

**Also on Microfilm 6061,
Series B, Part 1**

BENJAMIN TUREAUD FAMILY PAPERS

Mss. 427, 560, 794, 811, 1100

Inventory

Compiled by
Luana Henderson

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

2004

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SUMMARY

Size	3,332 items, 90 v.
Geographic Locations	Ascension Parish, La.; Nicaragua
Inclusive Dates	1803-1932
Bulk Dates	1849-1880
Languages	English, French
Summary	Sugar plantation records, business records, and correspondence pertaining to Bagatelle, Brule, and Houmas plantations and the Tureaud family of Ascension and St. James Parishes, La.
Arrangement	Organized into series—Papers and Manuscript Volumes. Papers are arranged chronologically, then organized within years by format. Manuscript volumes are arranged by volume numbers.
Access Restrictions	No restrictions
Reproduction Note	Copies must be made from microfilm.
Copyright	Physical rights and copyright are retained by the LSU Libraries
Related Collections	Louis A. Bringier and Family Papers; Bagatelle Plantation Cotton Record Book
Citation	Benjamin Tureaud Family Papers, Mss. 427, 560, 794, 811, 1100, Louisiana and Lower Mississippi Valley Collections, LSU Libraries, Baton Rouge, La.
Stack Locations	E:114-116; J:1-3

Also available as part of UPA microfilm 6061, “Records of Southern Plantations from Emancipation to the Great Migration,” Series B, reels 3-13 [Sept. 25, 1864 letter, volumes 10 b, 11a, and 80b are not available on microfilm]

BIOGRAPHICAL/HISTORICAL NOTE

Benjamin F. Tureaud, grandson of Emanuel Bringier and the son of Judge Augustin Dominique Tureaud, was a sugarcane planter of Ascension Parish and St. James Parish, La. He operated a plantation store and conducted business under the name of Benjamin Tureaud & Co. He had two sons, Benjamin and Henri, and a daughter Aglae with his wife, Marie Elizabeth Aglae Bringier, daughter of Michel Doradou Bringier and Louise Elizabeth Aglae DuBourg de Ste Colombe. Tureaud died Dec. 5, 1883, at the age of sixty-five.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

Correspondence and financial records pertaining to the operation of Bagatelle, Brule and Houmas plantations and the business transactions of Benjamin Tureaud and Co. comprise the majority of this collection. Papers include plantation payrolls (1867-1889, n.d.); receipts for taxes, labor accounts and shipment of merchandise (1867-1875); statements of account (1873-1875); and waybills with details of carrier, cargo and charges.

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SERIES DESCRIPTIONS

I. Papers, 1805-1932

(Papers are arranged chronologically, then organized within years by format.)

Ante-bellum papers include a series of letters (1845-1855) from Tureaud's brother-in-law, Martin Gordon, Jr., a New Orleans commission merchant. His letters pertain to cotton, sugar, and tobacco prices; imports and exports; molasses sales, sugar production, and he advises on the Bringier family estate, including the sugar crops at Houmas, Brule and Whitehall plantations. He makes references to Bringier family disputes and sugar production at Hermitage Plantation (Nov. 11, 1849). Gordon also reports that the size of the Whig party will be greatly reduced after the New Orleans' city elections (Nov. 7, 1849), and he describes bank closures and economic conditions in New Orleans due to the banking panic (Oct. 15, 1857). Legal documents and some correspondence concern the sale (May 8, 1828, Jan. 30, 1835) and treatment (Dec. 30, 1852) of slaves, articles purchased for slaves (Dec. 30, (1850), and the fear of cholera among slaves (June 6, 1855). Additional early documents relate to the sale and transfer of land (March 25, 1805) to Alexander Stirling of West Feliciana Parish, La.; authorization given to Philip Hickey by James Proffit of New Orleans (Oct. 8, 1807) to sell Marshall Pantation; and a verdict (Sept. 2 1806) rendered by William Bell, Spanish alcalde of St. Helena Parish, sentencing a man for defaming the character of two women of good reputation. Additionally, early business papers contain promissory notes, bills, and receipts for travel, as well as personal and household items such as hardware, books, clothing and tobacco products (1807-1833). Other topics discussed in correspondence include weather, crop conditions, the public sale of sheep and mares (Aug. 25, 1817), the presence of cholera at Houmas Plantation (Sept. 19, 1850) and the German coast, and the absence of cholera at Houmas and Brule plantations (June 6, 1855). There is also a list of borders at University of Louisiana (Jan. 6, 1856) and an account of the Phoenix Company of Louisiana in the Mexican War, giving dates of mustering in and discharge (n.d.). This account gives the history and military activities of the company and that of other military units.

Of note is a letter (March 9, 1860) by Alexander Dimitry, the U. S. Foreign Minister to Nicaragua and Costa Rica, to his son, John Bull Dimitry in Costa Rica, in which he discusses his duties as foreign minister, the intrigue among officials over the establishment of a transit, approval by President James Buchanan for Dimitry's plan for a land-and-water transit route across Nicaragua, hostility towards U.S. citizens caused William Walker's destruction of Granada, and poor social conditions exciting there. He also congratulates his son for his views on Costa Rica.

The are few papers of the Civil War period consist of a poem critical of General Butler (July 16, 1863), a petition in the succession of George Mather filed in St. James Parish District Court naming his heirs (June 20, 1861), a judgment in favor of Mrs. A. Tureaud against L. A. Bringier (Mar. 1, 1863), payroll sheet for Union Plantation (Feb. 4, 1865). Letters from another brother-in-law, Duncan Farrar Kenner, of Ashland Plantation deal primarily with the business of Benjamin Tureaud & Co. However, in a letter to Governor Thomas O. Moore (Sept. 25, 1864) he expresses his opinions that bond issues are

acceptable for the payment of Confederate taxes, the Confederate Treasury Dept. is slow to deliver funds, and he expects General Henry Grey to be elected to Congress. Kenner also states that he does not despair over the fall of Atlanta, Ga., and that General Grant holds on only for the political affect on the Presidential election. [Sept. 25, 1864 letter not available on microfilm].

After 1867, papers consist chiefly of business records that include waybills for sugar and molasses shipments; statements of account for purchases made by Benjamin Tureaud and Co.; for sugar shipments to New Orleans and merchandise purchased for Tureaud's plantations and store, along with receipts for miscellaneous expenditures and repairs on the plantations. Records related to plantation labor contain receipts for wages and lists of laborers reflecting hours worked and wages earned; payrolls generally list names of laborers, note whether they were white or Chinese; there is also a receipt (July 1, 1871) for the transportation of Chinese laborers to Houmas Plantation. Other topics appearing in the correspondence concern contracting laborers, breeding mares (March 24, 28, April 3, 1875), an outbreak of "charbon" among the cattle at Ashland Plantation (July 25, 1875), grange movement in Illinois (Sept. 20, 1875), a preference for African-American laborers to whites during grinding of the sugarcane (Aug. 6, 1875).

Later correspondence from Gordon Martin, Jr. concerns plantation labor, sugar market, and freight rates (1874-1878). Joseph Richard, Jr., talks of lumber purchased at Plaquemine or Baton Rouge, the lack sawmills in operation at Bayou Goula, and of one in operation at Manchac (Aug. 3, 1875). John Lidgerwood to L. A. Bringier describes the sugar culture and milling (May 10, 1887), and there is reference to Mr. Kenner repairing two crevasses (1892). Tureaud's letters (1875-1879) direct the management of Brule, giving instruction on preparation for sugar cane cutting and grinding, making hay, fences, and the selection of laborers. His letters also pertain to the treatment of "charbon", sugar crop, livestock feed, risk of shipping currency, and in an unsigned letter, expresses an adverse criticism of marriage (1892). Other items include a certificate issued by the Democratic Party recommending to "all Democrats" the protection and employment of the bearer (Nov. 3, 1868), receipts for bread tickets issued by Porta's bakery, Union, La. (1882-1886), printed pedigree of the horse Silverheels (n.d), Ben Tureaud, Jr. reports no one was killed installing six boilers near the old bagasse boilers at Tezcuco Plantation (n.d.), and comments by Joseph S. Mather on the financial speculation in Louisiana oil (Sept. 10, 1911).

Family letters are found throughout the collection and relate to business, family matters, and social activities; several letters are written in French. Correspondence from the children include letters written by Ben Tureaud, Jr., from Paris depicting Parisian social life, progress of his studies at Clare Mont, and his observations at the news of Maximillian's death (1866-1868). Letters from Phil Tureaud (1869-1871) discuss his studies and social activities, including baseball, at St. John School, Miss., and Trist Bringier discusses student activities at Virginia Military Institute (Nov. 30, 1877). References made to notable individuals include favorable comments on the singing ability of Jenny Lind (Feb. 14, 1851), the captivating Sarah Bernhardt (Feb. 16, 1892), and a proposed visit by Isaac Delgado to the coast; Lotta and Thompson play to fine audiences, however, burlesque

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is corrupting New Orleans (Jan. 31, 1872), and a description of Mrs. Tom Thumb (March 11, 1883).

Newspaper clippings (1875-1925, n.d.) relate to political elections, political figures, World War I (n.d.), prohibition (ca. 1923), religion (n.d.), Ku Klux Klan (n.d.), and an exhausted Union Sulfur Co. mine near Lake Charles (Feb. 1, 1925). Printed cards are made up of trade cards, business cards and a ticket for passage on the steamer *Selma*.

II. Manuscript Volumes, 1843-1900

Eighty-seven manuscript volumes primarily record the of business transactions of Benjamin Tureaud and Co., and the operation of Bagatelle, Brule, and Houmas plantations. They relate to store sales, accounts, freight, labor costs, and sugar production.

Subseries A. Typescripts, n.d.

Bound typescript of papers from the collection, 1805-1932 (v. I and II)

Subseries B. Cashbooks – Benjamin Tureaud & Co.

Cashbooks, v. 1-10b (1865-1881, 1900, 1911), for Benjamin Tureaud and Co. show business transactions, and indicate expenses involved in the operation of for Union and Houmas plantations; v. 7 also includes "Rules and Regulations Governing the Upper Public School, 4th Ward, Parish of St. James", student rolls arranged by reading level (1900, n.d.), and handwritten copies of invoices for merchandise received from merchants (1911).

v. 1	1865-1872	Plantation expenses for Union and Houmas plantations, including labor accounts; Brule Plantation labor accounts.
v. 2	1869-1880	Houmas Plantation, including labor accounts; Brule Plantation labor accounts.
v. 3	1872-1873	Benjamin Tureaud & Co. store accounts.
v. 4	1873	Benjamin Tureaud & Co. store accounts.
v. 5	1874	Benjamin Tureaud & Co. store accounts.
v. 6	1875-1876	Benjamin Tureaud & Co. store accounts; sugar production on Houmas Plantation.
v. 7	1875-1876 1880, 1900	Cash advances; labor accounts for Houmas and Brule plantations; Rules and regulations governing the Upper Public School, 4 th Ward, Parish of St. James
v. 8	1877, 1911	Benjamin Tureaud & Co. store accounts.
v. 9	1877-1878	Cash advances; labor accounts for Houmas and Brule plantations.
v. 10a	1878-1879	Cash advances; labor accounts for Houmas and Brule plantations.
v. 10b	1880-1881	Labor accounts for Houmas Plantation. [not available on microfilm]

Subseries C. Checkbooks – Houmas Plantation

- v. 11a 1872-1877 [not available on microfilm]
- v. 11b 1877-1884

Subseries D. Daybooks – Benjamin Tureaud & Co.

An unbroken run of daybooks, v.12-28 (Jan. 1873- Feb. 1881), showing plantation store sales, with detailed records of items purchased by laborers, noting some purchases made by Chinese laborers; v. 28 contains entries for steamboat carriers.

- v. 12 Jan.-Dec. 1874 Store accounts, including purchases by laborers.
- v. 13 March-Aug. 1873 Store accounts, including purchases by laborers.
- v. 14 Aug.-Dec. 1873 Store accounts, including purchases by laborers.
- v. 15 Jan.-June 1875 Store accounts, including purchases by laborers.
- v. 16 June-Nov. 1874 Store accounts, including purchases by laborers.
- v. 17 Jan.-June 1875 Store accounts, including purchases by laborers.
- v. 18 June-Oct. 1875 Store accounts, including purchases by laborers.
- v. 19 Jan.-Aug. 1876 Store accounts, including purchases by laborers.
- v. 20 Sept.-1876-Jan.1877 Store accounts, including purchases by laborers.
- v. 21 Jan.-Nov. 1877 Store accounts, including purchases by laborers.
- v. 22 Nov.1877- Oct. 1878 Store accounts, including purchases by laborers.
- v. 23 Nov. 1878- Feb. 1879 Store accounts, including purchases by laborers.
- v. 24 May 1880- Feb. 1881 Store accounts, including purchases by laborers.

Subseries E. Daybooks – Benjamin Tureaud & Co.

- v. 25 April 1872-March 1873 Items purchased by Benjamin Tureaud & Co.
- v. 26 April-December 1873 Items purchased by Benjamin Tureaud & Co.
- v. 27 January-December 1874 Items purchased by Benjamin Tureaud & Co.
- v. 28 1876-1877 Store accounts.

Subseries F. Due bill account books – Benjamin Tureaud & Co.

Account books of due bills, v. 29-33 (1872-ca. 1876), for Benjamin Tureaud and Co. list accounts and payments made on these accounts.

- v. 29 1872 Labor accounts.
- v. 30 1873 Labor accounts.
- v. 31 1874 Labor accounts.
- v. 32 1875 Labor accounts.
- v. 33 ca. 1876 Labor accounts.

Subseries G. Grinding reports books

Grinding report books, v. 34-36 (1877-1879), record the watches or work shifts of laborers grinding sugarcane at Houmas Plantation.

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| v. 34 | 1877 | Houmas Plantation - labor accounts, sugar production. |
| v. 35 | 1878 | Houmas Plantation- labor accounts, sugar production. |
| v. 36 | 1879 | Houmas Plantation- labor accounts, sugar production. |

Subseries H. Journals merchandise accounts - Benjamin Tureaud & Co.

Journals of accounts, v. 37-45 (1872-1881), record sales transaction from daybooks for customers of Benjamin Tureaud and Co., with entries for Houmas, Brule, and Bagatelle plantations.

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| v. 37 | 1872-
1873 | Store accounts, including merchandise charged to Houmas, Brule, Bagatelle plantations. |
| v. 38 | 1873 | Store accounts, including merchandise charged to Houmas, Brule, Bagatelle plantations. |
| v. 39 | 1874 | Store accounts, including merchandise charged to Houmas, Brule, Bagatelle plantations. |
| v. 40 | 1876 | Store accounts, including merchandise charged to Houmas, Brule, Bagatelle plantations. |
| v. 41 | 1877 | Store accounts, including merchandise charged to Houmas, Brule plantations. |
| v. 42 | 1878 | Store accounts, including merchandise charged to Houmas, Brule plantations. |
| v. 43 | 1879 | Store accounts, including merchandise charged to Houmas, Brule plantations. |
| v. 44 | 1880-
1881 | Store accounts, including merchandise charged to Houmas, Brule plantations. |
| v. 45 | 1881 | Store accounts, including merchandise charged to Houmas, Brule plantations. |

Subseries I. Ledgers - Benjamin Tureaud & Co

Ledgers, v. 46-73 (1858-1881), contain plantation records for Houmas, Brule, and Bagatelle plantations and store sales posted from daybooks for Tureaud's store. They contain store accounts, including merchandise charged to Houmas, Brule plantations, and labor accounts for both plantations; v. 48 also contains entries for steamboat carriers.

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| v. 46 | 1858-
1872 | Store accounts, including purchases by slaves and, after the Civil War, by free laborers on Houmas; labor accounts for Brule Plantation |
| v. 47 | 1872 | Store accounts Brule Plantation; Houmas Plantation; labor accounts. |
| v. 48 | 1872-
1873 | Store accounts; Bagatelle, Brule plantation; steamboats. |

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| v. 49 | 1873 | Store accounts; Brule Plantation. |
| v. 50 | Jan.-Oct.
1873 | Store accounts; Houmas Plantation, including labor accounts; accounts of Chinese laborers. |
| v. 51 | Nov.-
Dec.873 | Store accounts, Houmas Plantation, including labor accounts. |
| v. 52 | 1873 | Store accounts, including merchandise charged to Houmas and Brule plantations |
| v. 53 | 1874 | Store accounts; Brule Plantation, labor accounts; Chinese labor accounts. |
| v. 54 | 1874 | Store accounts; Houmas Plantation, including labor accounts |
| v. 55 | 1875 | Store accounts; Brule Plantation, labor accounts; Chinese labor accounts. |
| v. 56 | 1875 | Store accounts; Houmas Plantation, labor accounts; Chinese labor accounts. |
| v. 57 | 1875 | Store accounts, including merchandise charged to Houmas, Brule plantations |
| v. 58 | 1876 | Brule Plantation |
| v. 59 | 1876 | Store accounts; Houmas Plantation, labor accounts; Chinese labor accounts. |
| v. 60 | 1876 | Store accounts, including merchandise charged to Houmas, Brule plantations. |
| v. 61 | 1877 | Store accounts; Brule Plantation, labor accounts; Chinese labor accounts. |
| v. 62 | 1877 | Store accounts; Houmas Plantation, including labor accounts. |
| v. 63 | 1877 | Store accounts, including merchandise charged to Houmas, Brule plantations. |
| v. 64 | 1878 | Store accounts; Brule Plantation, labor accounts; Chinese labor accounts. |
| v. 65 | 1878 | Store accounts; Houmas Plantation, including labor accounts. |
| v. 66 | 1878 | Store accounts, including merchandise charged to Houmas, Brule plantations. |
| v. 67 | 1879 | Store accounts; Brule Plantation, labor accounts; Chinese labor accounts. |
| v. 68 | 1879 | Store accounts; Houmas Plantation, including labor accounts. |
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| v. 70 | July-Aug.
1879 | Houmas Plantation, including labor accounts. Entries entered in v. 68. |
| v. 71 | 1879 | Duplicate of #70 |
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| v. 73 | 1881 | Store accounts, including merchandise charged to Houmas, Brule plantations. |

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Subseries J. Notebooks

Student notebooks, v. 74-75 (1835-1836), kept by Benjamin Tureaud, while attending University of Virginia, and v. 76 (1843, 1882) kept [in English and French] by A. Mather, while a student in Paris, France, relate to course study. A notebook relative to the letter patents of Joseph Jones and Stanhope Jones, v. 77 (1882), contains handwritten copies (not true copies) of papers and legal documents related to patents, including a petition to the Commissioner of Patents to grant a letter patent for Joseph Jones' improved method of preserving wood, specifications N.118, 245.

v. 74	1835- 1836	Ben Tureaud – student notebook. University of Virginia
v. 75	1835- 1839	Ben Tureaud – student notebook. University of Virginia
v. 76	1843	A. Mather – student notebook [in English and French]
v. 77	1882	Stanhope Jones' and Joseph Jones' letters patent notebook

Subseries K. Payroll books

Payroll books, v. 78-80b (1866-1872, 1878, 1881-1882) for Brule and Houmas plantations.

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Subseries L. Plantation journal

Plantation journal (1854) maintained by Thomas Y. Bell that records work schedules (Jan.-March) and the amount of wood cut down on Houmas Plantation;

v.81	1854	Thomas Y. Bell, Houmas Plantation
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Subseries M. Time books

Time books, v. 82-87 (1872-1881) record hours worked and wages paid.

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			29	Plantation Payrolls (1874)
			30	Receipts (1874)
			31-32b	Statements of account (1874)
			33a-34b	Waybills (1874)
		4a	35a-38b	Manuscripts (1875)
E:116		4b	39	Cash sales sheets (1875)
			40-41	Plantation Payrolls (1875)
			42-43	Receipts (1875)
		5	44-47	Statements of account (1875)
			48-50	Waybills (1875)
E:116		6a	51	Manuscripts (1876-1879)
			52	Plantation Payrolls (1876-1879)
			53	Waybills (1876)
			54	Weight certificates (1877)
			55-57	Manuscripts (1880-1926, 1932)
		6b	58-59	Manuscripts (n.d.)
			60	Plantation payrolls (n.d.)
			61	Receipts (n.d.)

<u>Stack</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Box</u>	<u>Folders</u>	<u>Contents</u>
			62	Newspaper clippings (1875-1925, n.d.)
			63	Printed cards (n.d.)
			64	Empty envelopes (n.d.)
	OS:T		Oversize folder 1	Slave document (May 8, 1828); payrolls (Feb. 4, 1865, n.d.); newspaper clippings (1910, 1924,n.d.)
Series II. Manuscript Volumes, 1843-1900				
	J:1		Subseries A. Typescripts	
			v. I	Bound typescript of papers (1805-1877)
			v. II	Bound typescript of papers (1877-1932)
	J:1		v. 1-10b	Subseries B. Cashbooks, 1865-1881
			v. 11a-11b	Subseries C. Checkbooks, 1872-1884
			v. 12-28	Subseries D. Daybooks, 1873-1881
			v. 29-33	Subseries E. Accounts due books, 1872-1885
			v. 34-36	Subseries F. Grinding report books, 1887-1879
	J:2		v. 37-45	Subseries G. Journals, 1872-1881
			v. 46-67	Subseries H. Ledgers, 1858-1881
	J:3		v. 68-73	Subseries H. Ledgers, 1858-1881

- v. 75-77 **Subseries I. Notebooks, 1843-1882**

- Subseries J. Payroll books, 1866-1882**
- v. 78 Payroll book (1866-1871) Brule Plantation,
 Houmas Plantation
- v. 79-80b Payroll book (1871-1872, 1878, 1881-1882) Brule
 Plantation , Houmas Plantation
- v. 81 **Subseries K. Plantation journal, 1854**

- v. 82-87 **Subseries L. Time books, 1872-1881**