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MF: 6061, Series B, Part 2, Reel 1

Metoyer Family Papers
(Mss. 836, 837, 846)
Inventory

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

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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.

Summary

Size.	219 items and 6 volumes.
Geographic locations.	Natchitoches Parish, La.; New Orleans, La.
Inclusive dates.	1889-1944
Bulk dates.	1900-1936
Language.	English
Summary.	Business and personal papers of members of the Metoyer family, farmers and proprietors of a general store, as well as descendants of free persons of color.
Restrictions on access.	If microfilm is available, photocopies must be made from microfilm.
Related collections.	Adeleda Metoyer Papers, Mss. 836, 837 August Metoyer Papers, Mss. 871 Dupre and Metoyer and Company Account Book, Mss. 834 Louis Metoyer Document 1823, Mss. 849 Norbert Badin Papers, Mss. 825
Copyright.	Copyright of the original materials is retained by descendants of the creators in accordance with U.S. copyright law.
Citation.	Metoyer Family Papers, Mss. 837, 846, Louisiana and Lower Mississippi Valley Collections, LSU Libraries, Baton Rouge, La.
Stack location(s).	A:1; H:2; 99:M; Mss. MF:M
Also available on:	Microfilm 6061, Series B, Part 2, Reel 1

This collection has been digitized in its entirety and can be accessed online at <http://cdm16313.contentdm.oclc.org/cdm/search/collection/p16313coll51/searchterm/Metoyer%20Family%20Papers,%20Mss.%20836,%20837,%20846,%20LSU%20Libraries/field/part/mode/exact/conn/and/order/title/ad/asc/cosuppress/1>. See the container list [and collection description when applicable] for links to specific components of the collection.

Biographical/Historical Note

The Metoyer family were fourth and fifth generation descendants of the founders of the Cane River colony (also called Isle Brevelle) of free people of color in Natchitoches Parish, La. The family is directly descended from François Metoyer (1784-1862), son of Marie Thérèse Coincoin (1742-1816?), a former enslaved woman, slave owner, and property owner, and Claude Thomas Pierre Metoyer (1744-1815), a French-born, white plantation owner and businessman. Coincoin was the slave and placée of Metoyer, and together the couple had ten children: Nicolas Augustin (1768-1856); Marie Suzanne (1768-1838); Louis (approximately 1770-1832); Pierre (approximately 1772-1833); Dominique (1776-1839); Eulalie (1776-1801); Antoine Joseph (1778-1838); Marie Françoise Rosalie (1780-1783?); Pierre Toussaint (1782-1863); and François (1784-1862). Coincoin was publically manumitted by Metoyer in 1778 and given a small tract of land. Coincoin labored diligently to purchase the freedom of her enslaved children. She is believed to have supported herself by manufacturing medicines and hunting animals with her sons. Together, Coincoin and her children built the Metoyer family plantation and helped to establish a community of free people of color on the Cane River.

This collection contains the papers of descendants of the Coincoin line, who were farmers and the proprietors of a general merchandising store. Members of the Metoyer generation represented in these papers include: Vilfrede Metoyer (born 1851); his son, St. Clair Metoyer (born 1882); Nazy Conant Metoyer (born 1886), wife of St. Clair Metoyer; John P. Conant (born 1868), Nazy's brother; and Jean Arnold Conant (1846-1921) and Marie Louise Emma Dupré Conant (1848-1929), who were the parents of Nazy Conant Metoyer and John P. Conant.

Vilfrede Metoyer (born 1851) was a free man of color of Creole ancestry and a farmer of Natchitoches Parish, La. His parents were Simoen Metoyer and Thereze Sarpy. Sarpy's mother was Marie Adélaïde Metoyer, daughter of François Metoyer (1784-1862). In 1890, Vilfrede married Mary Metoyer. Together the couple had 11 children, two of which died before reaching adulthood. The surviving children included St. Clair (born 1882), Vilcour (born 1888), Cecilia (born 1892), William (born 1893), Felix (born 1894), Arthemise (born 1895), Agnus (born 1897), and Victor (born 1899).

St. Clair Metoyer (born 1882) was the son of Vilfrede and Mary Metoyer and lived in Derry, Louisiana. St. Clair worked as a farmer, laborer, and merchant. He married Nazy Conant (born 1886), the daughter of Jean Arnold Conant (1846-1921), a free man of color and farmer, and Marie Louise Emma Dupré (born 1848), born a free woman of color to Joseph Emanuel Dupré (born 1810) and Marguerite Metoyer. Nazy's grandfather Joseph Emanuel Dupré was a descendent of Marie Thérèse Coincoin through a plaçage between Joseph Dupré and Marie Adélaïde Mariotte Metoyer. Nazy Conant Metoyer was a homemaker, farmer. Nazy Metoyer seems to have been very involved in the family farming and mercantile businesses.

Jean Arnold Conant (1846-1921) and Marie Louise Emma Dupré (born 1848) were born free people of color in Natchitoches Parish. They were the parents of John P. Conant (born 1868) and Nazy Conant Metoyer (born 1886). Jean Arnold was a farmer and the great-great grandson of Marie Thérèse Coincoin and Claude Thomas Pierre Metoyer. Marie Louise Emma Dupré Conant (1848-1929) was the daughter of Emanuel Dupré (born 1810) and Marguerite Metoyer and the

great-great granddaughter of Marie Thérèse Coincoin and Claude Thomas Pierre Metoyer through a plaçage between Joseph Dupré and Marie Adélaïde Mariotte Metoyer.

Scope and Content Note

The collection consists of business papers and ledgers of the Metoyer family. Account books of St. Clair Metoyer and Nazy Metoyer list sales, expenses, and accounts with wholesale merchants. Record book of John P. Conant (1906-1936) lists general expenses, annual earnings, and possessions; included in this volume are birth, marriage, and death dates of many residents of Natchitoches Parish for the period of 1846-1930.

Papers also contain statements for cotton sales from Julius Weis and Co. and John T. Hardie's Sons and Co., New Orleans, and merchandise bills and orders. Papers of Wilfrede Metoyer include correspondence regarding assignment of an insurance policy to S. Cohen of Melrose, Louisiana, for payment of debts; notes payable to P. Rosenthal; tax receipts; a cashbook; and a plantation book. Papers of John P. Conant are comprised of letters to him from his father, Jean Arnold Conant, and a funeral notice for his mother, Marie Louise Emma Dupré Conant (dated 9 December 1929).

Series Descriptions

Series I. Vilfrede Metoyer, 1900-1904.

Papers belonging to Vilfrede Metoyer include invoices and business letters from The Security Trust and Life Insurance Company (1900) and account sheets from H&G Newman, Ltd. (1902), S.P. Walmsley (1903), and Julius Weis & Co. (1903). Invoices and shipping receipts from various other companies are also included (1900-1904).

Series II. John P. Conant, 1909-1929.

Two letters to John Conant from his father Jean Arnold Conant discuss family news, focusing on the health of family members (1909, 1917). Also included is the funeral announcement of Mrs. Marie Conant, who died in Natchitoches, La. in December 1929.

Series III. St. Clair Metoyer, 1903-1927, undated.

Financial papers belonging to St. Clair Metoyer include shipping receipts, account sheets, receipts for cotton sales from Julius Weis & Co., and invoices from Swift & Company, Shreveport, La. (1903-1927). A letter from St. Clair Metoyer to his cousin John Bellanger discusses the shipment of a hat (November 1908). Also included is a license to pursue the occupation of General Merchandise in Natchitoches Parish (1906), a lease of land from A. E. Ewing to St. Clair Metoyer (1908), and a personal letter to St. Clair from Jack Buffin about an upcoming visit (1927). Notes, lists of grocery items, calculations, and broadsides from various seed and floral companies are also found in the collection (undated).

Series IV. Nazy Metoyer, 1924-1936, undated.

Papers belonging to Nazy Metoyer include a stock application to the Texas and Pacific Railway reporting the death of a bull by a passenger train (1924), receipts, account sheets, and letters discussing shipment from William T. Hardie & Co. (1924-1936), and freight bills from Texas and Pacific Railway Co. (1935). Also included are empty envelopes addressed to Nazy Metoyer from various companies, as well as notes, lists, and calculations (undated).

Series V. Newspaper Clippings, 1926.

The Birmingham Age-Herald, June 24, 1926

Series VI. Manuscript volumes, 1889-1944.

Manuscript volumes belong to various members of the family and record financial and business activities. A cashbook belonging to Mat Jones contains store accounts and cotton ginning accounts (1889-1926), while a record book belonging to John P. Conant takes note of cotton sales, labor accounts, and birth, marriage, and death dates of many residents of Natchitoches Parish (1906-1936). Three ledgers belonging to Nazy and St. Clair Metoyer are included (1904, 1922-1938). These contain accounts with cotton factors and commission merchants, banking records, and cotton and sugar production expenses. Finally, a Farmer's Business Record (1895-1944) records corn sales and production, livestock sales, cotton sales accounts, and labor accounts. For a detailed list of manuscript volumes, see the container list.

Index Terms

Conant family.

Conant, Jean Arnold, 1846-1921.

Conant, John P., born 1868.

Metoyer family.

Metoyer, Nazy Conant, born 1886.

Metoyer, St. Clair, born 1882.

Metoyer, Vilfrede, born 1851.

John T. Hardie, Sons and Co.

Julius Weis and Co.

African American business enterprises—Louisiana.

African American women—Louisiana.

Cotton trade--Louisiana.

Creoles—Louisiana—Natchitoches Parish.

Farmers--Louisiana.

Free African Americans—Louisiana—Natchitoches Parish.

Merchants--Louisiana.

Natchitoches Parish (La.)--History.

Account books.

Bills (financial)

Cashbooks.

Orders.

Container List

<u>Stack</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder(s)</u>	<u>Contents (with dates)</u>
A:1		1	1a	Series I. Vilfrede Metoyer papers, 1900-1904. (32 items.) View online
			1b	Series I. Vilfrede Metoyer papers, 1903-1904. (22 items.) View online
			2	Series II. John P. Conant papers, 1909-1929. (4 items.) View online
			3a	Series III. St. Clair Metoyer papers, 1900-1904. (32 items.) View online
			3b	Series III. St. Clair Metoyer papers, 1904-1927. (36 items.) View online
			4	Series IV. Nazy Metoyer papers, 1924-1935. (25 items.) View online
			5	St. Clair and Nazy Metoyer lists, notes, calculations, broadsides, 1930-approximately 1939. (65 items.) View online
99:M		--	1	Series V. Newspaper Clippings, 1926. <i>Not digitized</i>
				Series VI. Manuscript volumes, 1889-1944.
A:1		1	Folder 6/Vol. 1	Mat Jones cashbook, 1889-1926. View online
H:2		--	Vol. 2	Nazy Metoyer ledger, 1904, 1924-1927. View online
		--	Vol. 3	St. Clair Metoyer ledger, 1922-1929. View online

<u>Stack</u> <u>Location</u>	<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder(s)</u>	<u>Contents (with dates)</u>
	--	Vol. 4	St. Clair and Nazy Metoyer ledger, 1928-1938. View online
	--	Vol. 5	“Farmer’s Business Record,” 1895-1944. View online
	--	Vol. 6	John P. Conant record book, 1906-1936. View online
Mss.MF:M	--	--	<i>1 reel:</i> Record Book, John P. Conant record book, 1906-1936.
MF:6061, Series B	Part 2	Reel 1	