

**Whitney & Burnham Records**  
**A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress**



**Manuscript Division, Library of Congress**  
**Washington, D.C.**  
**2000**

Contact information: <http://hdl.loc.gov/loc/mss/mss.contact>

Catalog Record: <https://lcn.loc.gov/mm81045450>

Additional search options available at: <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc/mss/eadmss.ms008045>

Prepared by Patrick Kerwin

Finding aid encoded by Library of Congress Manuscript Division, 2008

## Collection Summary

**Title:** Whitney & Burnham, New Orleans, La., Records

**Span Dates:** 1835-1851

**Bulk Dates:** (bulk 1841-1846)

**ID No.:** MSS45450

**Creator:** Whitney & Burnham (New Orleans, La.)

**Extent:** 1,000 items

**Extent:** 6 containers

**Extent:** 2.2 linear feet

**Language:** Collection material in English

**Location:** Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

**LC Catalog record:** <https://lcn.loc.gov/mm81045450>

**Summary:** Cotton mercantile firm. A diary, correspondence, letterbooks, bills, receipts, invoices, notebooks, purchase orders, and rent statements relating primarily to the cotton trade in Louisiana and Alabama.

## Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the LC Catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically.

### People

Burnham, W. A.

Whitney, Israel, 1797-1871.

### Organizations

Whitney & Burnham (New Orleans, La.)

### Subjects

Cotton gins and ginning.

Cotton manufacture.

Cotton trade--Alabama--Mobile.

Cotton trade--Louisiana--New Orleans.

Cotton trade--Massachusetts--Boston.

Labor disputes.

Merchants--Louisiana--New Orleans.

## Provenance

The records of Whitney & Burnham were purchased by the Library of Congress in 1937.

## Copyright Status

The status of copyright in the unpublished writings of Whitney & Burnham is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.).

## Access and Restrictions

The records of Whitney & Burnham 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, Whitney & Burnham Records, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

## **Scope and Content Note**

The records of Whitney & Burnham, a New Orleans, Louisiana, cotton mercantile firm run by Israel Whitney and William A. Burnham, span the years 1835-1851 with the bulk of the material dated between 1841 and 1846. The collection consists of a diary, correspondence, letterbooks, bills, receipts, invoices, notebooks, purchase orders, and rent statements documenting the firm's activities in the international cotton trade. The firm worked primarily through the ports of New Orleans, Mobile, and Boston. Also included are items relating to the cotton gin, labor disputes, and relations between of cotton mill owners.

## **Arrangement of the Papers**

This collection is arranged alphabetically by type of material.

## Container List

<b>Container</b>	<b>Contents</b>
BOX 1	Correspondence
BOX 1	1840-1844 (8 folders)
BOX 2	1845-1851, undated (9 folders)
BOX 3	Diary, 1838-1840, undated
BOX 3	Financial records
BOX 3	Bills and receipts, 1836-1851, undated (5 folders)
BOX 3	Building contracts, 1845, undated
BOX 3	Invoices
BOX 3	Cotton
BOX 3	1847-1848 (2 folders)
BOX 4	1849-1851, undated (3 folders)
BOX 4	General, 1841-1845 (2 folders)
BOX 4	Notebooks, 1835-1851
BOX 5	Purchases, 1842-1846
BOX 5	Rent statements, 1850
BOX 5	Letterbooks
BOX 5	Nov. 1841-June 1845 (3 folders)
BOX 6	Nov. 1845-Dec. 1850 (2 folders)
BOX 6	“Questions on the Life and Writings of Titus Livius,” school notebook, undated