

**BYNUM FAMILY PAPERS**

(Mss. 3104, 3174)

Inventory

Compiled by

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Louisiana and Lower Mississippi Valley Collections  
Special Collections, Hill Memorial Library  
Louisiana State University Libraries  
Baton Rouge, Louisiana

Revised 2009

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**BYNUM FAMILY PAPERS**  
1814-1969

**Mss. 3104, 3174**  
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**SUMMARY**

**Size.** 1 linear ft., 26 v.

**Geographic locations.** Louisiana, New Mexico, Texas

**Inclusive dates.** 1814-1969.

**Bulk dates.** 1913-1969.

**Languages.** English.

**Summary.** Correspondence, photographs, printed items, writings, records, notebooks, diaries, and scrapbooks.

**Access.** No restrictions.

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**Citation.** Bynum Family Papers, Mss. 3104, 3174, Louisiana and Lower Mississippi Valley Collections, LSU Libraries, Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

**Stack location.** E:103-105, OS:B

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### **BIOGRAPHICAL/HISTORICAL NOTE**

The Bynum family was a prominent Baton Rouge family from the ante-bellum period into the second half of the twentieth century. Thomas Bynum, newspaper editor, businessman and distinguished lawyer, served in the Louisiana Infantry as a captain and later as a major during the Civil War. He married Clara Adams, daughter of Amos Adams and Clara Stuart of Myrtle Grove Plantation, and together they had six children. Among his children were sons Turner, who died in 1923 shortly after winning a mayoral election; Wade Hampton Bynum, a prominent banker, who served as mayor from 1903-1910, and again in 1923 when he filled the vacancy left by his brother's death. Wade continued as mayor until 1940. A third son, Walter Winn Bynum, born ca. 1863 was a distinguished Baton Rouge educator; he served as principal at the St. Louis Street School, Baton Rouge's only public school at the time. Walter later became superintendent of the Louisiana Institute for the Blind, a position he held for seventeen years. Walter Bynum married Maggie Chamberlain, who died in 1926; they had two sons, Tom and Walter W., Jr.

### **SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE**

Collection consists of correspondence; school, voting and miscellaneous records; writings; printed items and graphic materials which include photocopies of newspaper clippings, newsletters, maps, brochures and photographs; and several manuscript volumes of scrapbooks, notebooks and diaries.

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**LIST OF SERIES**

- I. Correspondence, 1814-1969, undated (boxes 1-2)**
- II. Writings, 1847, 1871, undated (box 4)**
- III. Records, 1900-1932, undated (box 4, oversize folder 1)**
- IV. Printed items and graphic materials, 1891-1959, undated (box 3, oversize folders 1-2)**
- V. Manuscript volumes, 1891-1924, undated (boxes 5-7)**

**SERIES DESCRIPTIONS**

**I. Correspondence, 1814-1969, undated**

Letters to Samuel Marmaduke D. Clark (1824-1833), planter, surveyor, and presumably a relative of the Bynum family (see correspondence: July 26, 1919) constitute much of the early correspondence. Letters concern family matters, land claims, and requests for land surveys. Several letters from Nathaniel Cook, a New Orleans commission merchant, discuss the sale of cotton and include statements of accounts. The majority of 20<sup>th</sup> century correspondence was written to Walter W. Bynum, Jr. from family members and friends in Louisiana, Houston, TX, and Albuquerque, N.M., and pertains to current events, education, weather, travel, and domestic matters. These letters reflect everyday life in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, and Southwestern United States during the earlier decades of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. References are made to shortages of sugar and coal (Dec. 19, 1917), a peace celebration (June 30, 1919), and flooding in the extreme southern region of Louisiana (July 10, 1927, July 30, 1927). Correspondence of the 1940's reflects military life during WWII, medical care, camaraderie among enlisted men, and discusses return to civilian life with shortages of food, goods and housing. References are also made to the atomic bomb (Aug. 31, 1945), Japanese soldiers in the hills of Okinawa, unaware that the war had ended, and a brief description of Japan (Nov. 19, 1945). Later post-war correspondence of the 1950' and 1960's contains news of social events and family members.

**II. Writings, 1847, 1871, undated**

Among the writings are biographical sketches of George Washington Cable, author and native of New Orleans, La.; Lowry Barfield Eastland; Turner Bynum, who had been killed in a dual August 17, 1832. Miscellaneous writings include a love poem written for Mary P. Clark (1847), recipes, phrenology reading for Tom Bynum (1871), note fragments on family history, and an essay on economics.

**III. Records, 1900-1932, undated**

Included in school records are East Baton Rouge Parish teacher's report (Jan. 9, 1900), certificate of promotion from Baton Rouge High School for Walter Bynum, Jr. (1919), and academic reports for W. H. Bynum (1914-1917) and Walter Bynum, Jr. (1922) from Louisiana State University. Poll tax receipt (1927), certificates of voter registration for Walter Bynum, Jr. (1930, 1932, 1938), and a poll tax registration certificate (1938) comprise voting records. Miscellaneous records consist of accounting sheets (June 1831, June 1853), receipt (1851), insurance policy (1908), and a short description of land (undated)

**IV. Printed items and graphic materials, 1891-1959, undated**

Printed items contain issues of the *Monthly Bulletin*, published by Louisiana State Board of Health (April 1915), *Mathematics News Letter* (Jan. 1932), and a reprint of *The Evils of Communism* published in the *Congressional Record* (ca. 1950). Additionally there are maps of Houston, TX (undated), Baton Rouge (1953), and Arizona (1912). Also contained in this series are the *New Webster's Dictionary* (1894), and programs for the Portland Street Baptist Church, Haverhill, Mass., Louisiana State School for the Blind (1922, 1947), St. James Lodge No. 47, F & A. M. (1955), and Princeton University (1911). Other printed items include a keynote address delivered by Opie L. Shelton at the Southern Association of Chamber of Commerce Executives Convention (March 1959); position statement of gubernatorial candidate, Earl K. Long (1955); brochures on the Federation of Churches, Camp Wabenaki for boys (ca. 1955) and public improvements in East Baton Rouge Parish (1953). Also among the printed items are University of Virginia's summer law classes catalogue (1891); courses of study for the Baton Rouge Graded School (ca. 1915) *Philistoria* yearbooks (1921/22-1922/23); and advertising cards (ca. 1900). Additionally, there are photocopies of newspaper clippings pertaining to the history of Baton Rouge and vicinities. Most clippings relate to Civil War history of the Baton Rouge area and local architecture of the 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries, with a focus on plantation homes. Among the graphic materials are four snap shots taken in Malaysia (1944), a photograph album containing numerous photographs of unidentified individuals and buildings, cabinet cards of Emilia Brickner Richards (1873), Walter Winn Bynum, Sr. (undated), his wife, Maggie Chamberlain Bynum (undated), a photograph of Clara Adams Bynum (undated), and photographs of unidentified persons (undated).

**V. Manuscript volumes, 1891-1924, undated**

Manuscript volumes include Maggie Chamberlain's autograph book (1876), memoranda books (1898, 1901), several school notebooks (1889-1920, undated), Phi Gamma Sigma Fraternity notebook containing a draft of the organization's constitution and roster (undated), and railroad books with destinations and arrival times (1924, undated). There are also a scrapbook with clippings of hunting pictures (undated), and a scrapbook (1848-1861) containing by-laws, rules and regulation for the Female Orphan Association of Baton Rouge, with a list of children received into the Female Orphan Asylum, news clippings on the asylum, recipes, and clippings of sermons delivered by Reverend Theodore Clappare also included in this scrapbook. A third scrapbook contains advertising cards, greeting cards, and clippings of pictures and poetry (1878). The majority of diaries appear to be those of Clara Adams Bynum (1906-1921) and reflect life in Baton Rouge and Louisiana during the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. Entries pertain to current events, weather, social affairs, family matters, Louisiana State University football, student life (1914), local and state government, flooding and work on the levees (1911-1912), war news, and anti-German sentiments (1915-1916).

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List of manuscript volumes:

- v. 1 Address Book (undated)
- v. 2 Scrapbook (undated)
- v. 3 Memoranda Book (1898)
- v. 4 Memoranda Book (1901)
- v. 5 Scrapbook (1878)
- v. 6 Scrapbook (1848-1861)
- v. 7 Railroad book (1924)
- v. 8 Railroad book (undated)
- v. 9 Railroad book (undated)
- v. 10 Autograph book (1876)
- v. 11 Phi Gamma Sigma notebook (undated)
- v. 12 School notebook - Senior notebook (1897)
- v. 13 School notebook - Composition notebook (1914)
- v. 14 School notebook - Science notebook (1920)
- v. 15 School notebook - Civics, World History notebook (undated)
- v. 16 School notebook - French notebook (undated)
- v. 17 School notebook - Math notebook (undated)
- v. 18 School notebook - law notes (1889)
- v. 19 Diary (1906-1912), C. A. Bynum
- v. 20 Diary (910-1914), C. A. Bynum
- v. 21 Diary ( 1911-1912), C. A. Bynum
- v. 22 Diary (1913), anonymous
- v. 23 Diary (1914), Tom Bynum
- v. 24 Diary (1915-1916), C. A. Bynum
- v. 25 Photograph album (undated)
- v. 26 Diary (1917-1921), C. A. Bynum

**INDEX TERMS**

Albuquerque (N.M.)--History.  
Albuquerque (N.M.)--Description and travel.  
Atomic bomb--History.  
Baton Rouge (La.)--History.  
Baton Rouge (La.)--Social life and customs.  
Bynum, Clara Adams.  
Bynum, Turner.  
Bynum, Walter Winn, Jr.  
Bynum, Walter Winn, Sr.  
Bynum, Maggie Chamberlain.  
Cable, George Washington.  
Clark, Samuel Marmaduke D.  
Commission merchants--New Orleans.  
Cook, Nathaniel.  
Cotton trade--Louisiana.  
Dueling.  
Eastland, Lowry Barfield.  
Female Orphan Association of Baton Rouge.  
Female Orphan Asylum.  
Flooding--Louisiana.  
Japan--Description and travel.  
Louisiana State University--student life.  
Louisiana State University--football.  
Louisiana--Description and travel.  
Louisiana--History--19<sup>th</sup> Century.  
Louisiana--History--20<sup>th</sup> Century.  
Phi Gamma Sigma Fraternity.  
Phrenology.  
Richards, Emilia Brickner.  
Surveyors--Louisiana.  
United States. Armed Forces--Military life.  
United States. Armed Forces--Medical care.  
World War, 1939-1945--Personal narratives.  
World War, 1914-1919.

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**CONTAINER LIST**

<u>Stack Location</u>	<u>Box</u>	<u>Folders</u>	<u>Contents</u>
E:103	1	1-11	Correspondence (1814-1928)
	2	1-8	Correspondence (1940-1969, undated)
	3	1-9	Printed items and graphic materials (1891-1972, undated)
E:104	4	1-2	Writings (1847, 1871, undated)
		3-5	Records (1931-1938, undated)
	5	--	Volumes 2, 5, 6 Scrapbooks (1848-1861, 1878, undated)
E:104	6	--	Volumes 1, 2-4, 7-18 Address book (undated), memoranda books (1898, 1901), railroad books (1924, undated), autograph book (1876), notebooks (1889-1920, undated)
E:105	7	--	Volumes 19-26 Diaries (1906-1921), photograph album (undated)
OS:B	--	1	Printed items and graphic materials - maps (1912, 1953, undated); records - insurance policy (1908)
		2	Printed items and graphic materials - <i>Weekly Market Bulletin</i> (1922-1929)