

GEORGE LANAUX AND FAMILY PAPERS

Mss. 1318

Inventory

Compiled by
Lisa Belanger

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SUMMARY

Size	3.0 linear feet
Geographic Locations	Louisiana
Inclusive Dates	1830-1915
Bulk Dates	1850-1880
Languages	English, French
Summary	Business and personal correspondence and financial and legal papers of the Lanaux family of New Orleans, of Bellevue Plantation in Plaquemines Parish, and of the Hermitage Plantation in St. Bernard Parish. The documents primarily concern George Lanaux, planter and president of the New Orleans Insurance Association, and his immediate family. The earlier material concerns the management and operation of Bellevue Plantation in Plaquemines Parish, the succession of Arnaud Lanaux, and receipts for taxes paid on New Orleans property. After 1870, most of the papers originate from New Orleans and consist mainly of bills and receipts for personal and household items and taxes on and repairs to property.
Access Restrictions	No restrictions
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BIOGRAPHICAL/HISTORICAL NOTE

George Lanaux was born August 16, 1816, and died in 1888. He was a planter and later president of the New Orleans Insurance Association. His parents were Charles (b. 1792) and Aime Lanaux, and he had seven siblings: Marie, Caroline, Angele, Philippe, Theodore, and another Angele who died in infancy.

George Lanaux married his cousin Jeanne Odile Lanaux, daughter of Arnaud and Adeline Fossier Lanaux, and they had ten children: George Marie Adelaide, Marie Odile, Charles, Marie Leonide, George Alfred, Florian, Georgine, Marie, and Jean. In 1847, following the death of George's uncle Arnaud Lanaux, George was appointed curator of his uncle's estate. Arnaud's widow, Adeline Fossier, requested the appointment due to the absence of Arnaud's son and heir, Antoine Philippe. George Lanaux was involved in the operation and management of Bellevue Plantation in Plaquemines Parish.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

Correspondence, business and personal papers of George Lanaux and family. Also included are photographs, manuscript volumes, printed items, and other papers pertaining to the Lanaux family, the New Orleans area, and life in the mid-1880's. Personal correspondence is primarily in French and most of it originates at the family plantation, Bellevue, or in New Orleans.

Business papers pertain to family business and property holdings. Correspondence (1853-1870) between George Lanaux and his brother Theodore relates exclusively to family business and is entirely in French. Most of the legal documents concern land sales. Some deal with the succession of the property of Arnaud Lanaux. The financial documents include a wide variety of account records and receipts from New Orleans businesses and waybills from steamboats, bankbooks, cashbooks, checkbooks, and a ledger concerning Bellevue.

Among miscellaneous materials found in the papers are some handwritten medical remedies and some printed items, including Louisiana State Lottery tickets and a considerable number of small printed cards used chiefly for advertising. Printed volumes include a copy of the 1852 Constitution of Louisiana and pamphlets concerning insurance regulations in Louisiana. There are archival photocopies of twenty-nine newspaper clippings pertaining chiefly to the Civil War. Photographs of the New Orleans area are also included in the manuscript group. Maps in the manuscript group are: *Plan of the Western Seat of War*; *War Telegram Marking Map*, 1862; *Perrine's War Map of the Southern States*, 1863; and *Map Exhibiting the Fixed Location of the Main Trunk of the New Orleans, Opelousas, and Great Western Railroad of Louisiana*, 1859.

LIST OF SUB-GROUPS, SERIES, AND SUBSERIES

Series I. Correspondence, 1840-1884

- 1.1 Personal, 1840-1881, (Folders 1-11)
- 1.2 Business, 1846-1884, (Folders 12-14)
- 1.3 Correspondence from Theodore Lanaux, 1853-1870, (Folders 15-23)

Series II. Legal Documents, 1836-1887

- 2.1 Miscellaneous, 1836-1887, (Folder 38)
- 2.2 Succession of Arnaud Lanaux, 1847-1849, (Folders 35-37)

Series III. Financial Documents, 1831-1901

- 3.1 Bellevue Plantation, 1853-1866, (Folder 38)
- 3.2 Freight Records, 1850-1862, (Folders 39-42)
- 3.3 Accounts, 1831-1884, (Folders 43-53)
- 3.4 Receipts, 1838-1901, (Folders 54-123)
- 3.5 Miscellaneous Financial, 1843-1898, (Folders 124-127)

Series IV. Miscellaneous, 1862, 1909, (Folder 128)

Series V. Photographs, 1895, (Folder 129)

Series VI. Printed Items, 1851-1915, (Folder 130-149)

Series VII. Newspaper Clippings, 1861-1888, (Folder 150)

Series VIII. Manuscript Volumes, 1850-1899, (Folders 151-169)

Series IX. Printed Volumes, 1852-1909, (Folders 170-180)

Series X. Oversize Items, 1845-1899, (Folders 181-187)

SERIES DESCRIPTIONS

Series I. Correspondence, 1840-1884, (427 items)

Subseries 1: Personal, 1840-1881, (189 items)

Much of the correspondence is in French. The majority is from family members and originated in New Orleans or Bellevue Plantation. Some is from George Lanaux, Jr., while he attended the Louisiana State Seminary and Military Academy near Alexandria.

Subseries 2: Business, 1846-1844, (53 items)

The majority of the correspondence is in English. Topics discussed include the succession of Simon Aingle, family property in New Orleans, Star Plantation in St. John the Baptist Parish, slave holdings, and the management of Bellevue.

Subseries 3: Correspondence from Theodore Lanaux, 1853-1870, (185 items)

In French. The correspondence is between George Lanaux and his brother Theodore and relates to family business.

Series II. Legal Documents, 1836-1887, (144 items)

Subseries 1: Miscellaneous, 1836-1887, (108 items)

Most of the legal documents concern sales of land; some record the legal sale of slaves. Other items include a marriage contract, mortgages, loyalty oaths, and land transfers.

Subseries 2: Succession of Arnaud Lanaux, 1847-1849, (36 items)

Items involve the legal succession of the property and goods of Arnaud Lanaux.

Series III. Financial Documents, 1831-1901, (2,052 items)

Subseries 1: Bellevue Plantation, 1853-1866, (5 items)

Financial documents pertaining to Bellevue Plantation include a list of creditors for Bellevue, a certificate of mortgages, and a memorandum concerning titles and inhabitants of Bellevue.

Subseries 2: Freight Records, 1850-1862, (54 items)

Contains records of supplies, including horses and slaves, delivered on steamboats to the Lanaux family.

Subseries 3: Accounts, 1831-1884, (245 items)

Contains some miscellaneous accounts relating to plantation economy. Includes specific accounts with New Orleans merchants.

Subseries 4: Receipts, 1838-1901, (1,685 items)

Receipts for household purchases, medical care, and various purchases necessitated by the maintenance of a large plantation.

Subseries 5: Miscellaneous Financial, 1843-1898, (63 items)

Contains mostly cancelled checks from New Orleans banks.

Series IV. Miscellaneous, 1862, 1909, (23 items)

Includes some handwritten medical remedies of the postbellum period and a certificate to the Beauregard Monument Association.

Series V. Photographs, 1895, (9 items)

Mostly photographs of the New Orleans area. There are also some engravings included.

Series VI. Printed Items, 1851-1915, (358 items)

Included are Louisiana State Lottery tickets, some printed items relating to cultural/recreational events, health-related items, such as pamphlets concerning sewage systems, lottery and stock exchange flyers, military items, religious documents, and printed badges. A large majority of the printed items consists of small, printed cards that relate to women's apparel, shoes and shoe stores, the French Market Coffee and Tea depot, medicines and health, toys and dolls, sewing machines and thread, and various other subjects.

Series VII. Newspaper Clippings, 1861-1888, (29 items)

Archival photocopies of twenty-nine newspaper clippings, most of which relate to the Civil War and the subsequent military occupation of Louisiana.

Series VIII. Manuscript Volumes, 1850-1899, (21 items)

Volumes include three bankbooks, two from the State National Bank and one from the People's Bank of New Orleans: five cashbooks, 1862-1883; financial records from family plantations; three checkbooks, 1878-1883; a diary, 1851, that pertains chiefly to weather conditions; four journals, 1850-1866; a letterbook, 1866; a ledger relating to Bellevue, 1851-1856; and an undated notebook that contains poetry. See also two large scrapbooks, 1868-1899, in Series X, Oversize.

Series IX. Printed Volumes, 1852-1909, (11 items)

Contains printed volumes such as a copy of the 1852 Constitution of Louisiana, pamphlets concerning insurance laws and regulations, and a constitution of the Young Men's Gymnastics Club of Louisiana. Three pamphlets have been transferred out of this collection to the Louisiana & Lower Mississippi Valley Collections. They are "Sunset Route, Galveston, Houston, and San Antonio Railway, Winter Resorts of Western Texas;" a pamphlet advertising cistern cleaning by the Sediment Machine Co., New Orleans; and *A Trip to British Honduras and to San Pedro, Republic of Honduras* by Charles Swelt (New Orleans, 1868).

Series X. Oversize, 1845-1899, (26 items)

Contains a variety of newspapers, including *The Daily Picayune*, the *New Orleans Daily Crescent* and *El Semanario* (Asuncion, Paraguay). Other items include *Perrine's War Map of the Southern States*, *Harper's Weekly* articles, and two scrapbooks, 1869-1899, about insurance companies in New Orleans.

INDEX TERMS

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CONTAINER LIST

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				Correspondence, 1840-1884 (Series I)
	U:294	1	1-11	Personal Correspondence, 1840-1881
			12-14	Business Correspondence, 1846-1884
			15-23	Correspondence from Theodore Lanaux, 1853-1870
				Legal Documents, 1836-1887 (Series II)
			24-34	Miscellaneous, 1836-1887
			35-37	Succession of Arnaud Lanaux, 1847-1849
				Financial Documents, 1831-1901 (Series III)
			38	Bellevue Plantation, 1853-1866
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			124-127	Miscellaneous Financial, 1843-1898
			128	Miscellaneous; 1862, 1909 (Series IV)
			129	Photographs, 1895, (Series V)
			130-149	Printed Items, 1851-1915 (Series VI)
			150	Newspaper Clippings, 1861-1888 (Series VII)
			151-162	Manuscript Volumes, 1851-1888 (Series VIII)
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				<i>New Orleans Daily Crescent</i> , March 2, 1861
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			184	<i>New Orleans Bee</i> , October 1, 1863
				<i>New Orleans Carnival</i> , February 10, 1880
				<i>New Orleans Carnival</i> , 1880
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			186	<i>Perrine's War Map of the Southern States</i> , 1863
			187	<i>Map Exhibiting the Fixed Location of the Main Trunk of the New Orleans, Opelousas, and Great Western Railroad of Louisiana</i> , New Orleans, Jan. 24, 1859
	O:16	Ms. vols.	--	Two scrapbooks concerning insurance companies in New Orleans, 1868-1899