

**Aaron Burton Levisse Papers**  
**A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress**



**Manuscript Division, Library of Congress**  
**Washington, D.C.**  
**2023**

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

Catalog Record: <https://lcn.loc.gov/mm93081878>

Additional search options available at: <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms009125>

Prepared by Manuscript Division staff

Finding aid encoded by Library of Congress Manuscript Division, 2009  
Revised 2023 June

## Collection Summary

**Title:** Aaron Burton Levissee Papers

**Inclusive Dates:** 1847-1992

**Bulk Dates:** 1847-1895

**ID No.:** MSS81878

**Creator:** Levissee, Aaron Burton

**Extent:** 18 items

**Extent:** 2 containers

**Extent:** 0.8 linear feet

**Language:** Collection material in English

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

**LC Catalog record:** <https://lccn.loc.gov/mm93081878>

**Summary:** 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 LC Catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically.

### People

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.

### Places

Louisiana--Politics and government--1865-1950.

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

### Occupations

Educators.

Lawyers.

Legislators--Louisiana.

Soldiers, Confederate.

## Acquisition Information

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 Levisse were arranged and described by Joseph K. Brooks in 1995. The finding aid was revised in 2009. The finding aid was updated in 2023 by Maria Farmer as part of a division-wide remediation project by the Inclusive Description Working Group.

## Copyright Status

The status of copyright in the unpublished writings of Aaron Burton Levisse is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.).

## Access and Restrictions

The papers of Aaron Burton Levisse 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 Levisse Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

## Scope and Content Note

The papers of Aaron Burton Levisse (1821-1907) span the years 1847-1992 and consist mainly of diaries Levisse kept between 1847 and 1895. In 1881 Levisse 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 Levisse, was transcribed by his great-granddaughter, Marion Levisse Cotter.

The diaries document Levisse'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. Levisse 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.

Levisse, 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

<b>Container</b>	<b>Contents</b>
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