.	1856-1890
Language.	English, French
Summary.	Materials primarily concerning the state of education in Louisiana during the ante and post-bellum periods. Also included are diaries and personal correspondence of Lusher to friends and colleagues.
Organization.	Series I. Personal Papers, 1808-1941 Series II. Printed Items, 1857-1870 Series III. Autobiography and Other Writings, 1889-1890 Series IV. Manuscript Volumes, 1795-1890 Series V. Artifacts, 1840-1880
Restrictions on access.	Volume 29: <i>Pamphlets</i> (1795-1802) and artifacts are housed in the vault and are restricted due to fragility. Access requires curator's permission.
Related collections.	Robert M. Lusher Papers, Mss. 3376
Copyright.	Copyright of the original materials is retained by descendants of the creators in accordance with U.S. copyright law.
Citation.	Robert M. Lusher Papers, Mss. 696, 788, 1025, etc., Louisiana and Lower Mississippi Valley Collections, LSU Libraries, Baton Rouge, La.
Stack location(s).	C:43-44; G:17; OS:L; Vault:12

BIOGRAPHICAL/HISTORICAL NOTE

Robert Mills Lusher was born in Charleston, S.C. in 1823 to George and Sarah Mills Lusher. He studied architecture with his uncle Robert Mills until entering Georgetown University. In 1842, he moved to Louisiana, taught in St. James Parish and then entered law school at the University of Louisiana in New Orleans.

Lusher served as clerk of the Confederate States District Court and chief tax collector for the Louisiana government during the Civil War. Prior to the war he taught in New Orleans and was appointed by the city council to the board of directors of the New Orleans Public Schools. He held the position of Louisiana State Superintendent of Education in 1856 and again from 1876 to 1879. Together with Professor W. O. Rogers, he began publication of the Louisiana Journal of Education. Lusher was married to Alice Lamberton and he died in November 1890.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

Papers pertain to education in Louisiana during Reconstruction, teacher recruitment and training, military government, the Republican Party, education of African Americans, the Peabody Foundation for Education in the South, and the Peabody Normal Seminary in New Orleans. Correspondence (1808-1847) consists of letters from members of the Mills and related families of Philadelphia and Washington, D.C. Manuscript volumes consist of diaries (1839-1890), letter books (1858-1863), record books (1877-1880), and scrapbooks (1860, 1864-1867).

Other items include genealogical material, a letter (in French) from a member of the D'Auvary family (March 20, 1840), a letter from Charleston, S.C. describing historical landmarks (undated), and several medals including the Robert E. Lee Memorial medal. Also included are newspaper clippings (1939-1941) describing the presentation of Alice Lamberton Lusher paintings to Sophie Wright High School.

SERIES DESCRIPTIONS

Series I. Personal Papers, 1808-1941, undated

A number of letters were written by family members and later sent to Robert Lusher from his cousin Mary for him to read. These include letters of Sarah Lusher, his mother (December 1808, April 29, 1812), a letter of George Lusher, his father (January 14, 1812), letters of his brother Henry M. Lusher (1829-1833), one of which describes a surveying expedition in the Chickasaw territory in Mississippi (November 9, 1833), and a letter in French written by a member of the D'Auvary family (March 20, 1840). A letter to Lusher from his uncle Robert Mills discusses family matters, John Dimitry, and the Pacific Railroad (March 22, 1849). Other papers include special memoranda concerning students, teachers, events at various schools (June-December 1857), a report card of Alice Lusher, his daughter (March 1, 1861), and a certificate for Robert Lusher from the Order of Sons of Temperance (January 1870). A letter from Lusher to his first wife, Augusta, discusses his travels and the recent occupation of New Orleans (April 27, 1862), and a number of letters to his daughter inquire about the family (May-September 1862).

Later correspondence includes a letter offering Lusher honorary membership in the Hermesian Society at Emory and Henry College in Virginia and his letter of acceptance (April 18, May 24, 1871), Lusher's acceptance into the New Orleans Academy of Sciences (June 3, 1872), and a letter to the editor of the *New Orleans Republican* from Lusher concerning the Peabody Education Fund (September 29, 1873). In a letter to Lusher, his cousin John Dimitry includes the dedication to Lusher from his book *Lessons in the History of Louisiana* (August 10, 1877). Also included is the certificate of Alice Lamberton, Lusher's second wife, to teach in New Orleans public schools (October 18, 1877), a letter from Edward Lusher in Montreal inquiring about their family connection (January 14, 1878) and Robert Lusher's reply (January 27, 1878), and lists of books received from various companies for the library at Peabody Normal Seminary in New Orleans (August 1878). A handwritten copy of "The Plant World" by E.M. Hardinge which appeared in *Demorest's Monthly Magazine* (May 1887) is included, as well as the olographic will and testament of Lusher (April 2, 1889). A letter to Alice Lusher concerns the dedication of the R.M. Lusher School (March 1, 1913) and a memorandum discusses the graves of George and Sarah Mills Lusher (undated). Also found in the collection is poetry of John Dimitry (undated).

Genealogical material consists of pages from a family bible concerning family history (ca. 1890), a biography of Robert Mills Lusher (undated), and a number of family records regarding the ancestors of Robert Mills (undated).

Series II. Printed Items, 1857-1870, undated

Printed items include newspaper clippings, periodicals, printed volumes, and circulars. Newspaper clippings discuss legislation concerning education, various schools in New Orleans, the death of John Dimitry, and the Lusher family (1860-1941). A circular discusses a monument to the late Governor Henry Watkins Allen (May 22, 1866). Photocopies of letters from Robert Lusher as the State Superintendent of Public Education to all police juries in Louisiana concern

the redistricting of parishes in order to establish town and village schools (July 30-31, 1866). A printed speech of Alexander H. Stephens to the Georgia Legislature entitled "North and South" is also included (1866), as are holiday cards (undated).

Periodicals include *The Seaside Library*, *The Contemporary Review*, *Harper's Franklin Square Library*, *The Fortnightly Review*, *The Standard Series*, *The Humboldt Library of Popular Science Literature*, while printed volumes consist of a program for memorial ceremonies in honor of Robert E. Lee held in the St. Charles Theatre in New Orleans (October 18, 1870), *The Book-Lover's Rosary* (undated), "Discourse on the Life and Character of George Peabody" by Severn Teackle Wallis (July 10, 1872), and the eulogy for the funeral of George Peabody (February 1870).

Series III. Autobiography and Other Writings, 1889-1890, undated

These writings include an address on Paul H. Hayne (undated), drafts of Lusher's autobiography (May 1889-June 1890), and drafts of Lusher's "History of Early State System of Education in Louisiana" (undated).

Series IV. Manuscript Volumes, 1795-1890

Manuscript volumes consist of diaries (1839-1890), letter books (1858-1863), record books (1877-1880), and scrapbooks (1860, 1864-1867). His diaries describe, in detail, his daily activities, a record of his correspondence, his views on religion, and information about public schools in New Orleans, while his record books list payments and debts. His letter book contains his correspondence with the Board of Directors of Public School (1858-1861) and a scrapbook holds circulars written by Lusher as the State Superintendent of Public Schools and newspaper clippings concerning public schools in various Louisiana parishes (1864-1867). Finally, a bound volume of early imprints, entitled *Pamphlets*, is found in the collection (1795-1802).

Series V. Artifacts, 1840-1880

Also included in the collection are a Robert E. Lee Memorial Medal (New Orleans, 1871), three medals from Georgetown College (1840), and a George Peabody medal (1880). These medals are housed in the vault and are restricted to access.

INDEX TERMS

Materials relating to these people, places, and things can be found throughout the entire collection.

African Americans--Education--Louisiana.

Clippings.

Correspondence.

Diaries.

Education--Louisiana.

Historic buildings--South Carolina--Charleston.

Letter books.

Louisiana--Politics and government--1865-1950.

Lusher, Alice Lamberton.

Medals.

Mills family.

Pamphlets.

Peabody Normal Seminary.

Public schools--Louisiana.

Reconstruction (U.S. history, 1865-1877)--Louisiana.

Republican Party (U.S. : 1854-)

Robert S. Peabody Foundation for Education in the South.

Teachers--Louisiana.

School superintendents--Louisiana.

Scrapbooks.

CONTAINER LIST

<u>Stack</u>	<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder(s)</u>	<u>Contents (with dates)</u>
			Series I. Personal Papers
C:43-44	1	1-3	Correspondence, 1808-1931, undated
		4	Genealogical materials
OS:L	10	1	Genealogical material: Ancestors of Robert Mills
C:43-44	1	5	Newspaper clippings, 1860-1941
OS:L	--	1	Certificate of Alice Lamberton to teach in New Orleans public schools, October 18, 1877
C:43-44	1	6	Series II. Printed Items, 1857-1866, undated
		7	Poetry
			<u>Periodicals:</u>
		8-9	<i>The Seaside Library</i>
	2	1	<i>The Contemporary Review</i>
		2	<i>Harper's Franklin Square Library; The Fortnightly Review</i>
	3	1-2	Printed volumes, 1870, undated
			<u>Periodicals:</u>
		3-6	<i>The Standard Series</i>
	4	1-3	<i>The Humboldt Library of Popular Science Literature</i>
		4	Loose newspaper clippings removed from Scrapbook, 1860-1866
		5	Loose newspaper clippings removed from Scrapbook, 1867, undated
			Series III. Autobiography and Other Writings
	5	1	An Address on Paul H. Hayne
		2	Manuscript of May 31, 1889
OS:L	10	2-4	Manuscripts of January and September 6, 1889; June 1890
C:43-44	5	3-8	"History of Early State System of Education in Louisiana"
			Series IV. Manuscript Volumes
G:17	6	--	Vol. 1: Diary, 1839-1840
		--	Vol. 2: Diary, 1856
		--	Vol. 3: Diary, 1857
		--	Vol. 4: Diary, 1862
		--	Vol. 5: Diary, 1863
		--	Vol. 6: Diary, 1863-1864
		--	Vol. 7: Diary, 1872
		--	Vol. 8: Diary, 1875
		--	Vol. 9: Diary, 1876
		--	Vol. 10: Diary, 1876
		--	Vol. 11: Diary, 1877

Stack

<u>Location</u>	<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder(s)</u>	<u>Contents (with dates)</u>	
G:17	6	--	Vol. 12: Diary, 1878	
	7	--	Vol. 13: Diary, 1879	
		--	Vol. 14: Diary, 1880	
		--	Vol. 15: Diary, 1881	
		--	Vol. 16: Diary, 1882	
		--	Vol. 17: Diary, 1883	
		--	Vol. 18: Diary, 1884	
		--	Vol. 19: Diary, 1885	
		--	Vol. 20: Diary, 1886	
		--	Vol. 21: Diary, 1887	
		--	Vol. 22: Diary, 1888	
		--	Vol. 23: Diary, 1889	
		--	Vol. 24: Diary, 1890	
		--	Vol. 25: Letter Book, 1858-1863	
		7	--	Vol. 26: Record Book, 1877-1879
		--	--	Vol. 27: Record Book, 1880
		--	--	Vol. 28: Scrapbook, 1864-1867
	OS:L	--	1	Loose newspaper clippings removed from Vol. 28 scrapbook, 1864-1867, undated
	Vault:12	8	--	Vol. 29: Bound volume of early imprints, 1795-1802
				Series V. Artifacts
	9	--	5 medals	