

Aaron Burton Levissee Papers

A Finding Aid to the Collection in the
Library of Congress

Prepared by Joseph K. Brooks



Manuscript Division, Library of
Congress

Washington, D.C.

2009

Contact information: <http://lcweb.loc.gov/rr/mss/address.html>

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Collection Summary

Title: Aaron Burton Levissee Papers

Span Dates: 1847-1992

Bulk Dates: (bulk 1847-1895)

ID No.: MSS81878

Creator: Levissee, Aaron Burton

Extent: 18 items; 2 containers; 0.8 linear feet

Language: Collection material in English

Repository: Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Abstract: Lawyer, educator, Louisiana state legislator, and Confederate soldier. Diaries, obituaries, and clippings documenting Levissee's activities as a student at the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor, school teacher in Alabama, lawyer in Louisiana, soldier in the Confederate army, judge and state legislator in Louisiana during Reconstruction, Republican elector for Louisiana, and Internal Revenue Service agent.

Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

Personal Names

Levissee, Aaron Burton.

Organizations

Confederate States of America. Army.

Republican Party (La.)

University of Michigan.

Subjects

Education--Alabama.

Internal revenue--California.

Internal revenue--Northwest, Pacific.

Judges--Louisiana.

Practice of law--Louisiana.

Presidents--United States--Election--1876.

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

Locations

Louisiana--Politics and government--1861-1950.

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

Occupations

Educators.

Lawyers.

Legislators--Louisiana.

Soldiers, Confederate.

Administrative Information

Provenance:

The papers of Aaron Burton Levissee, lawyer, educator, Louisiana state legislator, and Confederate soldier, were given to the Library of Congress by Marion Levissee Cotter in 1992.

Processing History:

The papers of Aaron Burton Levissee were arranged and described in 1995. The finding aid was revised in 2009.

Copyright Status:

The status of copyright in the unpublished writings of Aaron Burton Levissee is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.).

Access and Restrictions:

The papers of Aaron Burton Levissee are open to research. Researchers are advised to contact the Manuscript Reading Room prior to visiting. Many collections are stored off-site and advance notice is needed to retrieve these items for research use.

Preferred Citation:

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: Container number, Aaron Burton Levissee Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Scope and Content Note

The papers of Aaron Burton Levissee (1821-1907) span the years 1847-1992 and consist mainly of diaries Levissee kept between 1847 and 1895. In 1881 Levissee wrote a lengthy summary of his life and activities beginning with 1840. It commences on page ninety seven of volume four. The summary, termed "The Annals" by Levissee, was transcribed by his great-granddaughter, Marion Levissee Cotter.

The diaries document Levissee's life and career in several states and regions. Born and raised in Ohio and educated at the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor, he moved to the South before the Civil War, teaching school in Alabama and practicing law in Louisiana. He continued his law practice in Shreveport, Louisiana, early in the war, later serving in the Confederate army on the staff of the inspector general in the Trans-Mississippi Department.

During the Reconstruction era, he was elected successively as a judge and state legislator from the district that includes Shreveport. Levissee presided over the trial of Ku Klux Klan members who murdered a black man for casting a vote for Ulysses S. Grant in the 1868 presidential election. He assumed his duties as a legislator in 1874 at the height of an armed conflict between Republican supporters and the White League over control of the state legislature.

Levissee, a Republican elector for Louisiana during the 1876 presidential contest, later pursued careers as an Internal Revenue Service agent, rancher, farmer, and lawyer in the Pacific Northwest, California, and South Dakota.

Arrangement of the Papers

This collection is arranged alphabetically by type of material.

Container List

<i>Container</i>	<i>Contents</i>
BOX 1	Diaries
BOX 1	Vols. 1-4, 1847-1883
BOX 2	Vol. 5, 1879-1881
BOX 2	Vol. 7, 1892-1895
BOX 2	Unnumbered fragment, 1867-1873
BOX 2	Transcription of vol. 4, 1880-1883, by Marion Levissee Cotter, 1992
BOX 2	Obituaries of Levissee and other clippings, 1879-1907, undated