

ALEXANDER PIERRE (A. P.) TUREAUD, JR. AND FAMILY PAPERS
Mss. 5401
Inventory

Compiled by
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Louisiana and Lower Mississippi Valley Collections
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Baton Rouge, Louisiana State University

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CONTENTS OF INVENTORY

CONTENTS OF INVENTORY	2
SUMMARY	3
BIOGRAPHICAL/HISTORICAL NOTE	4
SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE	5
LIST OF SERIES, AND SUBSERIES	6
SERIES DESCRIPTIONS	7
INDEX TERMS.....	10
CONTAINER LIST	11

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SUMMARY

Size	4.5 linear feet, 2 vols., 3 OS folders
Geographic Locations	New Orleans, La., Baton Rouge, La.
Inclusive Dates	1900-2023, undated
Bulk Dates	1953–2023
Languages	English
Summary	Papers related to Alexander Pierre Tureaud, Jr., first Black undergraduate to attend LSU. Papers include correspondence, the Tureaud family history, photographs, articles, and materials concerning his father, Alexander Pierre Tureaud, Sr., a prominent civil rights lawyer.
Access Restrictions	None
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Related Collections	A. P. Tureaud Collection, Mss. 5222, Louisiana and Lower Mississippi Valley Collections, LSU Libraries Special Collections, Baton Rouge, La.
Citation	Alexander Pierre Tureaud, Jr. and Family Papers, Mss. 5401, Louisiana and Lower Mississippi Valley Collections, LSU Libraries Special Collections, Baton Rouge, La.
Stack Location(s)	17:2-4, OS:T, 104-105:, AA:

BIOGRAPHICAL/HISTORICAL NOTE

In 1953, Alexander Pierre Tureaud, Jr. became the first Black undergraduate student to attend Louisiana State University. Tureaud, Jr.'s application was initially rejected by LSU, however, with the help of his father, Alexander Pierre Tureaud, Sr., a noted civil rights lawyer from New Orleans, he was able to file a petition against the LSU Board of Supervisors and gain admission. The Board of Supervisors at the time were led by notorious segregationist lawyer Leander Perez. After an unpleasant experience coupled with an injunction from the court, Tureaud, Jr. left LSU for Xavier University of New Orleans after 55 days.

Tureaud, Jr. was born in 1936, to Alexander Pierre (A. P.) Tureaud, Sr. and Lucille Dejoie Tureaud. He grew up one of six children at 3121 Pauger Street in New Orleans' 7th Ward, now a historic landmark. Tureaud Jr.'s childhood was a lively one in their Creole neighborhood and his family entertained a diverse group of guests in their home from various walks of life, including famous civil rights lawyer and first African American Supreme Court Justice, Thurgood Marshall. Throughout his early years, Tureaud, Jr. and his family traveled all over the United States with their father, getting exposed to diverse places and experiences that would shape his curiosity and intrepidity. Tureaud, Jr. attended Valena C. Jones Elementary in New Orleans and graduated from Joseph S. Clark High School in 1953. After his short stint at LSU, he enrolled at Xavier University of New Orleans where he was president of the sophomore, junior, and senior classes and graduated in 1957 with a B.A. in Education. He then went on to earn a master's degree in Vocational Rehabilitation and Counseling from Columbia University in 1958.

Tureaud, Jr. taught in New Orleans and Washington, D.C. before settling in White Plains, NY in 1960. There, he became a special education teacher and one of the first Black educators in the area. He became Assistant Director of Pupil Services in 1968, and ten years later became the Director of Special Education for White Plains Public Schools, a position he held for 18 years until his retirement in 1996. During this time he also taught at various universities as an adjunct and traveled throughout the United States and Europe on sabbatical studying different education systems.

Tureaud, Jr. did not return to LSU until the 1980s, after which he finally began to speak about his experience integrating the university and has since helped charter the university's first Black Alumni Association, the A.P. Tureaud, Sr. Chapter. He received an honorary doctorate from LSU in 2011 and continues to shepherd his father's legacy of equality and tolerance through various endeavors such as his work with Dr. Rachel L. Emanuel on his father's biography, *A More Noble Cause*. Tureaud, Jr. is a frequent lecturer on civil rights and education topics.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The Alexander Pierre Tureaud, Jr. and Family Papers contain records documenting the life of Tureaud, Jr. and the history of the Tureaud family. Papers emphasize Tureaud, Jr.'s experience as the first Black undergraduate at LSU and on his father's legacy. Materials pertaining to Tureaud, Jr. include correspondence, photographs, articles, newspapers, memorabilia, and biographical materials such as scrapbooks, personal narratives, oral histories, diplomas, and honors. Records pertaining to the Tureaud family's history and genealogical origins are also present. Materials pertaining to Tureaud, Sr. include articles, an oral history transcript, and records that document the preserving of his legacy, such as honors, designations, and the A.P. Tureaud, Sr. Chapter of the LSU Alumni Association.

Also in these papers are materials from Dr. Rachel L. Emanuel's work about Tureaud, Sr., such as her master's thesis, the documentary film *Journey for Justice*, and the book co-authored with Tureaud, Jr., *A More Noble Cause*.

LIST OF SERIES, AND SUBSERIES

Series I. Correspondence, 1985–2023, undated

Series II. Photographs, circa 1900–2023, undated

Series III. Biographical and Genealogical Materials, 1921–2023, undated

Subseries 1. A. P. Tureaud, Jr. Biographical Materials, 1953–2023, undated

Subseries 2. Family History, 1921–2023, undated

Series IV. Alexander Pierre (A. P.) Tureaud, Sr. Materials, 1949–2023, undated

Subseries 1. Biographical and Legacy Materials, 1949–2020, undated

Subseries 2. *A More Noble Cause* Book Materials, 1998–2023, undated

Subseries 3. A. P. Tureaud, Sr. Black Alumni Chapter Records, 1988–2020, undated

Series V. Printed Materials, 1953–2023, undated

Series VI. Memorabilia, 1936–2023, undated

SERIES DESCRIPTIONS

Series I. Correspondence, 1985–2023, undated

This series consists of general, family, and professional correspondence. General correspondence includes letters and emails congratulating A.P. Tureaud, Jr. on articles about him and his father; commending him for returning to LSU and his honorary degree inviting him to speak at events about his experience integrating LSU as well as his experience as an educator.

Family correspondence relates to general updates from family members such as travel, graduations, and weddings.

Professional correspondence topics cover his role in special education, including workshops and thank-you letters for his involvement in events, fundraising, and training.

Series II. Photographs, circa 1900–2023, undated

This series is comprised of photographs of Tureaud, Jr. and his family. Photographs of just Tureaud, Jr. include baby photos, photos of him in high school, portraits, and photos of him in front of the Bagatelle plantation, the Tureaud ancestral home. Tureaud family and friends photographs show Tureaud, Jr. and other family members and friends at various events together, showcase milestones such as graduations, and also contain portraits of Tureaud ancestors. Photographs of Tureaud, Jr. at events show him and his father at a 1958 Teachers Association conference in Louisiana, him at a documentary screening for *Journey for Justice*, and him with the A.P. Tureaud, Sr. Black Alumni Chapter at LSU.

Series III. Biographical and Genealogical Materials, 1921–2023, undated

Biographical and genealogical materials cover A.P. Tureaud, Jr. as well as Tureaud family history.

Subseries 1. A. P. Tureaud, Jr. Biographical Materials, 1953–2023, undated

This subseries focuses on A.P. Tureaud, Jr. and contains his curriculum vitae and biography; diplomas from Joseph S. Clark High School, Xavier University of New Orleans, Columbia University, and LSU; two scrapbooks made by Tureaud, Jr., including one documenting his time at LSU; articles about Tureaud, Jr.; and materials relating to Encampment for Citizenship.

Honors and certificates from Mayor Melvin “Kip” Holden name Tureaud, Jr. Honorary Mayor-President of Baton Rouge and May 19th as A.P. Tureaud, Jr. Day, while one from Senator Mary Landrieu recognizes his work advancing civil rights. Another from Governor John Bell Edwards recognizes his role as the first African American undergraduate at LSU. Others are for his work in special education and his induction into the Louisiana Justice Hall of Fame.

This subseries also has the full oral history transcript done for the Historic New Orleans Collection, excerpts from an oral history for the Teaching American History in Louisiana Grant Program, and personal narratives by Tureaud, Jr. The preface and notes for the play “Emmett, Down in My Heart” by Clare Coss that contains a reference to Tureaud, Jr. and a StoryCorps interview on CD that aired on NPR’s Morning Edition in 2011 are also present.

Subseries 2. Family History, 1921–2023, undated

This subseries concerns Tureaud family history and contains an excerpt from *Creole Families of New Orleans* by Grace King detailing information about the Tureaud family; a family tree; materials on Tureaud, Jr.’s mother, Lucille Dejoie Tureaud; obituaries for other Tureaud family members; *The Tureaud Legacy* by Ingrid R. Stanley; and a condensed version of the article “Reconstruction Warrior: Adolphe Tureaud and His Fight for Equality in the Louisiana Legislature, 1868–1874.” Also included are materials concerning the Tureaud family’s donation to the Historic New Orleans Collection.

Series IV. Alexander Pierre (A. P.) Tureaud, Sr. Materials, 1949–2023, undated

This series contains materials pertaining to Tureaud, Jr.’s father and civil rights lawyer, Alexander Pierre (A.P.) Tureaud, Sr.

Subseries 1. Biographical and Legacy Materials, 1949–2020, undated

Legacy materials include articles about Tureaud, Sr.; a transcript of a 1968 oral history from the University of New Orleans; the draft and typescript of Rachel Emanuel’s Master’s thesis, “A Louisiana black weekly’s coverage of Alexander Pierre Tureaud, Sr., 1950–1953;” materials related to Rachel Emanuel’s documentary film *Journey for Justice*; and the chapters regarding Tureaud, Sr., in *The Second Battle of New Orleans: The Hundred-Year Struggle to Integrate* by Liva Baker.

This subseries also contains materials associated with the naming and dedication of landmarks to the legacy of Tureaud, Sr. such as Tureaud Hall at LSU, the A.P. Tureaud Elementary School, the A.P. Tureaud Civil Rights Memorial Park in New Orleans, the A.P. Tureaud American Inn of Court, and the Tureaud residence in New Orleans. Also included are documents pertaining to the unveiling of Tureaud, Sr.’s portrait at the Louisiana Supreme Court and the A.P. Tureaud, Sr. Legacy Committee founded in Washington D.C.

Subseries 2. *A More Noble Cause* Book Materials, 1998–2023, undated

This subseries is comprised of materials related to the book *A More Noble Cause: A.P. Tureaud and the Struggle for Civil Rights in Louisiana* co-authored by Rachel Emanuel

and Tureaud, Jr. such as correspondence, publishing agreements, reviews and articles, drafts and proofs, royalty statements, events, and publicity.

Subseries 3. A. P. Tureaud, Sr. Black Alumni Chapter Records, 1988–2020, undated

A. P. Tureaud, Sr. Black Alumni Chapter Records concern LSU's first Black alumni association and contain correspondence; organizational records such as bylaws, meeting minutes, member lists, and nominations; materials related to reunions and sponsored events; and articles highlighting the chapter. Publications include several issues of *Alumni Triumphs*, the official newsletter of the chapter, and *LSU Today*.

Also included are materials related to Justice Bernette Johnson, who became the first African American Chief Justice of the Louisiana Supreme Court in 2013.

Series V. Printed Materials, 1953–2023, undated

This series contains printed materials such as the 1984 "Etches of Ebony" Louisiana calendar, and various flyers, pamphlets, and brochures for events. Books include a signed copy of *African Americans in New Orleans (Images of America)* by authors Turry Flucker and Phoenix Savage, *Family Legacies* by the Louisiana Creole Research Association, Inc., LSU's *College of Art + Design - Commencement 2018*, and *This Louisiana Thing that Drives Me: The Legacy of Ernest Gaines*. Newspapers regarding Tureaud, Jr. show coverage of the Tureauds' case against LSU in 1953 as well as more recent articles on his reflections on integration and legacy. Newspapers regarding Tureaud, Sr. show coverage of the 1956 Louisiana Gridiron Show put on by Capital Correspondents Association in which politicians mocked Tureaud, Sr. in blackface as well as more recent coverage of the naming of Tureaud Hall at LSU.

Of special note are three court record books in box 2, folder 15 on the case of *Alexander P. Tureaud, Jr., a Minor, by Alexander P. Tureaud, Sr., his father and friend, Versus Board of Supervisors of Louisiana State University and Agricultural and Mechanical College, Et Al.*

Series VI. Memorabilia, 1936–2023, undated

This series includes various memorabilia collected by Tureaud, Jr. such as his LSU commencement stole and hood, commemorative Tureaud, Sr. pins, awards and plaques, and his baby shoes.

INDEX TERMS

Materials relating to these people, places, and things can be found in the series indicated, as represented by their numbers.

Articles.	I, III, IV, V
Awards.	III, IV, VI
African Americans--Civil Rights--Louisiana--Baton Rouge.	I, II, III, IV, V, VI
African Americans--Education (Higher)--Louisiana--Baton Rouge.	I, II, III, IV, V, VI
College integration--Louisiana--Baton Rouge.	I, II, III, IV, V, VI
Commemorative plaques.	VI
Correspondence.	I, III, IV
Louisiana State University and Agricultural and Mechanical College--Students.	I, II, III, IV, V, VI
LSU Black Alumni Association.	IV
Newspaper clippings.	I, III, IV, V
Scrapbooks.	III
Segregation in higher education--Louisiana--Baton Rouge.	I, III, IV, V, VI
Special education teachers--New York (State)--White Plains.	I, II,
Tureaud, Alexander P., 1936-	I, II, III, V, VI
Tureaud, Alexander Pierre, 1899-1972	III, IV, V
Tureaud (Family : New Orleans, La.)	III

CONTAINER LIST

<u>Stack Location</u>	<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Contents (with dates)</u>
Series I. Correspondence, 1985–2023, undated			
17:2	1	1-9	General correspondence, 1985–2023, undated
		10	Family correspondence, 1989–2019, undated
		11	Professional correspondence, 1990–1995
Series II. Photographs, circa 1900–2023, undated			
	3	1	A. P. Tureaud, Jr. 1936–2023, undated
		2	Tureaud family and friends 1946–2015
		3-4	Tureaud family and friends, circa 1900–circa 2020
		5	A. P. Tureaud, Jr. at events, 1958–2004, undated
Series III. Biographical and Genealogical Materials, 1921–2023, undated			
Subseries 1. A. P. Tureaud, Jr. Biographical Materials, 1953–2023, undated			
	4	--	High school and college diplomas, 1953–2011
17:3	--	Vol. 1	Scrapbook re: LSU experience, undated
	--	Vol. 2	Scrapbook, undated [unbound, folders 1-6]
17:2	1	12-13	Articles, 1953–2023
		14	Encampment for Citizenship experience, 1957–2023
		15	Curriculum vitae and biography, circa 1990–2017, undated
17:4	2	20	Honors and certificates, 1992–2023
17:2	1	16	Honors and certificates, 2008–2012
		17	Oral history transcript excerpts, Teaching American History in Louisiana Grant Program, 2002
		18	Personal narratives, 2007–2011
AA:	Disc 1	--	StoryCorps interview on cd, 2011
17:2	1	19	Preface and notes for the play, “Emmett, Down in My Heart” by Clare Coss (w/reference to A. P. Tureaud, Jr.), 2012–2019
		20	Oral history transcript, Historic New Orleans Collection, 2013
Subseries 2. Family History, 1921–2023, undated			
		21	Ancestry information, 1921–2023, undated
		22	Lucille Dejoie Tureaud materials, 1929–2002
		23	Tureaud family materials, 1939–2015, undated
		24	Tureaud family donation to Historic New Orleans Collection, 2007

<u>Stack Location</u>	<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Contents (with dates)</u>
17:2	1	25	<i>The Tureaud Legacy: The Family Tree of Henry L. Tureaud</i> by Ingrid R. Stanley, 2008–2023
		26	Typescript on Adolphe Tureaud and the Louisiana Legislature by Kevin G. Portz, 2022
Series IV. A. P. Tureaud, Sr. Materials, 1949–2023, undated			
		Subseries 1. Biographical and Legacy Materials, 1949–2020, undated	
		27	Articles, 1949–2014
		28	“A.P. Tureaud, Sr. as Interviewed by Dr. Joseph Logsdon,” University of New Orleans, oral history transcript, 1968–2023
		29-33	A.P. Tureaud, Sr. oral history transcript, University of New Orleans, circa 1968–1971
		34-37	Master’s Thesis by Rachel Emanuel-Wallace, 1989–1990
		38-39	<i>Journey for Justice</i> documentary film by Rachel Emanuel, 1991–2012
		40-41	Chapters re: A. P. Tureaud, Sr. from <i>The Second Battle of New Orleans: The Hundred-Year Struggle to Integrate</i> by Liva Baker
		42	Alexander Pierre Tureaud, Sr. Hall, Louisiana State University, 1989–1990
		43	A. P. Tureaud, Sr. Elementary School and Civil Rights Memorial Park, New Orleans, 1994–1997
		44	A. P. Tureaud, Sr. American Inn of Court, 2005
		45	Tureaud residence as historic landmark, New Orleans, 2012–2018
		46	A. P. Tureaud, Sr. portrait, Louisiana State Supreme Court, 2014
		47-49	A. P. Tureaud, Sr. Legacy Committee records, 2009–2020, undated
104-105:	--	OS 3	AP Tureaud, Sr. biographical display on tri-fold presentation board, undated
		Subseries 2. <i>A More Noble Cause</i> Book Materials, 1998–2023, undated	
17:2	1	50	Correspondence, 1998–2011
		51	Publishing agreements, 1998–1999
		52-53	Reviews and articles, 2004–2013
		54-57	Manuscript drafts and notes, 2009 and undated
		58-59	Master first page proofs, 2011

<u>Stack Location</u>	<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Contents (with dates)</u>
17:4	2	1	Royalty statements and delivery invoices, 2011–2023
		2	Book event itineraries/notes, 2011–2014
		3-5	Book events and publicity, 2011–2015, undated
		Subseries 3. A. P. Tureaud, Sr. Black Alumni Chapter Records, 1988–2020, undated	
		6	Correspondence, 1988–2015
		7-8	Organizational records, 1988–2017, undated
		9-11	Reunions and sponsored events, 1988–2020
		12	Articles and publications, 1988–2018
		13-14	Chief Justice Bernette Joshua Johnson materials, 2010–2013
	Series V. Printed Materials, 1953–2023, undated		
		15	Tureaud court case publications, 1953–1955
17:3	6	--	Roll of printouts from Lexis Nexis re: <i>Tureaud v. Board of Supervisors of Louisiana State University and Agricultural & Mechanical College et al.</i> , circa 1953
17:4	2	16-19	Miscellaneous printed items, 1953–2023, undated
OS:T	--	OS 1	A.P. Tureaud, Jr. newspapers, 1953–2020
	--	OS 2	A.P. Tureaud, Sr. newspapers, 1956–2004
17:2	5	--	Books, 2010–2020
	Series VI. Memorabilia, 1936–2023, undated		
17:3	6	--	Baby shoes, 1936
		--	LSU commencement stole and hood and other memorabilia, circa 1953–2023
17:4	7	--	Awards, 2004–2022
17:3	8	--	Plaques, 1990–2023, undated