

LAYSSARD FAMILY PAPERS

Mss. 2875

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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Updated 2021

CONTENTS OF INVENTORY

SUMMARY 3
BIOGRAPHICAL/HISTORICAL NOTE 4
SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE 4
LIST OF SERIES..... 5
SERIES DESCRIPTIONS 6
INDEX TERMS..... 7
CONTAINER LIST 8

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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.	1 linear foot
Geographic locations.	Rapides Parish (now Grant Parish), Orleans Parish
Inclusive dates.	1794-1960, undated
Language.	English, French, Spanish
Summary.	Family papers include land sale documents, materials relative to the literary career of Kate Kingston Boyd Grant, and genealogical research notes.
Organization.	Arranged categorically.
Restrictions on access.	Original manuscript <i>From Blue to Gray</i> may only be accessed with approval of the curator; use photocopy instead.
Copyright.	Copyright of the original materials in this collection has expired, and they are therefore in the public domain.
Citation.	Layssard Family Papers, Mss. 2875, Louisiana and Lower Mississippi Valley Collections, LSU Libraries, Baton Rouge, Louisiana
Stack location(s).	W:20-21; OS:L; VAULT:13

BIOGRAPHICAL/HISTORICAL NOTE

The Layssard family resided in northern Rapides Parish, La., an area that later became Grant Parish. Their plantation below present-day Colfax was known as Plaisance. Kate Kingston Boyd Grant (1852-1893) was a writer from Grant Parish, La. She was married to Richard Henry Grant, son of Mary Joseph Harriet Layssard and Richard Grant, who were also the parents of May Harriet "June" Grant (wife of Thomas Montfort "Monk" Wells, son of Louisiana Governor James Madison Wells).

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

Family papers include land sale documents, a slave sale document, materials relative to the literary career of Kate Kingston Boyd Grant, and genealogical research notes. The bulk of the material consists of unpublished literary works by Kate K. Grant, including three novels, varying versions of a play, and fragments of other stories, all depicting Louisiana scenes. The writings are titled "Beyond Endurance," *From Blue to Gray, or the Battle of Colfax*, *Old Eternal Vigilance*, and *Liz*. Antebellum New Orleans, the Colfax Riot of 1873, and small-town life in central Louisiana are the focuses of these works.

LIST OF SERIES

Series I. Family Papers, 1794-1960, undated

Series II. Photographs and Printed Items, circa 1870-1930, undated

Series III. Literary Works of Kate K. Grant, undated

SERIES DESCRIPTIONS

Series I. Family Papers, 1794-1960, undated

Earliest papers consist of two documents, one in French, the other in Spanish, signed by the Baron de Carondelet concerning land in Rapides Parish (1794-1795). A family letter (in French) from Bolon Layssard in New Orleans to his son Marafret Layssard in Alexandria, La., discusses the purchase and shipping of supplies (1822), while a later letter from H. Castarede in New Orleans discusses family news and rumors of dead and wounded in the Civil War (Feb. 18, 1863). Other papers include a true copy of a sale of land in Rapides Parish (1828), a fragment of paper listing the ages and birthdates of family members (circa 1820), and a true copy of the marriage contract between Pamela Castarede and Stephen Marassite (Marafret) Layssard (1828). Legal documents include a true copy of a slave sale (1833), a power of attorney document, in French (1834), and a copy of a sheriff's deed for the seized property of Mrs. Pamela Layssard (1868). Also included is a plat of land along Red River (1834), the succession of Malassite (Marafret) Layssard (1879), the sale of one-half of the Steamboat *Kate* from R. H. Grant to McKnight and Pirtle (1880), a partnership agreement of Richard Grant and R. Henry Grant (1882), and the succession of Richard Grant (1885). The certificate of copyright for Kate Kingston Grant's book title *Old Eternal Vigilance* as well as correspondence with Hubbard Publishing Co. concerning the book is included (1892).

Research notes consist of correspondence, notes on genealogy, and translations (from French and Spanish) and transcriptions of birth, marriage, and death records (1960, undated).

Series II. Photographs and Printed Items, circa 1870-1930, undated

Photographs consist of a portrait of Malafret Layssard (circa 1870) and an unidentified portrait (probably of Richard Henry Grant) by A.D. Lytle (1888). Printed items include a pamphlet titled "Directions for Securing Copyrights" (1891), various newspaper clippings concerning the Daughters of the American Revolution (undated), and the funeral notice of Francis E. Brownell, son of Edward R. and Pamela Layssard Brownell (1930).

Series III. Literary Works of Kate K. Grant, undated

Handwritten pages from the following plays and novels:

"Beyond Endurance"

From Blue to Gray, or The Battle of Colfax

Old Eternal Vigilance

Liz

Fragments of other stories

INDEX TERMS

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

Carondelet, Luis Héctor, barón de, 1748-1807.	I
Grant, Kate K. (Kate Kingston) Boyd	I, III
Layssard family.	I-II
Louisiana--History--19th century.	I-III
Manuscripts for publication.	III
Photographic prints.	II
Riots--Louisiana--Colfax.	III
Women authors, American--Louisiana.	III

CONTAINER LIST

<u>Stack</u>			
<u>Location</u>	<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder(s)</u>	<u>Contents (with dates)</u>
			Series I. Family Papers, 1794-1960, undated
W:20	1	1-4	Family papers, 1794-1892, undated
		5	Research notes, 1960, undated
OS:L	--	1	Certificate of Kate K. Boyd's acceptance into the Sodality of the Blessed Virgin, May 3, 1868
			Series II. Photographs and Printed Items, circa 1870-1930, undated
W:20	1	6	Photographs, circa 1870, 1888
		7	Printed items, 1891-1892
		8	Newspaper clippings, 1930, undated
			Series III. Literary Works of Kate K. Grant, undated
		9-10	Literary works of Kate K. Grant. "Beyond Endurance," two versions
		11-13	Photocopy of literary works of Kate K. Grant. <i>From Blue to Gray</i> . Chapters 1-16. Original in vault is restricted.
	2	1	Photocopy of literary works of Kate K. Grant. <i>From Blue to Gray</i> . Chapters 17-22. Original in vault is restricted.
		2	Literary works of Kate K. Grant. <i>Eternal Vigilance</i> , novel synopsis
		3-33	Literary works of Kate K. Grant. <i>Old Eternal Vigilance</i>
W:21	3	1-14	Literary works of Kate K. Grant. <i>Liz</i>
		15	Literary works of Kate K. Grant. Fragments
VAULT:13	4	--	<i>From Blue to Gray</i> manuscript. RESTRICTED: Use photocopy instead.