

**See also UPA microfilm:**

MF 6061, Series B, Part 1, Reel 14

**DUNCAN FARRAR KENNER PAPERS**

Mss. 198, 1402, 1477

Inventory

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

Reformatted 2007

### Contents of Inventory

|                              |     |
|------------------------------|-----|
| Biographical/Historical Note | 4   |
| Scope and Content Note       | 4   |
| Series Descriptions          | 5-6 |
| Index Terms                  | 7-9 |
| Container List               | 10  |

**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.

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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.** 342 items, 2 manuscript volumes, 1 printed volume
- Geographic locations.** New Orleans, La.; Ascension Parish, La.; St. Charles Parish, La.; Natchez, Miss.; Nashville, Tenn.
- Inclusive dates.** 1836-1905
- Bulk dates.** 1838-1894
- Language.** English
- Summary.** Papers pertain to the career of Duncan Farrar Kenner as a planter at Ashland Plantation, Ascension Parish, and as an associate with his brother-in-law, General Richard Taylor, in leasing the New Basin Canal in New Orleans.
- Organization.** Arranged chronologically within series.
- Restrictions on access.** Copies must be made from microfilm and photocopies where available. Access to original housed in the vault is restricted. Use photocopy.
- Related collections.** William Kenner Papers, Mss. 1477, 1491; Kenner Family Papers, Mss. 775; Joseph L. Brent Papers, Mss. 1477, 1822; Rosella Kenner Brent Papers, 1167, 1822; Lillie Trust Gray Papers, Mss. 165, 965, 422; Francois Randon Account Books, Mss. 992; Benjamin Tureaud Family Papers, Mss. 427; Ashland Plantation Record Book, Mss. 534
- Copyright.** Copyright of the original materials is retained by descendants of the creators in accordance with U.S. copyright law.
- Citation.** Duncan F. Kenner Papers, Mss. 198, 1402, 1477. Louisiana and Lower Mississippi Valley Collections, LSU Libraries, Baton Rouge, La.
- Stack locations.** A:51, F:4, Vault:1, Vault MRDF 2
- Also available on:** Microfilm 6061, Series B, Part 1, Reel 14

## **BIOGRAPHICAL/HISTORICAL NOTE**

Duncan Farrar Kenner was a member of the Louisiana Constitutional Conventions of 1845 and of 1852, a member of the Confederate Congress, and a Confederate special commissioner plenipotentiary to France in 1863.

A planter, he founded Ashland Plantation in Ascension Parish, Louisiana, and had interests in Bowdon, Houmas, Hollywood, Hermitage, Fashion, and Roseland plantations. With his brother-in-law, General Richard Taylor he held leases in the New Basin Canal in New Orleans. Kenner helped to organize the New Orleans Jockey Club and the New Louisiana Jockey Club.

## **SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE**

Legal, financial, and personal papers pertain to Kenner's career as a planter and to his business activities and land holdings in Louisiana. Correspondence includes a letter from Duncan Kenner to relative William J. Minor concerning sugar production (1838), letters concerning the management of the New Basin Canal (1867-1870) with letters of Richard Taylor and James McCloskey, letters regarding investments in New Orleans stocks, bonds, property, and horse racing in New Orleans. Other letters pertain to the settlement of estates, including that of Richard Taylor (1880), investments in plantation and agricultural properties. A typescript of lists (1854, 1858) records Kenner's property, slaves he owned, and clothing issued to them at Ashland Plantation.

Financial papers include items related to sugar production in New Orleans, the building of a rice flume near Hollywood Plantation (1887), tax assessments and receipts, mercantile receipts, papers related to the sales and purchases of land, and weekly cash reports (Jan.-May 1888) of proceeds from Kenner's plantations.

Political papers include items related to the victory of Isaac Johnson in the Louisiana gubernatorial election of 1842 and the defeat of Whig congressional candidates throughout the state and a tax receipt of the Louisiana Constitutional Convention of 1868.

Legal documents include estate documents (with some account books) of Duncan F. Kenner, John Minor, Richard Taylor, Michel Doradou Bringier, and Mr. Aglae Bringier. A patent and other documents record the invention of a decortications machine by Duncan Kenner and Leonard Sewell (1880s).

Maps show Kenner land holdings in New Orleans (1870s). Printed materials include a broadside, listing passengers on the steamship "America" (1865), items related to the Tehuantepec Railway Company (1882?), and newspaper clippings.

Manuscript volumes (1887-1888, undated) relate to Kenner's estate.

## SERIES DESCRIPTIONS

### Series I. Documents and Correspondence, 1838-1905, undated.

The earliest letters are addressed to William J. Minor of Natchez, Mississippi from G. Carrie Duncan concerning claims against the John Minor estate by the Kenner heirs (1838). Letters from Duncan F. Kenner propose the building of sugar mills and discussing the Democratic victory of Isaac Johnson in the gubernatorial election and the defeat of Whig congressional candidates throughout Louisiana (1846). Correspondence of Duncan F. Kenner with D.D. Withers relates to the sale of City of New Orleans bonds, the chartering of Metairie Cemetery and its effect upon the value of City of New Orleans stock (1872). Letters from New Orleans notaries concern property sales at public auctions, and include one letter stating terms and conditions for these sales (1877), and another relating to the succession of Alexander Phillips (1877). A letter from St. Charles Parish sheriff to Kenner address the possibility of relieving the heirs of Richard Taylor from payment of overdue parish taxes on Fashion Plantation (1880) and a letter to Louise Taylor discuss the proceeds of the sale of the Plantation (1883). Legal correspondence, including letters to and from Joseph L. Brent, executor of the Duncan F. Kenner estate, discusses its settlement (1887). A letter from Thomas Plater of Nashville to Brent mentions Plater's appointment as guardian of young Duncan Kenner (D.F. Kenner's grandson) (1887) and is then followed by correspondence between Joseph L. Brent and Thomas Plater and between Plater and Mrs. D.F. Kenner concerning her grandson's share in the estate (1888-1889).

Financial documents such as property tax and mercantile receipts, a Constitutional Convention tax receipt (1868), promissory notes, stock certificates, statements of account and property assessment lists are included. Many documents relate to the succession of Duncan F. Kenner. They include lists of taxable property, statement of taxes due, an agreement concerning the sale of Hollywood and Hermitage plantations and financial interests in Houmas Plantation (1888) as well as an agreement as to the distribution of proceeds of crops from Kenner's plantations (1888). Statements from the *Times-Democrat* and *Picayune* of New Orleans are addressed to Joseph L. Brent for advertising the sale of the plantations (1889).

The majority of the legal papers involve the settlement of estates, such as those of Alexander Phillips (1877) and Richard Taylor (1880). Documents such as property judgments and sales claims of title concern property sold to D.F. Kenner by Andrew Hero, Jr. in a tax sale (1876). Papers granting permission by the East Baton Rouge Police Jury to construct a rice flume on the Mississippi River levee below Hollywood Plantation are also included (1887). Other items relate to Kenner and Richard Taylor's interests in the New Canal and Basin in New Orleans (1867-1869).

Other papers include a prospectus of the *Journal of Religious Education* of the General Protestant Episcopal Sunday School Union (1838) and a slave list showing clothing issued to them at Ashland Plantation (1854-1858, typewritten copy). Official Confederate States of America documents include a an Act of Congress for the issuance of a foreign loan (Jan. 4, 1865, photocopy), certificates bearing the signature of Judah P. Benjamin, Secretary of State (Jan. 5,

**DUNCAN FARRAR KENNER PAPERS**

1836-(1838-1894)-1905

**Mss. 198, 1402, 1477**  
**LSU Libraries Special Collections**

1865, photocopies). Also signed by Benjamin are a letter (Feb. 3, 1865; photocopy) and a postscript to an order for twenty-five thousand pounds of cotton in exchange for cotton bonds (Nov. 14, 1864, access to original is restricted, use photocopy). Material also contains a printed drainage system report by the city surveyor, L. Surgi (1868). One map indicates the boundaries of Kenner property on St. Charles Avenue, New Orleans (1877) and another shows the form and dimensions of a property on Carondelet Street (1878). Finally, there is a biographical sketch of Joseph L. Brent (ca.1905).

**Note: Notes and drafts of *Last Diplomatic Effort of the Southern Confederacy Represented by the Mission of the Hon. Duncan Farrar Kenner of Louisiana, Its High Commissioner, a short history* by Joseph L. Brent (undated) are found in the Joseph L. Brent Papers, Mss. 1477, 1822 .**

**Series II. Newspaper Clippings, 1887, undated.**

Newspaper clippings consist principally of obituaries (c. 1887) for Duncan F. Kenner while others relate to the New Canal (undated). One newspaper clipping is entitled "City of New Orleans vs. James Graham" (undated).

**Series III. Manuscript Volumes, 1887-1888, undated.**

Series contains bankbook (undated) that was issued by Canal Bank of New Orleans to the estate of D.F. Kenner and two executor's account books (1887-1888) regarding business of Kenner's estate.

**INDEX TERMS**

(This section provides the subject indexing for the collection found in the card catalog. Index terms have been changed to match Library of Congress Subject Headings. Documents relating to the subject given are described.)

| <b>Subject</b>  | <b>Date</b> | <b>Description of relevant documents</b>  |
|---|-------------|---|
| America (Steamer)--Posters.                                       | 1865        | Photographic copy of passenger list of Steamship "America" with the name of A.B. Kinglake underscored and marginal note stating, "A.B. Kinglake was the name under which D.F. Kenner registered and took passage." February 11.                         |
| Benjamin, J. P. (Judah Philip),1811-1884.                         | 1864-1865   | Confederate documents, Nov. 14, 1864, Jan. 5, 1865; Letter, Feb. 3, 1865.   |
| Brent, Joseph Lancaster, 1826-1905.                               | 1887-1888   | Papers of Joseph L. Brent, executor of Duncan F. Kenner estate, relating to settlement of estate, approximately 50 items and 2 manuscript volumes.  |
| Bringier, M. D. (Martin Douradon)                                 | 1879        | Two items relating to the settlement of the estate of Martin Douradon Bringier, September 1, 12.  |
| Democratic Party (La.)  | 1846        | Victory of Democratic Party in Louisiana gubernatorial election, January 22.  |
| Fashion Plantation (La.)  | 1880, 1883  | Over-due taxes on, sale of, and disposition of proceeds from sale of Fashion Plantation, 3 items, November 26, 1883, January 18, 1883.  |
| Irrigation canals and flumes--Louisiana--East Baton Rouge Parish. | 1887        | Permit by East Baton Rouge Parish Police Jury for construction of a rice flume on the Mississippi River levee, February 2.  |
| Kenner, Duncan Farrar, 1813-1887--Estate.                         | 1887-1888   | Inventory of property in Ascension Parish belonging to succession of Duncan F. Kenner (copy), July 22, 1887; executors' account book, Duncan F. Kenner estate, containing itemized statements of accounts outstanding and judicial expenses, 1887-1888. |
| Louisiana. Constitutional Convention (1868)                       | 1868        | Tax receipt of Louisiana Constitutional Convention of 1868.   |
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| Metairie Cemetery (New Orleans, La.)                      | 1872       | Letter from Duncan F. Kenner to D.D. Withers relating the chartering of the Metairie Cemetery at New Orleans and its effect upon value of City of New Orleans stock, May 1872.   |
|   |            |  |
| New Basin Canal (New Orleans, La.)                        | 1867-1869  | Memorandum of agreement and correspondence of Duncan F. Kenner with Richard Taylor and others relative to the New Basin Canal, 6 items.  |
|   |            |  |
| New Orleans Cotton Press Association.                     | 1887       | Copy of letter from Duncan F. Kenner to Charlotte K. Harding, Philadelphia, relative to liquidation of New Orleans Cotton Press Association and agreement as to claims against that association, June 8.   |
|   |            |  |
| Patents--United States.                                   | 1883, 1887 | Patent of L.C. Rutledge on a decorticating machine and agreement between Rutledge and D.F. Kenner relative to their partnership in manufacturing and sale of decorticating machines; copy of caveat filed with U.S. Patent Office relating to improvements in decorticating machines, 2 items, November 1883, May 18 1887. |
|   |            |  |
| Plantation owners--Louisiana--Ascension Parish.           | 1838-1894  | Mercantile accounts, property tax receipts, newspaper clippings, succession and other business papers relating to Ashland, Bowden, and Houmas plantations, approximately 150 items and 2 manuscript volumes.   |
|   |            |  |
| Plantations--Louisiana--Ascension Parish.                 | 1838-1894  | Mercantile accounts, property tax receipts, newspaper clippings, succession and other business papers relating to Ashland, Bowden, and Houmas plantations, approximately 150 items and 2 manuscript volumes.   |
|   |            |  |
| St. Charles Institute for Young Ladies (New Orleans, La.) | undated    | Printed advertisement of St. Charles Institute for Young Ladies listing courses taught, rules and regulations of the institute and the cost of training.   |
|   |            |  |
| Sugar factories--Louisiana.                               | 1846       | Letter from Duncan F. Kenner to William J. Minor proposing the building of mills for the making of sugar, January 22.  |
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|-------------------------------|-----------|--|
| Sugar factories--Mississippi. | 1846      | Letter from Duncan F. Kenner to William J. Minor proposing the building of mills for the making of sugar, January 22.  |
|                               |           |  |
| Taylor, Richard, 1826-1879.   | 1866-1869 | Business papers of Richard Taylor as lessee of the New Basin Canal at New Orleans.   |
|                               |           |  |
| Tehuantepec Railway Company.  | 1880-1882 | Printed items (prospectus, order of events, letter of information for persons interested in the enterprise and pamphlets) relating to the Tehuantepec Inter-Ocean Railroad Company, 4 items. |
|                               |           |  |
| Whig Party (La.)              | 1846      | Letter of Duncan F. Kenner to William J. Minor, Natchez, Mississippi relating the defeat of Whig congressional candidates in Louisiana in election of 1846, January 22.                      |

CONTAINER LIST

| <u>Stack Location</u>                | <u>Box</u> | <u>Folders</u> | <u>Contents</u>  |
|--------------------------------------|------------|----------------|--|
| <b>A:51</b>                          | 1          | 1-14           | <b>Series I. Documents and Correspondence</b><br>1838-1894, 1905.  |
|                                      |            | 15             | <b>Series II. Newspaper Clippings, 12 items</b>  |
| <b>F:4</b>                           | --         | --             | <b>Series III. Manuscript Volumes</b><br>Canal Bank Book, undated.<br>2 volumes of executors account books, 1887-1888.                     |
| <b>Vault:1</b>                       |            | 1              | Order for twenty-five thousand pounds of cotton (Nov. 14, 1864 [access to original is restricted, use photocopy. Use photocopy in folder]. |
| <b>MF 6061,<br/>Series B, Part 1</b> |            | reel 14        | Records of Southern Plantations from the Emancipation to the Great Migration.  |