

THE NEW YORK PUBLIC LIBRARY  
RARE BOOKS AND MANUSCRIPTS DIVISION  
ACCESSION SHEET

Accession # \*85 M 8

Location Balcony 2/2

Title PIERRE TOUSSAINT. Papers

Approximate inclusive dates 1796-1853 bulk dates 1822-1853

Date of receipt March 1903

Received from Miss Georgina Schuyler

Volume on arrival

Number of boxes (after reboxing) 5 AB

Condition good- some tears, yellowing and fading of ink

Restrictions ~~None~~ POSITIVE READING MICROFILM MUST BE USED (3 Reels)

Description Pierre Toussaint (1766- 1853) was born a slave in Haiti (then Saint Domingue)

and came to New York City in 1787 with the family of Pierre Berard, The Berard family was impoverished by the loss of their property in Haiti, and Toussaint, apprenticed to a hair-dresser, became the sole supporter of the household. Mer Berard died in Haiti in 1790 attempting to regain his property, and Toussaint continued to support his wife and her second husband, Gabriel Nicholas. Toussaint became the most successful hairdresser of his day (a lucrative position) and as such became intimate the Schuylers, Hamiltons and Churches, as well as other prominent New York families. His profitable trade supported the Berard-Nicholas household, and bought the freedom of many slaves (including that of his wife Juliette Noel, 1781-1851). Toussaint was a devout Catholic, and contributed to many Catholic schools and orphanages, as well as being a member of Old Saint Patrick's (on Mott Street, dedicated in 1815) and a founding member Saint Vincent de Paul, the first French Catholic Church in the (cont

Special Formats  Photographs  Maps  Audio Tapes  Films  Graphics  
 Artifacts  Machine-readable records  
 Other (list) \_\_\_\_\_

Temporary catalog card added entries

Catholic Church in New York (City)

Toussaint, Euphemie (1815-1829)

Haiti

New York (City) - Social life and customs

Accessioned by CRK

Schuyler Family

Date (1-31-85)

Slaves - United States

## Pierre Toussaint Papers

### Biographical Note

city. He also provided financial support for many orphans, and paid for the education of poor black youths as well as several impoverished white seminarians. He also cared for the many victims of yellow fever which struck New York City every August. In 1951 a petition was begun for the canonization of Pierre Toussaint.

### Content Note

The Toussaint papers are comprised largely of Toussaint's correspondence with friends and relatives the United States, the Caribbean and France, including Fanny Montpensier, Jean Sorbieu and Raymond de Meetz. There are many requests for financial assistance and thanks for favors extended, as well as personal letters from Mary Anna Schuyler, Robert Schuyler, and Asa Briggs. Also included are letters and poems from Toussaint's niece and ward (1815-1829) Euphemie, chronicling the life of a young girl in New York City in the first quarter of the 19th century. There are also the manumission papers of several slaves whose freedom Toussaint arranged.

Pierre Toussaint Papers

Container Listing

Box

Contents

1 General Correspondence  
2 1793-1823  
3 1824-1835  
4 1836-1842  
5 1843-1853, n.d.

Letters from Euphemie Toussaint 1822-1829, n.d.

Poems of Euphemie Toussaint, n.d.

Unsorted papers and printed matter

Unattributed transcripts of miscellaneous correspondence, n.d.