HEBERT (RAPHAEL AND FAMILY) PAPERS
(Mss. 4769)
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

2003
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## Summary

**Size**
3.5 linear feet and one oversize folder

**Geographic Locations**
Louisiana, Mississippi, Arkansas, Texas, Tennessee, Illinois

**Inclusive Dates**
1827-1960, n.d.

**Languages**
French and English

**Summary**
Correspondence, financial/legal papers, personal papers, printed items, and photographic materials of the Raphael Hebert family and other families of West Baton Rouge and Iberville Parishes, Louisiana. Also included are records from St. John the Baptist Catholic Church in Brusly, Louisiana. Papers concern professional, social, civic, educational, and religious involvement of family members and acquaintances in West Baton Rouge and Iberville Parishes.

**Restrictions**
None

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**Citation**
Raphael Hebert Family Papers, Mss. #4769, Louisiana and Lower Mississippi Valley Collections, LSU Libraries, Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

**Stack locations**
S: 137-140 and OS: H
Biographical/Historical Note

Raphael Hebert and his descendants were prominent residents of West Baton Rouge and Iberville Parishes, Louisiana. Raphael Hebert was born on September 29, 1809, the fifth child of Alexander Alexis Hebert and Margarita Chaisson, who were married on May 27, 1799. Alexander Alexis Hebert, born in 1779 in St. Gabriel, Louisiana, was an original land-grant recipient in what is now the town of Brusly, Louisiana. Besides Raphael, Alexander Alexis Hebert’s other children and their birth dates were Rosemond (1800), Margarita (1802), Gilbert (1804), Anna Amarinta (1806), Josephine (1811), and Marie Marcelita (1813).

Raphael Hebert married Marie Odile Landry on April 30, 1834. Marie Odile Landry was born on November 10, 1814, and baptized in St. Gabriel. Her parents were Simon Landry and Marie Hebert. Her paternal grandparents were Firmin Landry and Ludevine Babin, and her maternal grandparents were Amand Hebert and Marie Boudreaux. The names and birth dates of Raphael Hebert and Marie Odile Landry’s children include Urbain (May 5, 1835), Raphael, Jr. (July 26, 1836), Alexis (January 13, 1839), Emma (1841), Marie Amanda (April 12, 1843), Marie Celestine (December 3, 1845), Marie Jeanne (June 24, 1847), Jynore (April 9, 1849), Octave (September 13, 1850), Marie Amelia (June 14, 1854), Benjamin (October 3, 1856), and Eulalie (November 30, 1858).

Melanie Hebert, a grandchild of Raphael Hebert and Marie Odile Landry, wrote her relatives from the Academy of St. Basil in Plaquemine, Louisiana, from 1870 to 1874. Her volume of letters is the largest correspondence in the collection. Melanie Hebert’s son, Volney J. Knobloch, would figure decades later in the successions of Joseph Guy Hebert and Marguerite Hebert.

Following his first wife’s death, Raphael Hebert, Sr., married a second time on February 26, 1870, to Julia LaBauve, born on November 6, 1846. The names and birth dates of their children were Joseph Guy (December 24, 1870), Noel Sebastian (December 25, 1871), Marie Cora (1878), Marie Marguerite Noella (October 16, 1881). Marie Cora Hebert died on November 13, 1892, Raphael Hebert, Sr., on November 16, 1894, and Julia LaBauve Hebert on February 21, 1906.

Joseph Guy Hebert practiced law in Plaquemine, Louisiana, and was active in Woodmen of the World, serving as grand secretary of the Arkansas, Mississippi, and Louisiana district before his untimely death on May 27, 1903. Noel Hebert, Brusly merchant and postmaster, served as chairman of the West Baton Rouge Selective Service Board, in which capacity he traveled to Washington, D.C., to receive an award from President Truman. Marguerite Hebert taught for 50 years before retiring from the West Baton Rouge Parish public-school system. Noel Hebert died on February 22, 1955, and Marguerite Hebert on December 17, 1960.
Scope and Content Note

Correspondence, financial/legal papers, personal papers, printed items, and photographic materials of the Raphael Hebert family of West Baton Rouge and Iberville Parishes, Louisiana. Also included are records from St. John the Baptist Catholic Church in Brusly, Louisiana. Correspondence in French and English between Hebert family members and their acquaintances date from an 1861 Confederate soldier’s letter written in Pascagoula, Mississippi, to a 1960 letter from Texan Genevieve King (Wielenberg) McNally, whose correspondence added that of her mother, Ora King, also from Texas, composes the largest series of letters by persons not related to the Heberts. Most correspondence flows between Hebert relatives and their associates in West Baton Rouge and Iberville Parishes and concerns the news in those and other Louisiana places, the most prolific correspondent being Melanie Hebert at the Academy of St. Basil in Plaquemine, Louisiana, in the early 1870s. Joseph Guy Hebert writes from New Orleans in the late 1800s while in law school, and Marguerite Hebert writes from Natchitoches, Louisiana, during enrollment at the State Normal School of Louisiana in the early 1900s. Many of the Hebert letters reflect the family’s interest in civic, educational, and religious affairs, with even the author-priest Louis Schram writing to Marguerite Hebert about his book *The Monguors of the Kansu-Tibetan Frontier*. Family members and friends also exchange letters between Louisiana and vacation spots in Texas, Arkansas, Mississippi, Tennessee, and other parts of the United States.


List of Series and Subseries

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   - **Subseries 2. Melanie Hebert**, n.d. [1870-1874], 1875, 1876, 1887 (Box 1)
   - **Subseries 3. Letters to Julia LaBauve Hebert**, 1887-1905 (Box 1)
   - **Subseries 4. Letters to/from Joseph Guy Hebert and to/from Noel Hebert**, 1891-1909, n.d. (Box 1)
   - **Subseries 5. Marguerite Hebert**, [1899-1955] n.d. (Box 2)
Subseries 7. Letters from/Relating to Ora King, Genevieve King, Mabel Landry, and Marguerite Hebert, 1902-1960 (Box 3)


II. Financial/Legal Papers, 1836-1960, n.d. (Boxes 4 and 5)
   Subseries 1. Assorted Financial/Legal Papers, 1863-1868, n.d. (Box 4)
   Subseries 2. Raphael Hebert and Julia LaBauve Hebert, 1836-1907 (Box 4)
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   Subseries 5. Marguerite Hebert, 1903-1960, n.d. (Box 5)

III. Personal Papers, 1827-1957, n.d. (Box 6, Oversize Folder 1)
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   Subseries 3. Marguerite Hebert, 1901, 1910, 1925-1957, n.d. (Box 6, Oversize Folder 1)
   Subseries 4. Noel Hebert, 1912, [1940-1946] n.d. (Box 6, Oversize Folder 1)

IV. St. John the Baptist Catholic Church Records, 1832, 1855-1874, n.d. (Box 7)

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   Subseries 6. Religious Books and Cards, n.d., 1835-1960 (Box 9 and Box 11)

VI. Photographic Materials, 1901-1954, n.d. (Box 12)

Series and Subseries Descriptions

I. Correspondence, [1861-1960] n.d. (1 linear foot)

Subseries 1. Assorted Correspondence, 1861-1892, n.d. Correspondence features ten letters and a note from Hebert relatives and friends. In an August 27, 1861, letter in
French, Alexis Hebert describes to his father, Raphael Hebert, Sr., the life of a Confederate soldier stationed at Pascagoula, Mississippi. Other letters in French and English concern the socializing of Hebert relatives and acquaintances.

Subseries 2. Melanie Hebert, n.d. [1870-1874], 1875, 1876, 1887. Most of Melanie Hebert’s letters are written from the Academy of St. Basil in Plaquemine when Melanie is a student there (1870-1874). Numbering more than 50, all but eight are in French, the eight English letters being sent to Melanie’s uncle Benjamin Hebert and the French addressed to either her grandfather (Raphael Hebert) or step-grandmother (Julia LaBauve Hebert). Melanie shares gossip concerning persons in Iberville and West Baton Rouge Parishes; discusses convent education, news of the Sisters Marianites of Holy Cross, and Catholic observances; relates trips to New Orleans and other travel in the area; mentions the commemoration of Robert E. Lee’s death; refers to seasonal practices such as sugar-cane grinding; and details the fashions and fads of women her age.

Subseries 3. Letters to Julia LaBauve Hebert, 1887-1905. This subseries houses letters written to Julia LaBauve Hebert in both French and English concerning news of family and friends.


Subseries 5. Marguerite Hebert, [1899-1955] n.d. This subseries comprises Marguerite Hebert’s letters to Joseph Guy Hebert and Julia LaBauve Hebert while Marguerite is a student at the Louisiana State Normal School in Natchitoches (1899-1900). The 16 letters describe course work, student teaching, news, and special events at Normal. Marguerite mentions notable Normal faculty and staff such as James B. Aswell, Beverly C. Caldwell, Agnes Donaho, and J.E. Keeny. Other correspondence (1903-1955, n.d.) consists of letters from Marguerite while on vacation in Coopers Wells, Mississippi, and Hot Springs, Arkansas, as well as letters concerning items of interest in West Baton Rouge Parish.

Subseries 6. Letters to Marguerite Hebert, [1899-1955] n.d. In addition to sympathy notes following Noel Hebert’s death in 1955, the bulk of this subseries consists of dozens of postcards sent to Marguerite from relatives, friends, and students (1905-1928, n.d.).

Subseries 7. Letters from/Relating to Ora King, Genevieve King, Mabel Landry, and Marguerite Hebert, 1902-1960. The correspondence relates to Marguerite Hebert’s relationship with Ora King, Ora King’s daughter Genevieve King, and Mabel Landry. The letters concern other persons and events in Louisiana; Dallas, Texas; and the Chicago, Illinois, area. Marguerite and Ora study together at Normal and maintain a close friendship thereafter, corresponding, visiting, and inspiring Genevieve to do the same. During part of this time, Mabel Landry is living with Marguerite and receiving mail (most of which remains as postcards) at their address. Ora King details the
challenges of a lovelorn working mother in both plush times and the Great Depression. Ora's and Genevieve's letters as well as a letter to Genevieve from her paternal grandfather reveal the nature of the women's association with Genevieve's father, Grover Wielenberg, whose surname Ora removes after divorcing him. After re-establishing ties with her father's Illinois family, Genevieve recounts visiting them in 1933 and relates information concerning important Chicago families. Genevieve King eventually becomes Mrs. George McNally.

Subseries 8. Letters from/Relating to Carl Joseph Dupuy, Cleo A. Forcier, Louis Schram, and Marguerite Hebert, n.d. [1945-1955]. These letters pertain to Marguerite Hebert's association with a seminarian (Dupuy) and two priests, one (Forcier) being an Edmundite missionary and the other (Schram) author of *The Mongols of the Kansu-Tibetan Frontier*.

II. Financial/Legal Papers, 1836-1960, n.d. (.5 linear feet)

Subseries 1. Assorted Financial/Legal Papers, 1863-1868, n.d. An undated list of names and monetary amounts as well as 17 promissory notes in French and English involve West Baton Rouge personages.

Subseries 2. Raphael Hebert and Julia LaBauve Hebert, 1836-1907. This subseries houses some of Raphael, Sr., and Julia LaBauve Hebert's financial/legal papers. Included are two receipts in French (February 24, 1836, and June 27, 1848) as well as a bill of sale in English dated January 2, 1878, for items sold by Raphael Hebert to Benjamin F. Hebert. There is also an account book in French with annotations from April 1840 to June 1848. It mentions Raphael's marriage to Odile Landry and lists birth and christening information for their children to date. Items in English pertaining to Julia LaBauve Hebert's account with the Bank of Plaquemine include an account book (June 1903-July 1907); nine cancelled vouchers (August 6, 1903-May 31, 1905); and two deposit slips (October 30, 1903, and July 27, 1904).

Subseries 3. Joseph Guy Hebert, 1890-1907. Included are an account book with the Bank of Plaquemine (1902-1903) and another account book bearing earlier dates as well as annotations dated after Guy Hebert's death on May 27, 1903. Subseries 3 also houses promissory notes, bills, and receipts (1896-1904), mostly involving Plaquemine personages and establishments.

Subseries 5. Marguerite Hebert, 1903-1960, n.d. Twenty-three cancelled vouchers (December 20, 1903-June 28, 1907) from Marguerite Hebert’s account with the Bank of Plaquemine are housed in this subseries. Undated items include listings of names, items, and amounts; a sketch of what appear to be plots of land; six bills from Hebert and Mouch General Merchandise; and two drafts of letters from Marguerite Hebert concerning Hebert heirs. A June 2, 1917, letter from Samuel G. Laycock of Laycock and Beale Attorneys at Law (Baton Rouge) to Marguerite Hebert encloses a copy of a letter sent to Noel Hebert concerning the successions of Raphael Hebert, Julia LaBauve Hebert, and Joseph Guy Hebert. Three letters to Marguerite Hebert from the Bank of Commerce and Trusts in Richmond, Virginia (March 18, 1937; March 27, 1937; April 5, 1938) relate to Julia LaBauve Hebert’s estate. Other items dated 1917 to 1952 concern Marguerite Hebert’s stock in or dealings with Piedmont Motor Car Company, Port Allen Bank and Trust Company, Bank of West Baton Rouge, West Baton Rouge Parish School Board, Teachers’ Retirement System of Louisiana, and Calcasieu Parish School Bonds. There are also three letters from the summer of 1955 concerning Whitehead and Kimball’s assisting Marguerite Hebert with Noel Hebert’s estate. The subseries concludes with two versions of Marguerite Hebert’s last will and testament (July 5, 1956, and December 16, 1960).

III. Personal Papers, 1827-1957, n.d. (.3 linear feet)

Subseries 1. Assorted Personal Papers, 1827, 1888, n.d. The oldest item is the Reverend Eugene Michaud’s 1827 transcription and validation (in French) of the Reverend Paul de Saint Pierre’s 1814 documentation of Marie Odile Landry’s baptism at St. Gabriel Catholic Church in St. Gabriel, Louisiana. The oversize folder houses Cora Hebert’s First Communion certificate (May 24, 1888) and accompanying pouch as well as a certificate of payment by Julia LaBauve Hebert to The Homeless Child (March 16, 1888). Two undated items are “Way to Heaven” (a handwritten booklet of devotional prayers) and “An Epitaph in Memory of Mr. A. Hebert” (Aristide Hebert, who died on November 14, 1855) by John (Conway?).

Subseries 2. Joseph Guy Hebert/Woodmen of the World, 1902, 1916, n.d. In French, in what appears to be Joseph Guy Hebert’s hand, are five undated pages of devotional verse or song in honor of the Virgin Mary for recital on specific days in May. Also included are the typescript “To the Officers and Members of Head Camp ‘F’ Woodmen of the World in Convention Assembled” (n.d.); an official circular from Guy Hebert to the officers and members of Plymouth Camp Number 184 of the Woodmen of the World (Plaquemine, December 3, 1902); and the program “Big Fall Rally” for Live Oak Camp Number 14 and Myrtle Camp Number 30 (at LSU, October 15, 1916).

Subseries 3. Marguerite Hebert, 1912, [1940-1946] n.d. The oversize folder houses Marguerite Hebert’s May 29, 1901, diploma from the State Normal School of Louisiana. The majority of items (1910, 1925-1951, n.d.) relate to Marguerite Hebert’s teaching career. Included are letters to and from pupils and parents, the bulk of the correspondence being congratulatory notes on Marguerite Hebert’s golden anniversary of
teaching. Both the typewritten and published versions of Mary B. Wall’s poem “Marguerite” reside in this series, as do a mimeograph of the typescript poem “After the Bell,” composed in honor of Marguerite Hebert’s teaching, and the typescript “A Boy in a Dime Store.” There are also notes in Marguerite Hebert’s hand giving an account of her teaching, a treatise in the same hand on the qualities of an outstanding teacher entitled “The Teacher’s Spirit,” and notes on Maurice Thompson’s Alice of Old Vincennes. Other items (1934-1957, n.d.) pertain to Marguerite Hebert’s civic and volunteer work, namely with the Louisiana Emergency Relief Administration; Choctaw Council Number 7 of the Brusly Reservation; the Baton Rouge Area Tuberculosis Association; and the West Baton Rouge Chapter of the American Red Cross. Two undated handwritten documents offer instructions for removing stains by absorption and a date-roll recipe.

Subseries 4. Noel Hebert, 1912, [1940-1946] n.d. The oversize folder houses a December 6, 1912, certificate signed by Louisiana Governor Luther Egbert Hall and Secretary of State Alvin E. Hebert declaring that Noel Hebert has been elected police juror for Ward 2 of West Baton Rouge Parish. Other items include a September 15, 1944, article from the Port Allen West Side Journal: “Noel Hebert Heads Veterans’ Service Committee Here” and various documents (1946, n.d.) relating to Noel Hebert’s term as chairman of the West Baton Rouge Parish Local Selective Service Board (Draft Board), in which capacity he traveled to Washington, D.C., to receive from President Truman on January 21, 1946, an award for uncompensated local Selective Service Board members.

IV. St. John the Baptist Catholic Church Records, 1832, 1855-1874, n.d. (.3 linear feet)

In French are a photocopy of Jean-Baptiste Hebert’s 1832 sale of property to the “Souscripteurs de la Chapelle d’Ouest Baton Rouge” and the Reverend Pierre Lucas’ 1855 baptismal certificate for Marie Amélie Hebert. The bulk of the items of this subseries (in both French and English) consist of promissory notes, notes concerning church business (namely, upkeep and salaries for church personnel), and pew lists.

V. Printed Items, 1861-1960, n.d. (1.3 linear feet)

Subseries 2. Announcement Cards and Death Notices, 1861-1894. This subseries contains announcement cards for the weddings of Albert Templet and Azelia Hebert (September 14, 1867) and Julia LaBauve and Raphael Hebert (February 26, 1870), both at St. John the Baptist Catholic Church in Brusly. There is also a program card from the annual commencement at Harper Normal College, Kansas, from August 1, 1889. In French is the death notice for Valmont Hebert (June 26, 1861) and in English those for Thompson W. Bird (January 22, 1874), Marie Cora Hebert (November 15, 1892), and Raphael Hebert, Sr. (November 17, 1894).


Subseries 4. Louisiana State University Printed Items, n.d., 1905, 1933. Included are Views at the Louisiana State University (1905?), a 1905 commencement program, and In Memoriam. Thomas Ducket Boyd (1854-1932), President 1896-1927, Louisiana State University and Agricultural and Mechanical College, Volume IX, Number 5 of Louisiana State University’s Alumni News, December 1933.

Subseries 5. Genevieve King and Mary Patricia Hebert, n.d., 1928, 1950. Contained here are Genevieve King’s undated report card from the Academy of Our Lady of Good Counsel in Dallas, Texas, and two invitations to attend Genevieve King’s graduation from the same school in 1928. The series also includes a program from the dedication of “The Cottage” as the Homemaking Department of Redemptorist Boys and Girls High School (New Orleans) in memory of Mary Patricia Hebert (May 7, 1950).

Subseries 6. Religious Books and Cards, n.d., 1835-1960. Unless otherwise indicated, the items reside in Box 9. Books and booklets in French include Le Mois de Mai Consacré à la Gloire de la Mère de Dieu (1835, in Box 11); Paroissien Romain Contenant les Offices de Tous les Dimanches et des Principales Fêtes de l’Année, le Commun des Saints, le Chemin de la Croix, une Messe de Communion, etc. for the years 1881-1892 (in Box 11); Catéchisme de la Doctrine Chrétienne Ordonné par le Troisième Concile Plénier de Baltimore, et Traduit en Français par l’Ordre de Monseigneur l’Archevêque de la Nouvelle-Orléans (1885); Moyens de Soulager les Ames du Purgatoire (1891); Petit Paroissien Romain et Recueil de Prières for the years 1897-1904 (in Box 11); and 30 extant pages of a devotional prayer booklet. In English are The Morning Sacrifice. A Brief Explanation of Holy Mass (1926); The Way of the Cross for the Holy Souls in Purgatory with Prayers Translated from the “FILOTEA PEI DEFUNTI” (1928); A Manual of Prayers for the Use of the Catholic Laity (1930, in Box 11); Solemn Novena to the Holy Ghost in Preparation of the Feast of Pentecost (1932); The Messenger of the Sacred Heart (July 1947 issue); a souvenir leaflet missal from the wedding of Frances Melba Hurt and Carl Joseph Dupuy (September 24, 1960); and an undated Way of the Cross. Some of the 27 religious cards, leaflets, and clippings (n.d., 1934-1955) commemorate deaths and other events of local interest. The guest book from Marguerite Hebert’s funeral (1960) culminates the subseries.
Subseries 7. Teaching Books, 1864-1926, n.d. The items derive from Marguerite Hebert’s scholastic and pedagogical careers. Titles include *Les Doigts de Fée. Comédie en Cinq Actes* (College Series of Modern French Plays, Number VIII, 1864); *Quotations and Select Stories for Opening Exercises in Schools* (1887); *The Sketch Book* (Maynard’s English Classic Series, Number 87, 1892); *The Philosophy of Style* (Maynard’s English Classic Series, Number 129, 1904); *Sesame and Lilies. First Lecture, Of Kings’ Treasuries* (Maynard’s Classic English Series, Number 176, 1895); *The Courtship of Miles Standish* (Maynard’s English Classic Series, Number 230, 1901); *You’ll Be Sorry When I’m Gone* (1896); Agnes Morris’ *School Improvement Leagues of Louisiana* (1911); Jousse’s *Catechism, to Which Is Added Burrowes’ Guide to Practice, Robert Schumann’s Rules for Young Musicians and an Enlarged Dictionary of Musical Terms* (Brainard Edition, n.d.); *Conciliation with the Colonies* (Riverside Literature Series, Number 100, 1896); *Institute Note-Book Presented by American Book Company* (n.d.); *The George Peabody College for Teachers, Type Studies and Lesson Plans* (Volume I, Number 3, February 1916; Volume II, Number 4, April 1917; Volume III, Number 1, October 1917; Volume III, Number 3, May 1918; Volume IV, Number 4, January 1920); *For the Love of Mike* (1924); *Two Days to Marry* (Bugbee’s Popular Plays, 1926); *Outlines in United States History* (n.d.).

VI. Photographic Materials, 1901-1954, n.d. (.3 linear feet)

This series houses 11 photographs that bear neither subject identification nor date but that most probably represent relatives and friends of the Heberts and that may date from the late 1800s to the mid 1900s. One photocopied page contains images of Pierre LaBauve (d. January 15, 1879), Adonis Thibodeaux (d. September 8, 1886), Irma LaBauve Thibodeaux (d. January 25, 1924), John Thibodeaux (d. August 25, 1921), and Amy Thibodeaux Hunt (d. March 7, 1947). Six undated, unidentified copies of the same photograph probably feature Joseph Guy Hebert, as do two snapshots of a man seated in a rocker on a gallery. Nine unidentified photographs (one of which dates to 1901 and another to 1904) might be of Marguerite Hebert, alone or with others. Three 1910 photographs show three women (one of whom could possibly be Marguerite Hebert) in rocky woods. There is an undated photograph of Judith Templet and one of Maud Templet. Folder 7 contains seven photographs (n.d., 1944) with partial indentification, Folder 8 houses images associated with Ora King and Genevieve King (n.d., 1925, 1941), and Folder 9 has six unidentified, undated photographs from the same roll of film and two from another. Folder 10 bears school-related images (1929, n.d.), one of them being of Lorraine Barras, and the last folder features Marguerite Hebert, Mabel Landry, and “the Red Eye LeBlancs.”
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Series IV. St. John the Baptist Catholic Church Records, 1832, 1855-1874, n.d.

Series V. Printed Items, 1861-1960, n.d.


“War! War!! Still Later,” Daily Advocate (1861)

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Obituaries (1892, 1903, 1955, 1960)

Brusly News (1936, n.d.)

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S:140 11  8-11  *Le Mois de Mai* (1835); *Paroissien Romain* (1881); *Petit Paroissien* (1897); *Manual of Prayers* (1930)

**Subseries 7. Teaching Books, 1864-1926, n.d.**

10  1-10  *Les Doigts de Fée* (1864); *Quotations and Select Stories for Opening Exercises in School* (1887); *The Sketch Book* (1892); *The Philosophy of Style* (1892); *The Vision of Sir Launfal* (1904); *Sesame and Lilies* (1895); *The Courtship of Miles Standish* (1901); *You’ll Be Sorry When I’m Gone* (1896); *School Improvement Leagues of Louisiana* (1911); *Jousse’s Catechism* (n.d.); *Conciliation with the Colonies* (1896); *Institute Note-Book* (n.d.)

11  1-7  *The George Peabody College for Teachers,*
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10 School-Related Photos (1929, n.d.)
Appendix

I. Correspondence in French

Subseries 1. Assorted Correspondence

---“Est Pascagoula,” August 27, 1861. Alexis Hebert to his father, Raphael Hebert, Sr. Written across the top of front page: “I send you a piece of poetry that I took from a little gazette from here. Tell Amanda to save it for me for when I return.” The letter in translation reads:

“Dear Papa:

It is always with pleasure that I take my plume to give you our news, which is very good, and hope that the presence of my letter finds all of you to be the same. Raphael is still in good health. He is enjoying himself very much here. We have been here eight days. I am having a much better time here than anyplace else. That is perhaps because we have had enough hard times. However, we have all missed the island because there we had all types of liberties. We undressed in our tents to go into the Gulf, and we dressed in our tents, but here you have to be careful. You cannot go at all hours. There on the island, we were entirely free. Here we have better things like milk, oysters, fowl, eggs, fish in quantity, and we still have Mass every Sunday. I saw Mrs. and Mr. Bird at Mass Sunday. They were very happy to see us. Raphael has made many acquaintances with the young ladies from here and several other soldiers with him. It makes me think about when he came back from college. We have some Negresses to prepare our meals at a very good price. It is all divided by the mess. The one who cooks for us really makes me think of Jane, likewise stern. I assure you that she contends enough with those who are not careful. We are 12 in the mess, and she charges us 12 dollars per month, [?]. I find that to be much better than when it was the judge and the others who cooked before. She makes us gumbos, puddings, and all sorts of good things from very few things. I am sending you some watermelon seeds. It is a melon that weighed 15 pounds. It is the biggest melon that I ever saw and the best that I have eaten. With that, also some white muscadine seeds. These are also the best that I have eaten. They are so sweet, but maybe they will not come out in our weather over there. No other news except that the second day after we had arrived here, an English ship came to Horn Island. The Merymon, it appeared very big from here. The Oregon went, and they fired several cannon shots to salute each other. It was very pretty to see The Oregon going. They said that our boats go fast in the river, but they compared us to that one, however. It is for its own good that we have come here. It is very well constructed. We have received some details about the militia of West Baton Rouge here. There is a company that is organizing, but I do not believe that it will [succeed? reunite?] if it breaks up. There are 20 or so who want to come join our company. No other news. We are 1,000 with the national guard. We are fine, and we are all happy to send you our regards. I close. Receive from a son the dearest affections.

Alexis Hebert”

---“Ouest Baton Rouge,” January 24, 1862. Irma LaBauve Thibodeaux to her parents.

---Bayou Goula, December 6, 1867. “Louise” to “Mademoiselle Prospérine Hébert.”

---“Ouest Baton Rouge,” March 26, 1870. Elodie Thibodeaux to a female friend, whom she identifies as “Julia” in the text (possibly Julia LaBauve Hebert). The writer also mentions a “Melanie” (perhaps Melanie Hebert, Julia LaBauve Hebert’s step-granddaughter) and refers to post-Lenten weddings and balls.

---Plaquemine, November 15, 1875. “Euchéris” to “Ma Chère Soeur et Filleule” (possibly Julia LaBauve Hebert, for the writer also mentions “Mr. Raphael” and “Melanie”).

---Plaquemine, March 22, 1885. “Euchéris” to “Cher Neveu.” Barely legible. Mentions “Cora” and “Marguerite.”

---St. Martinville, July 28, 1888. Edilia Hebert to “Chère Tante.” Writes about the death of Dr. Frank Thomas.

---n.d., Love note or poem by F. Edouard Hebert.

---“[?] County, Texas, [?] juillet, 1889.” Joseph Gilbert LaBauve to “Mr. Raphaël Hebert, Ouest B. Rouge.” The letter – badly damaged and housed in the oversize folder – reads in translation:

“My dear uncle, I would tell you that I am a little ashamed to take up the plume today to write you. Only because I would have had to do it a long time ago, [?] to do it, but you knew the news [was?] the same thing. Thus, today I write from Texas. We arrived about three hours ago at the inn from which I write you. Our trip was one of the happiest. It is now four days since we left the lake. We arrived yesterday morning at Galveston, and we left again at 4:00 in the afternoon. Our expenses up to here have climbed to $225.00. We had a bad time leaving Galveston for here. I saw waves – real waves – of the sea. Mama, Josephine, and [?] all had seasickness, but I knew how to come out of it like an old sailor. You [?] our relatives and friends this news. All of the [?] family are wonderful and charge me with sending their regards to you. Embrace all my cousins for me [?]. Your devoted nephew, Jos. Gilbert LaBauve”

Subseries 2. Melanie Hebert

Unless otherwise indicated, Melanie Hebert’s letters originate from St. Basil’s Academy, Plaquemine.

Box 1, Folder 2:

---“le 21 Oct.” To Julia LaBauve Hebert. Mentions commemorations in Plaquemine of Robert E. Lee’s death, indicating that the year must be 1870.

---“Académie de St Basil, Plaquemine, Oct. le 18.” To Julia. Describes trip to and from New Orleans by steamboat as well as her stay in the city. [Mentioning the Wade Hampton, which sank opposite Donaldsonville in November 1871, places this letter before that date.] Describes the Robert E. Lee.

---December 8, 1871. To Raphael. Mentions a “Mr. Gourrier,” obviously a dentist, and his working on family members.

---December 31, 1871. To Raphael.

---n.d. No return address. Short note from Melanie to Julia requesting particular items. Attached is a note in English from Janvier Hebert to Raphael Hebert dated January 3, 1871, explaining that Melanie’s note to Julia had been sent to Janvier by mistake.

---February 26, 1872. To Julia. Ink faded to such an extent that letter barely legible.

---March 28, 1872. To Julia. Discusses family members’ fulfilling their Easter religious obligations.

---June 10, 1872. To Julia. Melanie says that she is considering going to New Orleans the following year to become a postulant. On the backside is a letter in English to Benjamin Hebert mentioning Ben’s friend Joe Brooks.

---December 3, 1872. To Julia. Mentions the grinding season and its entertainments, having enjoyed the Désobry “sucrerie” more than the Schwings’.

---February 2, 1873. To Raphael. Mentions the upcoming marriage between Abraham LeJeune and Marie Brooks.

---April 18, 1873. To Julia. States hearing that there is no longer a post office in Brusly.
---September 13, 1873. To Julia. Speaks of many family members.
---October 14, 1873. To Julia. Relates mourning practices and the deaths of “Tante Célestine” and “Oncle Trasimond.”
---November 14, 1873. To Julia. Mentions the grinding season and acquiring orphans through the Marianite Sisters. Exhibits the practice of referring to married women by their husbands’ first names: “Tante Guy,” “Mme. William,” “Mme. Pete.”
---December 28, 1873. To Julia.

Box 1, Folder 4:
---n.d. One small sheet folded to form four small pages from the middle of a letter that relates Melanie’s receiving medals, taking exams, and celebrating the feast day of the convent’s mother superior.
---“Académie de St Basil, Plaquemine Le 11 Decb.” To Julia.
---“Académie de St. B., Plaquemine, le 23.” To Raphael.
---“Academy de St. Basil, Plaquemine, le 25 Fev.” To Julia. Mentions sending mail through a Mr. Patureau. [Mentions that Guy (born in December 1870) is walking, so the year could be 1872.]
---“Académie de St. Basil, Plaquemine, le 4 avril.” To Julia. Barely legible.
---“Académie de St B, Plaquemine Avril le 13.” To Raphael. Mentions two crevasses in the postscript.
---“Académie de St Basil, Plaquemine, Juin le [?].” To Julia. Barely legible.
---“Académie de St.B., Plaquemine, le 27 Juin.” To Julia. Mentions “Mme. Adolph” several times.
---“Académie de St. Basile, Plaquemine, le 7 Juillet.” To Raphael.
---“Académie de St. Basil, Plaquemine, le 19 juillet.” To Raphael.

Box 1, Folder 5:
---January 1, 1874. To Raphael.
---January 24, 1874. To Julia.
---February 6, 1874. To Raphael. Mentions Reverend T. Blancgarin’s visit. Melanie does not want Noel to be baptized in her absence.
---March 13, 1874. To Julia.
---May 9, 1874. To Julia.
---May 19, 1874. To Raphael.
---May 26, 1874. To Raphael. This letter and the one before it show Melanie’s concern that her grandfather pay for her medal and thereby insure her graduation.
---July 3, 1874. To Raphael. Melanie requests that Raphael come to her graduation and suggests he stay at Madame Saurage's. After the letter to Raphael is a letter to Julia asking that she attend the graduation as well. “Ada” is mentioned here as previously.

Box 1, Folder 6:
---“Plaquemine, Le 3 Juin, 1875.” To Julia.
---“St. Louis Plantation, le 25 Avril, 1876.” To Julia.

Subseries 3. Letters to Julia LaBauve Hebert
---“Milly Plantation, le 15 janvier 1887.” From “Elvina H.”
---“Milly Plantation, le 27 May 1887.” From “Elvina H.”
---“Plaquemine Eberville feverie 26, 1887. From Corine Tulwer in very nonstandard French.
---“Jeanerette Octobre le 14, 1888.” From Regina LeJeune.
---“Dimanche le 22 Avril 1900.” From Lucette Bernard. Mailed from Plaquemine to Plaquemine.

Subseries 4. Letters to/from Joseph Guy Hebert and to/from Noel Hebert
All of these letters from Joseph Guy Hebert are written from New Orleans when Guy is in law school. The recipients are in Brusly.

---December 6, 1891. To Raphael Hebert. Guy briefly describes his school.
---December 19, 1891. To Julia LaBauve Hebert. The return address first reads “140 Carondelet Street,” but the number is scratched out and replaced by “159.”
---February 24, 1892. To Julia.
---March 17, 1892. To Julia.
---April 9, 1892. To Raphael. Mentions a Confederate veterans’ reunion in New Orleans at which the writer saw Mrs. Jefferson Davis and daughter.

II. Financial/Legal Papers in French

Subseries 1. Assorted Financial/Legal Papers

---Undated list of names with monetary amounts contains the following discernible names: Amédée Hebert, Louis Hebert, Bernard Peyronnin, Trasimond Babin, Joe Bujol, Jean Cazes, Anatole Aillet, J. Aillet, Hippolite Sarradet, Madame Adams Hebert, Willy Bernard, Edmond Aillet, William Gassie, Delahaye, Landry, B. Cazes, Louis Kirkland, William White, Bird, Janvier Hebert, Jacques Caire, Amédée Fourrier, Judge Woodruff.
---Three promissory notes in French from West Baton Rouge (February 1, 1863, and March 28, 1863). Names on notes: Dorvil, Foret, Veuve Jean Alexandry, Jean Courtade, G. Loubiere, Fr. Blancgarin, Adamis Hebert, Jean Baptiste LaBauve.

Subseries 2. Raphael Hebert and Julia LaBauve Hebert

---“Ouest Batton rouge le 24 février 1836.” Receipt for payments between Raphael Hebert, “Veuve Alexis Hebert,” and Rosémond Hebert.
---Receipt for sum of money paid by Raphael Hebert to Rosémond Hebert concerning the estate of their mother “Veuve Alexis Hebert,” June 27, 1848.
---Raphael Hebert’s account book with annotations dated April 1840 to June 27, 1848. Mentions date of Raphael’s marriage to Odile Landry and lists births and christening information for their children to date.

III. Personal Papers in French

Subseries 1. Assorted Personal Papers

---“Extrait du Régistre des Baptêmes de la Paroisse St. Gabriel d’Yerville, Etat de la Louisiane, No. 1240.” Reverend Eugene Michaud’s transcription and validation in 1827 at St. Gabriel, Iberville Parish, of Reverend Paul de Saint Pierre’s attesting on December 1, 1814, in the same church parish that he had baptized Marie Odile Landry, daughter of Simon Landry and Marie Hebert, born November 10, 1814. Paternal grandparents: Firmin Landry and Ludevine Babin; maternal grandparents: Amand Hebert and Marie Boudraux; godfather: François Toulouse; godmother: Ludevine Landry.
---In oversize folder, Cora Hebert’s First Communion certificate from May 24, 1888, St. John the Baptist Catholic Church, Brusly, signed by Reverend A. Borias.

Subseries 2. Joseph Guy Hebert

---“Alma Redemptoris,” “Beau Mois de Marie,” “Jour Gloire de Marie,” and “Offrande à Marie,” devotional verse or song in honor of the Virgin Mary for recital on specific days in May.
IV. St. John the Baptist Catholic Church Records

---“Jean Baptiste Hebert, Vente aux Souscripteurs de la Chapelle d’Ouest Baton Rouge, 1832.” Photocopy of West Baton Rouge Parish Judge Louis Favrot’s attesting that on March 13, 1832, Jean Baptiste Hebert appeared to sell his property to the Chapel of West Baton Rouge, represented by Zépherin Blanchard, Valentin Hebert, Rosémond Hebert, Emanuel Landry, Auguste Hebert, and Antoine Dupuy. Description of property follows. Other names on document: Magloire Dupuy, Dominique LaBauve, Pierre Grangé, Terence DeRichebourg, and William Joyce.
---“Ouest Baton Rouge 21 Mars 1864.” Eight promissory notes written in the same hand, signed by the parties involved, for payments due in the treasurer’s office of the Corporation of the Church of West Baton Rouge. Transactions include the following: J. Bargas to Theo Bergeron, Theodore Blanchard to P.P. Babin, ? Daigle to V. Blanchard, Eugene Hebert’s widow to Tras. Bourg, Jean Baptiste LaBauve to T. DeRichebourg, Henriette Longuépée to B. Peyronnin, Jesse Penn to Amédée Hebert, J.L. Peyronnin’s widow to Jean Baptiste LaBauve.
---“Ouest-Baton-Rouge le 4 Avril 1868.” A request from the “Comité de Supervision Générale” (Reverend Théophile Blancgarin, B. Peyronnin, and ? Landry) to the treasurer of St. John the Baptist Church to pay the porter for cemetery upkeep from Easter 1867 to Easter 1868.
---“Ouest Baton Rouge 11 Avril 1868.” Four promissory notes from the treasurer of the “Corporation de l’Eglise de St. Jean Baptiste d’Ouest Baton Rouge” stating respectively that the treasurer will pay Alfred Hebert for services as treasurer (signed V.H. Hebert, secretary, and Wm. White, president), Mme. Vve. A. Fourrier for services as organist (signed V.H. Hebert and Wm. White), V.H. Hebert for services as secretary (signed Wm. White), and Reverend Théophile Blancgarin (signed V.H. Hebert and Wm. White).
---“Ouest Baton Rouge 3 Avril 1869.” Three notes by William White stating respectively that the church corporation’s treasurer will pay V.H. Hebert for services as secretary, Father Blancgarin as cemetery guardian, and Jacques Caire as treasurer.
---“Ouest B. Rouge, le ? Avril 1870.” Father Blancgarin’s affidavit of payment receipt.
---“O.B. Rouge Avril le 15, 1870.” William White’s note as president (with A. Landry’s name as secretary) informing J. Caire, treasurer of St. John the Baptist Church, to pay J. Caire as treasurer.
---“O.B. Rouge le 15 Avril 1870.” William White’s note as president (with A. Landry’s name as secretary) informing J. Caire, treasurer, to pay A. Landry as secretary.
---“M’ J. Caire trésorier de l’Eglise S’Jean Baptiste, Ouest Baton Rouge Avril le 15 1870.” William White’s note as president (with A. Landry’s name as secretary) informing J. Caire to pay Father Blancgarin.
---“Ouest Baton-Rouge le 15 Avril 1870.” William White’s note as president (with A. Landry’s name as secretary) informing J. Caire to pay Father Blancgarin.
---“Ouest Baton Rouge, Oct Le 15, 1870, Aout Le 15, 1870, le 14 decembre 1870.” Three differently dated passages on one sheet concerning payment of the Reverend Pierre François Antonetti for two months of service at St. John the Baptist Church. Bears both William White’s and Father Antonetti’s signatures and mentions Isidore Daigle.
---n.d., Adamis Hebert, president, informs Raphael Hebert, treasurer, to pay Father Blancgarin for 1870.
---“Brusly Landing 20 Juillet 1871.” William White (president) and Reverend Théophile Blancgarin (pastor) acting as “Le Comité de Supervision Générale” inform Raphael Hebert, treasurer, to pay Mr. Helleback for church repairs.
---August 18, 1871. Note concerning church repairs.
---April 6, 1872. Note concerning payments by St. John the Baptist Church.
---“Ouest B. Rouge le 18 Mai 1872.” President J. Aillet’s note concerning payment to H. Sarradet. T. Landry’s name appears as secretary.
---“Ouest Baton Rouge le 12 Avril 1873.” Concerns payment to J. Fourrier.
---“Ouest Baton Rouge le 23 Décembre 1873.” Father Blancgarin’s acknowledgement of payment.
---1874. Note from President William White to Treasurer Raphael Hebert concerning payments to Françoise Hymann and Father Blancgarin.
---n.d. Receipt with William White’s name as collector.
---n.d. Note in French and English featuring Reverend Eugene Royer’s address in France.