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-Henschaw-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 sister-in-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

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**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:**
Collection is open to researchers.

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

Sensitive Materials Statement:
Manuscript collections and archival records may contain material(s) of a sensitive or confidential nature that is protected under federal or state rights to privacy. Researchers are advised that the disclosure of certain information pertaining to identifiable living individuals represented in this collection without the consent of those individuals may have legal ramifications (e.g., an invasion of privacy may arise if you publish facts concerning an individual’s private life that could be deemed highly offensive to a reasonable person). The Doy Leale McCall Rare Book and Manuscript Library and the University of South Alabama assume no responsibility for the disclosure by researchers of such sensitive or confidential information.

Related material:
McCall Papers 546-2011
Guide prepared by: Deborah Gurt
Guide updated by: 
Guide last updated: 6/15/2017

Content List:

Box 1
Genealogy
1.1 Andrews
1.2 Bowles
1.3 Brinton
1.4 Dellet
1.5 English
1.6 Gibbons
1.7 Gray
1.8 Henshaw – Contains a transcription of an ethical will by David Henshaw to his children.
1.9 Pillans
1.10 Simmons
1.11 Torrey
1.12 Torrey Correspondence
1.13 Toulmin
1.14 Claiborne, Alabama
1.15 Claiborne Newscloppings
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.

Box 2
Photographs
2.1 McClellan, English, Torrey
2.2 Henshaw, Torrey, Toulmin
2.3 Dellet, Torrey
2.4 Torrey
Box 3

Oversized Imprints (see index 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


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.


Scott, Sutton S. The Mobilians; or, Talks about the South. Montgomery, Ala.: The Brown printing Co., 1898.

Barrett Family

Could not confirm publication date, early 1900s.


Dellet Family
American Oratory or, Selections from the Speeches of Eminent Americans [1775-1826] 
Compiled by a Member of the Philadelphia Bar. Philadelphia: Edward C. Biddle, 1842.


Gales, Joseph and William Winston Seaton. The debates and proceedings in the Congress of the United States: with an appendix, containing important state papers and public documents, and all the laws of a public nature, with a copious index...comprising...the period from March 3, 1789, to March 3, 1791, inclusive. Vols. 1-2. Washington: Gales and Seaton, 1834.


*Journal of the House of Representatives of the United States: being the first session of the Twenty-sixth Congress, begun and held at the city of Washington, December 2, 1839, and in the sixty-fourth year of the independence of the said states.*
Washington: Printed by Blair and Rives, 1840.

*Journal of the Senate of the State of Alabama session of 1878-9, held in the city of Montgomery, commencing November 12, 1878.* Montgomery: Barrett & Brown State Printers, 1879.

*Journal of the Senate of the United States of America: being the first session of the Twenty-sixth Congress, begun and held at the city of Washington, December 2, 1839, and in the sixty-fourth year of the independence of the said United States.*
Washington: Printed by Blair and Rives, 1839.

*Journal of the Senate of the United States of America: being the first session of the Twenty-eighth Congress, begun and held at the city of Washington, December 4, 1843, and in the sixty-eighth year of the independence of the said United States.*
Washington: Printed by Blair and Rives, 1843.

*Journal of the Senate of the United States of America: being the second session of the Twenty-eighth Congress, begun and held at the city of Washington, December 2, 1844, and in the sixty-ninth year of the independence of the said United States.*
Washington: Printed by Blair and Rives, 1844.


Martin, William L. The code of Alabama: adopted by act of the General Assembly of the state of Alabama, approved February 16, 1897 ... with such statutes passed at the session of 1896-97, as are required to be incorporated therein by act approved February 17, 1897 and with citations to the decisions of the Supreme court of the state construing or mentioning the statutes. Vol. 2. Atlanta, GA: Foote & Davies, printers, 1897.


Register of debates in Congress comprising the leading debates and incidents of the second session of the Eighteenth Congress: together with an appendix, containing the most important state papers and public documents to which the session has given birth: to which are added, the laws enacted during the session, with a copious index to the whole. Vol. 1. Washington: Gales & Seaton, 1825.

Register of debates in Congress comprising the leading debates and incidents of the first session of the Nineteenth Congress: together with an appendix, containing the most important state papers and public documents to which the session has given birth: to which are added, the laws enacted during the session, with a copious index to the whole. Vol. 2. Part 1 & 2. Washington: Gales & Seaton, 1826.

Register of debates in Congress comprising the leading debates and incidents of the second session of the Nineteenth Congress: together with an appendix, containing important state papers and public documents and the laws enacted during the session, with a copious index to the whole. Vol. 3. Washington: Gales & Seaton, 1829.

Register of debates in Congress comprising the leading debates and incidents of the first session of the Twentieth Congress: together with an appendix, containing important state papers and public documents and the laws enacted during the session, with a copious index to the whole. Vol. 4. Parts 1 & 2. Washington: Gales & Seaton, 1828.

Register of debates in Congress comprising the leading debates and incidents of the second session of the Twentieth Congress: together with an appendix, containing important state papers and public documents, and the laws enacted during the session: with a copious index to the whole. Vol. 5. Washington: Gales & Seaton, 1830.

Register of debates in Congress comprising the leading debates and incidents of the first session of the Twenty-first Congress: together with an appendix, containing important state papers and public documents, and the laws enacted during the session: with a copious index to the whole. Vol. 6. Parts 1 & 2. Washington: Gales & Seaton, 1830.

Register of debates in Congress comprising the leading debates and incidents of the second session of the Twenty-first Congress: together with an appendix, containing important state papers and public document, and the laws, of a public nature,
enacted during the session: with a copious index to the whole. Vol. 7. Washington: Gales & Seaton, 1831.

Register of debates in Congress comprising the leading debates and incidents of the first session of the Twenty-second Congress: together with an appendix, containing 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. 8. Parts 1 - 3. Washington: Gales & Seaton, 1833.

Register of debates in Congress comprising the leading debates and incidents of the second session of the Twenty-second Congress: together with an appendix, containing important state papers and public document, and the laws, of a public nature, enacted during the session: with a copious index to the whole. Vol. 9. Parts 1 & 2. Washington: Gales & Seaton, 1833.

Register of debates in Congress comprising the leading debates and incidents of the first session of the Twenty-third 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. 10. Parts 1 - 4. Washington: Gales & Seaton, 1834.

Register of debates in Congress comprising the leading debates and incidents of the second session of the Twenty-third 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. 11. Parts 1 & 2. Washington: Gales & Seaton, 1835.

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.

Register of debates in Congress comprising the leading debates and incidents of the second 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. 13. Parts 1 & 2. Washington: Gales & Seaton, 1837.

Regulations for the Subsistence Department of the Confederate States. Richmond: Ritchie & Dunnavant, 1861.


Thucydides. The Peloponnesian War, original publication date 431 BCE, Reprinted.


___. Reports of Committees, Twenty-Eighth Congress, Second Session. 1844-1845. Washington DC.

___. Laws of the United States of America: from the 4th of March 1833 to the 3rd of March 1839 ; including all the treaties negotiated and ratified within that period ... together with copious notes and references ... vol. IX. Washington city: Printed by order of the Congress of the United States, 1839.


Henshaw Family


Henshaw Family. Early 19th Century Ledger, filled with manuscript notations, copies of documents, and letters describing Henshaw family history, made into a scrapbook with newspaper clippings from the 1800s, including a handsome lithographic portrait titled: David Henshaw, Esq. Died May 22nd 1808, Aged 64 years, E. W. Beuve’s Lith. Boston.


Holy Bible. Family Bible of Mary Isbell Henshaw Torrey (signed Mary Henshaw and dated 1848), containing many manuscript annotations and clippings describing family births, marriages, and deaths.


Other Families

*The Alabama Historical Quarterly.* Vol.1, No. 1. (Spring 1930).

Bullions, Peter. *Principles of English grammar: comprising the substance of the most approved English grammars extant, with copious exercises in parsing and syntax for the use of academies and common schools.* New York: Robinson, Pratt, 1844.


Kett, Henry. *Elements of general knowledge, introductory to useful books in the principal branches of literature and science: designed chiefly for the junior students in the universities, and the higher classes in schools.* Vol. 1. Baltimore: P. Byrne, June, 1812.


Pillans Family

Berquin-Duvallon, Pierre Louis. *Vue de La Colonie Espagnole du Mississippi, ou des Provinces de Louisiane et Floride Occidentale en L’Anne 1802 par un Observateur Resident dur les Lieux.* Paris: Imprimerie Expeditive, 1803. Note: includes two hand-colored engraved maps. This volume is one of the great accounts of New Orleans and Louisiana Territory on the eve of the Louisiana Purchase.

Sellers Family

Lowell Mason. *Carmina sacra: or Boston collection of church music.*: Comprising the most popular Psalm and hymn tunes in general use, together with a great variety of new tunes, chants, sentences, motetts, and anthems, principally by distinguished European composers: the whole constituting one of the most complete collections of music for choirs, congregations, singing schools, and societies, extant. Cincinnati: Published by Jewett and Mason, 1844.


**Torrey Family**


*The British satirist: comprising the best satires of the most celebrated poets from Pope to Byron accompanied by original notices of the authors*. New York: Charles P. Fessenden, 1831.


Longfellow, Henry Wadsworth, and Howard Chandler Christy. *The courtship of Miles*
Standish. Indianapolis: Bobbs-Merrill, 1903.


Toulmin Family


Baldwin, Joseph G. *The Flush Times of Alabama and Mississippi, A Series of Sketches.*


Colman, Samuel. *Stories from Real Life; Designed to Teach True Independence and Domestic Economy. In Five Parts.* New-York: S. Colman; and Boston: Weeks, Jordan & Co., 1837.


Quincey, Thomas De. *Beauties, selected from the writings of Thomas De Quincey.* New York: Hurd and Houghton, 1877.


Toulmin, Harry T. Autograph Album of Fellow graduates of the University of Virginia Law School in 1857, with inscriptions and signatures of Prof. John B. Minor, classmates Henry J. Roman, Robert H. Maury, and other prominent Southerners.

Twain, Mark. *Life on the Mississippi...with More than 300 Illustrations.* Boston: James R. Osgood and Company, 1883.


Unknown


Bliss, P. P., Ira D. Sankey, et. al., eds. *Gospel Hymns Combined; Embracing Volumes No. 1, 2 and 3, As Used in Gospel Meetings and Other Religious Services.* New York and Chicago: Biglow & Main; Cincinnati and New York: John Church, 1879.

*The Book of Common Prayer and Administration of the Sacraments and Other Rites and Ceremonies of the Church: according to the use of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the United States of America: together with the Psalter of Psalms of David.* New York: James Pott & Co, 1892.

*The Book of common prayer and administration of the sacraments and other rites and ceremonies of the church: according to the use of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the United States of America: together with the Psalter of Psalms of David.* New York: Oxford University Press, American Branch, 1907.


Braddon, M.E. *Under the Red Flag.* New York: George Munro’s Sons, 1893.


Carey, Matthew. *The American Museum; or, Annual Register of Fugitive Pieces, Ancient and Modern, for the Year 1789.* Philadelphia: Dickson Lancaster, 1799.


Dickens, Charles. *The Posthumous Papers of the Pickwick Club.* New York: Syndicate Trading Company, n.d. Unable to confirm the publication date, 1890s. It is part of the “Gladstone Series from the Syndicate Trading Company.

The Hymnal Revised and Enlarged, as Adopted by the General Convention of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the United States of America in the Year of our Lord, 1892. New York: James Pott & Co, 1892.


Pedder, James. The farmers' land-measurer, or pocket companion, showing, at one view, the content of any piece of land, from dimensions taken in yards; with a set of useful agricultural tables. Philadelphia: Crissey & Markley, 1853.


