

**See also UPA Microfilm:**  
MF 5735, Series B, Reels 3-4

**CHAMBERS (ROWLAND) DIARIES**  
(Mss. 839)  
Inventory

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

Reformatted 2003  
Revised 2010

CONTENTS OF INVENTORY

SUMMARY ..... 3  
BIOGRAPHICAL/HISTORICAL NOTE ..... 4  
SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE ..... 4  
COLLECTION DESCRIPTION ..... 5  
INDEX TERMS ..... 7  
CONTAINER LIST ..... 8

**Use of manuscript materials.** If you wish to examine items in the manuscript group, please fill out a call slip specifying the materials you wish to see. Consult the Container List for location information needed on the call slip.

**Photocopying.** Should you wish to request photocopies, please consult a staff member. The existing order and arrangement of unbound materials must be maintained.

**Publication.** Readers assume full responsibility for compliance with laws regarding copyright, literary property rights, and libel.

**Permission to examine archival materials does not constitute permission to publish. Any publication of such materials beyond the limits of fair use requires specific prior written permission. Requests for permission to publish should be addressed in writing to the Head, Public Services, Special Collections, LSU Libraries, Baton Rouge, LA, 70803-3300. When permission to publish is granted, two copies of the publication will be requested for the LLMVC.**

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**

<b>Size.</b>	7 volumes and 1 typescript
<b>Geographic locations.</b>	New Orleans, La.; St. Louis, Mo.; Natchez, Miss.; Panama City, Panama
<b>Inclusive dates.</b>	1849-1863
<b>Bulk dates.</b>	1858-1860
<b>Language.</b>	English
<b>Summary.</b>	Diaries of Dr. Rowland Chambers, dentist, from 1848-1863. Entries pertain to Chambers' work in Panama, Yazoo County, Miss., and Madison Parish, La. Also includes a personal account of the Union siege of Vicksburg from May 26, 1862 to June 30, 1863.
<b>Organization.</b>	Journals arranged chronologically
<b>Restrictions on access.</b>	No restrictions. If microfilm is available, photocopies must be made from microfilm.
<b>Related collections.</b>	N/A
<b>Copyright.</b>	Copyright of the original materials is retained by descendants of the creators in accordance with U.S. copyright law.
<b>Citation.</b>	Rowland Chambers Diaries, Mss. 839, Louisiana and Lower Mississippi Valley Collections, LSU Libraries, Baton Rouge, La.
<b>Stack location(s).</b>	G:16
<b>Also available on.</b>	Microfilm 5735, Series B, Reel 3-4

**BIOGRAPHICAL/HISTORICAL NOTE**

Dr. Rowland Chambers was an itinerant dentist of Vicksburg, Mississippi. He was born in 1803 or 1804 and died in 1866 at age 63.

**SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE**

Diaries and journals of Dr. Rowland Chambers. The six diaries of Dr. Chambers extend over the period from 1849 to 1863. In 1849, Chambers was a resident of North St. Louis. His early diaries record the voyage from St. Louis to Panama City, Panama, by way of New Orleans and smaller towns in Panama such as Chagres, Gorgona, and Cruces. He also discusses his views of religious ceremonies in Panama (1850). Chambers practiced dentistry in Panama City for a year and returned to Natchez in 1851.

During the years 1858-1860, the diarist lived in Sataria, Yazoo County, Mississippi, and Richmond, Madison Parish, Louisiana. Chambers travelled the surrounding territory and mentions the places visited, the names of his patients and their slaves, his health and the health of his patients and their families, his activities at home, local events, visitors at his house, and the weather.

The diary for the years 1862 and 1863 lists Chambers as a citizen of Vicksburg, Mississippi. He gives a personal account of the siege of Vicksburg beginning with the events of May 26, 1862, continuing through the summer of that year, and lapsing after the withdrawal of the Federal armies which signified the end of the first campaign against the city. When resumption of the campaign threatened in December 1862, Chambers resumed his diary account and kept it regularly until the end of June 1863.

The journals which are part of the diaries list yearly income, names of patients, kinds of dental work performed, and amounts received for services.

Also included in the collection is a diary of Augustus Lattz, Company H, 76<sup>th</sup> Regiment, Illinois Volunteers, which includes a few entries concerning the activities of his regiment. Typed transcripts are available for two of the diaries.

**COLLECTION DESCRIPTION**

- Volume 1**     **Diary. California Expedition from St. Louis, Mo. November 10, 1849—Easter Sunday 1850 (copied and Journal.)**  
Diary of Rowland Chambers of St. Louis, Missouri, written as an account. Made the trip from St. Louis to New Orleans on the steamboat *Atlantic*. Left New Orleans on Nov. 22, 1849 on the schooner *American* for Chagres. Mentions that many of the passengers were seasick and two died of cholera. Arrived at Chagres on Dec. 11. Describes Chagres, and the trip up the river to Cruces. Gives details of carry[ing] baggage across the Isthmus to Panama. Describes the town of Panama and states, "I Rented me an office for the purpose of practicing Dentistry on the 26 of December 1849 at the Rates of \$30.00 per month." Gives a description of the religious ceremonies leading up to Easter Sunday. (Typescript of diary).
- Second half of the book lists charges made for dental work in Natchez. It is in the form of a journal, from Jan. 1, 1852 to Nov., 1852, and Sept., 1851 to Dec., 1851.
- [?] Journal entries, Sept. 1851, Nov. 1852  
Cash entries, May-Oct. 1849
- Volume 2**     **Journal and Diary**  
Journal. North St. Louis. May 1, 1849 – Oct. 21, 1849.  
Diary from Jan. 1, 1851 to Feb. 1, 1851 describes trip from Panama to Garichena. Mentions hunting with Indians, their habits, food, clothing and means of travel.
- Volume 3**     **Diary. Jan. 1, 1858-Dec., 1858.**  
**Satartia, Yazoo County, Mississippi**  
Mentions places visited, names of patients, kind of dental work, and amount received for services. Some items list work done on slaves on plantations. Also gives daily weather report and some personal items.
- Volume 4**     **Diary. Jan. 1, 1859-Dec. 31, 1859.**  
**Richmond, Madison Parish, Louisiana**  
Entries are chiefly for residents of Madison, East and West Carroll, and Richland parishes. In the cash accounts, Chambers lists the names of his patients by months, the amount received from each one, and the total amount received for the year.
- Volume 5**     **Diary. Jan. 1, 1860-Dec. 25, 1860.**  
**Richmond, Madison Parish, Louisiana**  
Entries are similar to those of volume 4 until Oct. 21, at which time Dr. Chambers was taken ill. The total amount received for the year was about one-third of the amount received for the year 1859.

**CHAMBERS (ROWLAND) DIARIES**

1849-1863

**Mss. 839**

LSU Libraries Special Collections

**Volume 6     Diary. May 26, 1862-June 30, 1863.**

**Vicksburg, Mississippi**

Early entries are accounts for 1858 and 1859. Diary gives a day-by-day account of the siege of Vicksburg. (Typescript of diary).

Cash entries, June 1858-Apr. 1859, including a few diary entries, June 7-26, 1858.

**Volume 7     Diary. Jan. 10, 1863-July 25, 1863.**

**Augustus Lattz, Company H, 76<sup>th</sup> Regiment, Illinois Volunteers.**

Entries concern activities around Vicksburg and Jackson.

**INDEX TERMS**

Dentistry--Louisiana.

Dentistry--Mississippi.

Dentists--Mississippi.

Diaries.

Lattz, Augustus.

Panama--Description and travel.

Slaves--Medical care--Louisiana.

Slaves--Medical care--Mississippi.

United States--History--Civil War, 1861-1865--Personal narratives.

Vicksburg (Miss.)--History--Civil War, 1861-1865--Personal narratives.

Vicksburg (Miss.)--History--Siege, 1863.

**CONTAINER LIST**

<u>Stack</u>			
<u>Location</u>	<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder(s)</u>	<u>Contents (with dates)</u>
G:16	1	--	Volumes 1-7 (1849-1863) Typed transcripts of Volumes 1, 6
Microfilm 5735	--	--	Series B, Reels 3-4