

WILLIAM T. BENNETT AND FAMILY PAPERS

Mss. 4657

Inventory

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Louisiana and Lower Mississippi Valley Collections
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SUMMARY

Size	15 linear ft.; 3 vols.
Geographic Locations	East Feliciana Parish, La.; West Feliciana Parish, La.; Caddo Parish, La.; Illinois; Texas; South Korea; Japan
Inclusive Dates	1845-1997, undated
Bulk Dates	1961-1982
Languages	English
Summary	The professional and personal papers of Judge William T. Bennett and the Bennett family from Clinton, in East Feliciana Parish, Louisiana. The collection includes correspondence, election records, legal documents, military papers, etc. from Judge Bennett's professional papers (1923-1983). Family papers (1845-1997) include correspondence, club and organizational records, photographs, manuscript volumes, financial documents, and printed items. Also included are records for the family's ancestral home, the Brame-Bennett House (1887-1995), and materials related to the family's legal fight to prevent the widening of Highway 67 in Clinton (1936-1987).
Access Restrictions	Negatives are restricted and require approval from a curator. Use surrogates if available.
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Related Collections	W. H. Bennett Letters, Mss. 133
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BIOGRAPHICAL/HISTORICAL NOTE

William Thomas (Bill) Bennett was born in 1903, the youngest child of William Hays Bennett and the former Letitia Irwin Brame of Clinton, Louisiana. His father, known as W. H., was the editor of the *Citizen-Watchman* newspaper and served in the Louisiana State Legislature from 1926 to 1932. Bill and his two sisters, Mary Irwin and Frances Anne (Annie), lived with their parents in a historic Antebellum house that had been inherited from Letitia Bennett's father, Judge Franklin Brame. The Brame House, as it was known at the time, was built in 1839 on the edge of town. It later became known as the Brame-Bennett House.

Bill received his Bachelor of Laws (LL. B) degree from Louisiana State University (LSU) in 1926 and a Juris Doctor (J. D.) degree, also from LSU, in 1968. While in college, he also participated in ROTC which probably led to his eventual involvement in the military. Following graduation, Bill practiced law in Baton Rouge, working for the State Department of Revenue and as a legal adviser to state government officials for several years. He joined the U.S. Army during World War II, first receiving training at various postings in the U.S., then later serving in Europe with the 9th Troop Carrier Command and with the 1st Airborne Allied Army. He worked in the security sector and assisted in the planning of the D-day invasion in Normandy and its aftermath. He began his service as a Second Lieutenant but quickly moved through the ranks and was promoted to Major by 1944. After the war, Bill was sent to Korea to serve as the Military Chief of Detectives in the Seoul Area and as the legal advisor to the military governor. Bill was commended for his work in Korea, and after spending some time there he was transferred to Japan where he served as a Judge Advocate General (JAG) staff member in Sendai and Yokohama until 1949.

Bill continued his service in the military after returning to the U.S. and was stationed at Ft. Sheridan in Illinois and Ft. Bliss in Texas before retiring from the Army in 1953. Shortly thereafter, he returned with his family to his hometown of Clinton to continue his work as an attorney. Taking up residence in his childhood home, now referred to as the Brame-Bennett House, Bill followed the family tradition by involving himself in politics and running for political office. His first few efforts were unsuccessful and early failed campaigns included a run for district judge in 1954, state senate in 1955, and district judge again in 1961. He was elected Judge for the 20th District Court of Louisiana in 1966 and won reelection in 1972. His district mostly covered East and West Feliciana Parishes in Southeastern Louisiana. He retired from his judgeship in 1975 because of failing health. After retirement, he was appointed to the First Circuit Court of Appeals by the Louisiana Supreme Court and was elected President of the Louisiana State Bar Association. He died of cancer in 1976.

Mary Fargeson Bennett was born in 1916, the oldest of three daughters born to Charles W. Fargeson and the former Enid Holmes of Longstreet, Louisiana. Her father was a planter and owned the local feed and seed store. Her homemaker mother was very active in various clubs and organizations, a role that Mary would take on herself as an adult. Mary and her sisters Nelwyn and Lillian moved with her mother to Shreveport after her father's death in 1936. She married Bill Bennett in 1937 and remained with her family in Louisiana while her husband served during World War II. In 1946, Mary joined Bill in Korea, and later Japan, where they

lived until returning to the U.S. in 1949. While in Sendai, Japan in 1947, Mary gave birth to the first of their three children, daughter Letitia Anne. Melanie Anne followed her sister in 1951 when the family was stationed in Illinois. Their only son, William Brame, was born in Clinton in 1954.

Although her primary focus was running the Bennett household, Mary did have a couple of jobs outside of caring for her home and family. She served as her husband's secretary for a time and worked part-time as a receptionist at the East Louisiana State Hospital in Jackson, Louisiana in the early 1960s. She was very active in clubs and organizations in Baton Rouge and the Felicianas, such as the East Feliciana Pilgrimage and Garden Club, and was instrumental in bringing a public library branch to Clinton in 1961. In addition to the garden club and libraries in the area, one of Mary's biggest passions was preserving the history and integrity of historic homes, buildings, and landscapes of her native Louisiana. After the Bennetts moved into the Brame-Bennett House, she threw herself into restoring the home to its original appearance. The Bennetts also fought to prevent the widening of Highway 67 in front of their home, taking the issue to the Clinton Town Council and battling state and local officials for decades. Mary continued the legal fight after Bill's death, initiating a letter-writing campaign to Governor Edwin Edwards in 1981 and involving herself in court cases with the Louisiana Department of Transportation in two cases in the 1980s. In an effort to promote tourism in Clinton and East Feliciana Parish, Mary briefly turned the Brame-Bennett House into a Bed and Breakfast Inn in the early 1980s and worked tirelessly to promote tourism in Clinton and the surrounding areas. She remained active in the East Feliciana Pilgrimage and Garden Club and the Audubon Regional Library Board until approximately 1990 when the demands of taking care of her aging mother took up most of her time. Mary passed away in 2001.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The William T. Bennett and Family Papers are organized into four subgroups due to the four distinct areas covered by the materials.

The first subgroup is comprised of professional correspondence, records from Bill Bennett's political races, his involvement in various legislative endeavors, and some of his litigation records, specifically those dealing with East Feliciana Parish matters and court cases involving Angola. Also included within this subgroup are Bill's military records, papers that reflect his involvement in several professional organizations, and some general subject files that he kept throughout his career.

The second subgroup holds family correspondence and manuscript volumes, most of which are Mary's datebooks. Also included are photographs of family and friends, financial and legal documents, and records from the family's involvement in various clubs and organizations. Genealogy for the Bennett and Fargeson families is housed within this subgroup along with biographical materials and miscellaneous family papers. There are printed and graphic materials also present.

The third subgroup holds the records relating to the Bennett family home and historic landmark, the Brame-Bennett House. Materials included here document the general history of the structure along with mortgage and property records, and various renovation and preservation plans. Also included are records that reflect the house's role in area tourism, including its brief time as a bed and breakfast.

The final subgroup documents the Bennetts' fight to prevent the widening of Highway 67 ("Clinton Scenic Highway") into four lanes. Materials include correspondence, legal records, and proceedings from public forums. Maps and photographs are also present.

LIST OF SUBGROUPS, SERIES AND SUBSERIES

Subgroup 1. William T. Bennett Professional Papers, 1923-1983, undated

Series I. Professional Correspondence, 1954-1976, undated

Series II. Elections, 1953-1972, undated

Series III. Legislation, 1958-1974, undated

Series IV. Litigation, 1962-1974, undated

Subseries 1. East and West Feliciana Parish, 1962-1974, undated

Subseries 2. Louisiana State Penitentiary at Angola, 1971-1972

Series V. Military Records, 1925-1983, undated

Series VI. Professional Organizations, 1950-1976, undated

Series VII. Subject Files, 1923-1976, undated

Subgroup 2. Bennett Family Papers, 1845; circa 1870-1997, undated

Series I. Family Correspondence, 1909-1995, undated

Series II. Manuscript Material, 1922-1986, undated

Subseries 1. Volumes, circa 1940-1986

Subseries 2. Writings and Speeches, 1922-1986, undated

Series III. Photographs, circa 1870-1983, undated

Subseries 1. Bennett and Brame Families, circa 1875-1974

Subseries 2. Fargeson and Holmes Families, circa 1904-1980

Subseries 3. Other Family Members and Friends, circa 1870-1983, undated

Subseries 4. Miscellaneous Photographs, circa 1900-1975, undated

Subseries 5. Negatives, 1944-1971, undated

Series IV. Financial Records and Legal Documents, 1845-1991, undated

Subseries 1. Financial Records, 1945-1991, undated

Subseries 2. Legal Documents, 1845, 1917-1977, undated

Series V. Clubs, Organizations, and Interests, 1919-1991, undated

Subseries 1. Clubs and Organizations, 1919-1991, undated

Subseries 2. Interests, 1936-1981, undated

Series VI. Genealogical and Biographical Material, 1892-1997, undated
Subseries 1. Genealogical Materials, 1892-1983, undated
Subseries 2. Biographical Materials/Miscellaneous Family Papers, 1894-1997, undated

Series VII. Printed and Graphic Materials, 1888-1985, undated
Subseries 1. Booklets, Reports, and Other Publications, 1888-1980
Subseries 2. Brochures, Pamphlets, and Flyers, 1942-1993, undated
Subseries 3. Bulletins and Newsletters, 1945-1985
Subseries 4. Clippings, 1945-1987, undated
Subseries 5. Drawings and Sketches, 1957, undated
Subseries 6. Ephemera, 1942-1995, undated

Subgroup 3. Brame-Bennett House Records, 1887-1995, undated

Series I. General Information, 1941-1989, undated

Series II. Legal Documents, 1887-1949

Series III. House Construction and Restoration, 1975-1983, undated

Series IV. Bed and Breakfast Files, 1981-1992, undated

Series V. Tourism, 1961-1995, undated

Subgroup 4. "Clinton Scenic Highway" Records, 1936-1987, undated

Series I. General Information, 1964-1978, undated

Series II. Correspondence, 1964-1980, undated

Series III. Court Cases, 1936-1987, undated

Series IV. Meetings and Public Forums, 1964-1977, undated

Series V. Maps and Plans, 1952-1979, undated

Series VI. Photographs and Slides, 1958-1982, undated

SUBGROUP, SERIES, AND SUBSERIES DESCRIPTIONS

Subgroup 1. William T. Bennett Professional Papers, 1923-1983, undated

The William T. Bennett Professional Papers subgroup holds materials created by Bennett during his legal career, military service, and judgeship. The records are divided into seven series, with one series further divided into subseries. All folders within series/subseries are arranged alphabetically unless otherwise noted. See below for more information on each series/subseries.

Series I. Professional Correspondence, 1954-1976, undated

The professional correspondence series is arranged chronologically and encompasses letters to and from Bill Bennett during his career as an attorney and judge from 1954 to 1976. Most of the correspondence covers the dates 1960-1973 and consists of letters to fellow attorneys regarding cases, local governmental disputes, and political ideology. Also included are folders of undated correspondence and two Rex Recorder Discs which presumably holds dictated correspondence from an unidentified time period (box 1, folder 23).

Series II. Elections, 1953-1972, undated

The elections series consists of basic election information, correspondence, political campaign ephemera, voter roll information for East and West Feliciana Parish, and election results for various political races that Bill Bennett was involved in from 1954 to 1972. Bill's judicial election certificates are stored in an oversize box (box 19) along with tally sheets from various elections that were removed from their original location. A campaign poster for Judge Horace R. Reid and a sample ballot from a voting machine are housed in a separate folder (OS folder 1) due to their size.

Series III. Legislation, 1958-1974, undated

The Legislation series holds the records for Judge Bennett's involvement in various legislative endeavors, such as his work in the field of substance abuse and mental health. Of particular interest is his lobbying work on behalf of the "Hughes Bill" (box 1, folders 46-47). Also included are materials from his time serving in the Louisiana Constitutional Convention from 1971-1974 (box 1, folders 7-9).

Series IV. Litigation, 1962-1974, undated

The Litigation series is the only one that is divided into subseries.

Subseries 1. East and West Feliciana Parish, 1962-1974, undated

The first subseries is East and West Feliciana Parish and contains case information, evidence, research, etc. for several big cases that Judge Bennett participated in. The bulk of the records pertain to the dispute over the Criminal

Court Fund (box 2, folders 15-25) but also included is material from East Feliciana's school desegregation cases (box 2, folders 29-31). Architectural plans from the Clinton courthouse dispute and some Police Jury minutes have been removed to an oversize box (box 19) with other oversize items.

Subseries 2. Louisiana State Penitentiary at Angola, 1971-1972

The second subseries holds records from Judge Bennett's involvement with litigation concerning the Louisiana State Penitentiary at Angola. These were well-known cases pertaining to security issues at the prison before and after the prison riots of 1972 and the subsequent solitary confinement of the inmates that later became known as the "Angola Three."

Series V. Military Records, 1925-1983, undated

The Military Records series contains Bill Bennett's military papers and enlistment documents as well as his Judge Advocate General (JAG) materials. Of particular note are two certificates he received while on active duty in Korea and Japan, one of which is housed in an oversize box (box 19). Also included are newsletters and bulletins from his various postings and his Army retirement materials. Other printed items from his Korea and Japan deployments include handbooks and directories (box 3, folder 11).

Series VI. Professional Organizations, 1950-1976, undated

The Professional Organizations series holds the records of Bill's professional and volunteer service in national organizations such as the American Bar Association and the National Association of Claimants' Compensation Attorneys [NACCA]. Also included are records pertaining to state and local organizations such as the Clinton Area Community Development Association, the Louisiana District Judges Association, and the Louisiana State Bar Association. Records from Bill's other clubs and organizations can be found in the Family Papers subgroup (box 10, folders 14-22).

Series VII. Subject Files, 1923-1976, undated

The Subject Files series holds papers created and used by Judge Bennett during his career, some of which do not easily fit into other series. Although the names of the files were retained when appropriate and most are in their original order, some files were created artificially from loose pages/items. The files are arranged alphabetically. Of particular interest are the calendars and planners from 1967-1970 (box 3, folders 34-37) and the files that show the ongoing disputes between Bill and District Attorney for East Feliciana Parish Leon Picou (box 3, folders 43-45). There are several files of records that trace the origins of Bill's extensive office library (box 3, folder 54-55), and a folder of petition materials from a group that attempted to remove him from office after his ruling in a particularly controversial court case (box 4, folder 13).

Subgroup 2. Bennett Family Papers, 1845, circa 1870-1997, undated

The second subgroup holds papers created and collected by the Bennett Family from 1845 to 1997. There are seven series, with every series except correspondence further divided into subseries. Materials are arranged alphabetically by folder title unless otherwise noted. See below for more information on each series/subseries.

Series I. Family Correspondence, 1909-1995, undated

The Family Correspondence series is the largest series and contains personal letters, cards, postcards, etc. written to and from the Bennett family from 1909 to 1995. The bulk of the correspondence in the series is to Mary and covers the time period from 1961 to 1983. Additionally, there are 13 folders of undated items, which consist mostly of greeting cards. Letters to Enid Fargeson, Mary's mother, have been separated out but are included in this series as well. Of particular interest are letters from Bill to Mary during his deployment in England during World War II (box 4, folder 25), and the letters from Mary to her sister-in-law, Mary Irwin Bennett, during their deployment in Japan (box 4, folder 26). Also of note are the letters written by Clinton Elementary students to Melanie Bennett during an illness in 1961 (box 9, folder 1). There are also notes written to Bill from a religious group in 1973 (box 9, folder 2) and notes written between various Bennett family members, etc. Materials are arranged chronologically.

Series II. Manuscript Material, 1922-1986, undated**Subseries 1. Volumes, circa 1940-1986**

The first subseries is comprised of manuscript volumes, including Mary Bennett's calendars, date books, and notebooks from the 1940s through the 1990s. Most volumes are housed within folders in box 9, with more substantial volumes numbered and housed separately in box 20. Correspondence originally located within the pages of volumes was transferred to its appropriate correspondence folder with notes on provenance. Ephemera and clippings found within volumes were placed in folders and housed with their corresponding volume (box 20, folders 1-2). [Note that the 1953 datebook (vol. 6) was annotated with post-it notes by Lettie Bennett in 2022. Post-it notes were removed for preservation purposes, but the datebook pages with corresponding notes were photocopied to protect their annotation and placed in box 20, folder 1 with enclosures from volumes 5 and 6.] Volumes are listed alphabetically within the container list according to format, then chronologically.

Subseries 2. Writings and Speeches, 1922-1986, undated

The second subseries consists of speeches and writings from various members of the Bennett family. Handwritten notes by Bill and Mary on various subjects are also included in this subseries. Of particular note is a speech given by Bill to the Ole War Skule reunion in 1957 (box 9, folder 33), and his speech to the Fraternal Order of Eagles in 1960, which includes a disk recording (box 9, folder 34). Items in this subseries are arranged by format.

Series III. Photographs, circa 1870-1995, undated

The Photographs series holds both photographic prints and negatives and is separated into five subseries. Folders of photos are grouped by subject and arranged within boxes in order of their importance to the Bennett Family. Identifying information by Lettie Bennett is included for some prints and negatives.

Subseries 1. Bennett and Brame Families, circa 1875-1974

This subseries holds the earliest photographs of Bill along with those taken during his military career. Mary Bennett's childhood and early adulthood photos are also present. The bulk of the prints included here are of the Bennett children (1947-1972). Photos of the W.H. Bennett and Judge Franklin D. Brame families are also included in this subseries. Of particular interest are the official photos of Judge William T. (Bill) Bennett (box 13, folders 4-5), and those of W.H. Bennett with the Louisiana State Legislature in 1932 (box 14, folder 8).

Subseries 2. Fargeson and Holmes Families, circa 1904-1980

Mary's side of the family is represented in this subseries. Photos of Mary's parents and sisters are housed in folders 13-14 of box 14, and various members of her sister Nelwyn's family are within folders 15-16 of the same box. Also included in this subseries are Holmes family photographs, which consist of Mary's mother Enid, and her parents and siblings.

Subseries 3. Other Family Members and Friends, circa 1870-1983, undated

This subseries contains photos of the Irwin and White-Richardson families, relatives of the Bennett Family, housed within eight folders. Additionally, there are ten folders of photographs of other family members and friends in this subseries. Some are unidentified.

Subseries 4. Miscellaneous Photographs, circa 1900-1975, undated

This subseries holds photographs of the Brame-Bennett House through the years (box 16, folders 5-6) and photos of Clinton, La. during an unknown time period (box 16, folder 7). Also included are photos taken by the Bennetts while in Korea and Japan (box 16, folder 8). There are three folders of photos of unidentified subjects and two folders of various political figures and celebrities. An autographed photograph of Jack P.F. Gremillion was placed in the oversize photograph box (box 17).

Subseries 5. Negatives, 1944-1971, undated

The bulk of the negatives in this subseries consists of miscellaneous Bennett family photographs from the 1950s and 1960s. Those that were identified by Lettie Bennett or others include photos of Lettie's high school graduation in 1965 (box 18, folder 3), and a family trip to the Gulf Coast, circa 1958 (box 18, folder 2). There are also negatives of family member portraits (box 18, folders 13-17)

and two folders of unidentified subjects. **Due to the fragile nature of negatives, they are restricted and should only be used with the permission of a curator.**

Series IV. Financial Records and Legal Documents, 1845, 1917-1977, undated

Subseries 1. Financial Records, 1945-1991, undated

Financial records include bills and receipts, Mary's jewelry and art appraisal (box 9, folder 41), and pension information. Of particular interest is Enid Fargeson's bank account book from 1945-1947 (box 9, folder 43).

Subseries 2. Legal Documents, 1845, 1917-1977, undated

Most legal documents contained in this subseries involve property and succession records for the Bennett and Fargeson families. Also included are marriage and birth certificates for Bennett family members (box 9, folder 45), and legal papers pertaining to a personal defamation case between Bill Bennett and a motel in Shreveport, La. (box 10, folders 11-13). A notable item included here is an Act of Sale document from 1845 for an enslaved woman named "Peggy" (box 9, folder 44). Although acquired with the William T. Bennett and Family Papers, the original provenance of this particular document is unknown. Materials in this subseries are arranged in order of their importance to the Bennett Family and/or their research value.

Series V. Clubs, Organizations, and Interests, 1919-1991, undated

Subseries 1. Clubs and Organizations, 1919-1991, undated

The first subseries is comprised of club and organizational records, arranged first by person, then alphabetically by the name of the organization. Of particular interest are Bill's Alcoholics Anonymous membership papers (box 10, folder 14) and records from his involvement in the Red Cross of East Feliciana Parish (box 10, folder 20). The bulk of the club and organizational records pertain to Mary, with four folders of materials from her service on the Audubon Regional Library Board (box 10, folders 24-27), and ten folders that reflect her work with the East Feliciana Historical Preservation and Garden Club (box 10, folders 34-43), along with many others. One folder of materials from Enid Fargeson's membership in the Caddo Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution [DAR] can be found in this subseries as well (box 11, folder 9).

Subseries 2. Interests, 1936-1981, undated

The second subseries holds the materials that reflect Bill and Mary's interests. Bill's interests include his work with alcoholism, law, and politics. Mary's interests include historic preservation, home and family, horticulture, and antiques. A notable item is a typed excerpt from 1955 taken from "History of the Baptist in Louisiana" by Rev. William E. Paxton (box 11, folder 19). Another notable item is Bill's petition to Rep. Otto Passman in support of Lt. William Calley, who was responsible for the My Lai Massacre during the Vietnam War

(box 11, folder 21). Folders are arranged alphabetically and the person with the interest is noted if known.

Series VI. Genealogical and Biographical Material/Miscellaneous Family Papers, 1894-1997, undated

Subseries 1. Genealogical Material, 1892-1983, undated

Genealogy for the Bennett and Brame families is located within this subseries along with family history for the Fargeson, Holmes, and Pope families (box 11, folder 24).

Subseries 2. Biographical Material/Miscellaneous Family Papers, 1894-1997, undated

The second subseries contains biographical materials such as newspaper articles that feature Bennett and Fargeson family members; certificates, awards, and diplomas; school records for the Bennett children; and materials from Mary's work at East Louisiana State Hospital. Other family items include materials once belonging to Leticia Brame Bennett (Bill's mother), playbills from Mary Irwin Bennett's appearances in the Baton Rouge Little Theater, and three folders of papers from W.H. Bennett. Of particular interest are the guest book and related items from Charles Fargeson's funeral (box 11, folder 27), Mary F. Bennett's award from the Louisiana Library Association (box 11, folder 32), and Bill Bennett's eulogy (box 11, folder 28).

Series VII. Printed and Graphic Materials, 1888-1985, undated

Subseries 1. Booklets, Reports, and Other Publications, 1888-1980

This subseries holds Louisiana and Mississippi publications collected by the Bennett Family from 1888 to 1980. Of particular interest are the early publications on Clinton, La. located in box 11, folder 40. Items are arranged chronologically within folders. See the container list for complete titles.

Subseries 2. Brochures, Pamphlets, and Flyers 1942-1993, undated

This subseries is comprised of various brochures and pamphlets mostly pertaining to Louisiana and Mississippi tourism. Many items are related to Antebellum houses and antique shows, which were two of Mary Bennett's interests. Items are arranged geographically, then chronologically within folders.

Subseries 3. Bulletins and Newsletters, 1945-1989

This subseries contains Louisiana-related newsletters collected by the Bennett Family from 1945-1989. Church bulletins from two Methodist congregations in Clinton, La. are also present within this subseries in box 11, folders 50-51. A folder of miscellaneous church bulletins is included here as well in box 11, folder 52. Newsletters are arranged chronologically, and church bulletins are arranged alphabetically by the name of the church.

Subseries 4. Clippings, 1945-1987, undated

The newspaper clippings in this subseries were mostly collected by Mary Bennett over the years. The bulk of items included pertains to Louisiana-related topics, the earliest of which is 1888. There are also two folders of non-Louisiana-related topics. Wedding, engagement, and funeral notices have been placed in a separate folder (box 11, folder 59). Materials in this subseries are arranged by topic, then chronologically within folders.

Subseries 5. Drawings and Sketches, 1957, undated

This subseries contains a pencil sketch of "Lawyers Row" in Clinton, La., and an undated pencil sketch of Mary Bennett done by an artist in the New Orleans French Quarter. Both of these sketches are housed in folder 60 of box 11. Also included is a series of prints of Antebellum structures drawn by John Desmond (oversize box 19). Materials are arranged chronologically.

Subseries 6. Ephemera, 1942-1995, undated

Items included in this subseries consist of business and membership cards, ticket stubs, dance cards, programs, etc. Postcards collected by the family from various locations in the U.S. have been arranged by state and are housed in folders 1-7 of box 12. Of particular interest is the folder of items collected by the Bennetts when they lived in Korea and Japan (box 11, folder 67) and the World War II ration books and tickets located in folder 9 of box 12. Folders are arranged alphabetically.

Subgroup 3. Brame-Bennett House Records, 1887-1995, undated

This subgroup holds the records relating to the Bennett ancestral home and national landmark, the Brame-Bennett House. There are five series within this subgroup. Materials in this series are arranged by their importance to the Bennett Family and/or their research value unless otherwise noted.

Series I. General Information, 1941-1989, undated

This series is comprised of materials that reflect the history of the Brame-Bennett House. There is a DVD of Mary Bennett speaking about the house on WBRZ-TV in 1989 (box 12, folder 10) and records from the Historic American Building Survey designation in 1941 (box 12, folder 13). Writings about the Brame-Bennett house include a graduate thesis written by Debra Van Ricketts (box 12, folder 11) and a history of the house by an unknown author (box 12, folder 12).

Series II. Legal Documents, 1887-1949

This series includes the records for the original acquisition of the house by Judge Franklin D. Brame and its succession (box 12, folder 14). Also included are the Bennett Family's acquisition and succession documents, mortgage records, and property tax information.

Series III. House Construction and Restoration, 1975-1983, undated

This series reflects the construction and restoration projects undertaken by the Bennetts over the years. Of particular note are the plans in the early 1980s to make Judge Bennett's previous office (and the site of the house's former slave quarters) into an apartment called the "Quarters Apartment" for tourism purposes (box 12, folders 18-19).

Series IV. Bed and Breakfast Files, 1981-1992, undated

Records in this series reflect the period of time when the Brame-Bennett House was a Bed and Breakfast inn. Items here include guest lists and reservation records, tax information, and research on similar establishments. Items in this series are arranged by their importance to the Bennett Family and/or their research value.

Series V. Tourism, 1961-1995, undated

The last series included in the Brame-Bennett House Records contains correspondence and publicity regarding the house's role in tourism for East Feliciana Parish, specifically Clinton. A visitor log that Mary Bennett kept from 1961-1995 (vol. 18) is housed with other volumes in box 20. Materials in this series are arranged mostly chronologically.

Subgroup 4. Clinton Scenic Highway Records, 1936-1987, undated

The final subgroup documents the Bennetts' fight to prevent the widening of Scenic Highway in Clinton, La. The subgroup is divided into six series. Materials are arranged chronologically unless otherwise noted.

Series I. General Information, 1964-1978, undated

This first series is comprised of newspaper articles that document the history of the Scenic Highway debate as well as federal grant application materials. Also included are Mary Bennett's notebooks and notes from the controversy (box 12, folders 33-36). Items in this series are arranged by their importance to the Bennett Family and/or their research value.

Series II. Correspondence, 1964-1980, undated

This series consists of general correspondence pertaining to the highway controversy as well as letters of support from H. Parrott Bacot and Sandra S. Thompson. Also included are drafts from Mary Bennett's letter-writing campaign and petitions that were presumably sent to Governor Edwin Edwards (box 12, folders 46-47).

Series III. Court Cases, 1936-1987, undated

This series holds legal documents from the two court cases in the 1980s involving Mary Bennett and the Louisiana Department of Transportation, with case research and other related materials housed in box 12, folder 52.

Series IV. Meetings and Public Forums, 1964-1977, undated

The fourth series consists of notes, proceedings, and records from various meetings and public forums that were held about the highway controversy over the years. A notebook from a Baton Rouge City-Parish Council Meeting (box 12, folder 53) and the proceedings from the hearing on the "Olive Branch-Clinton Highway" proposal (box 12, folder 54) are both from 1964 and are the earliest materials present.

Series V. Maps and Plans, 1952-1979, undated

This series is comprised of the maps and construction plans created at various times for the Scenic Highway widening project. Included are survey maps of the Bennett property drawn in 1952 and 1979 (box 19), an undated four-lane proposal map of Clinton (box 12, folder 57), and a map of East Feliciana Parish with yet another proposal that was developed in 1969 (box 19). Most of the items in this series are oversize in dimension, so have been placed in oversize box 19. The "Highway Preliminary Plan" from 1963 is an extra-large plan/map that has been housed in oversize folder 1.

Series VI. Photographs and Slides, 1958-1982, undated

The last series holds photographs and slides of Scenic Highway or Plank Road. Prints in an oversize format, some mounted on board, are housed in box 17. Regular-size prints are housed with the other photographs in the collection in box 16. Slides of the Bennett property taken in 1982 are in folder 17 of box 16. The undated Plank Road photographs found in this series were originally mounted on cardstock but were photocopied and disassembled for preservation purposes. These photographs are housed in folder 17 of box 16, and the cardstock and photocopies are housed in box 12, folder 58.

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		17	Law and political ideology, William T. Bennett (1936, 1961-1969)
		18	Louisiana Department of Art, Historical, and Cultural Preservation (1961-1975)
		19	Louisiana history (1955-1975)
		20	Natchez Pilgrimage Garden Club & Antiques Forum, Mary F. Bennett (1977-1978)
		21	Petition to Congressman Otto Passman re: Lt. William Calley, Jr., William T. Bennett (1971)
		Series VI. Genealogical and Biographical Material, 1892-1997, undated	
		Subseries 1. Genealogical Material, 1892-1983, undated	
		22	Bennett family genealogy (1968-1975)
		23	Brame family genealogy (1892-1962)
		24	Fargeson-Holmes-Pope family genealogy (1971-1983, undated)
		Subseries 2. Biographical Material/Miscellaneous Family Papers, 1894-1997, undated	
		25-26	Articles featuring Bennett and Fargeson families (1930-1993, undated)
		27	Charles Fargeson funeral materials (1938)
		28	Eulogy for William T. Bennett (1976)
		29	Letitia Brame Bennett materials (1894-1901, undated)
		30-32	Mary Fargeson Bennett, certificates and awards (1917-1935, 1997)
		33	Mary F. Bennett, materials from work at East Louisiana State Hospital (1962-1963)

<u>Stack Location</u>	<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Contents (with dates)</u>
92:16	11	34	Mary Irwin Bennett, playbills from appearances in Baton Rouge Little Theater (1952-1955)
		35	School records for Bennett children (1954-1971)
		36	William T. Bennett, college and law school diplomas (1926, 1968)
		37-39	William Hays (W.H.) Bennett papers (1938, undated)
Series VII. Printed and Graphic Materials, 1888-1985, undated			
Subseries 1. Booklets, Reports, and Other Publications, 1888-1980			
		40	<i>Charter, Constitution, By-Laws, and Rules of Order of the Union Benevolent Society of Clinton, La.</i> (1888)
			<i>Charter and Laws, By-Laws and Ordinances, and Rules for the Government of the Board of the Town of Clinton, La.</i> (1906)
			Silliman Collegiate Institute for Young Ladies, Bulletin (1915-1917)
			<i>Telephone Directory for Clinton, Jackson, and Wilson [La.]</i> , Southern Bell Telephone & Telegraph Company (1941)
			<i>A Guide to Louisiana's Capitol</i> , Louisiana State Tourist Bureau (circa 1952-1956)
		41	<i>Easy Way to Write the Meeting Story</i> by Marjorie B. Arbour, LSU Division of Agricultural Extension (1953)
			<i>Third Street, Baton Rouge, La., February 1954</i> by Gene Lee (1954)
			<i>Old Favorites: Songs We Love to Sing</i> , J.R. Peters Staple and Family Groceries, Clinton, La. (1955)
			<i>The Register: Baton Rouge's Journal of Society</i> (April 7, 1956)
		42	Zachary Garden Club Yearbook (1956-1957)
			<i>The Baton Rouge Guest</i> (1958, 1959)
			List of Members, Louisiana Historical Association (1960)
		43	<i>Plain Talks</i> , Gulf States Utilities Company (April 1961)
			Plantation Book Shop Catalogue, Natchez, Mississippi (January 1963)
			<i>Students for a Democratic Society and the New Left: Their Danger to the Educational Institutions of the State of Louisiana</i> , The Joint Legislative Committee on Un-American Activities (1969)
			Standards of Student Conduct, Louisiana Tech University (1973-1974)

<u>Stack Location</u>	<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Contents (with dates)</u>
92:16	11	43	<i>Mary Winans Wall United Methodist Church: In Celebration of 150 Years of Christian Service (1980)</i>
		Subseries 2. Brochures, Pamphlets, and Flyers 1942-1993, undated	
		44	Brochures and pamphlets, Louisiana (1942-1985, undated)
		45	Brochures and pamphlets, East and West Feliciana Parish (1950-1993, undated)
		46	Brochures and pamphlets, New Orleans and Mississippi Gulf Coast (1952-1962, undated)
		47	Brochures and pamphlets, Natchez, Mississippi (1978-1981, undated)
		48	Flyers and handbills (1955-1978, undated)
		Subseries 3. Bulletins and Newsletters, 1945-1985	
		49	<i>Alcoholism Newsletter</i> , Louisiana State Department of Hospitals (1967-1968)
			<i>The Memorandum</i> , Louisiana Association of Defense Counsel (April 1969)
			<i>Travel Bulletin</i> , Louisiana Travel Council (January 13, 1970)
			<i>News from Louisiana AFL-CIO</i> (May 1973)
			<i>Reporter</i> , Louisiana Public Information Committee (October 8, 1973)
			<i>The Curator's Occasional Newsletter</i> , Anglo-American Art Museum (September 1974)
			<i>Alcohol Affairs</i> , Baton Rouge, La. (1980)
			<i>Insights</i> , Louisiana State Library (Winter 1985)
			<i>Live Oak Retirement Community Newsletter</i> , Shreveport, La. (1989)
		50	Church bulletins, Clinton-Clear Creek United Methodist Church (1971-1973)
		51	Church bulletins, Mary Winans Wall United Methodist Church (1963-1985)
		52	Church bulletins, miscellaneous (1945-1963)
		Subseries 4. Clippings, 1945-1987, undated	
		53-56	Louisiana topics (1888-1987, undated)
		57-58	Non-Louisiana topics (1945-1987, undated)
		59	Wedding, engagement, and funeral notices (1961-1982, undated)

<u>Stack Location</u>	<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Contents (with dates)</u>
		Subseries 5. Drawings and Sketches, 1957, undated	
92:16	11	60	Pencil sketch, "Lawyers Row, East Feliciana Parish, Clinton, La.," by W. Haight (1957)
			Pencil sketch of Mary Bennett by Henry A. Mathé, New Orleans French Quarter (undated)
OS:B	19	4	"Louisiana Ante-Bellum Structures" prints by John Desmond (undated)
		Subseries 6. Ephemera, 1942-1995, undated	
92:16	11	61	Business and calling cards (undated)
		62	Membership cards (1948-1975)
		63	Miscellaneous graphic material (undated)
		64	Miscellaneous verse (undated)
		65	Tickets and dance cards (1942-1984, undated)
		66	Travel ephemera, miscellaneous (1945-1987, undated)
		67	Travel ephemera, Korea and Japan (1946-1949)
	12	1-2	Postcards, Louisiana and Mississippi (undated)
		3-7	Postcards, other states (1973-1995, undated)
		8	Programs (1961-1983, undated)
		9	World War II ration books and tickets (1942-1945)
Subgroup 3. Brame-Bennett House Records, 1887-1995, undated			
Series I. General Information, 1941-1989, undated			
		10	DVD of Mary F. Bennett at Brame-Bennett House, WBRZ-TV, Baton Rouge, La. (1989)
		11	Graduate thesis re: Brame-Bennett House by Debra Van Rickets (1971)
		12	Brame-Bennett House history (undated)
		13	Historic American Building Survey designation (1941)
Series II. Legal Documents, 1887-1949			
		14	Franklin D. Brame acquisition and succession records (1887-1895)
		15	Bennett Family acquisition and succession records (1945-1947)
		16	Mortgage and loan records (circa 1900, 1933-1949)
		17	Property taxes (1898, 1938-1947)
Series III. House Construction and Restoration, 1975-1983, undated			
		18	"Quarters Apartment" construction plans (1981, undated)
		19	Interior design ideas (1978-1982, undated)

<u>Stack Location</u>	<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Contents (with dates)</u>
92:16	12	20	Miscellaneous repairs (1977-1983, undated)
		21	Furniture inventory/list of contents (1973, undated)
		22-24	Preservation Grant files (1975-1981)
Series IV. Bed and Breakfast Files, 1981-1992, undated			
		25-26	Guest lists/Reservations (1981-1985)
		27	Occupancy taxes and insurance (1990-1992)
		28	B&B research and information (1982-1983, undated)
Series V. Tourism, 1961-1995, undated			
		29	Correspondence (1967, 1982-1984)
		30	Publicity/events (1973-1984, undated)
92:18	20	v. 18	Visitor log (1961-1995)
Subgroup 4. "Clinton Scenic Highway" Records, 1936-1987, undated			
Series I. General Information, 1964-1978, undated			
92:16	12	31	Articles/clippings (1964-1978, undated)
		32	Grants and federal assistance (1975-1976)
		33-34	Mary F. Bennett's highway notebooks (1964, 1977)
		35-36	Loose notes and contacts (1964, undated)
Series II. Correspondence, 1964-1980, undated			
		37	General correspondence (1964)
		38	General correspondence (1967-1974)
		39-42	General correspondence (1977-1978)
		43	General correspondence (1979-1980)
		44	H. Parrott Bacot (1977)
		45	Sandra S. Thompson (1977)
		46	Letter drafts (undated)
		47	Petitions (1977-1978, undated)
Series III. Court Cases, 1936-1987, undated			
		48-49	Mary F. Bennett vs. Louisiana Department of Transportation (1936-1981)
		50-51	Louisiana Department of Transportation vs. Mary F. Bennett (1986-1987)
		52	Research and miscellaneous case-related materials (1972-1979, undated)
Series IV. Meetings and Public Forums, 1964-1977, undated			
		53	Notebook, Baton Rouge City-Parish Council Meeting (1964)

<u>Stack Location</u>	<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Contents (with dates)</u>
92:16	12	54	Proceedings, Olive Branch-Clinton Highway proposal hearing (1964)
		55	Resolutions, Clinton Town Council and East Feliciana Police Jury (1966-1967, undated)
		56	Meeting records, Louisiana Joint Legislative Committee on Transportation (1977)
Series V. Maps and Plans, 1952-1979, undated			
OS:B	19	4	Survey map of Bennett property (1952)
104-105:	--	OS 1	Highway Preliminary Plan (1963)
OS:B	19	4	East Feliciana Parish map with "Proposed Five-Year Highway Construction Program" (circa 1969)
			Survey map, Bennett property with proposed highway (1979)
92:16	12	57	Map of Clinton, La. with 4-lane highway proposal (undated)
Series VI. Photographs and Slides, 1958-1982, undated			
92:17	17	1-7	Oversize photographs of Highway 67 in Clinton, mounted on board (1958-1959)
		8-11	Oversize photographs of Highway 67 in Clinton (1967)
	16	14	"Clinton-Olive Branch" photographs (1964)
		15	"Highway Photographs" (1978)
		16	Slides of Bennett property for Highway dispute (1982)
92:16	12	58	"Plank Road, Clinton, Louisiana" photographs, numbered and identified (undated) [photocopy]