

ALVIN E. RABENHORST PHOTOGRAPH COLLECTION
(Ms. 4110)
Inventory

Compiled by
M. Stone Miller, Jr.
May 1989

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

Revised 2009

CONTENTS OF INVENTORY

SUMMARY 3
 BIOGRAPHICAL/HISTORICAL NOTE 4
 SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE 4
 INDEX TERMS 5
 LIST OF PHOTOGRAPHS 6
 CONTAINER LIST 9

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. Do not remove items to be photocopied. The existing order and arrangement of unbound materials must be maintained. Reproductions must be made from surrogates (microfilm, digital scan, photocopy of original held by LSU Libraries), when available.

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.

RABENHORST (ALVIN E.) PHOTOGRAPH COLLECTION

1897-1899, undated

Mss. 4110

LSU Libraries Special Collections

SUMMARY

- Size:** 0.25 linear feet (69 prints)
- Geographic Locations:** Louisiana, especially Baton Rouge; St. Louis, Missouri; and unidentified cities
- Bulk Dates:** 1897-1899, undated
- Languages:** English
- Summary:** Prints copied from the photograph album of Alvin E. Rabenhorst (1875-1946), Baton Rouge native, postal employee, businessman, and civic leader. Photographs (many of which are identified) include buildings and other landmarks of the city, friends, annual volunteer firemen's parades, and high water (probably in 1897). Other views include St. Louis, Missouri, and unidentified towns.
- Source:** Loaned by the family in 1980 for copying.
- Related Collections:** Andrew D. Lytle Photograph Collection, Mss. 2600
- Access:** Publication other than in books requires owners' permission.
- Copyright:** Property rights reside with the owners of the original photographs.
- Citation:** Alvin E. Rabenhorst Photograph Collection, Mss. 4110, Louisiana and Lower Mississippi Valley Collections, LSU Libraries.
- Stack Location.** UU:263

BIOGRAPHICAL/HISTORICAL NOTE

Alvin Eugene Rabenhorst (nicknamed "Allie") was the son of Confederate Captain Charles Rabenhorst. He was born on November 13, 1875, in Baton Rouge, La. He began his career in the United States Postal Service as a special delivery boy and some twenty-one years later was Chief Clerk of the Baton Rouge Post Office. In 1915, Rabenhorst became associated with the funeral service founded by his father in 1866. At the time of his death he was president of that business as well as Rabenhorst Industrial Life Insurance Company.

Allie was active in many civic and social organizations including the Masonic Lodge, Baton Rouge Golf and Country Club, Kiwanis Club, and was a charter member of the Elks. He was also a deacon of the First Presbyterian Church. On December 3, 1913, Rabenhorst was married to Miss Amelia Jennings Phillips (d. 1963). She was the daughter of Nathaniel Pope Phillips and Camellia Mumford Phillips of Pecan Grove Plantation in West Feliciana Parish. They had one child, Alvin Phillips Rabenhorst.

Rabenhorst died on March 24, 1946, and is buried in Roselawn Cemetery, Baton Rouge.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

This collection consists of prints copied from an album of photographs taken by Alvin Eugene Rabenhorst (1875-1946), Baton Rouge native and life-long resident. Those identifiable by year date from 1897 through 1899. Other images could have been taken before or after those years.

A social and civic leader of his city, Rabenhorst's photographs document the firemen's parades and decorations in the late 1890s. Always held in conjunction with George Washington's birthday, they were a major annual event in Baton Rouge. Some of the decorations can be identified by year through descriptions found in the local newspapers. Among those designing and executing the decorations were O. F. Rabenhorst and Ben Goodman. Other subjects represented include Baton Rouge landmarks, including businesses, homes, and public buildings; candid and staged photographs of friends, African-Americans, and social activities; high water, probably in 1897; LSU cadets and campus scenes; at least two views of St. Louis, Missouri, (the old Courthouse and the steamboat landing); and other unidentified cities and buildings. Many of the images have been researched and identified. A list by print number follows.

Photographs are arranged numerically by print number.

INDEX TERMS

Aerialists--Louisiana.

African Americans--Louisiana.

Baton Rouge (La.)--Buildings, structures, etc.

Baton Rouge (La.). Fire Department.

Baton Rouge (La.)--Social life and customs--19th century.

Cyclists--Louisiana.

Floods--Louisiana--Baton Rouge.

Independent Fire Company (Baton Rouge, La.)

Louisiana State University and Agricultural and Mechanical College--Students.

Parades--Louisiana--Baton Rouge.

Pelican Hook and Ladder Company No. 1 (Baton Rouge, La.)

Photoprints.

Postal service--Louisiana--Baton Rouge.

Post offices--Louisiana--Baton Rouge.

Rabenhorst, Alvin E. (Alvin Eugene), 1875-1946.

Saint Louis (Mo.)--Pictorial works.

Schloss Fire Company No. 5 (Baton Rouge, La.)

Theater--Production and direction.

Washington Fire Company No. 1 (Baton Rouge, La.)

Washington Fire Company No. 3 (Baton Rouge, La.)

LIST OF PHOTOGRAPHS

1. Bicyclists
2. Firemen's Celebration on Market Driveway (The Public Market is directly behind the speaker's stand on the right. Above it can be seen the roof of the old parish courthouse).
3. Baton Rouge Post Office interior (See *State-Times*, September 6, 1962).
4. 1899 Firemen's Parade decoration, "Columbia," made by the Pelican Hook and Ladder Company No. 1. The decoration stands on Third Street near Pike's Hall (the tallest building in the center on the left).
5. Tea party.
6. William J. Knox House, Church Street, Baton Rouge.
7. Pugilists
8. Old Louisiana State Capitol Building.
9. Riverboat on an unidentified waterway.
10. First block of Main Street at the Mississippi River landing, Baton Rouge, probably 1897 high water
11. Thought to be postmen with the mail.
12. Same as #10
13. Firemen's Parade Celebration near North Boulevard looking south.
14. "Old War Skule" Cadets.
15. Old Government Building and Post Office.
16. U. S. Mail Dray with mail sacks probably being taken to, or from, the depot. The single story building with the tile roof was the stable next to the post office.
17. United States National Military Cemetery, Baton Rouge.
18. Raising the levee at Baton Rouge, probably during the 1897 high water.
19. Third Street and North Boulevard, Baton Rouge. Abe Abramson's Store is the building on the left corner.
20. Unidentified building.
21. Wood, Bodley & Company Coal Yard at Front Street and the corner of Convention Street, probably during the 1897 high water.
22. Giant oak tree and park, location unknown.
23. 1899 Firemen's Parade decoration by the Washington Fire Company No. 3
24. African-American boy with a pan of fish and can of oil at the corner of Third and Florida Streets, Baton Rouge.
25. Traveling show with trapeze artist, location unknown.
26. Convicts working on the levee in the Baton Rouge vicinity, probably during the 1897 high water.
27. 1898 Firemen's Parade Decoration, "Victory," on Church Street (now Fourth Street). This second place winner in the competition was entered by the Washington Fire Company No. 2 and was designed and executed by O. F. Rabenhorst and Ben Goodman. The St. James Episcopal Church spire is visible in the center of the photograph. The white wooden house to the south is the Cecil Bird house according to Steele Burden.
28. 1898 Firemen's Parade with L. Paul Amiss, Grand Marshal, at the corner of Seventh and Florida Streets. The large building in the background is the old State Penitentiary, Baton Rouge. (Miss May Lynn Amiss has an identical picture, so labeled.) For a continuation of this picture and the Washington Fire Company No. 3 members marching, see #64.

29. Old Louisiana State Capitol Building.
30. Firemen's Parade Decoration, "Victory," parked in front of the Old Post Office and Government Building on North Boulevard. (February 22, 1898)
31. Baton Rouge waterfront.
32. Unidentified family group on gallery.
33. LSU Cadets
34. Two men, possibly postal employees.
35. Man (possibly Rabenhorst) and woman visiting.
36. Bicyclist.
37. William Garig's residence, Lafayette Street, Baton Rouge.
38. Baton Rouge waterfront showing Front Street probably in the 1897 high water.
39. Firemen's Parade Decoration.
40. Steamboat landing at St. Louis, Missouri (see similar view in a Jolly Family Post Card Album, LSU.)
41. Firemen's Parade Decoration.
42. Lumber Company, probably the Burton Lumber Company at Baton Rouge probably in the 1897 high water
43. Capital City Oil Mills, Baton Rouge waterfront.
44. Old Courthouse, St. Louis, Missouri.
45. Mr. George Garig in surrey. (Identified by Steele Burden).
46. 1898 Firemen's Parade Decoration of the Schloss Fire Company No. 5.
47. African-American children.
48. 1898 Firemen's Parade Decoration, "Victory," prepared by the Washington Fire Company No. 1, designed and executed by O. F. Rabenhorst and Ben Goodmen. The building to the left is the Rabenhorst Undertaking Establishment. To the right was the Washington Fire Company No. 1 Hall.
49. Firemen's Parade Decoration
50. 1899 Firemen's Parade Decoration, "America Sailing Over the Seas," by the Independent Fire Company No. 1.
51. 1898 Firemen's Parade Decoration of probably the Pelican Hook and Ladder Company which won third place.
52. 1899 Firemen's Parade Decoration, "Wonderland," by the Washington Fire Company No. 1, designed by O. F. Rabenhorst.
53. Firemen's Celebration (same location as #2)
54. Unidentified gardens.
55. Unidentified location.
56. Unidentified women.
57. Rabenhorst seated at his desk in the Post Office. (THERE IS ALSO AN ENLARGED PHOTOGRAPH OF THIS IMAGE, see #69.)
58. Raising the levee probably in South Baton Rouge.
59. Unidentified town.
60. Firemen's Parade Decoration on Church Street.
61. United States Military Cemetery Superintendent's House and Gate, Baton Rouge. (The gazebo is now on the grounds of Magnolia Mound according to Steele Burden.)
62. 1898 Washington Fire Company No. 3 members at the Firemen's Parade. Shown in the background is the Old Louisiana State Penitentiary in Baton Rouge. (See also print #28).

63. No print was made for this number.
64. Unidentified pair of women possibly on top of the old Government Building, Baton Rouge.
65. Raising the levee at Baton Rouge.
66. Firemen's Parade Decoration, Baton Rouge.
67. Unidentified building in an unidentified city.
68. View of Baton Rouge from the Old LSU campus. The white wooden house on the left was the ROTC House. The two story house nearest the road south of the campus was the residence of Mrs. President Atkinson's sister, Mrs. Cary Holmes. The large white house to its right was the Miss Kathryn Hill house. (All identifications made by Steele Burden.)
69. Enlarged photograph of Rabenhorst in the Baton Rouge Post Office. (See #57).

RABENHORST (ALVIN E.) PHOTOGRAPH COLLECTION

1897-1899, undated

Mss. 4110

LSU Libraries Special Collections

CONTAINER LIST

<u>Stack Location</u>	<u>Box</u>	<u>Folders</u>	<u>Contents</u>
UU:263	1	1-14	Photographs, 1897-1899, undated