

FRANCIS HENDERSON JAMES PAPERS

Mss. 4960

Inventory

Compiled by
Bradley J. Wiles

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

2010
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SUMMARY

Size	1.2 linear ft.
Geographic Locations	Louisiana, Puerto Rico, Dominican Republic
Inclusive Dates	1869-1973
Bulk Dates	1909-1960
Languages	English, Spanish
Summary	Consists of correspondence, photographs, a diary, newspaper clippings, and other records of Louisiana State University alum, World War I veteran, and sugar engineer Francis Henderson James.
Access Restrictions	No restrictions on access.
Reproduction Note	May be reproduced.
Copyright	Physical rights and copyright are retained by the LSU Libraries.
Related Collections	Lewis Texada and Family Papers, Mss. 2985.
Citation	Francis Henderson James Papers, Mss. 4960, Louisiana and Lower Mississippi Valley Collections, LSU Libraries, Baton Rouge, La.
Stack Location(s)	UU:74-75, OS:J

BIOGRAPHICAL/HISTORICAL NOTE

Francis Henderson James (referred to as both Henney and Hennie in the papers) was born in 1888 in Rapides Parish, Louisiana. His parents were Francis Henderson James and Vanangus “Nangie” Amelia Sleet James, who had eight additional children: Trenton, Rosanna, Florence, Lucy, Margaret, Ella, Nancy, and Vanangus. Trent L. James would later marry Willie Frank Texada, the daughter of a political and landholding family from Rapides Parish. Francis James graduated from Louisiana State University (LSU) in 1912 with a B.S. in Electrical Engineering and received his M.S. in Sugar Engineering in 1913. He served in the U.S. Army during World War I. He married Jessie M. Broadwell in 1926, and they had four children: Francis, Jr., Marilyn, Trenton, and Margaret Anne. After spending seventeen years in the sugar industry (first in Puerto Rico, then in Santo Domingo with family), Francis James was employed as chief engineer from the 1930s to 1950s at the Salzburg Sugar Factory (also spelled as Salsburg in the papers) on the Salzburg Plantation in St. James Parish, Louisiana. He died in a Baton Rouge hospital of pneumonia and other complications resulting from injuries sustained in an automobile accident on September 2, 1959, in Burnside, Louisiana.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The Francis Henderson James Papers contain personal papers and genealogical items; personal and business correspondence; professional papers; financial and insurance papers; photographic items; certificates; newspaper clippings; printed ephemera; manuscript volumes; and other materials detailing the personal and professional history of an LSU alum, World War I veteran, and sugar engineer.

Personal papers and genealogical items (1869-1959, undated) include family obituaries; Francis James' report book while at Boyce High School in Boyce, Louisiana (circa 1900); James' petition for degrees of Masonry at Boyce Lodge (April 17, 1909); two copies of the printed by-laws of the Grand Consistory of Louisiana, No. 2 (1912, 1932); James' certificate of 25 years membership in the Grand Consistory of Louisiana, No. 32, New Orleans, Louisiana (November 1, 1945); and a negative photocopy of James' death certificate (October 23, 1959).

Items of note in the personal correspondence include a letter to Francis James from William Briant informing James of his election as a member of the Grand Consistory of Louisiana (October 10, 1919); letters from Vanangus "Nangie" James to her children in the months before her death in 1932 (1931-1932); and a letter to Mrs. Marlyn Neathery from G. J. Durbin, Vice-President of the American Sugar Cane League, expressing regret at the death of Francis James and containing a resolution from the executive committee of the League acknowledging James' career and life (November 17, 1959). The resolution mentions James' work at the Helvetia Sugar Co-operative in Donaldsonville, Louisiana.

Business correspondence and professional papers document Francis James' career and work in the sugar industry in Louisiana and abroad, especially in Puerto Rico, and James family property. Items of note include two letters from Queen City Realty Company, Shreveport, Louisiana, regarding the partition of lots in Caddo Heights and the Oil Fields (June 23, July 15, 1908); a letter from the United States Veterans Bureau to James regarding his Adjusted Service Certificate (January 1, 1925); and a blueprint map sheet from the State of Louisiana Department of Highways showing right of way required across property of Francis James in Rapides Parish for the Alexandria Bypass project (August 10, 1943).

Other items of note are the diary Francis James kept from 1937 to 1958 documenting his work as chief engineer at the Salzburg Sugar Factory; materials documenting his time as an LSU student, his travels, his work abroad, and family connections in Central Louisiana; and several items relating to Trent L. James, who served as the Rapides Parish Assessor from 1921 to 1973. For a folder-level description, see the **CONTAINER LIST**.

INDEX TERMS

Materials relating to these people, places, and things can be found throughout the entire collection.

Boyce, La.--History.

Card photographs.

Correspondence.

Freemasons--Louisiana.

James, Francis Henderson, 1888-1959.

James, Trenton LeRoi, 1890-1973.

James, Vanangus Sleet, 1852-1932.

Louisiana State University and Agricultural and Mechanical College--Students.

Plantations--Louisiana--Saint James Parish.

Rapides Parish, La.--History.

Salzburg Sugar Factory (Saint James Parish, La.)

Sigma Nu. Phi Chapter (Louisiana State University)

Sugar--Manufacture and refining--Puerto Rico.

Tintypes (prints)

World War I.

CONTAINER LIST

<u>Stack</u>	<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder(s)</u>	<u>Content (with dates)</u>
			Papers, circa 1869-1973
UU:74	1	1	Francis Henderson James (FHJ) and family personal papers and genealogical items, 1869-1959, undated
		2	FHJ and family newspaper clippings, 1920-circa 1959, undated
		3-5	FHJ and family personal correspondence, 1916-1959
		6-12	FHJ and family business correspondence and professional papers, 1908-1957, undated
		13-14	FHJ and family insurance papers, 1916-1938
		15-17	FHJ and family financial papers, 1906-1942, undated
		18	LSU correspondence and other papers, 1908-1914
		19	LSU commencement program and song card, 1913, undated
		20	LSU diploma (FHJ's Master of Science degree), 1913
		21	LSU calendar, 1915
		22	Puerto Rico physical exam notification, 1917
		23	U.S. Army commission certificate and honorable discharge, 1918-1919
		24	FHJ's Sigma Nu Fraternity card, December 1909
		25	FHJ's identification and registration cards, 1924-1959
		26	Santo Domingo immigration and tourism documents, circa 1934-1935
		27	Postcard from France, 1918
		28	Postcards and holiday cards from the Caribbean, undated
		29	Postcards (assorted), 1908-1914, undated
		30	Calling cards (assorted), undated
		31	Writing: "Lecture No. 8 White Pan and Centrifugal Work," undated
		32	Writing: "De Prayers of General Zachary Taylor Evans" (typescript), undated
		33	Other printed items and ephemera, 1922-1943, undated
		34	Manuscript volumes: Mills and sugar production notebooks (3 volumes), undated
		35	Manuscript volume: FHJ's pocket notebook, circa 1924
		36	Manuscript volume: FHJ's pocket notebook, 1925 Printed volume: <i>The New Webster Dictionary and Complete Vest-Pocket Library</i> , 1914
		37	Manuscript volumes: FHJ's pocket notebooks (7 volumes), 1933-1955
		38	Manuscript volumes: Checkbooks (11 volumes), 1929-1942

Stack

Location	Box	Folder(s)	Content (with dates)	
UU:74	1	39	Manuscript volumes: FHJ's address and appointment books (4 volumes), circa 1920-1940	
		40	Manuscript volume: FHJ's diary, Salzburg Sugar Factory, 1937-1958	
		41	Loose items removed from FHJ's diary, Salzburg Sugar Factory, undated	
		42	Trent L. James subject file, 1962, 1973	
		Photographs, circa 1890-1945, undated		
		43	James brothers early years, circa 1890-1917	
		44	Cruikshank Farms and Boyce, Louisiana, circa 1908-1920	
		45	FHJ portraits, circa 1909-1960	
		46	Trent L. James portraits, circa 1909-1963	
		47	FHJ military photographs, 1912-1918	
UU:75	2	48	Vanangus Sleet James portraits, 1913, 1918	
		1	Central Fortuna factory in Puerto Rico, circa 1916	
		2	FHJ family and friends, circa 1917-1945	
		3	FHJ at Watervliet Arsenal (New York), 1918	
		4	Clear Creek fishing trip, undated	
		5	James family card photographs, undated	
		6	Boca Chica sugar refinery in Santo Domingo, undated	
		7	Unlabeled card photographs, undated	
		8	Miscellaneous photographs, undated	
		3	--	Unlabeled tintypes, undated
OS:J	--	4	Artifacts, undated Carved and painted wooden Masonic Square and Compasses, undated	
		1	Oversized Items, circa 1908-1937, undated LSU football team photograph, 1908 The Supreme Lodge of the Masons Annuity, Atlanta, Georgia membership certificate, 1910 Northern Masonic Jurisdiction, New York, Freemason certificate, 1918 Central Boca Chica, Raw Sugar Factory, crop report, 1928-1929 LSU Alumni federation membership certificate, 1930 Santo Domingo Country Club circular, 1935-1936 25 th Anniversary Freemason certificate, 1937 Photographic copy print of Jesse Mary Broadwell James portrait, undated Trent L. James fraternity signs, undated	