

HART-BONNECAZE-DUNCAN FAMILY PAPERS
(Mss. 3371, 4208)
Inventory

Compiled by
Louise Martin
1992

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

Revised 2009

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HART-BONNECAZE-DUNCAN FAMILY PAPERS
1775-1949

Mss. 3371
Special Collections, LSU Libraries

SUMMARY

Size.	2 linear feet
Geographic locations.	Louisiana.
Inclusive dates.	1775-1949, undated
Bulk dates.	1840-1875, 1905-1940
Languages.	English, French, Spanish.
Summary.	Personal and business correspondence, writings, legal records, financial records, ephemera, sheet music, and photographs of the Hart, Bonneau, and Duncan families of East Baton Rouge Parish, Louisiana. The papers document land transfers, the cotton trade, and assorted mercantile transactions and provide some information on civilian conditions during the Civil War and on the development of the Baton Rouge Fire Department.
Related collection.	S.M. Hart and Company Account Books, Mss. 992
Source.	Gifts, 1979, 1989
Copyright.	Physical rights are retained by 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.
Citation.	Hart-Bonneau-Duncan Family Papers, Mss. 3371, Louisiana and Lower Mississippi Valley Collections, LSU Libraries, Baton Rouge, Louisiana.
Stack location.	T:18, OS:H, Mss.MF:H

BIOGRAPHICAL/HISTORICAL NOTE

Avery, Daniel D. (1810-1879). Baton Rouge attorney and south Louisiana planter. Justice of the Peace in East Baton Rouge Parish by the mid-1830s, Avery became a planter at Petite Anse Island (later Avery Island).

Bonnecaze, Leon (ca. 1797-1872). Baton Rouge businessman and longtime French consular agent. Bonnecaze's midcentury political and social activities included his being a Baton Rouge selectman and a trustee of the College of Baton Rouge. His Baton Rouge soap factory was damaged extensively during the federal occupation.

Calliham, David M. (d. ca. 1888). Shreveport, Louisiana, attorney. Calliham's business letterhead ca. 1875 identified him as an attorney and counselor at law. He died ca. 1888, aged 32.

Duncan, Abner L.H. (d. ca. 1846). Louisiana attorney.

Duncan, Abner L. (d. 1881). Resident of East Baton Rouge Parish. Duncan married Anna Belle Hart (daughter of Samuel M. Hart).

Hart, Robert A. (1858-1939) Baton Rouge real-estate investor and politician. Hart served at various times as fire chief, member of the police jury, and mayor (1898-1902). Son of Samuel M. and Sophie Martin Hart, he was vice-president of The First National Bank of Baton Rouge; president of Fuqua Hardware Company, Ltd.; hardware wholesaler; and owner of S.M. Hart and Son, a general insurance and real estate business.

Hart, Samuel M. "Major" (1816-1898). Baton Rouge banker and insurance executive with investments in Baton Rouge industries. Born in the Midwest, Hart came to Baton Rouge around 1840. In the mid-1840s he founded S.M. Hart & Co. (later S.M. Hart & Son), a Baton Rouge commission firm. With F.E. Hebert, in association with Adolph Huguet, he founded the Hart & Hebert bank. In 1862 Hart, Bradford, and Company filed a claim concerning a Baton Rouge tannery destroyed by federal forces.

In 1844 Hart became a member of the Washington Fire Company Number One and served as its treasurer for two years before becoming its foreman from 1850 to 1860. He returned to active duty with the Company around 1865 and, still on its active roll, became first chief of the Baton Rouge Fire Department in 1875. At that time he began working to establish a central governing agency for all three Baton Rouge volunteer fire companies. He resigned as fire chief in 1877.

He was a member of St. James Lodge Number 47 (Baton Rouge) of the Free and Accepted Masons.

Lorente, Manuella nee Macias (ca. 1797-1866). Longtime resident of Baton Rouge and owner of Beauregard Town property. In the 1830s Lorente began over thirty years of residence in Baton Rouge, where her family operated the Verandah Hotel. In 1857 she legally adopted Sophie Martin Hart (1824-1907), Samuel M. Hart's wife.

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SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The Hart-Bonnecaze-Duncan Family Papers contain personal and business correspondence discussing family events, the cotton trade, Louisiana politics, and the Civil War. Also included are a number of writings, funeral notices, cards, and invitations. Legal and financial records concern family finances and the sale of cotton, and include ledgers and a minute book of the Washington Fire Company Number One (Baton Rouge). Ephemera, newspaper clippings, sheet music, and a small number of photographs make up the remainder of the collection.

The collection is available on microfilm.

SERIES AND SUBSERIES DESCRIPTIONS

Series I, Correspondence and writings, 1841-1945, undated

Contains correspondence, almost entirely incoming, of the Duncan, Bonnacaze, and Hart families. Additional correspondence is present for the Calliham family and for Jonathan A. Addison.

Subseries 1, Duncan family correspondence, 1841-1945, undated

Consists almost entirely of incoming correspondence. Most of the letters are from relatives and describe family events and concerns, including but not limited to deaths and estate settlements.

Subseries 2, Bonnacaze family correspondence, 1842-1906, undated

Consists primarily of French-language business-related letters received by Leon Bonnacaze, with some family letters. Of note are letters concerning the Civil War.

Subseries 3, Hart family correspondence, 1845-1945, undated

Contains incoming correspondence pertaining to Hart family businesses, the cotton trade, the Louisiana Penitentiary, Louisiana politics, Civil War civilian conditions in Louisiana and Mississippi, and Baton Rouge fire companies. The few Hart family writings include, among other items, short pieces of creative writing.

Subseries 4, 1857-1932, undated

Funeral notices, invitations, business and other cards, and notations from publications. A small amount of correspondence of the David M. Calliham family (Shreveport, La.) deals with his legal practice. The scant Jonathan A. Addison (Baton Rouge) correspondence concerns Addison's New Orleans property.

Series II, Legal records, 1775-1930, undated

In English, French, and Spanish. Property records such as inventories, property titles, and deeds of sale, with some incoming correspondence, comprise the bulk of the series and pertain to the lower Mississippi Valley in the Spanish colonial period and to the Baton Rouge area in later periods. The Bonnacaze family legal records, in French through the 1850s and English thereafter, are almost exclusively related to land. The legal records of the Samuel M. Hart family document property and other claims. The Duncan family legal records are comprised of succession records for Abner L.H. Duncan (1853, Leon Bonnacaze, administrator of estate) and Abner L. Duncan (1888). The Manuella Lorente records (Daniel D. Avery, agent) consist primarily of land records. Also included are land records in Spanish (1775-1798), French, and English from East Baton Rouge Parish, St. Helena Parish, and Interior Lafourche Parish. Claims against the Federal government for Civil War damages and twentieth-century railway articles of incorporation also relate to Baton Rouge. Several governmental appointment certificates are present.

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Series III, Financial records, 1842-1948, undated

This series provides information on Baton Rouge businesses in the mid-nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, cotton sales in the 1860s and 1870s, and Washington Fire Company Number One (Baton Rouge) from 1856 through 1866. The financial records of the Duncan and Bonneau families consist mostly of checks. The Bonneau family financial records, some of which are in French, include accounts for cotton sales. For the subject of the cotton market in 1865 through 1867, sources include the Hart family financial records with the New Orleans cotton factors S.H. Kennedy and Company and S. and Joseph Menard. The Hart family financial files on particular businesses, all located in New Orleans, provide evidence of bank transactions (Pike, Lapeyre, and Brother) as well as purchases of building materials, groceries and fodder, and lumber and related materials and services. The Hart family financial records are almost exclusively from Baton Rouge businesses. Also included is information on Hart family enterprises in the cotton trade, banking, and real estate. The Pastoral Aid Society Bank Book is signed by Sophie Hart, Treasurer. Financial records of other individuals represent mostly routine transactions. Of interest is a minute book of Washington Fire Company Number One (Baton Rouge).

Series IV, Serials and ephemera, 1870-1949, undated

Contains three issues of the *New Orleans Price Current* (1870, 1871, 1872), broadsides and other ephemera, and a small number of newspaper clippings. The ephemera pertain to a wide range of topics, the periods best represented being the 1870s and the 1930s. Topics include but are not limited to Louisiana education, goods and services offered from inside and outside Louisiana, and selected legal and insurance cases. Of the five newspaper clippings, most pertain to family events such as deaths.

Series V, Sheet music, 1858-1895, undated

Consists of sixteen intact or incomplete piano music publications, more than half undated. See the Appendix for a list of the sheet music.

Series VI, Photographs, ca. 1870-1928, undated

Photographs include a small number of mostly undated black-and-white photographs, postcards, and cartes de visite ranging from portraits to scenes of Baton Rouge.

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INDEX TERMS

Terms:

Baton Rouge (La.)--Commerce
Bonnecaze, L. (Leon), d. 1872
Confederate States of America--Economic conditions
Cotton trade--Louisiana
Duncan, Abner L.H., d. ca. 1846
Fire departments--Louisiana--Baton Rouge
Hart, Robert A., 1858-1939
Hart, Samuel M., 1816-1898
Land titles--Registration and transfer--Louisiana
Louisiana State Penitentiary
Louisiana--History--Civil War, 1861-1865
Magnolia Mound Plantation (Baton Rouge, La.)
Pastoral Aid Society
Steamboat

Series:

I-IV, VI
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I-II
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III

CONTAINER LIST

<u>Stack Location</u>	<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Contents</u>
Series I, Correspondence and writings			
T:18	1	1-4	Subseries 1, Duncan family correspondence, 1841-1945, undated
		5-7	Subseries 2, Bonnacaze family correspondence, 1842-1906, undated
		8-16	Subseries 3, Hart family correspondence, 1845-1945, undated
		17-22	Subseries 4, Other correspondence and writings, 1857-1932, undated
Series II, Legal records			
T:18	1	23	Bonnecaze family legal records, 1831-1852
OS:H	--	24	Bonnecaze family legal records, May 9, 1856
T:18	1	25-26	Bonnecaze family legal records, Aug. 6, 1856-1907, undated
		27	Hart family legal records, 1862-1865
OS:H	--	28	Hart family legal records, Jan. 17, 1866
T:18	1	29	Hart family legal records, Feb. 20, 1866
	2	30	Hart family legal records, 1867-1898
		31	Hart family legal records, 1920-1930, undated
		32	Abner L. H. Duncan succession records, 1853
		33	Abner L. Duncan succession records, 1887-1888
		34-35	Mrs. Manuella Lorente legal records, 1843-1863
		36-37	Mrs. Eliza A. Walsh legal records, ca. 1844-1859
		38	Sherburne family legal records, 1850-1865
		39	Benjamin F. Harney succession legal records, ca. 1860-1861
		40	A.L. Dixon legal records, 1865, undated
		41-48	Legal records of other individuals, 1775-1927, undated
Series III, Financial records			
T:18	2	49	Duncan family financial records, 1858-1948
		50	Bonnecaze family financial records, 1853-1859
		51	Bonnecaze family financial records, 1860-January 7, 1863
		52	Bonnecaze family financial records, ca. July 1863-1873, undated
		53-54	Hart family- S.H. Kennedy and Co. records, 1865-1867
		55-56	Hart family- S. and Joseph Menard records, 1865-1866
		57	Hart family- S. and Alex. McConnell records, 1865-1866
		58	Hart family- John T. Moore records, 1865-1876
		59	Hart family- Pike, Lapeyre, and Brother records, Apr.-Nov. 1865
OS:H	--	60	Hart family- Pike, Lapeyre, and Brother records, Dec. 7, 1865
T:18	2	61	Hart family- Pike, Lapeyre, and Brother records, Dec. 9, 1865
		62	Hart family- Alexander and Brother records, 1866-1867

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		63-64	Hart family financial records with other businesses, 1857-1946, undated
		65	Hart family steamboat waybills, 1865
		66	Hart family tax receipts, 1866-1875
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		68-69	Mrs. Manuella Lorente financial records, 1860-1866, undated
		70	Mrs. Manuella Lorente bank book, 1858-1861
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		74	Washington Fire Company Number One (Baton Rouge) Minute Book, 1856-1866
		75	Ledger R, 1856-Feb. 16, 1857
		76	Ledger S, Feb. 20, 1857-1858

Series IV, Serials and ephemera

T:18	3	77	<i>New Orleans Price Current</i> , 1870-1872
		78-79	Ephemera, 1871-1893, 1928-1947
OS:H	--	80	Ephemera, undated
T:18	3	81	Newspaper clippings, 1890-1949

Series V, Sheet music

OS:H	--	82	Sheet music, 1858-1895, undated
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Series VI, Photographs

T:18	3	83-84	Photographs, 1870-1928, undated
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MssMF:H

Reel 1:
Boxes 1-3

APPENDIX

Sheet Music Arranged by Composer

- Bares, Basile. *La Creole, Souvenir de la Louisiane*. New Orleans: A.E. Blackmar, 1869.
- Beyer, Ferd. *Fantaisies Instructives Sur Des Motifs, D'Operas Favoris*. New Orleans: A.E. Blackmar, undated.
- Beyer, Ferd. *La Marseillaise pour la piano forte*. New Orleans: W.H. Leeson, undated.
- Beyer, Ferd. *Robert le Diable de G. Meyerbeer, Bouquet de Melodies*. New Orleans: A.E. Blackmar, undated.
- Cole, E.K., M.D. *Do They Think of Me at Home, Brilliant Variations on Glover's Beautiful Melody*. New Orleans: Blackmar & Co., 1864.
- Croisez, A. *L'Hirondelle et La Prisonnier, Caprice De Genre*. New Orleans: A.E. Blackmar, undated.
- Despommier, Victor. *Louisiana Naval Reserve March*. No Place: P.T. Wayne, 1895.
- Francis, W.T., arranger. *Castanera, Mexican Melody*. New Orleans: Junius Hart, 1885.
- Francis, W.T., arranger. *Chloe, Danza Mexicana*. New Orleans: Junius Hart, 1885.
- Joungmann, Albert. *Heimweh*. New Orleans: Louis Grunewald, undated.
- Ketterer, E. *Caprice Hongrois, Etude de Concert*. New Orleans: A.E. Blackmar, undated.
- La Hache, Theod. von. *Improvisation for Piano, or My Southern Sunny Home*. New Orleans: Blackmar & Co., 1865.
- Lehmann, H.E. *Il Trovatore, Polka Mazurka*. New Orleans: H.E. Lehmann, 1858.
- Navarro, Francis J. *Maria Mazurka*, undated. (Bound with Francis' Castanera).
- Strauss. *Trovatore Waltz*. New Orleans: Louis Grunewald, undated (Front cover only).
- Woodson, Harry. *Carry Me Back to Old Virginny*. Boston: John F. Perry & Co., undated (Front cover only).