

MINGO FAMILY AFRICAN AMERICAN PHOTOGRAPHS

Mss. 5113

Inventory

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

2013/2015

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SUMMARY

Size.	One 19 th century photograph album; Thirty-two photographic images
Geographic locations.	Louisiana; Illinois; Arkansas
Inclusive dates.	Between 1887 and about 1955
Bulk dates.	Between 1887 and about 1915
Language.	English
Summary.	The collection consists of thirty-two photographic images of unidentified African Americans, believed to be members of the Mingo family of Port Allen, La., and one empty photograph album. Includes cabinet card portraits of men, women, and children taken at unidentified studios and by photographers in Baton Rouge and Plaquemine, La., as well as real postcards and photographic prints made in Hot Springs, Arkansas; Cairo, Illinois; New Orleans, La.; and St. Cloud, Minnesota. It is possible that some of the individuals in the images are members of an African American theatrical troupe specializing in minstrel shows.
Restrictions on access.	There are no restrictions on this collection.
Related collections.	None
Copyright.	For those materials not in the public domain, copyright is retained by the descendants of the creators in accordance with U.S. Copyright law.
Citation.	Mingo Family African American Photographs, Mss. #5113, Louisiana and Lower Mississippi Valley Collections, LSU Libraries, Baton Rouge, La.
Stack locations.	65:

BIOGRAPHICAL/HISTORICAL NOTE

The images in the collection document a number of unidentified, apparently upper-middle class, African American individuals. Though the individuals pictured are not named, the collection's provenance indicates it belonged to the Mingo family of Port Allen, West Baton Rouge Parish, Louisiana, as they were acquired in Port Allen in 1991 from the estate of Mrs. Nellie M. Mingo. Because the photographs were made by local photographers and kept in an album found in Port Allen many decades after it was created, it is likely that the people pictured had a long-standing connection to the area.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The collection consists of thirty-two photographic images of unidentified African Americans, presumed to be members of the Mingo family, and one empty cabinet card album, which has the initials “A. M.” on its cover. The “M” may stand for “Mingo.” The cabinet cards and smaller photographic prints were once housed in the album. The larger photographic prints were not. Photographic studio imprints indicate the studios were in cities on the Mississippi River - Baton Rouge and New Orleans, Louisiana, and Cairo, Illinois. One other studio was located in Hot Springs, Arkansas.

The studio photographs are unidentified cabinet card portraits of African American men, women, and children created between 1887 and about 1900. From their dress it is reasonable to assume the individuals are upper-middle class. It is possible that some of the individuals in the images are members of an African American theatrical troupe specializing in minstrel shows. There are two real photo postcards, one a portrait of an African American woman sitting on steps leading to a porch, the other a group portrait taken at Happy Hollow, Hot Springs, Arkansas, between 1905 and 1915. In addition, there are three different images of the interior of a theater with the cast and musicians of a minstrel show on stage. There is a duplicate print of one of these scenes. The theater images were created between 1905 and 1915 as well.

A small set of amateur photographs documents individuals taking part in an unidentified ceremony near an unidentified church. These images were created between 1945 and 1955. One later group portrait of seven unidentified men was created in New Orleans between 1945 and 1955.

There are six identified photographer’s studios, listed below:

A. D. Lytle, Photographer, Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

Adams & Simon, New Orleans, Louisiana

Arlington Studio, Happy Hollow, Hot Springs, Arkansas

Dambly Bros. St. Cloud, Minnesota, and Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

Porter's News Photos, New Orleans, Louisiana.

Stevenson Studio, Cairo, Illinois.

LIST OF SERIES

- Series I. Cabinet cards, between 1887 and 1895**
- Series II. Other mounted prints, between 1895 and 1905**
- Series III. Real photo postcards, between 1905 and 1915**
- Series IV. Cairo (Illinois) theater, gelatin silver prints, between 1905 and 1915**
- Series V. Other mounted prints, between 1895 and 1905**
- Series VI. Snapshots, between 1945 and 1955**
- Series VII. New Orleans (Louisiana) News Photo, between 1945 and 1955**
- Series VIII. Victorian-era photograph album, between 1890 and 1900**

SERIES DESCRIPTIONS

Series I.	Cabinet cards	
Item #	Description	Studio/Date
511301	Portrait of an unidentified African American man	A. D. Lytle, Photographer, Baton Rouge, La., 1887
511302	Portrait of an unidentified African American man	A. D. Lytle, Photographer, Baton Rouge, La., 1888
511303	Portrait of an unidentified African American woman	A. D. Lytle, Photographer, Baton Rouge, La., 1889
511304	Portrait of an unidentified African American woman	A. D. Lytle, Photographer, Baton Rouge, La., 1890
511305	Portrait of an unidentified African American woman	A. D. Lytle, Photographer, Baton Rouge, La., 1891
511306	Portrait of an unidentified African American woman	A. D. Lytle, Artist, Baton Rouge, La., between 1890 and 1899
511307	Portrait of an unidentified African American woman	Lytle, Photo. Baton Rouge, La., between 1890 and 1899
511308	Portrait of an unidentified African American woman	Dambly Bros. St. Cloud, Minn. And Baton Rouge, La., between 1890 and 1899
511309	Portrait of an unidentified African American woman	Dambly Bros. Dambly Art Gallery, 72 Third Street, Baton Rouge, Louisiana, between 1890 and 1899
511310	Portrait of an unidentified African American woman	Dambly Bros., Photographers. 72 Third Street, Baton Rouge and Plaquemine, Louisiana. between 1890 and 1899
511311	Portrait of an unidentified African American woman	Unknown. between 1890 and 1899
511312	Portrait of an unidentified African American woman	Unknown, between 1890 and 1899
511313	Portrait of an unidentified African American woman	Unknown, between 1890 and 1899
511314	Portrait of an unidentified African American man	Unknown, between 1890 and 1899
511315	Portrait of an unidentified African American man	Unknown, between 1890 and 1899
511316	Portrait of an unidentified African American girl child	Unknown, between 1890 and 1899
511317	Portrait of an unidentified African American girl child	Unknown, between 1890 and 1899
511318	Portrait of an unidentified African American boy child	Unknown, between 1890 and 1899

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Circa 1887 – 1955

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511319	Portrait of an unidentified African American boy child	Unknown, between 1890 and 1899
511320	Portrait of an unidentified African American man	Adams & Simon, Canal Street, New Orleans, Louisiana, between 1890 and 1899
Series II. Other mounted prints		
Item #	Description	Studio/Date
511321	Portrait of an unidentified African American man	Unknown, between 1890 and 1899
511322	Portrait of three unidentified African American women	Unknown, between 1890 and 1899
Series III. Real photo postcards		
511323	Portrait of an unidentified African American woman with puppies	Unknown, between 1900 and 1910
511324	Group portrait of six unidentified African American women and men	Arlington Studio, Happy Hollow, Hot Springs, Arkansas, between 1905 and 1915
Series IV. Cairo, Illinois theater, gelatin silver prints		
511325	Minstrel show cast and musicians on a stage	Stevenson Studio, Cairo, IL., between 1905 and 1915
511326	Minstrel show cast and musicians on a stage, a second view	Stevenson Studio, Cairo, IL., between 1905 and 1915
511327	Minstrel show cast on a stage with the band in the orchestra pit	Unknown (similar to previous images; could be Stevenson Studio, Cairo, IL.), between 1905 and 1915
Series V. Photographs		
511328	Informal portrait of two unidentified African American women	Unknown, between 1945 and 1955
511329	Portrait of an unidentified African American woman	Unknown, between 1945 and 1955
511330	Group portrait of unidentified African Americans	Unknown, between 1945 and 1955
511331	Group portrait of unidentified African Americans.	Unknown, between 1945 and 1955

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SPECIAL COLLECTIONS, LSU LIBRARIES

Series VI. New Orleans, Louisiana News Photo

511332 Group portrait of seven Porter's News Photos, 2027 Dryades Street, New
unidentified African Orleans, LA., between 1945 and 1955
American men

**Series Victorian-era photograph album
VII.**

511333 Cabinet card photograph Between 1890 and 1900
album

INDEX TERMS

Lytle Studio (Baton Rouge, La.)	I
Adams & Simon (Studio: New Orleans, La.)	I
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Dambly Bros. (Studio: St. Cloud, Minn.)	I
Dambly Bros. (Studio: Baton Rouge, La.)	I
Minstrel shows--Illinois--Cairo--Photographs.	IV
Porter's News Photos (New Orleans, La.)	VII
Stevenson Studio (Cairo, Ill.)	IV
Mingo family	I-VII

CONTAINER LIST

Stack			
<u>Location</u>	<u>Box</u>	<u>Folders</u>	<u>Contents with dates</u>
65	1	Series I. Cabinet cards, between 1887 and 1895	
		1	Items 511301 to 511310
		2	Items 511311-511320
		3	Series II. Other mounted prints, between 1895 and 1905
		4	Series III. Real photo postcards, between 1905 and 1915
		5	Series IV. Cairo (Illinois) theater, gelatin silver prints, between 1905 and 1915
		6	Series V. Photographs, between 1945 and 1955
		7	Series VI. New Orleans (Louisiana) News Photo, between 1945 and 1955
	2	8	Series VII. Victorian-era photograph album, between 1890 and 1900