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MF 6061, Series B, Part 2, Reel 1

NORBERT BADIN PAPERS

(Mss. 825)
Inventory

Compiled by
Lynne W. Wells

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

Revised 2009

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SUMMARY

Size.	2 linear feet (740 items, including 3 manuscript volumes, 58 printed volumes).
Geographic Locations.	Louisiana.
Inclusive dates.	1829-1937.
Bulk dates.	1829-1859 (LaCaze Papers); 1889-1900 (Badin Papers).
Languages.	English, French, Spanish.
Summary.	Antebellum materials are business papers of Celestin and Michel LaCaze, "mulatres libres" of Isle Brevelle, Natchitoches Parish, Louisiana, consisting of receipts and bills for goods and taxes. The Badin papers comprise personal and business correspondence of Norbert Badin (d. 1903) and family, relating primarily to family matters and the cotton trade. Badin was a planter and a free man of color who lived in the Cane River community of Melrose, in Natchitoches Parish, Louisiana. Also included are financial and legal papers, a manuscript journal, a notebook, a memo book, elementary school writings books, and printed items (primarily advertising and promotional materials).
Related Collections.	Metoyer (Adeleda) Papers, Mss. 836 Metoyer (Auguste) Papers, Mss. 871.
Access.	No restrictions.
Copyright.	Property rights retained by Louisiana State University; literary rights retained by the descendants of writers of items in these papers (U.S. Copyright Law).
Citation.	Norbert Badin Papers, Mss. 825, Louisiana and Lower Mississippi Valley Collections, LSU Libraries.
Stack Location.	U:97-98; OS:B; Microfiche 2729 Microfilm 6061, Series B, Part 2, Reel 1

BIOGRAPHICAL/HISTORICAL NOTE

Norbert Badin (d. 1903) was a free African-American from the Cane River settlement of Melrose in Natchitoches Parish, Louisiana, an area that was home to a large community of free African-Americans. Badin and his family were planters and landowners, owning rental property on Bayou Bourbraux.

Norbert Badin married Sylvia Phermance on February 12, 1885. They had a number of children, including a daughter who became a Catholic nun at the Holy Family Convent in New Orleans and took the name Sister Mary Celestine.

Badin and his descendants appear to have stayed in the Cane River/Isle Brevelle area of Natchitoches Parish over the years spanned by the collection, with the exception of Joe and Tony Antee (sometimes spelled Anty), who corresponded from Beaumont, Texas, and Mansfield, Ohio, respectively, with their Aunt Zeline Roque, who then lived in Natchez, Louisiana.

The family connection between the Badins and the LaCaze brothers is not clear. Celestin (b. July 18, 1798) and Michel (b. April 12, 1801) LaCaze (also spelled Cassa, Lacases, Cassard, and Lacase) were the sons of a slave named Rosalie who was owned by a white planter of Little River named Jacques LaCaze. The identity of their father is not known. The brothers were "mulatres libres."

Michel LaCaze married a free African-American woman, Marie Delphine Laisa, on October 24, 1831. Celestin married Elisa Rouquier on March 22, 1835.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

Early papers (1829-1856) relate to the brothers Celestin and Michel LaCaze; the majority are in French. They contain a tax receipt, bills and receipts for various goods, and one receipt that was issued to their mother Rosalie, a slave. Many of these papers mention the names of other free African-Americans from the Cane River colony who were merchants to the community, including Auguste Metoyer.

Correspondence, financial and legal papers of Norbert Badin, his extended family, and their descendants make up a large part of the collection. The personal correspondence (1882-1937) reflects day-to-day life and common concerns of the Badins, their extended family, and their friends in the community. Many letters are from Pauline and Gabriel Metoyer, of Campti, Louisiana, to Norbert and other members of the Badin family (1889-1929).

The financial correspondence and papers (1873-1934) include bills and receipts for goods and services, statements of account, cotton receipts, and transactional correspondence concerning the cotton trade. Much of the correspondence is from cotton factors in New Orleans including R. M. Walmsley & Co. (1888-1891), their successor S. P. Walmsley & Co. (1893), John T. Hardie & Co. (1894-1895), their successor Wm. T. Hardie & Co. (1895-1902), and later A. J. Forstall & Co. (1902-1904). There is correspondence, as well, from a James McCook, from whom Badin leased land (1888, 1890). There are only five legal documents.

Various other materials include verses and lyrics, a report card of Tony Antee (1919-1920), a small letterbook belonging to J. L. Badin (1890), elementary school writing books and printed materials mostly of a promotional nature. Also included is a manuscript journal, which has the name of H. A. Thompsen etched on the cover, Horace Thompson written inside, the name W. E. Wakefield of New Orleans written on the inside back cover, and appears to have been used by more than one person. It contains expenditures and receipts of Boy Jack and Harriet Permelia Woods from 1858; personal journal entries from 1904 of an employee of the Charles A. Kaufman Co. of New Orleans, Louisiana; a list of names with height, age, and degree of skin color specified; various other lists and pages of drawings including some of Theodore Roosevelt; lists broken down by girls and boys; lists of categories entitled waists, Scientific American, positions 1904; and a list of supplies used. A full list of published items can be found in the series descriptions.

SUBGROUP AND SERIES DESCRIPTIONS

Subgroup 1. LaCaze Papers, 1829-1856 (42 items)

Business papers of Celestin and Michel LaCaze, "mulatres libres," of Isle Brevelle, Natchitoches Parish, Louisiana, consisting of bills and receipts for various goods. All but three items are in French.

Subgroup 2. Badin Family Papers, 1867-1937

Series I. Personal Correspondence, 1882-1894 (121 items)

Includes letters from a variety of correspondents from throughout Louisiana, including New Orleans and towns along or near the Cane River. A few letters are from correspondents living or working in Texas, Ohio, and Illinois. Personal correspondence primarily concerns family news of health, crops, local happenings, and mutual friends. There is a series of letters spanning the years 1889-1896 to Norbert and the years 1901-1906 to J. L. Badin from Gabriel and Pauline Metoyer. Two letters (1910, 1911), to Mrs. Norbert Badin, are from her daughter Sister Mary Celestine of the Holy Family Convent in New Orleans. This correspondence, with the exception of one letter in Spanish, is in English.

Series II. Financial Correspondence and Papers, 1873-1934 (313 items)

Includes bills and receipts, statements of account, cotton receipts, cotton market reports, and correspondence with New Orleans cotton factors R. M. Walmsley & Co. (1888-1891), John T. Hardie & Co. (1894-1895), and later A. J. Forstall & Co. (1902-1904). Letters from James McCook (1888 and 1890) concern land leased from him by Badin. Two letters refer to land owned and leased by Norbert Badin on Bayou Bourbraux (1888 and 1890).

Series III. Legal Documents, 1867, 1890, 1919, undated (5 items)

Includes an Oath of Citizenship for Celestan Loquell (1867), two notices of nonpayment of sight drafts drawn on the account of Norbert Badin (1890), a life insurance policy in the name of Ethel Antee of Melrose, Louisiana (1919), and a record of baptisms of the children of Pierre Robin and Agatha Metoyer signed by Father A. Dupré (1882, 1884, 1886).

Series IV. Miscellaneous Material, 1890-1936, undated (20 items)

Includes lyrics and verses (1890-1899, undated), a drawing of a house (undated), three

elementary school writing books (1891, 1914), and a report card for Tony Antee (1919). A memorandum book (1890) contains what appear to be letters written by someone at Melrose as practice for writing. A journal (1856-1904) used by Horace A. Thompsen (or Thompson), W. E. Wakefield of New Orleans, and possibly others, is also present. The journal contains various lists of names, including one specifying height, age, and degree of skin color; expenditures and receipts of Boy Jack and Harriet Permelia Woods from 1858; personal journal entries from 1904 of an employee of the Charles A. Kaufman Co., New Orleans; lists of categories entitled waists (possibly referring to shirtwaists sewn); Scientific American, positions 1904; a list of supplies used; and drawings of Theodore Roosevelt.

Series V. Printed Material, 1886-1937, undated (185 items)

The printed materials include business cards, commencement announcements, circulars and prices lists for various businesses, religious brochures, almanacs, promotional pamphlets for medical products, product catalogs, periodicals and newspapers, two speeches, and a copy of a Louisiana Supreme Court Decision.

Published materials are as follows:

“Almanac of the League of the Sacred Heart 1896” (2 copies). New York: Apostleship of Prayer, 1896.

“Almanach illustré de Hostetter pour les États-Unis 1894.” Pittsburgh: Publié par la Compagnie Hostetter, 1894.

“American Consumers’ Alliance general mail-order house preliminary catalogue of specialties.” Chicago: American Consumers’ Alliance, 1899?

“The annals of the Association of our Blessed Lady of Victory.” West Seneca, New York: Association of our Blessed Lady of Victory, 1896.

“A capable cat.” Burlington, VT: Wells, Richardson & Co., 1890-1899?.

“Classified price list of school and college text books.” [S.1.]: American Book Company, 1895.

“Clear complexion, blooming health, the result of the use of Duffy’s Pure Malt Whiskey.” Rochester: Duffy Malt Whiskey Company, 1896-1899?

“The Crusaders 1901 almanac.” New York?: Commissariat of the Holy Land, 1900, c. 1899.

“The delineator.” New York: Butterick Publishing Co., 1897.

“The derby game bird.” Derby, Ind.: Alex W. Cummings, 1902, Aug., Nov.

“Dr. Harter’s almanac and weather forecasts for 1899.” Dayton: Dr. Harter Medicine Co., 1899, c.1898.

“Dr. Morse’s Indian Root Pills.” Morristown, New York?: W. H. Comstock Company, Limited, 1903.

“Dr. Thatcher’s lucky day almanac.” Chattanooga: Thatcher Medicine Co., 1920, c. 1919.

E. C. Meacham Arms Co., St. Louis: E. C. Meacham Arms Co., 1880-1889?.

E. V. Roddin & Co. Manufacturing Jewelers and Diamond Importers. Chicago: E. V. Rodding & Co. Manufacturing Jewelers and Diamond Importers, 1900.

Emery, Mrs. S. E. “Seven financial conspiracies which have enslaved the American people.” Lansing: Emery & Emery, 1892?.

Fitzpatrick, Walter J. The “K” Hand Power Stump Puller. San Francisco: [s.n.], 1918?.

“Hamlin’s Wizard Oil song book.” Chicago: Hamlins Wizard Oil Co., 1899.

“A happy family.” Buffalo: World’s Dispensary Medical Association, 1891?.

Hartman, S. B., M. D. “The ills of life; and how to cure them; or everybody his own physician.” Columbus: Peruna Drug Manufacturing Co., 1895?.

Hartman, S. B., M. D. “The ills of life; and how to cure them; or everybody his own physician” (2 Copies). Columbus: Peruna Drug Manufacturing Co., 1897?.

“Here! I want it!” Chicago: Montgomery Ward & Co., 1895.

“Higher than a kite.” Paragould, Ark: Paragould Medicine Co., 1900?.

Invalids’ Hotel and Surgical Institute (2 copies). Buffalo: World’s Dispensary Medical Association, 1888?.

Kelso, Rebecca, Appellant. Succession of John K. Elgee. [S.1.: s.n.], 1874-1880?.

“Kentucky album.” Burlington, VT: Wells, Richardson & Co., 1895?.

“The ladies birthday almanac 1901.” Chattanooga: Chattanooga Medicine Co., 1901, c. 1900.

- “The ladies birthday almanac.” Chattanooga: Chattanooga Medicine Co., 1918, c. 1917.
- “The ladies birthday almanac.” Chattanooga: Chattanooga Medicine Co., 1920, c. 1919.
- “The ladies birthday almanac.” Chattanooga: Chattanooga Medicine Co., 1921, c. 1920.
- “The ladies birthday almanac.” Chattanooga: Chattanooga Medicine Co., 1931, c. 1930.
- “The ladies birthday almanac.” Chattanooga: Chattanooga Medicine Co., 1932, c. 1931.
- “The ladies birthday almanac.” Chattanooga: Chattanooga Medicine Co., 1934, c. 1933.
- “The ladies birthday almanac.” Chattanooga: Chattanooga Medicine Co., 1935, c. 1934.
- “The ladies birthday almanac for 1894.” Chattanooga: Chattanooga Medicine Co., 1894.
- “The ladies birthday almanac for 1895.” Chattanooga: Chattanooga Medicine Co., 1895.
- “The ladies birthday almanac for 1897.” Chattanooga: Chattanooga Medicine Co., 1897, c. 1896.
- “List of our standard remedies and what our agents say about them.” New York: National Remedy Company, 1890-1899?
- “Louisiana album.” Burlington, VT: Wells, Richardson & Co., 1897?.
- McEnery, Samuel D., Hon. “The Tariff.” Washington?: [s.n.], 1897.
- “Milk or beef.” Minneapolis: International Food Co., 1880-1889?.
- “The missionary.” New York: Office of the Catholic World Magazine, 1898.
- Morgan, John, Elder. “Doctrines of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints: its faith and teachings.” Chattanooga: [s.n.], 1880-1889?.
- “The new moon.” Lowell: New Moon Publishing Co., 1894.
- “The new non-partisan book on trusts.” Chicago: American Consumers’ Alliance, 1899.
- Ogden, Henry W., Hon. “Speeches of Hon. Henry W. Ogden in the House of Representatives of the United States.” Washington: [s.n.], 1898.

“Park’s floral magazine.” Libonia, Penn.: [s.n.], 1898.

“The pilgrim of Our Lady of Martyrs.” New York: Apostleship of Prayer, July, 1896.

“The pilgrim of Our Lady of Martyrs.” New York: Apostleship of Prayer, September, 1896.

“Ramon’s wee almanac.” New York?: Brown Manufacturing Co., 1902.

Russell Big Boll Prolific Cotton. Alexander City, Alabama: Russell Big Boll Prolific Cotton, 1908.

“The salesman – a proposition to you.” Racine, Wis: Dr. Shoop Family Medicine Company, 1891?.

“Unseen dangers.” New York?: Brown Manufacturing Co., 1898-1900?.

“Warner’s safe cure.” Rochester: Warner’s Safe Cure Co., 1895-1900?.

“Warner’s safe cure pamphlet.” Rochester: Warner’s Safe Cure Co., 1897.

INDEX TERMS

<u>Terms</u>	<u>Series</u>
A. J. Forstall & Co.	II
Antee, Ethel.	III
Antee, Joe.	I
Antee, Tony.	I and IV
Badin family.	I-IV
Badin, J. L.	I
Badin, Norbert, d. 1903.	I, II, and III
Badin, Sylvia Phermance.	II
Bayou Bourbraux (La.)--History.	II
Business cards.	V
Cane River (La.)--History.	I
Commencement announcements.	V
Cotton growing--Louisiana.	I, II, and IV
Cotton trade--Louisiana.	I, II, and IV
Dupré, A., Father.	III
Freedmen--Louisiana.	Subgroup 1, I-IV
Free women of color--Louisiana.	Subgroup 1, I-IV
Handbills.	V
Holy Family Convent (New Orleans, La.)	I
Invitations.	V
Isle Brevelle (La.)	I
John T. Hardie & Co.	II
Lacaze, Celestin, b. 1798.	Subgroup 1
Lacaze, Michel, b. 1801.	Subgroup 1
Loquell, Celestan.	III
McCook, James, fl. 1888-1890.	II
Melrose (La.)--History.	I, II, and III
Metoyer, Agatha.	III
Metoyer, Auguste.	Subgroup 1
Metoyer, Gabriel.	I
Metoyer, Pauline.	I
Natchitoches Parish (La.)--History.	All
Playbills.	V
Programs.	V
R. M. Walmsley & Co.	II
Robin, Pierre.	III

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Roque, Zeline.	I
S. P. Walmsley & Co.	II
Trade cards.	V
Thompson (Thompsen), Horace.	IV
Wakefield, W. E.	IV
Wm. T. Hardie & Co.	II

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CONTAINER LIST

Stack

<u>Location</u>	<u>Box</u>	<u>Folders</u>	<u>Contents</u>
U:97	1	1	Subgroup 1 , LaCaze Papers, 1829-1856 [43 items]
		2-5	Subgroup II, Series I , Correspondence, Personal 1882-1937
U:97	2	6	Series II , Financial Papers, 1872, 1873-(1888-1892)-1892
		7	Series II, Financial Papers, 1893-1904
		8-10	Series II, Financial Correspondence, 1888-1934
		11	Series II, Financial, Cotton Receipts, 1888-1904
		--	Series II, Account book, 1916
OS:B	1	1	Series II, Cotton Market Reports, 1889-(1892-1904)-1919
U:97	2	12	Series III , Legal Documents, 1867, 1890, 1919, undated
	3	--	Series IV , Manuscript Journal 1856-1904
		13	Series IV, Correspondence, Verses and lyrics, 1890-1899, Miscellaneous Material, 1891-1919, including memorandum book, 1890
		14-15	Series V , Printed Material, 1886-1937, undated
U:98	4	16-19	Series V, Magazines, 1896-1898, 1901.
	5a-b	20-30	Series V, Published Materials, 1874-1934
OS:B	1	2	Series V, Newspapers, 1886, 1898, 1906
OS:B		3	Series V, Printed Material, 1901, 1903, undated
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