

Singleton Family Papers
A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress



Manuscript Division, Library of Congress
Washington, D.C.
2011

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

Catalog Record: <https://lcn.loc.gov/mm82040170>

Additional search options available at: <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms012032>

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Finding aid encoded by Library of Congress Manuscript Division, 2012

Collection Summary

Title: Singleton Family Papers

Span Dates: 1758-1860

Bulk Dates: (bulk 1829-1855)

ID No.: MSS40170

Creator: Singleton family

Extent: 900 items

Extent: 5 containers

Extent: 2 linear feet

Language: Collection material in English

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

LC Catalog record: <https://lccn.loc.gov/mm82040170>

Summary: Plantation owners in South Carolina. Family and general correspondence, legal papers, clippings, invitations, receipts, poetry, and miscellaneous items of various members of the Singleton and allied Van Buren and Deveaux (DeVoe) families.

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

Coles, Betty--Correspondence.

Converse, Marion Singleton Deveaux, 1815- Marion Singleton Deveaux Converse papers.

Deveaux, Robert Marion--Correspondence.

Deveaux, Stephen G.--Correspondence.

DeVoe family.

McDuffie, George, 1790-1851--Correspondence.

Preston, William C. (William Campbell), 1794-1860--Correspondence.

Singleton family.

Singleton, Richard Mrs., -1849--Correspondence.

Singleton, Richard, -1852--Correspondence.

Van Buren family.

Van Buren, Abraham, 1807-1873--Correspondence.

Van Buren, Angelica Singleton, 1816-1877. Angelica Singleton Van Buren papers.

Subjects

Plantations--New York (State)--Kinderhook.

Plantations--South Carolina.

Places

South Carolina--Social life and customs.

Washington (D.C.)--Social life and customs.

Provenance

The papers of the Singleton family, plantation owners in South Carolina, were purchased by the Library of Congress in 1929.

Processing History

The papers of Singleton Family were processed in 1985. The finding aid was revised in 2011.

Additional Guides

A partial card index to the Singleton Family Papers is available in the Manuscript Division Reading Room.

Copyright Status

The status of copyright in the unpublished writings of Singleton Family is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.).

Access and Restrictions

The papers of Singleton Family 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, Singleton Family Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Family Chronology

| Date | Event |
|---------------|---|
| 1807, Nov. 27 | Abraham Van Buren born |
| 1815, Feb. 10 | Marion V. Singleton born |
| 1816 | Angelica Singleton born |
| 1829 | Mary Singleton married Congressman George McDuffie |
| 1830, Sept. | Mary Singleton McDuffie died |
| 1835 | Marion V. Singleton married Robert Marion Deveaux |
| 1838 | Angelica Singleton married Abraham Van Buren, son of President Martin Van Buren |
| 1849, May | Mrs. Richard Singleton died |
| 1852 | Richard Singleton, Sr., and grandson Robert Deveaux died |
| 1873, Mar. 15 | Abraham Van Buren died |
| 1877, Dec. 19 | Angelica Singleton Van Buren died |

Scope and Content Note

The Singleton Family Papers, which consist of family and general correspondence, business and legal papers, and miscellaneous material, span the period 1758 to 1860, with the bulk of the papers covering the years 1829-1855. The collection reflects the life and activities of many family members, but particularly relates to Marion Singleton Deveaux Converse, the wife of a South Carolina plantation owner. Over half of the letters in the collection are addressed to her.

Approximately one hundred letters written by or to Angelica Singleton Van Buren, the daughter-in-law of President Martin Van Buren, are bound in a single volume. Nearly half of these letters were written by Angelica Van Buren, and many of them are datelined from Washington, D.C., and Lindenwald, the Van Buren estate in Kinderhook, New York. Few of the letters discuss her life in the White House, where for a time she assumed the role of hostess.

Correspondence in the Singleton family papers chiefly concerns family matters such as health, births and deaths, marriages, trips, school affairs, and social events. Correspondents include Betty Coles, Marion Singleton Deveaux Converse, Robert Marion Deveaux, Stephen G. Deveaux, George McDuffie, William C. Preston, Mr. and Mrs. Richard Singleton, Abraham Van Buren, and Angelica Singleton Van Buren.

A miscellany file contains various forms of family memorabilia, including newspaper clippings, attendance reports from the early years of the University of Virginia, invitations, certificates, poetry, and genealogical data.

Arrangement of the Papers

This collection is organized by type of material. Folders containing letters written by women are arranged alphabetically under the writer's first married name.

Container List

| Container | Contents |
|-----------|--|
| BOX 1 | Family and general correspondence, 1804-1860 |
| BOX 1 | Carter, Sarah Champs |
| BOX 1 | Coles, Betty (3 folders) |
| BOX 1 | Coles, Edward |
| BOX 1 | Coles, I. A. |
| BOX 1 | Coles, Jane |
| BOX 1 | Cooper, Fanny |
| BOX 1 | Deas, Charles |
| BOX 1 | Deas, Thomas |
| BOX 1 | Deveaux, Elisabeth A. |
| BOX 1 | Deveaux Converse, Marion Singleton |
| BOX 1 | Deveaux, Robert Marion (2 folders) |
| BOX 2 | Stephen G. Deveaux (2 folders) |
| BOX 2 | Ester J. Fowler |
| BOX 2 | Huger, Gabriela Deveaux |
| BOX 2 | Lesesne, Thomas |
| BOX 2 | McDuffie, George |
| BOX 2 | McDuffie, Mary Singleton |
| BOX 2 | McDuffie, Mary S. |
| BOX 2 | McRa, Mary M. |
| BOX 2 | Peyre, T. W. |
| BOX 2 | Singleton, John C. |
| BOX 2 | Singleton, Mary L. |
| BOX 2 | Singleton, Matthew R. |
| BOX 2 | Singleton, Mattie R. |
| BOX 3 | Singleton, Richard (2 folders) |
| BOX 3 | Singleton, Mrs. R. T. (5 folders) |
| BOX 3 | Snowden, I. S. |
| BOX 3 | Stevenson, Sarah C. |
| BOX 3 | Taylor, B. F. |
| BOX 3 | Taylor, Mary Ann |
| BOX 4 | Taylor, Sallie Coles |
| BOX 4 | Taylor, Sally W. |
| BOX 4 | Van Buren, Abraham |
| BOX 4 | Van Buren, Angelica Singleton (3 folders) |
| BOX 4 | Miscellaneous |
| BOX 4 | A-H |

Container List

| Container | Contents |
|------------------|--|
| BOX 4 | J-V |
| BOX 4 | Unidentified |
| BOX 5 | Legal and business correspondence |
| BOX 5 | 1758-1838 |
| BOX 5 | 1838-1842, undated |
| BOX 5 | Miscellany, 1809-1843, undated |
| BOX 5 | Attendance reports, certificates, envelopes, family history, invitation, memorandum, newspaper clippings, poetry, receipts, report cards, writings |