

**See also UPA Microfilm:
MF 5322, Series I, Part 1, Reel 8**

GEORGE MATHER AND FAMILY PAPERS

Mss. 283, 568

Inventory

Compiled by
Paula Duffy

April 1988

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

Revised 2009
Updated 2020; 2025

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SUMMARY

Size:	0.25 linear ft.
Geographic Location:	Baton Rouge, Louisiana; St. James Parish, Louisiana
Dates:	1782-1925, undated
Languages:	English, French
Summary:	Account volumes, financial papers, and printed items from plantation owner George Mather and related family members. The earliest records relate to the Mather mercantile and distillery accounts, but later records reflect the operations of a large-scale sugar plantation. Volumes contain entries pertaining to plantation expenses, slave labor, sugar, tafia, and cotton accounts.
Related Collections:	Philip Hicky and Family Papers, Mss. 2007, 2035, Louisiana and Lower Mississippi Valley Collections, LSU Libraries, Baton Rouge, La. Benjamin Tureaud and Family Papers, Mss. 427, 560, 794, etc., Louisiana and Lower Mississippi Valley Collections, LSU Libraries, Baton Rouge, La.
Access:	Volume 1 is fragile with loose pages. Please handle with care.
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Citation:	George Mather and Family Papers, Mss. 283, 568, Louisiana and Lower Mississippi Valley Collections, LSU Libraries, Baton Rouge, La.
Stack Location:	A:4, G:18
Also available on:	UPA Microfilm 5322, Series I, Part 1, Reel 8 [as George Mather Account Books]

BIOGRAPHICAL/HISTORICAL NOTE

George Mather (1783-1837) was one of five children born to James J. and Frances Sophia Mather of New Orleans, Louisiana. His father served as mayor of New Orleans from 1807 to 1812, when the city was part of the Territory of Orleans. George was named after his uncle and was, in fact, sometimes referred to as George Jr. while his uncle was alive. He married Josephine Francois Aurore Trudeau in 1809 at St. John the Baptist Catholic Church in Edgard, Louisiana, and the couple had eight children. Mather was a cotton and sugar planter who owned property in East Baton Rouge Parish and inherited property at Bayou Sara in West Feliciana Parish upon the death of his uncle, George Sr. It is believed that one of these properties was called the Acadia Plantation. Mather purchased Belle Alliance Plantation* in St. James Parish in 1815, a property the family owned until it was sold in the late 1800s.

Mather was a member of Perfect Union Lodge #29 in New Orleans, and he and his fellow lodge members, including his brother-in-law Philip Hicky, became involved in a plot to overthrow the Spanish authority at Baton Rouge in 1810. This event marked the beginning of the movement that ultimately led to the incorporation of the West Florida parishes into the Territory of Orleans. Mather was also appointed clerk of the Seventh District for the Orleans Territory Superior Court in 1811. He died at Belle Alliance Plantation in May of 1837 and is buried at St. Michael's Cemetery in Convent, La.

George's daughter, Josephine Françoise "Aurore" Mather, was married to Augustin Marius (A.M.) Tureaud, who built the Bagatelle Plantation also located in St. James Parish. Benjamin Tureaud was A.M.'s brother and the owner of the Tezcuco Plantation near Burnside in Ascension Parish.

*Not to be confused with the Belle Alliance Plantation in present-day Assumption Parish, which wasn't built until 1846. The Mathers' Belle Alliance became known as the Hester Plantation after it was sold by the family in the late 1800s, and it burned down in the 1920s.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

Account volumes comprise the bulk of the items in the collection. The earliest records relate to the Mather mercantile and distillery accounts, but later records reflect the operations of a large-scale sugar plantation. Volumes contain entries pertaining to plantation expenses, slave labor, sugar, tafia, and cotton accounts.

Volume 1 is an account journal that must have originally belonged to George Mather, Sr., considering the earliest entry dates to 1782 (before George Jr.'s birth). The earliest records in the account journal pertain to "woolens," farming implements, and indigo crops. Beginning in 1815, some entries are in French. Information on sugar crops and shipments starts in 1834. The last entries in the volume list the amount of wood cut at Belle Alliance Plantation in 1845 and would have been kept by George Mather, Jr.'s heirs.

Volume 2 is a daybook that primarily concerns George Mather's sugar operations, including sales of raw sugar and tafia listed by account name. There is also a special section of the volume that covers "taffia" sold on the German Coast (1802-1804). Sugar crop numbers for 1825-1833 appear in the back of the daybook.

Volume 3 is a ledger that includes a list of George Mather's accounts with various individuals on the opening pages (1812-1817). The back of the ledger contains invoices and letter entries regarding cotton shipments from "George Mather, Jr." to Liverpool, England (1807) and two letters in French from Philip Hicky and George Mather to Henry and Tousaint Fauve of La Rochelle, France (1806-1808).

Volume 4 is a memorandum book that covers payments, loans, and receipts, as well as lists of expenses. The earliest entries are dated from George Mather's property in Baton Rouge, followed by Acadia Plantation entries covering 1817-1822.

Loose financial papers consist of two receipts from George Mather to "J. Harris" (1813-1814), a promissory note from George Mather to Joseph Corbe (1818), a receipt for Benjamin Tureaud from a hotel in Liverpool, England (1866), and an undated list of expenses from Bagatelle Plantation.

Printed and graphic materials in the collection have no clear connection to George Mather but were likely created or collected by family members after his death. Items consist of newspaper clippings (1880-1925, undated) and a pencil drawing of a poultry yard (undated).

Content Warning: Items in this collection contain historical terms, phrases, or images that are offensive, outdated, and/or harmful. These include demeaning and dehumanizing references to race, ethnicity, and nationality; enslaved or free status; physical and mental ability; and gender and sexual orientation.

INDEX TERMS

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

Bagatelle Plantation (La.)

Belle Alliance Plantation (La.)

Cotton--prices.

German Coast (La.)

Hicky, Philip, 1778-1859.

Mather, George.

Plantation owners--Louisiana--Saint James Parish.

Plantations--Louisiana--Saint James Parish.

Slave labor.

St. James Parish.

Sugar--prices.

Tafia.

Tureaud, Benjamin, 1818-1883.

CONTAINER LIST

<u>Stack Location</u>	<u>Box</u>	<u>Folders</u>	<u>Contents</u>
A:4	1	--	Vol. 1: Account Journal, 1782-1815; 1834-1845
G:18	--	--	Vol. 2: Daybook, 1798-1836
	--	--	Vol. 3: Ledger and Letter book, 1806-1817
A:4	1	--	Vol. 4: Memorandum book, 1813-1822
	1	1	Financial papers, 1813-1866, undated
		2	Newspaper clippings and pencil drawing, 1880-1925, undated
MF:5322			UPA Microfilm 5322 Series I, Part 1, Reel 8 [as George Mather Account Books]