

DUDLEY TURNBULL AND FAMILY PAPERS

Mss. 2907

Inventory

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Baton Rouge, Louisiana State University

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SUMMARY

| | |
|-----------------------------|---|
| Size | 1 linear ft., 12 vols. |
| Geographic Locations | Louisiana |
| Inclusive Dates | 1834-1969, undated |
| Bulk Dates | 1890-1955 |
| Languages | English |
| Summary | The Dudley Turnbull and Family Papers include correspondence, photographs, financial records, ephemera, and manuscript volumes created or collected by Dudley Turnbull, a free man of color in Baton Rouge, La., and his descendants. |
| Access Restrictions | Box 3 is restricted until 2029. |
| Reproduction Note | May be reproduced. |
| Copyright | Physical rights and copyright are retained by the LSU Libraries. |
| Citation | Dudley Turnbull and Family Papers, Mss. 2907, Louisiana and Lower Mississippi Valley Collections, LSU Libraries, Baton Rouge, Louisiana. |
| Stack Location(s) | W:40, OS:T |
| Also Available On | This collection has also been digitized in its entirety (excluding restricted materials and select items) and can be accessed online on the Louisiana Digital Library . |

BIOGRAPHICAL/HISTORICAL NOTE

Dudley Turnbull (1852-1926) was a free man of color who lived in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, and worked as a steamboat watchman and restaurant employee. In 1873, he married Rosemarie Aldometer (or Aldamede) Mather (1851-1917). Aldometer was born a free woman of color to George Mather and Jane Giddings, who were both free people of color of Baton Rouge. Though Jane Giddings and George Mather married in 1851, Jane continued to use her maiden name (also referred to as Giddens or Giddins) throughout most of her life. It is probable that Jane and Aldometer lived independently of George Mather. Aldometer worked as a homemaker in the Turnbull household. Dudley and Aldometer Turnbull had six children: John (1874-1939), a bricklayer; George Arthur (1877-1948), a graduate of New Orleans University who settled in Chicago and married Mabel; Estelle (Stella); Dudley, Jr.; Warren; and Maudie, a Catholic nun who adopted the name Sister Mary Cornelia.

Dudley Turnbull Jr. worked as a plasterer and was an active member of the African American Catholic community in Baton Rouge. He married Juanita Hebert (1894-1973), the daughter of Cora Hebert, a free woman of color. Together, Dudley Jr. and Juanita had seven children: Naomi, who worked as a maid; Grace, a high school graduate of East Baton Rouge Colored High School (now McKinley Senior High School); Kenneth (1923-1998), who worked as a painter; Ralph Bruce (1924-1990), who worked as a plasterer; Dudley Gregory (1925-1980), who attended St. Francis Xavier School; Juanita (born 1928); and Maudie (born 1930). Juanita and Maudie attended St. Mary's Academy in New Orleans. Juanita later joined the Sisters of the Holy Family as a nun and took the name Sister Frances Cabrini. Kenneth and Dudley Gregory both served in World War II. Additional members of the Turnbull family are also represented in these papers, including relatives living in Chicago, Illinois, and St. Louis, Missouri.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

Papers include letters, photographs, bills and receipts, workbooks, ephemera, and savings deposit and union books of Dudley Turnbull and family, free people of color in Baton Rouge, La. The earliest papers include tax receipts for Jane Giddings and George Mather, a photocopy of an oath of allegiance and pass for Jane Mather to cross the Federal picket lines in Baton Rouge during the Civil War, and receipts for tuition for Aldometer (1863-1864). Items related to settling Jane Gidding's estate are also found. Letters pertain to religious and personal matters. Topics discussed in these letters include news from various family members, including those living in St. Louis, MO, and Chicago, IL; personal finances; and acknowledgements of religious sacraments received. Papers include bills for rent, state, parish, and corporate taxes; church tithes; receipts for goods and services; birth certificates; insurance policies with premium booklets; saving deposit books; and union due books of the Operative Plasterers' and Cement Finishers International Association of the United States and Canada. The constitution and bylaws of Dudley Turnbull's plasterers' union, lists of soldiers transferred or discharged with the Turnbull men during World War II, and items from St. Mary's Academy showing Juanita and Maudie's involvement in school musical performances are included among the printed items. Papers that mention Kenneth Turnbull's mental health are restricted until 2029.

Photographs in the collection include portraits and snapshots of the Turnbull family, group portraits of African American faculty of Baton Rouge College and McKinley High School in Baton Rouge, and portraits taken to commemorate religious events. Educational activities are documented by report cards of Juanita Turnbull and Dudley Gregory Turnbull; school workbooks belonging to Juanita Turnbull, Maudie Marie Turnbull, and their cousin Ella Mae Wilson; the high school diploma of Juanita Cecilia Turnbull; and numerous school awards and certificates for the Turnbull children. The collection also includes autograph books of Kenneth and Maudie Marie Turnbull and charcoal portraits of Estelle Turnbull Jones in first communion dress and Warren Turnbull, both by H. P. Bedon.

COLLECTION DESCRIPTION**Series I. Papers, 1863-1967, undated**

The bulk of the materials comprises letters, school materials, and birth registrations for Grace, Kenneth, Bruce, Dudley Gregory, Juanita, and Naomi Turnbull--children of Dudley Jr. and Juanita Hebert Turnbull. School materials of the Turnbull children include tests, report cards, and certificates of achievement. Of note is a free person of color pass for Jane (Giddings) Mather into Fort Williams dated March 9, 1865, and an Oath of Allegiance to the United States signed by Jane (Giddings) Mather on May 8, 1863. Materials of Arthur Turnbull are also represented, including the 1893 diploma awarded to him by New Orleans University and a 1927 letter to his brother Dudley. Also included are childhood letters written by Bruce and Kenneth Turnbull to their father, Dudley, during his time away at work. The letters discuss the boys' studies and family affairs in the Turnbull household. Other correspondents represented include Juanita Hebert Turnbull, John Turnbull, and an aunt named Emma. All materials are in English (1863-1943).

The bulk of the material comprises letters and postcards between members of the Turnbull family and tests, diplomas, money orders, telegrams, receipts, and business papers. Included is a form letter from President Harry Truman thanking Dudley Gregory Turnbull for his military service during WWII, an unemployment claimant's identification card for Dudley Gregory Turnbull dated 1945, and requests for money from Kenneth and Dudley Gregory Turnbull to their father, Dudley Jr. Also included is the address of Mother Cecilia of the Sisters of the Holy Family in New Orleans and a story about the life of Jesus Christ written by Kenneth Turnbull as a schoolboy. Letters discuss schooling, family events, convent life, and extended family. Correspondents include Arthur Turnbull, Juanita Hebert Turnbull, Kenneth Turnbull, Maudie Turnbull, Maudie (Sister Mary Cornelia) Turnbull, Elizabeth Sterky, Lottie Collier, Eunice Redding, and Angus Matta (1910-1967).

Kenneth Turnbull's mental health papers are also included in this series, but they are restricted until 2029. [Restricted - Not digitized]

Series II. Bills and Receipts, 1850-1964

Comprised of receipts and tax notifications belonging to Jane Giddings, a free woman of color. Included amongst these items are receipts for her daughter Aldometer's school tuition, a railroad tax receipt, a receipt for pew rent from St. Joseph's Cathedral, notifications of late tax payment, and rent receipts from Aristide Allain, a boy who lived with Jane and Aldometer. Several receipts belonging to Aldometer's father, George Mather, are also present (1850-1879).

Receipts belonging to Dudley Turnbull and Rosemarie Aldometer Mather Turnbull for parish and state taxes, goods, services, and college tuition. Included are tax receipts for

the estate of Jane Giddings (mother of Aldometer Turnbull), receipts to Dudley Turnbull for a leased Singer sewing machine, and tuition receipts for Dudley's son Arthur's education at New Orleans University (1878-1900).

Receipts that belong to Dudley Turnbull and Rosemarie Aldometer Mather Turnbull are included as well as tax receipts, receipts for goods and services, invoices, and a receipt for funeral expenses following Aldometer's death in December of 1917. (1901-1923)

Chiefly receipts, tax receipts, tax exemption certificates, and other financial papers belonging to Dudley Turnbull Jr. Of note are financial papers of John Turnbull and Dudley Turnbull Jr. concerning funeral expenses following Dudley Turnbull's death in 1926. Furniture and other household item receipts of Juanita Hebert Turnbull and Ralph Bruce Turnbull are also present (circa 1890-1964).

Series III. Insurance Policies, 1912-1959

Life insurance promissory notes, premium receipt books, loan certificates, agreements, policy endowments, and notification letters for the Turnbull Family (1912-1930).

Life insurance policies, premium receipt books, loan certificates, and notification letters for members of the Turnbull Family. Includes a fire insurance policy belonging to Dudley Turnbull, Jr. (1924-1959).

Series IV. Printed Materials, 1918-1948

Primarily materials relating to Dudley Gregory Turnbull, Kenneth Turnbull, and Ralph Bruce Turnbull's enlistment and service in World War II. Also represented is Dudley Turnbull Jr.'s World War I classification notice for World War I notice; two issues of *Constitution and By-Laws of the Baton Rouge Plasterers' Protective Union*; a copy of a musical concert program from St. Mary's Academy Band and Orchestra, an issue of St. Mary's Academy newsletter *Regina*, a graduation program for Juanita Turnbull, and a newsletter from St. Mary's Academy; also included is a rosary service program for the 1948 death of Arthur Turnbull (1918-1948).

A newspaper clipping describes the wedding and reception of Grace Turnbull and Edward Lewis at Holy Cross Church and the home and garden of Mr. and Mrs. Art Jones (circa 1931-1939).

Series V. Photographs, circa 1895-1969

Black and white photos of the Turnbull family. Included are photographic portraits of Aldometer Turnbull, Grace Turnbull; Alex Hebert in World War I uniform; school group portraits, possibly in front of The Hickory Street School; Holy Communion portraits,

possibly of Dudley Turnbull and Sister Mary Cornelia (Maudie Turnbull); unidentified Turnbull children; and a photograph of McKinley High School (circa 1895-1949).

Black and white photos of the Turnbull family, primarily of Dudley Jr. and Juanita Hebert Turnbull and their children. Includes a school portrait, possibly of the Hickory Street School; snapshots during a visit to see Juanita (Sister Francis Cabrini) Turnbull; a portrait of Kenneth Turnbull as a young man; a baby picture of Dudley Gregory Turnbull; a photo of Dudley Turnbull Jr. during middle-age; and a snapshot of Bruce Turnbull and Alex Hebert in front of Tiger Stadium at LSU. Most photos contain writing on the back, which often corresponds to the subject of each photograph. Some subjects of these photos are unidentified, though likely members of the Turnbull family (circa 1910-1969).

Series VI. Manuscript Volumes, 1918-1957

Savings Deposit Book, Bank of Baton Rouge, March 1918-February 1922.

Savings deposit book for the accounts of Dudley Turnbull and his son, Dudley Turnbull Jr. The book was distributed by The Bank of Baton Rouge.

Savings Deposit Book, Capitol Building and Land Association, Baton Rouge, March 1927-1937.

Direct reduction installment loan book for Dudley Turnbull Jr. The book was distributed by the Capital Building and Loan Association of Baton Rouge, La.

Savings Deposit Book, Capitol Building and Land Association, Baton Rouge, February 1942- February 1948.

Installment loan bank book for Dudley Turnbull, Jr. The book was distributed by the Capital Building and Loan Association of Baton Rouge, La.

School Workbook: Juanita Turnbull, St. Mary's Academy, New Orleans, *My Workbook in Arithmetic*, Book 4, 1927. [Not digitized]

School workbook: Maudie Marie Turnbull, *A Workbook in Arithmetic*, No.2, 1933. [Not digitized]

School workbook: Juanita Turnbull, *20th Century Problems and Projects in Geography*, Book 1, May-June 1941. [Not digitized]

School workbook: Ella Mae Wilson *20th Century Problems and Projects in Geography*, Book 1, 1932. [Not digitized]

Autograph Book: Kenneth Turnbull May-June 1941.

Kenneth Turnbull's autograph book was created during his senior year at McKinley High School. The book includes messages written by Dudley Turnbull Jr. and Juanita Hebert Turnbull to their son, and notes and poems from Bruce Turnbull and friends. The

autograph book seems to have been shared with Kenneth's younger brother, Dudley Gregory Turnbull.

Autograph Book: Maudie Marie Turnbull, January 1942 - June 1943.

Autograph book belonging to Maudie Turnbull while a student at St. Mary's Academy. Includes messages and poems written by friends, teachers, and family.

Autograph Book: Maudie Marie Turnbull, September 1943-April 1944.

Autograph book belonging to Maudie Turnbull while a student at St. Mary's Academy. Includes messages and poems written by friends, teachers, and family.

Dudley Turnbull, Union Dues Book: Operative Plasterers' and Cement Masons' International Association of the U.S. and Canada, January 1948 - December 1952.

Union dues book of the Operative Plasterers and Cement Finishers' International Association of the United States and Canada, belonged to Dudley Turnbull Jr.

Dudley Turnbull, Union Dues Book: Operative Plasterers' and Cement Masons' International Association of the U.S. and Canada, January 1953 - October 1957.

Union dues book of the Operative Plasterers and Cement Finishers' International Association of the United States and Canada, belonged to Dudley Turnbull Jr. (also contains a credit-rating card for Dudley Turnbull Jr.)

Series VII. Oversize Items, 1834-1945

Two oversized charcoal portraits of 1) Warren Turnbull (circa 1887-1892) and 2) Estelle Turnbull Jones in a First Communion dress (circa 1887-1905) are present in boxes 4 and 5, respectively.

Additional oversize items include a photocopy of Thomas Giddings' will (August 24, 1834), East Baton Rouge Parish; Juanita Angela Turnbull's First Communion and Confirmation certificate (1935-1940); and Juanita Cecilia Turnbull's high school graduation diploma, St. Mary's Academy, New Orleans, from June 1945.

INDEX TERMS

Giddings, Jane.

Turnbull Family.

Turnbull, Dudley.

Turnbull, Dudley, Jr.

Turnbull, Dudley Gregory, 1925-1980.

Turnbull, Juanita Hebert, 1894-1973.

Turnbull, Rosemarie Aldometer Mather, 1851-1917.

McKinley High School (Baton Rouge, La.)—Photographs.

Saint Mary's Academy (New Orleans, La.)

Sisters of the Holy Family (New Orleans, La.)

African American Catholics—Louisiana—Baton Rouge.

African American families—Louisiana—Baton Rouge.

African American musicians--Louisiana--New Orleans.

African Americans—Louisiana—Baton Rouge.

Education—Louisiana—Baton Rouge.

Education—Louisiana—New Orleans.

Free African Americans—Louisiana—Baton Rouge.

Nuns--Louisiana--New Orleans.

Plasterers—Labor Unions—Louisiana—Baton Rouge.

Plasterers—Louisiana—Baton Rouge.

Women musicians--Louisiana--New Orleans.

Baton Rouge (La.)--History--Civil War, 1861-1865.

Bankbooks.

Ephemera.

Photographic prints.

TURNBULL (DUDLEY) AND FAMILY PAPERS

1834-1969, undated (bulk 1890-1955)

Mss. 2907**LSU LIBRARIES SPECIAL COLLECTIONS****CONTAINER LIST**

| <u>Stack Location</u> | <u>Box</u> | <u>Folder(s)</u> | <u>Contents (with dates)</u> |
|-----------------------|------------|--|---|
| | | Series I. Papers, 1863-1967, undated | |
| W:40 | 1 | 1 | Papers, 1863-1943 |
| | | 2 | Papers, 1910-1967 |
| | | 13 | Empty Envelopes, 1918-1949, undated |
| | 3 | 1 | Kenneth Turnbull's mental health papers, undated [RESTRICTED – Do Not Page] |
| | | | |
| | | Series II. Bills and Receipts, 1850-1964 | |
| | 1 | 3 | Bills and Receipts, 1850-1879 |
| | | 4 | Bills and Receipts, 1878-1900 |
| | | 5 | Bills and Receipts, 1901-1923 |
| | | 6 | Bills and Receipts, approximately 1890-1964 |
| | | | |
| | | Series III. Insurance Policies, 1912-1959 | |
| | | 7 | Insurance Policies, 1912-1930 |
| | | 8 | Insurance Policies, 1924-1959 |
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| | | Series IV. Printed Materials, 1918-1948 | |
| | | 9 | Printed Items, 1918-1948 |
| | | 10 | Newspaper clipping, circa 1931-1939 |
| | | | |
| | | Series V. Photographs, circa 1895-1969 | |
| | | 11 | Photographs, circa 1895-1949 |
| | | 12 | Photographs, circa 1910-1969 |
| | | | |
| | | Series VI. Manuscript Volumes, 1918-1957 | |
| | 2 | -- | Vol. 1: Savings Deposit Book, Bank of Baton Rouge, March 1918-February 1922 |
| | | -- | Vol. 2: Savings Deposit Book, Capitol Building and Land Association, Baton Rouge, March 1927-1937. |
| | | -- | Vol. 3: Savings Deposit Book, Capitol Building and Land Association, Baton Rouge, February 1942-February 1948 |
| | | -- | Vol. 4: School Workbook, Juanita Turnbull, St. Mary's Academy, New Orleans, <i>My Workbook in Arithmetic</i> , Book 4, 1927 |
| | | -- | Vol. 5: School workbook, Maudie Marie Turnbull, <i>A Workbook in Arithmetic</i> , No.2, 1933. |
| | | -- | Vol. 6: School workbook, Juanita Turnbull, <i>20th Century Problems and Projects in Geography</i> , Book 1, May-June 1941. |

TURNBULL (DUDLEY) AND FAMILY PAPERS**Mss. 2907**

1834-1969, undated (bulk 1890-1955)

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| <u>Stack Location</u> | <u>Box</u> | <u>Folder(s)</u> | <u>Contents (with dates)</u> |
|-----------------------|------------|--|---|
| W:40 | 2 | -- | Vol. 7: School workbook, Ella Mae Wilson, <i>20th Century Problems and Projects in Geography</i> , Book 1, 1932. |
| | | -- | Vol. 8: Autograph Book, Kenneth Turnbull, May-June 1941. |
| | | -- | Vol. 9: Autograph Book, Maudie Marie Turnbull, January 1942 - June 1943. |
| | | -- | Vol. 10: Autograph Book, Maudie Marie Turnbull, September 1943-April 1944. |
| | | -- | Vol. 11: Dudley Turnbull, Union Dues Book: Operative Plasterers' and Cement Masons' International Association of the United States and Canada, January 1948 - December 1952 |
| | | -- | Vol. 12: Dudley Turnbull, Union Dues Book: Operative Plasterers' and Cement Masons' International Association of the United States and Canada, January 1953 - October 1957. |
| | | | |
| | | Series VII. Oversize Items, 1834-1945 | |
| OS:T | 4 | -- | Charcoal Drawing: Portrait of Warren Turnbull, circa 1887-1892 |
| | 5 | -- | Charcoal Drawing: Portrait of Estelle Turnbull Jones in First Communion dress, circa 1887-1905 |
| | -- | OS 1 | Thomas Giddings' will, East Baton Rouge Parish (photocopy), August 24, 1834 |
| | | | Juanita Angela Turnbull, First Communion and Confirmation certificate, circa 1935-1940 |
| | | | Juanita Cecilia Turnbull, high school diploma, St. Mary's Academy, New Orleans, June 1945. |