

**BAXTER (ROBERT G.) PAPERS**  
(Ms. 1819)  
Inventory

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

Reformatted 2003  
Revised 2011

**CONTENTS OF INVENTORY**

SUMMARY ..... 3  
BIOGRAPHICAL/HISTORICAL NOTE ..... 4  
SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE ..... 4  
COLLECTION DESCRIPTION ..... 5  
CROSS REFERENCES ..... 6  
CONTAINER LIST ..... 7

**Use of manuscript materials.** If you wish to examine items in the manuscript group, please fill out a call slip specifying the materials you wish to see. Consult the Container List for location information needed on the call slip.

**Photocopying.** Should you wish to request photocopies, please consult a staff member. The existing order and arrangement of unbound materials must be maintained.

**Publication.** Readers assume full responsibility for compliance with laws regarding copyright, literary property rights, and libel.

**Permission to examine archival materials does not constitute permission to publish. Any publication of such materials beyond the limits of fair use requires specific prior written permission. Requests for permission to publish should be addressed in writing to the Head, Public Services, Special Collections, LSU Libraries, Baton Rouge, LA, 70803-3300. When permission to publish is granted, two copies of the publication will be requested for the LLMVC.**

Proper acknowledgement of LLMVC materials must be made in any resulting writing or publications. The correct form of citation for this manuscript group is given on the summary page. Copies of scholarly publications based on research in the Louisiana and Lower Mississippi Valley Collections are welcomed.

**SUMMARY**

<b>Size.</b>	146 items and 1 manuscript volume
<b>Geographic locations.</b>	Baker, Baton Rouge, New Orleans, Louisiana; Ohio; Harrodsburg, Kentucky; Springfield, Missouri
<b>Inclusive dates.</b>	1863-1932, undated
<b>Bulk dates.</b>	1869-1932
<b>Language.</b>	English
<b>Summary.</b>	Papers of Robert G. Baxter of Baker, Louisiana, consisting of family letters and correspondence (1897-1906) with national members of the Republican Party regarding Baxter's application for the position of postmaster at Baton Rouge. A diary (1876-1877) pertains to the extended illness of a relative.
<b>Organization.</b>	Items arranged chronologically.
<b>Restrictions on access.</b>	No restrictions. If microfilm is available, photocopies must be made from microfilm.
<b>Related collections.</b>	None.
<b>Copyright.</b>	Copyright of the original materials is retained by descendants of the creators in accordance with U.S. copyright law.
<b>Citation.</b>	Baxter (Robert G.) Papers, Mss. 1819, Louisiana and Lower Mississippi Valley Collections, LSU Libraries, Baton Rouge, La.
<b>Stack location(s).</b>	T:15

### **BIOGRAPHICAL/HISTORICAL NOTE**

Robert G. Baxter was the son of Reverend H. B. Baxter, a minister of the Christian Church, formerly of Lisbon, Ohio. Reverend Baxter established a Disciples of Christ church in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. Robert and Mary Baxter had a daughter, Jennie.

### **SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE**

Personal letters from friends, Mary Baxter, and members of the Baxter family in Harrodsburg, Kentucky, and Springfield, Missouri, discuss, among other things, the success of the mercantile business in Arkansas, Louisiana, and Texas; the yellow fever epidemic in New Orleans; and various religious affairs. A file of correspondence, 1897-1914, with leading Louisiana politicians and members of the national Republican Party regards Baxter's application for the position of postmaster in Baton Rouge. The diary, 1876-1877, probably kept by Baxter's mother pertains principally to an extended illness suffered by "Graham," as Baxter was called, as a young man in Ohio. The diarist also discusses temperance work in Ohio. Also included are commencement programs for Baton Rouge, Campti, and Zachary high schools; articles relating to the dismissal from LSU of Dr. John Earle Uhler; religious pictures, poetry, greeting cards, postcards, and other miscellaneous items.

**COLLECTION DESCRIPTION**

Personal and business correspondence includes a letter from Howard Jackman to Robert G. Baxter mentioning the yellow fever epidemic in New Orleans and inquiring about the opportunities for success in the general mercantile business in Arkansas, Louisiana, Texas, and the southwestern frontier (January 4, 1879), a letter from W. L. Porterfield to Baxter discussing the relocation of his family to Arizona for his wife's health (March 20, 1902), and letters from Bennett C[hamp] Clark to Baxter thanking him for kindnesses shown Clark (1911-1914). A number of letters pertain to Baxter's application to the position of postmaster in Baton Rouge. These include letters from H. C. Warmoth, President of the Magnolia Sugar and Railroad Company, New Orleans, to Baxter discussing his application (1900-1901), letters from Warmoth and from Governor B. B. Odell of New York to President Theodore Roosevelt recommending Baxter for the postmaster position (March-November 1901), a letter from Baxter to F. M. Drake discussing his candidacy and mentioning the support given him by ex-Governor John N. Pharr and the political enmity of the "Lily-White" Republicans of Louisiana (December 2, 1901), as well as various letters endorsing Baxter for the position (1897-1903).

A letter from R. J. Bennett, Pastor of First Christian Church in Lisbon, Ohio, relates to the placement of a monument at the grave of Baxter's father (July 1, 1927) and in a letter to Baxter, D. Will Miller, Secretary of Louisiana Christian Missionary Society, apologizes for not accepting his invitation to preach to his congregation (March 31, 1932).

Receipts for property taxes paid on the estate of William Baxter, Ashland County, Wisconsin (1881) and mercantile accounts of Robert Baxter and his family in Kentucky and Missouri (1885-1890) are included. A memorandum contains a questionnaire to be used by the Agriculture Department in improving cotton estimates and the schedule for use in reporting cotton sales through cooperative associations (1932), and a letter from Lionel L. James, Agricultural Statistician, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Bureau of Crop Estimates requests information relative to the January livestock schedule sent out by the department (January 10, 1921).

Printed items include advertisements of religious images (1930), greeting cards, postcards and valentines (1914-1931), invitations to commencement exercises at Baton Rouge High School (1923), and Campti and Zachary High Schools (1932), and a newspaper clipping of an article entitled, "Civil Liberty Body Drops Uhler Case," relating to the temporary dismissal of Dr. John Earle Uhler from the LSU faculty by the Board of Supervisors when they decided Uhler's book *Cane Juice* was an unfair reflection of the university (undated).

Finally, a manuscript diary (November 10, 1876-May 27, 1877) relates the lengthy illness of [Robert] Graham [Baxter], his treatment by Dr. T. J. Putnam of Wellsville, Ohio, for ailments connected with breathing, swallowing, and vision. It describes the administering of herbs, hyoscyamas and belladonna, and of nux [vomica] and Castoria. The diary mentions the temperance movement in Ohio in 1877, the "good work" performed by the "Murphy men," temperance meetings and lectures, and taking "the pledge" to abstain from alcoholic beverages.

**CROSS REFERENCES**

<b>Subject</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Description of relevant documents</b>
Cotton.	June 25, 1932	Memorandum relative to cotton "counts" for use by Agriculture Department in improvement of cotton estimates and "sales schedules" issued by Department for reporting sales of cotton through cooperative associations, 2 items.
Pharr, John N.	Dec. 2, 1901	Letter from Robert G. Baxter to F.M. Drake relating the support given his candidacy for the position of postmaster at Baton Rouge by ex-Governor John N. Pharr.
Postmasters--Selection and appointment.	1897-1906	File of correspondence with national members regarding Baxter's application for the position of postmaster at Baton Rouge.
Temperance and religion--Ohio.	1877	References to the temperance work of the "Murphy men," meetings, lecturers, and the taking of the "pledge" [to abstain from alcoholic beverages], diary entries for Mar. 5, 1877, Mar. 27, 1877.
Traditional medicine--Ohio.	1876-1877	Use of herbs, hyoscyamas and belladonna, for treatment of digestive, respiratory, and circulatory ailments during the prolonged illness of Robert Graham [Baxter], diary.
Warmoth, Henry Clay, 1842-1931.	1900 - 1901	Letters from Henry C. Warmoth to Robert G. Baxter relative to Baxter's application for position of postmaster at Baton Rouge, La., 4 items, Aug. 3, 1900; Nov. 10, 25; Dec. 26, 1901; and letter from H.C. Warmoth to President [Theodore Roosevelt] recommending Baxter for postmastership at Baton Rouge, 1 item, Mar. 29, 1901.
Yellow fever--Louisiana.	Jan. 4, 1879	Letter from Howard H. Jackman to Robert G[raham] Baxter mentioning the epidemic of [Yellow] Fever at New Orleans.

**CONTAINER LIST**

<u>Stack</u> <u>Location</u>	<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder(s)</u>	<u>Contents (with dates)</u>
T:15	1	1-7	Papers, 1863-1932 Diary, 1876-1877