

**HARDY RICHARDSON AND FAMILY PAPERS**

Mss. 2862

Inventory

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

Reformatted 2020  
Revised 2021, 2025

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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 welcome.

**SUMMARY**

<b>Size</b>	0.75 linear ft., 1 OS folder
<b>Geographic Locations</b>	Washington Parish, St. Tammany Parish, Tangipahoa Parish, Louisiana
<b>Inclusive Dates</b>	1809-1951, undated
<b>Bulk Dates</b>	1848-1890
<b>Languages</b>	English
<b>Summary</b>	The Hardy Richardson and family papers contain correspondence and legal papers pertaining to land administration, flood control, education, and Louisiana elections. There are also bills, receipts, tax documents, printed items, notebooks, and photographs.
<b>Access Restrictions</b>	No restrictions on access.
<b>Copyright</b>	For those materials not in the public domain, copyright is retained by the descendants of the creators in accordance with U.S. copyright law.
<b>Citation</b>	Hardy Richardson and Family Papers, Mss. 2862, Louisiana and Lower Mississippi Valley Collections, LSU Libraries Special Collections, Baton Rouge, La.
<b>Stack Locations</b>	OS:R, W:57-58

**BIOGRAPHICAL/HISTORICAL NOTE**

Hardy Chessley Richardson was born on April 20, 1822, in Washington Parish, Louisiana, to Stephen and Elizabeth Morris Richardson. He was educated as a lawyer and was elected Clerk of the District Court. He also served in the Louisiana Legislature, first as a representative and later as a senator. He joined the Washington Parish Volunteers during the Civil War and was eventually commissioned as a colonel in the Confederate Army. He was wounded several times during the war. After the war, Richardson married Martha Jane Warren Roberts, a widow of Franklinton, Louisiana, and they had two daughters: Rosa Elizabeth and Mary Miranda "Tincie" Richardson. He died on July 5, 1883, and is buried at Roberts Cemetery in Tangipahoa Parish, Louisiana.

**SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE**

This collection is comprised of correspondence, legal papers, financial papers (consisting primarily of bills and receipts), printed items, photographic items, and two notebooks. Topics covered in the collection include flood control of the lower Mississippi River, levees, education in Louisiana, and Louisiana elections.

Correspondence is mostly business in nature, relating to the transfer of land, homesteads, the growing and sale of crops and livestock, health, and politics. In a letter, W. C. Britt mentions that there are not many African Americans living in Decatur, Illinois (February 18, 1871). Another letter mentions that yellow fever in Texas is interfering with the shipment of cattle (September 15, 1873). A circular solicits the assistance of Grangers in the construction of the Washington Monument (1875). Charles E. Kermon mentions yellow fever in Osyka, Mississippi, and he discusses a constitutional convention (September 17, 1878). A constitutional convention is mentioned again in another letter (March 3, 1879). Another letter relates to national elections and the resentment felt in the South against military rule (February 10, 1873). In letters from Edward White Robertson, a U.S. representative from Louisiana, local and Congressional conflicts over contested elections are discussed (February 1, 1881). Another letter also discusses the need to construct levees for flood protection on the lower Mississippi River and the creation of a national levee board (April 10, 1882).

Legal papers include succession and estate papers, resolutions and acts of the Louisiana Legislature, and documents for land ownership, sales, and transfers in Washington, St. Tammany, and Tangipahoa parishes. This group also contains promissory notes and a petition that details a legal suit concerning the sale of cows with calves (October 1865).

Financial papers include bills and receipts for goods and services that accompany accounts for Hardy Richardson. Other items include receipts from commission merchants and freight records. Materials also include parish tax papers, chiefly tax receipts.

Printed items are comprised of clippings, advertisements, a graduation invitation, and Hannibal Carter's death notice (1904). Photographic items consist of a photograph of Hardy Richardson and two group photographic cards of unidentified pupils and staff standing outside Sunny Hill School. Two tintypes of Mary Ann Miranda Richardson, daughter of Hardy Richardson, are also included. Howard Carter's school notebook (1911) and a notebook of origami art are also found in this collection.

**INDEX TERMS**

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

Education--Louisiana.

Levees--Louisiana.

Levees--Mississippi River.

Louisiana--Politics and government--19<sup>th</sup> century.

National Grange.

Notebooks.

Photographic prints.

Maps.

**CONTAINER LIST**

<u>Stack Location</u>	<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Contents</u>
<b>W:57</b>	1	1-8	Correspondence, 1850-1890, 1951, undated.
		9-15	Legal papers, 1809-1919, undated.
<b>W:58</b>	2	1-14	Bills and receipts, 1848-1924, undated.
	3	1-2	Tax papers, 1858-1900.
		3	Printed items, 1878-1883, 1904-1908, 1919, undated.
		3-4	Photographs, undated.
		5	Notebook of Howard Carter, 1911.
		6	Notebook of origami and paper folding, undated.
<b>OS:R</b>	--	OS 1	United States Military Railroad Map, 1866
			Oversized photograph of Hardy Richardson, undated
			Financial statement, J & T Roberts (in partial ledger), circa 1859-1861
			Accounts balance table, Mr. Hardy Richardson, Sr., circa 1879-1880
			Total account notes, circa 1859-1867