

BARTH (WILLIAM) PAPERS

(Ms. 4421)

Inventory

Revised

Louisiana and Lower Mississippi Valley Collections
Special Collections, LSU Libraries
Baton Rouge, LA
2007

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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.

BARTH (WILLIAM) PAPERS
1917-1959

Mss. 4421
Special Collections, LSU Libraries

SUMMARY

Size:	2.5 linear feet
Geographic Locations:	Connecticut, Florida, Georgia, Indiana, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Massachusetts, Mississippi, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Vermont, and West Virginia.
Inclusive Dates:	1917-1959
Bulk Dates:	1917-1941
Languages:	English
Summary:	Personal and professional photographs of Mississippi and Atchafalaya River operations, professional correspondence, copies of a commendation, diplomas, and a calculating device (along with accompanying brochures and instructions).
Sources:	Donated in 1991.
Copyright:	Physical rights and copyrights are retained by the LSU Libraries.
Citation:	William Barth Papers, Mss. 4421, Louisiana and Lower Mississippi Valley Collections, LSU Libraries.
Stack location:	E:109-111

BIOGRAPHICAL/HISTORICAL NOTE

William Barth was born in New York City on December 22, 1898 to German immigrants. In 1913, he completed 8th grade at P.S. 77. Since his father died and there were five other children in the family to support, he began work as a runner for a real-estate firm around this time period.

He received his first permanent job from the Interstate Commerce Commission (ICC). During his time with this organization, he traveled from Maine to Florida while surveying railroad tracks. Barth took most of the personal photographs in this collection during his tenure with the ICC.

In 1928, he left the ICC for a position with the US Army Corps of Engineers in Natchez, Mississippi. There he worked on flood control of both the Mississippi and Atchafalaya Rivers. In fact, he was one of the people responsible for the placement of the Bonnet Carre Spillway. He also did much work in supervising the laying out of revetments on the levees in this region. Barth retired from the New Orleans office of the Corps of Engineers in 1958.

While working for the ICC and the Corps of Engineers, he continued his education. He received his high school diploma from the International Correspondence School and even earned his civil engineering degree from this institution in 1933.

Over the course of several years, Barth received various honors. During World War II, he received a commendation for meritorious civilian service since he helped control flood waters that could have damaged crops and held back war production. On May 30, 1959, William Barth was elected a member of the River Rats, a fraternal organization for river engineers generally affiliated with the Corps of Engineers. Barth died on February 17, 1982.

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SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

Personal and professional photographs covering the period 1917 to 1944, professional correspondence, copies of a commendation and diplomas, and a calculating device (along with accompanying brochures and instructions) all give insight into the business and private affairs of William Barth. The personal materials consist primarily of photographs of his friends and various locations he visited while traveling up and down the east coast during his stint working on a survey crew for the Interstate Commerce Commission (ICC) from 1917 until 1928. The professional photographs document the work being done on the Mississippi and Atchafalaya Rivers when he worked for the US Army Corps of Engineers from 1928 to 1958. The correspondence deals solely with Barth's affiliation with a fraternal organization called the Ancient and Honorable Order of River Rats. Also included are copies of his diplomas from elementary and International Correspondence schools and a commendation from the War Department for his work during World War II. Finally, the Ross Precision Computer included was used by Barth in his work as a surveyor and engineer.

SERIES DESCRIPTIONS

I. Engineering and Levee Revetment documents, ca. 1925-1959.

Subseries 1. Photographs of levee work, ca. 1928-1945.

These photographs depict various stages and types of work on the levees of the lower Mississippi River and Louisiana's Atchafalaya Basin. Most of the larger photographs (9.5x6.5 inches) involve revetment of the levees on the Mississippi River from around Natchez down to the New Orleans area. Various revetment types (including those using wood, concrete, and asphalt) appear in this series. Also depicted are the procurement of loess and sand for various construction projects on the river. The smaller photographs show levees in the Atchafalaya Basin being built; many of these include photographs of heavy machinery such as excavation towers, elevating graders, and Caterpillar tractors.

Subseries 2. River Rats material, ca. 1959.

River Rats materials consist of eleven letters and a certificate. Two letters are addressed to Barth from V.S. Hanks, the president of the River Rats. The nine other letters are photocopies, all of which contain notification of membership to the organization addressed to various men. Also included is the official seal of the "Ancient and Honorable Order of River Rats."

Subseries 3. Ross Precision Computer, ca. 1925.

The actual device and its mounting bracket are held in the collection, along with a query letter from the Computer Manufacturing Company to Barth, a brochure explaining how the machine works, and a 1925 sun-diary sent by the manufacturer.

II. Personal photographs and documents, ca. 1917-1945

Subseries 1. Personal Photographs, ca. 1917-ca. 1945.

These photographs generally depict Barth, his co-workers, and his work locations while employed by the Interstate Commerce Commission (1917-1928) and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (1928-ca. 1940)

Subseries 2. Copies of various certificates, 1913-ca. 1945.

This subseries consists of Barth's diploma from a New York City elementary school (1913), his civil engineering diploma from International Correspondence School (1933) and a commendation from the U. S. War Dept. for meritorious civilian service during World War II.

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INDEX TERMS

Terms

Civil engineering--Equipment and supplies.
Civil engineering--History.
Civil engineering--Louisiana.
Civil engineers--Louisiana.
Engineering--Societies, etc.
Flood control--Louisiana.
Levees--Atchafalaya River--Photographs.
Levees--Mississippi River--Photographs.
Revetment--Mississippi River--Photographs.
River Rats.
United States--Army--Corps of Engineers.

Series, subseries

I.1, 3
I; II
I.1; II.1, 2
I.1; II.1, 2
I.2
I.1
I.1
I.1
I.1; II.1
I.2
I.1, 2; I.1

CONTAINER LIST

<u>Stack Location</u>	<u>Box</u>	<u>Folders</u>	<u>Contents</u>
E: 109	1	1-4	Copies of commendation and diplomas, a query letter from the Computer Manufacturing Company, a brochure explaining how the Precision Computer works, a 1925 sundial sent by the manufacturer, the Seal of the Ancient and Honorable Order of River Rats, and correspondence concerning this order.
	2	1-8	The first of three groups of personal photographs formerly contained in albums ca. 1917-1918.
	3	1-5	The second of three groups of personal photographs formerly contained in albums.
E: 110	4	1-8	Photographs of levee revetment and related work on the Mississippi and Atchafalaya Rivers.
	5	1-3	Photographs of concrete, wood and asphalt revetment on the Mississippi River.
	6	--	Ross Precision Computer and mounting bracket.
E: 111	7	--	Loose personal photographs and negatives, including the third of three groups of personal photographs formerly contained in albums.
	8	--	Loose photographs of revetment and heavy levee-building machinery.
	9	--	Loose photographs of levee construction, various boats, and miscellaneous work-related images.
	10	--	Prints of miscellaneous duplicate photographs.

APPENDIX

List of People and Places - Places (Work Photographs)

Louisiana

Morgan City
Plaquemine
Tunica
Westwego
White Castle

Mississippi

Natchez

List of People and Places - People (Personal Photographs)

Margaret Barth
William Barth
Vinter C. Baylor
C. H. Bechoefer
Walter Bizzel
Guy Bonney
Tom Braswell
T. E. Bright
W. F. Brock
H. F. Buckmaster
E. Budlong
Walter C. Carey
Bessie Carroll
J. A. Dillon
Albert "Luke" F. Dohn
Elias DoRemus
Dennis W. Doyle
J. R. Early
William V. Enright
N. A. Finch
George Gerding
Hickman J. Grace
R. L. Groover
Dave Hardin
H. A. Hilton

"Ruth" J. Kelley
Benny King
J. P. Kivlen
Duval "Dick" M. Lamdin
W. F. Latham
L. H. LaVergne
C. C. Laurence
Annie Lees
J. F. Lees
Frank "Count" Leyburn
Arthur A. Madden
Mary Mason
E. J. McEvory
Buddy Molyreaux
Lucy Mulherin
"Bud" Munger
John Powell Mutchler
J. C. Myrick
William "Joe" R. Nugent
J. E. O'Donnell
W. F. "Rabbit" O'Hare
A. L. Oliver
Bob Porter
Donald F. Pruner
R. I. Price

C. H. Spencer
E. H. Spiers
George Stubble Field
William Stump
H. E. Templeton
J. C. Vorwerk
Z. B. Warrell
Hazel Woodburn
J. H. Woodford

H. H. Howland	Newt R. Quintin
Chaz L. Hudson	H. A. Rice
W. S. Hunter	D. R. Rockower
C. M. D. Keene	E. L. Salmon

List of People and Places - Places (Personal Photographs)

Connecticut

Norwich
New London
Willimantic

Florida

De Land
Doctor's Lake
Jacksonville
Kissimmee
Sanford
Saint Augustine
South Jacksonville
Tampa
West Toco

Georgia

Big Geeche
Doctortown
Folkston
Jesup
Ochlochne
Savannah

Indiana

Milan
Montpelier
Seymour

Kentucky

Covington
Louisville

Louisiana

Bayou Cocodrie
Deer Park
Vadalia

Maine

Bangor

Massachusetts

Cushman
Holyoke
Mount Tom
Palmer
Springfield
Three Rivers

Mississippi

Cole's Creek
Natchez
Vicksburg

New Jersey

Keansburg
Lake Hopatocong
Washington

New York

Albany
Barth
Binghamton
Buffalo
Cincinnati
LeRoy
Norwich
Oswego
Syracuse
Waterville
Watkin's Glen

North Carolina

Fayetteville

Ohio

Cincinnati
Lorain
Marietta
Portsmouth
Tippecanoe

Pennsylvania

Easton
Ebensburg
Scranton
Zanesville

South Carolina

Charleston
Jacksonboro
Kingstree
Ravenel
Straberry

Vermont

Barre
Burlington
Montpelier
Middlesex
Oxbow Curve
South Londandary
St. Albans
Wardsboro

West Virginia

McMechon
Moundsville
Philippi