

**FRANCIS SURGET ESTATE PAPERS**

Ms. 12, 749

Inventory

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

Reformatted 2007

Updated 2021

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**Use of manuscript materials.** If you wish to examine items in the manuscript group, please place a request via the Special Collections Request System. Consult the Container List for location information.

**Photocopying.** Should you wish to request photocopies, please consult a staff member. The existing order and arrangement of unbound materials must be maintained.

**Publication.** Readers assume full responsibility for compliance with laws regarding copyright, literary property rights, and libel.

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**

<b>Size.</b>	83 items
<b>Geographic locations.</b>	Mississippi, Louisiana, Arkansas
<b>Inclusive dates.</b>	1848-1867
<b>Language.</b>	English
<b>Summary.</b>	Papers relating to the management of Francis Surget's property in Natchez, along with other papers. Also included are volumes pertaining to the management of Surget's other properties in Mississippi and Arkansas.
<b>Organization.</b>	Arranged chronologically.
<b>Restrictions on access.</b>	None.
<b>Related collections.</b>	Joseph Vidal and Family Papers, Mss. 432 Katherine Surget Minor Letter, Mss. 4867 E. Surget Letter, Mss. 4517
<b>Copyright.</b>	Copyright of the original materials in this collection has expired, and they are therefore in the public domain.
<b>Citation.</b>	Francis Surget Estate Papers, Francis Surget Estate Papers, Mss. 12, 749, Louisiana and Lower Mississippi Valley Collections, LSU Libraries, Baton Rouge, La.
<b>Stack location(s).</b>	C:54, OS:S

### **BIOGRAPHICAL/HISTORICAL NOTE**

Captain Francis Surget (died 1856) was a planter and land speculator whose extensive holdings in Louisiana, Mississippi, and Arkansas and whose ownership of over 10,000 slaves made him one of the largest planters and slaveholders of the antebellum South. His children included sons Lenox, Francis Jr., and Eustace and daughters Sarah, Jane, and Catherine Surget.

### **SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE**

Papers pertain to the management of Surget's estate in Natchez. They include legal and financial documents concerning heirs, payment of debts, and appraisals and sales of land. Many of the papers are signed by George Hancock, Esq., an agent of the Surget estate. Four volumes in the collection pertain to the management of Surget's properties in Mississippi, and a typescript copy of an account book contains an examination and appraisal of lands in Arkansas belonging to the estate.

## **COLLECTION DESCRIPTION**

The collection consists of papers and volumes pertaining to the estate of Francis Surget. The majority is made up of various legal and financial documents including notes for Surget's will, promissory notes crediting the account of the Surget estate, and checks and promissory notes to Surget's heirs (1850-1855). Also included are written testimonies from each of the beneficiaries stating they received the amount allotted to them in the will (1857). These beneficiaries include Catherine Surget Shields, Sarah Surget Davis, Eustace Surget, Lenox Surget, Eliza Surget, Francis Surget, and Jane Surget Merrill. Many of the documents concern the appraisal and sale of land in the estate (1859) while a number address payment for the services of George Hancock, Esq., an agent of the Surget estate (1858-1862). Other letters concern the nonpayment of a debt to H. D. Green (1860), fees of the Adams Probate Court Officer Clerk, bills for state, county, and war taxes in Arkansas (1862), and the collection of debts owed to the estate (1864-1865). A number of Concordia Parish Bonds are included, each for approximately \$180 (1867), as is a letter regarding payment by the Surget estate to the heirs of Dr. Ker (undated).

In addition to these documents, the collection also contains five volumes. Four of these are bank books containing financial records of the Surget estate in Mississippi (1848-1866) and the fifth is a typescript copy of an account book containing an examination and appraisal of lands in Arkansas belonging to the estate of Surget (1857). The appraisal includes the value of each tract per acre, the aggregate value, and descriptions and sizes of each tract. The volume is signed by George Hancock and by the commissioners appointed by the executors of Surget's estate at Helena, Arkansas.

**INDEX TERMS**

**Materials relating to these people, places, and things can be found throughout the entire collection.**

Adams County (Miss.)--History.

Administration of estates--Arkansas.

Administration of estates--Louisiana.

Appraisals.

Concordia Parish (La.)

Inheritance and succession.

Inventories.

Louisiana--History--1803-1865.

Monroe County (Ark.)--History.

Plantation owners--Mississippi.

Real property--Valuation--Arkansas.

Real property--Valuation--Mississippi.

**CONTAINER LIST**

<u>Stack</u> <u>Location</u>	<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder(s)</u>	<u>Contents (with dates)</u>
<b>C:54</b>	1	1-4	83 items: Documents pertaining to the estate of Francis Surget (1850, 1855-1865)
		5	Vol. 1: Bank Book (1848-1856)
		6	Vol. 2: Bank Book (1856-1861)
		7	Vol. 3: Bank Book (1857-1859)
		8	Vol. 4: Record Book (1856-1866)
		9	Vol. 5: Typescript copy of Surget Estate Account Book (1857)
<b>OS:S</b>	--	1	Financial documents (1859, 1860); Account balance (April 24, 1860); Article of agreement (1864)