

**WRIGHT-BOYD FAMILY PAPERS**

Mss. 3362

Inventory

Compiled by  
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Amended by  
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**SUMMARY**

<b>Size.</b>	2.5 linear feet
<b>Geographic locations.</b>	Louisiana, Connecticut, Kentucky, Alabama
<b>Inclusive dates.</b>	1812-1914
<b>Bulk dates.</b>	1850-1885
<b>Languages.</b>	English.
<b>Summary.</b>	Correspondence, diaries, journals, memoirs, business papers and photographs of members of the Wright and Boyd families of Rapides Parish, Louisiana. Business papers and correspondence relating to the heirs of the Innes family.
<b>Source.</b>	Gift, June 26, 1979
<b>Related collections.</b>	David F. Boyd Family Papers, Mss. 99 Leroy S. Boyd Papers, Mss. 99. Jesse D. Wright Papers, Mss. 99.
<b>Copyright.</b>	Physical rights are retained by the LSU Libraries. Copyright of the original materials is retained by the creators, or their descendants, of the materials in accordance with U.S. copyright law.
<b>Citation.</b>	Wright-Boyd Family Papers, Mss. 3362, Louisiana and Lower Mississippi Valley Collections, LSU Libraries, Baton Rouge, Louisiana.
<b>Stack location.</b>	R: 23-24, OS:W, 65:61

## BIOGRAPHICAL/HISTORICAL NOTE<sup>1</sup>

The Wright family and their relatives are notable for their management of plantations in Louisiana, their contributions to education and their military service during the Civil War. The Wright family owned property throughout Louisiana and Texas. Originally, the family of Jesse and Sarah Wright lived at North Bend plantation, Rapides Parish, but after Jesse Wright's death, his wife and younger children moved to Greenwood (Rapides Parish), owned by Sarah Wright's son-in-law, Leroy Harvard. After the Civil War, family members remaining at Greenwood (Sarah Wright, Mary Wright and, later, Sarah's sister, Ann Foland) divided their time between this plantation and the homes of Esther Wright Boyd in Baton Rouge, La. and Auburn, Al.

Jesse D. Wright (1793-1850) completed his medical studies at Yale University in 1814. He was a practicing physician in Rapides Parish, La., and also managed several business concerns, including a store and plantations. He was apparently instrumental in setting up the Spring Creek Academy in Pineville, the summer home of planters in Rapides, to educate local children. He married Sarah Robert Grimball Wright (1805-81), who managed the family property after her husband's death. Six of their eleven children survived into early adulthood. Sarah Catherine, known as "Catherine" (1826-96), married (1843) General Leroy A. Stafford (1822-64). Stafford commanded the Stafford Guards during the Civil War, and was fatally wounded at the Battle of the Wilderness, Va. Julia Caroline (1828-98), married (1848) Leroy S. Harvard (1828-95). Harvard became a successful businessman in St. Landry Parish, La.. Ellen Judith (1837-64), married (June 26, 1856) Oscar Bailey Cheney (1830-1905). Their home was originally Riverside Plantation, but during the Civil War they moved into Greenwood, which Oscar managed for Sarah Wright. Mary Cornelia (1839-88) remained unmarried and lived with her mother on Greenwood Plantation and later with the family of Esther Wright Boyd. David Paul Augustus Wright, known as "Augustus" (1842-57) died of typhoid fever while at school in Kentucky. Esther Gertrude (1844-1915) married (1865) David French Boyd (1834-99), who spent much of his teaching career at Louisiana State Seminary, later Louisiana State University, where he was Superintendent and President.

From 1853-55, Ellen, Mary and Esther attended Grove Hall Seminary, New Haven, Conn. Mary was moved to the Female Institute at Mansfield, La. (1856-57), where she was joined by Esther. Esther then attended Georgetown College, Ky. (1857-58) and finally Minden College, La. (1859-61). Augustus attended the Collegiate and Industrial Institute (a preparatory school for Yale), New Haven, Conn. (1853-56) and then a school at Mansfield, La. (1856). He entered Kentucky Military Institute, near Frankfort, in the Fall of 1856, where he died (Sept. 1857).

The Workman family were related to Sarah Wright's family, the Grimballs. Dr. James Carey Workman (d. 1861) married Sarah Wright's niece, Martha Adelaide Cheney. After Martha's death in 1845, their four children were fostered by the family. John David, known as "David" (1840-64) and William Edmond (1841-61) were cared for by Sarah Wright, and James Henry, known as "Harry" (1843-ca.1914) and Martha Cheney (b. 1845) were sent to Mrs. J.W. Chrisman, Dr Carey's sister, in Pennsylvania. The father and all three sons fought in the Civil War. James Carey died

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<sup>1</sup>See also the extended biographical and historical material in the writings and typescripts within the Wright-Boyd papers.

in the Confederate Army Hospital in Va. William Edmond entered the Cheneyville Guards, 8th Louisiana Regiment of Infantry in the Confederate States Army. He died in hospital in Culpeper, Va., from pneumonia. David enlisted in the Stafford Guards, which became Company B, 9th Regiment of Infantry, CSA. In 1863, he commanded Company C of "Keary's Battalion", a group of sharpshooters organized under Captain Patrick F. Keary to fight in the Army of Northern Virginia. This battalion was in service from Feb.-Dec., and after it was disbanded, Workman returned to his old command in the 9th Regiment. He was killed in the Battle of Fisher's Hill, Va. (Sept. 22, 1864). Harry entered "Rush's Lancers" of Philadelphia, Pa., and survived the war.

Other related families who took a part in the Civil War were the Callihams and Staffords. The Calliham family was related to the Grimballs through Sarah Wright's sister, Mary. Joseph Henry Clinton Calliham (1832-62), nephew of Sarah, enlisted in the 9th Louisiana Regiment of Infantry. He was killed during the Battle of Fredericks, Va.. His brothers included David Grimball (b. 1820) and Paul Grimball (b. 1826). George Water Stafford (1844-90) was the eldest son of Catherine and Leroy Stafford. He also enlisted in the 9th Louisiana Regiment of Infantry, and was commander of Company D in Keary's Battalion.

## **SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE**

The papers document the life of the Wright family in the last half of the nineteenth century, especially during the 1850s and 60s. Papers mainly belong to the women of the Wright family. Correspondence includes letters describing life at boarding schools in Connecticut, Kentucky and Louisiana in the 1850s and service during the Civil War by relatives of the Wrights, the Stafford, Workman and Calliham families. Extensive correspondence and legal papers document the efforts of the Wright family to regain lands in Texas lost after the death of Jesse D. Wright. Diaries and journals of Sarah, Esther and Mary Wright for the 1850s-70s mostly document their personal and spiritual lives, but also include details of life on a plantation during the Civil War and its aftermath. A Theta Gamma Society book belonging to Mary Wright documents a secret society at a girls' boarding school. Record books of Mary Boyd Fleming, written by Mary Wright and Esther Wright Boyd, document childhood and domestic life during the 1870s and 80s. Other writings by Esther Wright Boyd describe people and events at the Louisiana State Seminary in the 1860s and 70s. Typescripts of family history and biography in the nineteenth century are compiled from papers included in this collection and from oral history, and are included at the end of these papers, along with miscellaneous typed notes. They may have been written by Mary Boyd Fleming. There are also some business papers relating to the inheritance of the Innes family in Texas in the 1870s. Their relation to the Wright land holdings is unknown.

Typed notes annotating the papers are not the work of staff at LLMVC, but appear to be compiled by Mary Boyd Fleming. Many other annotations to letters and mss. volumes, unless bracketed, are by Leroy S. Boyd, a son of Esther Wright Boyd.

## LIST OF GROUPS AND SERIES

### Group 1. Wright-Boyd Family Papers

#### I. Correspondence, 1824-1913 (boxes 1-2)

- Subseries 1. Wright family, 1824-1913 (boxes 1-2)**
- Subseries 2. Workman family, 1853-64 (box 2)**
- Subseries 3. Foland family, 1825-74 (box 2)**
- Subseries 4. Miscellaneous, 1836-1911, undated (box 2)**

#### II. Business Papers and Correspondence, 1812-1914 (box 3)

- Subseries 1. Lands in Texas, 1883-1914 (box 3)**
- Subseries 2. Jesse Wright: business and professional papers, 1812-48 (box 3)**
- Subseries 3. Sarah, Esther and Augustus Wright, 1849-67, undated (box 3)**
- Subseries 4. John David Workman: muster roll, 1863 (OS:W)**

#### III. Writings, ca. 1834-1914 (boxes 4-7, vol. 1)

- Subseries 1. Jesse D. Wright, ca. 1834-ca. 1849 (box 4)**
- Subseries 2. Sarah R. Wright: Devotional notebooks, journals and notes, 1850-80, undated (box 4)**
- Subseries 3. Mary, Augustus and Esther Wright: compositions and exercise books, 1853-60, undated (box 4)**
- Subseries 4. Mary Cornelia Wright: journals, diaries and notes, 1854-78 (box 5, vol. 1)**
- Subseries 5. Esther Wright Boyd: diaries, memoirs and writings, 1864-ca. 1913, undated (box 6)**
- Subseries 6. Esther Wright Boyd and Mary Cornelia Wright: biographies of Mary Wright Boyd, 1878-1903 (box 7)**
- Subseries 7. Miscellaneous notes, 1856-ca. 1858, undated (box 6).**
- Subseries 8. Typescripts and notes, undated (boxes 9-10).**

#### IV. Photographs, Printed and Graphic Materials, ca. 1850-60, undated (65:61)

#### V. Realia, ca. 1861, undated (box 8)

### Group 2. Innes Family Papers, 1870-76 (box 10)

## GROUPS AND SERIES DESCRIPTIONS

### Group 1. Wright-Boyd Family Papers (1812-1914)

#### I. Correspondence, 1824-1913

**Summary:** Correspondence to and from the Wright family generally consists of letters written between Sarah Wright and her children during their time at boarding schools, and between the Wrights and their relatives, the Wright, Foland, Workman, Calliham, Pumphrey, Stafford, Harvard, Cheney, Chrisman and Boyd families. Correspondence from the Workman and Calliham families documents life on active duty during the Civil War. The Foland family correspondence consists mainly of letters between members of the Foland, Wright and Grimbball families.

#### Subseries 1. Wright family, 1824-1913

##### Correspondence of Jesse Wright (1824-49)

Correspondence to Sarah R. Wright consists of letters from Jesse's visits home to Westbrook, Conn. It includes one relating the reception of Senator Henry Clay in New York (21 Aug., 1839). Another letter (Oct. 3, 1849) to church elders in Clinton, requests prayer from church members. Other correspondence with the Wright and Grimbball families includes a letter from his sister, Mary D. Hurd in Lake Michigan (Feb. 24, 1849) and a business letter from his father-in-law John D. Grimbball (Dec. 14, 1839).

##### Correspondence from Sarah R. Wright (1850-59)

Correspondence consists of letters written by Sarah Wright to her children, chiefly during their time at boarding school, and to her sister, Ann Foland. Letters to Augustus Wright include the relation of a murder in Rapides (Jan. 8, 1855), a warning against drinking and smoking (July 20, 1857) and the relation of the death of Julia's and Mary's babies (June 26, 1857). A letter to Ellen Wright Cheney (Dec. 12, 1853) recommends two devotional books, and another (Nov. 19, 1854) expresses Sarah's fears for Augustus's moral development at school. Letters to Esther Wright Boyd include a discussion of the death of Augustus (Nov. 27, 1857), Esther's conversion to Christianity (April 12, 1858) and the news that William and David Workman had been forced to leave school (Feb. 25, 1858). In general, letters to Mary Cornelia Wright relate news of the plantation and family and spiritual advice. One letter (Sept. 3, 1853) hints at the family rift that occurred when Jesse Wright's will was broken by his sons-in-law. Another (Sept. 18, 1853) details the division of Stafford property. News of Louisiana and plantations includes the relation of a yellow fever outbreak (Sept.-Oct., 1853) and the destruction of homes and crops through storms (Sept. 27, 1854). Another letter (Feb. 28, 1855) discusses the removal of Mary from school. Two letters (May 25 and July 20, 1857) describe Ellen Wright's engagement and marriage to Oscar Cheney. Another (Jan 18, 1857) warns Mary against novel reading. In a letter from Sarah and Esther to Mary (Feb. 6, 1855), Esther relates her visit to a menagerie. Correspondence from Sarah and Esther to Augustus includes an exhortation to maintain his morals at school (undated), and to study diligently (June 6, 1856). Correspondence to Ann Foland includes a letter relating the death of two of Sarah's grandchildren (Mar. 14, 1872)



**Correspondence to Sarah R. Wright (1855-79, undated)**

Of note in miscellaneous family correspondence are letters from Sarah's sister, Jane S. Pumphrey on her conversion (undated), from David F. Boyd concerning the settlement of her estate (1869) and from her grand daughter, Sally Stafford, on the triple wedding of Ada Cheney, Julia Smith and Rosa Pearce (Mar. 8, 1879). A letter from her nephew, James Henry Workman (Sept. 29, 1865) discusses the events that led to his enlistment in the Union Army in opposition to his father and two brothers in the Confederate Army, and asks for reconciliation with his southern relations. Letters from Mrs. J.W. Chrisman (1855-80) relate the progress of John David and Mattie Workman, her nephew and niece, whom she fostered. A letter from Martha E. Wright, Sarah's sister-in-law (June 24, 1850), gives condolences on the death of Jesse Wright. Other family correspondents include Catherine Stafford and Julia Harvard, and Sarah's grand daughter, Ada Cheney. Mrs. J.W. Chrisman's letters are transcribed in the typescripts "The House Divided" (see below, p. 24).

Correspondence from Mary Dutton, the principal of Grove Hall Seminary includes bills, receipts, progress reports on Mary and Ellen, and a catalogue for the school (1855). Letters from Mrs. Farman, Esther's schoolmistress in Kentucky concern Esther's conversion (Mar. 26, 1858) and the death of Augustus Wright (Jan. 3, 1858). Other correspondence includes details of Sarah's baptism in 1834 (July 5, 1875) and condolences from L. Brainard on the death of Jesse Wright (Apr. 6, 1850). A letter (June 22, 1857) from H.C. Thweatt, principal of Mansfield College, answers Sarah's enquiry as to sickness that was moving through the school. Several letters from persons at Kentucky Military Institute document the illness and death of Augustus Wright (Aug.-Sept., 1857).

**Correspondence from Esther G. Wright Boyd (1854-1913)**

This consists of letters from Esther to members of the Wright and Boyd families. Correspondence to Sarah Wright includes two letters (Nov. 29 - Dec. 2, 1856) which tell of Esther having the mumps. Other news from school includes a relation of subjects which Esther studied (April 5, 1857) and the fashion of schoolgirls for using makeup (Oct. 21, 1857). Another letter (May 30, 1857) describes her reading of *Swiss Family Robinson* and a letter which she wrote to Queen Victoria. Also of note are letters describing Esther's repentance over reading novels (April 19, 1857) and her conversion to Christianity (Mar. 26, 1858). Letters to Mary, Ellen and Augustus Wright include a description of Christmas day in Rapides (Dec. 25, 1854), a request to Ellen to send her whiskey for Christmas (Nov. 19, 1856), and the journey of Esther and her mother to Kentucky to attend Augustus in his last illness, and on his death (Sept., 1877). There are also letters written by Esther 'from' her children, Mary Wright Boyd and Leroy Stafford Boyd, to Mary Wright (undated, 1879).

Letters to Leroy S. Boyd include the relation of the death of Colonel Lockett (Jan. 3, 1897) and Rex Boyd's escape from an explosion on the ship Maine (Feb. 16 and Mar. 25, 1898). Another (Jan. 11, 1912) concerns the contribution of her son-in-law, Walter Fleming, to an entry on the American Civil War in the *Encyclopedia Britannica* that includes photographs by A.D. Lytle .

**Correspondence to Esther Wright Boyd (1858-1908)**

Miscellaneous family letters include one from Esther's niece, Sally Stafford, which relates a trip to an exhibition to see the original Siamese twins (Feb. 18, 1858), and from her niece, Ada Cheney (Dec. 29, 1908), requesting information on David Workman. Other miscellaneous correspondence includes an anonymous love-poem (undated) and a letter from P.H. Cooper at the Naval Academy

at Annapolis, Md., (Mar. 17, 1897) concerning the conduct of Esther's son, David. Also of note is a letter from Sally Newman who had helped to nurse David Workman during the Civil War (July 16, 1896), and one from Yale University (Mar. 25, 1901), stating that Esther's father, Jesse Wright, was not registered there as a graduate.

### **Correspondence from Mary Cornelia Wright (1856-81)**

Correspondence consists of letters to the Wright and Boyd families. Letters to Augustus Wright include the description of a spell cast by Mary and her friends to conjure up future beaux (Feb. 8, 1857), and a description of Mary's teachers (ca. Dec., 1856). A letter to Esther Wright Boyd (Feb. 5, 1858) describes the marriage of Mary's friend, Nellie Burruss. Letters to Sarah Wright mostly detail Mary's studies at school in the 1850s. These include a description of a Baptist revival in Conn. (Oct. 3, 1856) and a letter (Oct. 28, 1856) which discusses her examinations and relates that an ambrotype of Esther has been taken by a travelling photographer. Another letter (June 10, 1857) tells of deaths and an outbreak of the flux at school; it also discusses Esther's vaccination and a warning against boarding school life for Esther. Another (Dec. 31, 1856) discusses the possibility of Mary remaining a spinster.

Mary's correspondence with the Boyd family includes birthday letters (Dec. 21, 1880 and Dec. 21, 1881) to Leroy Boyd.

### **Correspondence to Mary Cornelia Wright (1855-86)**

Many letters are from relatives on training and active duty during the Civil War. Letters from Joseph H.C. Calliham to Mary are written from Camp Carrondelet and a hospital in Richmond, Va. They include an account of the retreat from Carrondelet (Mar. 28, 1862). Also included is an invitation to a military ball (Feb. 25, 1862). A letter (June 6, 1861) from George W. Stafford, Mary's nephew, describes the departure of troops from Camp Monroe, La. Many of the Civil War letters are reproduced in the typescript "History of the Wright Family" (see below, p. 25).

Other family correspondence includes a letter (Mar. 7, 1880) from a cousin, Jim, in Texas. Miscellaneous correspondence includes a love-letter (Jan. 14, 1861), a letter (Aug. 15, 1880) from a friend, Mary, describing her post as a governess and a letter of condolence (Oct. 24, 1857) on the death of Augustus Wright.

### **Correspondence from Augustus Wright (1853-57)**

Letters to Augustus's sisters are written from school in New Haven, Conn. and summer camp at Williamsburg, Mass. They include a description of his studies (Feb. 24, s.a.). Letters to Mary describe the dismissal of Robert Tanner (a friend from Rapides Parish) for going to town without permission to cast his vote (Nov. 12, 1856), and a "negro insurrection" (July 30, 1857). Letters to Sarah Wright include one (June 30, 1857) in which he confesses to smoking and drinking. In other letters, he describes his examinations (July 18, undated), his studies (Dec. 3, 1856) and his uniform (Mar. 11, 1857). Miscellaneous family correspondence includes a letter to his Uncle, William Foland (May 21, 1857), which describes Kentucky Military Institute. Correspondence with an unnamed friend (Aug.9, s.a.) discusses a romance. Part of this correspondence is reproduced in the typescript "Greenwood Plantation and its People during the Civil War" (see below, p. 24).

**Correspondence to Augustus Wright (1853-56)**

A letter from William Foland (Aug. 23, 1857) gives advice on school life. Another, from George Stafford (Nov. 4, 1853), describes the elections for the Senate in Louisiana. Miscellaneous letters include a discussion by E. Robert of the attempts of the Democrats to lower the sugar tariff (Mar. 3, 1853).

**Correspondence to Ellen Wright Cheney (1854-57, undated)**

Letters to the Wright family include one to Sarah Wright (Sept. 19, 1854), which describes a fancy dress ball at school. Another, to Mary Wright (June 4, 1855), relates Ellen's engagement to Oscar Cheney. Letters to Augustus Wright tell of the murder of the Mayor of Alexandria (undated) and a wild animal show in Enterprise, La. (Feb. 22, 1857).

**Subseries 2. Workman Family, 1853-64**

**Correspondence from David Workman (1853-64)**

Several letters written to Mary Wright document David's experiences in the Louisiana Seminary and as a Confederate soldier. They include a description of teachers at the Seminary (Feb. 13, 1860). Other letters of note include a description of conditions at Camp Hermitage (July 18, 1861), crossing the Potomac river into Maryland after the battle of Manassas [Bull Run] (Sept. 23, 1862), the campaign at Richmond and the death of General Stafford (May-June, 1864). Other letters relate the capture of jayhawkers and men evading conscription (Sept. 17, 1863) and of the punishment of scalpers (Nov. 6, 1861). Also included is a reply to Mary's rebuff of his declaration of love (June 25, 1861), and a discussion on the death of his brother William Edmond (Nov. 8, 1861). Correspondence from David to other members of his family includes a letter to his Aunt, Belle Cheney (Aug. 1, 1861) describing the battle of Manassas [Bull Run] and his convalescence after measles at the home of the Newman family in Gordonsville, Virginia, and to Esther Wright Boyd (Oct. 10, 1861) describing conditions in military hospitals in Virginia.

**Correspondence to John David Workman (1863)**

A letter to David (Aug. 21, 1863) from a friend, H.E. H--, describes the Battle of Gettysburg.

**Correspondence from William Edmond Workman (1861)**

A letter to Mary Wright (Sept. 5, 1861) talks of the State of Louisiana undertaking to clothe all its troops. Another, to Sarah Wright (Aug. 28, 1861), describes sickness amongst family members in army camps in Louisiana.

Letters from the Workman family are included in the typescripts "The House Divided" (see below, p. 24).

**Subseries 3. Foland Family, 1825-74**

**Correspondence from Ann and William Foland (1825-56)**

Letters between Ann and William include one from William (May 26, 183-) describing the development of his business in Shreveport. Letters to the Wright and Grimball families include one from William to Sarah Wright (Aug. 7, 1857) asking for help with mortgage payments.

**Correspondence to Ann and William Foland (1825-58)**

Family correspondence with the Folands include a letter to Ann from her brother, John Grimball (June 7, 1837), who is seeking a wife. Miscellaneous correspondence includes theological disputes between William and Baynard C. Robert over unitarianism and universalism (1854-55), and the transferral of the body of Augustus Wright from Kentucky to Louisiana (March, 1858).

**Subseries 4. Miscellaneous, undated, 1836-1911**

Correspondence includes a letter from Martha Cheney (Mrs. John Workman) to Martha Newelle (Feb. 5, 1836) discussing the wedding of Lucy Stafford to John Harvard, and a letter to Santa from Leroy Boyd (Dec. 24, 1883).

**II. Business and legal papers and correspondence, 1812-1914**

**Subseries 1. Texas land documents, 1883-1914**

**Summary:** Correspondence is primarily between the Wright family, the Robert family and the agent Richard H. Barrow concerning land which both families believed belonged to them. In the 1840s or 50s, Jesse D. Wright purchased large tracts of land in Texas. He gave agency of these lands to Hadley P. Robert, his wife's cousin. Hadley moved to Texas, where he died in 1856, and the management of his lands passed to his eldest son, Benjamin Robert. In the 1860s, Sarah Wright sent her nephew, James H. Crawford, to Texas, with papers relating to possession of the land in order to restore ownership. When forced to return to Louisiana, Crawford left these papers in the hands of a law firm, Lawrence and Frost, who subsequently closed their firm and moved away from Texas, losing the Wright papers. Sarah Wright then put the matter into the hands of an agent, J.C. Westbrook, who took the remaining Wright papers to Texas and disappeared. Westbrook was later discovered to be the husband of one of Robert's daughters. In 1894, the matter was taken up by William C. Scott, the son-in-law of Julia Wright Harvard. A daughter of Hadley Robert, Maggie Robert Eddins, had contacted the family on the subject of lands lost which she believed to be the property of the Wright and Robert families. According to L.S. Boyd, Robert's agentship had somehow been transferred into ownership, and at Robert's death, Ben Robert had persuaded the other Robert heirs to convey their land to buyers who included relatives of the Roberts by marriage. Much of the correspondence concerns the efforts of the Robert family to regain what they believe to be their own lands. The matter was also taken up by Leroy S. Boyd, with whose efforts the correspondence ends in 1914.

Of importance in the legal papers and notes (1883, undated) are the papers (1883-96) which appoint Robert H. Barrow as attorney for the heirs of Jesse D. Wright, allowing him half of any land recovered by him for the Wright family, and papers that confirm the agreement of the parties in the former document. There is also a rough copy of the Robert family tree (undated), and notes of counties in which land claims were made as well as notes pertaining to the efforts for their recovery (undated).

Of note in correspondence concerning the property is a letter (Nov. 19, 1894) from W.C. Scott to R.H. Barrow, tracing the history of the Texas lands. Letters annotated as "important" are comprised of one (Dec. 4, 1894) from Esther Boyd to W.C. Scott which conveys her recollections of the history of these lands; another (Mar. 28, 1896) from Thomas Robert to Maggie Eddins claims that no officer was present when he signed away his portion of the inherited land; also a letter from the attorney Thomas Stribling to J.J. Hiner (Mar. 16, 1897) reveals his finding the deed

of conveyance by the Robert heirs of five-sevenths of their land to W.G. and J.T. Daniels. Also of note is the letter (Nov. 6, 1895) in which Maggie Robert Eddins names other Robert heirs, and a letter from Solon Robert to William Scott (April 6, 1896), which is annotated with the history of Hadley Robert's indebtedness to Jesse Wright and of the breaking of Wright's will by his sons-in-law. A letter (Mar. 13, 1896) from Sallie Robert to Maggie Eddins discusses the lands signed away by the Robert heirs, and another letter (Mar. 20, 1896) from Maggie Eddins to Esther Wright Boyd claims that the Roberts were also "cheated" of their Texas lands. In another letter (Sept. 20, 1901) L.S. Boyd outlines the history of the case to attorneys, Walton and Hill, in Texas, and suggests the Hadley Robert's ownership of the land was illegal. The final letter (Dec. 10, 1914) is a copy (anonymous) of one sent to an attorney, Rufus B. Daniel, in El Paso, on the matter of the lands.

**Subseries 2. Jesse Wright: business and professional papers, 1812-48**

Medical papers include lecture passes for the Medical Institution of Yale College (1813-14), a certificate of character and confirmation of Wright's diploma from the Institute (May 11, 1814) and a license to practice medicine in Louisiana (June 2, 1824). There are also letters certifying Wright's competence as a school instructor (Oct. 17 and Nov. 12, 1812) and letters of recommendation from churches, including the Church of Christ at Westbrook (Nov. 24, 1813).

Legal papers include lists of notes payable to Wright. There is a note of payment received for land in St Mary's Parish (June 7, 1836). An act of mortgage for Peter H. Robert (1836) includes notes of payments made for Robert by Wright (1836-38). Court papers include a summons to Wright and John D. Grimball for non-payment of a loan (25 May, 1841) and a claim against the estate of Charles Stafford by Charles Kibley (26 June, 1843). Papers also include documents recording the seizure of Wright's property as security for Hadley P. Robert (Mar. 18, 1845) and a copy of Hadley P. Robert's indebtedness to Jesse Wright (23 Feb. 1848). Also included is a subrogation of J.N.F. Richardson and Emma Maria Overton Richardson to Leroy A. Stafford (13 Mar., 1848).

Financial Papers include receipts for board at Yale college (1814), accounts of medical supplies bought (May 16, 1819), a bill of sale for a Negro girl (1828), and bills of tuition (1836-42) for Spring Creek Academy, Rapides Parish, of which Wright was the treasurer.

**Subseries 3. Sarah, Esther and Augustus Wright: business papers, 1849-67, undated**

These include a bill for tuition fees for her children (Dec., 1850) and a list of expenses (July-Nov., 1853). There is also a school report for Esther Wright Boyd for Minden Female College, La. (1859).

**Subseries 4. John David Workman: muster roll, 1863**

This muster roll lists recruits for Keary's Battalion, of which David Workman was commander (see also correspondence of David Workman for 1863).

**III. Writings, ca. 1834-1913**

**Subseries 1. Jesse D. Wright, ca. 1834-ca. 1849**

Writings are comprised of two versions of a "Life of Esther Eliza Wright" (ca. 1834) the biography of Esther Eliza Wright (1824-1834), daughter of Jesse and Sarah Wright, who died from scarlet

fever on 26 March, 1834. Jesse Wright relates Esther Eliza's piety and exhortations to her parents to become more religious. There is also a memorandum book for the 1840s, which lists expenses and notes owed to Jesse Wright, including those of Hadley P. Robert.

**Subseries 2. Sarah R. Wright: Devotional notebooks, journals and notes, 1850-80, undated**

Two notebooks (1850) include Scripture quotations, Bible study notes, sermon notes and devotional writings, especially on Sabbath days. One notebook also includes some diary entries and brief accounts, not necessarily by Sarah Wright. The journal (1857-80) was written in a notebook belonging to Augustus Wright, and contains autographs of his schoolmates. It was begun upon Augustus's death in Sept. 1857 and is a mourning and devotional journal. Entries are regular from 1857-60 and intermittent thereafter. Included are obituaries on the death of Augustus. Entries of note include the removal of Augustus's remains to Chenyville (Feb. 24, 1858) and the reception of Ellen Wright Cheney to church (Sept. 4, 1958). Other writings include notes taken from sermons and Sabbath School (undated) and meditations on the death of her husband, Jesse Wright (undated).

**Subseries 3. Mary, Augustus and Esther Wright: compositions and exercise books, 1853-60, undated**

Augustus's compositions include a copy of the rules of the Collegiate and Commercial Institute, Newhaven, Conn. (undated). Mary's compositions include a draft and final copy of a salutatory address (undated). Esther's compositions include "When the candles are blown out, the cats are grey" (undated) and an exhibition address (July 1860), "Unnoticed heroes". There is also a composition by Esther or Mary entitled "Progress in Society" (ca. 1857-8) which includes a description of how Woman has "attained the sphere in society allotted to her by her maker". An exercise book (1853-55) belonging to Mary is apparently a rough book, and contains sermon notes and creative writing and mathematics exercises. Two report books (1854-55) of Augustus contain notes of sermons heard at the Congregational Church, New Haven, Conn., during Augustus's time at the Collegiate and Industrial Institute. A composition book (1855) includes essays on subjects including "Politeness", "War" and "Natural Scenery".

**Subseries 4. Mary Cornelia Wright: journals, diaries and notes, 1854-78**

**Diary (1854)**

This diary was mainly kept while Mary was at Grove Hall Seminary, New Haven, Conn. Entries describe the expulsion of schoolmate Fannie Fitch (Jan. 31), having daguerreotypes taken (Feb. 11), Ellen and Mary being forbidden to visit Augustus who has scarlet fever (Feb. 16), and the serenading of the girls by local schoolboys (May 19). Pencil entries relating to events at Greenwood may or may not be Mary's (May-June). Other notable entries describe a vacation with cousins at Westbrook, Conn. (Aug. 27 and a list of teachers and pupils present in 1853 (Dec. 31 ff.)).

**Journal (1857-59)**

This was kept while at Mansfield Female College, La. It largely consists of Mary's reflections upon her life and her relationship with Mr. and Mrs. Burruss, with whom she boarded, and her friendship with their daughter, Nellie.

Entries for 1857 include a self-analysis (Feb. 8), reflections on reading Longfellow (Feb. 11: p. 6), on Valentine's Day (Feb. 14: p. 9), and on marriage and the single life (Feb. 22: p. 17). Entries also describe college concerts held to pay for a piano (Feb. 28: p. 19), the election of James Buchanan as president, with a comment by Mary on the slavery issue between the North and South (Mar. 4, p. 21), a character sketch of Nellie Burruss (Mar. 8: pp. 27-28), the fad for dress hoops (Apr. 5: p. 36), sealing Mary's friendship with Nellie (Apr. 5: p. 37) and an incident of schoolmates getting in trouble for dancing a polka in the view of young men (Apr. 30: pp. 42-43). Other news includes fires being started in school (May 21: p. 48), Mary's fears over the coming examinations (June 1: p. 50), the dismissal of the music teachers, Mr. and Mrs. Plagge because Mrs. Plagge spread rumors of a relationship between Nellie Burruss and Mr. Plagge (June 9: p. 51), fever and deaths in the school (June: p. 52 ff.) and graduation, in which Mary is Valedictory and Nellie is Salutatory (June 16: p. 53).

### **Journal (1861-67)**

The latter part of this journal is a devotional notebook, containing copies of a *Confession of Faith* and *Covenant*, probably from Mary's church, and Scripture notes. A photograph and brief biography of Mary has been added at the beginning of the volume. There are also occasional annotations by Esther Wright Boyd and Leroy S. Boyd. The diary primarily analyses Mary's inner life and her relationships with her family, as well as documenting family news, domestic duties, and attendance at church services and Sabbath School. The diary contains many copied quotations from prose and poetical works, often inserted in blank pages of the diary (see entry for Jan. 3, 1863: p. 180). Civil War poetry includes "The Southern Cross" taken from the *Baltimore Republic*, which caused the paper's suppression and the exile of the editor (May 17, 1865: p. 14), and "The Tolling Bell", inspired by the hospital at Mansfield, La. (May 17, 1865: p. 26). On pp. 118-19, there are lists of books read 1864-65. There is a National Democratic ticket at the back of the book (undated).

Entries for the year 1861 include reflections on Esther's future life (Jan. 22: p. 22), on the loneliness of Mary's own life (Jan 23: p. 23) and on marriage (Mar. 6: p. 65). News includes the several marriage proposals made to Mary (Feb. 10: p. 41), receiving a braid to add to her hair (Feb. 16: p. 73), the journey from Cheneyville to Minden to see Esther at school (Feb. 18-26: pp. 59-57), the inauguration of Lincoln (Mar. 4: p. 63), a visit to Ellen Wright Cheney's home, Riverside plantation (April 2-8: pp. 92-98), measles at the plantation (June 20: p. 171), the proposal of marriage made to Mary by her cousin, David Workman (June 23: p. 174), and an obituary on the death of Augustus Wright in 1857 (p. 176). Civil War entries describe sewing uniforms for Confederate soldiers (May 15: p. 135), sending off volunteers from Cheneyville (May 31: p. 151), the reactions of the Workman family to leaving for war (June 3: p. 154) and the departure of Leroy Stafford for duty (June 24: p. 175). Mary also notes the secession of states from the Union, for example, Louisiana leaves Jan. 25 (p. 25). There is also a critical analysis of Augusta J. Evans' *Beulah* (Mar 12.: p. 71) and Hawthorne's *Blithedale Romance* (Mar. 14: p. 73).

Entries for the year 1863 include New Year's resolutions (Jan 1: p. 178) and reminiscences on the recent deaths of Leroy Stafford and Ellen Cheney, the devastation of the Wright plantation (Nov. 12: p. 205) and the death of John David Workman (Dec. 23: p. 207). Also described are a fast-day held for the Confederate States (Jan. 4: p. 181), activities in a Society formed to organize Confederate supplies (Jan. 6: p. 183), the family called upon to send men to help build fortifications

at Gordon's [landing] (Jan. 15: p. 192) and fighting on the Mississippi River (Feb. 28: p. 201). Throughout 1863 are notes on the course of reading embarked upon by Esther and Mary. Of note for 1864 are reflections on the Civil War and the deaths in her family, and a poem to the memory of John David Workman (Jan. 1: pp. 209-10). There is also a newspaper obituary on the death of Ellen Wright Cheney from typhoid fever (p. 210).

Entries of note for 1865 include reflections on Mary's dissatisfaction with herself (Jan. 18: p. 211), upon her relationships, especially with her cousin David (Jan. 22: p. 212), regrets on the lack of a cultivated life for the family (Feb. 2: pp. 215-26), reflections on Augustus Wright's birthday and death, and the death of David Workman (Feb. 10: p. 217). Entries also describe marriage proposals to Mary and Esther (Mar. 4), an overview of events of the Civil War, including Lincoln's assassination and the surrender of General Lee (May 12: pp. 220-21), remarks on Andrew Johnson's character and presidency, and the coming end of war (May 19: p. 222) and the theft of her horse by soldiers (June 3: p. 225). Also of note is the announcement to plantation slaves of their emancipation (June 14: p. 226), the diagnosis of her niece, Kate Harvard, as having consumption (July 1: pp. 226-27), a journey to Bladen Springs, Ala., for her health (Aug. 13: p. 226), Mary's feelings on Esther's impending marriage (Sept. 7: p. 230) and the death of Kate Harvard (Dec. 7: p. 232).

Entries for 1866 describe the loss of house servants (Jan. 20: p. 233), a devotional self-analysis (May 24: p. 241), a visit by Esther (May 27: p. 243), Mary's conversion and reception into Beulah Baptist Church (June 2: p. 245), the scandal of a local girl eloping with a local Jewish man (July 21: p. 253) and the preparation of a vault to reinter Leroy Stafford's body in Louisiana (Nov. 23: pp. 257-58). There are several entries on her reading of *The Pilgrim's Progress*, including meditations and quotations (Feb. 12, 1865: p. 218 and Feb. 11, 1866: p. 233). Of note for 1867 is the description of life at Greenwood without house servants (Mar. 5: p. 261) and the operation of a small school at the plantation (Apr. 16: p. 266).

Extracts from this diary are included in the typescripts "Journal of Mary Cornelia Wright" and "Greenwood Plantation and its People during the Civil War" (see below p. 24).

### **Theta Gamma Society notebook and correspondence (1854-55; 1916)**

This notebook contains copies of Society rules and letters and autographs of schoolmates. It is not clear who made the transcription. It also includes annotations by L.S. Boyd, including biographical information of members pasted onto the flyleaf. The contents include a list of members, rules and secrets of the Society, a photograph of the members, a letter (April 7, 1855) from Mary to Augustus Wright telling of the photograph being taken and a letter from Robert Brown (an honorary member) to his sister, Sallie, suggesting names for the Society (Sept. 15, 1854). Also included are copies of compositions written for the last meeting of the Society in March 1855, which largely consist of imaginative works on the future lives of its members. Loose papers include the compositions of Mary Boyd and Ellen J.T. Spears. There is also correspondence between L.S. Boyd and Robert Brown and Sallie Brown [Grey] concerning the history of the Society (March 31, 1906 and Dec. 15, 1916), and from Franklin B. Dexter of Yale College answering queries about members (Feb. 10 and 16, 1916).



**Scrapbook (1850-67)**

This is compiled from newspaper clippings, programs and other printed items. It includes items on the Civil War and a program for a concert at Minden Female College (undated).

**Notes (1855-78)**

Notes include a record written during the yellow fever outbreak in Baton Rouge in 1878 (Aug. 31-Nov. 28), which relates statistics taken from local newspapers such as the *Advocate* and names of the sick and dead. There is also a partial diary (1855-5) and a transcribed list of books read by Mary in 1868.

**Subseries 5. Esther Wright Boyd: diaries, memoirs and writings, 1864-ca. 1913, undated**

**Journal (1864-66)**

Entries describe the arrival of General Taylor in Louisiana (p. [5r]), the death of John Workman (p. [10r]) and a note that Jefferson Davis has been declared a fugitive (p. [14r]). Esther also discusses the deaths of family members in the Civil War (p. [14r]). The end of the journal contains extensive Scripture quotations. This intermittent journal is in a fragile condition and readers are asked to use the typed transcription (see below, p.25).

**Diary (1867-74)**

This was kept from Sept. 1867, when the Boyd family moved to Louisiana State Seminary, then near Pineville, Rapides Parish. It relates a yellow fever outbreak in Alexandria (Sept.-Nov. 1867), the explosion of the steamboat "Cuba" seen from their home (Nov. 11, 1867), the marriage of Mary Boyd (David Boyd's sister) to Charles Metz and of Jimmie Boyd to Bettie Lawson (Jan. 23, 1868), and a journey by steamboat to New Orleans (July 1, 1868). The diary also includes notes and accounts, generally relating to travel expenses.

**Memoirs (ca. 1906-10)**

Memoirs include the early history of family property on Bayou Salle and Rapides Parish (p. [3r]), a description of the family gravesite (p.[3v]), the first faculty at Louisiana State Seminary (p.[4v]), the Spring Creek Academy and travel to Rapides (p.[5r-v]), a meeting with General Sherman (p.[6v]) and a commentary on Sherman's "march to the sea" (insert after p.[6v]). The Baptist church at Cheneyville is described (p.[10r-v]). There is also extended information on the family of Sarah R. Wright (p.[7r] ff.). This mss. is reproduced in the typescript entitled "Notes by Mrs. Esther Gertrude Wright" (see below, p. 19).

**Memoirs (ca. 1906)**

These memoirs chronicle Esther's life during the 1850s and 60s. They include descriptions of social classes in Rapides (pp. 2-4), Esther teaching school during the Civil War (pp. 5-6), Jews in Louisiana (p. 8) and travel throughout Louisiana (pp. 9-10). Esther testifies that a German music teacher introduced the music of Bach and Schuman was introduced to La. earlier than is generally assumed (p. 12). Details of education (pp. 14-29) include descriptions of music lessons (pp. 14-15), life at Mansfield college (p. 21), at school in Georgetown, Ky. (p. 24) and at Minden, La. (p. 25). Another set of notes (ca. 1906) includes a description of Union armies passing through La., and plantation raids (pp. 1-2). These writings are transcribed in the typescript which begins "The following notes of reminiscences..." (see below, p. 24).

### Notes on Louisiana State Seminary (ca. 1906-10)

These appear to have been written at the request of Esther's son-in-law, Walter L. Fleming, who wrote *Louisiana State University 1860-1896*. They describe professors at LSU in the 1860s-70s. People mentioned in the first set of notes (undated) include James Maurey Boyd, Prof. of Natural Philosophy (p. [1r]), Willie Bingham and Dr. Cockerville (p. [2r]), Dr. J.W. Wilson, surgeon to the Seminary (p. [3v]), Dr. John R. Page, Prof. of Chemistry (p. [4v]), James M. Garrett, J.P. McAuley and Father Jean Pierre Bellier, Prof. of Modern Languages and Catholic priest (p. 5v)), Charles Woodward Hutson, Prof. of Greek, History and English literature (p. 7r)), Frederick V. Hopkins, surgeon and Prof. of Chemistry (p. [8v]), Americus Featherwood [Featherman?], Prof. of Modern Languages and Botany (p. [9r]), Arthur Bayles, who rose from cleaner to librarian and instructor (p. [10v]), Stephen Athanasiades (later Stephen), Prof. of Greek (p. [11v]), Dr. Pendleton King, Prof. of Natural History (p. [12v]), Til[ ]man L. Grimes (p. [13r]), Sidney L. Guyol, Prof. of French and Commandant of Cadets (p. [14r]) and William Van Pelt, instructor (p. [14r]).

Other notes in a more anecdotal piece on people at LSU (written after 1910) include descriptions of Major Richard Morton Venable, Prof. of Engineering and Major John A.A. West, Prof. of Mathematics and Natural Philosophy (p. 1), Colonel Edward Cunningham, Prof. of Chemistry (p. 2v.), Father Bellier (pp. 3-6), J.M. Boyd (p. 6v.), Rev. Edward Porter Palmer, Presbyterian chaplain and Prof. of Mental and Moral Philosophy (p. 7v.), William A. Seay, Prof. of Moral Philosophy and Belles Lettres (p. 8), Sampson B. Robinson, who served in many capacities, including, steward, librarian and professor (p. 9) and Samuel H. Lockett, Prof. of Engineering, (p. 10). These are transcribed in the typescript "Reminiscences" (see below, p. 24).

### Commentary upon the diary of David F. Boyd (ca. 1906)

Two sets of notes appear to be a commentary upon the diary of David F. Boyd for the period 1869-70s, and are apparently numbered according to diary pages.<sup>2</sup> People named include Pendleton King and Athanasiades (pp. 1, 37), Featherman (p. 2), Van Pelt (p. 3), Grimes and Guyol (p. 5), McWhorter (pp. 5-6, 31-34), General Brent (pp. 5-6), Gen. Harry J. Hays (pp. 6-7), Reuben Stark Jackson (p. 9), Samuel H. Lockett, Prof. of Engineering (pp. 9-10), Thomas Jefferson? Boyd (p. 10), Robinson (p. 10), Rev. Dr. Lane[?], superintendent of the State Institute for the Blind (p. 12), Gov. J. Madison Wells, described by Esther as "La.'s scallawag Gov." (p. 13), Hopkins (p. 14), Jason W. Crawford (p. 16), Bayles (pp. 16, 100-101), Cunningham (p. 31), McAuley (p. 37), Page (p. 38), Hopkins (p. 41) and Dave Stafford (p. 72). Other incidents elaborated upon include a fire at the Seminary (Oct. 14, 1869: p. 14), one of the first honorary degrees, S.T.D., given to Dr. Henry Strong, Episcopal rector (p. 22), hard times at LSU (pp. 23, 39) and an incident of stealing bell belonging to the Deaf and Dumb and Blind Institutes which for a time shared quarters with the Seminary (p. 129).

The second set of notes on the Boyd diary contains annotations by Mary Boyd Fleming, daughter of Esther and David Boyd. Annotations include Boyd's comments on church attendance (p. 151), his application for the presidency of University College (p. 230), boarding with Mary and Sarah

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<sup>2</sup>Appended notes suggest that the diary is in the possession of LSU libraries, but no diary for the years 1869-70 exists in the David F. Boyd Papers.

Wright (p. 257), Ned Boyd's illness and death (p. 274), and an allusion to Boyd's strong remarks on Louisianians (p. 301). Other people mentioned include Mr. George, a lawyer in Minden (p. 183), John Hill, after whom Hill Memorial at Louisiana State University was named (p. 185) and Captain Jeffries (p. 211).

**Miscellaneous notes (1884-1913, undated)**

Notes include a list of her classmates from Minden College (undated), a list entitled "important events in our family (undated) and a partial diary with notes (1912-13).

**Subseries 6. Esther Wright Boyd and Mary Cornelia Wright: biographies of Mary Wright Boyd, 1878-1903**

**"Record of Mary Wright Boyd 1878" and "Mary Boyd's record of her second year" (1878-82)** The first notebook (1878-80) describes a yellow fever outbreak (Aug.-Nov., 1878), and caring for a baby, Frank Preston, whose mother had died of yellow fever (Sept. 1878 ff.). The second notebook (1880-82) records Mary's birthday (Aug. 15, 1880), Arthur Boyd's birthday (Oct. 7, 1880), Ann Foland's death (Aug. 17, 1880), Christmas of 1880 (Jan. 9, 1881), the death of Sarah R. Wright (July 24, 1881) and Jack starting school in Wycherville (Sept. 30, 1882). Also included is a letter from Mary Wright to her niece on her second birthday, relating details of Mary Boyd's appearance (Aug. 15, 1880).

**"Continuation of the record of Mary Wright Boyd" (1882-85)**

This was continued in a composition book originally belonging to Augustus Wright, and contains essays written by him in 1857. Record entries for 1882 describe Mary starting school (Oct. 18) and the sighting of a comet (Dec. 2). Entries for 1883 record a visit made by the adults to see the pianist "Blind Tom" at Baton Rouge (Feb. 16), Mary's protracted illness (Mar.-May), a May festival for the kindergarten, including a program and newspaper clipping (May 2nd), a sample of Mary's dress for her 5th birthday (Aug. 7), and a move to Auburn, Ala. (Oct. 1)0. Also of note is the description of the death of Arthur Boyd in a shooting accident, with newspaper clippings and elegies (Nov. 24).

Entries of note for 1884 describe Mary and Leigh (Leroy) (Jan. 20), David F. Boyd's acceptance of the presidency of Louisiana State University and his departure for Louisiana (Apr. 7 and June 27), a description of Jack as an adolescent (July 26), a quarterly review of lessons in Sabbath School, with Leigh's recital copied in (Sept. 28), Ellen, the children's nurse, attending public school in Auburn and a description of Christmas. Other news includes reports of flooding in La. (March), the expulsion of a cadet from Auburn for trying to shoot another cadet (May 2), a mission day at church, which includes clippings of readings and parts copied from the program (June 31), the commencement exercises at Auburn (June) and a procession of cadets in honor of the election of President Cleveland (Oct. 7).

Entries for 1885 include a description of an unusual snowfall in Auburn (Feb. 12), a visit from Julia Wright Harvard and her daughter Leila, and the visit of Mary C. Wright, Jack and Leigh Boyd to New Orleans for the Exposition and Mardi Gras (Feb. 25), and the children's measurements (Jan. 28). The endpapers contain accounts for Greenwood plantation (1882-84).

**"Record of Mary Wright Boyd" (1885-1903)**

This was written at Auburn Ala., first by Mary Cornelia Wright, who was then living with Esther, and later by Esther Wright Boyd. There appear to be annotations, possibly by Mary Wright Boyd. The record includes realia such as pressed flowers, textiles, hair and baby teeth, programs and invitations.

Entries for 1885 include a description of Mary (p. 3), Jack's sixteenth birthday (April 29th: p. 3), a trip to see the New Orleans Exposition (April 30: p. 4), a major drill of cadets and military companies taking place across the country (May 12: p. 4), the nurse, Ellen, leaving after ten years' service (June 1: p. 7), a Methodist revival in Auburn (June: pp. 8-9), reading *Pilgrim's Progress* to the children (July 1: p. 11), a commemoration of the death of Sarah R. Wright (July 24: p. 13), an agricultural convention at Auburn (Aug. 5-7: p. 16) and a move to a new home in Auburn (Oct. 9: p. 22). Entries for 1886 include the baptism of Leroy Boyd (April 25: p. 30), an account, programs etc. of a children's day at church (June x: pp. 32-35), school commencement (June 30: p. 36), an earthquake in Auburn (Aug. 31: p. 40) and David F. Boyd's resignation as President of LSU (Christmas 1886: p. 48).

Entries for 1887 describe Jack leaving college (Feb. 17: p. 49), a fire at Auburn A & M College (June 25: p. 52) and the children's schoolteacher being run over by a train and losing a leg (Nov. 1: p. 57). Entries for 1888 include a transcript of the death notice of Dr. Patrick Hughes Mill, Chancellor of the University of Georgia, taken from the *Macon Telegraph*, Ga. (Jan. 27: pp. 63-66), Jack's attendance at to LSU, and D.F. Boyd's disapproval of this (Feb. 10: p. 67). Also described are the arrival of Julia Wright Harvard for a visit (Feb. 19: p. 67) and the marriage of Leila Harvard to William Scott (April 4: p. 67). At this point, Esther Wright Boyd takes over the record, recording the death of her sister Mary on May 5, 1888 (p. 68). She notes Leroy's entry into college (Sept. 17: p. 68).

Entries for 1889 include Jack's entry into college in Auburn (Jan.: p. 69) and Guy's ninth birthday (July 23: p. 70). Entries for 1896 include Mary Boyd's graduation from Auburn Female Institute (June 1: p. 70). Esther recounts events of the last seven years including Mary Boyd's baptism at the memorial service for Mary Cornelia Wright (1886) She gives an account of the family: Jack is at Corrigan, Texas; Leigh is studying law in Clinton, La.; Rex graduated from Naval Academy and is on the Maine; Mary is in the Polytechnic Institute, Ala.; Guy and Jesse are in college; David F. Boyd is a professor at LSU (p. 73). On Jan. 16th, Leigh had been accidentally shot, but survived (p. 73).

An entry for Jan. 7, 1903 (p. 73) recounts past events, including the marriage of Mary Boyd to Walter Lynwood Fleming (Sept. 17, 1902) and their removal to New York City, Rex's involvement in the disaster on the ship the "Maine" (Jan., 1898) and his participation in the Spanish-American War as a naval cadet in Cuba, and the death of David F. Boyd (May 27, 1899).

At this point the journal becomes a scrapbook. Several items have been removed, but housed with the journal. Items of note include a letter from Leigh to Esther Wright Boyd (May 10, 1883: p. 74: removed), a picture of Minden Female College (p. 74), Union and Confederate dollars from 1864 (pp. 74-75), a Students' Hand Book for Alabama Polytechnic Institute compiled by L.S. Boyd (July 1895: p. 77) and concert and recital programs for Alabama, Georgia and Baton Rouge (pp. 78 ff.). Also removed from the scrapbook are family calling cards (p. 82), pictures of Clinton, La.,

and LSU (p. 83), Christmas cards, pressed flowers and needlework (p. 85), a book, "Fireside Sketches", compiled by the Wright and Boyd families for Christmas 1887, which includes Mary Wright's reminiscences of past Christmases (p. 87), printed articles on the death of D.F. Boyd and by Esther as "A.O.A.L." and a copy of the *Reveille* (May 24, 1899: p. 91).

**Subseries 7. Miscellaneous notes, 1856-ca. 1858, undated**

These include an inventory of furniture belonging to Ann Foland (undated) and a list of cadets at Kentucky Military Institute written by Augustus Wright (ca. 1857-58).

**Subseries 8. Typescripts and notes, undated.**

These typescripts may have been prepared by Mary Wright Boyd Fleming, ca. 1920-40. They are cross-referenced with manuscripts where applicable.

1. Journal of Mary Cornelia Wright

This is copied from the mss. volume in this collection (see above, pp. 16-18). The typescript omits many extended devotions and quotations.

2. "The House Divided"

Two typescripts contain biographies of members of the Wright family who served in the Confederate Army during the Civil War. They also contain transcriptions of letters to and from John David Workman, William Edmond Workman, John Henry Workman and Mrs. J.W. Chrisman (see above, pp. 9, 12).

3. Reminiscences of Esther G. Wright Boyd

The first typescript, "The following notes of reminiscences...", is taken from two groups of memoirs in Esther's manuscript writings, and the second, "Notes by Mrs. Esther Gertrude Wright, 1906" is taken from a notebook of writings (see above, p. 19). These document the people and culture of nineteenth century Louisiana. The second typescript includes transcriptions of business papers of the Greenwood estate, which include an appraisal of the slaves held on the plantation (pp. 5-6), and letters from David French Boyd concerning the settlement of the Wright Estate (p. 7-8). A third typescript, "Reminiscences", is taken from Esther's anecdotal writings on LSU, ca. 1910 (see above, p. 20).

4. History of Greenwood Plantation

The first typescript, "Greenwood Plantation and its People During the Civil War", describes the location and architecture of Greenwood (pp. 1-2). It also includes extracts from Mary Wright's journals and from Augustus's letters from the Kentucky Military Institute (see above, p. 11). The second, "Greenwood Plantation Before, During and After the Civil War", includes biographies of members of the family who served in the Civil War, especially the Staffords and Callihams.

5. Miscellaneous biographical notes

This includes two lists of brief biographies of people mentioned in these papers, notably the Wright, Cheney, Workman, Calliham, Stafford and Harvard families, and the Louisiana families most closely connected with them. There are also more extended biographies of Jesse Wright and David French Boyd. The latter relates stories of Boyd's service in the Civil War.

6. Grimball and Wright Family History

There are two typescripts, almost identical, which relate of the history of the migration of the Wrights and related families to Louisiana from South Carolina. Points of note include connections with the family of Jefferson Davis (p. 2) and a description of the Grimball family (p. 4). Also included is the history of the sacking of Greenwood and the poverty suffered by the Wright family after the Civil War (pp. 10-11). There is also a Wright family tree.

7. Memoirs of Mary Boyd (undated)

Mary Boyd was the daughter of Esther Wright Boyd. The memoirs describe her childhood, the lives of Esther and David Boyd, and their servants. They do not relate to any manuscript in this collection.

8. Journal of Esther Wright Boyd

There are two transcriptions of Esther's partial journal for the Civil War period (see above, p. 19).

9. History of the Wright Family in the 1860s

These include transcriptions of Esther's and Mary's journals and letters to and from the Workman and Calliham families during the Civil War (see correspondence, p. 10).

10. Local education; letter to Sherman

The typescripts relate the education of the Wright children and their journeys to schools in Connecticut and Kentucky. Also included is a copy of a letter from David F. Boyd to General Sherman, taken from *The Sherman Letters*.

11. Typed notes

These are notes, apparently by Mary Boyd Fleming, which have been removed from the manuscript papers.

**IV. Photographs, printed and graphic materials, ca. 1850-60, undated (15 items)**

There are three ambrotypes, one tintype and nine daguerreotypes. These include images of Augustus Wright (ca. 1852), Ellen, Augustus and Mary Wright at New Haven, Conn. (ca. 1855-56), Mary and Ellen Wright (ca. 1854), Joseph Calliham (undated), D.F. Boyd (ca. 1861-64) and Esther Wright Boyd (1850s), Thomas J. Boyd, and a photograph identified as being of William Foland or John Grimball. There is also a carte de visite of John David Workman (undated).

Printed and graphic materials include a pencil sketch by Mary Wright (undated), a caricature of a schoolteacher (undated) and an invitation to a commencement ball at Kentucky Military Institute (1857).

**V. Realia, ca. 1861, undated**

This includes a rosette worn by Mary Cornelia Wright when delivering the flag to the Stafford Guards (1861) and a hat cord worn by David or William Workman during the Civil War. There is also an ornament sent to Sarah Wright by Sally Stafford (undated).

**Group 2. Innes Family Papers (1870-76)**

These papers consist of correspondence and legal papers documenting claims for the inheritance of the Innes family and heirs.

## INDEX TERMS

### Terms

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1: I.1; II.2; III.1  
1: I.1-3; II.3; III.2  
1: I.1-2; III.3-4, 6; IV; V  
1: I.1; II.3; III.3,7; IV  
1: I.1-2; II.1, 3; III.3, 5-6; IV  
1: I.1; III.5-6; IV  
1: I.2; II.4; III.4-5; IV; V  
1: III.5  
1: I.1, 3; III.7  
2  
1: III.4-5; typescripts  
1: I.1; III.4-5; typescripts  
1: I.1-2; II.4; III.4-5  
1: I.1-2  
1: I.2  
1: I.1-2  
1: I.1-2  
1: I.1-2  
1: I.2  
1: I.2; III.4; V  
1: I.2  
1: I.2  
1: I.2  
1: I.1; II.3; III.3-5, 7  
1: I.1; II.3; III.3-5, 7  
1: I.1  
1: I.1; III.3-4  
1: I.1  
1: I.1; III.7  
1: I.1; III.4  
1: I.1  
1: I.1  
1: I.2; III.5  
1: III.5  
1: I.1; III.1, 6; IV  
1: I.1; III.1, 6  
1: I.1; III.6  
1: I.1  
1: III.4  
1: III.4  
1: III.4



**WRIGHT-BOYD FAMILY PAPERS**  
1812-1914

**Mss. 3362**  
LSU Libraries Special Collections

**Terms**

Baptists--Louisiana  
Christianity--United States  
Family--Prayer-books and devotions  
Revivals--Connecticut--New Haven  
Revivals--Alabama--Auburn  
Sunday schools--Louisiana  
Land acquisition--Texas  
Yellow fever--Louisiana  
Exhibitions--Louisiana--New Orleans  
Menageries  
Slavery--Louisiana  
Slaves--Emancipation--Louisiana  
Ambrotypes  
Daguerreotypes  
Muster rolls  
World's Industrial and Cotton Centennial Exposition (1884-1885: New Orleans, La.)

**Location**

1: I.1; III.4-6  
1: I.1; III.1-2-5  
1: III.2, 4  
1: I.1  
1: III.6  
1: I.1; III.4-6  
1: II.1; 2  
1: I.1; III.4-6  
1: I.1; III.6  
1: I.1  
1: I.1; II.2; III.4  
1: III.4  
1: IV  
1: IV  
1: II.4  
1: III.6

CONTAINER LIST

<u>Stack location</u>	<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Contents</u>
			<b>I. Correspondence</b>
R: 23	1	1-3	Jesse D. Wright to Sarah R. Wright (1831-49); from J.D. Wright (1849); Wright and Grimball families to J.D. Wright (1824-49).
R: 23	1	4-11	Sarah R. Wright to Augustus Wright (1853-57); to Ellen Wright Cheney (1853-55); to Esther Wright Boyd (1856-58); to Mary Cornelia Wright (1853-59); to Ellen, Mary and Esther Wright (1854-57); to Ann Foland (1850-72).
R: 23	1	12-13	Sarah R. Wright and Esther Wright Boyd to Mary Wright (1854-56, undated); to Augustus Wright (1853-55, undated).
R: 23	1	14	Sarah R. Wright and Ellen Wright Cheney to Esther Wright Boyd (1858).
R: 23	1	15	Esther Wright Boyd and Mary Cornelia Wright to Sarah R. Wright (1856-57, undated).
R: 23	1	16	Mrs. J.W. Chrisman to Sarah R. Wright (1855-80).
R: 23	1	17	Martha E. Wright to Sarah R. Wright and family (1849-58).
R: 23	1	18	Family (miscellaneous) to Sarah R. Wright (1865-79, undated).
R: 23	1	19-20	Mary Dutton to Sarah R. Wright (1853-55); Mrs. E.B. Farman to Sarah R. Wright (1858).
R: 23	1	21	Miscellaneous to Sarah R. Wright (1850-79)
R: 23	1	22-23	Esther Wright Boyd to Sarah R. Wright (1856-80); to Augustus Wright, Ellen Wright Cheney and Mary C. Wright (1854-79, undated).
R: 23	1	24	Esther Wright Boyd to Leroy S. Boyd (1897-1913).
R: 23	1	25	Family (miscellaneous) to Esther Wright Boyd (1858-1908).
R: 23	1	26	Miscellaneous to Esther Wright Boyd (1858-1901).

<u>Stack location</u>	<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Contents</u>
R: 23	2	1-3	Mary Cornelia Wright to Augustus Wright (1856-57); to Esther Wright Boyd (1854-58); to Sarah R. Wright (1856-80).
R: 23	2	4	Mary Cornelia Wright to Boyd family (1880-81, undated).
R: 23	2	5-6	Joseph H.C. Calliham to Mary Cornelia Wright (1862); George W. Stafford to Mary C. Wright (1861-62).
R: 23	2	7	Family (miscellaneous) to Mary Cornelia Wright (1856-81, undated).
R: 23	2	8	Miscellaneous to Mary Cornelia Wright (1855-86).
R: 23	2	9-12	Augustus Wright to Mary C. Wright, Ellen Wright Cheney and Esther Wright Boyd (1853-56); to Mary C. Wright (1856-57); to Sarah R. Wright (1853-57).
R: 23	2	13	Augustus Wright to family (miscellaneous) (1856-57).
R: 23	2	14	Family (miscellaneous) to Augustus Wright (1853-57).
R: 23	2	15	From Augustus Wright (miscellaneous) (undated).
R: 23	2	16	Miscellaneous to Augustus Wright (1853-56).
R: 23	2	17	Ellen Wright Cheney to Wright family (1854-57, undated).
R: 23	2	18	John David Workman to Mary C. Wright (1860-64).
R: 23	2	19	John David Workman to family (1853-61).
R: 23	2	20	Miscellaneous to John David Workman (1863).
R: 23	2	21	William Edmond Workman to family (1861).
R: 23	2	22-23	Ann Foland to William Foland and William Foland to Ann Foland (1825-56); Ann and William Foland to Wright and Grimball families (1829-74).
R: 23	2	24	Family (miscellaneous) to Ann and William Foland (1834-37, undated).
R: 23	2	25	Miscellaneous to William Foland (1854-58).

<u>Stack location</u>	<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Contents</u>
R: 23	2	26	Miscellaneous (1836-1911).
<b>II. Business papers and correspondence</b>			
R: 23	3	1-5	Lands in Texas: legal papers and notes (1883, undated); correspondence (1883-1914).
R: 23	3	6-8	Jesse D. Wright: business papers (1812-48).
R: 23	3	9	Sarah, Esther and Augustus Wright: business papers (1849-67, undated).
OS:W	1 folder		John David Workman: muster roll (1863).
<b>III. Writings</b>			
R: 23	4	1-2	Jesse D. Wright (ca. 1834-49).
R: 23	4	3-5	Sarah R. Wright; devotional notebooks, journals and notes (1850-60, undated).
R: 23	4	6-8	Mary, Esther and Augustus Wright: compositions and exercise books (1853-60, undated).
R: 23	5	1-6	Mary Cornelia Wright: diaries and journals (1854-67); Theta Gamma Society Notebook and correspondence (1854-55; [1916]); Notes (1855-78), scrapbook (undated).
R: 23	6	1-7	Esther Wright Boyd: journals and diaries (1869-74); memoirs (ca. 1906-10); notes on Louisiana State Seminary (ca. 1906-10); commentary upon the diary of David F. Boyd (ca. 1906); miscellaneous notes (1884-1913, undated).
R: 23	6	8	Miscellaneous notes (1856-ca. 1858, undated).
R: 24	7	1-6	Mary C. Wright and Esther Wright Boyd.
OS:W		1	Biographies of Mary Wright Boyd (1878-1903).
R:24	9	1-11	Typescripts and notes (undated).
	10	1-10	Original typescripts (undated).
<b>IV. Photographs, printed and graphic materials</b>			
65:61			Photographs, 14 items (ca. 1850-60, undated).

<u>Stack location</u>	<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Contents</u>
R:24	10	11	Photograph (undated)
R:24	10	11	Sketches, printed material, newspaper clipping (1857, undated).
			<b>V. Realia</b>
R:24	8		Realia (ca. 1861, undated).
			<b>Group 2. Innes family papers</b>
R:24	10	12	Correspondence and contract (1870-76).