

**EMILY CHENET GUIDRY FAMILY PAPERS**

Mss. 4991

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

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**SUMMARY**

<b>Size</b>	10 linear ft.
<b>Geographic Locations</b>	Louisiana.
<b>Inclusive Dates</b>	1722-2006.
<b>Bulk Dates</b>	1940-1958.
<b>Languages</b>	English, French.
<b>Summary</b>	Papers contain family records, research files, printed items and photographs pertaining to family genealogy and the history of St. James Parish and St. John the Baptist parishes.
<b>Access Restrictions</b>	Access to photograph negatives requires the permission of a curator.
<b>Reproduction Note</b>	May be reproduced.
<b>Arrangement</b>	Collection is arranged chronologically within series and subseries, unless otherwise specified.
<b>Copyright</b>	For those materials not in the public domain, copyright is retained by the descendants of the creators in accordance with U.S. Copyright law.
<b>Related Collections</b>	Louis Aristee Poche Papers, Mss. 2882. Lillian C. Bourgeois, Saint James Parish History Collection, Mss. 2195.
<b>Citation</b>	Emily Chenet Guidry Family Papers, Mss. 4991, Louisiana and Lower Mississippi Valley Collections, LSU Libraries, Baton Rouge, La.
<b>Stack Location</b>	X:126-130, X:132-136, OS:G, 65:60.

## BIOGRAPHICAL/HISTORICAL NOTE

Emily Merthé Chenet and her twin sister, Jennie, were born November 11, 1923, to Alvin Louis Chenet and Isabelle “Belle” Marie Landry of Litcher, Louisiana. After they graduated from Litcher High School, they enrolled at St. Mary’s Dominican College in New Orleans. In the fall of 1942, both girls transferred to Southwestern Louisiana Institute, Lafayette, Louisiana, where Emily completed her undergraduate work in social work. Emily married Leon “Pap” Guidry of Lions, Louisiana in 1950 and they settled in Reserve, Louisiana in 1957.

Emily Guidry was a direct descendant of Pierre Chenet, who is known for introducing Perique tobacco to St. James Parish. Through family connections, she held partial ownership of historic Belle Helene Plantation. She co-chartered and served on the board of directors of the German-Acadian Coast Historical and Genealogical Society. In 1979, she co-founded the group’s quarterly journal *Les Voyageurs* and served as its editor until 1994. She also served on the board of directors of St. James Historical Society and authored *Bonfires on the Levee: Christmas Eve Tradition along the River Road*. Guidry remained active in the local chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution and the Ladies Altar Society of St. Peter Catholic Church in Reserve. She died after a brief illness in 2007.

## SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

Collection consists of family records, research files, printed items and photographs pertaining to Emily Guidry’s research into the genealogy and history of St. James and St. John the Baptist parishes. Material includes correspondence, personal papers, diaries, newspaper clippings, and published material. Correspondence also reflects life in rural Louisiana, and the activities of two young women attending college in New Orleans and Lafayette, Louisiana.

**LIST OF SERIES AND SUBSERIES**

**Series I. Family Papers, 1859-2005, undated.**  
**Subseries 1. Correspondence, 1875-2005, undated.**  
**Subseries 2. Personal Papers, 1859-2004, undated.**

**Series II. Research Files, 1722-2001, undated.**  
**Subseries 1. General Files, 1722-1991, undated.**  
**Subseries 2. Subject Files, 1785-2001, undated.**

**Series III. Printed Items, 1929-2006, undated.**

**Series IV. Photographs, 1890-2002, undated.**

## SERIES DESCRIPTIONS

### **Series I. Family Papers, 1859-2005, undated** (4 linear ft.)

Family papers pertain to the personal activities of Chenet family members and to Emily Chenet Guidry's research into genealogy and the history of St. James Parish.

### **Subseries 1. Correspondence, 1875-2005, undated** (3.75 linear ft.)

Correspondence is primarily among Emily and Jennie Chenet and their parents, and reflects rural life in Lutchet, St. James Parish, Louisiana, the college experiences of two young women, and the history and genealogy of that area. In their letters, correspondents relate news of personal activities, family matters, local gossip, and college life in New Orleans and Lafayette. They also discuss health, social activities and the weather. They write at length about the various garden plants and gardening techniques, raising poultry, crawfish, and local social events.

Remarks on World War II are mentioned in passing. Alvin Chenet explains his duties as a guard at the Port of New Orleans during the time between December of 1942 and 1943. His letters describe the military ships docked for repairs, the people he encounters, and his work environment. He also describes black sailors from the West Indies (February 6, 1943) and tells of a wage dispute with workers (August 15, 16, 1943). Belle writes about the death of Admiral Isoroku Yamamoto, the Marshall-General of the Imperial Japanese Navy (May 23, 1943). Other letters comment on the public reaction to the war (December 9-11, 1941, January 10, 1942), air raid drills and blackouts (February-March 1942), rationing, (1942), and Alvin's own draft status (October 1942). There also is mention of the "Lucky Strike Green Has Gone to War" advertising campaign by the American Tobacco Co. (November 19, 1942).

Alvin tells of a neighbor who must destroy more than 50% of a cattle herd infected with Malta fever (May 18, 1942), and he also reports on a case of black measles (May 1943). He expresses anger over a flirtatious greeting by an African American man (January 16, 1942), and he jokingly refers to his daughters as the "Gold Dust Twins," a reference to a popular advertising icon used at the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century (March 6, 1942). He mentions he will assist in the registration of African Americans (February 6, 1942). As a favor to neighboring farm laborers, he calculates their earnings for cutting rice (September 26, 1942). Letters comment on the stabbing of a woman (August 10, 1942), a local murder (February 4, 1957), and questionable house fires (February 3, 1966). He assumes that a "W" on a letter from Russell Long signifies delivery to white residents only (September 13, 1967). Other events concern a fire at an African American church started by arson, and protests at the schools (September 9, 11, 1969). She also reports that Hurricane Camille caused little local damage and the collection of donations for victims of the disaster (August 18, 21, 29, 1969).

**Note: Some letters in French**

### **Subseries 2. Personal Papers, 1859-2004, undated** (0.25 linear ft.)

Personal papers contain two diaries, awards, ephemera, and autograph books (1935-1938). The diary of Alvin Chenet relates to family history (1916), and that of Jennie Chenet pertain

her social activities (1938). Also included are school notes (undated), notebooks (1859, undated), academic reports (1943-1944), and a few financial papers. An account book, possibly that of the Bourgeois family store in the Pauline area, near Lutcher, Louisiana (1924-1925) is also present.

**Series II. Research Files, 1722-2005, undated** (2 linear ft.)

Research files pertain to the family history and genealogy of the Guidry and related families. Material consists of correspondence, charts, notes, biographical sketches, obituaries, newspaper clippings, and personal narratives. Files also contain photocopies of French documents and family records.

**Note: Research files are arranged in the original order of the creator.**

**Subseries 1. General Files, 1722-2005, undated** (0.25 linear ft.)

General files include photocopies of early family records (1722-1851), a printed list of victims of the "Natchez Massacre November 28, 1729" which was published in *Mississippi Provincial Archives: 1729-1740* (1927). In addition, there are photocopies of Spanish documents copied from the microfilm *Archivo General de Simancas Hojas de Servicios Militares de America años 1785-1815* (1971). Material also contains correspondence, notes and notebooks.

**Note: General files are arranged in the original order of the creator.**

**Subseries 2. Subject Files, 1785-2001, undated** (1.75 linear ft.)

Files include French documents [photocopy] (1792: DeVille, Winston), a list of free people of color residing in St. Charles Parish in 1792 (DeVille, Winston folder). Files also include census records for St. John the Baptist Parish (1813, 1870, St. John Parish folder). Pierre Dicharry succession specifies slaves and tools bequeathed to the heirs [photocopy in French] (April 25, 1838, Dicharry family folder). Papers also contain pictures of Felicity and St. Joseph plantations in St. James Parish (undated, Simon family folder) and Marlarcher House (undated, Marlacher House folder). A lecture by Emily Guidry to the St. James Historical Society gives a history of the life of Desiree Martin (December 5, 1992, Martin, Desiree folder). Emmaline Rose Hurst's oral history provides personal stories and family lineage for the Rose, Hatfield, Hurst and Powers families. This group also provides a history of Perique tobacco in St. James Parish (Chenet, Pierre, folder).

**Note: Subject files are arranged alphabetically by surname and topic.**

**Series III. Printed Items, 1929-2006, undated** (1 linear ft.)

Printed items contain illustrated postcards, publications and newspaper clippings relating to genealogy and the history of St. James and St. John the Baptist parishes. Publications include issues of the *Magny Families Association Newsletter* (1981-2003) and *Les Voyageurs* (December 2006). The history of sugarcane production in the antebellum South is discussed in the *Life and Times of Edwin & Eva Guidry* (undated) and *Cane, Cotton, & Crevasses ... Plantations of the Minor, Kenner, Hooke, and Shepherd Families* (1992, Supp:1994). *Nostalgic Notes of St. James Parish Then and Now* (1981) chronicle the history of the parish from the French colonial period into the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century. It is comprised of personal narratives, biographical sketches and brief histories of local businesses. Images in the book depict residents, buildings, and farmland. *St. James Parish Louisiana Colonial Records, 1782-1787* (1980) provides translations and abstracts to colonial documents.

**Note: See Appendix A for a list of publications.**

A series of newspaper articles, "A History of St. John the Baptist Parish," provides a history of St. John the Baptist Parish from the French colonial period to World War I (1981-1982). Topics include historical figures, early settlements, relations with Native Americans, slavery, plantation life. They describe events that occurred throughout this period. This also series tells the history of small local communities, and public schools and Catholic churches in the parish. Other newspaper clippings relate to genealogy and the preservation of some historic buildings and the loss of others, including the demolition of Welham Plantation near Hester, Louisiana (1979, undated). There are articles describing the sequence of events leading to the 1856 hurricane destruction of Last Island, Louisiana (August 5, 1956) and the tradition of bonfires in St. James Parish (December 1989).

Other printed material includes *The Cotton Bale*, a student yearbook from St. Joseph Academy, New Orleans (1929), issues of the *Scribbler's Script*, a student literary magazine at Southwestern Louisiana Institute (1943), *Students' Handbook* (1942), French songs (undated), and advertisements. There is also a map of the Catholic Diocese of Baton Rouge (1962). Postcards depict buildings and structures, and outdoor scenes (undated) in California, Louisiana, Mississippi, Georgia and Texas (undated). Among them are an unidentified plantation house in Crystal Springs, Miss., and the home of Jefferson Davis near Biloxi, Miss.

**Series IV. Photographs, 1890-2002, undated (1.75 linear ft.)**

Series consists of cartes-de-visite, cabinet cards, tintypes, snapshots, copy prints, and negatives. The majority is unidentified portraits. Identified photographs include members of the Chenet and related Poche, Bourgeois, Deslattes, Johnness, Shexnayder and Romain families. They include photographs of Emily Chenet Guidry (1939, undated), the Chenet house, and the house of Florian Bourgeois. Among the unidentified photographs are two images of African American women with white children. Wallet size scenic snapshots with negatives of San Antonio, Tex., show street scenes and architectural sites of the city (1946). Copy prints of Lutcher show the Lutcher & Moore Cypress Lumber Co., sawmill and ponds, Lutcher High School and street scenes (circa 1917). Tintypes include images of two unidentified men, a boy, a woman with a boy, and a young J. E. Chenet, son of Emile, sitting on a horse held by an unidentified African American man. Cartes-de-visite and cabinet cards are also found in three photograph albums, many of which are identified (circa 19<sup>th</sup> century). Some photographs have genealogical notes written on the back. There are also scan copies of photographs of Ashland Plantation (2002).

## INDEX TERMS

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

<b>Terms</b>	<b>Series, subseries</b>
African Americans in advertising--History.	I.1
African Americans--Louisiana.	I.1, II.2, IV
Agricultural laborers--Louisiana--Saint James Parish.	I.1, III
Agricultural wages--Louisiana--Saint James Parish.	I.1
Andry family.	II.2
Arsenault family.	II.2
Baudry family.	II.2
Bergeron family.	II.2
Bourgeois family.	I.2, II.2, IV
Catholic women's colleges--New Orleans (La.)	I.1
Chenet family.	I-IV
Country life--Louisiana--Saint James Parish.	I.1
Deslattes family.	II.2, IV
DeVille, Winston.	II.2
Dicharry family.	II.2, IV
Druilhet family.	II.2
Gayden family.	II.2
Golden Grove Plantation (La.)	II.2
Gossip--Louisiana.	I.1
Hatfield family.	II.2
Haydel family.	II.2, III
Hess, Marilyn Rome.	II.2
Hurst family.	II.2
Indians of North America--Mississippi--18 <sup>th</sup> century.	II.1, III
Johness family.	II.2, IV
Jordan, James, Perry, Jr.	II.2, III
Keller family.	II.2
LeBourgeois family.	II.2
Lutcher & Moore Cypress Lumber Co.	IV
Lutcher (La.)--History--20 <sup>th</sup> century.	I-IV
Lutcher (La.)--Social life and customs--20 <sup>th</sup> century.	I.1
Malarcher Plantation (La.).	II.2
Many family.	II.2, III
Many, Emile Gex.	II.2
Marlacher family.	II.2, III
Marshall family.	II.2
Martin, Desiree.	II.2
Measles--Louisiana.	I.1

<b>Terms</b>	<b>Series, subseries</b>
Melancon family.	II.2
Nova Scotia--History--18 <sup>th</sup> century.	II.2
Ory family.	II.2
Perilloux, Joseph Mederic, 1872-1932.	II.2
Plantation life	III
Pochè family.	III, IV
Powers family.	II.2
Race relations--Louisiana.	I.1, III
Rivarde family.	II.2
Rome family.	II.2
Rommel family.	II.2
Rose family.	II.2
Roussell family.	II.2
Sailors, Black--West Indies, British.	I.1
Saint James Parish (La.)--(History).	III
Saint John the Baptist Parish (La.)--History.	III
San Antonio (Tex.)--Pictorial works.	IV
Simon family.	II.2
Smith family.	II.2
Southwestern Louisiana Industrial Institute--Students.	I.1, 3
St. Mary's Dominican College (New Orleans, La.)	I.1
Sugarcane--Louisiana.	III
Twins--Louisiana.	I.1
Vegetable gardening--Louisiana--Lutcher.	I.1
Verret family.	II.2
Webre family.	II.2
Welham Plantation (La.)	III
Women college students--Louisiana--Conduct of life.	I.1
Women--Education (Higher)--Social aspects--Louisiana.	I.1
Women genealogists--Louisiana.	I-IV
World War, 1939-1945--Louisiana.	I.1
Yokum, Antoinette	II.2

CONTAINER LIST

<u>Stack Location</u>	<u>Box</u>	<u>Folders</u>	<u>Contents</u>
<b>Series I. Family Papers, 1859-2005, undated.</b>			
X:126	1	1-48	<b>Subseries 1.</b> Correspondence, 1875, 1900-1942 March.
X:127	2	1-49	Correspondence, 1942 April-1943 May.
X:128	3	1-52	Correspondence, 1943 June-1957 May.
X:129	4	1-43	Correspondence, 1957 June-2005, undated.
		44-60	<b>Subseries 2.</b> Personal papers, 1859-2004, undated.
OS:G	15	1	Personal papers, proclamation, 2003.
<b>Series II. Research Files, 1722-2001, undated.</b>			
X:130	5	1-10	<b>Subseries 1.</b> General files, 1722-1991, undated.
OS:G	15	1	General files, clippings, county records.
X:130	5	11-43	<b>Subseries 2.</b> Subject files, Andry-Chenet.
OS:G	15	2-3	Subject files, Chenet, DeVille, Druilhet.
X:132	6	1-52	Subject files, Chenet-Yokum.
X:133	7	1-35	<b>Series III.</b> Printed items, 1929-2006, undated.
OS:G	15	4	Printed items, 1969-1999, undated
<b>Series IV. Photographs, 1890-2002, undated</b>			
X:134	8	--	Photograph album, undated
	9	1-10	Unidentified photographs, undated.
OS:G	15	4	Group photograph of people with wagon and horse, undated.
X:135	10	1-13	Identified photographs, 1899-2002, undated.
	11	1-8	Cabinet cards, undated.
X:136	12	--	Photograph album, undated.
	13	--	Photograph album, undated.
	14	--	Tintypes, 1906, undated.

**APPENDIX A**  
**List of Publications**

*A Historical Sketch of the St. Louis Cathedral of New Orleans*, 1947.

*Cane, Cotton, & Crevasses ... Plantations of the Minor, Kenner, Hooke, and Shepherd Families*, by Philip Chadwick Foster Smith and G. Gouverneur Meredith S. Smith, 1992. Supplement, 1994.

*Cotton Bale*, a student yearbook from St. Joseph Academy, New Orleans, 1929.

*Dear Pledge of Sigma, Sigma, Sigma*, 1942.

*Les Voyageurs*, December 2006.

*Life and Times of Edwin & Eva Guidry*, Anne Celeste Guidry, undated.

*Many Families Named Magny, Manee, Maney, Manney, Manny and Many*, by Kenneth B. Schoonmaker, 1986-1990, v. I-III.

*Melange - a History of the Families: Jordan, Allen, Prat Johnston, Druilhet, Sitges, Poche, Chenet, Musson Malarcher, Schexnayder*, by James Perry Jordan, Jr., 1994.

*My Place in Time. A Study of a Family Part III The Haydels*, by Edward John Lebeau, Jr., 1996.

*Newsletter*, Magny Families Association, 1981-2003.

*Nostalgic Notes of St. James Parish Then and Now*, by Marie Pilkington Campbell, 1981.

*Paternal Ancestors and Descendants of George Lea Gayden, St.*, by William K. Gayden, 1995.

*S.L.I. Alumni News*, Southwestern Louisiana Institute Alumni Association, 1945 September.

*Salve Regina*, St. Mary's Dominican College, 1942 June.

*Scribbler's Script*, Southwestern Louisiana Institute, 1943.

*St. James Parish Louisiana Colonial Record*, translated and abstracted by Eileen Larre Behrman, 1980.

*Students' Handbook*, Southwestern Louisiana Institute, v. 19, 1942.