

BASS-FARRAR FAMILY PAPERS

Ms. 4907

Inventory

Compiled by
Christopher S. Freeman

Louisiana and Lower Mississippi Valley Collections
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Louisiana State University Libraries
Baton Rouge, Louisiana State University

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SUMMARY

Size	0.5 linear ft.
Geographic Locations	Louisiana, Mississippi
Inclusive Dates	1827-1918
Bulk Dates	1830-1867
Languages	English
Summary	Family papers of the Bass and Farrar families primarily include correspondence, legal documents, and financial records related to family matters, plantation management, life along the Mississippi River, the Civil War, and slavery.
Access Restrictions	The currency housed in the Vault is restricted. Please use the photocopy in box 3, folder 20.
Reproduction Note	May be reproduced.
Copyright	Physical rights are retained by the LSU Libraries. For those materials not in the public domain, copyright is retained by the descendants of the creators in accordance with U.S. copyright law.
Related Collections	Henry Brown Richardson and Family Papers, Mss. 2987, Louisiana and Lower Mississippi Valley Collections, LSU Libraries, Baton Rouge, La.
Citation	Bass-Farrar Family Papers, Mss. 4907, Louisiana and Lower Mississippi Valley Collections, LSU Libraries, Baton Rouge, La.
Stack Locations	OS:B, R:41, VAULT:1

BIOGRAPHICAL/HISTORICAL NOTE

This collection contains papers from three related and allied families, the Bass, Farrar, and Richardson families, all of which lived in or near Tensas Parish, Louisiana.

Elijah (1793-1835) and Elizabeth Bass (died approximately 1858) lived on and operated Myrtle Grove Plantation near Waterproof, Tensas Parish and had two children who lived into adulthood: Job (October 20, 1826-May 23, 1857) and Augustus E. (Elijah) Bass (1834-approximately 1905). After Elijah's death and some time before May 16, 1836, Elizabeth married Dr. Jacob H. Foreman (sometimes spelled as Forman), who died before March 1844. Augustus inherited Myrtle Grove from Elizabeth when she died. Augustus served as a private in the Confederate Army as a member of a battery of light artillery until January 12, 1863, when he was discharged by providing a substitute soldier.

The Bass family was related to the Farrar family through the marriage of Augustus and Jane Kempe (called Jenny or Jennie) Farrar (died 1918), daughter of Anna Marie Girault (died 1885) and Thomas P. (Prince) Farrar. Jenny and Augustus lived most of their lives on Myrtle Grove. Thomas was an attorney of Vidalia and later St. Joseph, Louisiana. In addition to Jenny, Anna and Thomas had at least one other child, Anna (called Nannie or Nanny) Farrar. She married Henry Brown Richardson. The Farrars were also connected to Plassy Plantation, which was owned by Jane Kempe, the mother of Anna Marie Girault.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The family papers of the Bass and Farrar families concern family matters, personal and professional activities, maintenance and overseeing of cotton plantations before and after the Civil War, life along the Mississippi River in Tensas Parish, Louisiana and Adams County, Mississippi, life in Louisiana during the Civil War, and slavery. Included within the collection are letters between family members and between owners of plantations and their business partners, lists of enslaved persons working on plantations, land deeds and mortgages, wills and testaments, and plantation receipts and inventories. Also within the collection is a reception card for Confederate States president Jefferson Davis and Varina Davis.

Content Warning: Items in this collection contain historical terms, phrases, or images that are offensive, outdated, and/or harmful. These include demeaning and dehumanizing references to race, ethnicity, and nationality; enslaved or free status; physical and mental ability; and gender and sexual orientation.

LIST OF SERIES AND SUBSERIES

Series I. Correspondence, 1829-1906, undated

Series II. Legal and Financial Papers, 1827-1918, undated

Subseries 1. Legal Papers, 1827-1918

Subseries 2. Financial Papers, 1830-1918, undated

Series III. Ephemera, circa 1840-1864, undated

SERIES DESCRIPTIONS

Series I. Correspondence, 1829-1906, undated

This series contains the correspondence of Jane Kempe, Thomas P. Farrar, Anna Girault Farrar, Elizabeth Foreman, Augustus E. Bass, and others, such as extended family members and business associates. These letters concern the families' personal affairs such as death, marriage, and inheritance; health; finances; politics; and the operation of their cotton plantations, Myrtle Grove Plantation and Plassy Plantation in Louisiana. Also, the correspondence provides information about life and agricultural production along the Mississippi River in Tensas Parish, Louisiana and Adams County, Mississippi. The bulk of the early materials are letters to Thomas P. Farrar when he lived in Washington, Mississippi and to Elizabeth Foreman while she oversaw Myrtle Grove after the deaths of her husbands. During the period just prior to and during the Civil War, there is a series of letters from John Francis Girault to his aunt Jane Kempe while John lived in New Orleans working as a cotton factor. The letters to Augustus E. Bass at Myrtle Grove make up the majority of the material during and following the Civil War. This includes a letter discharging him from service in the Confederate Army in 1863.

Series II. Legal and Financial Papers, 1827-1918, undated

Content Warning: Items in this series contain historical terms, phrases, or images that are offensive, outdated, and/or harmful. These include demeaning and dehumanizing references to race, ethnicity, and nationality; enslaved or free status; physical and mental ability; and gender and sexual orientation.

Subseries 1. Legal Papers, 1827-1918

This subseries contains legal documents related to the Bass and Farrar families' financial transactions, such as land deeds, land transfers, mortgages, lease agreements, and loan agreements. In addition, this subseries contains records of purchase and transfer of enslaved persons by Elizabeth Foreman, Augustus E. Bass's substitute soldier contract, and a Reconstruction-era laborers' contract.

Subseries 2. Financial Papers, 1830-1918, undated

This subseries includes financial records of the Bass and Farrar families, including shipping records, receipts, and plantation inventories. Included among these are two inventories of enslaved persons on Jane Kempe's Plassy Plantation, made in 1854.

Series III. Ephemera, circa 1840-1864, undated

This series includes a reception card for Confederate States president Jefferson Davis and Varina Davis, poetry written by Thomas P. Farrar and S. Sprague, a Confederate States of America \$100 bill, and other ephemera.

INDEX TERMS

Materials relating to these people, places, and things can be found in the series indicated, as represented by their numbers.

Terms

Adams County (Miss.)--History.
 Agriculture--Louisiana.
 Bass, Augustus E. (Elijah), 1834-1905?
 Bass, Elijah, 1793-1835.
 Bass, Jane Kempe, -1918.
 Bass, Job, 1826-1857.
 Bass family.
 Cotton growing--Louisiana.
 Cotton trade--Louisiana.
 Davis, Jefferson, 1808-1889.
 Davis, Varina, 1826-1906.
 Freedmen--Employment--Louisiana.
 Farrar, Anna Marie Girault.
 Farrar, Thomas P. (Prince), -1880.
 Farrar family.
 Foreman, Elizabeth, -1858.
 Foreman, Jacob H., -1840?
 Girault, J. F. (John Francis)
 Inheritance and succession--Louisiana.
 Kempe, Jane, -1882.
 Letters (correspondence)
 Louisiana--History--Civil War, 1861-1865.
 Louisiana--Social life and customs--19th century.
 Myrtle Grove Plantation (Tensas Parish, La.)
 New Orleans (La.)--History--Civil War, 1861-1865.
 Nugent, John.
 Plassy Plantation (La.)
 Plantations--Mississippi.
 Plantations--Louisiana.
 Plantation owners--Louisiana.
 Practice of Law--Louisiana--19th century.
 Slave bills of sale.
 Slaves--Louisiana.
 Soldiers--Louisiana.
 Richardson, Anna Farrar.
 Tensas Parish (La.)--History--19th century.
 Tensas Parish (La.)--History--20th century.

Series

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CONTAINER LIST

<u>Stack</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Box</u>	<u>Folders</u>	<u>Contents</u>
				Series I. Correspondence 1829-1906, undated
	R:41	1	1-11	Correspondence, 1829-1850
		2	1-7	Correspondence, 1851-1906, undated
			8	Fragments of letters, undated
				Series II. Legal and Financial Papers, 1827-1918, undated
				Subseries 1. Legal Papers, 1827-1918
			9	Elijah Bass land deed, lease, transfer, and bond; Elizabeth Foreman tutrix appointment, 1827-1836
			10	Thomas Farrar and John Nugent loan agreement, circa 1835
			11	Jacob H. Foreman bank note and bank agreement, 1838-1839
			12	Elizabeth Foreman transfers of enslaved persons, 1837-1844
			13	Elizabeth Foreman land transfer (typescript copy), 1846
			14	Jane Kempe's will, 1855
			15	A. E. Bass financial contracts and mortgages, 1856-1866
			16	A. E. Bass laborers' contract, 1867
			17	A. E. Bass commission as police juror, 1865
			18	A. E. Bass and Michael Lewis substitute soldier's contract, 1863
			19	Jennie Bass leases and land transfers, circa 1902-1918
			20	Announcement of the "Game Law," 1877
		3	1	Blank government documents, circa 1835, 1865
				Subseries 2. Financial Papers, 1830-1918, undated
			2	Cotton bale count, Sept.-Nov. 1830
			3	Elijah Bass shipping record, 1832
			4	Elijah Bass estate receipts and inventory, circa 1835
			5	Thomas Farrar bank note, 1835
			6	Jacob H. Foreman receipts, 1835-1837
			7	Elizabeth Foreman receipts, circa 1840
			8	Elizabeth Foreman receipts and inventory, circa 1845
			9	Jane Kempe plantation records and enslaved persons inventory, 1854
			10	Job Bass estate inventory lists and account statement, circa 1855-1857
	OS:B	--	OS 1	Job Bass estate inventory lists and account statement, circa 1855-1857
	R:41	3	11	A. E. Bass tax assessments, 1836, 1850-1859
			12	A. E. Bass inventories and receipts circa 1860, 1880
			13	Loan agreements of A. E. Bass, Elizabeth Foreman, and Job Bass, circa 1860

StackLocationBoxFoldersContents

R:41

3

14

Jennie Bass receipts, 1910-1918, undated

15

Unidentified receipts, undated

Series III. Ephemera, circa 1840-1864, undated

16

Poetry by Thomas P. Farrar and S. Sprague, circa 1840

17

Newspaper clipping regarding a fire that destroyed some of Jane Kempe's property, circa 1850

18

A. E. Bass invitation to Washington Birthday Ball, 1856

19

Reception card for Jefferson Davis and Mrs. Davis and calling card for Jane Kempe, circa 1860

20

Confederate States of America \$100 bill, 1864 **[original removed to VAULT:1, use photocopy]**

21

Other ephemera, undated

VAULT:1

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1

Confederate State of America \$100 bill, 1864 **[RESTRICTED]**

APPENDIX: CORRESPONDENCE INDEX

Name (to and from listed individual)	Box-Folder (first number = box; second number = folder)
Alexander, C. L.	1-9
Bark, Bayly N.	1-10
Bass, Augustus E.	2-1; 2-2; 2-4; 2-5; 2-7
Bass, Jane Kempe "Jenny or Jennie"	2-6; 2-7
Bass, Job	1-9; 2-3; 2-5
Bass, Randolph	2-5
Blount, Chad	1-10
Bradford, A. B.	1-5
Buckley, Martha	1-10
Buckley, Theo M.	1-10
Cabby, Lou M.	1-1; 1-4
Caldwell, Issac	1-3; 1-5
Callaghar, John	2-5
Canna, Wm.	1-10
Clark, George S	1-5
Crawford, A. P.	1-4
Cronly, Laurie	1-6
Cotton, P.	1-3
Dudley, N. A.	2-6
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Farrar, Anna Marie Girault	1-9; 2-1; 2-2; 2-3; 2-5; 2-6

BASS-FARRAR FAMILY PAPERS
1827-1918, undated

Mss. 4907
LSU LIBRARIES SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

Name
(to and from listed individual)

Box-Folder
(first number = box; second number = folder)

Farrar, Ned	2-6
Farrar, Thomas Prince	1-1; 1-2; 1-3; 1-4; 1-5; 1-6; 1-7; 1-8; 1-9; 1-10; 1-11; 2-4; 2-7
Foreman, Elizabeth	1-9; 1-10; 1-11; 2-5
Foreman, Dr. Jacob H.	1-8; 2-7
Forman, S.	1-6; 1-7
Gillard, Angilica	1-9
Grims, P. A.	1-8
Girault, J. F.	1-8; 1-9; 2-4; 2-5
Harmon, George	1-2; 1-10
Henderson, Wm.	1-4
Howell, Margaret	2-1
Hunter, Rob	1-10
Hurst, Randall	2-5
Jones, [J. F.]	1-8
Kempe, Jane	1-8; 1-9; 2-1; 2-2; 2-3; 2-4; 2-5
Louis, J. R.	2-1
Maske, Wm.	2-7
Mason, Jason	1-3
Matthy, M. J.	2-1; 2-3; 2-4
McCaleb, David	1-2; 1-3; 1-4; 1-6; 1-7
Miller, A.	1-3
Montgomery, Louisa Mary	2-3; 2-5

BASS-FARRAR FAMILY PAPERS

1827-1918, undated

Mss. 4907**LSU LIBRARIES SPECIAL COLLECTIONS**

Name (to and from listed individual)	Box-Folder (first number = box; second number = folder)
Morris, Sarah	1-10
Morton, John M.	1-1
Nugent, John	1-3; 1-4; 1-5; 2-7
Nugent, Rich	1-4
Owens, Rebecca	1-10
Parker, Ellethea? (Sister of Thomas P. Farrar)	1-2
Regan, Ralph	1-1; 1-3
Richardson, Henry B.	2-5
Richardson, Anna "Nanny or Nannie" Farrar	2-3; 2-6
Robertson, John	1-2; 1-3; 1-6
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Rotchford, John W.	2-4; 2-5
Scott, James	1-6
Smith, Ben O.	1-2; 1-4; 1-7; 1-8
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Stillman, L. H.	1-9
Stone, A. B.	2-1
Stringer, F.	1-9
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Wailes, Levin	1-4
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BASS-FARRAR FAMILY PAPERS

1827-1918, undated

Mss. 4907**LSU LIBRARIES SPECIAL COLLECTIONS**

Name (to and from listed individual)	Box-Folder (first number = box; second number = folder)
Wiley, Geo. (U.S. District Attorney, Cleveland, Ohio)	1-11; 2-7
Windus, William	1-8
Young, [M. T.]	1-8