Guide to the Dellet-Torrey Collection

Descriptive Summary:

Creator: Multiple Title: Dellet-Torrey Collection Dates: 1582-1996 [Bulk 1830-1920] Quantity: 152 books, .5 linear feet photographs, .5 linear feet papers. Abstract: This collection represents the lives, business activities, and public careers of the Dellet-Gibbons-Torrey-Henshaw-Toulmin Families of Mobile and Claiborne, Alabama, interconnected by marriage over the course of multiple generations, focusing mainly on the 1830s to early 20th century. The collection includes: atlases, correspondence, family histories, manuscripts, memoirs, news clippings, photographs, prints, publications, and rare books.

Accession: 689-2017

Biographical Note:

James Dellet (1788-1848), a patriarch of the family, was an influential planter, lawyer, and politician. Born in New Jersey, he brought his family to Claiborne, Alabama in 1818 where he was a highly effective lawyer and public figure for many years. He became Alabama's first Speaker of the House, winning election to the Legislature in 1819 and serving four terms until 1832. He also represented Alabama in the United States Congress from 1838 to 1845. In addition to practicing law, Dellet built a large plantation home, Dellet Park, at Claiborne, Alabama. He owned 4,000 acres of rich cotton lands cultivated by about 150 slaves. A dedicated Whig and strong opponent to Jacksonian Democrats, he supported progressive economic measures, including a federal tariff promoting industries, a national bank to encourage commerce, and government support for roads, canals, and other internal improvements. Dellet was married twice, first to Harriet Willison. They had four children. After her death in 1841, he married her cousin, Mary Woodward Wormley.

Lyman Gibbons (1808-1879), born in New York, was a Claiborne, Alabama planter, lawyer, Circuit Judge, and Justice of the Alabama Supreme Court. In 1853, he married James Dellet's daughter, Emma Dellet. They were the parents of Helen Dellet Gibbons, who married Charles John Torrey, son of Rufus Campbell Torrey. **Rufus Campbell Torrey** (1813-1882) was born in Massachusetts, graduated from Harvard in 1833, and became a successful Alabama lawyer and planter. He practiced law with Lyman Gibbons in Mobile. The Torrey plantation was near the home of the Dellet-Gibbons family. During the Civil War, the plantation was plundered by Union soldiers who converted it into a hospital. Rufus Torrey served in the Alabama House of Representatives in 1875 and the Senate from 1876 to 1880. He was married first to Elizabeth Sargent Henshaw (daughter of Andrew Henshaw and Elizabeth Isbell) and after her death he married her cousin and sisterin-law Mary Henshaw (widow of his first wife's brother, Andrew Isbell Henshaw). Rufus and Elizabeth Torrey were the parents of Andrew Henshaw Torrey, Charles John Torrey, and Elizabeth Henshaw Torrey (who married Harry Pillans, mayor of Mobile). Rufus Torrey's niece and stepdaughter, Mary Montague Henshaw, was married to Judge Harry Theophilus Toulmin.

Harry Theophilus Toulmin (1838-1916), was born in Mobile and became a successful lawyer. A Confederate Colonel during the Civil War, he served in the Alabama Legislature in the early 1870's, then as Circuit Judge, 1874-1882, and as U.S. District Judge, 1887-1916. He married Mary Montague Henshaw, niece of Rufus Torrey.

*Biographies excerpted from Appraisal by T. Michael Parrish

Scope and Content:

This collection represents the lives, business activities, and public careers of the Dellet-Gibbons-Torrey-Henshaw-Toulmin Families of Mobile and Claiborne, Alabama, interconnected by marriage over the course of multiple generations, focusing mainly on the 1830s to early 20th century. The collection includes: atlases, correspondence, family histories, manuscripts, memoirs, news clippings, photographs, prints, publications, and rare books. Strengths include highly detailed genealogies going back to England in pre-colonial days. Also of particular interest are two unique items: a collection of recipes and cooking advice by Mary Montague Toulmin (Aunt Mollie) dated 1891, and a transcription of an ethical will by David Henshaw Esq. d. 1808. A weakness of the collection is its uneven distribution. Torrey, English, and Henshaw families are well documented. **Provenance:** Acquired by gift from Carroll and Vicki Barrett, 2017.

Arrangement:

Papers are arranged in 4 series:

- 1. Genealogy (alphabetically arranged by family name)
 - I. Andrews
 - II. Bowles
 - III. Brinton
 - IV. Dellet
 - V. English
 - VI. Gibbons
 - VII. Gray
 - VIII. Henshaw Contains an ethical will by David Henshaw to his children.
 - IX. Pillans
 - X. Simmons
 - XI. Torrey
 - XII. Toulmin
 - XIII. Homesteads (Claiborne and Spring Hill, Alabama)
- 2. Photographs
- 3. Books and Imprints

Access Restrictions:

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Preferred Citation:

Dellet – Torrey Collection, The Doy Leale McCall Rare Book and Manuscript Library, University of South Alabama, Mobile, Alabama.

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Related material: McCall Papers 546-2011 Frances Beverly Papers 279-1994 Toulmin, Harry T. 366-2000 Dellet-Torrey Generational Genealogy

Guide prepared by: Deborah Gurt Guide updated by: Guide last updated: 6/15/2017

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1.16	Spring Hill, Alabama

1.17–1.29 Imprints, 1831-1879 [Bulk 1840-60] .5 linear feet

These cover many areas of interest including agriculture, criminal justice, economics,

geology, history, law, and politics. An index of the Imprints series is available.

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- 2.2 Henshaw, Torrey, Toulmin
- 2.3 Dellet, Torrey
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2.6 Miscellaneous: postcards, Broadway actresses Kate Claxton, Kitty Blanchard, Jennie Winston, Duke of Windsor/Edward VIII

Box 3

Oversized Imprints (see <u>index</u> for complete bibliographic entry)

Army Register, 1845 Les Confidences de Lamartine Tender Thought Shakespeare Birthday Book Ancient Atlas to accompany the universal geography New and improved school atlas to accompany the practical system of modern geography

Miscellaneous papers

Last Will of Helen Gibbons Torrey Mary Montague Toulmin Cookery School, Mobile, Alabama, 1891 (Manuscript)- boxed Samuel Wolff

Note: Books are shelved alphabetically by family name, and then by author.

Andrews Family

Smith, Thomas B. The Daisy, with Illustrations by Aunt Mary, Author of "The Violet." New York: Sheldon and Company, 1859.

Doyle, Arthur Conan. Sherlock Holmes. New York: Fenno, 1903.

- Jefferson Davis and "Stonewall" Jackson. *The life and public services of each, with the military career and death of the latter, with illustrations*. Philadelphia: J.E. Potter and Co., 1868.
- Lanier, John J., ed. *Masonry and Protestantism*. New York: Macoy Publishing and Masonic Supply Co., 1923.
- Scott, Sutton S. *The Mobilians; or, Talks about the South*. Montgomery, Ala.: The Brown printing Co., 1898.

Barrett Family

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- Scharf, J Thomas. *History of the Confederate States Navy from its Organization to the Surrender of its Last Vessel.* New York: Rogers & Sherwood, 1887.

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- Blair, Francis Preston, John C. Rives, and Franklin Rives. The Congressional Globe containing sketches of the debates and proceedings of the Twenty-Fourth Congress: First Session. Vol. 3. Washington: Office of the Congressional Globe, 1836.
- Clark, John. Corderii Colloquiorum Centuria Selecta: A Select Century of Corderius's Colloquies: with an English translation, as literal as possible: designed for the use of beginner in the Latin tongue. New York: T&J Swords, 1806.
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- Force, Peter, and Matthew St. Clair Clarke. American archives: consisting of a collection of authentick records, state papers, debates, and letters and other notices of publick affairs, the whole forming a documentary history of the origin and progress of the North American colonies, of the causes and accomplishment of the American revolution and of the constitution of government for the United States to the final ratification thereof. Vol. 1-5. Fourth Series. Washington, DC: 1837.
- Foster, M. H. *Prevention of Disease and Care of the Sick: how to keep well and what to do in case of sudden illness.* Second Edition. Washington: Government Printing Office, 1919.
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- Godwin, William. *Enquiry Concerning Political Justice, and Its Influence on Morals and Happiness. First American from the Second London Edition Corrected. In Two Volumes.* Philadelphia: Bioren & Madan, 1796. 2 volumes (Volume 1 only).
- Hazard, Samuel, Ed. *Hazard's United States commercial and statistical register containing documents, facts and other useful information illustrative to the history and resources of the American Union and of each State*Vols. 1 - 3. Philadelphia: Printed by W.F. Geddes, 1840.

- James, G. P. R. *The Gentleman of the Old School. A Tale*. Vol. 1. New York: Harper & Brothers, 1839.
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- _____. American State Papers: Vol. 8 Class Three Finance 1789-1815. Vol. 2. Washington: Gales and Seaton, 1832. Title page indicates "Volume VI."
- _____. American State Papers: Vol. 9 Class Three Finance 1789-1822. Vol. 3. Washington: Gales and Seaton, 1834.
- _____. American State Papers: Vol. 10 Class Four Commerce and Navigation 1789-1815. Vol. 1 Washington: Gales and Seaton, 1832. Title page indicates "Volume VII."

- _____. American State Papers: Vol. 11 Class Four Commerce and Navigation 1789-1 815. Vol. 2 Washington: Gales and Seaton, 1834.
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- _____. American State Papers: Vol. 14 Class Six Naval Affairs 1789-1825. Washington: Gales and Seaton, 1834.
- _____. American State Papers: Vol. 15 –Post Office– 1789-1833. Washington: Gales and Seaton, 1834.
- _____. American State Papers: Vol. 17 Class Eight Public Lands 1789-1815. Vol. 2 Washington: Gales and Seaton, 1834.
- ____. American State Papers: Vol. 18 Class Eight Public Lands 1789-1824. Vol. 3 Washington: Gales and Seaton, 1834.
- _____. American State Papers: Vol. 19 Class Nine Claims 1789-1823. Washington: Gales and Seaton, 1832.
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- Register of debates in Congress comprising the leading debates and incidents of the first session of the Twenty-fourth Congress: together with an appendix, containing the important state papers and public documents and the laws, of a public nature, enacted during the session, with a copious index to the whole. Vol. 12. Parts 1 - 4. Washington: Gales & Seaton, 1835.
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- ____. Reports of Committees, Twenty-Eighth Congress, Second Session. 1844-1845. Washington DC.
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Henshaw Family

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