

Bass-Farrar Family Papers
(Ms. 4907)
Inventory

Compiled by
Christopher S. Freeman

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

2004

Revised 2009

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SUMMARY

Size	285 items
Geographic Locations	Louisiana, Mississippi
Inclusive Dates	1829-1918
Bulk Dates	1829-1843; 1858-1867
Languages	English
Summary	Family papers of the Bass and Farrar families primarily includes correspondence, legal, and financial records related to family matters, plantation management, life along the Mississippi River, the Civil War, and slavery
Access Restrictions	None
Reproduction Note	Duplication is allowed
Copyright	Physical rights are retained by the LSU Libraries. In regards to copyright, the materials are in the public domain.
Related Collections	Richardson (Henry Brown and Family) Papers, Mss. 2987, Louisiana and Lower Mississippi Valley Collections, LSU Libraries, Baton Rouge, La. Richardson and Farrar Family Papers, #2892-z, Southern Historical Collection, Library of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
Citation	Bass-Farrar Family Papers, Mss. 4907, Louisiana and Lower Mississippi Valley Collections, LSU Libraries, Baton Rouge, La.
Stack Location(s)	R: 41

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 Parrish, Louisiana.

Elijah (d. ca. 1835) and Elizabeth Bass (d. ca. 1858) lived on and operated Myrtle Grove Plantation, near Waterproof, Tensas Parish, La., and had two children who lived into adulthood, Job (Oct. 20, 1826-May 23, 1857) and Augustus Elijah Bass (1834-ca. 1905). After Elijah's death in the mid-1830's and some time before May 16, 1836, Elizabeth married Dr. J.H. Foreman, who died before March 1844. Augustus E. Bass inherited Myrtle Grove from his mother when she died ca. 1858. Augustus E. Bass served as a private in the Confederate Army as a member of a battery of light artillery until Jan. 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 Bass and Jane Kempe "Jenny" Farrar (Feb. 13, 1841-1918), daughter of Anna Marie Girault and Thomas Prince Farrar. Jenny Farrar and Augustus E. Bass lived most of their lives on Myrtle Grove Plantation. Thomas Farrar was an attorney of Vidalia and later Saint Joseph, Louisiana. He was the son of Thomas Farrar, Jr., of Washington, Adams County, Miss. In addition to Jenny, Anna and Thomas P. Farrar had at least one other child, Anna "Nannie" Farrar. She married Henry Brown Richardson. The Farrars were also connected to Plassy Plantation, which was owned by Jane Kempe (d. 1882), 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 Parrish, La., and Adams County, Miss., life in Louisiana during the Civil War, and slavery. Included within the collection are correspondence between family members, between owners of plantations and their business partners, lists of slaves working on plantations, land deeds and mortgages, wills and testaments, and plantation receipts and inventories. Also within the collection is a "Reception Card" for President and Mrs. Jefferson Davis.

LIST OF SUB-GROUPS, SERIES, AND SUBSERIES

- I. Correspondence, 1829-1906, undated (Box 1)
- II. Legal and Financial Papers, 1830-1918, undated (Box 2)
 - Subseries 1. Legal, ca. 1830-1918, undated
 - Subseries 2. Financial, 1830-ca. 1918, undated
- III. Miscellaneous, ca. 1840-ca 1860, undated (Box 2)

SERIES DESCRIPTIONS

I. Correspondence (1829-1906)

This series contains the correspondence of Jane Kempe, Thomas P. Farrar, Ann Girault Farrar, Elizabeth Forman, 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 the Plassy Plantation in Louisiana. Also, the correspondence provides information about life and agricultural production along the Mississippi River in Tensas Parrish, La. and Adams County, Miss. The bulk of the early materials are letters to Thomas Farrar when he lived in Washington, Miss., and to Elizabeth Foreman while she oversaw Myrtle Grove after her husbands' deaths. 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 he lived in New Orleans working as a cotton factor. The letters to Augustus E. Bass at Myrtle Grove dominate the material during and following the Civil War and include a letter discharging him from service in the Confederate army in 1863. Letters (1904-1906) from Annie Farrar "Nannie" Richardson to Jennie Bass describe family matters as well as politics in New Orleans. The political subjects primarily relate to her husband, Henry Brown Richardson, a New Orleans city engineer.

II. Legal and Financial Papers

Subseries 1. Legal, ca. 1830-1918, undated

This sub-series 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, the sub-series contains records of purchase and transfer of slaves by Elizabeth Forman, Augustus E. Bass's substitute soldier contract, and a Reconstruction era laborers' contract. Legal

documents from 1902 to 1918 include land transfers and leases in Tensas Parish granted by Jane Kempe "Jennie" Bass.

Subseries 2. Financial, 1830-1918, undated

This sub-series includes financial records of the Bass and Farrar families within which are shipping records, receipts, and plantation inventories. Included among these are two inventories of slaves on the Plassy Plantation of Jane Kempe made in 1854. Financial records from 1910 to 1918 include Jane Kempe "Jennie" Bass' receipts at stores and banks in Waterproof, La.

III. Miscellaneous

This series includes a reception card for President and Mrs. Jefferson 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—19th century
Bass, Augustus E., 1834-ca. 1905
Bass, Elijah, ca. 1835
Bass, Jane Kempe “Jenny”, 1841-1918
Bass, Job P., 1826-1857
Bass Family
Cotton growing—Louisiana
Cotton trade—Louisiana
Davis, Jefferson, 1808-1889
Davis, Varina Howell, 1826-1906
Freedmen—Employment—Louisiana
Farrar, Anna Marie Girault
Farrar, Thomas Prince Sr. d. 1880
Farrar Family
Forman, Elizabeth, d. 1858
Forman, Dr. Jacob H., d. ca. 1840
Girault, J.T.
Inheritance and succession—Louisiana—19th century
Letters (correspondence)
Louisiana—History—Civil War, 1861-1865
Louisiana—Social life and customs—19th century
Kempe, Jane, d.1882
Myrtle Grove Plantation (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
Poetry
Slave bills of sale
Slaves—Louisiana
Soldiers—Louisiana
Receipts (acknowledgements)
Richardson, Anna “Nannie” Farrar
Tensas Parish (La.)—History—19th Century
Tensas Parish (La.)—History—20th Century

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CONTAINER LIST

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R: 41	1	1	Correspondence, 1829 (4 items)
R: 41	1	2	Correspondence, 1830 (9 items)
R: 41	1	3	Correspondence, Jan.1831-April 1831 (10 items)
R: 41	1	4	Correspondence, May 1831-Aug. 1831 (9 items)
R: 41	1	5	Correspondence, Sept. 1831-1832 (7 items)
R: 41	1	6	Correspondence, 1833-1834 (6 items)
R: 41	1	7	Correspondence, 1835 (4 items)
R: 41	1	8	Correspondence, 1836 (10 items)
R: 41	1	9	Correspondence, 1837-1840 (10 items)
R: 41	1	10	Correspondence, 1841-1845 (12 items)
R: 41	1	11	Correspondence, 1846-50 (3 items)
R: 41	1	12	Correspondence, 1851-1857 (11 items)
R: 41	1	13	Correspondence, 1858 (8 items)
R: 41	1	14	Correspondence, 1859-1860 (9 items)
R: 41	1	15	Correspondence, 1861-1865 (8 items)
R: 41	1	16	Correspondence, 1866-1870 (8 items)
R: 41	1	17	Correspondence, 1871-1906 (5 items)
R: 41	1	18	Correspondence, Undated (16 items)
R: 41	1	19	Correspondence, Fragments of letters (12 items)
			Series II. Financial/Legal Papers 1830-1918, undated
			Subseries 1. Legal Papers
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R: 41	2	3	Jacob H. Forman Bank agreement (1838) (2 items)
R: 41	2	4	Elizabeth Forman slave transfers (1837, 1844) (2 items)
R: 41	2	5	Elizabeth Forman land transfers (1846) (1 item)
R: 41	2	6	Jane Kempe's will (1855) (2 items)
R: 41	2	7	A.E. Bass financial contracts and mortgages (1856, 1864, 1866) (6 items)
R: 41	2	8	A.E. Bass laborer's contract (1867) (1 item)
R: 41	2	9	A.E. Bass commission as police juror (1865) (1 item)
R: 41	2	10	A.E. Bass & Michael Lewis substitute soldier's contract (1863) (1 items)

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| R: 41 | 2 | 11 | Jennie Bass leases and land transfers (1902-1918) (17 items) |
| R: 41 | 2 | 12 | Announcement of the "Game Law" (1877) (1 item) |
| R: 41 | 2 | 13 | Blank government documents (ca. 1835 ca. 1865) (2 items) |

Subseries 2. Financial Papers

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| R: 41 | 2 | 16 | Elijah Bass Estate receipts and inventory (ca. 1835) (6 items) |
| R: 41 | 2 | 17 | Thomas Farrar bank note (1835) (1 item) |
| R: 41 | 2 | 18 | Jacob H. Foreman receipts (1835, 1837) (2 items) |
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| R: 41 | 2 | 22 | Job Bass estate inventory lists (ca. 1855) (7 items) |
| R: 41 | 2 | 23 | A.E. Bass tax assessments (1836, 1850, 1859) (5 items) |
| R: 41 | 2 | 24 | A.E. Bass inventories and receipts (ca. 1860, ca. 1880) (6 items) |
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| R: 41 | 2 | 27 | Unidentified receipts (undated) (9 items) |

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| R: 41 | 2 | 29 | Newspaper clipping on a fire that destroyed some of Jane Kempe's property (ca. 1850) (1 item) |
| R: 41 | 2 | 30 | A.E. Bass invitation to Washington Birthday Ball (1856) (1 item) |
| R: 41 | 2 | 31 | Reception card for President and Mrs. Davies and calling card for Jane Kempe (ca. 1860) (2 items) |
| R: 41 | 2 | 32 | Confederate State of America \$100 bill (1864) (1 item) |
| R: 41 | 2 | 33 | Ephemera (5 items) |

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