

RECORD GROUP 469

PHYLLIS MCPHEETERS DONATION
(Samuel and Emma Templeton/William G. Wyly)

2000.131.1-13

1863 - 1928

.25 ln ft

Scope and Content Note

This collection houses documents concerning claims to the US Congress for the recovery of money lost from the confiscation of cotton during the Civil War.

In 1863 Samuel Templeton, a Union sympathizer, had a cotton plantation located 15 miles west of Miss river from Goodrich's landing in Carroll parish. In that year, Templeton claimed to have harvested 1000 bales of cotton which were ready for market.

That same year, Grant's labor force came to Lake Providence area to proceed down Baxter Bayou and Bayou Macon to avoid Confederate guns at Vicksburg. The laborers were going to Vicksburg to cut a canal to divert the Mississippi River away from the bluff at Vicksburg (which would have created an oxbow lake at Vicksburg), so they could bring union forces safely down the river and avoid guns at Vicksburg.

When confederate sympathizers, most especially Quantille's Raiders, the first gang which Jesse James joined as a young boy of 15, learned of this plan, the levees above Lake Providence were cut in order to flood Baxter Bayou and Bayou Macon in order to prevent the Union forces from using this route.

Residents of the area, including Templeton, were ordered to burn their cotton before the troops arrived. Templeton did not wish to burn his cotton, but knew his refusal would not matter because the cutting of the levees would flood his plantation and ruin the cotton bales. In order to prevent the burning and flooding the cotton harvest, Templeton had the cotton moved to higher ground west of Bayou Macon and he and his family moved to Morehouse Parish.

In the fall of 1863 union troops took 30 bales of Templeton's stored cotton. U.S. treasury records indicate that the government eventually sold the 30 bales of cotton in Cincinnati for \$9,200. The documents housed in this collection record the Templeton family's attempts to be reimbursed for the confiscated bales. Included in the collection are a Civil War pass, loyalty oath, and certificate qualifying Templeton to vote.

Of additional significance in the collection are documents relating to William G. Wyly (1831-1903), who became a justice of the Supreme Court of Louisiana. Wyly and his brother, James G. Wyly, Templeton's brothers-in-law, also filed claims for reimbursement for confiscated cotton. After Templeton's death, the two men assisted their niece, Emma Templeton Wood, in her attempt to recover damages from the government. The collection includes letters of introduction, including one from Henry Clay Warmoth, given to W.G Wyly, Wyly's deposition, and a pamphlet outlining the Wyly brothers' claim against the government.

Prepared by
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Curator of Maps and Manuscripts
October 23, 2000

Folder 1

--typescript of correspondence re W.G. Wiley's [WGW] claim for cotton confiscated during the Civil War. Jan 4, 1863.
2000.131.1.1-25

Folder 2

--letter to WGW from Thomas F. Purcell [TFP] re shipment of Samuel Templeton's [ST] cotton to Cincinnati. ALS. Greenville, La., June 27, 1865
2000.131.2.1

--letter on "executive office" stationery to Hugh McCulloch from R. D. Mussey requesting that he afford WGW an interview. ALS. Washington, D. C., Jul 17, 1865.
2000.131.2.2

--letter to ST from TFP re Templeton taking the oath of allegiance to the US government. ALS. Goodrich Landing, La., Jan 15, 1864.
2000.131.2.3

--letter to Martha E. Templeton [MET] from Henri Love re ST's refusal to take the oath of allegiance to US government. ALS. Cincinnati, OH., Jan 4, 1863.
2000.131.2.4

--Civil War pass issued to "master of any steamer," to MET. Goodrich Landing, La., Dec 7, 1863.
2000.131.2.5

--application and permit to ship 14 bales of cotton to Memphis. ALS. Goodrich Landing, La. Dec 17, 1863.
2000.131.2.6.

--receipt for 14 bales of cotton for consignment sale, Sanders Bros. ALS. Memphis, Tenn., Dec 23, 1863.
2000.131.2.7

--letter to WGW on US House of Representatives stationery by C. J. Boatner [CJB] re introduction of a bill for payment of confiscated goods. Washington, D.C., Mar 28, 1894.
2000.131.2.8

Folder 3

--statement of Geo[rge] M. Gill re examination of 14 bales of cotton noting they were "full of trash and rotten cotton making the lot Low Ordinary" and worth from \$45-50. Lot rejected. Memphis, Tenn., Jan 16, 1864.
2000.131.3.1

--receipt for sale and shipment of 14 bales of cotton belonging to MET sold to Mr. West. Memphis, Tenn., Jan 26, 1864.
2000.131.3.2

Folder 4

-- receipt issued by quartermaster to ST for hauling 14 bales of cotton from Ross's plantation. ALS. Goodrich Landing, La., Jan 11, 1864.
2000.131.4

Folder 5

--certified loyalty oath of ST, swearing he did not support the CSA; verso: certification of ST as eligible to vote. Carroll Parish, Jul 2, 1867.
2000.131.5

Folder 6

letters of introduction issued to W. G. Wyly from:

--James A. Beaver, Philadelphia, Oct 7, 1896. ALS.
2000.131.6.1

--James F. Casey, New Orleans Customhouse letterhead. New Orleans, Apr 11, 1871. ALS.
2000.131.6.2.

--James F. Casey, to President US Grant. New Orleans Customhouse letterhead. New Orleans, Apr 11, 1871. ALS.
2000.131.6.3

--James F. Casey, New Orleans Customhouse letterhead. New Orleans, Apr 11, 1871. ALS.
2000.131.6.4

--Alexander G. Wilson, Tekamah, Neb., Nov 18, 1897. TLS.
2000.131.6.5

--Alexander G. Wilson, Tekamah, Neb., Nov 18, 1897. TLS.
2000.131.6.6

--Alexander G. Wilson, Tekamah, Neb., Nov 19, 1897. TLS.
2000.131.6.7

--Henry C. Warmoth on executive department stationery. ALS. New Orleans, Apr 11, 1871.
2000.131.6.8

--Taylor Beattie, Thibodaux, La., Mar 26, 1894. ALS.
2000.131.6.9

--letter to "dear classmate" from James A. Beaver re class reunion. Bellefonte, Pa., Jun 2, 1896.
TLS.
2000.131.6.10

--letter to WGW from Alexander Wilson re death of Hoe Young from alcoholism and
congratulations for the recognition WGW received at his alma mater at their 1891 reunion. On
The presbyterian theological Seminary stationery. Omaha, Neb., Jul 2, 1897. TLS.
2000.131.6.11

Folder 7

-- printed pamphlet, "United States Court of Claims No. 3,209.: W.G. Wyly and J. G. Wyly vs.
United States. c. 1871.
2000.131.7

Folder 8

--typescript compilation of letters of introduction issued to WGW 1871-1897. c. 1900.
2000.131.8.1-5

Folder 9

--letter to WGW from CJB re introduction of a congressional for claim for cotton confiscated
during the Civil War. Washington, D. C., Nov 13, 1893. TLS.
2000.131.9a-b

Folder 10

--typed petition of Emma Templeton Wood to United States Congress, requesting a reimbursement of \$20,000, for 30 bales of cotton confiscated by Union troops. St. Louis, MO., Feb 4, 1903.
2000.131.10.1.1-9

--typed petition of Emma Templeton Wood to United States Congress, requesting a reimbursement of \$20,000, for 30 bales of cotton confiscated by Union troops. St. Louis, MO., Feb 4, 1903.
2000.131.10.2.1-9

--copy, typed petition of Emma Templeton Wood to United States Congress, requesting a reimbursement of \$20,000, for 30 bales of cotton confiscated by Union troops. St. Louis, MO., Feb 4, 1903.
2000.131.10.3.1-9

Folder 11

--copy, typed deposition of James G. Wyly, in the matter of application of Emma Templeton Wood, for reimbursement for cotton confiscated from her father during the Civil War. Jan 23, 1903.
2000.131.11.1.1-9

-1 original, 1 copy, bound together as one, typed deposition of WGW, in the matter of application of Emma Templeton Wood, for reimbursement for cotton confiscated from her father during the Civil War. Jan 23, 1903.
2000.131.11.2.1-18

Folder 12

--A. J. Wyly to Mabel Templeton Pogue re newspaper article concerning Congress's willingness to pay for claims for cotton confiscated during the Civil War. TLS. Cincinnati, OH., Jun 1, 1928.
2000.131.12.1a-c

--[Cl-?], National Press Club stationery to Vic[tor Heinz] re chances of a bill passing in Congress for the reimbursement of cotton confiscated during the Civil War; includes copies of a letter sent by A. J. Wyly to Harold Eustis, and a printed congressional report. TLS. Washington, D. C., Feb 21, 1930.
2000.131.12.1-5

--Congressional bills and reports with letter to Victor HEINZ from Harold Eustis re A. J. Wyly's letter concerning newspaper article re claims for cotton confiscated during the Civil War. TLS, w/enclosures. Cincinnati, OH. Jun 22, 1928.
2000.131.12.3.1-8

Folder 13

--copy of letter to Major Childs from unidentified re newspaper article concerning reimbursement of claims for cotton confiscated during the Civil War. Includes original newspaper clipping, *Times-Picayune*, Jun 26, 1928. TLS. Cincinnati, OH., Jul 19, 1928.
2000.131.13.1-2.