

KENT (AMOS) FAMILY PAPERS
(Mss. 199, 724, 1101, 2296)
Inventory

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

Reformatted 2003
Revised 2010

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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.

SUMMARY

Size.	0.3 linear feet
Geographic locations.	Louisiana, Massachusetts
Inclusive dates.	1770-1906, undated
Bulk dates.	1855-1900
Language.	English.
Summary.	Family correspondence of three generations of the Kent family and business papers of Amos Kent. Business papers consist of legal opinions of attorneys, deeds, and letters. Included are a slave bill of sale and a diary kept by young George Favrot of Baton Rouge (later a U.S. Congressman from the Baton Rouge District) describing happenings about town.
Organization.	Arranged chronologically.
Restrictions on access.	If microfilm is available, photocopies must be made from microfilm.
Related collections.	Kent-Amacker Family Papers, Mss. 4185
Copyright.	Copyright of the original materials is retained by descendants of the creators in accordance with U.S. copyright law.
Citation.	Amos Kent and Family Papers, Mss. 199, 724, 1101, 2296, Louisiana and Lower Mississippi Valley Collections, LSU Libraries, Baton Rouge, La.
Stack location(s).	C:31

BIOGRAPHICAL/HISTORICAL NOTE

Amos Kent, born in Chester, New Hampshire in 1811, was the son of Amos and Abigail Atherton Kent. He moved to Louisiana at the age of 17 and established a mercantile business in Baton Rouge with his brother, Frederick. The business dissolved during the 1836 depression, so Kent relocated to a farm in St. Helena Parish. He married Susan Fluker in 1839; they had 12 children. In 1852 the Kent family moved to Greensburg where Amos filled an appointment as Registrar of the Land Office. Following completion of the New Orleans, Jackson, and Great Northern Railroad through St. Helena Parish, he moved to the northeastern section of the parish where he operated a sawmill in the virgin, yellow pine forest. This section became part of Tangipahoa Parish (formed in 1869), the railroad became the Illinois Central, and in 1888 Kent assisted some Northern promoters in laying out a town on the cut-over pine land. This town was named Kentwood in his honor. Kent served eight years in the Louisiana legislature. He built a home at Oak Hill, near Cool Creek.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

Family correspondence of three generations of the Kent family of Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and Louisiana, and business papers of Amos Kent. Early letters address property on Kent Island, Massachusetts; opinions on slavery; family health, history, and business affairs; a comparison of Louisiana and New England people, climate, and customs; descriptions of Baton Rouge; and other topics. A letter from F. M. Kent discusses the Louisiana levee system and a yellow fever epidemic (1859). Major correspondents are Amos Kent, Frederick M. Kent, Moody Kent, Mary Kent McGregor, Mary ("Maimie") Kent, and Anna ("Annie") Kent Carruth. Amos Kent's business papers (1867-1906) consist of legal opinions of attorneys, deeds, letters, and related items pertaining to the purchase of timber lands for Kent's Mill and Brick Yard in Kentwood.

A diary kept by young George Kent Favrot (b. 1868, later a U.S. Congressman from the Baton Rouge District) describes happenings about town, the weather, progress of work on the Old State Capitol, and observations of Mississippi River steamboats (1880-1881).

Also included is a notarized bill of sale for slaves Amos Kent purchased from the State of Louisiana (1860) and a certified copy of an unpaid account for hire of a wagon, yoke of oxen, and driver by Captain J. B. McClendon, Confederate quartermaster at Osyka, Mississippi (1864). Tax receipts, bills, broadsides (ca. 1868-1888), newspaper clippings about family deaths and Kent's career, and advertisements comprise the remainder of the papers.

INDEX TERMS

Baton Rouge (La.)--History.
Carruth, Anna Kent, b. 1852.
Favrot, George K., 1868-1934.
Kent, Amos, 1811-1906.
Kent, F. M. (Frederick M.), 1814-1864.
Kent, Mary Mason, b. 1869.
Kent, Moody, b. 1779.
Kent's Mill and Brick Yard.
Louisiana--Social life and customs.
McGregor, Mary M. (Mary Mason), 1804-1887.
Slave bills of sale--Louisiana.
Steamboats--Louisiana.
Tangipahoa Parish (La.)--History.
Timber--Louisiana.

CONTAINER LIST

<u>Stack</u>			
<u>Location</u>	<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder(s)</u>	<u>Contents (with dates)</u>
C:31	1	1	1770-1798
		2	1800-1859
		3	1860-1879
		4	1880-1886
		5	1887-1889
		6	1890-1897
		7	1901-1902
		8	1903-1906
		9	Undated
		10	Diary (1880-1881)