

# SIBOUR FAMILY ARCHIVES, 1600-1920 (21 boxes)

Inventoried by Gibson Bell Smith and Kinga Néder

## Introduction

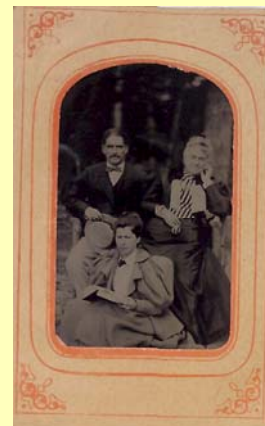
The Sibour (Sybourg, Syberg) family originated in Prussia. The first written documents of the Sibours in France date from the 16<sup>th</sup> century. The elder branch established their new home in the city of Carpentras, in the Comtat Venaissin (today Department de Vaucluse) where they soon occupied important political and ecclesiastical positions. The Sibour Family Archives follows their lives between 1600 and 1920.

The Sibours were direct descendents of Saint Louis (Louis IX). Due to their membership in the high nobility, male Sibours were closely affiliated with the Royal Court of France and held high status positions in the Roman Catholic Church. Many of the female members of the family were chosen to be maids of honor to the Queen. (For more on the genealogy of the Sibours see Boxes 2, 11, & 12) and became nuns in the prestigious Couvent de la Visitation Sainte-Marie in Carpentras. Later male members of the Sibour family became Knights of the Order of Malta. (For more on their religious life and affiliations see Boxes 17 & 14)

The Sibour family is one of those that suffered great losses during the French Revolution; their wealth was confiscated, many of them were imprisoned, and some of the male Sibours had to immigrate to Italy. Most of the Sibour women stayed in France to intercede on behalf of their husbands in business affairs and fight for their amnesty. They claimed that the male Sibours had to leave France due to the death of their cousin, Capt. Bèlmes, who left his riches to the Sibours. A large segment of the collection recounts the forced emigration of male family members and the struggle of the women to see again their husbands and sons.



The American branch of the Sibours begins with Gabriel de Sibour, who arrived to the US around 1850. He became consul of Charleston, Richmond, Boston, and Baltimore. Gabriel de Sibour married a Protestant lady, Mary Louisa Johnson of Maine, who could trace back her family ancestry to the first puritan settlers. The marriage was opposed on both sides, but eventually Mary Sibour



became an accepted and much loved member of the family. The present collection is partly due to her genealogical research and efforts to preserve the family documents. Her description of the American Civil War that they lived through in Charleston, as well as her autobiography not only permits the reader to get a glimpse of the Sibour family's life but also provides a personal account of American history in the 19<sup>th</sup> century (for more on the Civil War see Box 10).

After Gabriel de Sibour's early death, Mary and the children moved to France to live with the Sibour family. Louis, the eldest son inherited the title of Count and although born in the US and married to an American lady, he became closely linked to his family heritage. He continued his mother's genealogical research and wrote the family story in the family Livre de Raison. He also became a Knight of the Order of Malta. The archives end in the 1920s, during Louis's lifetime. (For more on the Sibour Family story and the Livre de Raison see Box 11, for more on Louis's genealogical research see Box 2).

## Principal Members of the de Sibour Family

**Jean de S. (c. 1600-1660)** – Captain of his regiment, married M. Donodey

**Jean François de S. (c. 1620-1680)** –

**François de S. (1620-1695)** – married Isabeau de Mourre

**Jean Claude de S. (1668-1724)** – married Catherine de Fauque

**Jean François de S. (1698-1781)** – lawyer, judge, and procureur general of Carpentras and the Comtat Venaissin

**Joseph Antoine de S. (c. 1700-1778)** – priest, prior, and vicar general of Carpentras

**Jean Louis André de S (1730-1800)** – priest and vicar general of Carpentras

**Jean Baptiste Hyacinthe de S. (1730-1760)** – soldier and officer

**Jean Joseph François de S. (1734-1819)** – **papal** legate and procureur general in Comtat Venaissin; married Mlle. De la Selle, was an émigré in 1792-1803 in Italy

**Joseph de la Selle (c. 1700-1772)** – French consul at Port Maurice and merchant in Orléans and Marsailles

**Dominique de Bèlmes (c.1700-1792)** – captain and lieutenant in the Duke of Modena's Army, related to the Sibours through the Fauque family

**Louis Blaise de S. (1760-1782)** – army officer

**Marie Gabrielle de S. (c. 1760-1805)** – nun at Carpentras

**Jean Baptiste Joseph de S. (1767-1843)** – served in Army of Coblenz, was mayor on Monteux, married Countess Pauline de Sallmard

**Joseph Louis Antoine de S. (1819-1889)** – never married, took care of Gabriel de S. family after his brother's early death

**Jean Antonin Gabriel de S. (Gabriel, 1821-1885)** – French consul at Charleston, Richmond, Boston, and Baltimore; married Mary Louisa Johnson of Maine

**Mary de S. (born Mary Louisa Johnson, † 1912)** – Gabriel de S.’s wife, the present collection is partly due to her genealogical research and efforts to preserve the family documents

**Jean Theodule Françique Louis de S. (Louis, 1865-1925)** – member of the Order of Malta and the heir of the title of Count

## Description of the collection

The Sibour family archives consists of 21 boxes of letters, newspaper clippings related to the family, personal objects, photos, genealogical notes and materials, family trees, as well as legal and ecclesiastical documents that used to belong to different members of the family. The archives follow the life of the Sibour family from the beginnings of the 17<sup>th</sup> century to the 1920s.

## Inventory

### Series I. Background

#### Box 1 – Introduction

- Folder 1 (6 items): inventory of the collection, letters about the collection

#### Box 2 – Printed Material and Genealogical Notebooks

- Folder 1 (12 items): family trees and genealogical information on Sibour Family

### Series II. Sibour Family Correspondence

#### Box 3 – Sibour Family Correspondence 1600-1740

- Folder 1 (6 items) : correspondence 1620-1695
- Folder 2 (8 items): correspondence 1721-1739

#### Box 4 – Sibour, Belmès, and De la Selle Correspondence 1740-1769

- Folder 1 (10 items): Sibour correspondence 1740-49
- Folder 2 (38 items): De la Selle Correspondence 1740-1749

- Folder 3 (8 items): De Sibour Correspondence 1750-1759
- Folder 4 (37 items): De la Selle Correspondence 1750-1759
- Folder 5 (21 items): De Sibour Correspondence 1760-1769
- Folder 6 (8 items): Belmès Correspondence 1760-69
- Folder 7 (26 items): De la Selle Correspondence 1760-1769

**Box 5 – Sibour Correspondence 1770-1789**

- Folder 1 (16 items): Sibour Correspondence 1770-1774
- Folder 2 (8 items): De la Selle Correspondence 1770-1774
- Folder 3 (2 items): Bèlmes Correspondence 1770-1772
- Folder 4 (7 items): Sibour Correspondence 1775-1779
- Folder 5 (6 items): Bèlmes Correspondence 1775-1779
- Folder 6 (10 items): De la Selle Correspondence 1775-1779
- Folder 7 (15 items): Sibour Correspondence 1780-1784
- Folder 8 (6 items): Bèlmes Correspondence 1780-1784
- Folder 9 (1 item): De la Selle Correspondence 1784
- Folder 10 (27 items): Sibour Correspondence 1785-1789
- Folder 11 (4 items): Bèlmes Correspondence 1785-1789
- Folder 12 (3 items): De la Selle Correspondence 1785-1789

**Box 6 – Sibour, Bèlmes & De la Selle Correspondence 1790-1809**

- Folder 1 (12 items): Sibour Correspondence 1790-1794
- Folder 2 (2 items): De la Selle Correspondence 1790-1794
- Folder 3 (3 items): Bèlmes Correspondence 1790-1794
- Folder 4 (14 items): Sibour Correspondence 1795-1799
- Folder 5 (1 item): De la Selle Correspondence 1795
- Folder 6 (33 items): Sibour Correspondence 1800-1804
- Folder 7 (5 items): De la Selle Correspondence 1800-1804
- Folder 8 (10 items): Sibour Correspondence 1805-1809
- Folder 9 (3 items): De la Selle Correspondence 1805-1809

**Box 7 – Sibour Correspondence 1810-1889**

- Folder 1 (8 items): Sibour Correspondence 1810-1819
- Folder 2 (19 items): Sibour Correspondence 1820-1829
- Folder 3 (6 items): Sibour Correspondence 1830-1839

- Folder 4 (3 items): Sibour Correspondence 1866-1869
- Folder 5 (30 items): Sibour Correspondence 1870-1879
- Folder 6 (29 items): Sibour Correspondence 1880-1889

**Box 8 – Sibour Correspondence 1890-1920**

- Folder 1 (6 items): Sibour Correspondence 1890-1894
- Folder 2 (46 items): Sibour Correspondence 1895-1899
- Folder 3 (9 items): Sibour Correspondence 1900-1909
- Folder 4 (8 items): Sibour Correspondence 1910-1920

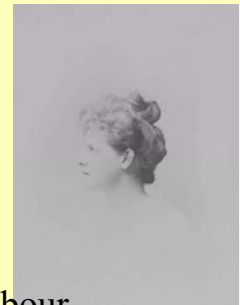
**Box 9 – Undated Correspondence 1740-1910**

- Folder 1 (10 items): Undated Correspondence 1700-1760
- Folder 2 (12 items): Undated Correspondence 1760-1789
- Folder 3 (4 items): Undated Correspondence 1790-1850
- Folder 4 (41 items): Undated Correspondence 1860-1920
- Folder 5 (41 items): photocopies of “Undated Correspondence

**Series III. Miscellaneous genealogical and other documents**

**Box 10 – Miscellaneous Historical and Biographical Notes**

- Folder 1 (5 items): Miscellaneous Family Notes
- Folder 2 (30 items): Biographical Notes
  - Item 23: Typewritten Autobiography of Mary Louisa Johnson de Sibour
  - Item 24: Handwritten Autobiography of Mary Louisa Johnson de Sibour
- Folder 3 (12 items): Sibour Accounts of Contemporary Events
  - Item 3: notes on the Comtat Venaissin in the Revolution 1789-1804
  - Item 7: notes on the hardships and problems of the Revolution in Avignon 1795
  - Émigrés and the Laws against them 1799
  - “Yellow Fever” in Charleston, SC during the Civil War by Gabriel de Sibour 1865
- Folder 4 (4 items): Sibour Historical Treatises



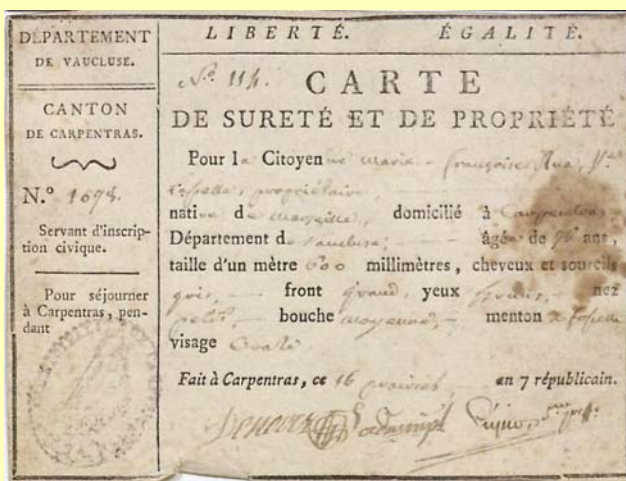
## Box 11 – Sibour Livre de Raison 1696-1896

The book includes biographical and genealogical data on the Sibours (from 1215 proving the Sibour's kinship to Saint Louis) and other French families related by marriage (e.g. Sallmard family, Bèlmes family, De Donadei family, De la Selle family, Johnson family, )

- written by: Jean Claude Sibour, Jean François Sibour, Jean Théodule Francique Louis de Sibour

## Box 12 – Genealogical Notes and Materials

- Folder 1 (16 items): Genealogical Trees
  - of the following families: Sallmard, Donadei, DeCentennier, DeFonterey, de Sibour, Bernes, Thibauds, Tempier, De la Selle, Faques, Bèlmes, De Gramont-Vacheres, Atkinsin, Johnson, von Syberg
- Folder 2 (11 items): Genealogical Notes
  - of the following families: Fauque, Sibour, Bèlmes, Johnson, Baileys, Von Sybergs, Atkinson
  - Item 5: drawing of coat of arms of de Sibours on an envelope
- Folder 3 (4 items): Von Sybergs and their Origins
  - Item 2: Parisian menu with a water color sketch featuring Franco-American flags and addressed 'Compte de Sibour'
  - Item 3: envelope containing four coats of arms of the various branches of de Sibour family (hand painted, watercolor)
  - Item 4: Livre de Raison 1790-1842



The book recounts the period missing from the first one providing a short account of the emigration experiences of the Sibour men in Italy (1791-1802) during the French Revolution and the simultaneous struggles of the Sibour women to obtain amnesty for them in Carpentras as well as the ensuing inheritance and legal battles.

- Notes of Jean Théodule Francique Louis de Sibour at the end, providing supplementary information on the family history.

### **Box 13 – Miscellaneous Documents 1**

- Folder 1 (9 items): Miscellaneous Notes
  - Including notes on horses, agriculture, education, family jewelry, recipe for Baltimore Egg Nogg
- Folder 2 (8 items): Poems, Songs, and Stories written or copied by the Sibour family members
- Folder 3 (13 items): Photos and Drawings
  - Including souvenirs from the first communions of Sibour sons, photos of Loupillière and Villa Saint Laurent
  - Item 2: photo of Mme de Sibour
  - Item 7: photo of Kathryn Bailey de Sibour as a child
  - Item 13: photo of Gabriel de Sibour
- Folder 4 (9 items): Newspaper articles and clippings

### **Box 14 – Miscellaneous Documents 2**

- Folder 1 (3 items): seals
  - Seal of the Confederate [States of America], from American Civil War
- Folder 2 (18 items): miscellaneous envelopes (with seals)
  - Flowers in envelope from Gabriel de Sibour to his wife, Mary Louis
  - Locks of hair in envelope from Sibour family
- Folder 3 (10 items): diplomas
- Folder 4 ( 11 items): tickets, cards, and invitations
  - Miscellaneous documents in connection with the Order of Malta
- Folder 5 (5 items): miscellaneous printed documents & Order of Malta
  - Histoire de L'Ordre de Malte 1891
  - Laws and Constitution of the Order of Malta
- Folder 6 (1 item): scrapbook of Mary L. de Sibour

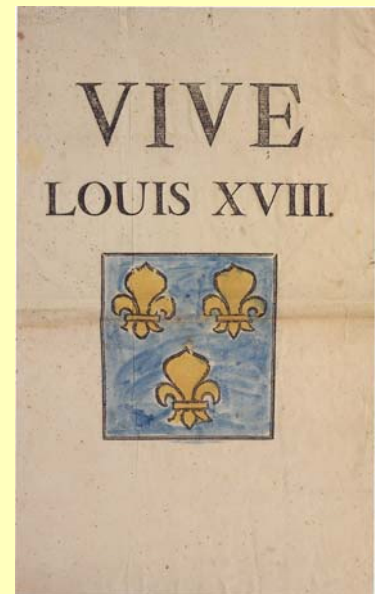
## Series IV. Official documents

### Box 15 – Political and State papers 1650-1910

- Folder 1 (10 items): 1650-1789
  - Including letters from Louis XV, duke Francesco of Modena, Duke Ercole of Modena
- Folder 2 (22 items): 1790-1830
  - Award of Fleurs de Lys from 1814
  - Poster with inscription “vive Louis XVIII” from the Revolution of 1830
  - Missing is the document from Folder 2: Commission Liquidation votes 20,000 franc indemnity for de Sibour 1825
  - Document commemorating the political and moral death of General Boulanger
- Folder 3 (28 items): 1814-1910

### Box 16 – State Papers

- Folder 1 (30 items):
  - Papers regarding consulate at Port Maurice
  - Decree by Napoleon III making Gabriel de Sibour, a consul at Boston (June 28. 1856)
  - Miscellaneous papers regarding consulate at Charleston, Baltimore etc.
- Folder 2 (13 items):
  - Including commissions from Louis XV to Captain Bèlmes
  - Letter of Patent from Duke Francesco III of Modena to Capt. Bèlmes
- Folder 3 (11 items): Diverse military papers
- Folder 4 (21 items):
  - Passports between France and Italy of the Sibour during the Revolution Other passports (USA, France, Italy)
- Folder 5 (27 items): miscellaneous state documents





## **Box 17 – Ecclesiastical Documents**

- Folder 1 (20 items): papal and other ecclesiastical documents, correspondence
- Folder 2 (20 items): Official Ecclesiastical Documents 1790-1920
  - Including papal letters and documents relating to the Sibour family
  - Vellum bull with medal from the Knights Hospitaller of St. John (= Chevaliers of Malta) for Count Louis de Sibour for his honorable acts
  - Vellum papal letter from Pius X, Grand Master of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulcher to Kathryn de Sibour
- Folder 3 (27 items): Miscellaneous and Unidentified Ecclesiastical Documents
  - Including vellum documents with seals
  - List of names of the inhabitants of the Couvent de la Visitation Sainte-Marie from 1790
- Folder 4 (14 items): Personal Ecclesiastical Documents

## **Box 18 – Legal Documents**

- Folder 1 (29 items): Legal documents: Judicial investiture
  - Documents relating to the judicial positions occupied by the members of the Sibour family
- Folder 2 (15 items): Legal documents: Tribunal Minutes
  - Including documents relating to the exile in Italy and Modena inheritance



- Folder 3 (14 items): Legal documents: Litigations
- Folder 4 (13 items): Legal documents: personal
- Folder 5 (21 items): Legal documents: petitions
- Folder 6 (30 items): Legal documents: Judgements & Adjudications
  - Documents relating to Loupillière estate
  - Documents relating to marriages

## Box 19A – Family Documents 1600-1789

- Folder 1 (6 items): Births and birth certificates
- Folder 2 (6 items): Baptisms
- Folder 3 (13 items): Marriages, marriage certificates and documents relating to dowry
- Folder 4 (22 items): Wills
- Folder 5 (8 items): Inheritances
- Folder 6 (6 items): Deaths
- Folder 7 (3 items): Miscellaneous Family Documents

## Box 19B – Family Documents 1790-1920

- Folder 1 (8 items): Births and birth certificates
- Folder 2 (3 items): Baptisms
- Folder 3 (6 items): Marriages
- Folder 4 (23 items): Wills
  - Documents relating to Bèlmes inheritance and the Italian exile
- Folder 5 ( 25 items): Inheritances
  - Documents relating to Bèlmes inheritance and Italian exile
- Folder 6 (12 items): Deaths
- Folder 7 (4 items): Miscellaneous family documents
  - Documents relating to Capt. Bèlmes

## Box 20 – Financial Documents

- Folder 1 (10 items): Government forms
  - Marie-Françoise Rua's Carte de Sureté et de Propriété under the Revolution
- Folder 2 (45 items): Business and other Receipts
- Folder 3 (10 items): Investments
  - 25 franc share of Universal Exposition of Paris 1889
- Folder 4 (33 items): Inventories
- Folder 5 (21 items): Personal Notes
- Folder 6 (3 items): Insurance
- Folder 7 (1 item): Book: State of the fortune of Jean Baptiste Joseph de Sibour



## **Box 21 – Real Estate Documents**

- Folder 1 (12 items): Rentals and disputes(1707-1759)
  - Including documents with regard to the Loupillière estate dispute
- Folder 2 (30 items): Rentals and disputes (1790-1920)
  - Including documents with regard to the Loupillière estate dispute
- Folder 3 (5 items): Surveys and registry (1600-1789)
  - Including documents with regard to the Loupillière estate dispute
- Folder 4 (21 items): Surveys and registry (1790-1910)
  - Sketchy maps made by the Sibour family members of different estates
  - Including documents with regard to the Loupillière estate dispute