

**ANDREW LYTLE PHOTOGRAPH COLLECTION**

Mss. 4028

Inventory

Compiled by  
Tara Zachary

2001

Edited by  
Mark E. Martin

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

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**SUMMARY**

<b>Size</b>	0.3 linear feet
<b>Geographic Locations</b>	Baton Rouge, La.
<b>Inclusive Dates</b>	1816-1904
<b>Languages</b>	English
<b>Summary</b>	Thirty-six photographs comprising four series document Louisiana governors and other state officials, 1816-1880; Louisiana State University cadets, date unknown; the Old State Capitol, date unknown; and riverboats, 1895-1902. All images carry the Andrew D. Lytle studio stamp, have the name "Lytle" somewhere in the image area, or have been attributed to the Lytle Studio. Collection compiled by Oliver Brice Steele.
<b>Access Restrictions</b>	No restrictions.
<b>Copyright</b>	Physical rights are retained by the LSU Libraries. Copyright of the original materials is retained by descendants of the creators of the materials in accordance with U.S. copyright law.
<b>Related Collections</b>	Andrew D. Lytle Collection, Mss. 893, 1254 Andrew D. Lytle Album Photograph Collection, Mss. 3708 Andrew D. Lytle Photograph Collection, Mss. 2600 Henry L. Fuqua, Jr. Lytle Photograph Collection and Papers, Mss. 1898
<b>Citation</b>	Andrew Lytle Photograph Collection, Mss. 4028, Louisiana and Lower Mississippi Valley Collections, LSU Libraries, Baton Rouge, Louisiana.
<b>Stack Location(s)</b>	D:96

**Note: Some of these images are available online in the Louisiana Digital Library, available at:**

<https://louisianadigitallibrary.org/islandora/search/%22Mss.%204028%22?type=dismax>

## BIOGRAPHICAL AND HISTORICAL NOTE

**Oliver Brice Steele**, Confederate veteran, Baton Rouge banker, and Louisiana state auditor, collected these photographs created by the Lytle Studio and Andrew David Lytle, photographer active in Baton Rouge, 1858–1917.

**Andrew David Lytle**, Born in Ohio, 1834 April 4, grew up in Cincinnati from the age of six. When he was twenty-one years old, Andrew married nineteen-year-old Mary Ann Lundy.

Andrew had taken a job at William Southgate Porter's daguerreotype studio in Cincinnati. In the spring and summer, he and Mary traveled as itinerant photographer and wife through Alabama, Georgia, and Tennessee.

By 1857 the Lytles arrived in Baton Rouge during one of their itinerant seasons. It was in Baton Rouge that their first son, Andrew S. Lytle, was born. It was also here that Lytle took on a partner, Mr. Gibson, about whom we know very little. Together, Lytle and Gibson set up a studio in the Heroman Building in Baton Rouge. Their partnership was short-lived lasting only from December 1858 to April 1859. The *Baton Rouge Daily Advocate* carried the death notice of Andrew and Mary's son on 1859 March 10. On March 11 the same paper carried an advertisement saying Lytle and Gibson were leaving town. Five days later another advertisement stated Lytle and Gibson were leaving in eight days. There is no clear indication that Lytle and Gibson did indeed leave Baton Rouge, but Mr. Gibson disappears from advertisements never to appear again.

By 1859 September the Lytles were looking for a house to rent in the central part of town. Andrew moved his studio to Main Street a few blocks from the Mississippi River close to one of the busiest hotels in Baton Rouge.

As the nation moved toward war in late 1860 Lytle advertised in local newspapers on both sides of the Mississippi River. He also used his experience with a paramilitary group in Ohio to work with a local militia organization to train new recruits for the Confederacy.

When the Federal forces occupied Baton Rouge in May 1862 Lytle started his photographic relationship with the U.S. Army and Navy. He created a number of images of the occupying army encampments around the United States Army garrison on the north edge of town and elsewhere around Baton Rouge. He also created photographs of the United States Navy's West Gulf Blockading Squadron under Admiral James Glasgow Farragut.

Andrew and Mary had a second son in 1864. This son also died before reaching the age of four years.

Lytle's studio was so successful during the Civil War that he was able to pay a substantial amount of cash for a property with buildings a few doors down from the Governor's Mansion on North Boulevard. This became the Lytle family home for the next sixty years.

In the 1870s Mary and Andrew had two more children – Howard and Ethel - both of whom lived into adulthood. Howard joined his father in the studio sometime between 1885 and 1890. The 1905 city directory lists the studio as "Lytle & Son."

It is likely that as Andrew aged Howard took over more of the actual photographic work, especially the outdoor field photography the studio increasingly began to produce in the 1890s and which required use of 8" x 10" glass photographic negative plates, a camera for those plates, and a heavy wooden tripod for the camera.

The studio won contracts to photographically document the state penitentiary system around 1899. This contract required trips to the state penitentiary complex then in Baton Rouge (bordered by Main and Laurel Streets on the north and south and 7<sup>th</sup> Street and 12<sup>th</sup> Street on the west and east), the Angola and Hope state farms, and the Atchafalaya River basin levee camps. Some of the images from that contract were used to illustrate the *Biennial Report of the Board of Control for the Louisiana State Penitentiary* (1901-02 and 1902-03: HV 8338 A2 1901-1902 / 1902-1903). To see more of the images from that job please see Henry L. Fuqua, Jr. Lytle Photograph Collection and Papers, Mss. 1898.

Howard married Lillie Dickenson in 1889. They had two children, Mary Sue Lytle (born 1890) and Andrew David Lytle, Jr. (born 1892).

Mary Lytle, Andrew's wife for over forty years, died in 1898.

In 1910 an agent for the publisher of *The Photographic History of the Civil War*, published for the fiftieth anniversary of the war, came to Baton Rouge and purchased most of the surviving negatives Lytle had created during the Federal occupation of Baton Rouge. The agent also spoke to Howard about the role his father had played in the war. It is from that conversation and the subsequent write up in *The Photographic History* that the story of Lytle as "camera spy for the Confederacy" was born. Other than this tale, told fifty years after the fact to a journalist, there is no record whatsoever of any such espionage by Lytle.

Andrew David Lytle, Jr. died of typhus in 1911 while a student cadet at Louisiana State University. Howard died in 1915, perhaps from tuberculosis. Andrew David Lytle, Sr. died in 1917 at the age of 83.

Sometime in the 1920s, as the heirs of Andrew David Lytle, Sr. moved out of the family home on North Boulevard, almost all of the glass photographic negative plates were destroyed. A small cache of negatives were discovered in the 1960s. Please see Andrew D. Lytle Photograph Collection, Mss. 2600, for those images

**SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE**

The collection contains thirty-six photographs comprising four series documenting: Louisiana governors and other state officials, 1816-1880; Louisiana State University cadets, date unknown; the Old State Capitol, date unknown; and riverboats, 1895-1902. All images carry the Andrew D. Lytle studio stamp, have the name "Lytle" somewhere in the image area, or have been attributed to the Lytle Studio.

The Louisiana governors and state officials series begins in 1816 and continues through 1904. Breaks in the timeline occur from 1828-1850, 1862-1864, 1865-1868, and 1880-1900. There are only two other state officials included, State Treasurer Pickett and LSU treasurer Harney Skolfield.

Two identified LSU cadets comprise the second series. One lantern slide comprises the third series.

The fourth series contains fifteen images of riverboats, many of which have been fully laden with cotton bales. All fifteen riverboats have been identified.

**LIST OF SERIES**

**Series I. Louisiana governors and state officials, 1816-1904**

**Series II. LSU cadets, circa 1890**

**Series III. Lantern slide, circa 1885**

**Series IV. Riverboats, circa 1890-1900**

**SERIES DESCRIPTIONS**

**Series I. Louisiana governors and state officials, 1816-1904**

This series begins in 1816 and continues through 1904. Breaks in the timeline occur from 1828-1850, 1862-1864, 1865-1868, and 1880-1900. There are two other state officials included, State Treasurer Pickett and LSU treasurer Harney Skolfield.

**Series II. LSU cadets, circa 1890**

This series contains two identified LSU cadet portraits.

**Series III. Lantern slide, circa 1885**

This series contains one lantern slide of the Louisiana State Capitol.

**Series IV. Riverboats, circa 1890-1900**

This series contains fifteen images of riverboats, many of which have been fully laden with cotton bales. All fifteen riverboats have been identified.



INDEX TERMS

The subjects listed on the left may be found in the series represented by the associated number on the right. Series III has been digitized in its entirety. For the topics keyed to show they can be found in Series III, the additional "4028 number" is the unique identifier for each image. This number can be found on the original photographs, and the full string identifies individual images in the digitized portion of this collection, available at:

<https://louisianadigitallibrary.org/islandora/search/%22Mss.%204028%22?type=dismax>

Subject	Found in Series
Allen, Henry Watkins, 1820-1866--Portraits.	I
America (River steamer)--Photographs.	III:4028_022
Capitols--Louisiana--Baton Rouge--Photographs.	III
City of Camden (River steamer)--Photographs.	III:4028_024
Corona (River steamer)--Photographs.	III:4028_027
Cotton--Transportation--Louisiana--Photographs.	III: 4028_021; 4028_023; 4028_024; 4028_025; 4028_026; 4028_027; 4028_028; 4028_029; 4028_030; 4028_031; 4028_032; 4028_033; 4028_034
Edward J. Gay (River steamer)--Photographs.	III:4028_035
Era No. 10 (River steamer)--Photographs.	III:4028_025
Fred A. Banks (River steamer)--Photographs.	III:4028_030; 4028_031
Governors--Louisiana--Portraits.	I
H.M. Carter (River steamer)--Photographs.	III:4028_028
Hallett (River steamer)--Photographs.	III:4028_021
Heard, William Wright (W. W.), 1853-1926--Portraits.	I
Hébert, Paul Octave, 1818-1880--Portraits.	I
J.M. White (River steamer)--Photographs.	III:4028_033
Johnson, Henry, 1783-1864--Portraits.	I
Johnson, Isaac, 1803-1853--Portraits.	I
Kellogg, William Pitt, 1830-1918--Portraits.	I
Lantern slides--Louisiana--Baton Rouge.	III
Louisiana State University and Agricultural and Mechanical College. Corps of Cadets--Photographs.	II
McEnery, Samuel Douglas, 1837-1910--Portraits.	I

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1816-1904

Moore, Thomas Overton, 1804-1876--Portraits.	I
Natchez (River steamer)--Photographs.	III:4028_032
Nicholls, Francis Redding Tillou, 1834-1912--Portraits.	I
Old State Capitol (Baton Rouge, La.)--Photographs.	III
Ouchita (River steamer)--Photographs.	III:4028_023
Pickett, John--Portraits.	I
River steamers--Louisiana--Photographs.	III:4028_021; 4028_022; 4028_023; 4028_024; 4028_025; 4028_026; 4028_027; 4028_028; 4028_029; 4028_030; 4028_031; 4028_032; 4028_033; 4028_034; 4028_035
Robertson, Thomas Bolling, 1779-1828--Portraits.	I
Saint John (River steamer)--Photographs.	III:4028_029
Skolfield, Harney--Portraits.	I
Valley Queen (River steamer)--Photographs.	III:4028_034
Villéré, Jacques Phillippe, 1761-1830--Portraits.	I
Walker, Joseph Marshall, 1784-1856--Portraits.	I
Warmoth, Henry Clay, 1842-1931--Portraits.	I
White, Sr., Edward Douglass, 1795-1847--Portraits.	I
Wickliffe, Robert Charles, 1819-1895--Portraits.	I
William Garig (River steamer)--Photographs.	III: 4028_026

**Mss. 4028****SPECIAL COLLECTIONS, LSU LIBRARIES**

**Stack**

<b>Location</b>	<b>Box</b>	<b>Folders</b>	<b>Contents</b>
<b>D:96</b>	1	3	<b>Series I. Louisiana governors and state officials, 1816-1904</b> Jacques Philippe Villere, governor 1816-1820 Thomas Bolling Robertson, governor 1820-1824 Henry S. Johnson, governor 1824-1828 Edward Douglas White, governor 1835-1839 Isaac Johnson, governor 1846-1850 Joseph Marshall Walker, governor 1850-1853 Paul O. Hebert, governor 1853-1856 Robert Charles Wickliffe, governor 1856-1860 (2 copies) Thomas Overton Moore, governor 1860-1864
		4	Henry Watkins Allen, governor 1864-1865
		5	Henry Clay Warmouth, governor 1868-1872
		6	William Pitt Kellogg, governor 1872-1876 1873-1877
		7	Samuel Douglas McEnery, lieutenant governor 1880-1881, governor 1881-1888
		8	Francis Tillou Nicholls, governor 1877-1879, 1888-1892
		9	William Wright Heard, governor 1900-1904
		10	Harvey Skolfield, LSU treasurer 1834-1905
		11	John Pickett, state treasurer 1892-96
			<b>Series II. LSU cadets, circa 1890</b>
		1	Armand Classeigne
2	Alexander Lejeune		
12	<b>Series III. Lantern slide, circa 1885</b> Louisiana State Capitol		
	<b>Series IV. Riverboats, circa 1890-1900</b>		
13	Steamship 'Hallett'		
14	Steamship 'America'		
15	Steamship 'Ouchita'		
16	Steamship 'City of Camden'		
17	Steamship 'Era No. 10'		
18	Steamship 'William Garig'		
19	Steamship 'Corona'		
20	Steamship 'H.M. Carter'		
21	Steamship 'Saint John'		
22	Steamship 'Fred A. Banks'		
23	Steamship 'Fred A. Banks'		
24	Steamship 'Natchez'		
25	Steamship 'J.M. White'		
26	Steamship 'Valley Queen'		
27	Steamship 'Edward J. Gay'		