

HAL HARPER KILBOURNE FAMILY PAPERS

Mss. 2891

Inventory

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

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SUMMARY

Size.	1.25 linear ft., 1 v.
Geographic locations.	Louisiana; Mississippi
Inclusive dates.	1826-1984, undated
Bulk dates.	1895-1910
Language.	English
Summary.	Collection is comprised of correspondence, personal papers, family history, printed material and family photographs relating to the Kilbourne family.
Restrictions on access.	None
Related collections.	James Gilliam Kilbourne Family Collection, Mss. 690, 730. James Gilliam Kilbourne Correspondence, Mss. 1353 Holcombe-Kilbourne-Craddock Family Papers, Mss. 4478. Lillian Kilbourne Papers, Mss. 4391. James Gilliam Kilbourne Photographs, Mss. 236.
Copyright.	For those materials not in the public domain, copyright is retained by the descendants of the creators in accordance with U.S. Copyright law.
Citation.	Hal Harper Kilbourne Family Papers, Mss. 2891, Louisiana and Lower Mississippi Valley Collections, LSU Libraries, Baton Rouge, La.
Stack locations.	E:126; OS:K; Mss. Mf.:K.

BIOGRAPHICAL/HISTORICAL NOTE

Hal Harper Kilbourne was a member of the prominent Kilbourne family of Clinton, Louisiana. He was born July 24, 1879 to James Kilbourne, M.D., and Emma Holcombe Kilbourne. His grandfather, James Gilliam Kilbourne, was a prominent planter, jurist, and state legislator. Like his grandfather, Hal practiced law in Clinton, and he served as a district judge. He was also the nephew of Judge Charles Kilbourne (b. 1856). He married Roberta Heath Kilbourne in 1903, and they had five children: Elizabeth, Susie, Richard Holcombe, Virginia, and Hal Harper, Jr. Hal Harper Kilbourne died at the age of 80 on Jan. 7, 1960. The Kilbournes have maintained a law office on Lawyers' Row, a National Historic Landmark in Clinton, since the middle of the 19th century.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The collection is comprised of personal papers and photographs reflecting the life of Hal Harper Kilbourne of Clinton, Louisiana. The papers contain correspondence, personal papers, genealogical material, and photographs. Correspondence comprises a large part of the collection, with the majority written to Hal Harper Kilbourne by his wife, Roberta Heath Kilbourne, before and after they married. Personal papers include death notices, two diaries, a memorandum booklet, certificates, legal documents, and sales receipts. Family photographs consist of card photographs, portraits, and snapshots of family members and buildings, including Bonnie Burn Plantation house, which is the Kilbourne family home in Clinton.

LIST OF SERIES AND SUBSERIES

- Series I. Papers, 1826-1984, undated.**
Subseries 1. Correspondence, 1848-1984, undated.
Subseries 2. Personal Papers, 1826-1979, undated.
Subseries 3. Genealogies and Histories, 1849-1984, undated.
- Series II. Photographs, circa 1900 – circa 1965, undated.**

SERIES DESCRIPTIONS

Series I. Papers, 1826-1984, undated.

Subseries 1. Correspondence, 1848-1984, undated.

Early correspondence consists of photocopies of letters written by A. R. Holcombe and A. Spence that concern family matters, childbirth, and news of friends (1848, 1854). Letters written to Hal Kilbourne from Roberta Heath Kilbourne before and after their marriage (1900-1906) make up a large part of this series. Letters from relatives discuss family matters and personal news, and later letters concern genealogy.

Subseries 2. Personal Papers, 1826-1979, undated.

Personal papers include death notices (1873-1921), two diaries (1897-1904), a memorandum booklet (1888, 1896-1898), certificates (1850-1936), legal documents (1826-1979), and sales receipts for Spence family members (1958-1960). The earliest item is a photocopy of a legal document that allows James Perkins to obtain a Mississippi marriage license in order to marry Louisiana E. Gayden (Nov. 23, 1826). Health records certify that individuals had no contact with yellow fever or any other contagious diseases (1905). Legal papers also include photocopies of the will (Feb. 3, 1887) and succession of James G. Kilbourne (Oct. 2, 1893) as well as property and land documents (1966, 1970, 1975). A petition to the East Feliciana District Court requests reimbursement from the Yazoo Mississippi Valley Railroad Co. for the injury and death of livestock (ca. 1902).

Diaries of Hal Harper Kilbourne describe interactions with family members, visits to neighbors and friends, parties and gatherings, and weather conditions. He also describes student life while away at school (Sept. 1897-June 1898). Entries include poetry and his philosophical views of romantic relationships. Passages mention the yellow fever epidemic in New Orleans and Ocean Springs (Sept. 7, 30, 1897) and a quarantine in Mississippi (Sept. 18, 1897). He reports on the number of deaths in Wilson, La., and that he accompanied his father, Dr. James Kilbourne to Wilson to visits to the victims of yellow fever (Sept. 28, Oct. 8, 10, 1898). There are also references to the sinking of the *USS Maine* in Havana Harbor and the war with Spain (Feb. 16, April 1898).

Two guest books, one for a memorial in remembrance of Victor Maurin Coates (Dec. 27, 1946), and another book for the East Feliciana Pilgrim Garden Club Tour (March 1959) are also in this group. Printed material includes a booklet of stories, *Madame Tellier's Establishment ...*, 1946, and a book, *The Londoner*, by Dorothy Nicholson, 1844. The appointment of Richard H. Kilbourne as Color Sargent by the Corps of Cadets of LSU (1931). Papers also contain information copied from earlier documents relating to land (undated), and newspaper articles pertain to the town of Clinton and Kilbourne family members (1894, 1955-1975). Of particular interest are two large protest signs in support of segregation (circa 1960s).

Subseries 3. Genealogies and Histories, 1849-1984, undated.

This group is comprised of genealogy notes, lists, biographical sketches, and narratives reflecting the history of the Kilbourne family and related Perkins, Gayden, Spence, and Holcombe families. Notes also contain the 1850 census information for East Feliciana Parish and Amite County, Miss., and lists family ancestors. Two journal articles pertain to Clinton during the Civil War (undated). A dedication address, essays, notes, and a newspaper clipping provide a history of Lawyers' Row, the Courthouse, and the East Feliciana Public Library building located in Clinton (1971-1979, undated). The history of the Kilbourne family home in Clinton, Bonnie Burn Plantation, consists of essays and photocopies of a land plat showing the location of the plantation house (undated).

A biography by Anne Kilbourne Craddock, Hal Harper Kilbourne's sister, *The Life and Times of Anne K. Craddock*, offers insight into childhood experiences, daily life, family relationships, and the genealogy and history of the Kilbourne and related families, as well the history of Bonnie Burn Plantation (1984).

The volume, "First Book of the Chronicles of the Mystic Seven, Temple of the Wreath," (1849-1861) gives the history and minutes of the fraternal organization located at Centenary College, Jackson, La. The volume is written in a cryptic language and includes names of members, dates they joined, and secret names taken in the organization. The volume is only found on microfilm.

Series II. Photographs, circa 1900 – circa 1965, undated.

Photographs consist of card photographs, portraits, and snapshots. The majority of photographs are of unidentified individuals and buildings. Those photographs of identified individuals and buildings include Kilbourne family members sitting on the front steps of Bonnie Burn Plantation house (circa 1903), two card photographs of Bonnie Burn Plantation house (circa 1920), Paulsen Spence's LSU graduation photograph (1921), and a hunting photo and two snapshots of Elizabeth Kilbourne Spence (ca. 1935-1945). One snapshot shows a grocery store in high floodwaters, possibly during the Great Flood of 1927. Portraits taken circa the 1950s and 1960s are presumably of Kilbourne family members.

INDEX TERMS

Bonnie Burn Plantation (La.)--History.	1, II
Clinton (La.)--History--19 th century.	1
East Feliciana Parish (La.)--Social life and customs.	1
East Feliciana Parish Court House--History.	I
Genealogy.	I, II
Kilburn family.	I, II
Lawyers--Louisiana--East Feliciana Parish.	I
Louisiana--Clinton--History--Civil War, 1861-1865.	I
Segregation--Louisiana.	I
Physicians--Louisiana--Clinton.	1
Historic buildings--Louisiana--Clinton.	I

CONTAINER LIST

<u>Stack</u>			
<u>Location</u>	<u>Box</u>	<u>Folders</u>	<u>Contents with dates</u>
			Series I. Papers, 1826-1984, undated.
E:126	1	1-33	Subseries 1. Correspondence, 1848-1984, undated.
		34-46	Subseries 2. Personal Papers, 1826-1979, undated.
OS:K	--	1	Newspapers, 1894, 1955-1975
	--	2	Certificates, 1850-1936.
	--	3	Protest signs, circa 1960-1966.
E:126	1	47-56	Subseries 3. Genealogies and Histories, 1849-1984, undated.
Mf:K	--	--	"First Book of the Chronicles of the Mystic Seven, Temple of the Wreath," (1849-1861) [microfilm]
			Series II. Photographs, circa 1900 – circa 1965, undated
E:126	1	57-66	Photographs, circa 1900 – circa 1965, undated
OS:K	--	2	Photographs, circa 1950 – circa 1965