Guide to the Fielding Lewis Papers 1783-1900
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Descriptive Summary

Identifier        ICU.SPCL.LEWISF
Title             Lewis, Fielding. Papers
Date              1783-1900
Size              1.25 linear feet (3 boxes)
Repository        Special Collections Research Center
                  University of Chicago Library
                  1100 East 57th Street
                  Chicago, Illinois 60637 U.S.A.

Abstract          Fielding Lewis, plantation owner. Papers contain business records, legal
documents, tax receipts and other records that document the management of
an ante-bellum plantation on the James River. The collection also includes
receipts for purchase of slaves as well as daily expenses.

Information on Use

Access

This collection is open for research.

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**Biographical Note**

Fielding Lewis (d. 1834) owned a plantation on the James River, where he raised corn and wheat. Lewis was the son of Col. Warner Lewis and Eleanor Bowles of Warner Hall, Gloucester County, Virginia. He was also a great uncle of the famed Captain Meriwether Lewis of the Lewis and Clark expedition.

Around 1788, Lewis married Agnes Harwood, daughter of Samuel and Margaret Woddrop Harwood. With that marriage came the estate of Weyanoke on the James River.

**Scope Note**

Fielding Lewis, plantation owner. The Fielding Lewis Papers contain business records, legal documents, tax receipts and other records that document the management of an ante-bellum plantation on the James River. The collection also includes receipts for slaves as well as daily expenses. Lewis practiced advanced methods of agriculture at that time and some of the papers detail his actual operations in this regard.

The collection contains material relating mostly to Weyanoke plantation but also another property Lewis owned called Belle Farm. The invoices and receipts include Lewis’s business and personal expenses, arranged chronologically. Included are receipts for food, clothing, equipment and slaves.

**Related Resources**

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

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

**Subject Headings**

- Lewis, Fielding, d. 1834
- Slavery -- United States
- Plantation life
- Plantations -- Virginia
- Southern States -- History -- 1775-1865
- Virginia -- History

**INVENTORY**

- **Box 1**
  - **Folder 1**
    - Invoices and Receipts, 1783-1789
  - **Box 1**
  - **Folder 2**
Invoices and Receipts, 1790-1794

Box 1
Folder 3
Invoices and Receipts, 1795-1799
View digitized documents. http://pi.lib.uchicago.edu/1001/scrc/md/lewisf-0001-003

Box 1
Folder 4
Invoices and Receipts, 1800-1801

Box 1
Folder 5
Invoices and Receipts, 1802-1803
View digitized documents. http://pi.lib.uchicago.edu/1001/scrc/md/lewisf-0001-005

Box 1
Folder 6
Invoices and Receipts, 1804-1805

Box 1
Folder 7
Invoices and Receipts, 1806-1808

Box 1
Folder 8
Invoices and Receipts, 1809-1810

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Folder 9
Invoices and Receipts, 1811

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Folder 10
Invoices and Receipts, 1812

Box 1
Folder 11
Invoices and Receipts, 1813-1816

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Invoices and Receipts, 1817-1820

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Invoices and Receipts, 1821-1822
Box 1
Folder 14
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  View digitized documents. http://pi.lib.uchicago.edu/1001/scrc/md/lewisf-0001-014

Box 1
Folder 15
  Invoices and Receipts, 1824-1825

Box 1
Folder 16
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Folder 17
  Invoices and Receipts, 1827
  View digitized documents. http://pi.lib.uchicago.edu/1001/scrc/md/lewisf-0001-017

Box 2
Folder 1
  Invoices and Receipts, 1828

Box 2
Folder 2
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  Invoices and Receipts, 1830
  View digitized documents. http://pi.lib.uchicago.edu/1001/scrc/md/lewisf-0002-003

Box 2
Folder 4
  Invoices and Receipts, 1831

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  Invoices and Receipts, 1832
  View digitized documents. http://pi.lib.uchicago.edu/1001/scrc/md/lewisf-0002-005

Box 2
Folder 6
  Invoices and Receipts, 1833

Box 2
Folder 7
  Invoices and Receipts, 1834

Box 2
Folder 8
Tax Receipts, 1790-1832
View digitized documents. http://pi.lib.uchicago.edu/1001/srcmd/lewisf-0002-008

Box 2
Folder 9
Insurance, 1798-1828

Box 2
Folder 10
Purchase Inventories, 1805-1834
View digitized documents. http://pi.lib.uchicago.edu/1001/srcmd/lewisf-0002-010

Box 2
Folder 11
Estate Inventories, 1778-1830

Box 2
Folder 12
Legal Correspondence, 1789-1833

Box 2
Folder 13
Farming Instructions and Records, undated

Box 3
Folder 1
Recipes, undated

Box 3
Folder 2
Diary (fragment), undated

Box 3
Folder 3
Correspondence, 1786-1827

Box 3
Folder 4
Correspondence, 1828-1834, and undated

Box 3
Folder 5
Receipts and notes, undated

Box 3
Folder 6
Material relating to Robert Douthat, 1832-1859
Box 3
Folder 7
Material relating to Robert Douthat, 1860-1900