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Descriptive Summary

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Chicago, Illinois 60637 U.S.A.

Abstract The Henry Kendall Carter Papers (1823-1880, bulk 1840-1870) are made up of business documents, primarily concerning Carter’s time in New Orleans (circa 1842-1874), personal and business correspondence, and personal memo books and diaries (1850-1878). Together, these items shed light on business life in Antebellum New Orleans, and on the realities of personal and business life in a divided country during the Civil War.

Acknowledgments
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Information on Use
Access
The Henry Kendall Carter Papers are open for research in accordance with the University of Chicago Library’s "Policies and Regulations Governing the Use of Manuscript and Archival Collections."

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**Citation**

When quoting material from this collection, the preferred citation is: Carter, Henry Kendall. Papers, Crerar MS 208, [Box #, Folder #], Special Collections Research Center, University of Chicago Library.

**Biographical Note**

Henry Kendall Carter was born circa 1805 (some census data suggests 1812) in Connecticut. Around 1837 he married Henrietta Whitlocke, also of Connecticut. In 1842, he moved to New Orleans and entered the cotton business, first working for D. Pratt & Co. and then under his own name as H. Kendall Carter & Co. As a cotton trader and partial owner of one of New Orleans' leading newspapers (The New Orleans Commercial Bulletin, bought in 1849), Carter enjoyed substantial wealth and influence throughout the city.

In 1850 Carter purchased a home in Hartford, Connecticut and maintained partial residence there, as did his family. By this time he and Henrietta had four daughters: Henrietta, Mary, Ella, and Isabel (Belle). However, his business operations continued to be concentrated in New Orleans, and he travelled extensively back and forth before and even during the Civil War. In 1863 New Orleans was seized by Union troops, and Carter's spacious offices were taken over by General Butler. As a result of the war, he lost nearly all of the $300,000 that he had loaned out to planters, though he continued to do business in New Orleans through the early 1870s.

After the Civil War, Carter purchased a farm on the Fox River in Kendall County, IL, not far from his daughter Henrietta and son-in-law, John H. S. Quick, who lived in Chicago. Henrietta Whitlocke Carter died in 1867 in Illinois, and Carter did not remarry. He lived and focused on the farm in his later years, and died around 1880.

Members of Henrietta Whitlocke Carter's family appear in Series I and II of the collection, as Henry Carter was heavily involved in the family's business affairs. Most notable are Eulalia Whitlocke, her mother, who died in 1862, her brother-in-law, William L. Johnson, with whom Eulalia lived for many years, and Eulalia's sister Elizabeth Bertram. After Eulalia's death, Carter corresponded with Elizabeth and William both about personal matters and about affairs related to Eulalia's estate. There are also a number of early letters addressed to Henrietta in care of her brother-in-law Isaac Seymour, husband of Henrietta's sister Caroline Eulalia Whitlocke.
The collection gives insight not only into Carter’s life and business, but also that of his extended family. Letters and journals reveal a family that was surprisingly mobile and far-flung, with members spread among Connecticut, New York, Georgia, New Orleans, and Illinois.

**Scope Note**

The collection is divided into three series: Personal, Correspondence, and Business Records.

Series I, Personal, contains personal records, diaries, and other ephemera. This includes a school composition by a young Henrietta Carter and records of business dealings with family, particularly with regard to Henrietta Carter’s mother’s estate and resultant transactions. The series also contains a number of small leather bound memo books that document Carter’s personal and household expenses, letters written, laundry sent out, and travel. Sundry ephemera and incidental papers were found inside the books, such as newspaper clippings, recipes, and receipts. There are three later diaries documenting Carter’s farm ventures after relocating to Illinois, his daily activities, and some of his private thoughts. Of particular interest to researchers are the incidental papers in Box 1, Folder 2, which include a recipe for alcoholic bitters, a Confederate government bond, and a pass that allowed travel from Louisiana to New York during the Civil War. Folder 7 contains a newspaper clipping with the text of the 1875 Civil Rights Act, and Folder 12 includes a scrap of paper with an idea for a hollow rubber horse shoe. Personal papers will come first in the series, arranged chronologically. The memo books and diaries follow, also arranged chronologically. Each book is housed with any material found in its covers. Material pertaining to Whitlocke family estates and affairs is at the end.

Series 2, Correspondence, contains letters from Carter to his wife Henrietta, as well as letters to Henrietta from her family, mostly dating from before her marriage to Carter. There are also a few letters from Carter to other members of his family, and several to other members of Henrietta’s family. Whitlocke family correspondence is first, arranged chronologically, then letters written by H. K. Carter.

Series 3, Business Records, contains documents relating to Henry Kendall Carter’s business activities. It primarily reflects Carter’s time in New Orleans, before he moved to Kendall County, IL. The material in this series consists of account ledgers, balance sheets, promissory notes, employment contracts, statements of accounts, business correspondence, legal documents such as mortgages and records of land sales, and other documents related to Carter’s involvement in the cotton industry in New Orleans, as well as his involvement in The New Orleans Commercial Bulletin. It also contains bills and receipts for business expenses, rent, etc. Of particular interest is a bill of sale for two slaves, Nancy and Cordelia (a mother and child), in Box 4, Folder 6.
Series 4, Oversize, contains a fragile letter housed in Mylar, and a bound volume of business letters from Carter with many loose pages. The letters provide valuable information about the growth of Carter's cotton business in New Orleans.

**Related Resources**

The following related resources are located in the Department of Special Collections:

http://www.lib.uchicago.edu/e/spcl/select.html

Fanny Murdock. Papers

**Subject Headings**

- Carter, Henry Kendall.
- United States--History--1815-1861
- United States--History--Civil War, 1861-1865--Economic aspects
- United States--History--1865-1898
- Louisiana – History

**INVENTORY**

**Series I: Personal**

- **Box 1**
  - **Folder 1**
    - School Composition – Henrietta Whitlocke, 1823
  - **Box 1**
    - **Folder 2**
      - Pocket Diary, Financial Records, Clippings, Recipes, Ephemera, 1848-1869
  - **Box 1**
    - **Folder 3**
      - Transcription of Eulogy, 1864
      - View digitized documents. http://pi.lib.uchicago.edu/1001/scrc/md/hkcarter-0001-003
  - **Box 1**
    - **Folder 4**
      - Memorandum Book – Hartford Household Expenses, 1850-1864
  - **Box 1**
    - **Folder 5**
      - Memorandum Book – Hartford Household Expenses, 1853-1864
  - **Box 1**
    - **Folder 6**
      - Pocket Diary, Clippings, 1857-1861, undated
  - **Box 1**
    - **Folder 7**
      - Memorandum Book – Laundry Lists, Personal Notes, Clippings, 1859-1875
    - **Box 1**
Folder 8
Bills, Gun Correspondence (Personal), 1868-1871

Box 1
Folder 9
Correspondence, Accounts – Illinois Farm, 1869-1874

Box 1
Folder 10
Memorandum Book – Kendall County Farm, 1871-1874

Box 1
Folder 11
Letter to the Editor of Turf, Field, and Farm, 1872

Box 1
Folder 12
Memorandum Book – Accounts, Personal Notes, 1872-1876, undated

Box 1
Folder 13
Memorandum Book – Personal Expenses, 1875-1881

Box 2
Folder 1
Diary, 1876-1877

Box 2
Folder 2
Diary, 1877-1879

Box 2
Folder 3
Diary, 1878

Box 2
Folder 4
Pamphlet, Clipping, undated

Box 2
Folder 5
Blank Pocket Diary, Lock of Hair, undated

Box 2
Folder 6
Bond – Eulalia Whitlocke to W. L. Johnson, 1840

Box 2
Folder 7
Power of Attorney – Eulalia Whitlocke to Isaac Seymour, 1847
View digitized documents. http://pi.lib.uchicago.edu/1001/scrc/md/hkcarter-0002-007

Box 2
Folder 8
Assignment of Mortgage – W. L. Johnson, 1847
View digitized documents. http://pi.lib.uchicago.edu/1001/srcmd/hkcarter-0002-008

Box 2
Folder 9
Deed Transfer – W. L. Johnson to Eulalia Whitlocke, 1850

Box 2
Folder 10
Eulalia Whitlocke Estate – Records and , 1854-1870
View digitized documents. http://pi.lib.uchicago.edu/1001/srcmd/hkcarter-0002-010

Box 2
Folder 11
Eulalia Whitlocke – Last Will and Testament, 1859

Box 2
Folder 12
Correspondence and Account Statements – Whitlocke Family Business, 1862-1866

Box 2
Folder 13
Documents Executing Will of Eulalia Whitlocke, 1863

Box 2
Folder 14
Correspondence – Whitlocke/Bertram Estates, 1863-1872
View digitized documents. http://pi.lib.uchicago.edu/1001/srcmd/hkcarter-0002-014

Box 2
Folder 15
Expenses, Summons, Receipt – W. L. Johnson Foreclosure, 1866

Box 2
Folder 16
W. L. Johnson Mortgage – Assignments and Foreclosure, Memoranda, 1866-1871

Box 2
Folder 17
Correspondence – Morris & Cogswell (Whitlocke/Johnson Business), 1867-1870
View digitized documents. http://pi.lib.uchicago.edu/1001/srcmd/hkcarter-0002-017

Box 2
Folder 18
Records – Henrietta Whitlocke Estate, 1870

Box 2
Folder 19
Eulalia Whitlocke – List of Descendants, undated
Series II: Correspondence

Box 3
Folder 1
Correspondence – Whitlocke Family, 1827

Box 3
Folder 2
Correspondence – Whitlocke Family, 1831-1833

Box 3
Folder 3
Correspondence – John H. To Henrietta Whitlocke, 1832-1833

Box 3
Folder 4
Correspondence – John H. To Henrietta Whitlocke, 1834-1835

Box 3
Folder 5
Correspondence – Whitlocke Family, 1834-1836

Box 3
Folder 6
Correspondence – W. C. Cagswell to Henrietta Whitlocke, 1835-1836

Box 3
Folder 7
Correspondence – John H. To Henrietta Whitlocke, 1836-1837

Box 3
Folder 8
Correspondence – Whitlocke Family, 1837

Box 3
Folder 9
Correspondence – Whitlocke Family, 1844

Box 3
Folder 10
Correspondence – Whitlocke Family, undated

Box 3
Folder 11
Correspondence – H. K. Carter to Henrietta Whitlocke, 1837
Series III: Business Records

Box 3
Folder 19
Correspondence – H. K. Carter to Daughter, 1875

Box 3
Folder 20
Correspondence, Receipts, 1836-1839

Box 3
Folder 21
"Papers Left for Collection," 1840-1845

Box 3
Folder 22
Bills and Receipts, 1841-1843

Box 3
Folder 23
Bills, Statements, Correspondence, 1841-1847

Box 3
Folder 24
Contracts, Correspondence, Account Records – Pratt & Carter, 1842-1859

Box 3
Folder 25
Accounts and Correspondence – Berstow & Pope, 1846-1850

Box 3
Folder 26
Contract of Sale – New Orleans Commercial Bulletin, 1848

Box 3
Folder 27
Balance Sheets – H. Kendall Carter & Co., 1848-1850, undated

Box 3
Folder 28
Mortgages (Land and Slaves), 1848-1852

Box 3
Folder 29
Liabilities/Accounts Due/Bills, 1849, undated
Box 3
Folder 30
Land Sale Documents (Connecticut and New York), 1850-1854

Box 3
Folder 31
Receipts, 1850-1855

Box 3
Folder 32
Promissory Notes – "Charged in Account and Cancelled," 1852-1859

Box 3
Folder 33
"Miscellaneous Papers," 1852-1866

Box 4
Folder 1

Box 4
Folder 2
"Drafts Bought in 1854," 1854

Box 4
Folder 3
Account Book – Carter & Pratt, 1855-1859

Box 4
Folder 4
Mortgages (Land and Slaves), 1856-1866
View digitized documents. http://pi.lib.uchicago.edu/1001/srcmd/hkcarter-0004-004

Box 4
Folder 5
Stock Certificate – Mississippi Sound Company, 1857
View digitized documents. http://pi.lib.uchicago.edu/1001/srcmd/hkcarter-0004-005

Box 4
Folder 6
Bill [of] Sale – Nancy and Cordelia, 1858

Box 4
Folder 7
Bond Certificate – Louisiana Tehuantipec Company, 1858
View digitized documents. http://pi.lib.uchicago.edu/1001/srcmd/hkcarter-0004-007

Box 4
Folder 8
  Estimate for Office Painting, 1858

Box 4
Folder 9
  Protests (Draft Collections), 1858-1859

Box 4
Folder 10
  Rent Lists, 1858-1859

Box 4
Folder 11
  "Attorney Receipts for Claims," 1859

Box 4
Folder 12
  Accounts Current with H. Kendall Carter, 1859-1862

Box 4
Folder 13
  Statements of Accounts (Book), 1859-1866

Box 4
Folder 14
  Account Documents and Settlement, 1861-1867
  View digitized documents. http://pi.lib.uchicago.edu/1001/src/md/hkcarter-0004-014

Box 4
Folder 15
  Miscellaneous Accounts and Contracts, 1861-1868

Box 4
Folder 16
  Financial and Legal Correspondence, 1861-1871

Box 4
Folder 17
  Bills Payable, 1862
  View digitized documents. http://pi.lib.uchicago.edu/1001/src/md/hkcarter-0004-017

Box 4
Folder 18
Bills and Accounts – Holstein and Holden, 1862-1865

Box 4
Folder 19
Procurations (Appointment of Attorney John A. Mackender), 1862-1867

Box 4
Folder 20
Accounts, Claims, and Mortgages Due/In Collection, 1862-1870

Box 4
Folder 21
Liquor Inventories, 1866-1867

Box 4
Folder 22
H. K. Carter Account with Taylor & Knapp, 1867
View digitized documents. http://pi.lib.uchicago.edu/1001/srcmd/hkcarter-0004-022

Box 4
Folder 23
Trial Balance Sheet, Letter, 1867
View digitized documents. http://pi.lib.uchicago.edu/1001/srcmd/hkcarter-0004-023

Box 4
Folder 24
Description of Property, 1868
View digitized documents. http://pi.lib.uchicago.edu/1001/srcmd/hkcarter-0004-024

Box 4
Folder 25
Correspondence and Court Filing – Sale of Bartlett Land, 1868-1869

Box 4
Folder 26
Accounts from the Ledger, 1868-1870

Box 4
Folder 27
Account Records – D. S. Bryan, 1869-1873
View digitized documents. http://pi.lib.uchicago.edu/1001/srcmd/hkcarter-0004-027

Box 4
Folder 28

Box 4
Folder 29
Board Bills, St. Charles Hotel, New Orleans, 1871-1873
Box 4
Folder 30
Settled Bills and Memoranda, 1871-1873

Box 4
Folder 31
Account Book and Statement – F. J. Baldwin, undated

Box 4
Folder 32
Blank Forms (Shipping and Acts of Sale), undated

Box 4
Folder 33
Debts and Expenses "Since the War," undated

Series IV: Oversize

Box 5
Folder 1
Correspondence – Whitlocke Family, 1827-1836

Box 5
Folder 2
Business Correspondence (bound) – H. Kendall Carter & Co., 1842-1874