

**GRAS-LAUZIN FAMILY PAPERS**

Mss. 5, 893

Inventory

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

Reformatted by

Lynn Paul

2008

Revised by Tara Laver

2012

Updated 2021

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## SUMMARY

<b>Size</b>	1 linear ft.
<b>Geographic Locations</b>	Baton Rouge, Louisiana; Natchez, Mississippi
<b>Inclusive Dates</b>	1783-1917
<b>Bulk Dates</b>	1783-1866
<b>Languages</b>	English, French, Spanish
<b>Summary</b>	Don Antonio Gras was an early settler, merchant, and shipper of Baton Rouge and Natchez, Mississippi. Others in the family included Lewis Valentin Foelekel and Dr. Jean Lauzin. Papers include financial records of Antonio Gras and Lewis Foelekel; a thesis of Dr. Jean Lauzin (Paris, 1832); and personal letters from friends of the Lauzin family who lived in France. Collection also includes Civil War letters from Francis F. Palms and Frank Babin, Confederate soldiers, and others to Henrietta Lauzin. Some items in the collection are in French and Spanish.
<b>Access Restrictions</b>	None.
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<b>Citation</b>	Gras-Lauzin Family Papers, Mss. 5, 893, Louisiana and Lower Mississippi Valley Collections, LSU Libraries, Baton Rouge, La.
<b>Stack Location(s)</b>	U:267

Civil War-era letters and papers have been digitized and are available in the Louisiana Digital Library:

<http://louisianadigitallibrary.org/islandora/object/lsu-sc-p16313coll8:collection>

**BIOGRAPHICAL/HISTORICAL NOTE**

Don Antonio Gras (died 1811), a native of Majorca, Spain, settled in Baton Rouge in the late 1700s. He was a merchant, shipper, philanthropist, and surveyor. In addition, he amassed significant landholdings in and around Baton Rouge. In 1793 Gras married Genevieve Delatte (or Dulat) of St. John the Baptist Parish. Their marriage was the first recorded at Baton Rouge's St. Joseph Catholic Church. Gras had donated the land on which the church was built.

Together Antonio Gras and Genevieve Delatte had nine children:

Rosalie Gras (died 1816, married U.S. Army Captain Louis Valentin Foelekl in 1808)

Pauline Gras (1796-1822, married James Neilson, Joseph Sharp, Jr., and Louis Sheppers)

Antonio Joseph Gras (1796-1816, married Miss Molaison)

Joseph Martin Gras (1799-1871, married Clemence Arthemise Broussard 1822)

John Louis Gras (1797-1843)

Marie Gras (born 1800)

Maria Genevieve Gras (1802-1828, married Peter Dubayle)

Marie Leocadie Gras (1804-1892, married Charles Godfred Teetzman and William Joseph Walters)

Alexandrine Olympia Gras (born 1801, married Louis Sheppers in 1823, widower of her sister Pauline)

Marie Leocadie Gras (who went by "Leocadie") and Charles Teetzman had one daughter, Leocadie (1821-1904). She married Jean Lauzin, a doctor and native of France, on October 14, 1841. They had two children: Henrietta Bernadine Lauzin (born in Pointe Coupee Parish ca. 1842) and Leopold Jean Lauzin (circa 1846-863). By 1860, Dr. Jean Lauzin had died, and Leocadie Lauzin, her two children, her mother Leocadie Gras Teetzman Walters, and three of her children from her second marriage (Fanny, William and Margaret Walters) were living in Baton Rouge.

Henrietta Bernadine Lauzin (1842-1929, called "Bridget") married John William Amiss on August 5, 1867, in Baton Rouge. A native of New Market, Virginia, he entered service in the Confederate Army as a captain in the 50<sup>th</sup> Virginia Infantry, eventually became captain of Floyd's Brigade then Chief Engineer before being transferred to General Nathan Bedford Forrest's service on the Mississippi. Leopold Lauzin also fought in the Civil War; he died at Donaldsonville, Louisiana, on July 13, 1863.

Henrietta Lauzin's Civil War correspondence forms a large portion of the collection. Her correspondents include Amelia Faulkner of Faulkland Plantation, Louisiana, Francis Palms, and Frank Babin. Francis Palms (1837-1904) enlisted as a private in the Confederate Army on May 23, 1861, at Camp Moore, Louisiana. He was assigned to Co. F of the Delta Rifles, which was part of the 4th Louisiana Infantry. Following the war, he returned to his birthplace of Detroit, Michigan, where he helped to manage his father's many interests. Frank Babin enlisted as a private in the Confederate Army and was assigned to Company I, which was a part of the 2nd Louisiana Cavalry. At one point in their correspondence, he asks Henrietta to marry him.

## SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

Papers and business records (some in French and Spanish) of the Gras and Lauzin families of Baton Rouge. The earliest receipts, bills, surveys, and similar papers are relative to the business of Antonia Gras, a merchant and shipper of Baton Rouge and Natchez, who died in 1811. Promissory notes and receipts for the sale of horses, oxen, and cows appear among this group. There is also a receipt for board and lodging issued to Gras in 1809 by an innkeeper at Manchac, who took a part of his pay in merchandise. A group of receipts for medical services rendered are those of Michael Mahier, a Baton Rouge physician.

Following the death of Gras, Lewis Valentin Foelekel becomes the central figure of the collection until his death about 1817. Documents pertaining to him include a receipt for \$2, 500 from John J. Pemberton, District Paymaster of the United States Army, for pay and sustenance, statement of taxes from Philemon Thomas, collector, 1816; and a bill rendered by Dr. Maillard for professional services.

Beginning with the thesis of Dr. Jean Lauzin, *Propositions General sur Quelques Points de Doctrine Medicale* (Paris, 1832), the material is concerned largely with the Lauzin family. In this group is a series of personal letters from friends of the Lauzin family who lived in France.

Approximately 70 letters of the Civil War period written to Miss Henrietta Lauzin (born 1842) of West Baton Rouge, principally from her friend Amelia Faulkner of Faulkland Plantation in Louisiana, and Confederate soldiers Francis F. Palms and Frank Babin are also found. Topics include the young ladies' favoring soldiers over those who did not join the army and their contributions to the war effort, the courtship of friends and family in the context of the war, and experiences on the homefront and in the army and fighting in Tennessee, Kentucky, Georgia, Mississippi, and Louisiana. The correspondence between Babin and Lauzin illustrates the developing and undefined character of their relationship. Though only Babin's letters survive, they reflect a flirtatious relationship, with him teasing her about their respective sweethearts. At one point, Babin asks Henrietta to marry him. These have been digitized and are available in the Louisiana Digital Library (see link at bottom of **SUMMARY** page).

Genealogical material on the Amiss, Delat, Teetzman, Lauzin, and Sheppers families is included. Receipt for Antonio Gras, August 16, 1809, from Saliac Guedry, Baton Rouge filed with Gras-Lauzin Family Papers.

INDEX TERMS

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

Babin, Frank.

Palms, Francis F., 1837-1904.

Gras, Antonio, -1811.

Faulkner, Amelia.

Foelekel, Lewis Valentin, -1817?

Lauzin, Jean.

Lauzin, Henrietta, 1842-

Shipping--Louisiana--Baton Rouge.

Medicine--Louisiana.

Land grants--Louisiana.

Louisiana--History--Civil War, 1861-1865--Women.

Tennessee--History--Civil War, 1861-1865.

Kentucky--History--Civil War, 1861-1865.

Georgia--History--Civil War, 1861-1865.

Mississippi--History--Civil War, 1861-1865.

United States--History--Civil War, 1861-1865--Women.

Young women--Louisiana--Social conditions--19<sup>th</sup> century.

Baton Rouge (La.)--History.

Invoices.

Genealogies.

Land grants.

Muster rolls.

Surveys (documents)

Plats (maps)

Receipts (financial records)

Letters (correspondence)

Theses.

Physicians--Louisiana--Baton Rouge.

Merchants--Louisiana--Baton Rouge.

Soldiers--Louisiana

**CONTAINER LIST**

<b>Location</b>	<b>Box</b>	<b>Contents</b>
<b>U:267</b>	1	Papers, 1783-1826
	2	Papers, 1832-1864
	3	Papers, 1865-1917, undated

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