

GASSIE FAMILY PAPERS

Mss. 5205

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

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SUMMARY

Size	0.6 linear feet, 1 OS folder
Geographic Locations	Brusly, La.; Baton Rouge, La.
Inclusive Dates	1850-1959, undated
Languages	English and French
Summary	The Gassie Family Papers consist primarily of correspondence, legal documents, writings, and printed material created by the Emile P. Gassie family and related families of Brusly, Louisiana.
Access Restrictions	None.
Reproduction Note	May be reproduced
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.
Related Collections	Auguste Gassie Account Book, Mss. 478, Louisiana and Lower Mississippi Valley Collections, LSU Libraries Special Collections, Baton Rouge, La.
Citation	Gassie Family Papers, Mss. 5205, Louisiana and Lower Mississippi Valley Collections, LSU Libraries Special Collections, Baton Rouge, La.
Stack Location(s)	V:104, OS:G

BIOGRAPHICAL/HISTORICAL NOTE

The Gassie (Gassies) family arrived in New Orleans from France in the early nineteenth century and eventually settled in Brusly, Louisiana, in West Baton Rouge Parish.

Emile Pierre Gassie, Sr. was born in 1840, the third of nine children born to the planter William Pierre Gassie and his wife Marie Elmire Marson. He served in Company A of the 1st Louisiana Cavalry Regiment for two years during the Civil War and, after the war, managed several different plantations in Iberville and West Baton Rouge Parish. He purchased what became known as New Prosperity Plantation around 1875. During this time, he also dabbled in the mercantile business and eventually became a successful planter and merchant in Brusly.

Emile married Marie Zulmee LaBauve in 1864, and they had two children: Emile Pierre, Jr., and Lucia (Frechou). Zulmee died in 1870, and Emile married her cousin, Josephine Marie LaBauve, the following year. He and Josephine went on to have at least seven children: Henry Joseph, Marie Emilda (Levert), Iberia (Hollins), Josephine Augusta (Pardue), Auguste Joseph, Blanche (Poirier), and Bertha (McDonald). In 1889, Emile Gassie was appointed a member of the police jury for West Baton Rouge Parish. He passed away in 1914 and is buried at the St. John the Baptist Catholic Church cemetery in Brusly.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The Gassie Family Papers contain correspondence, legal documents, financial records, poetry, writings, printed and graphic items, certificates, and honors. The materials were primarily collected or created by Emile Gassie, his wife Josephine, and their children, Henry Joseph and Iberia. However, other immediate family members, as well as the related LaBauve, Hebert, and Landry families of West Baton Rouge Parish, are also represented in the collection.

Correspondence comprises the bulk of the material and consists of letters among Gassie family members in French and English. The correspondence covers topics such as illnesses, travel, and local news, and gives insight into the everyday lives of the Gassies and their related families. Frequent correspondents include Josephine LaBauve Gassie, Emile Gassie, Sr., and Iberia Gassie Hollins. Early communications mostly pertain to the LaBauve family, including letters written between Josephine and her sisters and cousins. Five folders of love letters and poetry written to Iberia from prospective suitors are among the correspondence (box 1, folders 11-15), as are letters to Josephine from family and friends expressing sympathy for Emile's death (box 2, folder 2). A dispatch from Charleston, South Carolina, detailing the events surrounding an earthquake on August 31, 1886 (box 1, folder 9) and Henry's letter to his mother from Paris at the end of World War I (box 2, folder 1) are also present among the correspondence.

Among the legal documents is a notarized sales contract for land in Iberville Parish for Josephine's brother, Adolphe LaBauve, and her sister and brother-in-law, Elisa and Deozor (also referred to as "Deozar") Landry (box 2, folder 6). An oversized ledger page from the account of Deozor Landry shows financial transactions from 1870 (OS folder 1). A document from 1889 showing that Emile Gassie, Sr. gave a parcel of land to build a public school in West Baton Rouge Parish appears in folder 6 of box 2.

Writings and poems in French and English by Henry Joseph Gassie and others are housed in folders 7 and 8 of box 2. Printed and graphic material consists of a program from Henry Joseph's graduation from Louisiana State University, several small booklets, undated newspaper clippings, and various bits of ephemera (box 2, folders 9 & 10). A teaching certificate for Adolphe LaBauve and a United Daughters of the Confederacy Southern Cross of Honor pin for Emile Gassie are also included in the collection (box 2, folder 11).

INDEX TERMS

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

Gassie (Family: West Baton Rouge Parish, La.)
Gassie, Emile Pierre, 1840-1914.
Gassie, Henry Joseph, 1873-1936.
Gassie, Josephine Marie LaBauve, 1841-1935.
Hollins, Iberia Gassie, 1875-1963.
Hebert (Family: West Baton Rouge Parish, La.)
LaBauve (Family: West Baton Rouge Parish, La.)
Landry (Family: West Baton Rouge Parish, La.)
Brusly (La.)
West Baton Rouge Parish (La.)
Legal documents.
Letters (correspondence)
Poetry.

CONTAINER LIST

<u>Stack</u> <u>Location</u>	<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Contents (with dates)</u>
V:104	1	1-5	Correspondence, 1850-1869
		6-7	Correspondence, 1870-1880
		8-11	Correspondence 1881-1896
		12-14	Correspondence, April 1899-March 1901
		15	Correspondence, April 1901-May 1908
	2	1-2	Correspondence, 1910-1918
		3	Correspondence, circa 1950-1959
		4-5	Correspondence, undated
		6	Financial records and legal documents, 1853-1959
OS:G	--	OS 1	Oversize financial records, 1870
V:104	2	7-8	Poetry, writings, and notes, 1880-1946, undated
		9-10	Printed and graphic material, 1873-circa 1935, undated
		11	Certificates and honors, 1880 and undated