

G. H. SUYDAM COLLECTION

Mss. 1394

Inventory

Edited by
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Louisiana and Lower Mississippi Valley Collections
Special Collections, Hill Memorial Library
Louisiana State University Libraries
Baton Rouge, Louisiana
2001 (Revised 2009)

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SUMMARY

Size. 2 linear feet

Geographic locations. Baton Rouge, La.

Inclusive dates. 1845 - 1864.

Bulk dates. 1863-1864.

Languages. English

Summary. Twenty photographs taken between 1862 and 1863 show the state capital of Louisiana, Baton Rouge, under occupation by Union forces. These photographs of street scenes, buildings, Union naval vessels, and Union army encampments are among the very earliest photographic views of Baton Rouge known to exist. The collection also contains two newspapers and loose pages from various sources.

Source Gift

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Citation. G. H. Suydam Collection, Mss. 1394, Louisiana and Lower Mississippi Valley Collections, LSU Libraries, Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

Stack locations. E:73; 99:Suydam; MISC:S

See also. <http://www.louisianadigitallibrary.org/index.php?name=G.%20H.%20Suydam%20Photograph%20Album>

BIOGRAPHICAL/HISTORICAL NOTE

Captain G. H. Suydam, 162nd New York Volunteers Infantry, U.S. Army, collected various materials during the Civil War, some of which related to Louisiana. In 1954, Mr. G. H. Suydam, sent the North Carolina State Department of Archives and History the items included in this collection. In 1957 the North Carolina State Department of Archives and History donated the collection to LSU, less 2 Masonic pamphlets directly related to North Carolina.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The collection contains commercial photographs of twelve (12) scenes of Baton Rouge and eight (8) photographs of ships of the West Gulf Blockading Squadron (Admiral Farragut's fleet) on the Mississippi River at Baton Rouge. Captain G. H. Suydam of the 162nd New York Volunteers Infantry, U.S.A., secured these during his service with the Federal Army at Baton Rouge in the spring of 1863. Three (3) of the images have the McPherson and Oliver backstamp. Two (2) of the images may be ascribed to Andrew D. Lytle, Baton Rouge, La.

Most of the photographs have handwritten memoranda on the back (verso) identifying the images on the front (recto). These memoranda have been transcribed directly from the versos as titles for the images. Notes created in house have been used for any images without memoranda.

The collection also includes: a copy of the Natchitoches (La.) Union, January 29, 1863; a copy of The New Orleans Times, April 15, 1864; a copy of the Freemasons' Monthly Magazine, vol. IV, no. 8, June 1, 1845.

INDEX TERMS

Image Number = collection number/item number i.e. Mss. 1394, item 3a, = 1394003a

<u>Terms</u>	<u>Image numbers</u>
Architecture, Gothic--Louisiana--Baton Rouge—Photographs	1394003 1394005
Armies--Officers—Photographs	1394001
Armored vessels--Louisiana--Baton Rouge—Photographs	1394013a
Artillery battery—Photographs	1394002
Artillery men—Photographs	1394001
Artillery—Photographs	1394002
Baton Rouge (La.)—Photographs	All images
Bird's-eye views—Photographs	1394007 1394011
Church Street (Baton Rouge, La.)—Photographs	1394004 1394007
Dwellings--Louisiana--Baton Rouge—Photographs	1394004
Essex (Ironclad)—Photographs	1394013a
Florida Street (Baton Rouge, La.)—Photographs	1394006 1394008
Fort Williams (La.)—Photographs	1394001 1394002
Genese (Gunboat)—Photographs	1394016b
Groups of people—Photographs	1394009
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McPherson & Oliver, photographers	1394001 1394010 1394014a
McPherson, William D.	1394001 1394010 1394014a
Methodist church buildings--Louisiana--Baton Rouge—Photographs	1394007
Military camps--Louisiana--Baton Rouge—Photographs	1394006 1394011
Mississippi (Frigate)—Photographs	1394015
Natchez (Wharfboat)—Photographs	1394017
Pike's Row (Baton Rouge, La.)—Photographs	1394008
Prisons--Louisiana--Baton Rouge—Photographs	1394006
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Richmond (Sloop)—Photographs	1394014a 1394014b
Sailors--United States—Photographs	1394013b 1394014a
United States. Army--Artillery--Drill and tactics—Photographs	1394002

United States. Army--Headquarters—Photographs	1394004 1394010 1394012
United States. Navy. Gulf Coast Blockading Squadron—Photographs	1394013a 1394013b 1394014a 1394014b 1394015 1394016a 1394016b 1394017
United States--History--Civil War, 1861-1865—Photographs	All images
Waterfronts--Louisiana--Baton Rouge—Photographs	1394012 1394013b 1394014b 1394016a 1394017

IMAGE DESCRIPTIONS

All images are albumen prints in the carte-de-visite studio card format (2.5" x 4.00"). See above for index terms.

Number: 1394001

Photographer: McPherson & Oliver, Baton Rouge

Date: circa 1863

Title: Gun mounted on a mound in Fort William which used to be the cemetery for the officers of the regular army.

Notes: An army gun on the Indian mound in the northeastern part of the ground, not far from the powder magazine and the cemetery. The mound itself had served as a burial ground for officers of the post and their families as far back as the 1830s. [East, "Civil War Album," p. 50;

Number: 1394002

Photographer: ascribed to McPherson & Oliver, Baton Rouge

Date: 1863

Title: 18th NY battery Captain Fort Williams 1863.

Notes: A section of Captain Mack's battery during routine artillery training. [East, "Civil War Album," p. 54, 55.]

Number: 1394003

Photographer: ascribed to McPherson & Oliver, Baton Rouge

Date: circa 1863

Title: Deaf, Dumb, Blind Asylum Baton Rouge La Now used as a General Hospital. U.S.A.

Notes: In 1863, it served as a military hospital crowded with the sick and wounded. [East, "Civil War Album," p. 94, 95.]

Number: 1394004

Photographer: ascribed to McPherson & Oliver, Baton Rouge

Date: circa 1863

Title: General Dudley's Headquarters, Baton Rouge, La.

Notes: Before 1863, this was the home of Samuel M. Hart, a prominent citizen who had left the city the previous year. [East, "Civil War Album," p. 57, 59.]

Number: 1394005

Photographer: ascribed to McPherson & Oliver, Baton Rouge

Date: circa 1863

Title: State House, Baton Rouge, La. [r] Burned Dec 30th 1862 [v]

Notes: The State Capital building was used both to quarter soldiers and to hold confederate prisoners. Fire broke out in the building in the night and by daylight the landmark was a gutted ruin. It was rebuilt in the early 1880s. [East, "Civil War Album," p. 44, 45.]

Number: 1394006

Photographer: ascribed to Lytle, A.D., Baton Rouge

Date: circa 1863

Title: Front view State Penitentiary In foreground tents of Battery L 1st Artillery.

Notes: The building covered the entire block between Florida and Laurel, bounded on the west by St. Anthony (now North Seventh.) [East, "Civil War Album," text, p. 76, 77.]

Number: 1394007

Photographer: ascribed to McPherson & Oliver, Baton Rouge

Date: 1863

Title: Methodist Church Baton Rouge La, 1863. Where the concerts were held I wrote about.

Notes: The church with the steeple is the Methodist church. The building next to it is the Washington Fire Company, originally the City Hall. [East, "Civil War Album," p. 32, 33.]

Number: 1394008

Photographer: ascribed to McPherson & Oliver, Baton Rouge

Date: circa 1863

Title: Provost Marshall's office. Baton Rouge, La.

Notes: In 1863 the Provost Marshal's office was in Pike's Row, which extended east on Florida Street along its north side from the corner of Third. [East, "Civil War Album," p. 56, 57.]

Number: 1394009

Photographer: ascribed to McPherson & Oliver, Baton Rouge

Date: circa 1863

Title: Contraband Camp formerly used as a Female Seminary.

Notes: The former slaves were housed and fed in the camps, and frequently given schooling in 1863. [East, "Civil War Album," p. 66, 67.]

Number: 1394010

Photographer: McPherson & Oliver, Baton Rouge

Date: 1863

Title: General Augur's Headquarter, Spring 1863. Baton Rouge, La.

Notes: [East, "Civil War Album," image, p. 58.]

Number: 1394011

Photographer: ascribed to Lytle, Andrew David, Baton Rouge

Date: circa 1863

Title: Camp, 3rd brigade, Augur Div 19th Army corps. In background camp of 174th NYSV. In center camps of 2nd La & 30th Mass. In foreground battery C. 5th Regimental artillery.

Notes: The picture . . . was made in the spring of 1863 . . . taken from an upper story of the Heroman Building at the northwest corner of Florida and Church. [East, "Civil War Album," p. 31.]

Number: 1394012

Photographer: ascribed to McPherson & Oliver, Baton Rouge

Date: March 9, 1863

Title: Waterfront of Baton Rouge La. Steamer Empire Parrish Headquarters General Banks
March 9th 1863.

Notes: [East, "Civil War Album," p. 54.]

Number: 1394013a

Photographer: ascribed to McPherson & Oliver, Baton Rouge

Date: circa 1862

Title: Ironclad. Essex, Farragut's fleet. Mississippi River, La.

Notes: Originally a St Louis ferry boat, the largest on the Mississippi river, the Essex passed the Vicksburg batteries and reached Baton Rouge in July, 1862. It supported General Williams and his men when confederate forces attacked from the east on the morning of August 5, 1862. [East, "Civil War Album," p. 38, 39.]

Number: 1394013b

Photographer: ascribed to McPherson & Oliver, Baton Rouge

Date: circa 1863

Title: Coal Heavers of the Essex--resting.

Notes: The Union fleet off the coaling yard at Baton Rouge in the summer of 1862. Farragut needed the coal he found here to keep his larger vessels operating. [East, "Civil War Album," p. 22, 23.]

Number: 1394014a

Photographer: McPherson & Oliver, Baton Rouge

Date: 1863

Title: Crew of Richmond at quarters. Baton Rouge La. 1863.

Notes: The Richmond was crippled in Farragut's attempt to pass the guns of Port Hudson on the night of March 14, 1863, and fifteen of her officers and crew were killed or wounded. [East, "Civil War Album," p. 86.]

Number: 1394014b

Photographer: ascribed to McPherson & Oliver, Baton Rouge

Date: 1863

Title: Steamer Richmond off Baton Rouge La. 1863.

Notes: The Richmond was one of the largest and most beautiful ships in Farragut's fleet. The Richmond reached Baton Rouge on the afternoon of May 9, 1862, in company with her sister ships. [East, "Civil War Album," p. 78, 79.]

Number: 1394015

Photographer: ascribed to McPherson & Oliver, Baton Rouge

Date: circa 1863

Title: Steamship Mississippi Farragut's fleet Mississippi River La. Burned by her own after grounding in front of the rebel batteries at Port Hudson, during the attack by the fleet on the night of the 14th March 1863. To their mortification & chagrin after reaching the

shore, she floated off & blew up five miles below the batteries.

Notes: The Mississippi survived the passage of the forts below New Orleans but was lost in March 1863 in Farragut's attempt to pass the confederate guns at Port Hudson. [East, "Civil War Album," p. 22.]

Number: 1394016a

Photographer: ascribed to McPherson & Oliver, Baton Rouge

Date: 1863

Title: Mortar boat of Farragut's fleet. Baton Rouge La, 1863

Notes: One of the mortar schooners which bombarded the forts guarding the approach to New Orleans and which were then brought upriver to hurl their great 13-inch shells into the confederate positions at Port Hudson. [East, "Civil War Album," p. 82, 83.]

Number: 1394016b

Photographer: ascribed to McPherson & Oliver, Baton Rouge

Date: circa 1863

Title: none

Notes: This is one of Farragut's smaller gunboats, probably the U.S.S. Genesee. [East, "Civil War Album," text, p. 80; image, p. 80.]

Number: 1394017

Photographer: ascribed to McPherson & Oliver, Baton Rouge

Date: circa 1863

Title: Wharfboat Natchez. Baton Rouge La.

Notes: The wharfboat Natchez (on left) tied up with one of Porter's mortar schooners (on right). [East, "Civil War Album," text, p. 70; image, p. 70.]

Digital scans of these photographs images can be found at:

http://www.louisianadigitallibrary.org/cdm/landingpage/collection/LSU_GSC

CONTAINER LIST

All images in this collection were taken in and around Baton Rouge, circa 1863.

Stack Location	Box	Folders	Contents
E:73	1 of 1		Gun at Fort William 18th NY battery, Fort Williams Deaf, Dumb, And Blind School General Dudley's Headquarters Louisiana State Capitol Louisiana State Penitentiary Methodist Church Provost Marshall's office, Pike's Row Contraband Camp at the Female Seminary General Augur's Headquarters Camp, 3rd brigade, Augur Div 19th Army corps Waterfront of Baton Rouge U.S.S. Essex Coal Heavers of the Essex resting Crew of U.S.S. Richmond at quarters U.S.S. Richmond U.S.S. Mississippi Unnamed Federal mortar boat off Baton Rouge U.S.S. Genese Wharfboat Natchez
MISC:S		1	Miscellaneous items: envelope with writing; 6 pages from a book; page from Bible. Freemason's Monthly Magazine Vol. Iv 1845.
99:Suydam		1	Newspapers: Natchitoches Union January 29, 1863; The New Orleans Times April 15, 1864.