

ANDREW CANNON FAMILY PAPERS

(Mss. 4979)

Inventory

Compiled by
Chris Brown

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

2008

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SUMMARY

Size	110 items
Geographic Locations	Louisiana, Ohio, Virginia, Ireland
Inclusive Dates	1829-1868
Bulk Dates	1850-1862
Languages	English, French
Summary	The Andrew Cannon Family Papers are comprised of correspondence and financial documents related to Cannon's professional, personal business, and family life in Baton Rouge, La., as well as the Civil War.
Access Restrictions	None
Copyright	Physical rights are retained by the LSU Libraries. These materials are in the public domain.
Citation	Andrew Cannon Family Papers, Mss. 4979, Louisiana and Lower Mississippi Valley Collections, LSU Libraries, Baton Rouge, La.
Stack Location(s)	11:15, OS:C

BIOGRAPHICAL/HISTORICAL NOTE

Andrew Jerome Cannon was born in 1809, to parents Charles Cannon, Sr. (1776-1824) and Eleanor Crosson Cannon in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. Cannon had six siblings: James J., Charles Jr., Bernard, Mary, Ann, and Margaret (b. 1798). In 1827 his mother, brothers James J. and Bernard, and two sisters Mary and Ann, moved from Baton Rouge to Cincinnati, Ohio.

In 1835, Cannon married Mary Rose Slaughter Erasmus, the daughter of Andrew Erasmus and Mary Ann Slaughter Erasmus. Andrew and Mary had four children: Joseph Andrew (April 26, 1838 – May 25, 1862), Andrew Bernard, Ambrose Jerome, and Mary Frances. They also raised an adopted son, John A. Siebert. Cannon's sons, Joseph Andrew and John A. Siebert, served in the Civil War. They enlisted for service on June 19, 1861, at Camp Moore, Tangipahoa, Louisiana. The two served in Company A, 8th Louisiana Infantry. Joseph died in Virginia at the Battle of Winchester on May 25, 1862.

On April 1, 1848, Cannon was offered the job of groundskeeper at St. Joseph's Catholic Cemetery in Baton Rouge, the cemetery associated with St. Joseph's Cathedral. He held this job until his death in 1868 at the age of 59.

Other family members mentioned in the papers include the following: Martin McDermott, the husband of Cannon's sister, Margaret; Ellen McDermott Foster, their daughter; John Matthew and James William Cannon, two sons of Cannon's brother, Charles, Jr.; and Archibald McIntosh, the husband of Mary Frances Cannon.

Additional biographical information can be found in the included donor-supplied information.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The Andrew Cannon Family Papers are comprised of correspondence and financial papers related to Cannon's professional, personal business, and family life in Baton Rouge, La., as well as the Civil War. Correspondence consists of letters received by Cannon and family members in regards to personal and family matters, as well as his work at the St. Joseph Catholic Cemetery in Baton Rouge. Notable in this collection are a slave letter written to Cannon and Civil War letters written by Joseph Andrew Cannon. Financial papers consist of bills, invoices, promissory notes, and receipts.

LIST OF SERIES, AND SUBSERIES

Series I. General Correspondence and Financial Records, 1829-1868.

Series II. Cincinnati Letters, 1853-1865.

Series III. Joseph Andrew Cannon Civil War Letters, 1861-1862.

SERIES DESCRIPTIONS

Series I: Andrew Cannon Family Papers, 1829-1868 (82 items).

Arranged chronologically.

Papers primarily consist of family correspondence and financial documents such as bills, invoices, promissory notes, and receipts, as well as those related to Cannon's work as groundskeeper of the St. Joseph Catholic Cemetery.

The state and parish tax receipts of Andrew Erasmus make up much of the early family material (1829-1846). Receipts for Cannon's pew rent at St. Joseph Cathedral are also included (March 25, 1861; March 30, 1862; May 1, 1862). Three letters to Cannon originate from Peter Mealy in Ireland. His writings reference the Irish famine (October 27, 1851) and the difficulties in trying to emigrate from Ireland to New Orleans (October 5, 1852, moved to oversize). Other correspondence is between Cannon's family members and discusses general family news and health. Also mentioned are such topics as hunting (circa 1855), crop growing and seed cultivation (June 1, 1855; March 15, 1860), having a buggy repaired in Clinton, Louisiana (July 10, 1854), life in Greenwell Springs, Louisiana (June 1, 1855), and travelling to Alexandria and Pineville, Louisiana (October 27, 1860). One letter, addressed to John Mallion, care of Andrew Cannon, discusses work near New Orleans in Carrollton, Louisiana, at a garden where nuns and sick children live (June 13, 1861). Another letter discusses dead Confederate soldiers at Vicksburg and Yankee grave robbers (July 9, 1863). Andrew Jerome Cannon's voter certificate is also included (June 18, 1867).

Donor-prepared transcriptions of three letters (August 1851; October 27, 1851; October 5, 1852) are provided along with some genealogical information and a chronological listing of papers donated.

Documents pertaining to Cannon's professional activities are comprised of correspondence, invoices, and receipts. His employment as the cemetery groundskeeper at St. Joseph Cathedral in Baton Rouge is mentioned in one letter (May 24, 1849). Other letters and documents relate to the purchase of marble and tombstones, many of which are from James Reynolds of Ludwig and Reynolds, stonecutters in New Orleans (March 12, 1860; June 8, 1860; October 3, 1860; October 6, 1860; October 7, 1860; October 20, 1860; November 3, 1860; June 19, 1861). Also included is a letter to Cannon by Celine Allain, who describes herself as a "poor slave woman" (circa 1860). She requests assistance in locating the grave of her child and having a tomb made.

Laminated items (1829-1836) placed in Box 2. Photocopies of laminated items placed in Box 1.

Series II: Cincinnati Letters, 1853-1865 (7 items).

Arranged chronologically.

Correspondence primarily originates from Andrew's brother, James J. Cannon, and niece, Ellen McDermott Foster. Letters are directed at family members living in Baton Rouge, namely Andrew Jerome Cannon. All of the letters mention general family news and health of those living in Cincinnati. Land transactions and farming are the main topics of two letters (July 12, 1852 and November 16, 1856), while another letter (November 16, 1856) concerns buildings recently erected in Cincinnati as well as the presidential election of 1856.

See donor prepared transcriptions of each letter.

Series III: Joseph Andrew Cannon Civil War Letters, 1861-1862 (21 items).

Arranged chronologically.

Correspondence by Joseph Andrew Cannon and his adopted brother, John A. Siebert, who both served in Company A, 8th Louisiana Infantry. Letters are primarily written by Joseph and are directed to his family in Baton Rouge. They regularly contain inquiries about life back home in Baton Rouge as well as requests for his family to write him. Other subjects include: forming of a Louisiana battalion (July 28, 1861), describing soldiers' religious services (September 14, 1861), relaying information about fellow soldiers returning home to Baton Rouge (October 4, 1861; November 7, 1861), and advising one of his brothers not to be drafted into the militia (February 12, 1862). Joseph also mentions his positions as Quarter Master Sergeant and Regimental Sergeant (December 25, 1861; January 15, 1862). Both Joseph and John participated in General Thomas J. "Stonewall" Jackson's "Valley Campaign" in Virginia. This campaign was marked by lengthy marches, which are described (September 5, 1861; November 1, 1861; March 22, 1862). The final two letters are written by John Siebert and detail Joseph's death at the Battle of Winchester on May 25, 1862.

See donor prepared transcriptions of all but one letter (July 18, 1861).

INDEX TERMS

Baton Rouge (La.)--Social life and customs--19th century.	I
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Cannon family.	All Series
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Virginia--History--Civil War, 1861-1865--Personal narratives.	III

CONTAINER LIST

<u>Stack</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder(s)</u>	<u>Contents (with dates)</u>
	11:15			Series I: General Correspondence and Financial Records, 1829-1868
		1	1	Donor Prepared Transcriptions
			2	1829-1849
			3	1851-1854
		OS:C		October 5, 1852
			4	1855-1859
			5	1860-1861
			6	1862-1868
			7	undated
		2	1	Laminated Items (1829-1836)
				Series II: Cincinnati Letters, 1853-1865
		1	8	Donor Prepared Transcriptions
			9	1853-1865
				Series III: Joseph Andrew Cannon Civil War Letters, 1861-1862
			10	Donor Prepared Transcriptions
			11	1861
			12	1862