

UPA Mf. 6061  
Part 1  
Series B  
Reel 15

**JOSEPH L. BRENT PAPERS**  
(Mss. 1477, 1822)  
Inventory

Compiled by  
Rose Tarbell

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

Revised 2004

## **CONTENTS OF INVENTORY**

Summary	3
Biographical/Historical Note	4
Scope and Content Note	5
List of Series and Subseries	6
Series and Subseries Descriptions	7
Index Terms	9
Container List	10

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**SUMMARY**

<b>Size</b>	2 linear feet
<b>Geographic Locations</b>	Louisiana; Baltimore, Md.
<b>Inclusive Dates</b>	1869-1940
<b>Bulk Dates</b>	1869-1904, 1926-1940
<b>Languages</b>	English
<b>Summary</b>	Correspondence and both published and unpublished writings of Confederate General Joseph L. Brent. Includes papers of Nanine M. Brent.
<b>Access Restrictions</b>	None
<b>Reproduction Note</b>	Copies must be made from microfilm.
<b>Copyright</b>	Physical rights and copyright are retained by the LSU Libraries
<b>Related Collections</b>	Duncan Farrar Kenner Papers, Mss. 198, 1402, 1477; Rosella Kenner Brent Papers, Mss. 1167, 1822.
<b>Citation</b>	Joseph L. Brent Papers, Mss. 1477, 1822, Louisiana and Lower Mississippi Valley Collections, LSU Libraries, Baton Rouge, Louisiana.
<b>Stack Locations</b>	U:114, 244-246; H:19;

**Available on UPA Records of Antebellum Southern Plantations from Emancipation to the Great Migration, Mf. 6061, Part 1, Series B, Reel 15.**

**BIOGRAPHICAL/HISTORICAL NOTE**

Born in Maryland, Joseph Lancaster Brent studied law at Georgetown College, practiced in the Attakapas region of Louisiana, and then moved to Los Angeles, California in 1850, where he served two terms in the state legislature. In 1861 he joined the Confederate Army as a major, serving under Gen. John Magruder in the Peninsula, Wilderness and Richmond campaigns. He then served in Louisiana under Gen. Richard Taylor, attaining the rank of chief of artillery and ordnance.

In 1864 he was promoted to brigadier general of the cavalry and participated in the fighting in western Louisiana. After the war, he practiced law in Baltimore until his marriage to Rosella Kenner, the daughter of the prominent Louisiana planter and politician Duncan Farrar Kenner, in 1870.

He returned to Louisiana to administer her father's plantations (Hermitage, Houmas, Ashland, Oakland, Roseland, Fashion, Bowdon, and Tensas) until Kenner's death in 1887. He returned to Baltimore, where he practiced law and participated in state government. Joseph and Rosella Kenner Brent had a daughter, Nanine Brent, and a son, Duncan Kenner Brent.

### **SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE**

The collection consists primarily of correspondence between Rosella and Joseph Brent. The letters record their courtship, engagement, and married life. They discuss their feelings for each other, news of their mutual acquaintances, and family news. Many were written when they were apart because Joseph was managing her father's plantations.

Letters mention planting, laborers, and neighboring planters' activities. Brent's published and unpublished writings are also included. They are comprised of autobiographical accounts of his military activities and manuscript copies of *The Lugo Case* and *Capture of the Ironclad Indianola*. Writings by other authors include biographies of Generals Brent, Richard Taylor, and Robert B. Campbell, and Duncan Farrar Kenner.

A printed volume contains portraits of Wilhelmine Trist, sister of Duncan Kenner, and a picture of the home Melpomene in New Orleans. The papers of Nanine Brent are also included. They consist of a brief diary, recipes and household hints, and photocopied and original advertisements, newspaper clippings, and trade cards of New Orleans businesses. The diary documents Nanine's stay in Baltimore, and relates her brother's bout with scarlet fever and her social activities.

**LIST OF SUBGROUPS AND SERIES**

- Subgroup I. Joseph L. Brent**  
**Series 1: Correspondence**, 1869-1904, 1929  
**Series 2: Writings**, 1885-1940, n.d.
- Subgroup II. Nanine M. Brent**  
**Series 1. Papers**, 1896, n.d.  
**Series 2. Manuscript volumes**, 1886, 1891-1899, 1943, n.d.

## **SUBGROUPS AND SERIES DESCRIPTIONS**

### **Subgroup I: Joseph L. Brent**

#### **Series 1: Correspondence, 1869-1904, 1929**

Bound letter copy books contain transcriptions of letters. The majority of these are love letters written from a man who signs his letters "J" [Joseph L. Brent] to his fiancée who later in the letters becomes his wife, "Rose" [Rosella Kenner Brent]; transcriptions of some of her letters to Joseph appear within the books. As the years progress, letters appear from their daughter, "Nina" [Nanine Marie Brent]. Topics discussed include their marriage, social life, general health, the plantations Brent managed, agriculture, and politics. Arranged chronologically and each is assigned a volume number.

Related items in this series are additional letter transcriptions from Joseph Brent, notations and miscellaneous writings by Brent, and transcribed copies of letters by people other than Brent or his family.

#### **Series 2: Writings, 1885-1940, n.d.**

Writings, both handwritten and printed volumes, regarding a variety of subjects related to Joseph L. Brent and his experiences, including autobiographical information of him and his family, which includes Duncan Farrar Kenner. Brent's works contained in this collection appear in various forms ranging from handwritten manuscripts to galley proofs and printed volumes. Brent penned some items that were eventually published, such as "Mobilizable Fortification," "The Lugo Case" and "The Capture of the Ironclad Indianola." A notebook [labeled (8)] relates to the Confederate papers held in Confederate Memorial Hall, New Orleans, La. (n.d.). Notes and drafts for a short historical work by Joseph L. Brent detail the need on the part of the Confederacy to garner international recognition and aid late in the war. This work is titled "Last Diplomatic Effort of the Southern Confederacy Represented by the Mission of the Hon. Duncan Farrar Kenner of Louisiana, Its High Commissioner" (undated). It explores the political and military circumstances leading up to Kenner's mission.

Other items in the series include a diary of Duncan F. Kenner, and a printed photograph album containing progressively aging portraits of Wilhelmine Trist, sister of Duncan Kenner, and a view of "Melpomene" house in New Orleans, La. (1927). This series also contains "The Secret Mission of Duncan F. Kenner, Confederate Minister Plenipotentiary to Europe in 1865," a thesis written by Grady D. Price [M.A. Thesis, Tulane University, 1929]. In his work, Price explores the Confederacy's diplomatic effort in France, and Duncan F. Kenner's role in this effort.

**Note: Papers retained in original order.**

### **Subgroup II: Nanine M. Brent Papers, 1896, n.d.**

#### **Series 1. Papers, 1896, n.d.**

Items collected by Nanine Marie Brent include handwritten recipes, household hints, addresses, advertisements, and early 20<sup>th</sup> century trade cards; newspaper clippings are mostly household hints, but also include obituaries and advertisements.

**Series 2. Manuscript volumes, 1886, 1891-1899, 1943, n.d.**

A short diary by Nanine Brent, with her name and address inscribed on the front and the date "April 1891," although entries range from 1891-1899. A thin, handwritten recipe book bearing Nanine's name, with names and addresses at the beginning of the book (1886, 1891-1899, 1943, n.d.).

## **INDEX TERMS**

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

<b>Terms</b>	<b>Series</b>
Agricultural labor, Foreign – Louisiana – 19 <sup>th</sup> century.	<b>I.1</b>
Bowdon Plantation (La.)	<b>I.1</b>
Brent family.	<b>I-II</b>
Brent, Joseph Lancaster (1826-1905)	<b>I.2</b>
Brent, Nanine Marie.	<b>I.1, II</b>
Brent, Rosella Kenner.	<b>I.1</b>
Campbell, Robert B.	<b>I.2</b>
Indianola (Ironclad)	<b>I.2</b>
Kenner, Duncan Farrar. (1813-1887)	<b>I.1, I.2,</b>
Kenner family.	<b>I.1, I.2,</b>
Los Angeles (Calif.) – History.	<b>I.2</b>
Love letters.	<b>I.1</b>
Lugo, Francisco.	<b>I.2</b>
Lugo, Menito.	<b>I.2</b>
Mississippi River – History – Civil War, 1861-1865.	<b>I.2</b>
Oakland Plantation (La.)	<b>I.1</b>
Peninsular Campaign, 1862.	<b>I.2</b>
Plantations - Louisiana.	<b>I.1, I.2</b>
Plantation life – Louisiana – History – 19 <sup>th</sup> century.	<b>I.1</b>
Red River Expedition, 1864.	<b>I.2</b>
Seven Days' Battles, Va., 1862.	<b>I.2</b>
Sugar growing – Louisiana.	<b>I.1</b>
Taylor, Richard (1826-1879)	<b>I.2</b>
United States – History – Civil War, 1861-1865 – Personal narratives, Confederate.	<b>I.2</b>

**CONTAINER LIST**

<u>Stack Location</u>	<u>Box</u>	<u>Folders</u>	<u>Contents</u>
<b>Subgroup I: Joseph L. Brent</b>			
<b>Series 1: Correspondence</b>			
<b>U:244</b>	1	1	Letter copy book, Vol. I., 12 Sept. 1869 – Jan. 1870 (pp.1-96)
		2	Letter copy book, Vol. II., 12 Jan. 1870 – 23 April 1873 (pp. 1-192)
		3	Letter copy book, Vol. III., 13 Dec. 1870 - 25 Sept. 1879 (pp. 1-171)
		4	Letter copy book, Vol. IV., Sept. 1879-Oct 1882 (pp. 1-78)
		5	Letter copy book, Vol. V., 12 Oct. 1882 – 26 Sept. 1886 (pp.1-142)
		6	Letter copy book, Vol. VI., Sept. 1886 – 23 Oct. 1891 (pp. 1-200)
		7	Letter copy book, Vol. VII., 11 March 1892 – 14 Sept. 1904 (pp.1-95)
<b>U:244</b>	2	1	Letters and related items, 1870-1889, 1926 (30 items)
<b>U:245</b>	3	10	Letter from Grace G. Glasgow to Grady D. Price concerning Duncan K. Kenner, 12 Jan. 1929.
<b>Series 2: Writings</b>			
<b>U:244</b>	2	2	Autobiography of General Joseph L. Brent, n.d. (pp. 1-6)
		3	Red River Campaign including Battles of Mansfield and Pleasant Hill ,n.d. (pp. 1-16)
		4	“No. 2 Mansfield”, n.d. (pp.89-99)
		5a	“Mobilizable Fortifications and their Controlling Influence in War, Joseph L Brent,” 1961. 1 volume.
		5b	Notebook. 1 volume labeled (8)
		11b-d	Notes and drafts for “Last Diplomatic Effort of the Southern Confederacy Represented by the Mission of the Hon. Duncan Farrar Kenner of Louisiana, Its High Commissioner, undated. [originally located in box 3]
<b>U:245</b>	3	6	Biography of General Brent, typewritten copy, n.d. (pp. 1-10)
		7	Biography of General Richard Taylor, typewritten carbon copy, July 1885 (pp. 1-18). Penciled sketches by Bray.

<u>Stack Location</u>	<u>Box</u>	<u>Folders</u>	<u>Contents</u>
<b>U:245</b>	3	8	Biography of General Robert B. Campbell by Agnes Campbell. Typewritten autographed presentation copy, 1932 (pp. 1-54)
		9	Brent family history.
<b>U:245</b>		11a	Thesis by Grady D. Price, "The Secret Mission of Duncan F. Kenner, Confederate Minister Plenipotentiary to Europe in 1865. (M.A. Thesis, Tulane University, 1929.
		12	Printed photo album of Mary Wilhelmine Trist, 1927.
<b>U:245</b>	4	13	Joseph Lancaster Brent, "The Lugo Case and Capture of the Ironclad Indianola," 1926. 1 printed volume.
		14	Manuscript of "The Lugo Case," n.d. (pp.1-128)
		15	Bound manuscript of the "Capture of the Ironclad Indianola," (pp. 1-137)
		16	Galley proof of "Capture of the Ironclad Indianola," n.d.
<b>U:246</b>	5	17	Joseph Lancaster Brent, <i>Memoirs of the War Between the States</i> . 1 printed volume.
		18	Book 1. "Life in California, 1850-1861." Bound manuscript (pp. 1-184)
		19	Book 1. Bound typewritten (carbon) copy (pp. 1-79)
		20	Book 2. "Fort Lafayette (A Prisoner of State)," Rough draft, 43 pages; also 12 pages on the "Indianola."
		21	Book 2. Bound manuscript (pp. 1-181)
	6	22	Book 2. Bound typewritten ribbon copy (pp. 1-62)
		23	Book 3. "Containing Retreat into Richmond, 1862....etc.," Bound manuscript (pp. 1-181)
		24	Book 3. Bound typewritten carbon copy (pp. 1-46)
		25	Book 4. "Continued from Book 3," Bound manuscript (pp. 1-149)
		26	Book 4. Bound typewritten carbon copy (pp. 1-48)
		27	Book 5. "Continuing the Seven Days Fight...", Bound manuscript (pp. 1-112)
		28	Book 5. Bound typewritten carbon copy (pp. 1-34)
<b>H:19</b>			

**CONTAINER LIST (Cont.)**

<u>Stack Location</u>	<u>Box</u>	<u>Folders</u>	<u>Contents</u>
			<b>Subgroup II: Nanine M. Brent</b>
			<b>Series 1. Papers</b>
<b>U:114</b>	1	1	Recipes, Household hints, Addresses, n.d.
		2	Advertisements, n.d.
		3	Trade cards, n.d.
		4	Newspaper clippings, 1896, n.d.
<b>U::114</b>			<b>Series 2: Manuscript volumes</b>
			Diary, 1891-1899.
			Recipe book, 1886, n.d.