

**See also UPA Microfilm:
5322, Series I, Part 2, Reels 11-12**

BENJAMIN KENDRICK PAPERS
Mss. 906
Inventory

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

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Updated 2018; Revised 2025

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KENDRICK (BENJAMIN) PAPERS

1806-1894, undated

Mss. 906**LSU LIBRARIES SPECIAL COLLECTIONS****SUMMARY**

Size.	0.8 linear ft.
Geographic locations.	East Feliciana Parish, La.; Jackson, La.; New Orleans, La.
Inclusive dates.	1806-1894, undated
Bulk dates.	1810-1840
Language.	English
Summary.	The Benjamin Kendrick Papers consist of legal papers, bills, receipts, and correspondence that document Kendrick's life as a cotton planter and slave owner in St. Francisville and Jackson, Louisiana.
Access Restrictions	None
Reproduction Note	May be reproduced
Related Collections	David J. Fluker Papers, Mss. 727, Louisiana and Lower Mississippi Valley Collections, LSU Libraries, Baton Rouge, La. Lewis Stirling Family Papers, Mss. 1866, Louisiana and Lower Mississippi Valley Collections, LSU Libraries, Baton Rouge, La.
Copyright.	Copyright of the original materials is retained by descendants of the creators in accordance with U.S. copyright law.
Citation.	Benjamin Kendrick Papers, Mss. 906, Louisiana and Lower Mississippi Valley Collections, LSU Libraries, Baton Rouge, La.
Stack location(s).	U:170
Also available on:	UPA Microfilm 5322, Series I, Part 2, Reels 11-12

BIOGRAPHICAL/HISTORICAL NOTE

Benjamin Kendrick (1779-1838) was born in Chatham County, North Carolina, to William and Ann Thompson Kendrick. He married Caroline M. Pollard circa 1815, and they had two daughters: Isabella [Isabel] Ann (born in 1816) and Sarah Caroline (born in 1819).

Kendrick was a cotton planter and slaveholder who originally had land holdings only in St. Francisville in West Feliciana Parish, Louisiana. However, around 1822, he moved his family to a location near Jackson in East Feliciana Parish, where he began building Asphodel Plantation. The residence grew in size and splendor over the next decade as the Kendricks increased their wealth, and it was finally completed in the 1830s.

Kendrick's wife and youngest daughter both died in 1833, and his death followed about five years later. His only surviving child, Isabella, and her husband, Col. David J. Fluker, inherited Asphodel, where they raised at least nine children.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

Legal papers, bills, receipts, and correspondence document Kendrick's life as a cotton planter in St. Francisville and in Jackson, Louisiana. The earliest materials in the collection reflect Kendrick's activities in St. Francisville and include bills and receipts for rents, storage, freight, blacksmithing, clothing, and merchandise purchased from the firms Joseph Gray & Company, McMicken and Ficklin, Smith and Mills, and Alexander and Lewis Sterling.

Papers (1810-1840) include Kendrick's receipts for medical care of family members and his enslaved people, tax receipts, and statements concerning the education of his daughter, Isabel, with tutors and at College Hill, Florida Institution (1824-1833). Also included are contracts for the manufacture of shoes for the family and his enslaved people (1826-1837), and receipts from a jailer in Fayette County for holding enslaved persons (1833-1835).

Correspondence includes letters from New Orleans merchants, a letter from a Missouri slave dealer discussing purchases and prices of enslaved persons (1836), and a letter from Kendrick's son-in-law, David Fluker, concerning the estate of Caroline Kendrick and the inheritance of his wife, Isabella Ann Fluker.

Legal papers include Kendrick's promissory notes (1812-1835) to various individuals and land deeds for holdings in East and West Feliciana Parishes. Records dated after Kendrick's death, including bills and some correspondence, pertain to his son-in-law (Fluker).

Content Warning: Items in this collection contain historical terms, phrases, or images that are offensive, outdated, and/or harmful. These include demeaning and dehumanizing references to race, ethnicity, and nationality; enslaved or free status; physical and mental ability; and gender and sexual orientation.

LIST OF SERIES

Series I. Financial Papers, 1806-1838, undated

Series II. Legal Papers, 1812-1884, undated

Series III. Photograph, 1894, undated

SERIES DESCRIPTIONS

Although the description here lists items by series, the papers are physically arranged chronologically regardless of series. See the Container List for box and folder information.

Series I. Financial Papers, 1806-1838, undated

Mercantile receipts contained in the collection reveal purchases from the following New Orleans firms (1820-1837): Peter Debuys; Townsend and Ogden; Turner and Woodruff; Yard and Blois, and Walton and Company. Accounts with St. Francisville firms (1810-1838) include those of Joseph Gray and Company; J.B. Smith and Mills; McMicken and Ficklin, and Davis and Barrow. Accounts with Jackson, La. (1824-1838) firms include those of Andrew Atchison; Brady and Martin; Nicholas and Christmas; and H.S. White.

Medical receipts for services rendered to Kendrick's family and his enslaved people (1814-1838), as well as hotel receipts (1837), are also included. Receipts for taxes on Kendrick's property in Feliciana Parish cover the period 1814-1835, and business correspondence between Kendrick and Lewis Stirling, including receipts for rent of Stirling's Springfield Plantation, covers the period 1814-1819. Receipts signed by Elisah Andrews reveal that Kendrick's daughter, Isabella, received educational instructions from Miss Jane Andrews (1825-1827).

Kendrick conducted business with the New Orleans commission merchant firms of Wilkins and Lenton; Lane, Lovett and Company; Flower and Finley; Debuys and Longer; Lambeth and Thompson; and Bullitt, Shipp, and Company (1816-1835). Correspondence of these firms pertains to the cotton market, including fluctuations of price, quality, and sales during the months of December and January before the arrival at New Orleans of cotton from Alabama and Tennessee. Freight receipts during the 1830s reveal shipments of produce and plantation supplies via the steamers *Planter*, *Columbia*, *Huntsville*, and *Freedom*.

The collection contains Kendrick's contracts with John Field and Augustus Knapp for the making of shoes for Kendrick's family and of brogans for his enslaved people (1826-1837). A letter to Kendrick from William G. Overton, slave dealer of Palmyra, Mo., relates the purchase and price of the enslaved. (1836).

Series II. Legal Papers, 1812-1884, undated

Legal papers include promissory notes by Kendrick to Joseph Dunbar, John Stirling, Elijah Adams, and James Johnson (1812-1835), and land deeds in Feliciana Parish (1834-1853). A letter to Kendrick from R.W. Walker of East Feliciana requests that Kendrick witness an arbitration agreement between Parsons Carter and Richard Cochran relating to the rent of land and hire of the enslaved (1834).

KENDRICK (BENJAMIN) PAPERS

1806-1894, undated

Mss. 906**LSU LIBRARIES SPECIAL COLLECTIONS**

The letters of D.J. [David J.] Fluker, Black Creek, East Feliciana Parish, relate to the administration and division of the estate of Caroline Kendrick (1836). A number of legal papers relate to the suit of Ely R. Thomas versus Benjamin Kendrick for possession of a stolen enslaved person (1823-1884).

Series III. Photograph, 1894

A miniature photograph of an unknown man is also found in the collection (New Jersey, 1894).

INDEX TERMS

Asphodel Plantation (La.)
Commission merchants--Louisiana--New Orleans.
Cotton growing--Louisiana.
Cotton prices--Louisiana.
Cotton trade--Louisiana.
East Feliciana Parish (La.)--History.
Fluker, David J.
Legal documents.
Letters.
Merchants--Louisiana--New Orleans.
Plantation owners--Louisiana.
Receipts.
Slaveholders--Louisiana.
Slaveholders--Missouri.
Slaves--Louisiana.
Slaves--Medical care--Louisiana.
Stirling, Lewis.
Thomas, Ely R.
West Feliciana Parish (La.)--History.

KENDRICK (BENJAMIN) PAPERS

1806-1894, undated

Mss. 906**LSU LIBRARIES SPECIAL COLLECTIONS****CONTAINER LIST**

<u>Stack</u> <u>Location</u>	<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder(s)</u>	<u>Contents (with dates)</u>
U:170	1	1-15	Financial and legal papers, 1806-1826
	2	1-16	Financial and legal papers, 1827-1835
	3	1-8	Financial and legal papers, September 1835- December 1872, undated
		9	Photograph of unidentified person, 1894
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